Albany Med President and CEO Jim Barba has announced that he will retire on March 31, 2020. Under his leadership, Albany Med has gone from an institution on the brink of bankruptcy to the region’s leading health care provider, a vast organization that delivers a scope of medical treatments that are typically only available in major metropolitan areas. Because of Albany Med, adults and children with the most severe illnesses and injuries can receive highly specialized, lifesaving care without leaving the region.

Mr. Barba’s association with Albany Med began in 1979 when, as an attorney with the Albany law firm Hiscock & Barclay, he was named a trustee of Albany Medical College. In the years immediately following, the College, then a separate entity, merged with Albany Medical Center Hospital to form the region’s only academic medical center. Today, approximately 40 percent of the region’s physicians have graduated from or received continuing medical education through Albany Medical College. In addition, the College has maintained a robust basic and clinical research mission, securing nearly $200 million in research funding over the past 10 years alone.

After stabilizing the Medical Center’s uncertain finances during the 1990s and early 2000s, Barba helped usher Albany Med into the 21st century on a solid path of extraordinary growth. The realization of foundational buildings like the Physicians Pavilion and the Surgeons Pavilion has been followed by numerous other large-scale projects, including, most recently, the Massry Family Children’s Emergency Center, the region’s only pediatric emergency department.

And, as Albany Med has taken shape as the region’s largest, locally governed health system through affiliations with Saratoga Hospital and Columbia Memorial Health—and more than 100 locations now serving patients beyond the Main Campus—Barba has never taken his eyes off the community.

Long committed to improving opportunities for residents of the City of Albany, he has led Albany Med to be a force of transformation and revitalization in the area surrounding the Medical Center campus, one that continues to support dozens of community groups and initiatives that improve the health and well-being of city residents, including the Baby Institute, Park Playhouse, Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region and many others.

“I cannot overstate how important Jim Barba’s influence has been on Albany Med and on the region, as a whole,” said Albany Med Board President Robert T. Cushing. “Not only has he been a driving force to improve the Capital Region economy, but his tireless work to expand access to exceptional health care has saved countless lives. On behalf of the millions of people whose lives have been touched by Albany Med, I express our gratitude for his dedication to Albany Med and making our region truly a better place to live.”

Mr. Barba will serve through March 31, 2020, to provide an orderly transition of leadership. The next CEO of Albany Med is expected to be announced this summer.
### STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

**Christina Rudolph, ’19**, left, was the first author and **Casey Hladik, ’19**, center, and **Hassan Hamade, ’21**, were among the co-authors of a paper that recently appeared in the journal *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*. The study, “Structural Gender Dimorphism and the Biomechanics of the Gluteal Subcutaneous Tissue: Implications for the Pathophysiology of Cellulite,” investigated the differences in the structural architecture of the subcutaneous fat of the gluteal region in adults. The findings revealed significant differences between genders and provided a new explanatory model for the pathophysiology of cellulite. The results of the industry-supported study have already been implemented in new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of cellulite. **Sebastian Cotofana, MD, PhD, PhD**, right, associate professor of anatomy and surgery, is the paper’s senior author.

**Earlier this year, John T. Moon, ’20, bottom right, and Arun Chockalingam, ’20, upper right,** led an Albany Medical College team to a second place finish at the Yale Healthcare Hackathon, a global health care competition of iterative problem-solving with participants from institutions worldwide. The team, whose members included **Ceyda Bertram, ’20,** and **Jack Chan, ’20,** considered telemedicine as a pivotal platform for problem solving and created an application that assists telemedicine providers to better evaluate deep vein thrombosis from remote settings. They were awarded a monetary prize sponsored by Foundation Medicine.

**Nine Albany Medical College students attended the Student National Medical Association’s (SNMA) 2019 Medical Education Conference in Philadelphia in April. **Naldine Isaac, ’21,** left, presented her research study “Analysis of Demographic Patterns and Age of Craniostenosis Surgery: The Effect of Socioeconomic Status.” She is mentored by **Shraddha Sadekar, PhD,** a pharmaceutical scientist at Genentech in San Francisco. **Anusha Pasumarthi, ’21,** second left, presented “Cerebral Micro Dialysis of Antibodies in Monkey: Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Anti-BACE1 Tool Compound in ISF, CSF, and Plasma.” She is mentored by **Fredy Huertero, ’20,** right, received second place for his poster “Mosaic in Medicine—A peer reviewed online platform for underrepresented voices in medicine.” Huamantla went on to receive second place in the research symposium at the 2019 National Hispanic Health Conference in Arlington, Va., for her poster “Medical Student Wellness in the U.S.: Does Generation Status Matter? A Cross-Sectional Snapshot.”

**Albany Med Nurses Honored by Community**

Three Albany Med nurses were recently honored as part of the *Times Union’s* “Salute to Nurses” program, which recognizes exceptional nurses in the region.

Drawn from nominations submitted earlier this year by patients, families, friends and peers from throughout the Capital Region, the top 10 nurses, along with 15 finalists, were announced in May.

**Robert “Bob” Anderson II, BSN, RN,** was recognized as a Top 10 nurse for his commitment to gastroenterology nursing and his loyalty to Albany Med, where he has served since 1985.

At Albany Med’s Digestive Disease Center, Anderson is known for being a team player who treats patients and colleagues with respect, tolerance, sensitivity and consideration. “Bob delivers care by being a strong patient advocate with the sincerest attitude,” said nurse manager **Joanah D. Montojo, RN, MBA, MN, ACHM.**

Two Albany Med nurses were selected as finalists. **Stephen Jones, MS, RN, CPNP, ET,** of the Pediatric Learning Center, was praised for being a “blessing” to a young patient’s family and for going “above and beyond” in caring for that patient by phone from afar.

Orthopaedic surgery nurse **Analyn Nocus, MSN, RN,** was commended for exemplifying the tenets of the “Albany Med Cares” program and for her keen ability to “assess critical situations while instilling trust in her patients, families and colleagues.”

Albany Medical College awarded 228 degrees at its May commencement ceremonies at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Medical degrees, Master of Science degrees in Nurse Anesthesiology and Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Science and doctoral degrees in the biomedical sciences, and master’s degrees from the Alden March Bioethics Institute and Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Science degrees in Nurse Anesthesiology and Physician Assistant Studies, were among the diplomas presented to graduates. Congratulations to all!
Albany Med: The Right Choice for Your Heart
Grateful Patient Celebrates Decade of Good Health, Following Near-Fatal Cardiac Event

Biking every Thursday morning with a group of fellow retirees is precious to Bernie Phillips. Year-round, whatever the weather, he and his friends venture out on Capital Region bike trails for an invigorating, hour-long ride. Afterward, they refuel over lunch and spirited conversation at a nearby restaurant.

Phillips, a 58-year-old retired Schenectady High School physics teacher, knows the value of these weekly outings. The past 10 years have been a gift, as far as he’s concerned, thanks to the lifesaving care he received at Albany Med.

Early on a January morning in 2009, Phillips went into sudden cardiac arrest. When his wife, Agnes, woke up and saw he had no pulse, she called 911 and started CPR, which paramedics continued upon arriving at their Latham home.

“I was unresponsive for quite a while. It took five defibrillations and 43 minutes before they got a pulse back,” Phillips said. “When they brought me to Albany Med, my pupils were nonresponsive.”

Physicians in Albany Med’s Emergency Department successfully used therapeutic cooling to lower his body temperature to minimize any potential brain damage. Phillips recalled waking up three days later with few adverse effects and little memory of the days leading up to the incident.

“Before, I was unresponsive for quite a while. It took five defibrillations and 43 minutes before they got a pulse back,” Phillips said. “When they brought me to Albany Med, my pupils were nonresponsive.”

Physicians in Albany Med’s Emergency Department successfully used therapeutic cooling to lower his body temperature to minimize any potential brain damage. Phillips recalled waking up three days later with few adverse effects and little memory of the days leading up to the incident.

He spent the next two weeks at Albany Med recovering, having received a new pacemaker with a defibrillator (this replaced a previous pacemaker he received at 29 to address atrioventricular block issues).

Phillips now returns to Albany Med every three months to have his pacemaker checked and visits with his cardiologist Edward Philbin, MD, chief of Cardiology, every six months. He said he feels very welcome at Albany Med.

“To learn more about Albany Med’s nationally recognized heart care, please visit: www.amc.edu/heart.

‘Pillars of Nursing’ Celebrates Six Albany Med Nurses for Extraordinary Patient Care

In May, six Albany Med nurses received one of the most prestigious honors bestowed by the Medical Center, the Pillars of Nursing Excellence Award, in recognition of their outstanding patient care and leadership.

The annual award ceremony is the pinnacle of events held during National Nurses Week.

This year’s winners are, from left: Kara Aird, RN, Emergency Department; Thomas Hodgins, RN, Surgical and Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit; Lisa Dice, RN, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit; Linda Massaroni, RN, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; Eileen Walker, RN, General Surgery Unit; and Michele Hanna, RN, Emergency Department.

Interim Chief Nursing Officer Diane Carey, MSN, RN, praised the winners’ passionate need to care for others and their exceptional clinical skills. “They exemplify the art and the science of nursing,” she said.

Albany Med President and CEO Jim Barba echoed those sentiments, noting that the nursing team is crucial to the expert care patients receive at Albany Med. “On behalf of all of us at Albany Med, I offer my sincere congratulations and gratitude to this year’s award winners,” he said.
Record-Breaking Radiothon Nets $330,800 for Children’s Hospital

The Capital Region community came out in support of ill and injured children at the Bernard & Millie Duker Children’s Hospital at Albany Med, the local Children’s Miracle Network Hospital, by donating a record $330,800 during the 21st annual News Radio 810 & 103.1 WGY and 99.5 the River Cares for Kids Radiothon.

During the 25-hour live radio broadcast, more than 15 families, including Skyler Loiselle’s, left, shared their stories of hope and healing. Over the past 21 years, Albany Med and iHeartMedia have partnered to raise more than $4.5 million in support of the Children’s Hospital.