

# SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SECTION

## **HERALD** LONG ISLAND **EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE**



The 2024 Herald Excellence in Healthcare Awards recognizes healthcare professionals for their impact in the Long Island community, unrivaled research and innovative programs and services.

• **SEPTEMBER 18, 2024** •



TEAM SCHEIN  
*Congratulates*

**Stanley M. Bergman**

Chairman of the Board and CEO, Henry Schein, Inc.

For Receiving Long Island Herald's  
**DISTINGUISHED VISIONARY AWARD**

And Recognizes All 2024  
"Excellence in Health Care"  
Award Winners

**TOGETHER, WE HELP HEALTH HAPPEN!**



Dear Neighbor,

This past Wednesday, September 18th, we had the privilege of recognizing over 40 individuals and institutions during RichnerLIVE's third-annual Herald Excellence in Healthcare Awards. Over 300 people gathered at the Heritage Club at Bethpage in Farmingdale to applaud the deserving honorees.

From doctors and nurses to hospital executives and educators, these honorees keep us healthy and safe. At the Herald, it is our honor to spotlight these outstanding leaders and organizations every week. They are your neighbors, friends and family, and we thank them for their dedication

to helping others.

Thank you, also, to our sponsors for their support of Long Island's healthcare workers and communities.

Last but not least, we are glad to donate a portion of our ticket proceeds to EPIC Long Island, a local nonprofit that supports individuals with epilepsy and those facing intellectual or emotional challenges.

Congratulations, once again, to all of the Herald Excellence in Healthcare Awards honorees.

Sincerely,  
Stuart Richner

CEO, Richner Communications, Inc.  
Publisher, Herald Community Media



*Thank you!* TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

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Stony Brook Medicine



#### SILVER SPONSORS



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THE  
STROKE & BRAIN  
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OF LONG ISLAND

# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## SPECIAL AWARDS

### DISTINGUISHED VISIONARY & KEYNOTE



**STANLEY M. BERGMAN**  
*Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer*  
**HENRY SCHEIN**

Since 1989, Stanley M. Bergman has held his role at Henry Schein, Inc., a Fortune 500® company and the world's largest provider of health care products and services to office-based dental and medical practitioners.

Stanley serves as a board member or advisor for numerous institutions, including New York University College of Dentistry; the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine; The World Economic Forum's Health Care Governors; and the Business Council for International Understanding. Stanley has received Honorary Doctorates from Hofstra University, Farmingdale State College (SUNY), The University of the Witwatersrand, Western University of Health Sciences, A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, and Case Western Reserve University, among others. He is the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor; the CR Magazine Corporate Responsibility Lifetime Achievement Award; and the 2017 CEO of the Year award from Chief Executive Magazine.

Stanley is a graduate of South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand, and is a NYS CPA.

### ORGANIZATION OF EXCELLENCE



**LONG ISLAND  
SELECT HEALTHCARE**

Long Island Select Healthcare, Inc. (LISH) is the result of a merger between three human services agencies: the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk (UCP), the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI), and Family Residences and Essential Enterprises (FREE).

LISH is a 501 c (3) non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides the community with high-quality, comprehensive health care regardless of income or insurance status.

Our health centers are expertly designed for individuals with a wide range of abilities and healthcare needs.

LISH staff members are trained to listen to each patient's health concerns, along with input from family members or other caregivers, and offer their professional expertise while understanding the patient's comprehensive health goals.

We treat all patients as a team to ensure individualized and effective care for each patient's unique needs.

### EXCELLENCE IN NURSING ADVOCACY



**NEW YORK STATE NURSES  
ASSOCIATION (NYSNA)**

The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) is the largest nurses' union and professional association for registered nurses in New York State, representing more than 42,000 members for collective bargaining, advocating for professional nursing standards of practice, and promoting the health and welfare of our members, our profession, and the people of New York.

As a powerful union and organization made up of and led by nurses and healthcare professionals, they understand the vital role that they play in providing healthcare to all who need it, protecting the public health, and promoting the well-being of nurses in our workplaces in our communities and in the political sphere. NYSNA is an affiliate of National Nurses United, AFL-CIO, the country's largest and fastest-growing union and professional association of registered nurses, with over 225,000 members nationwide.

NYSNA and National Nurses United (NNU) announced on October 20, 2023, that the New York nurses have overwhelmingly voted to affiliate with NNU, the largest union and professional association of registered nurses in the United States, to mutually grow and strengthen the power of nurses to advocate for themselves and their patients within the state and nationally.

# NYSNA CELEBRATES IN SOLIDARITY



*United for our patients, our practice,  
safe staffing, and healthcare for all.*

The New York State Nurses Association is more than 42,000 frontline nurses and healthcare professionals united for our patients, our practice, safe staffing, health equity, and healthcare for all. We are New York's largest union and professional association for registered nurses and an affiliate of National Nurses United, AFL-CIO, the country's largest and fastest-growing union and professional association of registered nurses, with more than 225,000 members nationwide.

New York State  
**NURSES**  
ASSOCIATION

an affiliate of



National  
Nurses  
United

AFL-CIO

# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



### **MICHELLE BALLAN, PHD, MSW**

*Professor and Associate Dean for Research,  
School of Social Welfare  
Professor, Renaissance School of Medicine  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH  
SCIENCES CENTER*

Michelle Ballan is Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the School of Social Welfare, Professor of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine at Renaissance School of Medicine, and the Founder and Director of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other related Disabilities (LEND) Center at Stony Brook University. For decades, her practice, teaching, service and research has been dedicated to ameliorating societal barriers impacting individuals with disabilities. Michelle collaborates with individuals with disabilities, who she trains in research and reveres as the experts. She has authored more than 140 peer-reviewed papers and conference presentations. Michelle is the Principal Investigator on several federal and foundation grants from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, National Science Foundation, New York Community Trust, and Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. Each aims to reduce health disparities and improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the U.S. Department of Justice 2024 National Crime Victims' Service Award "Building Knowledge Through Research," Women's eNews 2024 Loreen Arbus Champion for Disability Award, 21 Leaders for the 21st Century, 2022 National Academies of Practice Fellow, and the 2020 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Married to her best friend, John Formoso, for over 25 years, they are the proud parents of Olivia, Isabella, and Luke.



### **KIMON BEKELIS, MD**

*Director  
THE STROKE AND BRAIN ANEURYSM  
CENTER OF LONG ISLAND*

Kimon Bekelis is a board-certified, fellowship-trained neurosurgeon with subspecialty expertise in minimally invasive endovascular neurosurgery, Gamma Knife Radiosurgery, and complex spine and brain operations. After medical school, he completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He finished his residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, where he was chief resident, and completed a fellowship in endovascular neurosurgery and neuro-critical care at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Kimon was key in planning and staffing the Stroke and Brain Aneurysm Center of Long Island, which earned Comprehensive Stroke Center certification by The Joint Commission within a year. As the only such facility on the south shore of Long Island, it has greatly advanced stroke care in the region. Its high patient volume and life-saving services highlight the center's success.

Kimon has received several awards, including the Neurologic Science Stroke and Brain Aneurysm Award by the American Stroke/Heart Association, the Contemporary Award by Long Island Elite, and the Innovations in Healthcare Award by Long Island Business News. He has also held leadership roles in national committees and was selected for the AANS Young Neurosurgeons Committee and the AANS/CNS Washington Committee.



### **JORDAN BRODSKY, MD**

*Medical Doctor & Rheumatologist  
RHEUMATOLOGY CONSULTANTS*

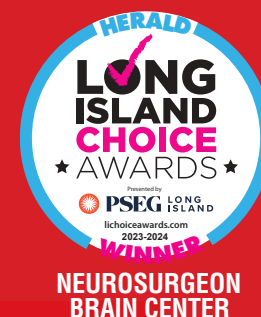
Jordan Brodsky, MD, stands as a highly esteemed and dual board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology, with a career that epitomizes medical excellence and scholarly distinction. He currently holds esteemed positions as a Clinical Assistant Professor at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University/SUNY Downstate Medical Center, as well as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra University within the Northwell Health system and Clinical Assistant Professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at the Mount Sinai Health System. These prestigious roles reflect his deep commitment to advancing medical knowledge and education.

Dr. Brodsky's illustrious career is marked by his tenure as the Administrative Fellow of Rheumatology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he also completed his rigorous Rheumatology Fellowship. His distinguished path in medicine is a testament to his visionary approach to Rheumatology, blending comprehensive clinical expertise with an unwavering dedication to compassionate patient care.

Renowned for his mastery in treating complex rheumatologic conditions—including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, vasculitis, spondyloarthropathies, systemic lupus erythematosus, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, and many other diseases. He is at the vanguard of medical innovation, expertly employing cutting-edge treatments such as biologic agents, advanced imaging modalities like Ultrasound and MRI, and disease-modifying therapies. His relentless pursuit of excellence in patient care, pioneering research, and academic leadership cements his reputation as a preeminent and forward-thinking figure in the field of medicine and rheumatology.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. BEKELIS and all of the 2024 HERALD EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE AWARD WINNERS

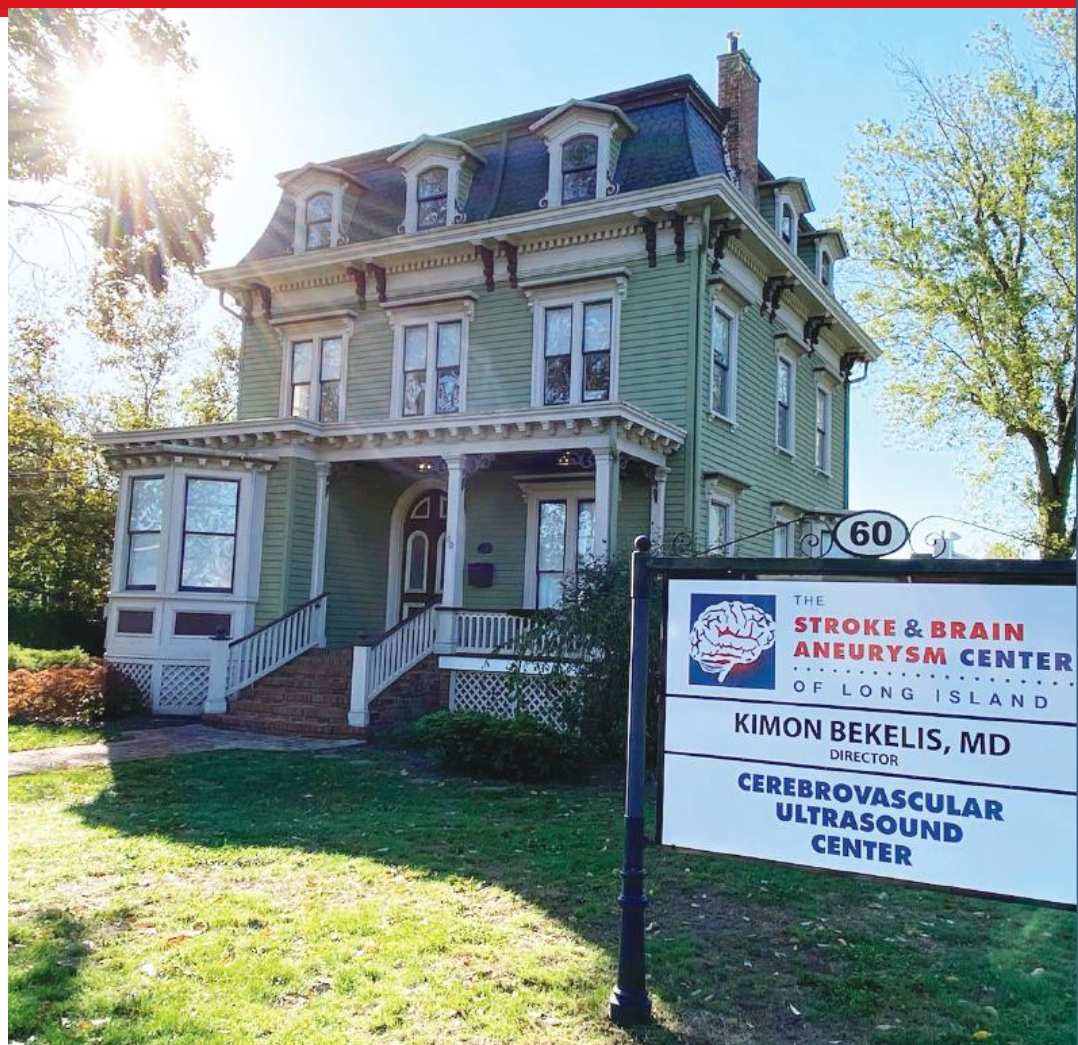


**Dr. Bekelis** is a board certified fellowship trained neurosurgeon with subspecialty training in minimally invasive endovascular neurosurgery. As one of the most prominent, widely published stroke researchers in the country, with several national and international awards, Dr. Bekelis is the Chairman of Neurointerventional Services for Catholic Health, the Director of the state-of-the-art Stroke and Brain Aneurysm Center of Long Island, and the Co-Director of the Neuro ICU at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center.



*Dr. Kimon Bekelis*

## Leading The Treatment of Stroke & Brain Aneurysm Center on Long Island



**The Stroke and Brain Center of Long Island** is the only comprehensive stroke center on the south shore of Long Island. Our expert team of clinicians are dedicated to all types of endovascular neurological disease and treatments. Our state-of-the-art outpatient center offers noninvasive neurovascular imaging that can aide in the early detection and treatment of carotid artery and neurovascular disease. Our monthly support group is open to all patients and family members who have been affected by neurovascular disease.

**For more information or to schedule an appointment call**  
631-983-7072 **or visit:** [strokecarelongisland.com](http://strokecarelongisland.com)



THE  
**STROKE & BRAIN**  
**ANEURYSM CENTER**  
.....  
OF LONG ISLAND

For information call:  
**631.983.7072**

Visit our website:  
**[strokecarelongisland.com](http://strokecarelongisland.com)**

# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**MICHAEL N. BROWN**  
Chief Executive Officer  
**FELLOW HEALTH PARTNERS**

Michael N. Brown is a leading-edge medical business solutions company that he founded in 2017, which helps healthcare professionals and institutions to improve their bottom line. Michael was determined to modernize medical billing and make it more transparent by applying innovative streamlining and enhancing it to drive efficiency, profitability, and growth in our \$ 4.5 trillion medical system. Today, the company has operations spanning three countries and has over 300 employees.

After a career in business consulting, working with large multinational companies across many industries, he was drawn to the medical billing industry because of the opportunities to provide a better product and service at a fair price. He researched the field and found it was rapidly changing due to growth and consolidation. However, current industry servicing models could not keep up with this accelerated rate of change.

Before becoming a Fellow Health Partners, Michael was a director at Loughlin Management Partners + Co. (currently BDO), where he used his extensive financial and operational experience to advise companies on profitable growth strategies. His operational working experience includes large retail, manufacturing and healthcare companies that generated annual revenues well into the billions. Before Loughlin Management Partners + Co., he worked at Price Waterhouse Coopers.

As a thought leader in the healthcare field, Michael has spoken at numerous conferences and has been interviewed in publications such as Forbes, Fortune, and Entrepreneur, USA Today, Microsoft Start, International Business Times and sits on multiple advisory boards.

Michael holds an MBA and B.A. from Fairfield University, CT.



**ALANNA M. CARCICH, MBA**  
Senior Director, Operations  
**NORTHWELL HEALTH ORTHOPEDICS**

Alanna M. Carcich has over 16 years of experience in the Orthopedics and Rehabilitation space. She received both her undergraduate and Master's degrees from Hofstra University, focused in Strategic Health Care Management. Alanna's positions at Northwell Health have spanned both the Rehabilitation Service Line, the Orthopedic Service Line, and Orthopedic Department hospital operations. In her leadership position, she focuses on high-quality clinical program development, strategic growth, mentorship to up-and-coming healthcare administrators and directly oversees the orthopedic surgery department at North Shore University Hospital.

Alanna is not just a healthcare professional, but also a work-horse and side-hustle advocate. In 2021, she ventured into the social selling market, showcasing her adaptability and entrepreneurial spirit. She became an independent consultant with Scout and Cellar, a Clean-Crafted Wine Concierge business, inspiring others with her ability to explore new opportunities.

In her free time, Alanna is a garden lover, better than average Instagrammer, a legit golfer, and finds herself cooking and laughing at herself in her kitchen – while sipping wine and feeding her IG account with funny and motivational content.

## Q&A

**What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?**

I've been inspired, encouraged and mentored by many throughout my life and career. But I'm proud to say that I created this path I'm on and the career I have.

**If you weren't in the industry you're in now, where would you be?**

Trying to win tournaments on the LPGA tour!



**CATHERINE CANADEO**  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
**CATHERINE CANADEO HEALTH & WELLNESS CORP**

Catherine Canadeo is an Executive Wellness Advisor, Holistic Health Coach, Board Certified through the American Association of Drugless Practitioners, Integrative Nutritionist, and Wellness Ambassador. She coaches and consults with private clients and corporations, offering concierge executive wellness coaching for C-level managers. Catherine is a keynote speaker for corporate meetings and conferences, presenting leadership, team building, and corporate wellness workshops. She has been featured as a speaker for Enzo Biochem - Life Sciences, Hightower Advisors, KPMG, Bank of America and Girl Scouts of Suffolk County, among others. Catherine is the official Health and Wellness Consultant for Hemophilia B Coalition Women's and Men's Retreats and a monthly columnist for Long Island Press and Dan's Paper. She specializes in customized plans for weight loss, food sensitivities, detox programs, autoimmune disease, diabetes, hormonal imbalances, and stress management, focusing on a holistic, non-diet approach.

# LEADING THE WAY IN ORTHOPEDICS

## Congratulations to



## ALANNA CARCICH, MBA

Senior Director, Operations  
Northwell Orthopedics

Northwell applauds Alanna and all the Long Island Herald Excellence in Health Care 2024 Award recipients. We recognize their invaluable work in making a difference and raising health for all.

As the most experienced team in New York, Northwell Orthopedics is dedicated to excellence as a national and international leader in patient-centric musculoskeletal care, education and research. Our vision is to lead health care by providing evidence-based, innovative care while treating patients and families with genuine compassion.



Visit our website  
to learn more.

# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



### ROXANNE CARFORA, DO

Chief Executive Officer, Founder & Physician  
**AGELESSMD**

Roxanne Carfora, DO, is Board Certified in Anti-aging & Regenerative Medicine and has been practicing Family Medicine on Long Island for over 35 years. She is dedicated to helping clients achieve optimal health by addressing vitamin, hormonal, and nutritional deficiencies, as well as genetic defects, toxins, and immune responses. Known in the community as "the doctor who will find the Cause," Roxanne began her career as an emergency room physician at St. Charles Hospital, where she served on several committees, including the Board of Trustees for Catholic Health Services, and received the Bishop Award for her work.

Roxanne has educated professionals in Preventative Medicine as an associate professor at Pace and Stony Brook University. She is an international speaker for the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine and the Professional Compounding Association of America, focusing on women's and men's health, hormonal disorders, gut health, and autoimmune diseases. She has appeared on Channel 12's educational series "The New Norm" discussing topics like COVID-19 and boosting the immune system naturally.

Roxanne continues to educate internationally and serves as a medical advisor for MD Logic Vitamins. She is the author of "Stress, Gut & Immunity" and the soon-to-be-released "Ageless Gut."

## Q&A

**What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?**

In 1988 Dr Bruce Lowell - I was his medical assistant for 11 years and he encouraged me to go to medical school. He was ahead of his time forming a weight loss center in queens with much success and reducing obesity in America with balancing insulin resistance. To work with such a Fantastic doctor and human being was truly a blessing and inspiration.



### NICOLE CHRISTENSEN, BCPA

Chief Executive Officer & Founder  
Award-Winning Patient Advocate &  
Care Coordinator  
**CARE ANSWERED**

Nicole Christensen excels in her role at Care Answered, a healthcare coordination and patient advocacy organization. She is also the best-selling author of "From Crisis to Calm: A Patient Advocate's Take on Healthcare Coordination for YOU, the Common Caregiver."

Care Answered expertly navigates the healthcare system for clients and helps remove the strenuous obstacles that are commonplace in the healthcare process.

Nicole began Care Answered ten years ago because of her personal and professional knowledge: It is often overwhelming and paralyzing when trying to access needed care for those you love. Care Answered was developed as a solution, advocating for one's best care and giving caregivers peace of mind and empowering all patients. Care Answered gets healthcare DONE.

Nicole was earlier honored with the 2024 Gerontology Professionals of NY Impact — Everyday Hero Award, and her expert opinions, presentations, and webinars are requested by news media outlets and businesses nationwide.

## Q&A

**What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?**

I truly feel I was called to do the work I do. I am proud to say I come from a long line of advocates for equality and justice. However, my Dad's loss from a preventable medical error and the support of my family was the final push to take the leap of faith and create Care Answered. That continued support, failures in our systems, and victories with clients continues to spur on my continued advocacy for access to great care.



### TODD J. COHEN, MD

Chief of Cardiology,  
Director of Medical Device Innovation  
**NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

Todd J. Cohen, MD is a triple-boarded (Johns Hopkins, Stanford, and UCSF trained) practicing cardiologist, inventor, educator, and serial entrepreneur. He built and directed two of the busiest EP Programs on Long Island (North Shore Univ. and Winthrop Univ. Hospitals). He is the founder and director of the Long Island Heart Rhythm Center in Old Westbury (on NYITCOM campus) and is Chief of Cardiology and Director of Medical Device Innovation at NYITCOM. Hospital affiliations include Good Samaritan Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital, Morningside.

Todd has authored many publications, including articles published in the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, Circulation, and Journal of the American College of Cardiology, and has written the 2010 "Best Health Book" entitled A Patient's Guide to Heart Rhythm Problems. He serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Invasive Cardiology and EP Lab Digest. He has served as principal investigator of numerous investigator-initiated studies (including the Pacemaker and Implantable Defibrillator Lead Survival Study) and multicenter trials, including SCD-HeFT and the EnRhythm MRI trial.

He has 38 issued U.S. patents, and has licensed and/or sold inventions to several leading companies in the field of electrophysiology, catheter ablation, implantable devices, and robotics.

Most recently, Pollock No. 5 (Todd's debut murder mystery/thriller novel) was released (Black Opal Books) and is available at Barnes and Noble as well as on Amazon. The book features "MD," an inventing art-loving doctor, who gets accused of stealing a priceless Jackson Pollock painting and killing an heiress. The book takes place in NYC, the Hamptons, throughout Long Island, Miami, and San Francisco. He is also a member of Mystery Writers of America and International Thriller Writers.

# Answers FOR Care

## The village of senior care solutions

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Our network includes experts experienced in trusts, estates, Medicaid and much more.



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Find trusted providers you can rely upon to assist with daily care needs.



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We provide insight into quality metrics, star ratings, and levels of care to meet your specific needs.

...and much more!

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Visit our website to find the answers you need.

#### Professionals:

Visit our site to learn how to join our roster of trusted elder care experts.



Care Answered has more than a decade of experience working with families and professionals as they navigate the healthcare system.

Answers for Care is our newest project, connecting you with our network of trusted professionals from across the elder care continuum.

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Answers for Care today.



answers4care.com



LONG ISLAND  
**Alzheimer's  
& Dementia**  
CENTER



LI Alzheimer's  
& Dementia Center  
would like to congratulate  
all the 2024 Excellence in  
Healthcare Award Winners  
and our own  
Executive Director,  
Tori Cohen, LCSW



1025 Old Country Rd. Suite 115, Westbury, NY 11590  
(516) 767-6856 • lidementia.org

# Congratulations

**Michael N. Brown, CEO of Fellow Health Partners** as an 2024 Herald Long Island Excellence in Healthcare honoree.

**"Medicine is Complicated. Billing Shouldn't Be."**

Fellow Health Partners Inc. is a leading-edge medical business solutions company that helps healthcare professionals and institutions to improve their bottom line by applying innovative methods of streamlining and enhancing the medical billing process.



**Fellow Health Partners**  
Medical Business Solutions

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3500 Sunrise Highway, Building 100, Suite 200  
Great River, NY 11739  
844.880.0712 | info@fellowhealthpartners.com



# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**TORI COHEN**  
Executive Director  
**LONG ISLAND ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA CENTER**

Victoria Cohen is driven to help people. A perceptive listener, empathetic and eager to assist, her instincts, talents and drive contribute to her success as Executive Director at Long Island Alzheimer's and Dementia Center. Founded in Port Washington, New York in 1988—when it was known as the Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation—Long Island Alzheimer's & Dementia Center (LIAD Center) is driven by a mission to improve the quality of life for those living with Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia and their caregivers. For 35 years, we have offered caregiver respite support through our person-centered, six-day-a-week, social adult day programs for all stages of Alzheimer's disease. We also offer caregiver support groups and training; in-home respite solutions; transportation options; resources and referral support; and individual counseling.

Cohen, a former hospital social worker, joined the organization in 2003 following her grandmother's dementia diagnosis. She was appointed Executive Director in 2015. Her depth of knowledge of the organization--and the families helped--as well as her long tenure, have been integral to the growth of LIAD's critical programs and the number of families that LIAD serves. Tori brings a singular dedication to her work with those affected by Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia. In addition to compassion and empathy, she has an energy and drive that makes a real difference in the lives of participants and caregivers alike. Her focus on ensuring that the caregivers are getting the support they need is transformative and critical to the well-being of all family members.

Ever the innovator, Tori leads LIAD in pushing the envelope to bring a variety of progressive programs that meet the individual needs of day program participants. She is knowledgeable and has a deeply caring manner that helps soothe and alleviate the problems and concerns of the participants and caregivers. Tori leads with the strength of her own example and consistently gets the best from every employee. She goes above and beyond to connect with the community, manage and develop a robust board and engage new corporate support.

A co-founder of the Senior Roundtable during COVID, Tori prioritizes creating networks, offering collegial support to other organizations to build a supportive community of care for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's and dementia.



**CATHY SUE CUTLER, PHD**  
Chair, Isotope Research and Production  
**BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY**

Cathy Sue Cutler, Ph.D. is Chair, of the Isotope Research and Production Department, at Brookhaven National Laboratory. The department expands the Lab's isotope research and production to help meet the nation's growing need for critical isotopes for medical, industrial, and national security uses. In this role, Cutler oversees an annual budget of ~\$20 million and 20 employees. Cutler holds a B.S. in biochemistry and a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Cincinnati. Cutler serves as the president for the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI). In 2022, Cutler received a Brookhaven Science & Technology Pinnacle award for her distinguished contributions to the Lab's science and technology mission. She holds 12 patents and has published 95 peer-reviewed journal articles and eight book chapters.

### Q&A

**What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?**

My greatest achievement this year has been leading the newly established Isotope Research and Production Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory, which is expanding the Lab's ability to meet the nation's need for critical isotopes for medical, industrial and national security uses. The demand for isotopes is growing exponentially due to the innovation of isotopes used in the diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of various medical conditions, as well as in unique industrial applications. Recent upgrades to the medical isotope facilities at Brookhaven have enhanced the Lab's ability to produce, purify, and ship isotopes and radiopharmaceuticals ready for use directly to researchers and doctors around the nation, which are vital for non-invasive, personalized cancer treatments. We are also leading the development of radioisotopes for "theranostics," which combine medical therapies with diagnostic medical tests.



**CAROLYNN EIPEL**  
Founder  
**CAREFIRST HOME SOLUTIONS**

Carolynn Eipel founded CareFirst Home Solutions, a company devoted to enhancing seniors' quality of life with safety and dignity. With over 28 years of experience in healthcare, including more than a decade specializing in home care, Carolynn is renowned for her compassionate, reliable care and her expertise in private care. She is also a certified dementia care specialist with a deep passion for Alzheimer's, oncology, and end-of-life care. With a deep commitment to elevating standards of client care, Carolynn was inspired to create CareFirst Home Solutions. Her vision was to offer trusted care and professional support to seniors and their families.

Carolynn's commitment to senior care is evident not only in her professional endeavors but also in her community involvement. Living in Glen Cove with her family, she runs her business from downtown Glen Cove and is actively engaged in local initiatives. She enjoys volunteering at the NOSH community food pantry and her church and is an active member of The SAGE Foundation, where she assists in raising private funding for additional programming and resources for the Glen Cove Senior Center.

Carolynn's strategic vision and leadership have played a crucial role in the growth and success of the organizations she has served and now for her company, reflecting her dedication to improving the lives of seniors in her community and on Long Island.

### Q&A

**What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?**

One of my key inspirations for my path in healthcare has been my maternal grandmother, Mary. Her need for quality care and lack of choices thirty-five years ago had a profound impact on me and my family. This led to my dedication to providing high-quality care to a population that is in need of compassion and allowing them to live their later years with dignity and comfort.

# Congratulations!

Your colleagues at Stony Brook Medicine are proud of you.

**Long Island Herald**  
**2024 Excellence In Healthcare**

**Carol Gomes, MS, FACHE, CPHQ**

Chief Executive Officer  
Stony Brook University Hospital



**Carolyn Santora, MS, RN**

Chief Nursing Officer  
Chief of Regulatory Affairs  
Stony Brook University Hospital



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educator and employer. SBM-AD2408 0099

# Congratulations

to the Excellence in Health Care award winners, including  
Cathy Sue Cutler, Ph.D., Chair of the Isotope Research and  
Development Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

# And Thank You

For making Long Island a better place today and for many  
years to come.



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the U.S. Department of Energy  
[www.bnl.gov](http://www.bnl.gov)

## NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

College of Osteopathic  
Medicine

NYITCOM congratulates  
Todd Cohen, M.D., FACC,  
FHRS, for receiving the  
2024 Herald Excellence in  
Healthcare Award!

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Make.  
Heal.  
Innovate.  
Reinvent the Future.

# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**HEIDI FELIX**  
Vice President of Sales  
**LIFEVAC**

Heidi Beth Felix is a dedicated professional and community leader who strongly focuses on healthcare initiatives. Since June 2020, she has served as Vice President of Sales at LifeVac LLC, a company dedicated to saving lives through its innovative choking rescue device. Heidi is deeply involved in her Wantagh community, currently serving as a board member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Wantagh. She also advises the Key Club at Wantagh High School and the CCA Key Club and is a Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation Board committee member.

Her leadership extends to the Wantagh Chamber of Commerce, where she was a past VP, and she actively volunteers at the Church of St. Jude, teaching church school and supporting the Mother and Child Mission Center through food drives. Heidi's commitment to community service has been recognized with numerous awards, including Herald Person of the Year (2015), Wantagh Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year (2015), and Kiwanian of the Year (2022). She also supports organizations like the KPTC Foundation, LLS Light the Night, and the American Cancer Society.

### Q&A

What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?

I am proud to work with a dedicated team of professionals. LifeVac has saved over 2700 lives worldwide of which 1700 were children. We launched partnerships with McKesson Corporation and Cintas Corporation to promote our choking rescue device to their customers. We partnered with the FBI National Academy Associates, allowing LifeVac to build relationships with law enforcement officials throughout the USA.

If you weren't in the industry you're in now, where would you be?

I would be teaching children.



**NICK FITTERMAN,**  
**MD, MACP, SFHM**  
Executive Director  
**HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL -**  
**NORTHWELL HEALTH**

Nick Fitterman founded the Huntington Hospital HMG in 2006. He was appointed Chief of Staff in 2009.

He came to Huntington Hospital after 14 years in private practice, the last 3 of which he also served as medical director of a 40-physician multispecialty group in Huntington.

Nick has held leadership positions in national societies (District President, state council member, Governor of NYACP) and was recognized on the Honor Roll of Top Hospitalists in 2008.

Nick has co-authored over 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals. He is a Master of the ACP and a senior fellow of the SHM.

Nick has been appointed Professor of Medicine in the Hofstra University School of Medicine.

In 2018, he was appointed the Executive Director of Huntington Hospital. Under his stewardship, Huntington Hospital has achieved the coveted CMS 5 stars in quality in 2022, 2022 and 2023 (the only hospital in the county to do so), the leapfrog group "A" rating and a 5th consecutive Magnet award. Huntington Hospital is consistently ranked as the top community hospital in NY.

### Q&A

What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?

My team's success with Huntington was recognized as the best Hospital in Suffolk County by US News and World Report.



**MARY GMITEREK-APAT, DC**  
Chiropractor  
**DR. MARY'S CHIROPRACTIC AND**  
**WELLNESS CENTER**

Mary Gmiterek-Apat, DC, known as "Dr. Mary" by her patients, takes a holistic, family-oriented approach to patient care where treating every patient with care and personalized attention is at the core of her practice.

Dr. Mary creates individualized treatment plans that include, corrective chiropractic care, nutrition, exercise and enzyme nutritional supplementation. The practice also includes back and neck pain, pelvic pain, virtually the entire musculoskeletal system, headaches and sports-related injuries. The enzyme nutritional aspect of her practice spans an array of ailments and she approaches this by physical examination, bloodwork and a 24-hour urinalysis.

The goal is to bring the body back into balance by restoring homeostasis. Her approach is compassionate ensuring that each patient receives the highest level of care and the most suitable, individualized treatment plan. Patients can confidently trust that their holistic health is guided by an expert dedicated to achieving the best possible outcomes for her patients.

Her specialized training includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University, Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer West College of Chiropractic and a Certification as an Advanced Loomis Enzyme Nutrition Specialist from The Food Enzyme System. She is also very involved in her community and has been serving on the Port Washington school district's nutrition committee for the last 11 years and has also been a contributor to the district's Wellness Committee.

## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**DOUG GOLUB**  
Principal Consultant  
**DATA POTATO**

Doug Golub's career has been dedicated to helping people live their best and, most included, supported and empowered lives through tools, innovation and data.

During his pursuit of a Master of Science at Rochester Institute of Technology, Doug Golub took on the role of a direct support professional. This experience, supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and brain injuries, was a pivotal point in his career. It led him to co-found MediSked, a venture that revolutionized service documentation and systems.

As Platform Services Manager for Microsoft's Health Solutions Group, Doug was an original member of their healthcare venture. Returning to MediSked during New York's Medicaid Redesign, he signed contracts with all regional care coordination providers, influencing state regulations to improve care quality and efficiency.

Doug sold MediSked in December 2022 and is now Principal Consultant at Data Potato LLC. A recognized thought leader, he speaks at conferences on enhancing health-related social needs and using AI to improve lives. He serves as a board member and treasurer for the ANCOR Foundation and FREE of Maryland. Doug is currently pursuing an advanced degree in Public Health at Johns Hopkins.



**CAROL GOMES**  
Chief Executive Officer &  
Chief Operating Officer  
**STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

Carol Gomes previously served as Chief Quality Officer, overseeing Continuous Quality Improvement, Decision Support Services, Clinical Pathways, and Management Engineering, and as Associate Director for Neurosciences. She holds two master's degrees from Stony Brook University in Management and Policy, and Healthcare Management and Administration.

Carol has served on the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Program's Board of Examiners for nearly a decade and holds various certifications, including Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. She also teaches at Stony Brook University's School of Health Professions.

Her numerous awards include the Long Island Business News Healthcare Heroes Award, the Master Award from the American Society of Clinical Pathology, and the Stony Brook Council Medal of Excellence. Carol was also named to the Long Island Press Power List in 2022 and 2023. She currently serves as Board Chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and has held leadership roles on the Stony Brook University Alumni Association Board.

Carol is also a board member for several healthcare organizations, including the Greater New York Hospital Association and the Hospital Association of New York State.

## Q&A

What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?

There have been many achievements which make me proud to be part of the Stony Brook Medicine family. We continue to lead the way in our region and the country, with recognition for sustainability efforts, quality and patient safety outcomes and health equity. In the past year, Stony Brook Medicine has strengthened efforts to develop bonds within the community to foster health equity and address patient needs to support a healthier patient population.



**AARON GROTA, MD**  
Board-Certified Urologist  
**PRINE HEALTH**

Aaron B. Grotas, MD, is a board-certified urologist. He has a special interest in integrative medicine regarding sexual health. For men and women, genitourinary health and overall function are closely related. He has been seeing patients in the five towns since 2007 and moved to his current location in 2010. Aaron joined Prine Health in 2022 to better take care of the urologic and kidney health of the community. Aaron sees patients in Hewlett and Plainview —Aaron privileges at Mount Sinai South Nassau in Oceanside, NY. Aaron enjoys teaching students and residents.

## Q&A

What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?

Growing the practice to help even more people.

What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?

My father is also a urologist. He is my inspiration.

If you weren't in the industry you're in now, where would you be?

I'd probably be a chef or a music manager.

# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



### LORI GOODSTONE, DHEd., RN

Professor, Department of Nursing  
FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Lori Goodstone, DHEd., RN, served as Chair of the Nursing Department at Farmingdale State College (FSC) from 2018 to 2023. She joined FSC's faculty in January 2017 as a professor and received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2019. Under her leadership, the Nursing Department maintained NCLEX-RN pass rates of 97-100%, achieved 10-year accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. She also led the department in securing approval for a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration, FSC's second master's degree.

Nationally, Lori is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Syracuse University, a Master of Science in Nursing Education from the University of Phoenix, and a Doctor of Healthcare Education (DHEd) from AT Still University.

Lori is well-published, focusing her research on simulation, deliberate practice, and medication administration safety. Her professional background includes roles at South Nassau Communities Hospital, Booth Memorial Hospital, Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital, and Mercy Medical Center. Lori and her husband Michael enjoy boating, fishing, traveling, and spending time with their children and three grandchildren.



### HOWARD GOODMAN, DC

Executive Director  
LONG ISLAND WEIGHT LOSS DOCTOR

Dr. Howard Goodman has been practicing chiropractic and holistic medicine since 1997. Throughout his years he has struggled with weight gain and a failed Gastric bypass, however Dr. Goodman was able to lose over 200 pounds naturally, and keep it off for over 16 years.

Since he has learned and cultivated his method of long term weight-loss, he has dedicated his life and practice to helping people lose weight naturally without drugs, surgery or starvation diets. His dedication to his patients is beyond diets, as he teaches a lifestyle and takes a deep dive into education of the body, habits of eating and incorporates the proper nutrition for his patients. Through his own journey and experience, he knows he can help you, because he's been there himself.

## Q&A

**What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?**

My greatest achievement is helping patients to reclaim their health after Weight loss medications failed them. We were able to teach them natural solutions to losing weight, faster and much safer than with Weight loss Drugs. We were also Honored to Win the Long Island choice Award which was a Huge Honor.

**What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?**

My Father, for whom the Never give up on serving other people is his motto as a small business owner over the last 50 years. He is my inspiration.

**If you weren't in the industry you're in now, where would you be?**

I would not want to do anything else, but if I had to I would be trying to help people overcome personal obstacles in their life, as I enjoy seeing people Shine.



### RENEE HASTICK-MOTES, MPA

Senior Vice President / Chief External  
Affairs Officer  
EPISCOPAL HEALTH SERVICES  
President  
ST. JOHN'S ICARE FOUNDATION

Renee Hastick-Motes is the Senior Vice President/Chief External Affairs Officer and President of the St. John's ICARE Foundation at Episcopal Health Services Inc., serving the Rockaway Peninsula. She leads the health system's government and external relations strategy, overseeing marketing, public relations, the hospital foundation, grant acquisition, population health, and clinical pastoral education.

Renee is dedicated to enhancing community access and service quality. She played a key role in launching the mobile health initiative, which provides medical services via a traveling van, and is the strategic visionary behind the St. John's ICARE Foundation.

Her career includes leadership roles in both the nonprofit sector and New York City government. Renee also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Hofstra University and has received numerous community service awards for her efforts to support marginalized communities across New York State.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from Notre Dame College and a Master in Public Administration from Long Island University. Renee is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the International Association of Business Communicators, the Healthcare Association of New York State Community Health Task Force, CHIEF, and the Levittown Community Council. She resides in Levittown, Long Island, and is a wife and mother.

**Congratulations to our very own**

**Lina M. Patino DDS**

Owner, Aspen Dental Riverhead

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Doctor Howard Goodman Is a Doctor of Chiropractic



**Dr. Goodman  
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**Dr. Goodman  
Today**

# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



### **ROBYN JOSEPH, DPM, FACFAS, CWSP, PMP**

*Doctor of Podiatric Medicine & Surgery /  
Founder & President*  
**NORTHERN ANKLE FOOT ASSOCIATES**

Robyn Joseph, a highly experienced podiatrist in Manhasset, NY, has over 30 years of expertise in podiatric medicine and surgery. She treats patients of all ages, from infants to adults, with a focus on wound care, particularly challenging diabetic wounds. Dr. Joseph's emphasis on wound management, education, and prevention is a testament to her commitment to promoting healthy, active lifestyles. Her extensive training, including a surgical residency in reconstructive surgery, equips her to handle a broad range of foot and ankle conditions, both surgically and non-surgically. Known for her compassionate bedside manner, she dedicates time to educating her patients about their conditions and treatment options. Dr. Joseph is also committed to mentoring future podiatric surgeons through her involvement in residency programs at Northwell Health Manhasset, Long Island Jewish, and St. Francis Hospital. Her active involvement in community initiatives, including a garden she co-founded to foster unity and support for homeless veterans, reflects her values and personal commitment to making a difference.

## Q&A

**What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?**

The Jerry Lewis Telethon. As a child, I watched children on TV go from being wheelchair-bound to walking with braces after surgical intervention. That inspired me to become a lower extremity Surgeon.



### **JILL KALMAN, MD**

*Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer,  
and Deputy Physician-In-Chief*  
**NORTHWELL HEALTH**  
*Professor of Cardiology*  
**DONALD & BARBARA ZUCKER SCHOOL  
OF MEDICINE AT HOFSTRA**

Jill Kalman, MD, joined Northwell in May 2014 as the associate medical director at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. She later served as the medical director and then the executive director of Lenox Hill Hospital and was responsible for the quality of patient care, safety, and day-to-day operations. Under Jill's leadership, Lenox Hill elevated its reputation as a regional, national, and global destination for top-quality tertiary care. She and her team significantly expanded the breadth of clinical programs, successfully recruited physician talent, and grew patient volume. She successfully led the Lenox Hill response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery efforts and achieved 91st percentile in the Workforce Engagement Survey. Lenox Hill also received the coveted Magnet status for its commitment to nursing excellence.

Jill was also the medical director for the office of patient and customer experience for Northwell Health, where she led the initiative for the physician's role in the patient experience.

Jill is an expert in congestive heart failure and has published extensively in that area. She began her career as a faculty member at Mount Sinai Hospital. She also started and developed the Heart Failure Program at Beth Israel Medical Center and was subsequently recruited to New York University Medical Center as director of the Cardiomyopathy Program and chief of cardiac services of Tisch Hospital.

After graduating with honors from the University of Pennsylvania, Jill received her medical degree from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine residency, chief residency, and cardiology fellowship at the Mount Sinai Medical Center, including a research fellowship in heart failure and cardiac transplantation.



### **FELICIA KASOW**

*Managing Director*  
**PURE MAMMOGRAPHY**

Felicia Kasow, a seasoned professional with a 30-year medical career, leads PURE Mammography Long Island's premier mammogram facility as Managing Director. Combining healthcare operations and strategic marketing expertise, she's dedicated to elevating healthcare services, especially in mammography. Felicia actively serves on the Board of the American Cancer Society's Long Island Market and has a history of supporting the non-profit Friends of Karen, exemplifying her commitment to patient care and community involvement.

In her role, Felicia optimizes processes, prioritizing quality and safety while fostering a respectful work environment. Her vision for PURE Mammography is a warm, state-of-the-art environment where women are empowered to prioritize their well-being, one mammography at a time.

In recognition of her dedication, Felicia has received awards such as the 2019 Rookie of the Year Business Achievement Award from HIA, the 2021 Latina Sisters of America Humanitarian Award, and the 2023 Humanitarian Award from the Professional Organization of Women of Excellence.

Active within the local community, Felicia engages with local Chambers of Commerce and leads committees for the Melville, Syosset, and Woodbury Chambers. Married to Russell and mother to daughter Rayna, Felicia resides in Oyster Bay, Long Island. This accomplished humanitarian and healthcare leader is making a significant impact in the fight against breast cancer and the promotion of women's health.

## Q&A

**What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?**

Growing my company to the next level!



At the **Zucker School of Medicine**, some of the brightest minds in health care use the latest in medical technology to educate and train compassionate physicians – all with the goal of improving patient care and achieving better outcomes in today's ever-evolving landscape.

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#### **JILL KALMAN, MD**

*Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer,  
and Deputy Physician-in-Chief, Northwell Health*

*Professor of Cardiology, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell*

and all the

**2024 Herald Excellence  
in Healthcare Awards Honorees**



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# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**JENNIFER LAZZARO, AUD.**

*Doctor of Audiology*

**HEARING AND BRAIN CENTERS OF AMERICA, LI**

A dedicated audiologist since 1995, Dr. Lazzaro began her career training and working in two of the most prestigious hospitals in the country, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston and New York-Presbyterian / Columbia Hospital in NYC. At Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, a teaching partner of Harvard School of Medicine, Dr. Lazzaro was responsible for training fellow audiologists.

Prior to joining Hearing and Brain Centers, Dr. Lazzaro practiced at Hearing Center of Long Island for over 20 years. She is still focusing on the rehabilitative aspect of hearing loss and tinnitus. Knowing that untreated hearing loss increases risk of dementia by 200-500%, she uses a wealth of knowledge, experience and care in her work at Hearing and Brain Centers to improve and preserve cognitive function and quality of life for those with hearing loss and tinnitus.

When she's not at work, you can find Dr. Lazzaro on a sports field watching her son and daughter doing what they love. When she's home, she loves completing DIY projects around the house.

### Q&A

What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?

My greatest professional achievement this past year has been continuing to provide the best care and medical treatment of hearing loss to our patients through the adversity of losing our entire office in a fire. Joining the #1 rated hearing healthcare practice in America and adapting our processes and procedures to ensure we are providing the proper medical treatment of hearing loss to lower the risks of cognitive decline and dementia in each of our patients.



**NANCY C. LEGHART**

*Executive Director*

**ST. JOHN'S ICARE FOUNDATION**

Nancy C. Leghart joined Episcopal Health Services (EHS) in 2018 as Director of Foundation and was appointed Executive Director of the St. John's ICARE Foundation in 2021. With over 30 years in nonprofit work, Nancy brings expertise in philanthropy, strategic planning, communications, marketing, and special events.

Before EHS, Nancy served as Director of Advancement at the Mill Neck Family of Organizations (MNFO) for 23 years, overseeing public relations, marketing, and fundraising. She also held the role of Director of External Affairs at the Long Island Alzheimer's and Dementia Center.

Nancy holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Composition from New York University. She has a passion for promoting music's benefits and has raised funds for various music programs. With over 35 years of experience teaching piano, she plans to compose for the Songs of Love Foundation.

She pursued graduate courses in Early Childhood Education at LIU Post and philanthropy at Hofstra University. Nancy has received multiple awards, including the Hearts of Change Award in 2023 and the Schneps Media Power Women Award in 2024. A member of several professional organizations, she resides in Westbury, NY, and enjoys writing music and spending time with her five grandchildren.



**BRIAN MAYRSOHN, MD, MS**

*Founder & Chief Executive Officer*

**MAYWELL HEALTH**

Brian Mayrsohn, MD, MS is a Pain Medicine physician known by patients for his compassionate, family-like approach to patient care. His commitment to treating every patient with empathy and personalized attention is at the core of his practice. Dr. Mayrsohn adopts a whole-person approach to pain management, crafting individualized treatment plans that weave together pain management, nutrition, and behavioral health services. His extensive training includes an interventional pain fellowship at the renowned Weill Cornell Tri-Institute Pain Fellowship program, with additional education at Cornell University, The Hospital for Special Surgery, and Memorial Sloan Kettering. Dr. Mayrsohn's residency in anesthesiology was completed at Mount Sinai Hospital, and he earned his M.D. from the University of Central Florida, his M.S. in Nutrition from Columbia University, and his B.A. in Medicine, Health & Society from Vanderbilt University.

As the Co-Director for Innovation and Ventures at the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM), Dr. Mayrsohn is dedicated to advancing the field of pain management through innovative solutions and collaborative efforts. His leadership in organizing the AAPM & MIT Hacking Medicine Innovation Challenge showcases his commitment to improving patient outcomes and pushing the boundaries of medical technology.

Dr. Mayrsohn's specialization includes arthritis, back and neck pain, pelvic pain, cancer-related and surgical pain, and sports-related injuries. His approach is rooted in the latest advancements in pain management, ensuring that each patient receives the highest level of care and the most effective treatments available. With Dr. Mayrsohn, patients can trust that their journey is guided by a compassionate expert dedicated to achieving the best possible outcomes.

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# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**JOHN MCGUIGAN**  
Chief Executive Officer  
**AHRC SUFFOLK**

John McGuigan, prior to his current role, served as the agency's Chief Operations Officer for three years. Mr. McGuigan comes to us with a mix of strategic management and hands-on leadership experience.

John has 30 years experience in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and has worked in several organizations since beginning his career as a Direct Support Professional in a group home setting. John has held roles with Creative Partnerships Unlimited, Innovative Resources to Independence (IRI), Aid to the Developmentally Disabled (ADD) and YAI Network. As CEO, John utilizes a mix of strategic management and hands-on leadership experience, with a reputation for focusing on impact and building values-based programs within organizations.

With years of experience in agencies very similar to AHRC Suffolk's, he notes, "I enjoy the challenge of helping organizations develop a culture that brings their values to life. For me, the most rewarding part of this work is creating opportunities for the people we support and our talented staff to bring their talents to bear on this mission."

John originally hails from Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, and he and his wife reside on Long Island with their four children. In his personal time, John is deeply involved with his children's sports and musical endeavors, fostering a sense of community and shared experiences.



**PARUL DUA MAKKAR, DDS**  
Owner  
**PDM FAMILY DENTAL**

Parul Dua Makkar, DDS, completed her Bachelor of Science at the University of Central Oklahoma in 1999, Magna Cum Laude, and earned her DDS from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry in 2003. After practicing in Alberta, Canada, she moved to New York, completed GPR training at Staten Island University Hospital in 2007, and has been in private practice since. She currently owns PDM Family Dental in Long Island, NY, where she lives with her husband and two boys.

Dr. Makkar's life changed when she lost her younger brother, Dr. Manu Dua, to oral cancer. Since his passing, she dedicates her time to educating others about oral cancer risks, prevention, and early diagnosis. She has co-authored dental journals, lectured to dentists, and appeared on various podcasts, including her own. Dr. Makkar believes in the importance of oral care for overall well-being and strives to have open conversations with her patients.

She has been featured in American, Canadian, and British Dental Journals and received numerous awards, including the Denobi Awards 2022, Long Island Excellence in Healthcare 2022, and Women of Inspiration by Universal Women's Network. She also co-authored "Life Interrupted, Dr. Dua's Survival Guide," an award-winning book.

## Q&A

What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?

I truly feel I was called to do the work I do. I am proud to say I come from a long line of advocates for equality and justice. However, my Dad's loss from a preventable medical error and the support of my family was the final push to take the leap of faith and create Care Answered. That continued support, failures in our systems, and victories with clients continues to spur on my continued advocacy for access to great care.



**DENIS NANKERVIS, DO**  
Trauma Medical Director/Assistant Professor of Surgery  
at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell  
**PECONIC BAY MEDICAL CENTER**  
**NORTHWELL HEALTH**

Denis Nankervis is a highly skilled and dedicated surgeon, with a particular passion for trauma care and wound management. A graduate of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, he completed his surgical residency at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine/ East End Health Alliance. His professional recognition as a board-certified general surgeon and a distinguished Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery underscores his expertise and commitment to the field.

Denis's career is marked by a deep commitment to providing exceptional patient care and advancing the field of surgery. He possesses specialized expertise in trauma/ acute care surgery and wound care, in which he has made significant contributions.

Denis currently holds the pivotal role of Trauma Medical Director at PBMC. Under his leadership, the institution achieved ACS Level III Trauma Verification, a testament to his strategic vision and dedication. He is also leading the establishment of a Wound Care Center, a testament to his commitment to serving the needs of the East End of Long Island.

Beyond his clinical responsibilities, Denis is a passionate educator. He is an active teacher and core faculty member for the Peconic Bay Medical Center General Surgery Residency. He holds the position of Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra University/ Northwell. His dedication to teaching ensures that future generations of surgeons will benefit from his vast knowledge and experience.



# Congratulations to **Lillian Paley**

VP of Clinical Services  
and Recruitment

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# *Congratulations to*

## **John McGuigan**

Chief Executive Officer of AHRC Suffolk  
*for being honored at the HERALD  
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All of us at AHRC Suffolk are proud to  
congratulate John McGuigan for his leadership  
and commitment to excellence in the I/DD field.



# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**LILLIAN PALEY**

*Vice President of Clinical Services & Recruitment*  
**SILVER LINING HOMECARE AGENCY**

Lillian Paley, Vice President of Clinical Services and Recruitment at Silver Lining Homecare Agency, is a distinguished leader with a robust 15-year career in healthcare operations. Her journey is a testament to her unwavering dedication to patient care, strategic leadership, and operational excellence.

Lillian began her career as a medical assistant, where her passion for healthcare and meticulous attention to detail set her apart. In her current position, Lillian has been instrumental in overseeing clinical services and recruitment, ensuring that the agency maintains its high standards of care and operational efficiency.

Over the past year, Lillian's impact at Silver Lining Homecare has been particularly noteworthy. She has led initiatives that have not only improved patient care but also enhanced the agency's operational efficiency and recruitment strategies. Her ability to inspire and lead her team has been a key factor in the agency's continued growth and success.

In addition to her work at Silver Lining Homecare, Lillian served as the Director of Clinical Operations at New York Bariatric Group from 2014 to 2020. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership, both of which have provided her with a strong foundation in both the technical and human aspects of leadership. These credentials have enabled her to effectively navigate the complexities of healthcare management and drive meaningful change within her organizations.



**LINA PATINO, DDS**

*Owner*  
**ASPEN DENTAL - RIVERHEAD**

Lina M. Patino, DDS, is an immigrant from Colombia, South America, who has dedicated her career to providing exceptional dental care. Her journey began in Colombia, where she started her dental training and education. Eager to expand her knowledge, she continued her studies at Columbia University and completed a General Practice Residency (GPR) at Queens Hospital. This extensive training equipped her with the skills to address complex dental issues across diverse populations, including both geriatric and pediatric patients. Throughout her educational journey, Dr. Patino learned that compassion and empathy are vital components of effective dental practice. As a Spanish-speaking professional, she effectively bridges communication gaps, ensuring that all patients feel heard and understood. Dr. Patino is committed to creating a safe space for her diverse patient community by tailoring care to their unique needs. She stays current with the latest technologies and advancements to provide exceptional care and improved health outcomes.

### Q&A

*What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?*

My family dentist was a significant source of inspiration for my career in dentistry. He took the time to explain procedures and concepts, which sparked my interest in the field. His compassionate approach and dedication to patient care motivated me to follow in his footsteps and strive to make a positive impact in people's lives through dentistry.



**LUIS FANDOS, MD, ABAPM**

*Functional Medicine Specialist*  
**ALLURING AGE: ANTI-AGING AND WELLNESS CENTER**

Luis Fandos, MD, ABAPM, is a distinguished physician specializing in interventional pain management with over 25 years of experience. Originally from Rosario, Argentina, Luis moved to the United States in 1993. He completed his residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1997 and a fellowship in interventional pain management at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, Columbia University. He also completed a neuropathic pain fellowship at Beth Israel Medical Center, New York City.

Luis serves as a physician leader at New York Spine and Pain Physicians in Bay Shore, New York. He is the director of the Division of Pain Medicine at South Shore University Hospital and was recently appointed Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. His dedication to pain management education is evident through his training of resident physicians and international lectures.

Luis has also ventured into cellular medicine, utilizing genetic testing, peptide therapy, IV therapies, hormonal replacement therapy, and nutritional supplementation to create personalized wellness programs targeting cellular pathways. His involvement with the Seeds Scientific Research & Performance Institute reflects his commitment to advancing this field and enhancing patient care and quality of life.



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# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**CAROLYN K. QUINN**  
*Executive Director,*  
**COHEN CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER;**  
*Executive Director,*  
**NORTHWELL HEALTH**

Carolyn K. Quinn (Cari) has over 37 years of pediatric specialty experience. Cari has served as the SVP of Pediatrics Services for all Northwell Health since 2022. Cari supports pediatric ambulatory strategy and program growth, quality, patient and provider experience, and operations in collaboration with service line and regional leadership. Known as Long Island's only quaternary care Magnet-designated children's hospital, CCMC has been ranked for over a decade by US News & World Report as the #1 children's hospital on Long Island and #2 in New York State. CCMC is the only pediatric hospital within Northwell Health's 23 hospitals. CCMC's Level 1 Trauma Center/Emergency Department sees over 68,000 visits annually; in addition, CCMC has 15,000 discharged children annually and serves over 900,000 ambulatory pediatric patient visits annually. CCMC is also recognized as a pediatric leader in quality and safety by the NY State Hospitals Association Pinnacle recognition.

Furthermore, CCMC was granted the PICU Gold Beacon Award, Lantern Award for Pediatric ED Nursing and was the 2020 Magnet Prize Winner for the Bee Mindful Program. A program designed for the care of patients with neurodiversity. This designation was the first for Northwell Health.

As a graduate of Molloy College and Adelphi University, Cari not only serves on the College of Nursing and Public Health Board but also plays an active role in their Women in Leadership Committee. Her past keynote speeches have inspired many and her leadership continues to make a significant impact.

Cari has dedicated her life to caring for children in the communities that Northwell Health serves.



**MEGAN C. RYAN, ESQ.**  
*Interim Chief Executive Officer & President*  
*Chief Legal Officer*  
**NASSAU UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**

Megan C. Ryan, Esq. oversees all legal, corporate governance, privacy and ethics functions. In Megan's short term as the Interim CEO of NHCC she has created the Care Office, established the patient care officer and employee engagement officer positions, improved capital areas within NUMC including the opening of a surgical wing and the relocation of adult mental health services, held employee appreciation events, marketed NHCC within the community, created quality improvement initiatives, and has led NHCC in passing numerous surveys and inspections. She most recently opened NUMC's first Community Outreach Office and NUMC's full service Starbucks. Megan has served as NuHealth/NUMC's Chief Compliance, Privacy and Ethics officer responsible for investigating any suspicion of fraud, waste, or abuse. She has been responsible for maintaining our strong compliance program since 2016. Additionally, she has served as the Chief Compliance Officer for the Nassau Queens Performing Provider System ("NQP") in the New York State Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP), implementing and overseeing the execution of DSRIP, compliance practices at the NQP level and its partnering hubs (NUMC, North Shore and Catholic Health Systems). She has served as a voting director on the NQP PPS Board.



**MICHAEL N. ROSENBLUT**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*  
**PARKER JEWISH INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH CARE & REHABILITATION**

Michael N. Rosenblut drives the overall executive leadership and strategic direction of this post-acute care organization, one of the largest in the region.

Amid New York's rapidly rising aging population and escalating healthcare costs, Michael is growing Parker's programs and services to meet the region's healthcare needs. This includes expanding Parker At Your Door, a Medical-House-Call program for homebound adults.

Michael is President and CEO of Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), a state-of-the-art dialysis center at Parker. Further expanding access to essential health-care services, he led Parker's partnership with PRINE Health, a Vascular Center also located at Parker and offering advanced vascular services. The Center and QLIRI further Parker's ability to expand access to essential healthcare services.

Working with local leaders, he established Parker's Indian Cultural Unit, delivering specialized care, incorporating the traditions of Indian patients in the community.

## Q&A

**What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?**

I am a second-generation health care leader. My father inspired me to learn more each day. Learning from our residents and team members allows me to "pivot as needed," when making decisions. I have also learned to trust my own skill set and intuition, when initiating decisions.

# CONGRATULATIONS Megan C. Ryan

Interim President and CEO



- 270,000+ Patients Annually
- 67,000 ER Visits Each Year
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lowest E.R. Wait Times on Long Island
- New Community Engagement Center
- New MRI Center
- New Cath Lab Under Construction
- Expanded Dialysis Center
- Expanded Clinic and Visiting Hours



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# 2024 Calendar

To sponsor or exhibit, please contact Anna Graci  
516.569.4000 ext 290 [agraci@liherald.com](mailto:agraci@liherald.com)

Thursday

10AM - 12:30PM

Oct 10

O'Connell Gardens

 [OCTOBEREXPO.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://OCTOBEREXPO.EVENTBRITE.COM)

Sunday

10AM - 2:00PM

Nov 3

Suffolk Y JCC (SYJCC)  
Commack, NY

 [NOVEMBEREXPO.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://NOVEMBEREXPO.EVENTBRITE.COM)



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*Congratulations to*  
**Amyee St. Pierre**

*on your well-deserved recognition as a  
Herald Excellence in Healthcare award winner.  
We're proud to celebrate your achievements,  
along with all the distinguished honorees  
who inspire excellence in our community.*



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*Congratulations*

**To The 2024 Honorees  
And To Our Very Own**

**Jordan Brodsky, MD**  
Rheumatologist

*Rheumatology Consultants is proud of  
Dr. Brodsky on being honored as a 2024  
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This prestigious honor recognizes his  
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this incredible achievement  
with him.*



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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**DR. LUIS FANDOS, ABAPM**

*Functional Medicine Specialist*



**And to All the 2024 Honorees**



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# INFLUENTIAL CHANGEMAKERS IN LI HEALTH CARE

Northwell Health is proud of its leaders who have been recognized by *Herald Community Media* with the Long Island Excellence in Healthcare Award.

Congratulations to our very own:

**JILL KALMAN, MD**

Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Physician-In-Chief, Northwell Health and Professor of Cardiology, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell

**CAROLYN K. QUINN**

Executive Director, Cohen Children's Center, SVP Pediatrics, Northwell Health

**NICK FITTERMAN, MD, MACP**

Executive Director, Huntington Hospital

**DENIS NANKERVIS, DO, FACS, FACOS**

Trauma Medical Director; Associate Program Director, Peconic Bay Medical Center  
Assistant Professor of Surgery at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell

**ALANNA M. CARCICH, MBA**

Senior Director, Operations, Northell Health Orthopedics





**JESSE N. CHARNOFF, MD**  
*Physiatry, Sports Medicine, Spine*  
**HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY**

Jesse Charnoff, MD, specializes in treating acute and chronic musculoskeletal sports and spine conditions. He treats patients with spine (neck, mid back, lower back, and buttock) pain and musculoskeletal issues (shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee, ankle/foot). He is also an Assistant Professor of Clinical Rehabilitation Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and a Team Physician for the Long Island Nets. He is a board certified specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) and completed a subspecialty fellowship in Spine and Sports Medicine at HSS. As an avid tennis player, Jesse is particularly interested in diagnosing and treating tennis injuries.

Jesse's goal is to help his patients return to and optimally perform at their chosen activities while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Each patient is given a personalized plan and an exercise prescription after a thorough evaluation. When procedures are indicated, he is skilled in fluoroscopic-guided injections of the spine and peripheral joints, as well as ultrasound-guided injections for joint, tendon and muscle pathology, including platelet-rich plasma and hyaluronic acid.

Jesse's research interests include regenerative medicine techniques and cost, injury prevention in athletes, novel spinal injection techniques and medical education.



**JAMES F. WYSS, MD, PT**  
*Physiatry, Sports Medicine, Spine*  
**HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY**

James Wyss, MD, is a sports physiatrist specializing in nonsurgical musculoskeletal and sports medicine care. After earning a graduate degree in Physical Therapy (PT) from the University of Scranton, he practiced PT in a sports and orthopedic setting for three years before pursuing a medical degree at New York Medical College, where he graduated with honors. He completed his residency in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Kessler Institute of Rehabilitation and a fellowship in Interventional Spine and Sports Medicine at Hospital for Special Surgery. He is board-certified in PM&R and Sports Medicine.

James has led education in his department for over 10 years and is currently the co-director of education. He maintains a busy clinical practice in NYC and Long Island, where he focuses on restoring function and improving the quality of life for his patients. His approach emphasizes an accurate diagnosis, patient education, and personalized physical therapy or exercise plans. He complements treatment with image-guided injections and considers specialized treatments like hyaluronic acid, PRP injections, or shockwave therapy for certain patients.

Passionate about sports medicine, James served as a team physician for St. John's University athletics and is the Chief Medical Officer for the Long Island Nets. He also assists with the New York Red Bulls II.



# LIFEVAC

The LifeVac family would like to congratulate Heidi Beth Felix for the Excellence in Healthcare Award.

Heidi is dedicated to the LifeVac mission to prevent future choking tragedies through education and awareness.

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*The Speech Language Place  
would like to Congratulate*

**Melissa  
Schachter**

**Speech Language Place**

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*On being an honoree of the*  
**Excellence in  
Healthcare 2024 award**



*Congratulations to the  
Class of 2024*

**Catherine Canadeo**



Founder & CEO

Executive Wellness Advisor & Public Speaker



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FOR HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**DEAN RISKIN**

Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
**HAIR WE SHARE**

Dean Riskin has dedicated his entire life to the hair replacement business. As the second-generation owner of Manny Roberts Hair Replacement, Dean has continuously adapted to modern trends since completing Ultissima Beauty School in 1983. His emotional connection to clients, including those affected by alopecia, chemotherapy, and other hair loss conditions, led him to co-found Hair We Share. This nonprofit organization, Hair We Share, is a beacon of hope for those struggling with medical hair loss. It relies on real-hair ponytail donations and monetary contributions to provide quality hair solutions at no cost to children and adults throughout the USA. Dean's unwavering commitment to the mission of Hair We Share is evident in every strand of hair he touches. His expertise extends beyond the technical aspects of wig design; it's infused with compassion and a deep understanding of the emotional impact of hair loss. Whether corresponding with donors or mentoring volunteers, Dean ensures that everyone feels seen, valued, and beautiful. His legacy is woven into the very fabric of the organization, creating a tapestry of hope, dignity, and restored confidence for those facing hair loss challenges.

### Q&A

What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?

Providing over 1200 wigs created from donated ponytails to children and adults who struggle with medical hair loss.

What/Who inspired you to be on the path you're on today?

Suzanne Chimera, my co founder who has worked with me for 30 years. Eleven years ago we started Hair We Share and have never looked back. The confidence and self esteem our wigs have helped to restore is clearly a blessing!



**CAROLYN SANTORA, MS, RN**

Chief Nursing Officer & Chief Regulatory Officer  
**STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

Carolyn Santora, MS, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ is a graduate of St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing, received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Adelphi University, and a Master's Degree in Critical Care Nursing from SUNY Stony Brook. She is dually trained as a Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care and a Clinical Nurse Specialist. She has held progressive management positions at SBUH, including having served as the Associate Director for Critical Care Services, Surgical Services and Cardiac, Trauma & Emergency Services prior to taking on the position of Chief of Regulatory Affairs in 2007. She served as the interim chief nursing officer, continuing as the chief of regulatory affairs from October 2015 until February 2019, and then again in January 2020, leading the nursing division through the COVID pandemic. In July 2020 she was permanently appointed to Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Regularity Officer. She was one of the founding hospital staff members, having entered service in 1979 as a Clinician for the first Surgery Unit. She is nationally known for her expertise in Emergency Department Overcrowding and has published on the same. Her national presentations include lectures and poster presentations on Pain Management, Leadership, Quality and Safety. Carolyn holds ANCC certification as a nurse executive, advanced, certified as a professional in health care quality and is a specialist in hospital accreditation.



**MELISSA SCHACHTER, MS, CCC-SLP, TSSLD**

Speech-Language Pathologist & Director  
**THE SPEECH LANGUAGE PLACE**

Melissa Schachter completed her Bachelor of Science degree at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, majoring in speech-language pathology and minoring in music, psychology, and business. She earned her Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY. She is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist in the state of New York, holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and a New York State Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD) professional certificate. Melissa is a classically trained singer who has studied privately for over 16 years. She is currently part of the CenterPoint Church worship team, which allows her to showcase her love of singing. This, combined with her vocal training, has allowed Melissa to specialize in voice disorders, including vocal nodules, polyps, muscle tension dysphonia and more.

### Q&A

What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?

The growth I have seen happening at The Speech Language Place is the greatest achievement of the past year. We have incredible clinicians who are always striving to learn new methods to help clients, and as a result of their diligence, we continue to see milestones being reached for our clients. I am so grateful to witness the changes that impact the day-to-day lives of our clients because of the work my team and I do!

Congratulations

LISA STERN

HERALD Long Island  
Excellence in Healthcare 2024 honoree



All of us at FCA are incredibly  
proud of you for this remarkable  
achievement in your career!



On behalf of the Management and  
Board of Directors of



CONGRATULATIONS



MARY SILBERSTEIN MSW, LCSW

2024 EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE

This wonderful honor from *LI Herald* is in recognition for  
all the great leadership you provide and the work you  
do for the Long Island community each and every day!



# EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



## 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**MARY SILBERSTEIN, LCSW-R**  
*Senior Director of Strategic Alliances & Special Projects*  
**CENTRAL NASSAU GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES, INC**

Mary Silberstein is a community and health system leader with over 34 years of experience in behavioral healthcare. She has dedicated her career to improving the lives of individuals with mental health and substance use issues on Long Island.

Mary has been with the CN Guidance health system since 2013, where she created a successful Addiction Recovery Treatment Services program and advanced to become the Division Director of Integrated Counseling and Recovery Treatment Services. In this role, she developed a fully functioning outpatient clinic in collaboration with community partners and funding agencies, serving thousands of clients annually. Mary was instrumental in CN Guidance receiving Certified Community Behavioral Health Center status and led the transition into this role.

Currently, Mary is the Senior Director of Strategic Alliances & Special Projects, working with Long Island task forces and committees on mental health and substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. She has extensive experience with evidence-based practices, managing grant programs from SAMHSA, and federal and state funding sources. Mary has presented nationally on innovative care models and contributed to the 2023 LI Report on Strengthening the System of Care for Co-Occurring Disorders. She holds a Master's in Social Work from Adelphi University and a Bachelor's in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach.



**LISA STERN, LCSW-R**  
*AVP of Senior & Adult Services*  
**FAMILY & CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION**

Lisa Stern has been with FCA since 2011 and is passionate about providing quality services for seniors. Lisa provides oversight for FCA's senior programs which include: case management and in-home assistance, financial counseling, health insurance counseling, elder abuse education and support, Alzheimer's caregiver support program, home energy assistance, Ombudservice, Friendly Visiting, and the OMH Linkage Project.

Prior to joining the staff at FCA, Lisa worked as a Clinical Social Worker at the Gural JCC for eight years. There, Lisa worked on program development, individual and group counseling, was coordinator of the bereavement program, organizing and implementing social programs for seniors.

Lisa earned her BA in Psychology from Clark University in 1983, and her MSW and a Certificate in Gerontology from Adelphi University in 1985, following which she was awarded her ACSW, LCSW and LCSW-R respectively. In 2011 she received a Post-Master's certificate in Spirituality and Social Work from NYU.

## Q&A

**What has been your greatest achievement(s) within the past year?**

My greatest achievement this year has been providing leadership to my amazing team in responding to the emergent needs of seniors on Long Island. I am very proud of the expansion of FCA's services that address the behavioral health needs of isolated home bound seniors. This enhances FCA's comprehensive core services, addresses isolation head on and provides much needed support.



**AMYEE ST. PIERRE**  
*Vice President, Senior Consultant, Health & Performance*  
**HUB INTERNATIONAL**

Amyee St. Pierre provides strategic well-being consulting support to HUB clients and prospects in the Northeast market. Amyee works closely with our Employee Benefits and National Health & Performance teams. Amyee comes to HUB with over 25 years of experience in the employee healthcare, insurance, and wellness industry. Prior to coming to HUB, she worked as a Key Account Representative, New Business Sales Representative, and Broker Manager at Aetna for more than 14 years. Most recently she worked for an innovative wellness solution company that vetted and sold top wellbeing solutions to mid to large-size corporate clients. She brings expertise in finding affordable, impactful solutions for all-size clients, focusing on engaging employees to stay healthy and have an easier time navigating the ever-changing healthcare world. In addition to her corporate Healthcare and Wellness experience, Amyee has been a Personal Trainer and Group Fitness Instructor for the past 15 years. She is passionate about staying healthy and fit and bringing others on that journey with her!

# Connect. Collaborate. Celebrate!

## RichnerLIVE's 2024-2025 Event Calendar:

RichnerLIVE produces top-level business and community events celebrating members of the vibrant and diverse communities in which we live.

### Q4 - 2024

- SEP**  
 **17** **Excellence in Healthcare Awards**  
6PM-9PM  
*The Heritage Club at Bethpage*
- OCT**  
 **10** **Senior Health & Beyond Expo\***  
10AM-12:30PM  
*O'Connell Gardens*
- NOV**  
 **3** **Senior Health & Beyond Expo**  
10AM-2:00PM  
*Suffolk Y JCC (SYJCC)*
- NOV**  
 **20** **Top Chief Officers of LI Awards**  
6PM-9PM  
*The Heritage Club at Bethpage*

*\*For our Senior Health & Beyond contact Anna Graci at 516.569.4000 x290 or agraci@liherald.com Stay tuned for a 2025 Senior Expo schedule!*

**Interested in one of our events?  
Scan below!**



### 2025

- Q1**  
 **2025** **GreenBIZ Awards**  
6PM-9PM  
*The Heritage Club at Bethpage*
- FEB**  
 **26** **Real Estate Achievers & Leaders Awards**  
6PM-9PM  
*The Heritage Club at Bethpage*
- MAR**  
 **12** **Small Business THRIVE Summit + Family Business Awards**  
8AM-4:30PM  
*The Crest Hollow Country Club*
- MAR**  
 **19** **Premier Business Women of LI Awards**  
6PM-9PM  
*The Heritage Club at Bethpage*
- APR**  
 **16** **Top Lawyers of LI Awards**  
6PM-9PM  
*The Heritage Club at Bethpage*
- MAY**  
 **13** **Long Island Choice Awards Gala**  
5PM-9PM  
*The Crest Hollow Country Club*
- SEP**  
 **9** **Women's Executive (WE) Summit**  
8:30AM-3:30PM  
*The Crescent Beach Club*

*Please note: 2025 schedule subject to change*

**For more information or to become a sponsor contact  
Amy Amato at 516.569.4000 ext 224 or email [aamato@richnerlive.com](mailto:aamato@richnerlive.com)**

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**ROUMIANA TZVETKOVA, DMD**  
Owner  
**ASPEN DENTAL - DEER PARK**

Roumiana Tzvetkova was born into a family of an oral surgeon and an engineer, which instilled in her a deep sense of compassion and dedication to making a positive impact on people's lives from an early age. This philosophy has shaped both her personal and professional journey. She graduated from the Medical University of Sofia, Faculty of Dental Medicine in 2008, and later earned her second DMD degree from Tufts University. Her professional vision is centered on providing dental care with the highest degree of professionalism and empathy. She strives to build meaningful connections with her patients, understanding their unique needs and designing comprehensive treatments that prioritize their well-being. Roumiana's passion in dentistry lies in preserving natural dentition for as long as possible. She has pursued numerous hands-on courses in the USA and Europe, focusing on biomimetic dentistry—a technique that uses materials to mimic the appearance and function of natural teeth. Currently, she is working toward becoming credentialed in Implant Dentistry and is enrolled in a 10-month hands-on course to achieve Associate Fellowship status with the American Academy of Implantology. Outside of dentistry, she enjoys spending time with her curious 9-year-old son, engaging in conversations on topics like history, books, and his favorite subject—past and present influential U.S. presidents. Her hobbies include playing the piano and painting, where her understanding of rhythm and harmony translates to precision in dental procedures, enhancing her manual dexterity and focus. Her musical background also fosters teamwork, which is crucial in the healthcare setting.



**JOSEPH VERDIRAME**  
Managing Partner & Chief Executive Officer  
**ALLIANCE HOMECARE / TRUSTHOUSE**

Joseph Verdirame is the CEO of Alliance Homecare, a trusted name in premium in-home healthcare services across New York for nearly two decades. Recognized for his strategic foresight and innovative leadership, Joseph has recently spearheaded the launch of TrustHouse, a brand under Alliance Homecare designed to set new standards in healthcare excellence. TrustHouse represents a significant evolution in-home care, blending elite private-duty nursing with bespoke concierge services to meet the high expectations of discerning families. Before his current role, Joseph made substantial impacts through business restructuring across industries, showcasing his ability to transform distressed assets into profitable ventures. His foundational career as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan Chase provided profound insights into financial intricacies and operational challenges in healthcare. Joseph holds a B.B.A. in Finance from Emory University and lives in Glen Head with his wife, Nancy, and their children, Ava and Joseph.

*Congratulations to our very own*  
**Dr. Roumiana Tzvetkova, DMD**  
Owner, Aspen Dental Deer Park  
*and all of the 2024 Excellence  
In Healthcare honorees*

**AspenDental®**  
**Smile. We're in your corner.**



—Alliance Homecare®



## Congratulations to **Joseph Verdirame**



Joseph Verdirame, Managing Partner and CEO of Alliance Homecare, has led the charge in providing premium in-home health care services throughout New York City, Long Island, and Westchester for nearly two decades. This year, Joseph is honored with the prestigious Excellence in Healthcare Award, recognizing his visionary leadership and innovative contributions to the industry.

Under Joseph's guidance, Alliance Homecare has become synonymous with exceptional care, touching the lives of thousands of families since its inception in 2006. His latest initiative, TrustHouse, exemplifies his commitment to elevating standards in home healthcare, setting a new benchmark for quality and personalized service.

Joseph has also prioritized philanthropic efforts, recognizing the importance of community involvement through fundraising, donations, and support of non-profit disease organizations. This dedication has deeply influenced the company culture, instilling the importance of giving back.

The entire team proudly congratulates Joseph on this well-deserved accolade, celebrating his unwavering dedication to enhancing the lives of those we serve.



“

Home care is very demanding and intuitive. Alliance Homecare nurses have served me well, and always made me feel safe and secure.”

”

— Michael J. Fox  
Actor & Parkinson's Advocate

Alliance Homecare is the premier provider of private duty home nursing care, personal care with home health aides, and specialized nursing care for chronic diseases in the New York Metropolitan area.



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Stony Brook  
School of Social Welfare



Stony Brook  
Medicine

# Congratulations

**Michelle S. Ballan, PhD, MSW**

Professor and Associate Dean for Research,  
School of Social Welfare  
Professor, Department of Family, Population  
& Preventive Medicine  
Director, Leadership Education in  
Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities  
(LEND) Program

Your colleagues are so proud of you!

*and congratulations to all of the*  
**LONG ISLAND HERALD EXCELLENCE  
IN HEALTH CARE 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

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