

Upstate Medical University named to Forbes' Best Large Employers List

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY has been named to Forbes' Best Large Employers 2021 List. Upstate is ranked No. 35 on the list overall, above others in the education industry category including Cornell, Harvard, and Johns Hopkins universities.

Twenty-five colleges and universities are on this year's list, which includes more than two dozen industry sectors, such as construction, engineering, manufacturing and more.

"All of Upstate Medical University should be proud to be included on this list from Forbes," says Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79. "If you work here, you know what an incredible place it can be with smart, compassionate colleagues who care deeply about this

community and each other," he says. "As the largest employer in the region, we take our responsibility very seriously and we are humbled to be listed among such outstanding employers across the country."

Forbes compiles its annual list based on an independent survey from more than 50,000 U.S. employees working for companies employing at least 1,000 people in their U.S. operations. The evaluation asked employees to rate their willingness to recommend their employers to friends and family as well as evaluate other employers in their respective industries. Employees were also asked to give their opinions on work-related topics such as working conditions, salary, potential for development and company image.

SUNY Announces Initiative to Enroll EOP Students in Medical Schools

SUNY has created the first statewide initiative to help more Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students enroll in SUNY's medical universities. The Pre-Medical Scholars Pipeline Program was introduced by SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras at a press conference held at the Upstate College of Medicine in February.

The program falls under the chancellor's SUNY For All Initiative.

SUNY EOP helps New York state's disadvantaged students from underserved communities gain access and succeed in undergraduate programs. The new SUNY initiative seeks to strengthen the preparedness of SUNY EOP students for medical education and build an effective pipeline to SUNY medical schools. The program will prepare students for success in their undergraduate programs, medical school and the medical profession through academic support, mentorship, clinical exposure, assistance with MCAT preparation, academic coaching and workshops.

The new program is set to begin in summer 2021 with 25 students, which could be expanded based on initial results and further funding. To be considered for the program, candidates must be a SUNY EOP sophomore or junior on a pre-medical track, have a grade point average of 3.2 or higher, and have

successfully completed two semesters of general chemistry and two semesters of biology.

"The new SUNY for All Pre-Medical Scholars Pipeline Program will be a deliberate and well-executed mechanism to increase much-needed diversity in our medical school and across the state," says Upstate President Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79. "This program will allow more young men and women from a wider variety of backgrounds pursue their dreams of becoming a doctor."

The new medical pathway program is being established at Upstate, University at Buffalo, Downstate Health Sciences University, and Stony Brook University. This program builds upon the successes of Stony Brook Medicine's Pre-Medical Access to Clinical Experience (PACE) program, which is a pipeline program that enhances the entry of underrepresented minorities into medicine and monitors their success.

SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras announces the Pre-Medical Scholars Pipeline Program at a news conference held at Upstate.



Students Hold Successful Health Justice Conference

More than 850 people participated in Upstate's student-led Health Justice Conference 2021 on January 16. The theme for this year's conference was "The Time Is Now: Action for Health Equity," and was organized by Samantha Williams '23, Isabelle Thenor-Louis '25, and Angelina Ellis '25.

The co-chairs say the theme was selected to address an array of issues, ranging from how the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted unequal outcomes in health care to raising awareness of inequitable treatment by the criminal legal system.

They started with the single concept that "Racism is a public health issue," says Ellis. "This statement led us to start thinking about the many ways that different '-isms' impact how minority groups access health and healthcare," Ellis said. She noted that Black Americans have historically been mistreated by the medical system and several other systems in America. "It wasn't just the Tuskegee experiment, it is a lot deeper than that," she says.

For the first time, the conference was held via Zoom, an additional challenge for organizers, who had to learn the intricacies of Zoom hosting, including making sure that all presentations had live captioning available, screen reader accessible images, and sign-language interpreters in all large group sessions.

But it also provided opportunities. "Going virtual allowed us to reach out to programs and organizations from across the globe," says Williams. "I personally reached out to 200 colleges, high schools, and organizational programs. From this outreach, we were also able to yield several quality applicants for our high school and undergraduate scholarships and to provide \$500 scholarships for three students who



Isabelle Thenor-Louis



Samantha Williams



Angelina Ellis

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— Angelina Ellis '25

are dedicated to addressing health inequities.”

The virtual conference also eliminated the need for speakers to travel to campus, allowing for greater outside participation. Ellis and Thenor-Louis said those they contacted to speak were generous with their time and flexible with their limited budget as a student-

led organization. "They were very accommodating and supported our vision as three Black women creating a space to discuss the things that are often not addressed in medical education," says Ellis.

The keynote address, "Mobilizing for Health Equity," was presented by Uche Blackstock, MD, founder and CEO of Advancing Health Equity, which partners with healthcare and healthcare-related organizations to address the critical factors contributing to health inequity, through talks, workshops, and consulting services. She was formerly an associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and the faculty director for Recruitment, Retention and Inclusion in the Office of Diversity Affairs at New York University School of Medicine.

One speaker, Robin Wilson-Beattie, was grateful to the organizers for the opportunity to present on "Disability and Ableism in Sexual Health," says Thenor-Louis. "It was a decade-long dream of hers to speak in the medical space."

Alumnus David Ansell, MD '78, senior vice president for Community Health Equity at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, spoke on "The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills," based on his experiences working at Chicago's largest public hospital.



Sherard 'Scott' Tatum, MD

Sherard 'Scott' Tatum, MD, Named Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery

Sherard 'Scott' Tatum, MD, was appointed chair of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Tatum had served as interim chair of the department since April 2018.

"I'm grateful to have Dr. Tatum continue his service as chair to this important clinical department," says Lawrence Chin, MD, dean of the College of Medicine. "He is an exceptional physician, researcher, and campus leader; Upstate will continue to benefit by his valuable and dedicated service."

Tatum has been a member of the Upstate faculty for nearly 30 years, serving on numerous committees including the Trauma Committee, Medical Student Advisor

Program, and as a scientific reviewer for the Institutional Review Board.

He is a sought-after presenter on craniofacial disorders and surgery, speaking regularly at annual meetings of American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. He has published widely in the *Clinics of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* and *JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery*, among others.

Tatum is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, the American Cleft Palate—Craniofacial Association, and the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive

Surgery. He has been included on many top doctor lists through the years, including Best Doctors in America, America's Best Physicians, America's Top Plastic Surgeons, among others.

Tatum earned his medical degree from the University of South Florida and did postgraduate training in general surgery and otolaryngology at Eastern Virginia Medical School; craniomaxillofacial surgery at University of Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany; and facial plastic and reconstructive surgery at University of California-Davis Medical Center.



Margaret Maimone, PhD

Margaret Maimone, PhD, Named Interim Chair of Cell and Developmental Biology

MARGARET M. MAIMONE, PHD, who has been on the faculty of Upstate Medical University for nearly 30 years, has been named interim chair of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. She succeeds Joseph Sanger, PhD, who has stepped down as chair but remains on the faculty of the department.

"I want to thank Dr. Sanger for his service to Upstate as chair of this important basic science department and look forward to his continued service on our faculty," says College of Medicine Dean Lawrence Chin, MD. "And I am grateful that Dr. Maimone will continue to lead this department forward in her role as interim chair. Dr. Maimone's work in research, teaching, advising and administration provides her with a firm foundation to move this department forward."

Dr. Maimone joined the Upstate faculty in 1993 and has been involved over the last 15 years in teaching, advising, and administration. She has held leadership positions in these areas, including as a course director in the College of Health Professions and College of Medicine, and as assistant dean of student affairs for College of Medicine advising.

Maimone is a recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and is a Gold Standard Award winner for her passion, commitment, excellence and integrity in service to Upstate. She is also a founding member of the Academy of Upstate Educators.

Maimone earned a PhD in biochemistry and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular biology from the Washington University School of Medicine.



Henry Roane, PhD

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— Henry Roane, PhD

Henry Roane, PhD, Named Executive Director of New Golisano Center for Special Needs

UPSTATE GOLISANO CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL has named Henry Roane, PhD, a professor of pediatrics and division chief of the Center for Development, Behavior and Genetics at Upstate as executive director for the new Golisano Center for Special Needs, which opened in February.

The center provides comprehensive, coordinated, and scientifically based medical and behavioral care for children and adolescents with many types of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“Dr. Roane will be an outstanding director of the Golisano Center for Special Needs and I was honored to be able to appoint him to that position,” says Gregory Conners, MD, executive director of the children’s hospital. “Dr. Roane has been advocating at Upstate for additional and more streamlined services for children and families for many years.”

Dr. Roane has been involved in nearly every aspect of planning for the new center, which is located on the third floor of Madison-Irving Medical Center. “Developing this centralized program and growing these clinical models will

allow us to see more kids, more quickly and that will be better for the community,” he says.

The center will continue to serve a 22-county area in New York state and will expand existing services such as the Inclusive Fitness and Adaptive Design Program and the Family Behavior Analysis Program. “One of the things that will be really important is the integration across providers,” Roane says. “Having your doctors all co-located is a nice thing for families.”

Roane has worked at Upstate since 2009. In addition to serving as division chief of Development, Behavior and Genetics in the Department of Pediatrics, he also serves as the chair of the Behavior Analysis Studies program in the College of Health Professions. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Louisiana State University as well as a doctorate in psychology. He previously worked at The Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta, the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, and the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders in Omaha, Nebraska.



Sriram S. Narsipur, MD, named Edward C. Reifenstein Professor of Medicine

SRIRAM S. NARSIPUR, MD, was appointed the Edward C. Reifenstein Professor of Medicine.

“It’s a pleasure to bestow Dr. Narsipur with this honor, especially following his appointment earlier this year as chair of the Department of Medicine,” says College of Medicine Dean Lawrence Chin, MD. “Both are testimony to his great leadership here at Upstate.”

Dr. Narsipur joined Upstate in 1996, and in addition to being chair of Medicine, he serves as a professor of medicine, pediatrics and surgery; chief of nephrology; and medical director of University Dialysis Center. His key area of research is cardiovascular disease in patients with chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal failure.

The professorship is named for Dr. Edward Reifenstein, the medical advisor and close friend of Horace White, the 37th governor of New York state. White left a quarter of his estate to Syracuse University’s College of Medicine in honor of Reifenstein, “who has devoted many years of faithful, distinguished, gratuitous service to said college of Medicine.” The college, of course, later transferred to SUNY.

Narsipur earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, and completed his residency at Baystate Medical Center, Tufts School of Medicine, where he served as chief resident in pediatrics. He completed a fellowship in Nephrology/Hypertension at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine.

He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Society of Nephrology, and a member of the Royal College of Physicians.



IS THERE A DOCTOR IN

THE FAMILY? Sri Narsipur, MD, professor and chair of medicine and medical director of nephrology, received his second COVID-19 vaccine dose from Sonia Narsipur—his daughter. Sonia is a fourth-year Upstate medical student and is interested in family medicine. Sonia comes from a family of doctors. Her mom—Sonia Y. Kragh, MD—is an internist.

Housecalls for the Homeless Program Receives Bank of America Grant

Upstate Medical University’s street medicine program, Housecalls for the Homeless, received a \$30,000 grant from Bank of America to fund point-of-care equipment, medicine, coronavirus supplies, eyeglasses, dentures, and personal care items vital for the care of homeless individuals in Onondaga County.

Pioneered by David Lehmann, MD, and Mia Ruiz-Salvador in 2018, Housecalls for the Homeless provides medical, psychiatric, and addiction care services for men and

women experiencing homelessness in Syracuse and Onondaga County. The program provides basic medical and preventive care to those sheltering at the Rescue Mission, Catholic Charities Men’s Shelter, Salvation Army Women’s Shelter, and through In My Father’s Kitchen, a mobile program providing food and basic necessities for individuals living outdoors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an increased need for medical supplies to stop the coronavirus spread in shelters and on the streets. “Bank of America’s funding

helps continue necessary work in the community, especially as the health crisis created an increase of needs, services, and precautionary measures at the shelters we serve,” says Dr. Lehmann. “We’re grateful for Bank of America’s contribution, which will help us continue our mission.”



Stephen J. Thomas, MD, is lead principal investigator for Pfizer's global Phase 3 trial of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Stephen J. Thomas, MD, Co-Authors *New England Journal of Medicine* Paper on Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine

UPSTATE CHIEF OF INFECTIOUS Disease Stephen J. Thomas, MD, is co-author of a paper published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in December 2020 about the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech. Thomas is the coordinating principal investigator for the world-wide Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine trial.

The paper, "Safety and Efficacy of the BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine," is authored by 12 doctors and medical experts from around the world. Thomas says the study's publication is an important step to ensure transparent and objective review of the vaccine's performance. *The New England Journal of Medicine* is among the most prestigious medical journals in the world.

"Publication is another level of external peer review," Thomas says. "The people who are going to be administering this vaccine consume information in the medical literature. They read the press release from the company, but they rely on the

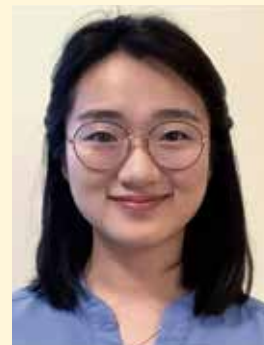
medical literature to make medical decisions. The reviewers are external to the company and the project. If a vaccine is going to start rolling out any time soon it is absolutely in the best interest of everybody for these companies to publish their data."

The paper cites the specifics of the vaccine's clinical trials, which took place at 152 sites around the world. The trial involved 43,448 participants who received injections—21,720 with the vaccine and 21,728 with the placebo. The vaccine, BNT162b2 "was 95 percent effective in preventing COVID-19. Among 10 cases of severe COVID-19 with onset after the first dose, 9 occurred in placebo recipients and 1 in a BNT162b2 recipient.

"The safety profile of BNT162b2 was characterized by short-term, mild-to-moderate pain at the injection site, fatigue, and headache. The incidence of serious adverse events was low and was similar in the vaccine and placebo groups."

Eunice Choe '23 Elected Medical Society of the State of New York Student Delegate

Eunice Choe, a second-year medical student at Upstate Medical University, has been elected as a 2021 medical student delegate for the Medical Society of the State of New York. Choe is one of seven students elected to a post at the fall meeting and the first in six years from Upstate to serve as delegate.



Eunice Choe

Choe, a native of Plattsburgh, New York, serves as president of Upstate's student chapter of the American Medical Association/Medical Society of the State of New York. In her student leadership role at Upstate, Choe is eager for students to be well-equipped to advocate for their patients and practices in the future.

"I'm honored to represent the Medical Student Section at the 2021 MSSNY House of Delegates," Choe says. "In this role, I hope to learn how organized medicine works at the state level. That knowledge will inform how my classmates and I write healthcare resolutions and prepare students to be active in future medical societies. It is a privilege to learn how physician leaders and medical students work together to address the health concerns of our state."

Choe is also active in the Rural Medical Scholars Program, the Christian Medical Fellowship and participates in volunteer activities with the Upstate's Center for Civic Engagement. Prior to attending medical school, she served with AmeriCorps VISTA and worked to secure more than \$700,000 for grants to develop various programs for a rural behavioral health program. She earned her undergraduate degree from Brandeis University in 2017.