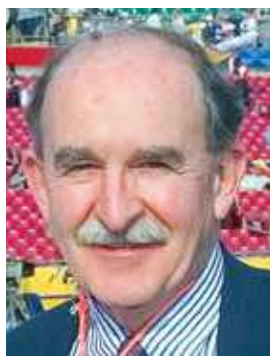


Top of Their Class

Each fall, the Medical Alumni Foundation honors reunion-year alumni who have made an exceptional impact on medicine. Please celebrate our 2021 honorees.

Distinguished Alumnus:

Russell Warren, MD '66



Russell F. Warren, MD '66, surgeon-in-chief emeritus at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City, is a pioneer in the field of orthopaedic surgery, specializing in shoulder and knee surgery. He is co-developer of the Biomet Comprehensive Shoulder system, the most widely used shoulder replacement system in the world. Over five decades, Dr. Warren has trained hundreds of orthopedic surgeons at Weill Medical College and HSS. He has also spent 40 years caring for elite athletes as team doctor for the New York Giants.

Warren was born in 1939 in Burlington, Vermont, and received his bachelor's degree from Columbia College, where he played football and baseball. He pursued medical study at Upstate Medical University, earning his medical degree in 1966. He then completed a one-year surgical residency at St. Luke's Hospital in New York before serving as a Lt. Commander for the U.S. Navy for two years during Vietnam. He received the U.S. Navy Medal of Commendation in 1969.

Following his Naval service, Warren returned to New York and completed a residency in orthopaedic surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery and a fellowship in shoulder surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He also began his teaching career in orthopaedics at Weill Medical College of Cornell

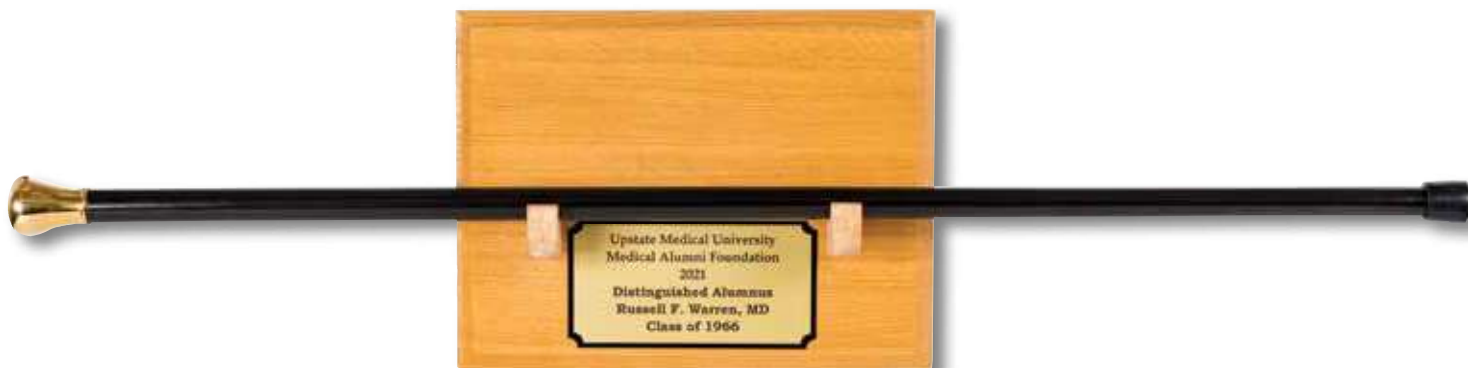
University, where he served as chair of orthopedic surgery from 1994–2003 and is currently professor of surgery. At HSS, Warren served as head of the shoulder and sports medicine services from

1981–1993, and as surgeon-in-chief from 1993–2003. Under his leadership, HSS grew from approximately 6,000 to 20,000 surgeries annually. It is ranked as the number one orthopedic program in the United States and is home to the top-ranked orthopedic residency in the United States. Warren has been a member of the board of trustees since 1993 and is currently surgeon-in-chief emeritus.

For 10 years, Warren was director of the HSS Soft Tissue

Research Lab. Discoveries from the laboratory have advanced progress toward better treatments that reduce pain and restore mobility for patients with soft tissue injuries of the shoulder and knee. Warren has published more than 500 papers and given more than 1,000 invited talks, most in his specialties of knee and shoulder surgery, specifically pertaining to ligament injury (ACL & PCL), shoulder instability, cartilage loss and repair, arthroscopic rotator cuff repair and stabilization and shoulder replacement surgery. He holds numerous patents, many related to the shoulder replacement system he helped develop. In 2005, HSS established the Russell F. Warren Research Chair in soft tissue research to ensure this area

“I’ve always been one that liked variety. I don’t like doing the same thing two days in a row.”



Giants team physician Russell Warren, MD '66, confers with Jason Pierre-Paul during Super Bowl XLVI in February 2012.

of study continues in perpetuity. He has served as editor in chief of *Techniques in Shoulder and Elbow Surgery* since 1999.

In 1984, Warren became team physician for the New York Giants, treating athletes in residence during training camp, performing physicals each Wednesday during the season, and on the sidelines during games. Through his association, numerous HSS fellows received hands-on sports medicine training and have gone on to become head team physicians throughout the National Football League. Warren was named team physician emeritus in 2015.

Warren served as president of both the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) and the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES), an organization he helped found. He has received AOSSM's O'Donoghue Award for

Sports Medicine Research three times since 1982 along with the Humana Award for Clinical Research in 1992 and Mr. Sports Medicine in 2003. He has received the prestigious Neer Award for basic science research from the ASES in 1989, 1995, 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2010 and the Jerry "Hawk" Rhea Award for Outstanding NFL Team Physician in 2004. He has also received numerous honors for teaching.

Warren continues to work full time, teaching, treating patients and performing surgeries, conducting research, and caring for New York Giants athletes.



Dr. Warren examines x-rays with other HSS sports medicine staff at Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis.

Outstanding Young Alumna:

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD '01



Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD '01, MPH, has been the director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) since April 2015, responsible for a staff of more than 470 employees and a budget of \$170 million, both of which increased significantly during the Covid pandemic response. Dr. Alexander-Scott brings tremendous background to this position from her work as a specialist in infectious diseases for children and adults and from her experience in academia as an associate professor of pediatrics, medicine, and public health (with a focus on health services, policy, and practice).

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Alexander-Scott attended Cornell University, majoring in human development and family studies. That foundation directed her medical studies at Upstate Medical University, where she remained interested in the human condition and behavior from the very youngest to the very oldest patients. As a medical student, she was recognized with several scholarships, including the James L. Potts Medical Principles Award, the Joseph J.

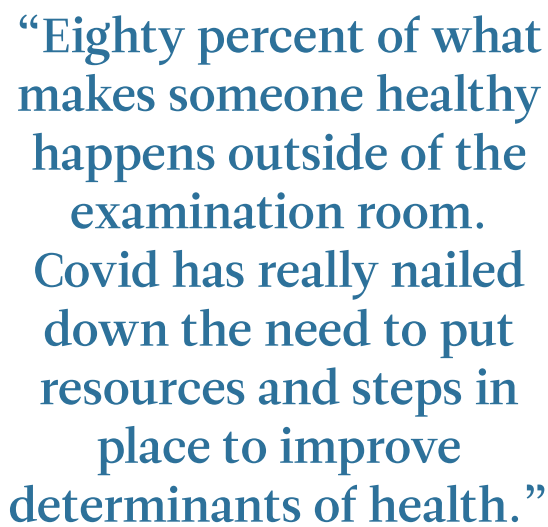
Gadbaw, MD 12/'43 and Ann Gadbar Scholarship, and the Medical Alumni Scholarship Award.

Alexander-Scott completed a combined internal medicine/pediatrics residency at University Hospital at Stony Brook, followed by a four-year combined adult/pediatric infectious diseases fellowship at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, where she developed an interest in public policy, particularly relating to HIV testing in pregnant women. Her efforts led to a new state law in 2007 that made testing for HIV a routine component of prenatal screenings. She went on to earn a master's in public health from Brown University in 2011.

In 2009, Alexander-Scott joined the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University as an associate professor with appointments in both the Department of Medicine and Department of Pediatrics, and as an attending physician at Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital and as consulting physician at Women and Infants' Hospital, all in Providence. She also served as a consultant to RIDOH, working with the Division



Dr. Alexander-Scott addresses reporters about the coronavirus pandemic in mid-March 2020, before daily briefings were moved to the Rhode Island State House and held remotely.



In 2015, Alexander-Scott was appointed director of RIDOH by Governor Gina Raimondo. The position holds a five-year term, and she was reappointed in 2020. Under her leadership, RIDOH has established three leading priorities: addressing the socioeconomic and environmental determinants of health; eliminating disparities of health and promoting health equity; and ensuring access to quality health services for all Rhode Islanders, including the state's vulnerable populations. She has been heralded for her leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. Rhode Island emerged early on as a national leader in per-capita testing for the virus and is among states with the highest rates of vaccination.

to public health. She serves on numerous Rhode Island state committees and has been a member of the Reforming States Group of the Milbank Memorial Fund, a bipartisan group of state health policy leaders from both the executive and legislative branches. She is a member of the board of directors for the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), for which she has served in numerous capacities. As president of ASTHO from 2018–2019, Alexander-Scott established a President’s Challenge on “Building Healthy and Resilient Communities,” which was subsequently adopted as a permanent focus.

Alexander-Scott has been recognized by numerous local and national organizations for her commitment to health equity, including Grow Smart Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Kresge Foundation.

Humanitarian Award:

Daniel T. Burzon, MD '91



For more than 20 years, New Jersey urologist Daniel T. Burzon, MD '91, has organized annual medical missions to Haiti, bringing much needed urological care to the country's impoverished and medically underserved population. Working through the CRUDEM Foundation at Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, he has performed hundreds of surgeries on patients who would likely not otherwise have access to such specialty care.

Dr. Burzon was raised in Chappaqua, New York, and attended Cornell University. As a medical student at Upstate Medical University, he became interested in surgery, eventually focusing on urology. He completed both general surgery and urology residencies at the University of Rochester. Since 1997, he has been a member of Coastal

Urology Associates, a group practice with locations in Brick, Lakewood, and Neptune, New Jersey, and is currently president of the practice. Burzon is also chief of urology at both the Jersey Shore Medical Center and Ocean Medical Center and is medical director of the Shore Outpatient Surgicenter. A diplomate of the American Board of Urology and a Fellow of the American College of

Surgeons, he has conducted research and published on treatments for prostate and bladder cancer.

Burzon made his first trip to Haiti in 1999, accompanying the retired urologist he had replaced in his practice. "All it takes is one trip," he says. "You see the conditions, the need, and the appreciation and you're hooked."

Burzon became part of the medical team of urologists, anesthesiologists, nurses, and other volunteers who would travel to the medical center annually. After five years, he became a team leader, organizing his own team, which travels to Milot the first week of January every year. "I started bringing urology residents, grooming them, and then when they become attendings, they can lead their own team," says Burzon, who has also taken his wife and



"Our Hôpital Sacré Coeur"—The Haitian operating room staff and our U.S. volunteer doctors, nurses, and anesthesiologists after a busy day



"All it takes is one trip. You see the conditions, the need, and the appreciation and you're hooked."

children as volunteers. Burzon pays his own travel expenses and those of his nursing staff as well.

The hospital operates on a system that focuses on a different specialty each week. With only three weeks out of the year devoted to urology, Burzon says his team is typically greeted by hundreds of patients, many who have been waiting in line for days. They spend the first day assessing patients, and by the end of that day, the week's surgical schedule is full. In 2010, Burzon and his team were in Haiti during the major earthquake and later



returned to lead post-quake care.

Despite donations from abroad, Burzon describes the hospital facilities as “operating in 1950,” conditions that limit treatment options. Common surgeries include repair of congenital defects and undescended testicles, hydrocele to eliminate fluid retention around the scrotum, and prostate and penile cancers, which are often much more advanced than seen in the United States. “The

patients and their families are incredibly grateful and it’s a very rewarding experience,” he says.

Closer to home, Burzon has served as a board member for the New Jersey chapter of the Fellowship of Christian athletes for 18 years, a Christian organization that encourages youth from elementary school through college to participate in athletics drug and alcohol free. He is also a board member and medical director of the Open Door Pregnancy Center in Toms River, New Jersey. The organization provides medical care, counseling, and financial assistance to young pregnant women to assist them in keeping their babies.



“Team Burzon”—wife Teddi of 36 years, son DJ (30) and daughter Mikki-Jean (36), both of whom grew up on the Upstate campus, and youngest daughter Jaylin (26).



The Burzon family at their “Happy Place,” Lake George

