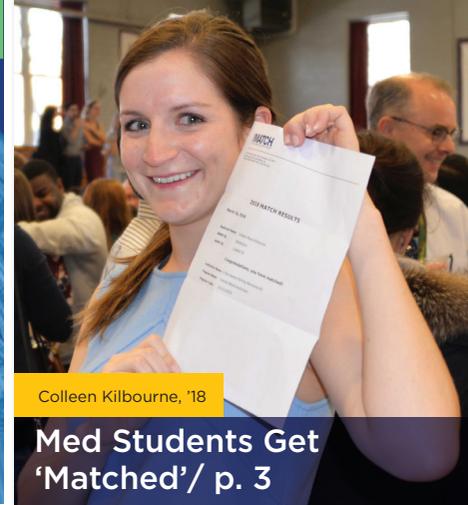


# ALBANY MED TODAY

KNOWN FOR OUR EXPERTISE. CHOSEN FOR OUR CARE.



Colleen Kilbourne, '18

Med Students Get 'Matched' / p. 3

## Best hospital? Albany Med.

Known for our expertise. Chosen for our care.

Erika Riddick and her daughter Tori  
Patient, Bernard & Millie Duker  
Children's Hospital at Albany Med



ALBANY MED

amc.edu/BestInRegion  
Share your Albany Med story #BestHospital.

## Albany Med Voted Region's 'Best Hospital'

For the fourth year in a row, Albany Med has been voted "Best Hospital in the Capital Region" by area residents in the *Times Union's* "Best Of" survey. Congratulations to all whose hard work has led to this honor!

## Schenectady Teen Prevails Over Concussions, Assisted by Albany Med

Say the word "concussion" and the image of an athlete, dazed and disoriented, being helped off a playing field after a jarring blow to the head, may spring to mind.

While 14-year-old Isabella Sementilli, of Niskayuna, defies this stereotype, the soft-spoken ninth-grader nonetheless fights a battle with her "invisible injury" every day. Delicate and petite, Isabella has sustained two concussions, the first after a classmate pulled her chair out from under her in October 2013 and the other after being hit with a stray basketball while sidelined from gym class just months later.



Isabella Sementilli

The Sementillis finally found the breakthrough they needed when Isabella was referred to **Karen Powers, MD**, chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurology, who co-directs Albany Med's Pediatric Neurology Headache and Pain Program with clinical psychologist **Angela A. Antonikowski, PhD**.

While Isabella's symptoms stumped other specialists, her mother, Pola, said Dr. Powers immediately diagnosed her daughter with new daily persistent headache, a type of chronic daily headache.

Calling Dr. Powers a physician who "knows her stuff," Pola added their family was also struck by her warmth, kindness and willingness to just listen. "We cannot say enough wonderful things about her," she said.

Dr. Powers credits her colleagues for their instrumental role in Isabella's treatment.

"At Albany Med, we approach the needs of pediatric patients diagnosed with primary pain disorders, such as chronic headache, pain amplification syndrome and functional abdominal pain, as a multidisciplinary team,"

**CONCUSSION**, continued on page 3

## Longtime Supporters Generously Donate to Peds ED

*With \$500K Gift, Stewart's Shops and the Dake Family's Giving Now Exceeds \$3.5M*

For more than three decades, Stewart's Shops and the Dake family have provided tremendous support to Albany Med, positively affecting the lives of patients, staff and the community at large. Their latest act of benevolence? A gift of \$500,000 to the Massry Family Children's Emergency Center at Albany Med, which, when it opens this summer, will be the only pediatric emergency department in northeastern New York and western New England.

The Saratoga-based company and family were early supporters of the project.

"Stewart's and the Dake family are committed to ensuring that all our shops' communities are strong and healthy," said Susan Law Dake, president of the Stewart's Foundation. "We are happy to be part of Albany Med's commitment to pediatric health."

This isn't the first time the Dake family and Stewart's Shops have stepped up for Albany Med's youngest patients. They are strong supporters of the child life program at the Bernard & Millie Duker



From left: Stewart's Shops Chairman William Dake, Stewart's Foundation President Susan Law Dake and Stewart's Shops President Gary Dake.

Children's Hospital through the Stewart's Holiday Match Program—and their numerous other donations include sponsorship of the Grow Our Own Fund in Nursing Education and the establishment of both the Phyllis E. Dake Endowed Chair in Movement Disorders and the Phyllis E. Dake Endowed Neuroscience Fellowship. To date, their total support of Albany Med is more than \$3.5 million.

"For many years, the Dake family and Stewart's have been stalwarts in helping us provide the best possible care to the families and children of our region. Their generosity, time and time again, has allowed us to create

and expand programs as well as to plan for the future health needs of the people we serve. We continue to be very grateful for their friendship and significant support," said Albany Med President and CEO **Jim Barba**.

When the Massry Family Children's Emergency Center opens this summer, it will exclusively serve children and teens to 18 years old. Staffed by a strong team of specialists with specialized training in pediatric emergency medicine, the center is designed specifically for the needs of young patients and their families, with child-sized equipment, state-of-the-art technology and peaceful, friendly décor.





## Pediatric Rheumatologist Dr. Mariacarmen Lopez Pena Joins Albany Med

**Maricarmen Lopez Pena, MD**, a pediatric rheumatologist who specializes in treating children with dermatomyositis, scleroderma and other disorders of the joints, muscles and ligaments, has joined the Department of Pediatrics and been appointed associate professor of pediatrics.

Dr. Lopez Pena comes to Albany Med after 14 years in private practice in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She most recently served as assistant professor of pediatrics at the Ponce School of Health Sciences, and she is a former past president of both the *Capitulo de Reumatologia* and the *Asociacion de Reumatologos de Puerto Rico*.

A distinguished researcher, Dr. Lopez Pena has published numerous articles on autoinflammatory syndromes, vasculitis, Kawasaki disease, arthritis in children and juvenile dermatomyositis.

She completed her residency in pediatrics at Miami Children's Hospital and her fellowship in pediatric rheumatology at the Duke University School of Medicine. She looks forward to conducting clinical research at Albany Med that examines rheumatologic disease in pediatric populations in the Capital Region and Puerto Rico.

## Additional Cardiac Services Available on Weekends for Inpatients

To help improve service to patients and their referring physicians, Albany Med's cardiology team and affiliates now offer stress tests and echocardiogram readings on weekends.

This service helps expedite patients' diagnoses. It also ensures providers receive the information they need to help inform critical decisions as quickly as possible.

The initiative was spearheaded by **Daniel Pauze, MD**, attending physician and assistant professor of emergency medicine, **Dennis McKenna, MD**, senior vice president for medical affairs and system chief medical director, and **Edward Philbin III, MD**, the George E. Pataki Chair of the Division of Cardiology. More announcements and updates on additional weekend services will be made in the coming months.



Cardiologists Dr. Suzie Mookherjee and Dr. Radmila Lyubarova

## Albany Med and UC Davis Partner to Target Molecule That Could Help Ease Asthma

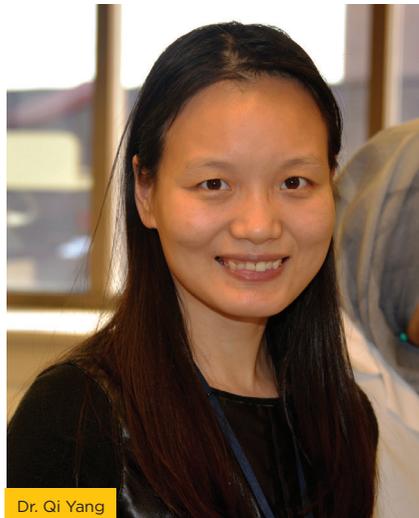
Researchers at Albany Medical College and the UC Davis School of Medicine recently showed that the protein vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGFA) plays a major role in the inflammation and airway obstruction associated with asthma.

While VEGFA is best known for its activity in cancer and growing blood vessels to help feed hungry tumors, this research outlines its entirely different role in asthma. Illuminating this biology could eventually lead to new asthma treatments.

The study, published online in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, was led by Albany Med's **Qi Yang, MD, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Immunology and Disease, and Angela Haczku, MD, PhD, professor of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine at UC Davis.

The Yang and Haczku labs have been collaborating closely for many years. Previously, they found that self-renewing immune cells, called group 2 innate lymphoid cells (ILC2), help cause the airways in the lungs to become smaller when exposed to allergens, often leading to a full-blown asthma attack.

For this study, the teams targeted VEGFA, a molecule they had identified as being produced by ILC2s. They found that when



Dr. Qi Yang

VEGFA was blocked, immune response and inflammation both declined, essentially eliminating asthma symptoms.

Ultimately, Drs. Yang and Haczku hope that their research will help lead to asthma treatments that target very specific molecules—like VEGFA—rather than knocking out the entire immune system.

Other Albany Med researchers on the paper were **Xiaofei Shen, MD**, **Muhammad Asghar Pasha, MD**, **Kelsi Hidde, BS**, **Adil Khan, MD**, and **Mingwei Liang, PhD**. Wenxian Guan and Yitao Ding at Nanjing University Medical School in China also contributed to the research.



## Albany Med Urologists to Host Seminar for Primary Care Providers

Albany Med's Division of Urology will host a state-of-the-art seminar, "Urology for Primary Care Providers," on Saturday, May 12, from 8:30 a.m. – noon, in Huyck Auditorium on Albany Med's main campus. The three-hour program will provide important updates on conditions that include incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse and erectile dysfunction, and is designed especially for primary care physicians and internists. The seminar's \$25 registration fee will be waived for residents and students. For more information or to register, please contact **Jennifer Burdi**, residency program coordinator, at (518) 262-3296 or [burdij@amc.edu](mailto:burdij@amc.edu).

Albany Med Today is published monthly by the Department of Policy, Planning and Communications at Albany Medical Center. Comments and story suggestions can be directed to Public Relations at (518) 262-3421 or communications@amc.edu.

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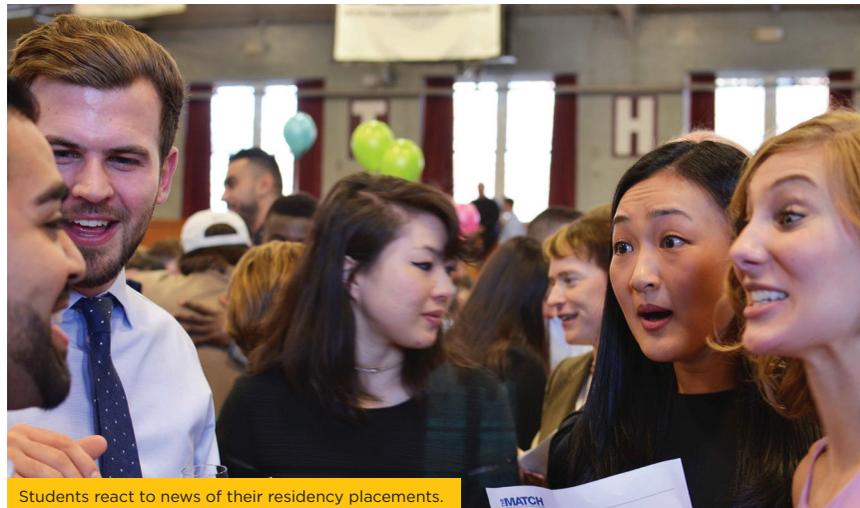
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## It's a Match! Class of 2018 Learns Residency Assignments



Students react to news of their residency placements.

Match Day, when fourth-year medical students across the country learn where they will continue their medical training as resident physicians, was particularly explosive at Albany Medical College this year.

In a new twist on an annual tradition, students received balloons, which, when they popped them, released a shower of confetti and the name of the institution where they are bound.

Held in March at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences gymnasium to accommodate the large crowd, Match Day was attended by soon-to-be graduates, their family and friends, and the faculty who have guided them through medical school.

"My education at Albany Med has meant everything to me," said **Martin Cole, '18**, shortly after learning his assignment: a residency in family medicine at Albany Med.

"I am very grateful that I get to spend more time with these excellent teachers and become the best doctor I can be," he said. "Having my family so close just makes it all the better."

Martin was joined by his father, **Peter Cole, MD, '87**, a longtime faculty member in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology who also trained at Albany Med. "Selfishly, I'm very excited to have Martin train with our family practice group," Dr. Cole said. "He is assured of receiving excellent training. I'm extra delighted he will be geographically close by."

Martin Cole was one of 147 students who attended Match Day, which Vice Dean for Academic Administration **Henry Pohl, MD**, called "the emotional culmination of years of hard work."

Sixty-three students—representing 43 percent of the Class of 2018—were matched to programs in

New York State. Fifty-three percent of this year's class entered into primary care specialties, including family medicine, internal medicine, medicine/pediatrics, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology.

Seventeen students will stay at Albany Med and fill residency positions in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, medicine pediatrics, neurosurgery, obstetrics/gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, pediatrics, urology and psychiatry.

To be "matched," fourth-year medical students apply to several residency programs in a specific specialty, while the residency programs rank the students they have interviewed. Students and programs are then paired by computer through the National Resident Matching Program.

A medical residency can take anywhere from three to seven years, depending on the specialty. Residency assignments begin in July.



Martin Cole, '18, and Tasha Tarnawa

## Rotterdam EmUrgentCare Now Open

Residents of Rotterdam and the surrounding areas can now see trusted specialists when urgent and non-urgent illnesses and injuries arise.

Albany Med's Rotterdam EmUrgentCare, located in the Hannaford Plaza at 1400 Altamont Ave., in Schenectady, opened for business on April 1. Staffed by emergency-trained specialists, it is the third EmUrgentCare center Albany Med has opened



in Schenectady County—and its ninth overall.

Like all of Albany Med's EmUrgentCare facilities, the walk-in clinic is open from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. every day of the year to treat patients of all ages seeking care for a wide range of illnesses and injuries, including sprains, strains and fractures, cuts and lacerations, colds and flu, ear and throat infections, asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia and more.

### CONCUSSION, continued from page 1

she said. "Our team uses medical management and behavioral health interventions, including cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness-based stress reduction and biofeedback to address the complexity of the nature of these disorders."

Armed with helpful coping strategies and her faith, Isabella is raising awareness about bullying and head injuries in a creative new way. No longer able to tap dance and play tennis, she now channels her energies into baking and selling cookies she dubs "Iznettes" at her parents' Schenectady restaurant.

"I want to spread awareness that concussions can really change your life," said the enterprising teen. "It not only affects me, it affects all my loved ones as well."

Urged by other specialists to bring Isabella to Boston, her mother marvels that her daughter's best hope for treatment was so close to home. "I tell everyone now that we have the mecca right here," Pola said. "This is the mecca, Albany Med. We have the most wonderful doctors right here."



COMMUNITY MATTERS ... AT ALBANY MED

# Albany Med Physicians Honored for Service and Innovation

Albany Med’s physicians continue to make a powerful impact on our region. Here are just a few recent examples of doctors who have—or will be—honored for their hard work and service to the community.



**Oluwaseun (Seun) Adetayo, MD**, section chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery, has been chosen as one of the *Albany Business Review’s* “40 Under 40.” This honor recognizes Capital Region professionals age 40 and under who demonstrate leadership, business know-how and community involvement. Dr. Adetayo will be honored at an awards reception in May.

four original volunteer doctors—and for continuing in their service to Double H for the past 25 years. The Double H Ranch is a camp for children with life-threatening illnesses in the Adirondacks that has, since it opened in 1993, provided a full camp experience to more than 60,000 children battling serious medical conditions from around the world.

**Mookherjee, MD**) were honored for securing funding from Duke University to study how the Capital Region can provide the most appropriate care in the quickest manner to patients suffering from heart attacks when a major artery is fully blocked.



Pediatric specialists, from left in photo, **Jennifer Pearce, MD, Ray Walsh, MD, Martha Lepow, MD, and Joanne Porter, MD**, were recently honored by the Double H Ranch for being the camp’s



**Edward Philbin III, MD**, left, the George E. Pataki Chair of the Division of Cardiology, and **Michael Dailey, MD**, chief of the Division of Prehospital

Emergency Medicine and medical director of the Regional Emergency Management Organization, were recipients of the Donald Led Duke Heart Hero Award at the Capital Region Heart Ball in March. The physicians (pictured with cardiologist **Suzie**



**Joanne Porter, MD**, director of the Journeys Pediatric Palliative Care Program, was the inaugural recipient of Make-A-Wish Northeast New

York’s “Wish Champion Award.” The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a nonprofit that grants wishes to children with critical illnesses. Dr. Porter was honored for her dedication to her patients and the foundation’s mission. She has served as a medical advisor to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York since 1994 and is a member of its medical advisory council.

# Lawmakers Generously Support the Massry Family Children’s Emergency Center

The Albany County Legislature held a gala in February to celebrate its 50th anniversary and, in a generous show of support, presented \$10,000 to the Massry Family Children’s Emergency Center at Albany Med. The gift was raised from proceeds from the event. Legislature Chairman Sean E. Ward called the forthcoming pediatric emergency department “a project that is close and dear to the hearts of many Albany County families.”

