



GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION & UNITED HOSPITAL FUND  
**CLINICAL QUALITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**  
**2024–25 FELLOWS**



**Olu Akindutire, MD, MPA**  
Associate Chief of Service,  
Emergency Department  
NYU Langone Hospitals—Tisch Hospital/  
Kimmel Pavilion/Hassenfeld Children's  
Hospital

Dr. Olu Akindutire is a Clinical Assistant Professor and the Associate Service Chief of the Ronald O. Perelman Department of Emergency Medicine at NYU Langone Health. He completed medical school at SUNY Downstate and a residency in emergency medicine at SUNY Downstate/Kings County Hospital. Dr. Akindutire also completed a Healthcare Leadership and Operations Fellowship at NYU Langone Health, where he received his MPA degree from NYU Wagner School of Public Service. After fellowship training, he served as the Assistant Service Chief at NYU, where he collaborated with other leaders to oversee clinical services, patient experience, and emergency department (ED) scheduling. Additionally, he serves as the medical director of the Emergency Medicine Advance Practice Practitioner Group, where he leads recruitment, retention, educational, and quality initiatives. His special interests include improving throughput in the ED and evaluating the care provided to high-risk patients and frequent ED utilizers.



**Uzoma Anagboso, MSN, RN**  
Senior Director, Nursing  
Mount Sinai Ambulatory Care

Uzoma Anagboso, MSN, RN, serves as the Senior Director of Nursing at Mount Sinai Ambulatory Care. With a career rooted in child and adolescent psychiatry and nursing leadership, Ms. Anagboso plays a vital role in clinical nursing operations and quality improvement (QI). Her contributions have enhanced nursing infrastructure, fostered patient-centered care, and promoted an engaging staff environment. She has been instrumental in collaborating with clinical leaders to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and

elevating patient care standards. Ms. Anagboso received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Lehman College and holds a Master of Science in Nursing Administration from New York University.



**Olawumi O. Babalola, MD**  
Associate Medical Director  
Plainview and Syosset Hospitals  
(Northwell Health)

Dr. Olawumi O. Babalola is the Associate Medical Director of Plainview and Syosset Hospitals within Northwell Health System. Prior, she was the Director of the Hospitalist Program at both hospitals. With her progressive leadership experience, she has been a patient-centered, highly dependable, well-organized, and selfless leader. In her current collaborative interdisciplinary approach, she has demonstrated continued success in leading patient safety and quality care. Notably, these efforts have reduced hospital-acquired infections and avoidable readmissions. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine, followed by fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine, subsequently obtaining an MBA in Health Services Management from Zarb School of Business at Hofstra University. She is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, and a member of the Northwell Health Physician Partners. Dr. Babalola is highly motivated, possesses exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, and has been an outstanding performer in her years as a physician and an educator. Over the past 5-10 years, she has won multiple awards and recognitions, including the Physician of the Year, Hospitalist Teacher of the Year (twice), Culture of Care Champion (three consecutive times), and has been nominated multiple times for Northwell Physician Truly Awards. She is very passionate about patient safety and has a special interest in positive patient experience. Her passion has helped her to continue to share the central role of physicians and other care providers within the inpatient hospital setting, ensuring the provision of high-quality care, prioritization and optimization of patient safety measures,

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and facilitation of patient-centered care through shared decision making.



**Heidi Baer, MD, CHSE, FACEP**  
Patient Safety Officer & ED Attending  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi and  
North Central Bronx

Dr. Heidi Baer is the Patient Safety Officer and ED attending at NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi and North Central Bronx. Dr. Baer works collaboratively with Nursing, Care Management, Medical Directors, and Physicians to improve patient safety at both campuses. She also collaborates with leaders to improve the culture of safety through strategic planning that includes Proactive Risk Assessments, Culture of Safety Analysis, and Development and Implementation of Action Plans. A known and respected Emergency Medicine clinician-leader at Northwell's Staten Island University Hospital and at Mount Sinai's St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospital, Dr. Baer has cared for patients for more than 15 years while serving on various committees in leadership roles. Dr. Baer has held multiple clinical and administrative positions in addition to her role as the Director of Simulation for Emergency Medicine, including the Medical Director of the Patient Safety Institute at Staten Island University Hospital, Staten Island, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. She has been an integral part of process improvement and QI through collaborative efforts with departmental leaders to identify opportunities for improvement and through designing and implementing processes for change. Dr. Baer completed her undergraduate degree at Duke University, a Master of Arts in Health Sciences. She completed medical school at Drexel University College of Medicine (formerly MCP-Hahnemann), followed by residency training at Drexel University College of Medicine. She has had further training in education through a fellowship program sponsored by the American College of Emergency Physicians and advanced simulation training at the Harvard Center for Medical Simulation, where she has also served as faculty. She also completed the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Patient Safety Executive Development Program.



**Jakub Bartnik, DO**  
Vice Chair & Medical Director  
SBH Health System

Dr. Jakub Bartnik is the Vice Chair and Medical Director of SBH Health System St. Barnabas Hospital Emergency Department. Dr. Bartnik completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at St. Barnabas Hospital and a fellowship in Emergency Ultrasound at Northwell Health North Shore University Hospital. Dr. Bartnik returned to SBH after his fellowship as core faculty in the Emergency Medicine Residency and as Associate Ultrasound Director. Dr. Bartnik has also held roles as the Director of Emergency Ultrasound and Associate Medical Director. Dr. Bartnik is responsible for the daily clinical operations of the SBH ED and is an active teacher in the SBH Emergency Medicine residency.



**Halyna Chykyda, MD**  
Director, Hospital Medicine  
Mather Hospital (Northwell Health)

Dr. Halyna Chykyda completed her medical school education at the prestigious Ternopol State Medical Academy in her home country of Ukraine before going on to a residency in Obstetrics in Ukraine and London. In 2015, Dr. Chykyda emigrated to the US where she trained in Internal Medicine at Mather Hospital. She distinguished herself as a leader, serving as Chief Resident at Mather and academically achieving board certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Chykyda now works as a Director of Hospital Medicine at Mather and serves as Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency. She is fluent in English, Ukrainian, Russian, and Polish. She enjoys traveling, hiking, and being with family and friends.

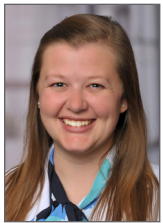


**Carissa Conelias, MSN, RN, NEA-BC**  
Director of Quality, Patient Care Services  
Stamford Health

Carissa Conelias is a nursing leader with experience managing many teams in her professional career. Her clinical background is in both surgery

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and emergency medicine. Carissa worked as a nurse manager for nearly 10 years, managing various units, including general surgery, oncology, and surgical intensive care. She began her career at Stamford Health about six years ago when she was hired as the nursing leader for the orthopedic collaboration with the Hospital for Special Surgery. This was the first such collaboration for both organizations, and she learned a lot in that role. About 18 months ago, Carissa assumed the role of Director of Quality. The inpatient and ambulatory nursing units, rehab services, pharmacy services, and respiratory departments all report to her. She owns all Nursing Sensitive Indicators for the organization and collaborates with the Organizational Director of Quality on QI activities throughout the organization, including facilitating apparent cause analysis. Carissa is in the final semester of her Doctoral of Nursing Practice program and looks forward to learning more to complement her new role as a quality leader and to meeting other quality leaders.



**Margaret Connors, MSN, RN, OCN**  
Nursing Quality Clinical Manager  
Mount Sinai Queens

Margaret Connors is Nursing Quality Clinical Program Manager at Mount Sinai Queens. Margaret enjoys working with other leaders to identify ways to enhance nursing practice and patient care. She also chairs an interdisciplinary patient falls committee and oversees her institution's Magnet Champions. Prior, she has served as a Nurse Manager of an innovation unit where she helped design a new Progressive Care Unit and as the Manager at an outpatient practice where she helped to introduce clinical trials in the community setting. Margaret's clinical background is in Oncology and Critical Care, and she is passionate about acute care nursing. Away from work, Margaret is an avid sports fan and proud dog lover.



**Heather El-Amamy, MD, PhD, MS**  
Senior Psychiatrist  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Correctional  
Health Services

Dr. Heather El-Amamy is originally from Southern California, but completed her graduate and

medical training at Columbia University with a focus on Neuroscience. After finishing her psychiatry residency at Georgetown, she attended the forensic psychiatry fellowship at NYU, graduating in 2020. Since that time, Dr. El-Amamy has been working with NYC Health + Hospitals Correctional Health Services. She previously worked at Bellevue Point of Reentry and Transition Clinic, providing outpatient mental health care to patients who were recently incarcerated and reestablishing them with services in the community. She now works at Rikers Island, providing psychiatric care to the incarcerated population.



**Christina Flores, MD, FACOG**  
Obstetrical Patient Safety Officer  
& Director of Simulation,  
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn

Dr. Christina Flores graduated from SUNY Stony Brook Medical School and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in 2009. During that time, Dr. Flores discovered her passion for providing high-quality care to patients in underserved areas and addressing health disparities. Dr. Flores also worked as a faculty attending physician at community hospitals in the Bronx, Manhattan, and now Brooklyn, where she has focused on teaching and patient safety initiatives on the labor floor. In her current role as an Obstetrics Patient Safety Officer at NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn, Dr. Flores has worked on several quality initiatives to address increases in maternal morbidity and mortality. Two of those projects were awarded the "Outstanding Project" for the Brooklyn Campus on NYU Langone Health's Quality and Safety Day. She is also an active member of the Quality Assurance Committee, which allows her to help develop corrective actions to improve safety within the Mother-Baby Unit. Dr. Flores's dedication to quality in health care was further recognized in 2019 when she was appointed the Director of Simulation for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn. Dr. Flores has used this role to educate the staff on policies and protocols that have led to improved safety, standardized practices, enhanced teamwork, and mutual respect on labor and delivery.

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**Maalobeeka Gangopadhyay, MD, DFAACAP**  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia  
University Irving Medical Center  
& Director of Acute Services, Child and  
Adolescent Psychiatry  
NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley  
Children's Hospital

Dr. Maalobeeka “Molly” Gangopadhyay is the Director of Acute Services in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital and Medical Director of Quality in the Department of Psychiatry. She is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University Irving Medical Center and an assistant attending psychiatrist at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Gangopadhyay completed her general psychiatry residency at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Medical Center and completed her child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship at the NewYork-Presbyterian Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residency Training Program of Columbia and Cornell Universities, where she served as chief resident at the Columbia site. After directing the Pediatric Psychiatry Consultation-Liaison Service from 2014 to 2022, she assumed the Program Medical Director role for the Access Behavioral Health Diagnostic Evaluation Stabilization Center in late 2021. Her special interests in health care include pediatric delirium, transplant psychiatry, and systems of care for patients with acute mental health needs.



**Felicia Hercules, MD**  
Associate Medical Director,  
Virtual ExpressCare  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Office of Quality  
& Safety

Dr. Felicia Hercules is the Associate Medical Director of Virtual ExpressCare and an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Dr. Hercules completed an Emergency Medicine residency at Jacobi/Montefiore Medical Center, where she served as Chief Resident in her final year. She then completed a fellowship in Medical Simulation at Mount Sinai St-Lukes/West Hospitals. After, Dr. Hercu-

les served as the Co-Director of Medical Student Simulation at Mount Sinai for four years. She then returned to NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, where she served as the Clinical Director of Medical Simulation. Her roles included Co-Director of the Simulation Center Interdisciplinary Simulation Fellowship, and her efforts included curriculum development, mentoring, and resident education. In her current role, Dr. Hercules focuses on telehealth—which she views as an opportunity to use technology to link patients to quality health care. She uses the skills developed from her background in Medical Simulation to deliver educational didactic sessions to her virtual providers, and she works with teams to develop new programs. Her special interests include developing telehealth quality metrics and using telehealth as a tool to improve patient care access—specifically in underserved and marginalized communities.



**Aized Imtiaz, MD, MBA**  
Director of Hospital Medicine  
Long Island Jewish Valley Stream Hospital  
(Northwell Health)

Dr. Aized Imtiaz is a Director of Hospital Medicine at Long Island Jewish Valley Stream Hospital. Dr. Aized completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Harrisburg Hospital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and a nephrology fellowship at the University of Vermont. Aized helped set up the Medicine Service Line at the Bone and Joint Institute in Hartford, Connecticut, after which he moved to New York City to work with Advantage Care Physicians. He spent time working on perioperative services at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens. He joined Northwell Health in June 2023 as the Director of Hospital Medicine at the Valley Stream Campus.



**Walkiria R. Jimenez-Loo, MD, MPH, MS**  
Hospitalist  
NewYork-Presbyterian Allen Hospital

Dr. Walkiria R. Jimenez-Loo is a Hospitalist at NewYork-Presbyterian Allen Hospital. Dr. Jimenez-Loo completed her Internal Medicine residency at Legacy Health System in Portland, OR. After



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completing residency, she worked as a hospitalist as part of a private group providing services to multiple hospitals in Colorado Springs. She subsequently worked in FF Thompson Hospital (a University of Rochester affiliate) in Canandaigua, NY. She is currently employed as a hospitalist at NewYork-Presbyterian Allen Hospital. Dr. Jimenez-Loo is interested in communication and collaboration in interdisciplinary teams, end of life, and geriatric issues.



### **Sweatha Kasala, MD**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,  
Hackensack Meridian School  
Hackensack Meridian Health Jersey Shore  
University Medical Center

Dr. Sweatha Kasala was born in Hyderabad, India. She completed medical school in India and was always passionate to study abroad in the US. She secured a residency in Pediatrics, followed by a fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. During that time, Dr. Kasala has been involved with a QI project that faced multiple barriers, which resulted in her inability to complete the effort. In her early career as a neonatologist, she enhanced her ability to lead QI initiatives, analyze health care data effectively, and implement evidence-based practices in clinical settings. Dr. Kasala embodies an unwavering spirit, unyielding optimism, and a commitment to championing QI initiatives.



### **Anthony Khabut, DO**

Medical Director, Ambulatory Care  
Staten Island University Hospital Medical  
Arts Pavilion (Northwell Health)  
& Assistant Program Director, Internal  
Medicine Residency and Assistant Professor  
Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra  
(Northwell)

Dr. Anthony Khabut is Ambulatory Services Division Director for Northwell Health Staten Island University Hospital Medical Arts Pavilion. Dr. Khabut completed his residency in internal medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens. His first role was as an attending Hospitalist, treating admitted patients at Northwell Staten Island University Hospital. He served seven years in this role. In 2020, he was presented

with the President's Award for Physician of the Year, earning recognition for his efforts in the early surges of the COVID-19 pandemic. He later transitioned to his current roles as Director of Ambulatory Care for the Medical Arts Pavilion and Assistant Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program. His special interests include identifying and eliminating barriers to care for underserved populations.



### **Jennifer Klekman-Napolitano, MSN, RN-BC**

Clinical Quality Specialist  
White Plains Hospital

Jennifer Klekman-Napolitano, MSN, RN-BC, is a Clinical Quality Specialist at White Plains Hospital. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Dominican University. She has worked as a Staff Nurse, Unit Leader, and Assistant Nurse Manager on a surgical step-down unit, with ANCC certifications in Medical-Surgical and Gerontological Nursing. Jennifer completed a Master of Science in Nursing Executive Leadership at Chamberlain University. She later joined the Quality Department at White Plains Hospital and works with interdisciplinary teams within the organization on clinical performance improvement projects and surgical quality initiatives. Jennifer is also a White Plains Hospital Emergency Response Team member with Federal Emergency Management Agency Hospital Emergency Response Training.



### **Susan W. Law, DO, MPH**

Medical Director Stroke Center  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County

Dr. Susan W. Law is the Director of Stroke Services at Kings County Hospital Center. She is double board certified in neurology and vascular neurology. Dr. Law completed her residency training in Adult Neurology and fellowship training in cerebrovascular diseases at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Since joining Kings County Hospital, she has been instrumental in developing the stroke center. She attained The Joint Commission certification for a Primary, and then Thrombectomy-Capable, stroke center. She currently works with other hospitals in the NYC Health + Hospitals system to attain certifica-

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tion by The Joint Commission. She recently helped South Brooklyn Hospital, Queens Hospital, and Harlem Hospital achieve primary stroke center designation by The Joint Commission. Dr. Law is also involved in multiple National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research projects. She has served as site principal investigator for published trials (POINT, ATACH II, SHINE, ARCADIA, ARCADIA-CSI) and was involved in the NIH clinical trial network. Recently, Dr. Law led a multidisciplinary team to provide Tenecteplase as the main agent for acute ischemic stroke. She has also developed outpatient tele-stroke services and founded a pet therapy program for stroke patients at Kings County. Dr. Law is currently on the steering committee of CAPTIVA and receives funding from the NIH as site principal investigator of STROKENET at Kings County Hospital. She has special interests in health care disparities among stroke patients inclusive of delay in arrival from “last known well,” inequities in the care and treatment of stroke patients, and sex-based differences in stroke etiologies and outcomes.



**Lori Lean, MSN, RN, CPPS**  
Senior Quality Management RN,  
Telehealth Services  
Northwell Health

Lori Lean, MSN, RN, CPPS, has a health care career that spans 21 years, with roles as a clinical nurse, executive leader, and quality management expert. She is currently the Senior Quality Manager for Telehealth Services at Northwell Health and has been instrumental in developing quality and safety metrics and key performance indicators to support the expansion of virtual care throughout the Northwell Health organization. Lori has a Master’s degree in nursing leadership and management and is a Certified Professional in Patient Safety.



**Jennifer Lee, MD**  
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics  
& Pediatric Hospitalist  
NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley  
Children’s Hospital

Dr. Jennifer Lee is a pediatric hospitalist at NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital. She com-

pleted her residency in Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital at Montefiore and completed additional training in QI through the Intermediate Improvement Science Series at the James M. Anderson Center for Health Systems Excellence at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. She is medical director of a medical-surgical unit and partners with an interprofessional team to achieve unit-level targets in quality and safety, patient experience, length of stay, and timely discharges in a 26-bed unit. She co-leads the hospital’s Acute and Critical Event Committee, reviewing more than 500 rapid response events annually. Additionally, Dr. Lee facilitates a curriculum in patient safety for pediatric residents and co-leads the Quality and Patient Safety Curriculum for Pediatric Hospital Medicine fellows.



**Olivia McCarthy, MPH, BSN, RN**  
Quality & Patient Safety Specialist  
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell  
Medical Center & NewYork-Presbyterian  
Lower Manhattan Hospital

Olivia McCarthy, RN, is a Quality and Patient Safety Specialist for NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell and Lower Manhattan Hospitals. She graduated from Sacred Heart University with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and worked as a staff registered nurse at Weill Cornell for five years. She started as a bedside nurse on a medical surgical unit, where she became a charge nurse during the COVID-19 pandemic. She then worked as a staff nurse in the Weill Cornell Radiation Oncology Department. Concurrently, she graduated with her Master’s degree in public health and transitioned into the role of Quality and Patient Safety Specialist in July 2023. She currently supports five units and four service lines, including Cardiothoracic Surgery, Ophthalmology, Digestive, and Gynecology with quality and safety expertise. She is currently the project manager for NewYork-Presbyterian’s enterprise-wide culture of safety quality goal.



**Kathleen Michels, MS, RN, CCRN, NE-BC**  
Director, Clinical Services, Ambulatory  
Services  
Hospital for Special Surgery

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Kathleen Michels is a dynamic health care professional with a passion and commitment to the pursuit of excellence in patient care. She graduated from Villanova University with her BSN in 2015 and began her career as a Clinical Nurse at the Hospital for Special Surgery, specializing in adult and pediatric postoperative care in the post-anesthesia care unit. Kathleen honed her skills in critical care and earned ANCC certification as a Critical Care Nurse. Transitioning to NewYork-Presbyterian, Kathleen contributed significantly to the Emergency Department, assuming various leadership roles such as Charge Nurse and Team Leader. Her exceptional dedication and expertise were evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, where she played a pivotal role in patient care and flow. Her compassionate care during this time earned her the prestigious Cabrini Angel Award in 2021. Motivated to further expand her focus and dedication to patient care, she pursued and received a Master's degree in health care administration from Columbia University while still working in the ER. Returning to the Hospital for Special Surgery, Kathleen has excelled in diverse roles and is currently serving as the Director of Clinical Services for Ambulatory Care. In this capacity, she ensures alignment with the Hospital for Special Surgery's standards, oversees clinical care, and implements best practices across the hospital's ambulatory locations. Kathleen's commitment to patient safety and quality care has been recognized with the Marion Hare Patient Safety Award, underscoring her invaluable contributions to advancing health care excellence. With her unwavering dedication and leadership, Kathleen continues to make a profound impact on health care delivery and patient outcomes at the Hospital for Special Surgery.



**Kalpana Panigrahi, MD**  
Site Chief of Medicine  
Interfaith Medical Center and Kingsbrook  
Jewish Medical Center  
& Program Director, Internal Medicine  
One Brooklyn Health: Interfaith Medical  
Center Campus

Dr. Kalpana Panigrahi is the Site Chief of Medicine for Interfaith Medical Center and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center and Program Director for the Internal Medicine residency program at Interfaith Medical Center. Dr. Pani-

grahi completed a residency in internal medicine at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. She then completed a year-long Faculty Development Fellowship with the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Panigrahi's first role out of training included setting up a successful training program for Internal Medicine residents at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center as an Associate Program Director and faculty. She later served as an Associate Program Director for the Brookdale Internal Medicine residency program and is well known for her passion for resident wellbeing and diversity, ambulatory care and training, and QI. She is also a primary care physician who currently practices at the Pierre Toussant Family Health Center and has partnered with the endocrine team to establish a diabetic center of excellence at Pierre Toussant Clinic. She strives to instill an interest in ambulatory care in all her trainees, helping them experience the joy of continuous healing relationships while delivering an excellent ambulatory curriculum on core primary care topics, implicit bias, QI, and telemedicine. Dr. Panigrahi aims to provide comprehensive training to aspiring medical physicians to prepare them to serve a diverse patient population in various settings.



**Dhruv Patel, MD**  
Associate Director, Patient Safety  
and Quality, Institute for Critical Care  
Medicine  
Mount Sinai Health System

Dr. Dhruv Patel is the Associate Director, Patient Safety and Quality, for the Institute for Critical Care Medicine at the Mount Sinai Health System and the Associate Director of the Transplant Intensive Care Unit at the Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. Patel completed his internal medicine residency at Westchester Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in Infectious Diseases with a focus on transplant infections and a fellowship in Critical Care Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital. After his training, he worked at Westchester Medical Center, where he was part of the initial group of physicians who implemented the TeleICU model and was also involved in the sepsis reporting program. In 2019, he rejoined Mount Sinai with the establishment of the Transplant ICU, fulfilling his dream of caring for critically ill pre- and post-transplant patients in a dedicated ICU while also practicing infectious diseases in

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the solid organ transplant population. For the past three years, he has overseen the design and successful implementation of yearly unit-specific quality projects and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives across the 13 ICUs in the system. Additionally, he has supported all ICUs in achieving system-wide ICCM quality metrics.



### **Vihias Patel, MD, FACS, MAMSE**

Chief, Acute Care Surgery and Surgical Quality, Long Island Jewish Medical Center (Northwell Health)

Dr. Vihias Patel is the Surgical Quality Officer and Chief of Acute Care Surgery at Northwell Health/Long Island Jewish Medical Center. After graduating from SUNY Downstate, she joined a general surgery residency at Montefiore Medical Center and then became a surgical critical care fellow at Ohio State University. After about 10 years at the Brigham and Women's Hospital as a trauma surgeon and Director of the Metabolic Support Service, she was recruited back to New York to help build the acute care surgery service at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. She is a recognized surgical educator and was inducted into the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators in 2023. After five years as the North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center general surgery residency program director, she has pivoted to faculty development as Vice-Chair of Academic Affairs. Improving surgical quality is a focus of her efforts as a critical care surgeon and surgical educator.



### **Deborah Reynolds, MD**

Associate Director, Cardiology  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst

Dr. Deborah Reynolds is the Associate Director of Cardiology at NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Cardiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She joined the Cardiology Department at Elmhurst Hospital in 2008 and served as Director of Inpatient Services, including the Coronary Care Unit. Since 2022, she has served as Associate Director, allowing the expansion of her role in outpa-

tient care. She also has expertise in cardiac imaging, including cardiac CT, echocardiography, and nuclear stress testing. Clinical interests also include preventive cardiology and women's cardiovascular health. She works closely with care management to improve care delivery to heart failure patients and bridge transitions from inpatient to outpatient care. Her research interests include behavioral factors that impact cardiovascular health goals.



### **Payal Sud, MD, FACEP**

Associate Chair, Emergency Medicine  
North Shore University Hospital  
(Northwell Health)

Dr. Payal Sud, an emergency physician and medical toxicologist, is the Associate Chair of Emergency Medicine at North Shore University Hospital, Northwell Health's Quaternary Care Hospital. In prior years, she has been the Interim Chair and Associate Chair of Emergency Medicine at Glen Cove Hospital. She has spearheaded the Advanced Aging and Illness Collaborative in emergency medicine at Glen Cove Hospital, making it the second and only community hospital in New York State to achieve the American College of Emergency Physician's Gold Level 1 Geriatric ED designation. She continues to partner with system leadership to guide other health systems in improving the care of older adults. Under her leadership, Glen Cove Hospital ED has earned the 2022 Press Ganey Human Experience - Guardian of Excellence Award and North Star 90 Patient Experience Award in 2018, 2019, and 2020. At North Shore University Hospital, Dr. Sud continues her passion for Advanced Aging and Illness by partnering with Palliative Care, Hospice Care, and Hospitalist Medicine to highlight the importance of what matters most and early Goals of Care conversations in the ED. She helps lead various interdisciplinary collaboratives for older adults, focusing on access to nutrition in the ED; heart failure; and equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives, to name a few.



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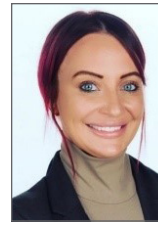
**Cara Taubman, MD, MPH**  
Clinical Director, Emergency Management  
& Associate Director, Emergency  
Department  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem

Dr. Cara Taubman is an Emergency Physician with Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management expertise. She currently practices medicine at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, where she is the Clinical Director for Emergency Management and the Associate Director of the Emergency Department. Dr. Taubman graduated from New York Medical College with an MD and MPH and completed her Emergency Medicine residency at Jacobi and Montefiore Medical Centers. After residency, she went on to a Global Emergency Medicine fellowship at Columbia University and a Disaster Medicine Fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess/Harvard Medical School.



**Jamie Uyami, RN**  
Clinical Director of Operations  
Montefiore Medical Center

Jamie Uyami, RN, is the Clinical Director of Operations for Emergency Services at Montefiore Medical Center, overseeing both the Moses and Westchester Square Campus. With more than 15 years of dedicated service in the health care industry, Jamie is an accomplished Director who is passionate about delivering high-quality patient care and enhancing the overall patient experience. She has a proven record of accomplishment in optimizing workflow processes, elevating quality metrics, and enhancing staff retention. Jamie's proficiency in provider relations, coupled with a deep understanding of health care challenges and opportunities, further underscores her commitment to advancing health care standards. Throughout her dynamic career, Jamie has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence, innovation, collaboration, and supportiveness, resulting in rapid career growth. Jamie combines ongoing education with diverse hands-on leadership experience in emergency services. This combination enables her to comprehend the big picture and understand the perspectives of both staff and providers, fostering a positive and productive work environment.



**Shay K. Walter, DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CPHQ**  
Director, Quality and Performance  
Improvement, Department of Quality,  
Risk, Regulatory, and Safety  
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences  
University/University Hospital at  
Downstate

Dr. Shay K. Walter is University Hospital at Downstate Quality and Performance Improvement Department Director. Dr. Walter completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Temple University and her Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice at Aspen University. She started her career in bedside nursing of medical surgical and progressive care/ critical care step-down unit patients and has since grown with 14-plus years of experience in health care, which includes eight-plus years in nursing and health care leadership roles as clinical supervisor and manager and a nursing quality manager with a focus on performance improvement. Dr. Walter has worked in various clinical settings, both inpatient and outpatient, at several medical centers such as Lankenau Hospital (Main Line Health), Baylor Irving, Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (formerly Chicago Rehabilitation Institute), University of Colorado Hospital, and is currently at the University Hospital at Downstate in Brooklyn. Her special interests include performance indicators such as hospital-wide falls reduction, restraint safety, increased safety reporting, "great catch/near miss" reporting, and department-based huddle board initiations. She also has a passion for staff engagement and empowering frontline staff.