In 2013, Albany Medical Center lost a great friend in Carl Touhey. For more than four decades he was an integral supporter of Albany Med’s mission and work. His contributions to this institution cannot be overstated.

A key advocate of bringing together the College and the Hospital into one organization, Carl Touhey first joined the College Board in 1970, and, in 1984, he became a member of the consolidated Center Board. His vision, commitment and generosity over many decades, including an extraordinary donation toward construction of the new Patient Pavilion, helped make Albany Medical Center the regional anchor and the world-class institution it is today.

We are forever grateful.
2013 truly was another year of making history at Albany Medical Center. Most visibly, our new Patient Pavilion opened, forever changing the face of New Scotland Avenue. We also unveiled plans for the remaining part of our adjacent “Park South” neighborhood where a new medical office building, retail space and desirable rental apartments will rise.

Behind the scenes, we made significant progress in advancing our 2013-2015 Strategic Plan to ensure our success in the changing health care environment. This included forming new partnerships and opening new locations for our specialists to see patients closer to their homes. We entered the non-hospital-based urgent care business by opening Malta Med Emergent Care to the north and acquiring a successful practice including two sites to the south.

Patient visits to both the Faculty Physician practice and the hospital continued to grow. We perfected newer treatments like transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), celebrating the 100th such procedure, and implantation of the left ventricular assist device (LVAD), for which we received Joint Commission accreditation.

In addition, we introduced new technologies including advanced digital imaging and navigational systems in adjacent operating rooms that provide surgeons with real-time information and high-resolution images during brain and spine surgeries. Our stroke specialists also deployed the newest technology to remove blood clots and improve survival rates.
Throughout the year, our faculty engaged in groundbreaking research, published guidance to improve recognition of brain injuries, launched an effort to enhance hypertension care and provided training to assist in the identification and treatment of addiction. For the first time in many years, we initiated the process to elevate an academic division to department status, in this case Neurosurgery.

The traditions of Albany Medical College were particularly important as we prepared for the 175th anniversary of its founding. Due to earlier years in which more than one commencement was held, the 2013 commencement exercises were the 175th.

We recognized another milestone in 2013 when our budget reached the $1 billion mark. As we launched the public phase of our $125 million Lifeline: The Campaign for Albany Medical Center, we had the honor of announcing the largest single philanthropic gift in our history, $15.5 million.

It is the great support of our community—through philanthropy, volunteerism, service, selection as care provider of choice—that Albany Medical Center is always making history. We are so very grateful.

Sincerely,

James J. Barba
President and CEO

Robert Cushing
Chairman of the Board of Directors
ADVANCES IN CARE DELIVERY
With the passage of time, “state-of-the-art” continues to evolve. The design of the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is completely different from the unit it replaced, offering babies and their families privacy: an important benefit during what can be the most challenging time of their lives.

“We’re thrilled with what this new NICU has to offer our patients.” — Michael Horgan, MD, ’80 Head of the Division of Neonatal Medicine

“The private rooms allow us to continue to provide newborns with the advanced care they need, while giving families more space to bond with their child, which is proven to assist in the healing process,” Dr. Horgan said.

The 51 private rooms in the region’s highest level NICU integrate technology needed to monitor patients and communicate information to staff with amenities needed to help families be as comfortable as possible, including accommodations for multiple sibling patients, a family living room, kitchen and laundry area.

Mary Ellen Plass, RN, CENP, MS, senior vice president and chief nursing officer, said “Our goal is to assure that our tiniest patients receive the best care possible and that their families are comfortable during what may be an extended stay in the NICU.”
New Patient Pavilion:
Expanding to Meet Our Patients’ Needs

From conception, design, construction and now everyday use, the inspiration behind the 325,000-square-foot Patient Pavilion has remained the same: Caring for our patients.

“The Patient Pavilion, with spacious private rooms, state-of-the-art operating suites and plentiful family spaces, was built to allow us to meet the needs of our patients and provide the best care possible,” said Steven Frisch, MD, executive vice president and general director of hospital systems.

“Over the years, Albany Med has continuously adapted to the changing health care landscape in the Capital Region, and this is one more example of how we continue to make historic changes that will have a significant impact now and in the future.”
With the $360 million project completed, Dr. Frisch shares his thoughts on five major patient benefits of Albany Med’s newest building:

**Different Ages, Different Spaces**
“We’re a Children’s Hospital within a hospital, so we continue to try and separate the notion of the Children’s Hospital and adult care spaces out of sensitivity to the children and their parents. Separately, adult patients and families have their own waiting room that is customized to the patients’ needs.”

**Bright Light, Big Rooms**
“Every room in the Patient Pavilion is designed as a single-patient room. That’s a huge benefit to the patient from a privacy standpoint. Additionally, the large windows in each room allow for a great deal of natural light, which is tremendously helpful in healing patients.”

**Space for the Whole Family**
“All rooms in the new building are designed to have three spaces: a nursing space, a patient space and a family space. That’s a new concept, the whole notion of a changing role for families in health care. Years ago, families were told ‘You wait out there.’ It’s a much more inclusive concept now. The new patient rooms and public areas for families help facilitate involvement in care and healing.”

**New Technology**
“We have state-of-the-art technologies throughout the Patient Pavilion, allowing us to continue to advance from the point of view of patient safety, convenience and precision of surgery.”

**Energized Staff**
“What I’ve seen over the years, to the credit of our staff, is they get genuinely energized by the opportunity to service their patients better. It’s our job to provide the staff with the tools to deliver excellent patient care. In so many ways, this building and everything in it are the tools. Our staff members are thrilled to provide better care in a nicer environment for patients and families.”
The BrainSuite
An Operating Room Like No Other in the Northeast

With advanced technology and a unique configuration, Albany Med’s new specialized operating room suite in the Patient Pavilion enables surgeons to achieve greater precision during brain and spinal surgeries while reducing the threat of infection or recurrence of conditions.

The highly advanced digital system allows image-guided surgery using an operating room CT scanner and a computerized navigational system, providing surgeons with information in real time, according to Alan S. Boulos, MD, ’94, acting chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and co-director of the Neurosciences Institute.

Dr. Boulos said the advanced technology is benefiting patients by allowing smaller incisions, reducing the potential for infections and post-operative complications, and providing greater assurance that surgical goals are accomplished.
Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon is a ‘Heart Hero’

Neil Devejian, MD, the area’s only pediatric cardiac surgeon, received the first Donald Led Duke Heart Hero Award from the American Heart Association at its 30th annual Capital Region Heart Ball.

Dr. Devejian’s work has helped Albany Medical Center achieve one of the lowest mortality rates for heart surgery of any pediatric heart center in New York State. Dr. Devejian has not only saved children, but also, in many ways, their entire families.

According to Howard Carr, chair of the Capital Region Advisory Board of the American Heart Association, “The American Heart Association’s mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Dr. Devejian literally does this every day.”

Grants to Albany Med researchers represent more than half of the American Heart Association research funding in the Capital Region. The Heart Association’s local chapter raises about $1 million for research annually. In 2013, Albany Med played a role in helping with this important effort. John Nigro, Albany Med board member and chair of Lifeline: The Campaign for Albany Medical Center, was chair of the Heart Walk, and Albany Med President Jim Barba served as a chair of the Heart Ball.
When “Dancing in the Woods” celebrated its 30th anniversary on Dec. 6, 2013, it was ever so clear that the event has become an extraordinary success in support of the Melodies Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders.

Borne of the conviction that families with children facing the devastating diagnosis of cancer should not have to travel to New York City or Boston for world-class treatment, the annual holiday event has raised more than $7 million since its inception, including a record of more than $500,000 in 2013, surpassing any other year in the event’s history.

Since 1983, a cadre of volunteers, at first led, and then inspired, by long-time Albany Med supporter Nancy Carey Cassidy, has created a benefit like no other. What began as a cocktail party for friends has become the longest-running, most successful fundraiser in the region.

With support from “Dancing in the Woods,” the small pediatric cancer clinic of 30 years ago has grown into the Melodies Center—a regional health care resource offering highly specialized and effective pediatric cancer care and a lifeline to hundreds of families each year.

Nancy Carey Cassidy
Cheryl Clow, RN, was named Albany Medical Center’s 2013 Employee of the Year for her exceptional dedication and service to her patients and to Albany Medical Center.

Clow works with patients who have complex genetic conditions as the metabolic clinical care coordinator for the Division of Genetics and Metabolism in the Department of Pediatrics. She also facilitates diagnostic testing and follow-up care for babies with very rare diseases as the regional coordinator for the New York State Department of Health’s Newborn Screening Program.

“The beauty of working in genetics is that I get to see the whole picture, follow patients as they grow and become a part of their families.” —Cheryl Clow, RN

Dean Recognized with National Leadership Award

Albany Medical College’s Dean Vincent Verdile, MD, ’84, received national recognition for his exceptional contributions to emergency medicine.

One of the longest-tenured deans of a United States medical college, Dr. Verdile received the 2013 John Marx Leadership Award from the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM).

Dr. Verdile has published widely on a range of topics relevant to emergency medicine and has presented at numerous symposia and conferences. Before becoming dean in 2001, he served as chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Verdile has served organizations at the local, state and national levels. His service and leadership have been recognized with numerous awards and accolades.

Dr. Verdile serves as executive vice president for health affairs at Albany Medical Center.

A ‘Hero in Brightly Colored Scrubs’
Vendors: Part of the ‘Family’

It takes many hands to run a medical center and Albany Med’s vendors play a significant role in its success. So it’s no surprise that employees of voice and data solutions integrator, Black Box Network Services, annually go above and beyond by volunteering to man the phones during the Children’s Hospital Radiothon.

This partnership has extended to generous support of the Lifeline Campaign. Black Box donated $50,000 to Albany Med in 2013, naming a nursing station in the medical/surgical unit.

Another vendor, Annese & Associates, donated $50,000 for the purchase of a special Giraffe bed for the NICU. The family-owned company supplied wireless and other services in the new Patient Pavilion where the NICU is now located.

“My sisters and I had the fortunate opportunity to tour the new facility, and we were moved to tears,” said Francine Annese Apy, Annese & Associates vice president of human resources. “What Albany Med is able to do from a health care standpoint is nothing less than groundbreaking.”
Laying of cornerstone of Albany Hospital, 1898

Albany Medical Center during construction, 2012
Capital Campaign Launched with Largest Gift in Albany Med History

Last year, Albany Medical Center received the largest gift in the institution’s more than 170-year history as it launched the public phase of its capital campaign: Lifeline: The Campaign for Albany Medical Center.

The $15.5 million gift to Albany Med, from a donor who has requested anonymity, provided substantial momentum for the campaign: Donations totaled nearly $110 million at the end of 2013.

“This individual gift exceeds all of our expectations, but it and the donations made to this campaign by people of great wealth and modest means alike indicate that Albany Medical Center truly is the lifeline for our region,” said Albany Med President Jim Barba.

Of the $125 million to be raised through Lifeline: the Campaign for Albany Medical Center, $50 million will be earmarked for the Patient Pavilion and $75 million for education and research.

“The community response to this capital campaign, initiated during an economic downturn, has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Campaign Chairman John J. Nigro, president of the Nigro Companies. “The success we have enjoyed to date speaks to the connection people from all walks of life have with the Medical Center – including the community physicians who were educated or trained at Albany Med.”

To date, $45.6 million has been raised to support student scholarships, faculty recruitment, educational enhancements and research at Albany Medical College.

“Our alumni have been very generous in their support of this capital campaign,” said Vincent P. Verdile, MD, ’84, dean of Albany Medical College. “There is genuine appreciation of the investments we are making to ensure a first-rate educational experience, advance innovation in biomedical science and make medical education more affordable.”

“Over the last 22 years I have had a front row seat watching Albany Med’s growth, both physically and in our clinical care. The fact that nearly 10,000 patients are transferred here annually from other hospitals, from over 25 counties in four states, is testament to how we are making the region a better place to live.”

Dennis McKenna, MD, ’92, senior vice president for medical affairs and medical director
Community Matters

For scores of community organizations, Albany Med matters. And those many organizations that define health care, education and quality of life in our region, matter greatly to Albany Med.

The year 2013 was a banner year with a record number of community partnerships and more meaningful connections than ever – from fielding the largest Heart Walk team in Albany Med’s history to support research to combat heart disease and stroke; to hosting a record number of students from across the region, all eager to learn more about careers in health care; to working to strengthen public education and advance the importance of STEM; to continuing to create a vital neighborhood around the Medical Center by sponsoring programs at Park Playhouse during the summer and arts and music education programs in the schools of Albany; to collaborating to advance economic and workforce development initiatives.

Simply said, Albany Med is partnering as never before, using novel and powerful channels to strengthen the communities it serves and, of course, to spread the institution’s messages of excellence in patient care, medical education and research.
“Albany Medical Center’s greatest contribution to the region’s history is our role as an academic center of excellence. Even with all the changes in health care delivery, we continue to meet the challenges and lead the way into the future.”

Martha Lepow, MD, professor of pediatrics, Division of Infectious Disease, joined Albany Med in 1978
Albany Medical Center’s ongoing work to revitalize the community surrounding its main campus took a giant leap forward with the announcement of a visionary plan to build new streetscapes, retail opportunities and housing options that will continue the transformation of the New Scotland corridor into a vibrant sector of the city.

The $110 million investment by Albany Med and Albany-based Tri City Rentals, represents the Medical Center’s commitment to achieve the vision of the Urban Renewal Plan adopted by the Albany Common Council in 2006.

Over the last seven years, the Medical Center’s efforts have resulted in more than $500 million in public and private investments that have helped attract several new retailers to the area.

Norman Massry, president of Tri City Rentals, said “The Massry family is grateful to be working with Albany Med to continue the important work of enhancing the Park South community. With new and varied housing opportunities, green space and landscaping, our goal is to ensure that the new homes and retail outlets will bring a renewed vibrancy to this area.”
Albany Med Urgent Care Facilities Focus on Right Care in Right Setting

The 2013 grand opening of Saratoga County’s Malta Med Emergent Care and the acquisition of EmUrgentCare, with offices in Saugerties and Coxsackie, represented a new chapter in Albany Med’s continuing efforts to both meet the evolving medical needs of the region while making Albany Med’s expert care accessible to more people.

Serving the fastest-growing region in the state, Malta Med, the result of partnership between Albany Med and Saratoga Hospital, is the only center in the Capital Region staffed 24/7 by board-certified emergency medicine physicians. In addition to providing routine urgent care in a high-tech setting, the site also provides an alternative to hospital emergency rooms for all but the most serious medical circumstances. A helipad and ambulance bays ensure fast transit for those requiring hospital care.

EmUrgentCare, a thriving practice serving Greene and Ulster counties, is offering urgent care services coordinated with Albany Med’s wide range of specialists.
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Student Pathology Lab, 1928
EXPLORING THE CAREERS OF TOMORROW

More than ever, schools and community organizations are looking to Albany Med to help their students explore one of the most promising fields for careers of tomorrow—health care.

Recognizing Albany Med as a remarkable resource with some of the finest role models in the region, schools have partnered with Albany Med to enrich their students’ education. Hundreds of students from urban, suburban and rural districts spent days engrossed in learning about the vast array of health care careers practiced here—from doctors and nurses to lesser-known disciplines, like respiratory therapy, audiology, language pathology and more.

The new “Albany Medical Center Health Care Exploration Program,” a partnership with Ballston Spa schools, garnered accolades from area educators, who called the program “invaluable” to enhancing public education.

Closer to home, Girls Incorporated of the Greater Capital District continued its program, “Explore!” with Albany area girls visiting the Medical Center frequently to discover all that health care careers have to offer. Also, Albany City Schools and Tech Valley High School, America’s model school in Rensselaer County, continued their partnerships with the Medical Center to help offer their students the invaluable experience of learning from experts.
Alden March Bioethics Institute Leads Way with Introduction of Second Online Bioethics Doctorate Program

The Alden March Bioethics Institute (AMBI) at Albany Medical College, a pioneer in providing bioethics in medical education since the 1990s, initiated in 2013 a new doctorate program emphasizing health ethics and policy in the United States, one of only two such programs in the country.

Students, who may receive the AMBI Doctor of Professional Studies degree largely online, will develop the expertise to handle a wide range of ethical dilemmas faced in the health care system. The program is designed for working health care professionals—physicians, nurses, social workers, lawyers, and chaplains—who have a master’s degree in bioethics or equivalent.

This is the second online doctoral program offered by AMBI. Another focusing on clinical ethics consultation started in 2012.

AMBI director Bruce White, DO, JD, MS, ’09, said, “An understanding of ethics as it relates to policy is critical in this ever-evolving health care environment.”

Albany Med and Union Graduate College Partner on Joint MD/MBA Degree

Recognizing the new roles physicians are playing in a rapidly changing health care system, Albany Medical College and Union Graduate College joined forces to offer a new joint degree combining medical school with a Master in Business Administration (MBA) degree.

While 50 joint programs are currently offered across the country, the Albany Medical College and Union Graduate College program is one of just five MD/MBA degrees that enjoy “gold-standard” accreditations in medicine, business and health care management.

This is the first time either school has offered a joint MD/MBA degree. The program allows students to complete both degrees in five years.

“The evolving health care environment demands business acumen and skills, including managing teams, analyzing data, reviewing financials and more,” said Vincent Verdile, MD, ’84, dean of Albany Medical College and a Union Graduate College trustee. “By partnering with Union Graduate College’s School of Management, we are uniquely qualified to offer students the full range of tools they need to succeed in medicine.”

“For future doctors, the MBA is a unique and valuable credential as they launch their careers,” said Laura Schweitzer, PhD, president of Union Graduate College. “Armed with an understanding of the complexities of health care, they can be leaders and innovators in improving our system.”
Milestone Reached in Groundbreaking Valve Replacement

On October 2, 2013, Albany Medical Center performed its 100th transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), a highly complex, minimally invasive heart procedure used to treat patients with aortic stenosis who are too frail for more conventional procedures.

“Very sick or frail patients who might otherwise be turned down for bypass or other surgical options have had years given to them thanks to the TAVR procedure,” said Augustin DeLago, MD, director of interventional cardiology. “The minimally invasive approach to valve replacement causes less trauma to our patients, and has proven to improve their symptoms and increase their life expectancy.”

TAVR allows a surgeon to access and replace a faulty valve in a patient’s heart through a catheter inserted in the thigh or through a small incision in the side of the chest rather than using open heart surgery. It is used to treat an obstruction of the aortic valve known as aortic stenosis by improving blood flow from the heart to the aorta.

Dr. DeLago noted that the one-year mortality rate and complications from stroke following TAVR procedures at Albany Med are roughly half the national average.

“This milestone is a testament to this innovative procedure, and the trust the public puts in the hands of Albany Med surgeons,” said Edward Bennett, MD, chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

“As I prepare to begin my residency, I’m confident my medical education has provided me with a solid foundation for a successful career as a healer, patient advocate, and lifelong learner that will allow me to be the kind of physician that I would want to care for my loved ones.”

Steven J. Hannigan, Albany Medical College Class of 2014, pursuing residency training in pediatrics at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, NC
Albany Med’s Cancer Treatment Noted for Better Outcomes, Higher Quality

A 2013 report issued by the American College of Surgeons showed that the five-year survival rates for women treated for stage II breast cancer at Albany Medical Center are nearly 7 percent higher than the average of other academic medical institutions.

“Albany Medical Center’s breast program provides a multidisciplinary approach to meet each individual patient’s needs and utilizes state-of-the-art technologies to provide the best possible care to patients battling breast cancer,” said Donna M. Pietrocola, MD, ’75, FACS, chief of the Section of Breast and Endocrine Surgery at Albany Medical Center.

The report also noted that Albany Med follows best practices for treatment of breast and colon cancer at rates far higher than cancer treatment centers both in New York and across the country.

“Patients who receive treatments for their cancers at Albany Med can be assured that they are being treated by a world-class team of specialists who follow the best practices available and collaborate to find the most appropriate patient-specific therapy to allow for the greatest chance of success,” said Ankesh Nigam, MD, director of the Surgical Oncology Program.
Albany Medical College Trains on Newest Technology

As one of only three institutions in New York State to be designated a KARL STORZ Center of Excellence, Albany Medical College is training medical students, residents, physicians and other health care professionals from throughout the region on the most advanced minimally invasive surgical procedures available.

The training equipment was provided through an in-kind educational grant program from manufacturer KARL STORZ Endoscopy-America and mirrors state-of-the-art technologies installed in the new operating rooms in the Patient Pavilion.

Albany Med surgeons are now using this type of KARL STORZ equipment, available in the region only at Albany Med, to perform and train on a wide variety of minimally invasive procedures.

“As an academic medical center, we have a responsibility to provide the latest and most advanced techniques and technologies in ways that benefit patients in the region,” said Henry S. Pohl, MD, vice dean for academic administration.
Among First in Nation to be Board-Certified in Epilepsy

Four Albany Medical Center epilepsy specialists were among the first in the nation to receive a new subspecialty board certification in epilepsy from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. They became the only board-certified epileptologists in the Capital Region, and joined only nine other board-certified New York physicians outside the greater New York City metropolitan area.

“This affirms that Albany Med is able to provide patients with the most advanced diagnostic and treatment options, leading to significant improvements in quality of life for our patients,” said Michael Gruenthal, MD, PhD, the Bender Endowed Chair of Neurology and co-director of the Neurosciences Institute. In addition to Dr. Gruenthal, other Albany Med neurologists receiving board certification include Anthony Ritaccio, MD, ’84, Timothy Lynch, MD and Marjorie Bunch, MD.

For the sixth consecutive year, Albany Medical Center’s Epilepsy and Human Brain Mapping Program received a Level 4 designation, the highest designation offered by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers. As a Level 4 center, Albany Med has the most advanced medical and surgical diagnostic and treatment options for patients with complex epilepsy.

“This achievement is a testament to the comprehensive, multi-disciplinary team approach we use to treat epilepsy patients here at Albany Medical Center,” said Dr. Ritaccio, J. Spencer Standish Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery and director of the Epilepsy and Human Brain Mapping Program. “This level of care is unparalleled locally and can only be found at the best academic centers around the country.”
Albany Medical Center became one of only seven facilities in New York State to be chosen as a Center for Lung Cancer Screening Excellence by the Lung Cancer Alliance.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, taking 160,000 lives each year. Only 15 percent of people diagnosed with lung cancer will survive it — primarily because the vast majority of lung cancers are diagnosed at a late stage.

“Lung cancer screening dramatically changes the stage at which we find these tumors,” said Thomas Fabian, MD, chief of the Section of Thoracic Surgery and director of the Multi-Specialty Lung Cancer Program. “Instead of identifying 80 percent of lung cancer patients in advanced stage, the paradigm shifts to nearly 80 percent being identified in the early stage, when surgery is an option.”

“Albany Med’s leadership has been at the forefront of making decisions that have allowed us to change with the times and remain a top-of-the-line medical facility.”

Lewis W. Britton III, MD, completed residencies in general and cardiothoracic surgery at Albany Med, where he continues to practice today.
First in Region to Receive Joint Commission Certification for Heart Pump Program

Albany Medical Center, the first hospital in the region to provide mechanical heart pump implants for critically ill patients, became the only hospital in the region to be certified for the high quality of its implant program by The Joint Commission—the nation’s preeminent monitor of hospital quality.

In 2013, Albany Med received Joint Commission certification for its ventricular assist device (VAD) heart pump implant program, one of only two New York hospitals outside of the New York City metropolitan region to receive this designation.

“This certification is an important external stamp of approval that says we provide the highest quality care for the most critically ill heart patients and allows us to provide this option to more patients,” said Stuart Miller, MD, surgical director of Albany Med’s VAD program and the leading VAD surgeon in the region.

Albany Medical Center is now one of only 125 facilities in the country with VAD Destination Therapy certification from The Joint Commission, which accredits and certifies more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.
Nabeel Ali, a first-year Albany Medical College student working as a research fellow at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, combined his passion for medicine with his undergraduate training in biomedical engineering to invent two types of cardiac imaging software with the potential to aid in the diagnosis of coronary artery disease.

Both of Ali’s projects were recognized nationally.

One project designed to recognize high-risk plaques earned Ali one of only 25 Medical Student Research Grants for 2013 awarded nationally by the Radiological Society of North America.

His other project improves upon current imaging software by enabling physicians to quantify how much blood a specific region of the heart is getting rather than just identifying which regions are getting blood. This technology, which earned Ali the First Place Trainee Award from the Association of University Radiologists, was selected over the work of residents and fellows throughout the country, and was accepted for publication in the Journal of Academic Radiology.
Targeting Infectious Disease
Through Creation of Universal Vaccine Strategy

A $2.9 million National Institutes of Health grant is allowing Albany Med researchers to work on developing a universal vaccine strategy that could produce vaccines to protect against a variety of diseases.

The five-year grant enhances Albany Med’s flourishing vaccine research program, which operates with more than $15 million in funding. The researchers are testing their strategy using tularemia, a bacterial disease that is deadly when inhaled.

“Establishing an effective and streamlined vaccine development strategy is the key to conquering current and emerging infectious diseases,” said Edmund Gosselin, PhD, professor at the Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease (CIMD).

The approach takes into account key strategies that maximize three of the most important criteria for vaccine success: developing appropriate growth conditions to ensure that the disease particles used in a vaccine closely match the disease; assuring that the vaccine effectively stimulates the immune system; and targeting optimal disease-fighting cells in the body.

Although vaccines have transformed medicine and saved countless lives, a number of diseases are still not vaccine-preventable, including AIDS, MRSA, and tularemia. Further, Dr. Gosselin said existing disease organisms can mutate, which will inevitably create a need for new vaccines against even currently preventable diseases.

“It’s similar to how germs figure out how to beat antibiotics. We need to constantly stay ahead of disease,” he said.
New Research Facility  
Brings New Possibilities for Research Collaborations

A $10 million research facility that opened in the college in 2013 is allowing researchers to adopt new protocols and share staff and resources in ways that were never possible before.

Built above the Patient Safety and Clinical Competency Center, the two floors with more than 20,000 square feet of laboratory space feature open work areas and a combination of fixed benches and fully modular workspace. Supporting space is for cell culture, microscopy, large equipment, glass wash and autoclave, and cold/environmental rooms.

“This new facility provides us with a more efficient, flexible and attractive research environment built to very specific National Institutes of Health standards that will lead to new opportunities in obtaining grant funding and recruiting new faculty,” said Harold Singer, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Cardiovascular Sciences.

The laboratories were built with funding secured through the highly competitive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 along with matching funds from New York State.

“With researchers and students from different disciplines working side-by-side, we’re providing the type of collaborative environment that is the future of biomedical research,” said Dennis Metzger, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Immunology and Microbial Research.

Dr. Metzger said the facility fully embraces the trend toward translational research, such as the work he does to study the connection between bacterial infections and influenza using human flu samples obtained from Albany Medical Center patients.
The growth of our research facilities over the years has stimulated the student body and faculty with great joy and benefit and has led to many new educational programs.

John Balint, MD, FRCP, professor of medicine, joined the faculty in 1963
Study: Orthopaedic Surgeons Need to Watch for Undetected Brain Injuries

Calling minor traumatic brain injuries a major health problem, an article written by Albany Med and Capital Region Orthopaedic Associates physicians noted that orthopaedists can play a significant role in diagnosing and monitoring patients for potentially serious brain trauma that often accompanies other injuries.

In a literature review published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons*, lead author Richard Uhl, MD, chief of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, said minor traumatic brain injuries (mTBI) occur in as many as 50 percent of significant bodily accidents, but may not be apparent until after patients return to their routines.

The paper noted that while patients who come in to Albany Med for treatment of blunt trauma are evaluated by emergency and trauma physicians to determine potential brain injuries, Albany Med’s orthopaedic surgery team also is trained to assess each patient for the presence of mTBI.

The paper included a tool the authors developed to help orthopaedic residents and physicians determine appropriate referrals and levels of concern for mTBI in patients following injuries.

Joining Dr. Uhl in the article were Christopher King, MD, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, resident Andrew Rosenbaum, MD, orthopaedic surgeon Michael Mulligan, MD, ’03, and resident Cory Czajka, MD.
Researcher Exploring New Treatments for Brain Tumors

An Albany Med neurosurgeon is serving as a co-principal investigator on a $3 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to develop an MRI-guided robotic system that could offer safer, more accurate treatment options for patients with brain tumors.

Julie Pilitsis, MD, ’98, PhD, associate professor of surgery, is working with a team of engineers at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, MA, to test an MRI-compatible robotic system that delivers a high-intensity focused ultrasound ablation therapy device through a dime-sized opening in the cranium to heat and erode away cancerous tissue while leaving surrounding normal tissue unaffected.

“This award is significant because it enables a multi-institutional collaboration to take place for the advancement of the treatment of brain tumors,” Dr. Pilitsis said.

“Our research has the potential to identify ways to use technology to provide safer and more accurate treatment, and may even result in another treatment option for patients with metastatic brain cancer, and perhaps eventually, other cancers,” she said.

Co-investigators on the project are Matthew Gounis, PhD, associate professor and co-director of the Advanced MR Imaging Center at UMass Medical School, and Everette Burdette, PhD, president and CEO of Acoustic MedSystems, the developer of the MRI-compatible ablation device and software.

As part of Albany Med’s team of sought-after specialists, Dr. Pilitsis is the only neurosurgeon in the region with fellowship training in functional neurosurgery.
Researchers, Physicians Fight Cancer Together

Albany Med physicians and researchers working to integrate laboratory discoveries into improved patient care brought together experts from around the country to explore innovative and collaborative approaches to cancer treatment.

“Cancer will not be cured by the clinician alone or the basic researcher alone,” said C. Michael DiPersio, PhD, an Albany Medical College professor who studies the genetics of breast cancer at the Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research. “We work together to find cures and develop better treatments for cancer patients. At Albany Med, we are mindful of that every day.”

Over the years, the annual Translational Oncology Research Symposium hosted by Albany Medical College and New York Oncology Hematology, P.C. (NYOH) has led to “robust research collaborations” said Karen Tedesco, MD, CME director for NYOH and co-chair of the symposium. Dr. Tedesco cited research examining new molecular targets and immunotherapeutic approaches to treating kidney cancer being conducted by David Shaffer, MD, of NYOH and Ronald Kaufman, MD, of Albany Med and the Urological Institute of Northeastern New York.

Albany Med’s Jeffrey Ross, MD, who with Yale Cancer Center researchers is author of a study that characterizes alterations across 287 cancer-related genes, said the drive to help current patients gives a sense of urgency to the work.

“We’re working together to find clues to help each patient now, not just in the future,” he said.
On her birthday, Donna Caniano, MD ’76, gave a gift that keeps giving

Recently retired as surgeon-in-chief at Nationwide Children’s Hospital/Ohio State College of Medicine in Columbus, Dr. Caniano established an endowed scholarship at Albany Medical College.

“The Caniano Family Scholarship honors my whole family,” she said. “Though we were of humble economic circumstances, my parents raised me with the tradition of giving back.”

Establishing a scholarship was fitting because Dr. Caniano attended the Medical College on full scholarship. One of only ten women in a class of 110, she credits her professors for helping her achieve her goal of becoming a pediatric surgeon.

“At that time,” she recalled, “there were fewer than ten pediatric surgery fellowships nationwide, so it was by no means a given I would succeed.”

Samuel Powers, MD, who chaired the Department of Surgery, encouraged Dr. Caniano to stay at Albany Med for her residency. “If you stay here,’ he said, ‘I will do everything to support you and your goal.”

Thanks to his tutelage and her hard work, she did succeed, earning a coveted fellowship at Johns Hopkins after her residency. She became the first tenure-track woman hired in the Department of Surgery at Ohio State, and eventually became surgeon-in-chief—one of fewer than five women nationally to hold that post.

“Establishing this scholarship is an enormous privilege,” she said. “Particularly given the cost of medical school now, there’s joy in knowing one student today is resting a little easier because of this gift.”

“I’m a cardiothoracic surgeon specializing in the latest minimally invasive techniques. I’m at Albany Med because it is here where life-saving options are introduced first.”

Adanna Akujuo, MD, joined Albany Medical Center in 2013
Jodi Della Rocca, CRNA, MS, ’02, PhD, sees her obligation as an educator to ensure students receive the benefit of her knowledge and experience—and also the benefit of her financial support. The assistant professor and associate director of the Center for Nurse Anesthesiology encourages other educators and health care workers to think similarly.

“While we give back by teaching and performing well in our profession, it’s also our responsibility to ensure that students are financially able to attend seminars, present their work at national conferences and take part in all of those ‘extras’ that enhance the learning experience,” said Dr. Della Rocca, who contributes to the Albany Medical College Alumni Fund and also supported Albany Med in 2013 by purchasing a paving stone in the new Patient Pavilion.

She joined Albany Medical Center in 1992 as an intensive care nurse and went on to earn both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in nursing, and most recently a PhD in post-secondary and adult education.

“One thing I love about Albany Med is that it is a supportive environment,” she said. “We are challenged to be the best we can be, and it shows.”
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Marilyn Fisher, MD and William Fisher
Brooke and Michael Freilich, MD ’58
Miriam Friedenthal-Citrin, MD
and Lester Citrin, MD
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Deborah and Pasquale Fugazzotto, MD ’58
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and Stanley Glick, MD, PhD
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Alan Guick, MD ’78
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and Robert Kiesel, MD ’60
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Ann Marzulli and Justin Guidi
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James McGirr
Anne and Charles McHugh, MD ’64
Madeline and Richard Mead
Robert Meineker, MD ’45
Cora and William Meyer, Jr., MD ’55
Angel Millora, MD
William Montano, MD ’69
Moriah Moser and Daniel Morgenstern, MD ’82
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John J. Nigro
Barbara C. Noyes, MD ’49
Margaret and Mark Ortelee, MD ’54
Anne Palamountain
Kathleen Perkins, MD ’54
Harriet and Albert Peters, MD ’61
George Pfaff
Norma and Fred Phillips, Jr., MD ’55
Sharon Sullivan and Paul Phillips, MD ’62
Nancy and Wellington Pinder, MD ’59
Eleanor and Charles Poskanzer, MD ’45
Helen and Matthew Presti, MD ’49
Richard Propp, MD ’60
June Raymond
Kathleen Riley, MD ’90 and Mark Reed
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and Corky Rosan, MD ’57
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47
History of Community Support

The history of Albany Medical Center could not be written without mention of the local support of The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, which has funded innovative projects at Albany Med since 1980.

Working in partnership with its donors to distribute grants that meet community needs and align with donor interests, most Community Foundation grants go to nonprofit organizations in the greater Capital Region such as Albany Med. In 2013, The Community Foundation designated $45,000 in gifts to Albany Med, including a renewal of multi-year funding from the Kevin Butler Family Foundation for mesothelioma cancer research in the Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research. Paul Higgins, PhD, is focused on stopping mesothelioma by altering a gene located on tumor cells.

The Foundation also provided funding through the John Faunce and Alicia Terry Roach Fund. This fund supports studies by Thomas Friedrich, PhD, and David Conti, MD, in Albany Med’s Transplant Program. The research is focused on combating a virus that lies dormant in the body until it is activated by anti-rejection drugs taken by kidney transplant recipients. The virus is a major threat to the success of a transplant patient’s new kidney. The late John Faunce Roach, MD, was a former professor, chairman and professor emeritus of radiology at Albany Med.

“The Community Foundation’s work with Albany Medical Center is a wonderful example of how philanthropists can help their communities in the short term, the long term and the very long term through partnership with the Albany Med Foundation,” said Jacqueline Mahoney, vice president of programs at the Community Foundation.

Paul Higgins, PhD, whose mesothelioma cancer research is supported by the Community Foundation

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Verizon Foundation

“As an academic medical center Albany Med has always attracted the best and the brightest physicians who enjoy the combined roles of teaching and practice, and who want to be associated with a medical center that is on the leading edge of practice, education and research.”

Mary Kahl, PhD, Member of the Board of Directors (Emerita), associated with the institution since 1984, chairing both the College and Foundation boards.
Grateful Parents’ Support for Cardiac Team Helps Future Patients

A project that started with “seed money” from fundraisers beginning in 2007 culminated in 2013 with a $20,000 donation to the Albany Med pediatric cardiology team — a team that donors Seth and Susie Powell of East Chatham say they will never be able to thank enough.

The team, including Neil Devejian, MD, Harm Velvis, MD, and Eric Spooner, MD, is responsible for saving the life the Powell’s now feisty and energetic 7-year-old, Annabel. Annabel was born seemingly healthy on Oct. 24, 2006, but within three days, she was diagnosed with a life-threatening congenital heart defect. Her parents were told their little girl would need three major heart surgeries and round-the-clock care in the first two years of her life.

“The world stops spinning on its axis when you’re delivered news like that,” said Susie Powell, a writer and blogger, who with her husband immediately began researching the best place for treatment for their daughter.

“We didn’t have to look far. Two names kept coming up, a surgeon in Boston and Dr. Neil Devejian,” Susie said.

Relieved that their “hometown” hospital was experienced in complicated pediatric cardiac surgery, they chose Albany Med and Dr. Devejian, the region’s only pediatric cardiac surgeon. It was a decision they have never regretted. After weathering surgery, feeding tubes and months of isolation at home, Annabel came out on the other side. Today, the happy first-grader is a gymnast, horseback rider, dancer and an avid reader, said her proud mom.

The Powells have remained close to the pediatric heart program, counseling other families with children diagnosed, like Annabel, with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Susie Powell hopes their gift will further assist parents and children facing difficult diagnoses.
## Hospital/ Patient Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed beds (includes SCC)</td>
<td>734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed bassinets</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient admissions (includes SCC)</td>
<td>33,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient days (includes SCC)</td>
<td>201,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Cases</td>
<td>3,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Days</td>
<td>4,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient visits (includes SCC)</td>
<td>581,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Length of Stay</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Occupancy</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Daily Census</td>
<td>554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Cases (includes SCC)</td>
<td>28,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Dept. visits</td>
<td>68,569</td>
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## Employees (Full Time Equivalents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time physicians</td>
<td>425</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary physicians</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Science faculty:</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>27</td>
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## Graduate Studies

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate students (total enrollment)</td>
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## Medical College

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical students (total enrollment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average GPA (of incoming freshmen)</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical School applications</td>
<td>8,829</td>
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## Research Funding ($ millions)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sponsored research</td>
<td>$13.5m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Science</td>
<td>$11.1m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Science</td>
<td>$2.4m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards applied for</td>
<td>327</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active awards</td>
<td>206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer reviewed publications</td>
<td>209</td>
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## UNRESTRICTED REVENUES — in millions —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient/Service</td>
<td>$878,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts and Grants</td>
<td>$22,778</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$36,887</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$45,615</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$983,580</td>
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## UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES — in millions —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$551,064</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; Purchased Services</td>
<td>$336,293</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation &amp; Interest</td>
<td>$66,487</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$16,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$970,493</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

52
Original doorway to the Lancaster Street School Building, 1839-1926
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, 2013