

# The 40th Annual Commencement

The College of Nursing

and

The College of Health  
Related Professions

of

SUNY Downstate  
Medical Center

Noon  
Tuesday, May 29, 2007  
Carnegie Hall • New York City, New York

# The Music Program

## Precommencement Musicale

Works by J. S. Bach, A. Banchieri, G. Gabrieli, J. Pezel, and A. Scarlatti played by The Physicians' Brass Ensemble of New York—Daniel Repole, M.A., conductor; Benjamin A. Rosenberg\*, M.D., '50, music chairman. Horn: Eric Davis. Trombones: George Zorko (Tenor), Benjamin A. Rosenberg (Tenor/Bass, also Bass Trumpet). Trumpets: Anthony Bavota, Joseph Kaminski, and Joseph Schufle (also Piccolo Trumpets).

\*Founding Director 1972

## Processional

Coronation March from *The Prophet* (1849, G. Meyerbeer)  
Trumpet Tune (1696, J. Clarke)  
March from *Dramico per Musica* (1726, J. S. Bach)  
Triumphal March from *Aida* (1871, G. Verdi)  
Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 (1901, E. Elgar)

## National Anthem

Karla Simmons (Soloist)

## Recessional

Rondeau (1729, J. J. Mouret)  
Trumpet Voluntary (1700, J. Clarke)  
“See the Conquering Hero Comes” from *Judas Maccabeus* (1746, G. F. Handel)  
Turkish March from *The Ruins of Athens* (1812, L. von Beethoven)  
March Militaire (1825, F. Schubert)  
Promenade from *Pictures at an Exhibition* (1874, M. Moussorgsky)

We would like to thank the following groups for their assistance in organizing this year's commencement ceremony: Office of the President, Division of Student Affairs, Deans' Offices, Institutional Advancement, Office of Student Life, Office of University Police/Public Safety, and all the people who have given freely of themselves to enrich this year's graduation.

# The Commencement Program

## Presiding Marshal

Nellie Bailey, EdD, RN, CS

*Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Dean of  
Undergraduate Programs  
College of Nursing*

## Processional

*(Audience, please rise for the Processional.)*

## Opening Remarks

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

*President*

## Greeting from the Deans

Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN

*Dean, College of Nursing*

Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PD, PA-C

*Assistant Professor and Dean*

*College of Health Related Professions*

## Greetings from the Graduates

Katie Lyn Grandstaff

*College of Nursing, Class of 2007*

## Susan M. Brzozka

*College of Health Related Professions*

*Class of 2007*

## Presentation and Conferring of the Honorary Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PD, PA-C

Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN

## Honorary Degree Recipients

Jeanette Lancaster, PhD, RN, FAAN

Richard A. Smith, MD, MPH

## Commencement Address

Richard A. Smith, MD, MPH

## College of Nursing

### Presentation of Candidates

Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN

### Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

### Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Daisy Cruz-Richman, PhD, RN

## College of Health Related Professions

### Presentation of Candidates

Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PD, PA-C

### Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

### Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PD, PA-C

### Hooding of Candidates for the DPT Degree

Joanne Katz, PhD, DPT, PT

### Closing Remarks and Administration of the Oath of Professional Practice

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

## Recessional

*(Audience: Please rise and remain standing until  
the graduates have left the hall.)*

# College of Nursing

## Bachelor of Science

Ayisha Abdussalam Nursing  
Dupe Adehwoye Nursing  
Ricki Sheldon Agulia Nursing  
Gabriel Oludele Akinade Accelerated Nursing  
Adenike Josephine Akinduyi Nursing  
Marie Deslourdes Alexis Nursing  
Delania Almanzar Accelerated Nursing  
Sandra Alter Accelerated Nursing  
Lisa Marie Apsel Nursing  
Marisol Armora Nursing  
Eulan Atkinson Accelerated Nursing  
Shanna Lauren Baron Nursing  
Penelope Jacqueline Bastidas Nursing  
Joseph Ebel Belange Nursing  
Shauna-Renee Alicia Bennett Accelerated Nursing  
Shonna M. Berlin Nursing  
Mery Bermudez Nursing  
Louis Rigaud Bois Nursing  
Earlyn K. Boston Nursing  
Bonnie Jill Boyce Nursing  
Arestides Bravo Nursing  
Lydia Roth Brown Nursing  
Nytisha Brown Nursing  
Joycelyn Burke Nursing  
Paula Susan Campbell Nursing  
Carmen Castillo Nursing  
Kim Cesaria Tan Chan Nursing  
Marcelique Nickiesha Chandon Nursing  
Michelle Antoinette Chester Nursing  
Wai Ling Kennis Chu Nursing  
Tracy S. Crippen Accelerated Nursing  
Lois Marie Cruz Accelerated Nursing  
Iyabo Oyeronke Dada Accelerated Nursing  
Carol Rosetta Daley Nursing  
Jennise Lurrel Dawkins Nursing  
Ryan Gerald Lamprea Del Castillo Accelerated Nursing  
Rochel Tamar Diamond Accelerated Nursing  
Micheline Dupont Accelerated Nursing  
Caroline Sarah Durant Nursing  
Irina Dynkevich Accelerated Nursing  
Camille Allecia Edwards Nursing  
Angela M. Esquivel Nursing  
Marjorie Etienne Nursing  
Carine Fang Accelerated Nursing  
Erianna Dawn Flores Accelerated Nursing  
Gay Anita Folkes-Bolan Nursing  
Gillian Fiona Foster Accelerated Nursing  
Carolle L. Geneus Nursing  
Adem Martin Geraghty Accelerated Nursing  
Lisann Marie Giscombe Nursing  
Katie Lyn Grandstaff Accelerated Nursing  
Merie Guirand Nursing  
Caroline Hayes-Ivanovic Nursing  
Joseph Walter Henson Accelerated Nursing  
Adonis L. Hosten Nursing  
Fred Fitzroy James Nursing  
Dora Jean Charles Nursing  
Michaelle Jimenez-Dolne Accelerated Nursing  
Stacey Shelly-Ann Johnson Accelerated Nursing  
Sophia Marie Jones Nursing  
Margareth Joseph Nursing  
Diana Jouve-Vazquez Nursing  
Laura Patricia Kabbabe Accelerated Nursing  
Carolle Kebreau Nursing  
Tatyana Kitaychik Nursing  
Erica Ann Koleosho Nursing  
Cheryl H. Kollie Accelerated Nursing  
Jodi Kornas Nursing  
Angelina Kosatch Nursing

Myrdith Jean-Mary Laguerre Nursing  
Nathan Lantos Nursing  
Patsie Ellonia Lawrence Nursing  
Suemedede A. Lawrence Accelerated Nursing  
Tziviva Tova Lederman Nursing  
Victoria Wun Yan Lee Accelerated Nursing  
Jessica Melody Levine Accelerated Nursing  
Morline Lombard Nursing  
Anne Marie Louis Nursing  
Marie Lumene Louis-Charles Nursing  
Latisha Michelle Lowery Accelerated Nursing  
Erma Cynthia Lyttle Nursing  
Sara S. Martinez Nursing  
Eva Elaine Martin-Williams Nursing  
Brenda Patricia McGuire Accelerated Nursing  
Maria Alexandria McKnight Nursing  
Myroslava Romanivna Mokliak Nursing  
Kimberly Hope Mora-Buckridge Accelerated Nursing  
Sophia Racquel Munoz-Bennett Nursing  
Elisheva Ruth Norman Accelerated Nursing  
Grace Oluwatoyin Okolonji Nursing  
Akuchi Onyeyirichi Opara Nursing  
Iwona Maria Paluszczak Nursing  
Galina Pinkhasov Nursing  
Afolabi Oladunjoye Poroye Accelerated Nursing  
Svetlana Pronkina Nursing  
Pascale Prophete Nursing  
Miriam Pudel Accelerated Nursing  
Elena Pugati Nursing  
Natasha Khamil Rambrich Accelerated Nursing  
Marie Flore Renaud Nursing  
Janet Angelica Renfrow Nursing  
Marci Lynn Resnicoff Accelerated Nursing  
Uchenna Revels Nursing  
Lisa Monique Richards Accelerated Nursing  
Tricia A. Robinson Nursing  
Denise Ross Nursing  
Patrina B. Royes Accelerated Nursing  
Gennady Rozman Accelerated Nursing  
Sofia Safonova Nursing  
Suzette Francelia Sam-Matthews Nursing

Cecilia Vanessa Scharschmidt Nursing  
Edith Marie Shammah Nursing  
Juliette A. Smith Nursing  
Abigail E. Snaggs Nursing  
Shoshana Kayla Stein Accelerated Nursing  
Toby Stern Accelerated Nursing  
Amy J. Telesford Accelerated Nursing  
Elda Vilsaint Nursing  
Corina Nicoleta Vlasie Nursing  
Xiuxia Wan Ohara Accelerated Nursing  
Stacia O. Webb Nursing  
Sheva R. Werzberger Nursing  
Corrice Lovelle White Nursing  
Brenda C. Williams-Payne Nursing  
Yunona Pogosovna Zaytseva Accelerated Nursing

## Master of Science

Memoudou Abalola Family Nurse Practitioner  
Jacinta D. Adams Family Nurse Practitioner  
Michaëlle N. Alexandre  
Women's Health Care Practitioner  
Catherine Renee Amico Nurse Anesthesia  
Gifty Joycelyn Appiah Family Nurse Practitioner  
Lyudmila Bezprozvannaya Family Nurse Practitioner  
Fatima Marie Blezin Family Nurse Practitioner  
Maira Frances Canty Nurse Anesthesia  
Marie-Ange Judeline Castagne-Petit-Frere  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Myungai Chang Nurse Anesthesia  
Nicole Denise Clark-St. John Nursing  
Allena Marie Constable Family Nurse Practitioner  
Lavern Patricia Daniels Family Nurse Practitioner  
Lenelle Patrice Daniels Family Nurse Practitioner  
Keith B. Denison Nurse Anesthesia  
Andrea Hope Diamond Nurse Midwifery  
Katherine Germaine Distefano Nurse Midwifery  
Don Sudara Dona Nurse Anesthesia  
Omar Duqmaq Family Nurse Practitioner  
Inez Edwards Family Nurse Practitioner  
Lyudmila Elgort Family Nurse Practitioner

Sherlette Nadine Elmore Family Nurse Practitioner  
Cindy Etienne Women's Health Care Practitioner  
Peter Fitzpatrick Nurse Anesthesia  
Verna Fleary-Alexis Family Nurse Practitioner  
Mario Joaquin Garcia Family Nurse Practitioner  
Claudia Vivienne Gordon Nurse Anesthesia  
Philecia Heather-Dawn Grant  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Celeste Angel Hand Nurse Anesthesia  
Hannah Catherine Holena Nurse Midwifery  
Sherron Carmelita Hunte Nursing  
Anthonia Olabisi Ilori Family Nurse Practitioner  
Nona Iskhakova Nurse Anesthesia  
Christine Kenny Nurse Anesthesia  
Celia Angela Latham Family Nurse Practitioner  
Lorna Patricia Lewis Family Nurse Practitioner  
Mohandai Roma Lowtan Family Nurse Practitioner  
Phoebe Malval Family Nurse Practitioner  
Melissa Ann Marballie Family Nurse Practitioner  
Desrine Rose Martin Nursing  
Javelle Marie McElhaney Nurse Anesthesia  
Sherene Monifa McIntyre Family Nurse Practitioner  
Julieth Faye McLaughlin Family Nurse Practitioner  
Marilyn Cheryl McLean Family Nurse Practitioner

Jill Denise McMillon Nurse Anesthesia  
Julene Denise Milton Family Nurse Practitioner  
Cheryl Ann Mitchell Family Nurse Practitioner  
Robert Arthur Moraghan Nurse Anesthesia  
Jacqueline Neseta Nelson-Lawrence  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Edith Oluchi Ogbenna Family Nurse Practitioner  
Adefunke F. Omolade Nurse Anesthesia  
Gail Simone Palmer Family Nurse Practitioner  
Renee Antoinette Pratt Nurse Anesthesia  
Dina Dieudonne Rameau Nurse Midwifery  
Terrance Seepersaud Family Nurse Practitioner  
Jessie Lila Seide Family Nurse Practitioner  
Germaine A. Sheppard-Durant  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Loni Ja'net Smith Nursing  
Rosemarie Marcia Stiell Family Nurse Practitioner  
Karolina Ubogaya Family Nurse Practitioner  
Faina Vasserman Nursing  
Rachelle Anya-Kellee Williams Nursing  
Sherri Lynn Williams Nursing  
Renee Lynette Wilson-Bennett  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Marcia Oslin Yhap-Davson Nurse Anesthesia

# College of Health Related Professions

## Bachelor of Science

Edwish Marie Adrien Physician Assistant  
Merik Aminov Physician Assistant  
Marjorie Aristilde Physician Assistant  
Nigarkhanim Azayeva Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Jeannie Marie Bonvino Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Susan M. Brzozka Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Stacy Erica Chapnick Physician Assistant  
Raji Chopra Physician Assistant  
Wai Yin Chu Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Nechama Diamond Physician Assistant  
Maribel Duarte Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Sonthonax Gay Physician Assistant  
Theresa Giammarino Physician Assistant  
Kawanza Greene Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Nicole F. Ioannides Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Susan Annu Ittyipe Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Miri Kadosh Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Svetlana Kazachinskaya Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Tiffany Anne Kimble Physician Assistant  
Patrick Knight Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Eman Mahdi Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Harrinarine Mathura Physician Assistant  
Idriys Abdul Nur McField Physician Assistant  
Natalie Nadine Nugent-Dennis  
Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Barbara Lynne Orenzoff Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Latise Ayana Pacheco Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Lisa Paul Physician Assistant  
Maria Antoinetta Pennisi Physician Assistant  
Karen Anne Pierrecin Physician Assistant  
Ciara M. Pilgrim Physician Assistant  
Ronald Michael Prince Physician Assistant  
Shaheda Rahman Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Diego Hernan Ratzlaff Physician Assistant

Lisa Kendra Ross Physician Assistant  
Arthur Robert Sabatino Physician Assistant  
Talia Sanderson Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Elissa Anne Schott Physician Assistant  
Chana Bracha Schuster Physician Assistant  
Rebecca Ann Serrano Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Katrina Shakhtmeyster Physician Assistant  
Ariel Sionov Physician Assistant  
Simone Corinne Spring Physician Assistant  
Charlotte-Anne Staaby Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Lala Sumaliyeva Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Sima M. Thaler-Phillip Physician Assistant  
Karen Torres Diagnostic Medical Imaging  
Preston Darian Totesau-Johnson Physician Assistant  
Andrea Magadalia Trimmingham Physician Assistant  
George P. Varghese Physician Assistant  
Manpreet Kaur Walia Physician Assistant  
James Moises Weyer Physician Assistant  
Naarah Leota Williams Physician Assistant  
Kenneth Yeung Physician Assistant

## Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences/ Master of Science Physical Therapy

Alejandro Raul Carpio Physical Therapy  
Rochel Davidson Physical Therapy  
Jennifer Marie Discalo Physical Therapy  
Miryl Friedman Physical Therapy  
Rena E. Friedman Physical Therapy  
Faye Goldstein Physical Therapy  
Sara Grossman Physical Therapy  
Michael David Kleinburd Physical Therapy  
Miguel Omar Landron Physical Therapy  
Blandy Leonard Physical Therapy

Kathleen Lieu Physical Therapy  
Joseph Raymond Maccio Physical Therapy  
Svetlana Makher Physical Therapy  
Yan Ponomarev Physical Therapy  
Ayana Saran Shaw Physical Therapy  
Jennifer Suzanne Smith Physical Therapy  
Oleg Yakubov Physical Therapy

## Master of Science

Esther Adler Occupational Therapy  
Svetlana Aronov Occupational Therapy  
Rivka Barnetsky Occupational Therapy  
Cheryl Blau Occupational Therapy  
Cee-Ann Bonita Boatswain Medical Informatics  
Shena Brown Occupational Therapy  
Nathalie Cesaire Occupational Therapy  
Glea Patricia Crawford Medical Informatics  
Jennifer Cress Occupational Therapy  
Ursula S.T. Dangler Occupational Therapy  
Virginia McPherson Davis Occupational Therapy  
Miriam Duhan Occupational Therapy  
Devon Samuel Dyett Medical Informatics  
Robert Carl Fidalgo Occupational Therapy  
Marc J. Freedman Occupational Therapy  
Rachel Fried Occupational Therapy  
Adina Frisch Occupational Therapy  
Aviva Leah Goldwasser Occupational Therapy  
Helena Almeda Grant-Henderson Midwifery  
Rosa Greenberg Occupational Therapy  
Rachel Sarah Jonas Occupational Therapy  
Elicia Anne Kaplan Midwifery  
Victoria Kravets Occupational Therapy  
Anthony Patrick Leach Medical Informatics  
Michelle Nicole Lehmer Chiafulio Midwifery  
Alex Leybengrub Medical Informatics  
Dina Leznova Medical Informatics  
Fang Luo Medical Informatics  
Sukdai Mangru Midwifery  
Ruben Mashayev Occupational Therapy  
Bella May Medical Informatics

Yael Nevo Occupational Therapy  
Beverly Paneth Occupational Therapy  
Woodley A. Perpignan Medical Informatics  
Lisa Michele Raymond-Tolan Occupational Therapy  
Amorisa Rosario Occupational Therapy  
Gitty Rosenberg Occupational Therapy  
Karen Virginia Sessing Midwifery  
Susan M. Sheff Occupational Therapy  
Daria Lynn Somerville Occupational Therapy  
Cherie Maxine Straus Occupational Therapy  
Cecilia Remi Thompson Medical Informatics  
Thomas Wallace Trainor Occupational Therapy  
Chifumnanya Nkemjika Umejei Medical Informatics  
Benaie Ann Varkey Occupational Therapy  
Nancy Villa Riggs Midwifery  
Heather Wesson Occupational Therapy  
Daniel Wiafe Medical Informatics  
Cynthia Diane Williams Medical Informatics  
Miriam Wydra Occupational Therapy

## Advanced Certificate

Maria Freytsis Midwifery  
Cynthia Jacinthe Midwifery

## Doctor of Physical Therapy

James Antoine  
Robin Brickman  
Rochelle Katzper  
Tehila B. Lazarus  
Anna Meyerzon  
Ramon Fernando Rosales  
Anthony Michael Yorio



# Honorary Degree Recipient

## Doctor of Humane Letters: Jeanette Lancaster, PhD, RN, FAAN

Dr. Jeanette Lancaster, the newly elected president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, heads the national organization that sets standards and advocates for baccalaureate and higher nursing education. A recognized authority on community health nursing and nursing education, she has, since 1989, served as dean and Sadie Heath Cabaniss Professor of Nursing at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, helping to bring women's strengths and ideas to the table.

At a time of critical shortage of clinical and advanced practice nurses, Dr. Lancaster has made nurse workforce development and retention one of her highest priorities. In recent testimony before Congress, she cited the aging of America and of practicing nurses, the high demand for intensive health services, and "a period of disinterest in a nursing career coupled with the growth of lucrative career options for women," as key factors challenging the growth of the nursing workforce.

Dr. Lancaster's tenure as dean at UVA has been characterized by innovative efforts to improve gender imbalances and promote an equal role for women in decision-making. As a practice leader and associate director of clinical services at the UVA Medical Center, she has been at the forefront of developing policies in keeping with current trends and challenges in health care.

Dr. Lancaster received her doctorate in public health from the University of Oklahoma, her master's in psychiatric-mental health nursing from Case Western Reserve University, and her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Tennessee, Memphis. She is a former dean and professor at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and chaired master's programs in nursing at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Her emphasis on the importance of women's leadership is mirrored by her own extensive board and committee service with the AACN, the National League for Nursing, the National Council for Compensation Insurance, the Committee on Graduate Nursing Education for the China Medical Board, and fellowship in the prestigious American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Lancaster has published over 50 professional journal articles and presented more than 200 speeches in the United States and abroad.

It seems fitting that the educator who holds the first endowed nursing professorship in the United States (established by the University of Virginia in 1928) was honored by the university in 1999 by having the Jeanette Lancaster Alumni Professorship in Nursing created in her name. She also has been honored as a distinguished alumna at the University of Tennessee College of Nursing and the Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University and was named honorary alumna at the UVA School of Nursing. Additional honors include the 2004 Maes-MacInnes Award from New York University Division of Nursing and the 2005 Distinguished Nurse Award from the Beta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

# Honorary Degree Recipient and Commencement Speaker

Doctor of Science:  
Richard A. Smith, MD, MPH

Dr. Richard A. Smith, the founder of MEDEX, is one of the fathers of the modern physician assistant profession. The MEDEX program he introduced prepares people from diverse backgrounds to practice medicine under physician supervision in medically underserved regions. Since the program began in 1969, it has been instituted in 46 states and is now used as a model for improving health care delivery in 88 countries of the world.

Dr. Smith first developed his interest in health care while participating in a college work-study program at a rural clinic in pre-Castro Cuba. After earning a medical degree from Howard University and an MPH from Columbia University, he worked in the Indian Health Service in Arizona, as the Peace Corps physician in Nigeria, and later as director of the world-wide medical program for the Peace Corps, managing its health operations in 44 countries. Later, as director of staff operations for the Health and Human Services' Office of Equal Health Opportunity, he helped end discrimination in hospitals under the Medicare Program. After working in the U.S. Surgeon General's Office and serving as deputy director in the Office of International Health, he began to redirect his focus on improving the ailing health care system in this country.

In 1969, at the University of Washington, he created a unique program he named MEDEX, from the French *médecin extension*. Joining Drs. Eugene Stead, Jr., of Duke University, and Hu Myers of Alderson Broaddus College, Dr. Smith introduced a program to train a new kind of health care provider—the physician assistant. The first MEDEX class was composed entirely of former military medical corpsmen, but in 1974 the program opened its doors to nurses and allied health workers.

Since 1972, Dr. Smith has been director of the MEDEX Group and clinical professor of family practice and community health at the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine. Under his leadership the MEDEX Group has provided technical assistance to eight other countries in developing new health care providers and has produced a multivolume, primary health care curriculum available in 33 languages.

A member of the Institute of Medicine, Dr. Smith has served on two World Health Organization expert committees on human resource development. He has received the Gerard B. Lambert Award for being "slightly out of step" with the rest of his profession as he successfully broke new ground with patient care innovations, the Rockefeller Public Service Award, and the Department of Health and Human Services' Distinguished Service Award for "leadership in the development of the physician assistant and nurse practitioner movement." In 1993, he was called to South Africa by Nelson Mandela to head the team designing the nation's new national health system.

# SUNY Downstate Medical Center

SUNY Downstate Medical Center, formally known as the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, is one of four academic health centers within the 64-unit State University of New York. Located on an urban campus in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate, a major research center, includes the College of Medicine, School of Graduate Studies, College of Nursing, College of Health Related Professions, Master of Public Health Program, and University Hospital of Brooklyn.

Over its history, the institution has undergone several name changes. Initially chartered as the teaching division of Long Island College Hospital, it was renamed The Long Island College of Medicine in 1931. The “Downstate” era began on April 5, 1950, when a merger contract was signed with the newly constituted State University of New York. The College of Nursing and College of Health Related Professions were founded in 1966 in recognition of the critical need for multi-disciplinary health-care professionals.

Today, SUNY Downstate is the focal point of a health education network that encompasses 30 hospitals and other health care sites. It has a total student body of 1,600, a faculty of 4,755 (including full-time, part-time, and voluntary), and support staff of 3,182 who study and work on its 13-acre campus. In 1998, one of its researchers, Dr. Robert F. Furchgott, received the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology.

## Philosophy of Health Care Professional Training

### “To Learn-To Search-To Serve”

That is the motto of the State University of New York and the mission of SUNY Downstate. As an urban medical center that is part of a large public university system, SUNY Downstate is keenly aware of its special obligation for public service and is a vital contributor to the health-care needs of its community. SUNY Downstate provides an atmosphere of scientific scholarship designed to inspire students to observe, analyze, and interpret scientific and social phenomena in a systematic manner. Collaboration among the health professions helps develop the community health-care concepts needed to deal with the health and social needs of a changing society.

# Faculty Serving as Marshals

Nellie Bailey, EdD RN, CS Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs,  
College of Nursing

Margaret Clifton, MS, RN Lecturer and Coordinator, Learning Resource Center, College of Nursing

Mary Germain, EdD, ARNP-BC Associate Professor, College of Nursing

Patricia Kizilay, EdD, ARNP-BC, FNAP Associate Professor, College of Nursing

Mark L'Eplattenier, MS, RPAC Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Program, College of  
Health Related Professions

Edna Lewis, MS, MA, RN, CS Clinical Assistant Professor and Director, Continuing Education, College of Nursing

Richard Sabel, MA, OTR, MS, OTMS Clinical Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy Program,  
College of Health Related Professions

Suzanne Schechter, MS, CNM Clinical Assistant Professor, Midwifery Program, College of Health Related Professions

Laurie Seckel, MPS, PT Clinical Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy Program, College of Health Related Professions

Laila Sedhom, PhD, RN Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, College of Nursing

Marie Towle, BS, RDMS Assistant Professor, Diagnostic Medical Imaging Program, College of Health Related Professions

# SUNY Board of Trustees

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*Chancellor, State University of New York*

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President of the Research Foundation*

# The Academic Procession

The procession is led by the presiding marshal. Other members of the procession include faculty marshals (chosen by the graduates), faculty members, deans, honorary degree recipients, and the president of SUNY Downstate.

The academic gown worn by procession members is said to be symbolic of the “democracy of scholarship,” for it covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath.

Academic gowns originated in the Middle Ages, the period when universities were beginning to take form. At that time, most scholars were also clerics—and therefore dressed as clerics, in long gowns. Over time, the gown became the accepted dress code for scholars: in England, in the second half of the 14th century, for example, several colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and decreed the wearing of long gowns.

The assignment of colors to signify different academic disciplines developed much later, and was standardized in the United States in the late 19th century. In 1895, an intercollegiate commission composed of representatives from leading colleges established a code of academic dress that prescribed cut, style, and materials of the gowns, as well as colors to represent different fields of learning. Today, academic dress code is regulated by a formal Committee on Academic Costumes and Ceremonies created by the American Council on Education in 1952.

The gown is usually black for all degrees, with variations in the sleeves, the front cut, and trim. The bachelor’s degree gown is black with long pointed sleeves. The master’s degree gown is black without trim and has oblong sleeves so the upper part of the arm comes through the slit in the sleeve. Doctoral (Ph.D.) gowns are black with bell-shaped sleeves. Mortarboards (caps) with tassels have their own significance. Master’s and bachelor’s tassels are black, while the Ph.D. tassel may be black or gold; medicine is green.

Hood colors indicate the field of learning: dark blue—philosophy; green—medicine; light blue—education; apricot—nursing; golden yellow—science; white—history; purple—law; dark blue—psychology; salmon—public health; and teal—physical therapy.

Details of academic attire may vary depending on where faculty members completed their degrees. Some foreign degree holders, for example, wear special hats, distinctive to their degree and institution. Whatever the differences, however, the governing tradition is continuity of the academic symbols from the Middle Ages.

# Oath of Professional Practice

As a member of the graduating classes of the College of Health Related Professions and the College of Nursing,

I solemnly pledge my commitment to the faithful practice of my profession and the provision of high-quality health-care services with honesty, integrity, and dedication.

I recognize and value human diversity and will provide individualized services for all who seek my care.

I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all human beings.

I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of my professional service.

I will accept responsibility for my actions and uphold the standards of my profession.

I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills as I engage in lifelong learning.

I will use my experiences to contribute to an improved community.

My functions and goals are based upon my commitment to the improvement of health-care delivery and service for all those in need of the skills of my profession.

I make these commitments freely and with honor.