



Year in Review

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



Learn.



Discover.



Thrive.



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Continuing the commitment to Learn, Discover, Thrive.



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with a great deal of excitement and much gratitude that I introduce the first annual report for Rush University. This report is a snapshot of one year. Below, I will also highlight key accomplishments of Rush University over the past three years that made this remarkable year possible. Every one of these achievements is attributable to Rush’s extraordinary teams, which are imbued with Rush’s unique culture and values. Their resilience and commitment are unmatched. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of leading Rush University, especially during this time of great challenge.

I’m proud to share that, from 2019 to 2021, Rush University has experienced impressive growth in enrollment in each of our four colleges (5% overall, to a record of 2,889 students) as well as a record number of research awards, all while increasing diversity (among students: 20%, and among faculty: 108 new diverse members), maintaining strong marks in satisfaction for faculty and students and creating a financially sustainable pathway to the future. Research awards at Rush University have grown by 60% since 2019, and the total of \$145 million in awards is a Rush University record (a \$54.5 million increase since 2019). This growth is highlighted by the increase in National Institutes of Health grant awards, which have risen by 40% and are a major driver of indirect cost recovery, which is now the highest in Rush history at 58%. These efforts are being increasingly recognized nationally with Rush University rising in the rankings of *U.S. News & World Report*. In 2021, *U.S. News* ranked 12 of our programs in the top 10 in the nation, with five ranking #1.

Throughout this unprecedented pandemic, the students, faculty and staff of Rush University have been steadfast in their commitment to our community and in support of our clinical colleagues, spending hundreds of hours volunteering in the community and in the hospital; creating and supporting the COVID Science Page early in the pandemic (which quickly became an invaluable resource for busy clinicians to keep up with the rapidly advancing science and new clinical trials), launching innovative partnerships to help stem the pandemic, such as a collaboration with the Chicago Department of Public Health to advance COVID-19 surveillance; among many other contributions. Remarkably, even as these exceptional efforts unfolded, Rush University never lost sight of our central commitment to build a diverse and engaged faculty and student body. Student and faculty engagement and student retention remained strong throughout this growth phase and during the pandemic. There was 96% retention in 2021, the strongest such rate in the past three years. Coupled with this strategic growth, Rush University has carefully managed expenses and has, in fact, been able to exceed budget expectations from 2019 to 2021, increasing operating revenue by 14% while controlling operating expenses, which increased the contribution margin from 3.55% in FY19 to 6.21% in FY21. These financial trends continue in the early parts of 2022 (10.7% better than budgeted with a 6.3% contribution margin).

The people of Rush have made the above successes possible. Because of their efforts, their sacrifice and their unwavering dedication to Rush’s mission and values, Rush University will emerge from the pandemic even stronger than before, well-positioned to meet the challenges of the future. And our recently endorsed University 5-year strategic plan charts a bold course for the future, building on these tremendous successes. It has been my distinct honor to serve as the president of Rush University during this time.

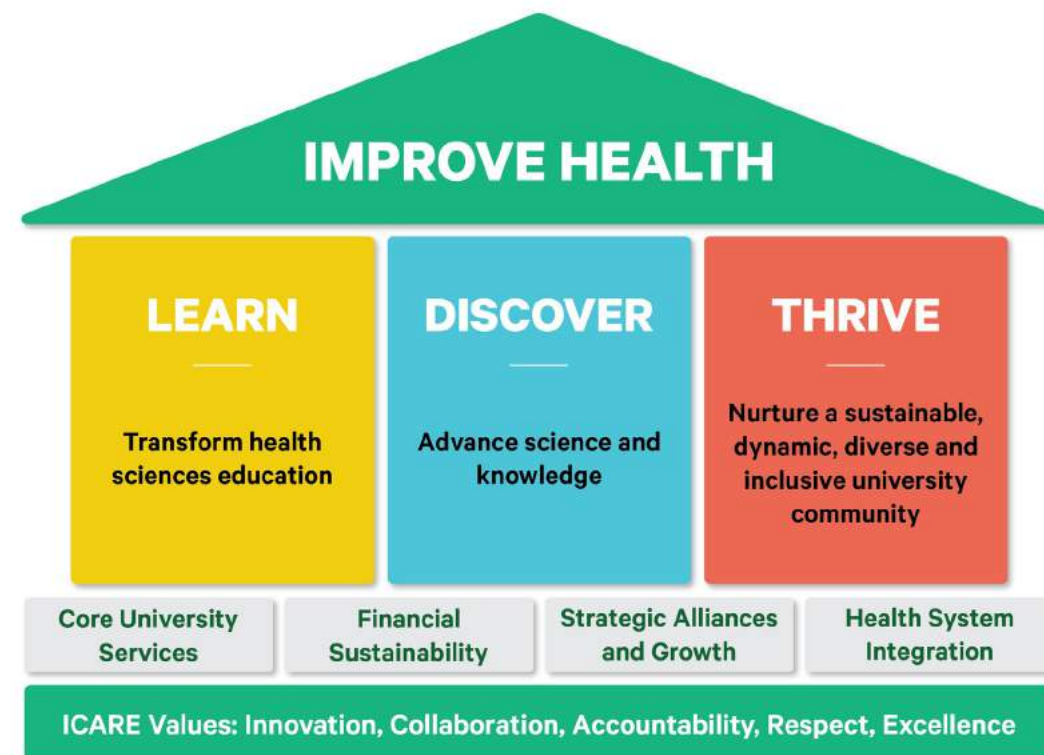
Sherine E. Gabriel, MD, MSc

President, **Rush University**
Chief Academic Officer, **Rush University System for Health**

A Bold Plan for Our Future

Looking Ahead: Rush University's Strategic Plan

Rush University is updating its five-year strategic plan. The plan contributes to Rush University System for Health's broader vision and mission, serving as a foundational component of the learning health care system by addressing workforce shortages and creating more strategic integration toward achieving improvements in health. With a vision of being a leading health sciences university, Rush University is committed to improving health through innovation across three pillars: Learn, Discover and Thrive. Each pillar includes key strategies and tactics to guide Rush University through the next five years.



Learn

Rush University is educating future health care leaders.

Rush University's Reach Is Broad and Growing

Rush University is committed to identifying key strategic alliances to advance science and build the next generation of health care professionals and scientists. Rush University has fostered and expanded partnerships with organizations across the region, nation and world, including the following:

DePaul University – Rush University and DePaul University jointly operate the Center for Community Health Equity, which combats health disparities through education, outreach and research. Rush and DePaul are seeking to add additional joint education and research initiatives.

Illinois Institute of Technology – The Graduate College formalized a memo of understanding with the IIT Institute of Design and developed shared coursework and webinars starting in fall 2021 on the application of human-centered design in health care. Rush and IIT plan to add additional joint education and research initiatives.

Jacksonville University – The College of Health Sciences formalized a seven-year agreement with Jacksonville University's Respiratory Care program, which will net Rush University \$1.7 million.



Respiratory therapy student and instructor discuss breathing treatment.



From left: Rush University President Sherine E. Gabriel, MD; Vice Chancellor of the University of Global Health Equity, Agnes Binagwaho, MD; and Specialist in Blood Banking Program Director Laurie Gillard, MS; participate in a panel discussion about Rush and University of Global Health Equity's partnership in bringing safe blood banking practices to Rwanda.

Malcolm X College – The College of Health Sciences is partnering with Malcolm X College's Medical Assisting program to offer experiential learning for Malcolm X students at Rush University Medical Center.

P33 – The Graduate College is collaborating with P33 through the Illinois Deep Tech Guild initiative, which seeks to train the next generation of Illinois bio-entrepreneurs by placing Rush graduate students in commercial accelerators and incubators.

R1 – The College of Health Sciences will open the executive track of the Health Systems Management program this fall. The initial cohort of 18 students is composed of R1 employees, the Medical Center's revenue cycle partner.

University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda – A memo of understanding between the two universities establishes a Specialist in Blood Banking program with the College of Health Sciences and creates opportunities to explore other health education programs.

The College of Nursing Faculty Practice program – Supports more than 25 partner sites across the Chicago area where our community health nurses provide direct care to patients in some of the most vulnerable communities. These partnerships ensure that people in disadvantaged communities have access to high-quality health care and provide nursing students with the opportunity to learn.

International Engagement

Throughout COVID-19, Rush University continued to engage learners across the globe, including the following:

- Nearly 1,500 health care providers from the Dominican Republic participated in interprofessional continuing education programs on COVID-19.
- Seven students participated in the Rush Interdisciplinary Service Experience, which was offered with a U.S.-based partner, Healthy Hood Chicago, because of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Two-hundred-thirty-five students, faculty and staff attended the FY21 Global Health Symposium.

Rush University's Global Health Program is an important aspect of many students' and faculty members' research and work. Students from different colleges pursue experience in global health service programs across the world. Notably, many different student groups have participated in service trips in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Students from different disciplines attend these trips and offer services and health screenings to communities under the guidance of faculty members and providers from Rush and its partner institutions.

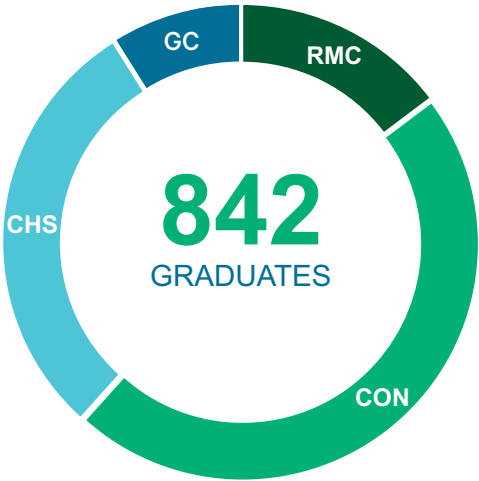
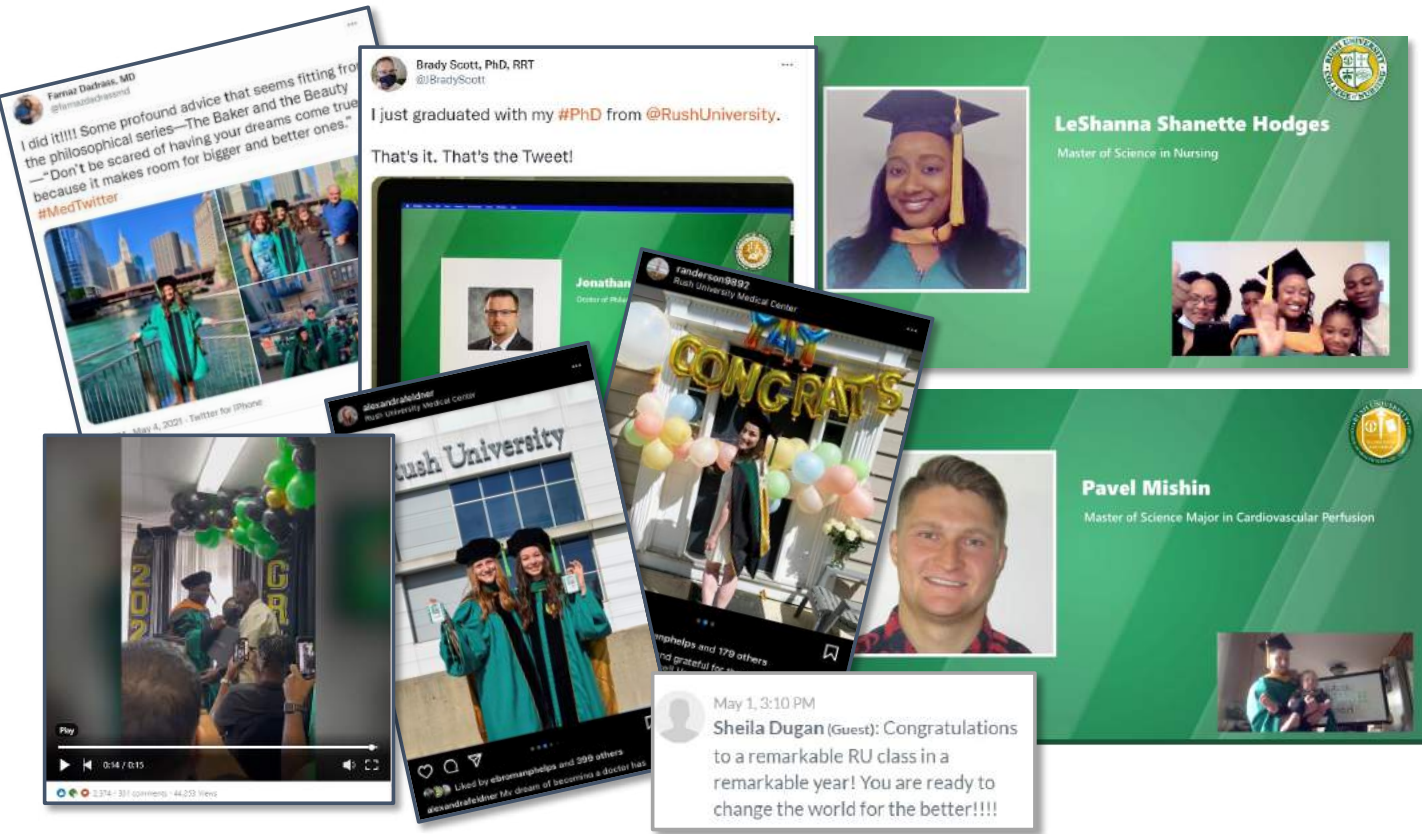


*Above: A student volunteer prepares a vaccine injection.
Below: Primary care work in the Dominican Republic.*

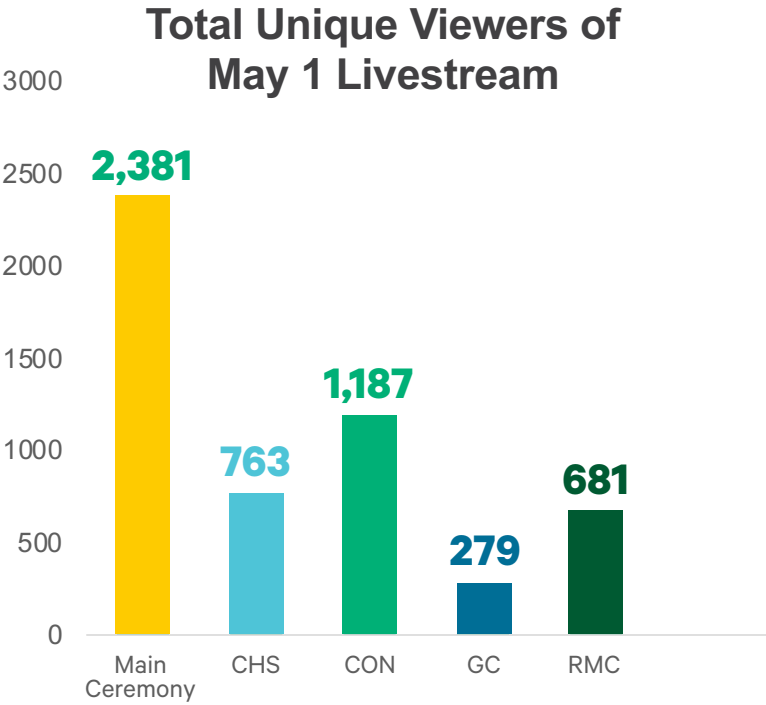


Rush University's 49th Commencement

On May 1, 2021, Rush University celebrated and welcomed 842 graduates into the ranks of the best and brightest future health care leaders. Using a unique virtual event platform, Rush University graduates, their families and friends, faculty and others were able to participate in the ceremony via a live, virtual experience highlighting each college and each graduate with live feeds and a lively chat room.



CHS	College of Health Sciences
CON	College of Nursing
GC	The Graduate College
RMC	Rush Medical College



Commencement Address
Judy Faulkner, founder and CEO, Epic Systems

Student Speaker
Fritzi Flores, MS-HSM, College of Health Sciences

University Marshal
David Vines, PhD, MHS, RRT, director, Respiratory Care Program, CHS

93.2k
Social media posts reach

1.9k
Total video views

1.6k
Chat box users



Student Profile

Cardiovascular Perfusion: Finding New Purpose in a New Career

Audrey Barba had worked for years as a cardiovascular operating room nurse in Kansas but wanted a new challenge, so she chose to pursue a master's degree in cardiovascular perfusion.

As a single mom to her son, Jayden, Barba realized that going back to graduate school would mean significant life changes. But when she was a first-year student, she knew she had made the right choice after she volunteered for a medical mission trip to Cebu City in the Philippines in December 2019.

"The mission trip combined some of my biggest loves: my family ties, my culture and philanthropic work," she says. Working as part of a multidisciplinary team, Barba assisted with eight cardiac surgeries, most of them on children with congenital heart defects. Rather than finding the 20-hour workdays draining, Barba says the mission trip revitalized her. "It really just made my heart happy," she says.

Ten months after her trip to the Philippines, Barba completed a medical mission to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, where she assisted with 11 surgeries in five days. After graduation, Barba hopes to apply her skills as a pediatric perfusionist on other medical missions. She described these aspirations in an essay, which earned her the prestigious Segal scholarship from Rush University.

"Working as a nurse has been a fulfillment of my childhood dream to work in the medical field, but now I am ready to channel my passion to the next step, and for me, that is cardiovascular perfusion," she wrote.

“

The mission trip combined some of my biggest loves: my family ties, my culture and philanthropic work.

Audrey Barba

Second-year cardiovascular perfusion student

Rankings

The Rush Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program vaulted seven spots to take the No. 1 overall ranking in *U.S. News and World Report’s* Best Graduate Schools edition. In addition to the overall DNP category, the College of Nursing ranks No. 1 in the following DNP specialties:

- Psychiatric/Mental Health
 - Pediatric Acute Care
 - Pediatric Primary Care
- #1



The College of Nursing also ranked in the top five in the following categories:

- Online Nursing Program
 - Adult/Gerontology Primary Care NP
 - Nurse Practitioner (NP)
 - Family NP
 - Adult/Gerontology Acute Care NP
- #1
#2
#2
#3
#4

Four College of Health Sciences disciplines remain highly ranked by *U.S. News*:

- Audiology — Doctorate*
 - Health Systems Management
 - Speech-Language Pathology*
 - Occupational Therapy*
- #8
#5
#16
#23

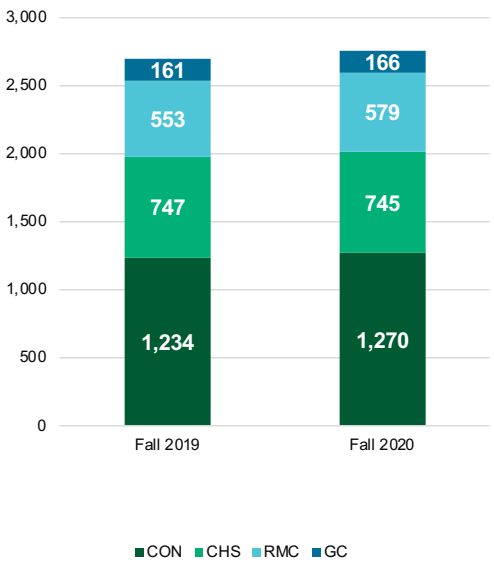
*ranked in 2021

Rush Medical College ranks 64th in the Research category and 69th in Primary Care.

Rush is No. 62 in the Most Diverse Medical Schools category, which is a new ranking this year.



Rush University Enrollment (Fall 2019-2020)

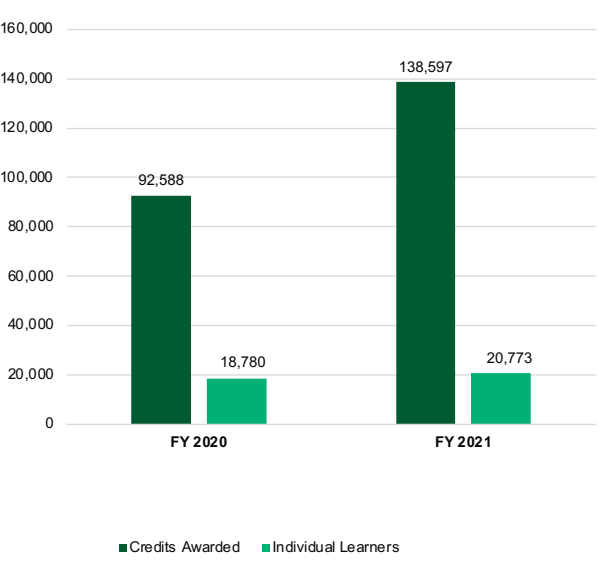


Enrollment

College Enrollment

Although many universities across the country experienced enrollment declines in fall 2020, Rush University grew by 65 students or 2.41% between fall 2019 and fall 2020.

Continuing Education Enrollment (FY20-FY21)



Center for Innovative and Lifelong Learning Enrollment

In FY21, the Center for Innovative and Lifelong Learning experienced significant growth in continuing education credits awarded, offering 5,227 programs in multiple professions and growing 49.7% over FY20.

Accreditations

In FY21, Rush University received accreditation or recognition for the following programs:

- **Rush Medical College’s Doctor of Medicine program** was fully reaccredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. The next accreditation is scheduled for 2028-2029.
- **The College of Health Sciences’ Master of Science in Health Systems Management program** was fully reaccredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. The next accreditation is scheduled for 2027.
- **The Rush Center for Clinical Skills and Simulation** was certified as a CAE Healthcare Center of Excellence.

Rush University and each of its colleges are accredited by many organizations, including the following:

Rush University

- Higher Learning Commission
- Illinois Board of Higher Education

Rush Medical College

- Liaison Committee on Medical Education

College of Nursing

- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
- Nurse Anesthesia, DNP Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

College of Health Sciences

- The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

- Committee on Accreditation of Specialist in Blood Bank Technology School
- Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Management Education
- National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- Accreditation Committee - Perfusion Education
- Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant
- Respiratory Care, MS Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
- Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.
- Vascular Ultrasound Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Graduate Medical Education

- Graduate Medical Education Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education

Continuing Education

- Continuing Medical Education Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education
- Continuing Nursing Education American Nurses Credentialing Center
- Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
- American Psychological Association

Research

- Human Subject Research Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- Office for Human Research Protections
- Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Animal Subject Research U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
- Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care

New Program Highlight: Human-Centered Design

The new Rush University Office of Design was created to bring human-centered systems design approaches and methods to Rush University’s curriculum. Led by Santosh Basapur, PhD, the office created pilot courses on the application of design in health care for fall 2021, including “Designing Health Care Innovation” and “Community Effective Primary Care Using Human Centered Design.” Collaboratively delivered by Rush University, the IIT Institute of Design and The Community Builders, the primary care course teaches students how to design and implement care delivery enhancements for a variety of stakeholders.

The Association of American Medical Colleges awarded Rush Medical College the 2020 Spencer Foreman Award for Outstanding Community Engagement, citing the college’s work to protect Chicago’s homeless population from COVID-19.



The award recognizes a medical school or teaching hospital that “goes well beyond the traditional role of academic medicine and reaches communities whose needs are not being met through the traditional health delivery system.”

“Achieving the Spencer Foreman Award has long been a goal, but we are especially proud to receive this honor this year,” said Sharon Gates, DSW, MA, Rush University’s senior director of student diversity and community engagement. “Rush Medical College students and faculty have been on the leading edge of community engagement and activism for many years, but in a year when our community needed them most, they stepped up and stepped in to protect Chicago’s most vulnerable populations.”

Discover

Rush University focuses on innovation to solve the most urgent problems in health care.

The Rush University Research Response to COVID

The University responded quickly to the need for vaccine clinical trials and COVID-related research. Students launched into action reviewing the literature, and the Rush University COVID website was initiated to ensure access to the latest scientific information and updates. The University Command Center worked in lock-step with the health system command center to make sure that everyone was informed about the most current news and recommendations regarding COVID-19 so decisions could be made quickly and in the best interest of Rush. Through collaboration with all departments at the University, students were able to continue pursuing their education with little or no extension to their program duration. Rush remains committed to delivering the promised academic experience to students, even in the most difficult circumstances.

University Command Center

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rush University established a comprehensive University Command Center (UCC) focused on addressing COVID's impact on every aspect of the University, including all educational, research and community functions, facilities, services and structures. The UCC comprised a multifaceted leadership team from across the Rush campus who together developed a crisis mitigation checklist and strategies to guide Rush University through the rapidly evolving transitions required by COVID-19.

Online Teaching Modalities

Rush University quickly upgraded its learning spaces with technology that allowed faculty to conduct hybrid class sessions. This flexibility provided more students with access to learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced the risks for students and faculty alike.



650+ courses converted to online or hybrid modalities

between spring 2020 and fall 2020



Student Testing and Contact Tracing

To conduct COVID-19 testing for students, the Rush Nursing Office of Faculty Practice worked closely with University leadership to develop a weekly testing strategy to coincide with the launch of the academic year.

2,153 student tests administered
300 tests a week

The Rush Nursing Office of Faculty Practice has provided more than 40,000 COVID-19 tests and over 8,000 vaccinations to vulnerable and underserved communities.
(See more information on page 30.)

CARES Act and Donors Make the Student Relief Fund Possible

Rush University created the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund to support students in need so they could continue their education without interruption. Alumni and friends of Rush University donated more than \$320,000 to the fund. In addition, Rush University received \$1.6M through the CARES Act. A total of 970 Rush University students received funding for food and utilities, loss of employment and reduced wages, technology and/or internet access expenses, temporary housing, moving expenses, storage expenses, travel expenses related to COVID-19, unexpected medical expenses and dependent care expenses (child or elder care). The CARES Act funding also made possible campus upgrades including plexiglass partitions and hand sanitizer stations, as well as the technology needed to accommodate faculty teaching remotely.

COVID-19 Research

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rush University community leveraged its networks to present Rush as a site for clinical studies on COVID-19. Raj Shah, MD, led an effort to make rapid decisions on the many clinical studies started to test potential therapies, streamlining the process of matching study teams with potential clinical trials and helping begin studies quickly to test the latest potential therapies on a diverse patient population. Two vaccine trials enrolled patients at Rush and many other therapies were tested as part of this effort.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, Rush researchers submitted 74 COVID-19-related proposals and 48 were funded by federal, industrial and philanthropic sources.

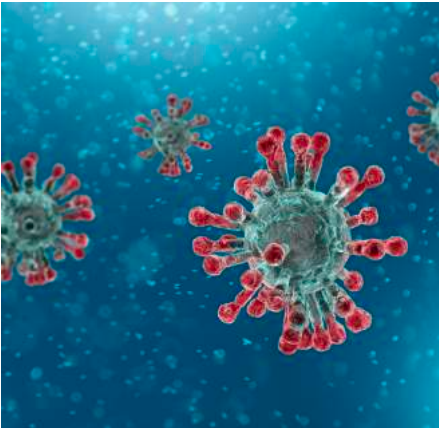
The City of Chicago awarded \$3.5 million to Stefan Green, PhD, and Mary Hayden, MD, to fund the Regional Innovative Public Health Laboratory services.

48 of 74
COVID-19 related
proposals funded

\$3.5 million
awarded
to RIPHL

Student-led COVID-19 Rush Journal Club

Shortly after the pandemic began, students across Rush University came together to start the Rush University COVID-19 Journal Club to sift through the staggering amount of news and research about the virus. Their work is making the science more accessible not only to health care workers but also the general public.





Above: The Regional Innovative Public Health Laboratory.

COVID-19 Science

Rush University faculty and researchers made many contributions to research about COVID-19 treatment and care. Across specialties, research was conducted that enabled greater understanding about preventing the coronavirus and improving patient outcomes in those who had tested positive. Clinical trials at Rush University have helped to establish data for a number of COVID-19 related studies.

Select Publications from Faculty

- **Prone positioning for patients intubated for severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) secondary to COVID-19: a retrospective observational cohort study**
Tyler T. Weiss, Flor Cerda, J. Brady Scott, Ramandeep Kaur, Sarah Sungurlu, Sara H. Mirza, Amnah A. Alolaiwat, Ramandeep Kaur, Ashley E. Augustynovich, Jie Li, *British Journal of Anaesthesia*
- **Lessons Learned from Coronavirus Disease 2019 Sex Disparities** Tisha Suboc, Joanne Michelle D. Gomez, Caroline Volgman, Annabelle Santos Volgman, *Journal of Women's Health*
- **COVID-19 Among African Americans: An Action Plan for Mitigating Disparities** Monica E. Peek, Russell A. Simons, William F. Parker, David A. Ansell, Selwyn O. Rogers, Brownsyne Tucker Edmonds, *American Journal of Public Health*
- **Comparison of two commercial molecular tests and a laboratory-developed modification of the CDC 2019-nCoV RT-PCR assay for the detection of SARS-CoV-2**
Nicholas M. Moore, Haiying Li, Debra Schejbal, Jennifer Lindsley, Mary K. Hayde, *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*

Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center

The Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center (RADC) experienced remarkable growth in FY21. The center and its collaborators were awarded 20 new grants, including 18 from the National Institutes of Health totaling more than \$22 million. Additionally, the center published nearly 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts across a range of topics, including Alzheimer's and other causes of dementia, Parkinson's disease, stroke and sleep. The work was conducted by RADC staff and led by a large interdisciplinary team of clinician and non-clinician scientists, in addition to numerous strategic collaborators across the U.S., Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Europe, India and Israel. Notably, Rush University researchers published in many prestigious journals, including *Brain*, *Acta Neuropathologica*, *Brain Imaging and Behavior* and *Nature Medicine*.

20
new grants
in FY21

\$22m
total
funding

150
peer-reviewed
manuscripts



Above: Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center

Maternal and Infant Health

Urmeka T. Jefferson, PhD, RN, associate professor at Rush University College of Nursing, is one of 10 nurse scientists accepted to the second cohort of the Betty Irene Moore Fellowship for Nurse Leaders and Innovators. This fellowship program, funded by a \$37.5 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, recognizes early-to mid-career nursing scholars and innovators with a high potential to accelerate leadership in nursing research, practice, education, policy and entrepreneurship. With more than 16 years of experience caring for mothers and critically ill infants, Jefferson seeks to expand the best practices in maternal-child health that promote equity and social justice. Her research focuses on breastfeeding interventions that resonate with the cultural and contextual traditions of Black mothers. Jefferson's fellowship project will focus on refining Mother's Milk Connection, an app she developed to streamline quality breastfeeding support and community services from hospitals to Black mothers at home, conducting usability testing and examining breastfeeding outcomes in a primary care setting. With an urgent need across the nation to redesign health care systems to better serve the needs of diverse communities, Jefferson's research is helping to address this challenge and will positively impact the health of generations to come.



Faculty Profile

Chicago and Rush Partner to Detect New Strains of COVID-19

Rush University Medical Center opened an advanced molecular laboratory that examines COVID-19 samples from across Chicago to detect new strains of the virus for the Chicago Department of Public Health.

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) awarded Rush a \$3.5 million contract to create the Regional Innovative Public Health Laboratory, which worked in partnership with CDPH and other local academic medical centers to detect new strains of COVID-19 and determine which are spreading the fastest and where. Rush collects COVID-19-positive specimens from hospitals across the city and uses molecular biology tools such as whole-genome sequencing to answer questions that CDPH wants addressed, according to Rush’s **Mary Hayden, MD**, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory. Hayden is co-principal investigator with **Stefan Green, PhD**, director of the Genomics and Microbiome Core Facility at Rush.

“If the city wants to understand some COVID-19 hot spots, the genomic information can help to identify chains of transmission so that public health resources can be used most effectively to break the chain,” Hayden said. With the laboratory, Rush and CDPH joined a national effort to step up surveillance of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, to detect any variants of the virus and identify genetic changes in these variants.

Like other viruses, COVID-19 constantly changes through mutation, and new variants emerge over time. Genomic sequencing can detect which strains of COVID-19 are circulating in Chicago, and it can monitor the spread in certain neighborhoods or within certain populations.

“There’s also interest in whether people who become ill with COVID for a second time are infected with a new strain of the virus or the same strain as the first infection, and whether it is a relapse and the infection never really went away,” Green said. One focus of the lab is to sequence viruses from vaccinated persons who develop COVID to monitor whether certain variants are more likely to cause an infection after vaccination, Hayden said.

The contract was awarded in December 2020. Rush and CDPH have partnered on other public health initiatives, including a comprehensive data resource hub that centralizes hospital information. The data analytics tool is designed to aid in the fight against COVID-19 and other public health issues.

“

If the city wants to understand some COVID-19 hot spots, the genomic information can help to identify chains of transmission so that public health resources can be used most effectively to break the chain.

Mary Hayden, MD
Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

Largest Grants Awarded in FY21



1

\$9.10M Award

Project

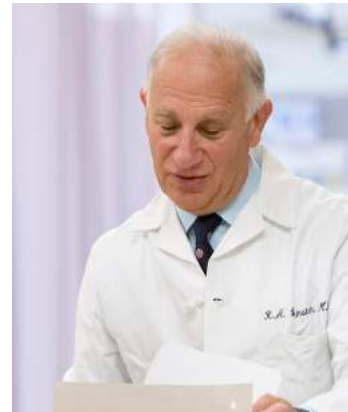
*Innovative Support for Patients with SAR
SARSCOV2 Infections (INSPIRE) Registry*

Sponsor

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Principal Investigator

Robert A. Weinstein, MD



2

\$6.11M Award

Project

*Study on Safety Tolerability following
Repeated Administrations of PF-06946860*

Sponsor

Pfizer, Inc.

Principal Investigator

Philip Bonomi, MD



3

\$5.01M Award

Project

*Study on Efficacy and Safety of Ad26COVS1
for Prevention of COVID-19 in Adults*

Sponsor

Janssen

Principal Investigator

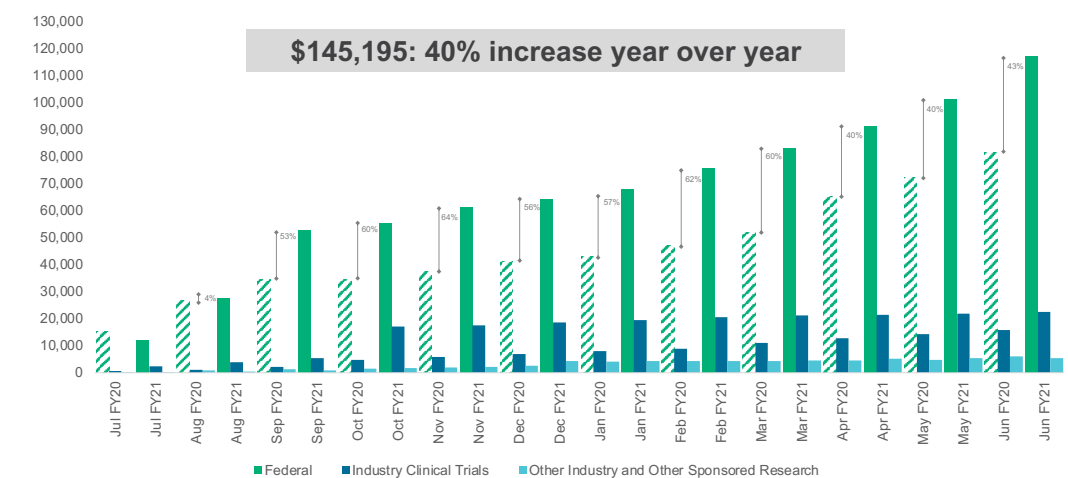
Raj Shah, MD



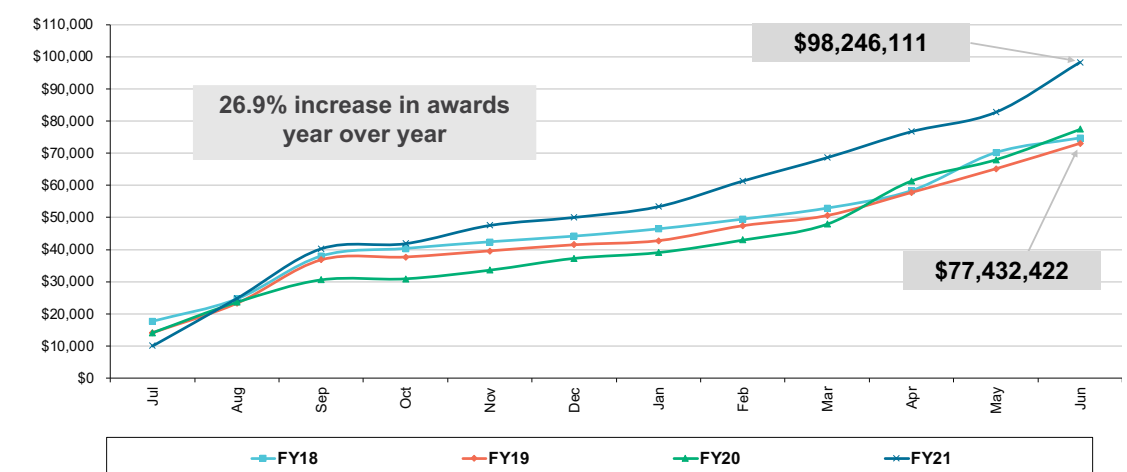
Research Growth

The work of faculty, staff, students and other trainees was instrumental in this record year for Rush research, when total research awards increased approximately 40% over the previous year. While grants related to COVID-19 were an important part of this success, the overall increase in National Institutes of Health awards was robust, growing nearly 27%. Additionally, Rush garnered many agreements for industry-sponsored clinical trials, posting a year-over-year increase of 42% in the percentage of total awards directed toward clinical research studies.

Consolidated Research Awards (FY20 vs FY21)



Cumulative NIH Awards (FY18 – FY21)



Thrive

Rush University is committed to supporting the University community and the larger community where we all live and work.

THRIVE is about both.



Community Engagement



Rush University students help to pack boxes for mask and sanitizer distribution to shelters.

Community service is an integral part of the culture at Rush University. Through the Rush Community Services Initiatives Program, the Rush community provides volunteer services to more than 10,000 community members annually through programming that does the following:

- Provides health care to people in underserved communities
- Educates the community about healthy living and disease prevention and management
- Trains and educates young people about the wide range of career opportunities in health sciences

The Clinical Practice and Community Engagement Response to COVID

Combating COVID in Our Community

The Rush Nursing Office of Faculty Practice joined Chicago's COVID-19 frontline by helping community partners develop plans, establishing Chicago's only isolation facility for COVID-19-infected people experiencing homelessness, creating a network for primary care in 20 Chicago shelters, building testing teams to mitigate outbreaks in encampment and congregate settings, and deploying vaccine teams to Chicago's highest-risk populations.

Partnering with the Chicago Department of Public Health

An inter-professional collaborative effort among Rush University colleges and departments resulted in a groundbreaking partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health. The partnership provided respite care at A Safe Haven for people experiencing homelessness and COVID-19 and deployed teams to test and vaccinate people in shelters, nursing homes and Cook County Jail. Rush also provided Chicago's only public COVID-19 testing service and served on the Mayor's Racial Equity Rapid Response Team.

Throughout the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, nursing faculty at Rush played a leadership role in stopping community spread and promoting health equity for all Chicagoans. As cases of COVID-19 began to rise again in summer 2021 in Illinois and across the country, the Chicago Department of Public Health partnered with Rush and Esperanza Health Centers to redouble efforts on COVID-19 testing through the Connect Chicago Initiative.



Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity

In May 2021, Rush announced the Rush BMO Institute for Health Equity. Launched with a \$10 million lead donation from BMO Financial Group and supported by numerous other gifts and grants, the Rush BMO Institute advances Rush's work to eliminate Chicago's life expectancy gap with solutions spanning education and workforce development, community clinical practice, community engagement and health equity research. In FY21 alone, Rush raised more than \$26 million in philanthropic support for health equity initiatives within the institute.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the University community’s efforts to bring people together to celebrate and focus on diversity, equity and inclusion topics were not deterred.

During the pandemic, Rush University virtually hosted an ecumenical prayer vigil in memory of George Floyd; an online discussion with Heather McGhee, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sum of Us*, about how racism affects us all; and “Zoom pods” for Martin Luther King Jr. Day when students and faculty discussed COVID-19 myths with members of the hardest-hit communities.

As hopes rose with the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Rush University community celebrated love in person during Pride Month, gathering under the Professional Building overhang for Rush PRIDE.

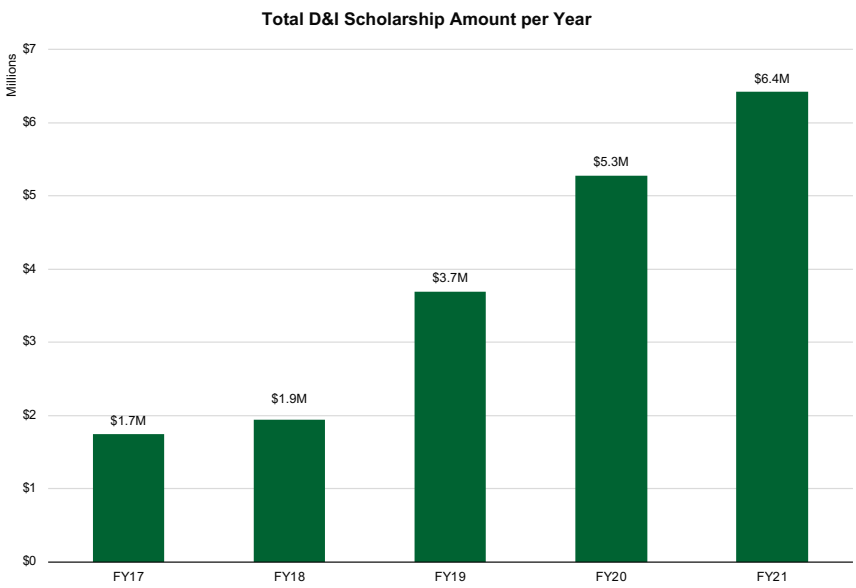
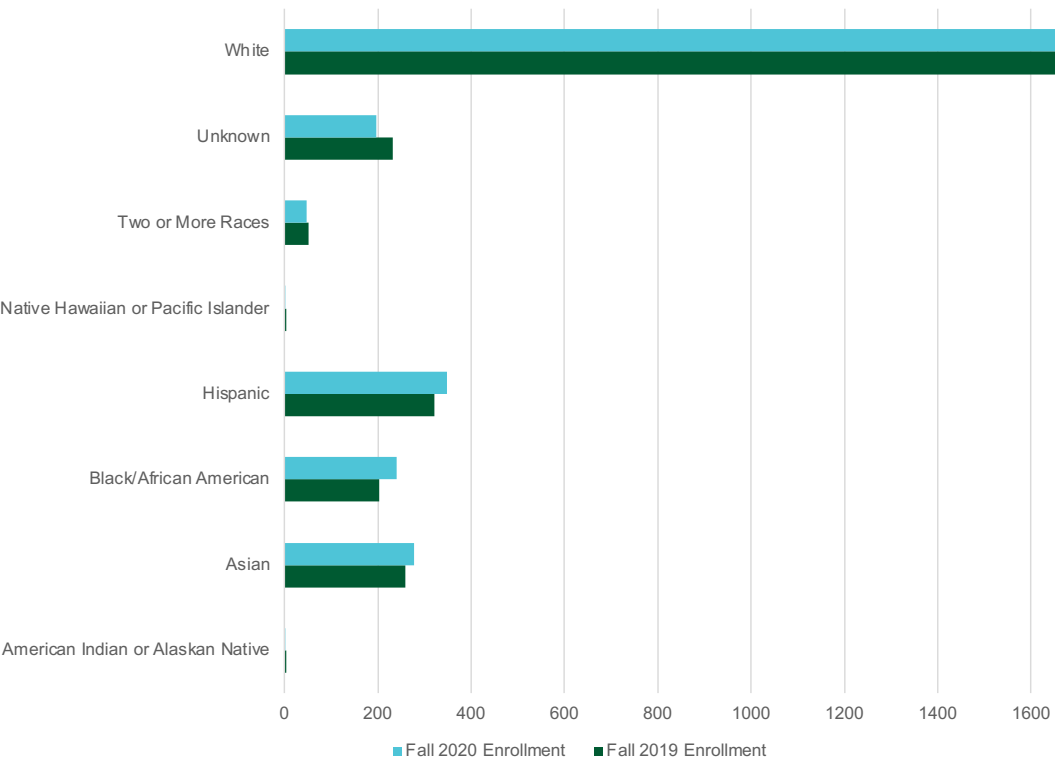


Above: MLK Jr Day of Service volunteer shirt.



Student Diversity

In fall 2020, the diversity of Rush University’s students exceeded that of its 2019 enrollment.



The total diversity and inclusion (D&I) scholarship dollars awarded in FY21 were \$6.4M, a 21.7% increase over FY20 totals.

The Rush Center for Clinical Wellness

Maintaining student, faculty and staff well-being is of the utmost importance at the University. The Rush Center for Clinical Wellness was developed to bolster a culture of wellness, increase support for mental health and produce leading research. The center provides a healing environment designed specifically to support the needs of Rush employees, students and staff. In its first year of operation, it served more than 375 Rush University students, providing counseling, coaching and other wellness-related services.



Virtual Engagements by the Numbers

Despite the limitations of COVID-19, Rush University and the Office of Student Life continued to engage with students through many activities:

- 142 exit sessions
- 89 student affinity group events
- 86 1:1 career coaching sessions
- 78 career presentations
- 44 student life overview presentations
- 38 editions of Rush U Weekly
- 24 Center for Clinical Wellness workshops
- 12 student life events

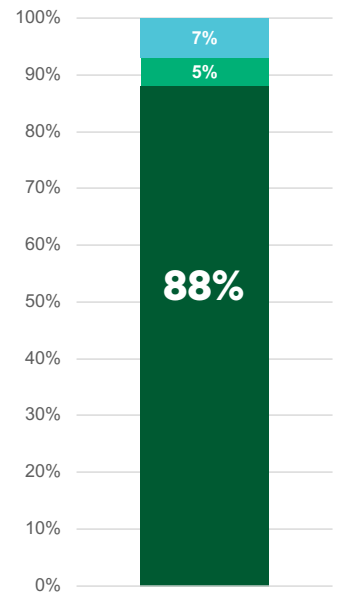
Rush University sent more than 40 communications to Rush stakeholders in FY21, providing notes of encouragement and important updates on re-entry, routine COVID-19 testing, vaccines and reopening plans.

Satisfaction and Engagement

Rush University's Office of Institutional Effectiveness administered a survey for students to provide feedback on the University's operations during COVID-19. Students indicated that they were satisfied with their experience at Rush University and that they would recommend their program to someone else pursuing the same degree. The survey also assessed the utilization of tools and resources for virtual learning. Students were given the opportunity to provide their own perspective on how successfully the University navigated the obstacles created by the pandemic and responded positively.

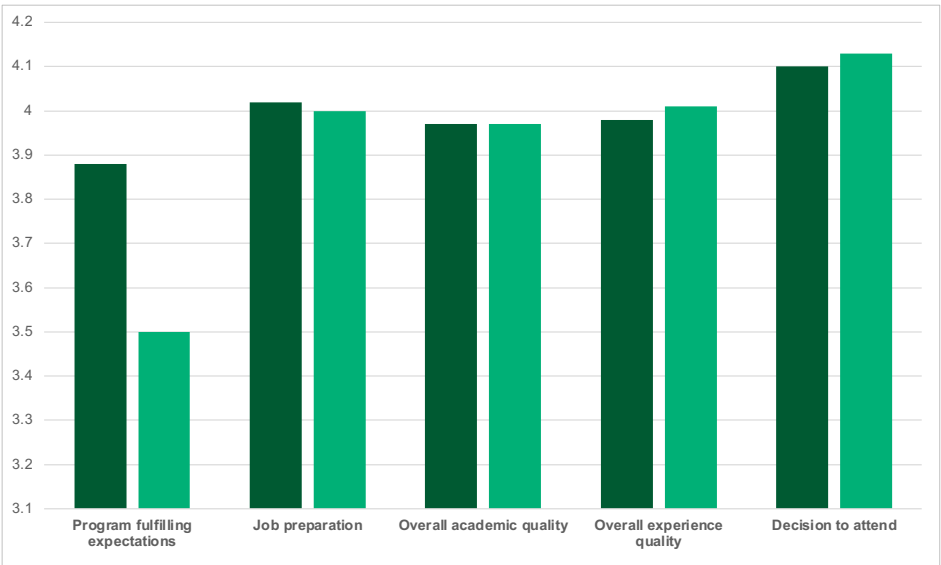


Overall Willingness to Recommend



Definitely/Probably No
Uncertain
Definitely/Probably Yes

Overall Satisfaction (0-5)



2016 2020

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

Have Mercy

Mercy Hospital's value to Chicago's South Side cannot be measured in a balance sheet.
By Dr. Payman Sattar | Jan 8, 2021, 4:31pm CST



Wake Up to Sleep Apnea as a COVID-19 Risk

Research points to links between obstructive sleep apnea and COVID-19, and the implications are huge.
By Akshanda C. Latta, M.D. | Dec. 8, 2020 at 11:09 am



Black And Brown Doctors (Like Me) Are Not OK Right Now

"I have never been care of more Spanish speakers, undocumented patients, Latino patients or Black patients as I have during the pandemic."

By Dr. Susan Lopez, Mount Sinai



Nurses can be more rational with patient health care than their own. I'm no different, but I got the vaccine and feel great.

By Liz Brockland
January 13, 2021



Thought Leadership Expanded in Year Four of the Op-Ed Project

During the 2020-2021 academic year, many Rush University faculty participated in the fourth year of Rush University's Public Voices Fellowship. This fellowship offers faculty members the opportunity to learn how to write about their expertise for media outlets. The aim of this partnership is to amplify the voices of experts from a variety of backgrounds — demographically and career-wise — in publications that are consumed by a broad audience. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, faculty members were able to contribute factual and trustworthy information to the national conversation about recommended protocols and vaccines. This partnership garnered significant reach through **69 concrete successes**, including op-eds, speeches, panel discussions, expert interviews, media appearances, grants, awards and more. It resulted in **61 published op-eds**, including those in the following publications: *The Washington Post*, *The Hill*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Business Insider*, *Ms. magazine*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *HuffPost*, *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *NPR*, *New York Daily News*, *STAT news*, *KevinMD* and *Visible Magazine*.

Unwavering Commitment to Helping Others

Student Profile

Aparna Nutakki, a fourth-year student at Rush Medical College, led a fundraising campaign to send \$15,000 worth of medical beds to the NTR Health Trust for its distribution to India's most-in-need regions. She worked alongside Project C.U.R.E., the world's largest distributor of medical donations to developing countries. Nutakki's affinity for global health was inspired by the first eight years of her life growing up in Hyderabad, the capital of southern India's state of Telangana. Prior to medical school, she returned to India for a year and a half to do public health work. Now as a Rush University medical student, she's found her "sweet spot" at the intersections of neurology, research and global health, and is looking forward to applying for residency.

Between her second and third year of medical school, Nutakki worked for global health conducting research in Zambia. Upon returning to the U.S. at the beginning of 2020, Zambia's COVID-19 cases peaked, bringing her to question how she could make a difference.

"There was so much happening at that time. Between the U.S. being low in supplies, transitioning back to med school, and trying to find

a person in Zambia to work with me while COVID-19 cases were on the rise, I thought, 'All right, maybe I shouldn't add on to somebody else's plate right now,'" Nutakki shared.

She decided to jump back into global health work as news of the dire situation in India was circulating more among her family and friends. "People were lying outside on the pavement, unable to get care. It reminded me of when COVID-19 first hit the U.S. last spring, but this was much worse because of resource limitations," she said. Nutakki has raised over \$13,000 in the first fundraiser to send 60 medical beds to India in collaboration with Project C.U.R.E.

The impact on India has been exacerbated by the shortages in medical resources, especially medical beds and oxygen supplies. Nutakki is among the everyday individuals across the U.S. and world who are bringing awareness to the issue and mobilizing communities to make a difference, but she also emphasized her meaningful sources of inspiration have ranged in shapes and sizes.



It's been really inspiring, motivating and heartwarming to see so many people care. Especially my Rush professors, once I reached out to one of them, they spread the news like wildfire.

Aparna Nutakki
Student, Rush Medical College



Student Profile

Greg Bowman, whose childhood home in Indiana was surrounded by farmland, knew he wanted to help people, so he quickly became drawn to a career in nursing. After moving to Chicago, Bowman enrolled in the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Rush University’s College of Nursing and is now helping Faculty Practice attend to COVID-19 in shelters for people experiencing homelessness.

“Earlier in 2020, I was invited by Rush Faculty Practice to take on a new role working with Heartland Alliance Health, which is a nonprofit humanitarian organization. Heartland Alliance Health is a federally qualified health center that specializes in care for those experiencing homelessness,” he said. “In this new position, I focus on preventing COVID-19 outbreaks in shelters for people experiencing homelessness and for those in single-room-occupancy hotels that are affiliated with Heartland Alliance Health.”

“We attempt to prevent outbreaks in these populations by providing COVID-19 testing, staff and resident education, and consulting on questions about infection control. A second objective is to expand primary care services in these settings, where these services are sorely needed. Many of these folks lack access to regular health care and suffer from unmanaged physical and mental health illnesses.” He credits great collaborators, especially Angela Moss, PhD, MSN, APN-BC, RN.

Financial Update

FY21 Year-End Unaudited Financials

Rush University continues to exhibit financial strength despite the ongoing pandemic. The University was able to augment enrollment, grow research programs and manage expenses to maintain financial sustainability. Additionally, Rush University added 81 FTEs to faculty and staff while maintaining extremely strong financials through disciplined hiring and extramural award support. This growth, coupled with more agile business processes, will allow the University to continue to evolve and position itself for a strong financial future post-pandemic.

Rush University finished the year \$4.5M or 14.2% better than budget, which represented the best fiscal year performance to budget in the last five years. This was impacted by the following:

Education Operating Revenue:		\$99.4M
		% better than budget
Revenue tied to enrollment		2.6%
Revenue tied to CE/CME		15.5%
Revenue tied to clinical practice		9.5%

4%
better than
budget

Research Operating Revenue:		\$156.2M
		% better than budget
Tied to Federal Awards		
Direct revenue		7.4%
Indirect revenue		4.4%
Tied to Foundation Awards		
Revenue		24.5%

6.1%
better than
budget

Philanthropic Campaign Progress

Rush University Medical Center raised more than \$69 million in cash and commitments in FY21, exceeding the year’s philanthropic goal of \$65 million. This total includes \$25.1 million raised for education and research, with more than \$1.8 million in gifts from alumni.

FY21 Highlights

- Total amount raised: \$69,159,257
- Total amount raised for the University, i.e., “University Giving”: \$25,099,041
- Alumni total giving: \$1,824,777
- # of alumni: 24,569
- # of Office of Alumni Relations events: 7 (all virtual)
- Students who received scholarships: 830
- Average scholarship award per student: \$13,961
- New scholarships established: 10 endowed scholarships; 2 expendable scholarships
- Total amount of student aid awarded: \$11,587,391 (grants, scholarships and awards)

Grants, Scholarships and Awards	Total Awarded	# of Recipients	Average Award Amount
RMC	\$5,892,391	323	\$18,243
CON	\$2,198,728	211	\$10,421
CHS	\$2,862,680	261	\$10,968
GRAD	\$633,592.35	35	\$18,103

Endowment

Total market value of endowment as of June 30, 2021: **\$790.6 million**

Total number of endowed funds as of June 30, 2021: **487**

New endowed funds established in FY21: **16**

Total endowed faculty positions as of June 30, 2021: **103**
(includes faculty scholars)

New endowed faculty positions established in FY21:
1 new professorship and **1** faculty scholar converted to a professorship

Faculty Appointments, Promotions and Recruitments

Rush celebrates the appointments, promotions and recruitment of nearly 200 faculty in FY21.

Endowed Faculty Appointments



Cynthia A. Brincat, MD, PhD
The John M. Simpson Professorship of Obstetrics and Gynecology



Christine M. Kennedy, PhD, RN, FAAN
John L. and Helen Kellogg Deanship of Rush College of Nursing



Jean M. Silvestri, MD
The Woman’s Board Chair of Pediatrics



Brian J. Cole, MD, MBA
The Dr. Ralph and Marian C. Falk Professorship of Biochemistry



Aloka Patel, MD
The Glore Family Professorship of Neonatology



Anna Spagnoli, MD
The John W. and Helen H. Watzek Professorship of Biochemistry



Nadim J. Hallab, PhD
The Crown Family Professorship of Orthopedic Surgery



Madeleine U. Shalowitz, MD, MBA
The James A. Hunter, MD, University Professorship



Haimanot Wasse, MD, MPH
The Muehrcke Family Professorship of Nephrology

Emeriti Appointments

Donald M. Jensen, MD
Richard B. Capps Chair of Hepatology

Richard G. Trohman, MD
Grace DeForest and William Louis Veeck Endowed Professorship of Cardiovascular Research

Robert E. Kimura, MD
Glore Family Chair of Neonatology

Kenneth J. Tuman, MD, FCCM
Anthony D. Ivankovich, MD, Chair of Anesthesiology

Howard Kravitz, DO, MPH
Stanley G. Harris Family Professorship of Psychiatry



Promotion to Professor FY21

- Oluwatoyin M. Adeyemi, MD
- Faran Bokhari, MD, MBA, FACS, FCCP
- Cynthia Brincat, MD, PhD
- Paul Casey, MD, MBA, FACEP
- Xian-Ming Chen, MD
- Teresa Deshields, PHD, ABPP
- Francine Grodstein, ScD
- Frank Hicks, PhD, RN, CNE
- Niranjan Karnik, MD, PhD
- Christine Kennedy, PhD, RN, FAAN
- Carl Maki, PhD
- Aloka Patel, MD
- Kumar B. Rajan, PhD
- Ruta Rao, MD
- Jonathan Ross, MD
- Todd Rupparr, PhD, RN, GCNS-BC, FAHA, FAAN
- Madeleine Shalowitz, MD, MBA, FAAP
- Jay Shils, PhD
- Andrew Stephenson, MD, MBA
- Garth Swanson, MD, MS
- Jason Turner, PhD
- Lydia Usha, MD
- David Vines, PhD, MHS, RRTFAARC, FCCP
- Hong Wu, MD, MS

Promotion to Associate Professor FY21

- Adrienne Adams, MD, MS
- Amina Ahmed, MD
- Samer Al-Khudari, MD
- Mohammad Bhat, PhD
- Mihir Kiran Bhayani, MD, FACS
- Christopher Bruti, MD, MPH
- Elaine Chen, MD
- Laurel Cherian, MD, MS
- Galeta Carolyn Clayton, MD, FACEP
- Lionel Clement, PhD
- Matthew Colman, MD
- Alexandre d’Audiffret, MD
- Dayle Davenport, MD
- Summer Dewdney, MD
- Ioannis Economou, MD

- Deborah Edberg, MD
- Jori E. Fleisher, MD, MSCE
- Sharon Foley, PhD, RD, LDN
- Ricardo Fontes, MD, PhD
- Laurie Gillard, MS, MLS(ASCP), SBB
- Sandra Gomez-Perez, PhD, RD, LDN
- Manya Gupta, MD, FHM
- Marilyn Hallock, MD
- Sobia Hassan, MD
- Scott Heinrich, MD, FACEP
- Barbara Hinch, DNP, RN, APN-ACNP
- Henry Huang, MD
- Josune Natalia Iglesias, MD, FACP
- Ravi Kasi, MD
- Anil Kesavan, MD
- Douglas Kuperman, PhD, RRT
- Vincent La Russa, PhD, MSc
- Nadine Lerret, PhD, MT (ASCP)
- Rabia Malik, MD
- Stelios Mantis, MD
- Nicholas Moore, PhD, MLS (ASCP) CM
- Naomi Parrella, MD
- Daniel Pohlman, MD
- Robin Pourzal, PhD
- Jitesh Pratap, PhD
- Lisa Sanchez-Johnson, PhD
- Michelle Sergel, MD
- Ami Shah, MD
- Robert Shulman, MD
- Jagadeesh S. Singh, MD
- Hussam Suradi, MD
- Jordan Tasse, MD
- Elizabeth Van Opstal, MD
- Neha Yadav, MD

Recruited Professor

- Mohammad Bhat, PhD
- Asokumar Buvanendran, MD
- Xian-Ming Chen, MD, MSc
- Christopher L. Coogan, MD
- Graeme Forrest, MD
- Christine Kennedy, PhD, RN, FAAN
- Ali Keshavarzian, MD
- Kumar Rajan, PhD

- Johnathan Rubenstein, MD
- Sumihiro Suzuki, PhD
- Kim Williams, MD
- Hong Wu, MD, MS

Recruited Associate Professor

- James Conners, MD, MS
- Jie Deng, PhD
- Sadia Haider, MD, MPH
- Jeffrey Nelson, MD
- Neepa Patel, MD
- David Reid, MD
- Lisa Sanchez-Johnsen, PhD
- Tanya Sorrell, PhD

Recruited Assistant Professor

- Sara Adams, PhD, RN, CNE
- Adetoun “Kristin” Adeyemi, MD
- Puja Agarwal, PhD
- Mona Ahmed, MD
- Hua Ai, PhD
- Gillian Alex, MD
- Alefiya Al-Qamari, MD
- Kyle Amber, MD
- Naira Arellano, DNP, MPH, AGACNP-BC
- Aviva Ariel-Donges, PhD, MPH, CPH
- Yasmin Asvat, PhD
- Ashraf Baeshu, MBBS/MBChB
- Anupam Basu, MD, MBA
- Amy Beresheim, PhD
- Brian Birmingham, MD
- David Brandt, MD
- Jennifer Broess, DO
- Frederick Brown Jr., DNP, RN, CENP
- David Burstein, MD
- Alexander K. Chow, MD
- Katrien Corbeels, PhD
- Michael Cui, MD
- Tomeka Dowling RN MSN DNP
- Robin Drake, MD
- Nikola Dukic, DO
- Chuka Nestor Emezue MPA, MPH, PhD

- Patricia Fank, PsyD
- Marilyn Featherston, DO
- Greg Fenton, MD
- Ruchi Fitzgerald, MD
- Marly Francois, MD
- Cathie Gantner-Overmyer, MD
- Chandler Gill, MD
- Corey Goldstein, MD
- Stefan Green, PhD
- Tina Grieco-Calub, PhD
- Brian C. H. Gulack, MD, MHS
- Jonathan Gustafson, PhD
- Michael Hanna, MD
- Elizabeth Harari, MD
- Camille Hawkins, MD
- Laura Hernandez Guarin, MD
- Lance Holemon, MD
- Nikhil Purushottam Joshi, MD
- Suhagi Kadakia, MD
- Anatoli F. Karas, MD
- James Katsis, MD
- Laurie Kenfield, MD
- Sonya Kenkare, MD
- Fareesa Khan, MD
- Hyejin Kim, PhD, RN
- Alana Kirby, MD
- Georgios Kokosis, MD
- Mark Kosanovich, MD
- Vikram Kotwal, MD
- Adrian Krukowski, MD
- Brittney Lange-Maia, PhD, MPH
- Esther Lee, MD
- Mark Levey, MD
- Sungho Lim, MD
- Devin Loewenstein, MD
- Daniel Luger, MD
- Abhimanyu Mahajan, MBBS, MHS
- Adrian Mansini, PhD
- Jill Marcus, MD, MS
- Joanne Martires, MD
- Rose Milano, DNP
- Tomas Munoz, MD
- Tamasyn Nelson Aksoy, DO
- Ephrem Olweny, MD
- Victor Patron-Romero, MD
- Andrew Patton, DO

- Rameshwar Prasad, PhD
- Michele Richard, MD
- Laura Riggs, PhD
- Azra Sadikovic, MD
- Sarah Sansom, MD
- Umair Savani, MD
- Laura Seske, MD
- Michael M. Sigman, MD
- Urvi A. Tailor, MD
- Erika Kahan Vassil, MD
- Jeremiah Wasserlauf, MD, MS
- Sean Wrenn, MD
- Adam Yanke, MD, PhD
- Tresa Zacharias, MD
- Andrea Zammit, PhD

Recruited Instructor

- Sonal Agrawal, PhD
- Nicholas Chien, MD
- Cordia Clark-White, MD
- Jasmine Ginn, MD
- Alireza Hamidian Jahromi, MD
- Thomas Holland, MD, MS
- Heather Lacey, PhD
- Lynne Lieberman, PhD
- Mustafa Mafraji, MBBS/MBChB
- Amanda Ross, MD
- Madeline Stark, MD
- Brianna Werner, PhD



Rush University Leadership

Continuing to uphold the highest standards of education and patient-centered care, preparing future leaders in health care.

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**Looking forward to our
50th Anniversary in 2022.**

RU50
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