

**2020
MARTHA A. HOOVEN
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

January 22, 2021



COLUMBIA

VAGELOS COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Welcome	Rudina Odeh-Ramadan, PharmD <i>Vice Dean for Finance and Administration, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons Assistant Professor of Clinical Research (in Surgery)</i>
Remarks	Anil Rustgi, MD <i>Interim Executive Vice President and Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine, Columbia University Irving Medical Center</i>

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Vincent C. Santana Officer of Administration/ Managerial Award	Regine Grandmougin <i>Senior Executive Director, Patient Facilitated Services and Stewardship VP&S Office of Development</i>	<i>Presenter</i> Lynne Roth
Officer of Administration/ Administrative Professional Award	Wei Jia Wang <i>Grants Manager Department of Medicine, Columbia Center for Translational Immunology</i>	<i>Presenter</i> Donald Landry, MD, PhD
Officer of Research Award	Christopher Damoci <i>Senior Staff Associate Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Oncology Precision Therapeutics and Imaging Core</i>	<i>Presenter</i> Kenneth Olive, PhD
SSA Union Member/ Clerical Technical Award	Sofija Vlasevska <i>Senior Research Worker Institute for Cancer Genetics, Pasqualucci/Dalla-Favera Lab</i>	<i>Presenter</i> Laura Pasqualucci, MD
Diversity Award	Brandon Ray Christophe <i>Research Worker Department of Neurological Surgery</i>	<i>Presenter</i> E. Sander Connolly Jr., MD
Community Service Award	Joan S. Bregstein, MD <i>Associate Professor of Pediatrics (in Emergency Medicine) at CUMC</i>	<i>Presenter</i> Angela Mills, MD
Special Recognition in Mentoring Award (Posthumous)	Rosellen Taraborrelli <i>Department Administrator, Department of Psychiatry</i>	<i>Presenter</i> Jeffrey Lieberman, MD



Vincent C. Santana Officer of Administration/Managerial Award

Regine Grandmougin

*Senior Executive Director, Patient Facilitated Services and Stewardship
VP&S Office of Development*

Ms. Grandmougin is known by colleagues as an outstanding employee. A nominator writes, "We have come to rely on Regine's trademark combination of warmth and competency; she is a great representative of our institution." She oversees the VP&S Office of Development's Patient Facilitated Services program and leads stewardship efforts and "has shined in both of her roles, developing and strengthening relationships with donors, patients, colleagues, and other key partners." During the pandemic, she helped to manage donations of PPE, food, and more for health care workers. Another nominator notes, "Regine is the embodiment of Columbia excellence, kindness, and professionalism."



Officer of Administration/Administrative Professional Award

Wei Jia Wang

*Grants Manager
Department of Medicine, Columbia Center for Translational Immunology*

Described by colleagues as an "exemplar of accomplishment, collegiality, and dedication" and "embodiment of excellence and professionalism," Ms. Wang is a valued member of the research administration team at the Columbia Center for Translational Immunology (CCTI), a division of the Department of Medicine, which is ranked No. 3 nationally in NIH funding. Nominators note her exceptional efforts during the pandemic: "Ms. Wang maintained an extraordinarily high volume of work output, submitting multiple grants and supplements on short notice in order to support a number of new COVID-19 initiatives in the CCTI while also maintaining the many new and ongoing non-COVID grants requiring her support."



Officer of Research Award

Christopher Damoci

*Senior Staff Associate
Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Oncology Precision Therapeutics and Imaging Core*

Mr. Damoci is commended by colleagues for his tremendous work to expand the scope of the Oncology Precision Therapeutics and Imaging Core, contributing to its status as a world-class facility for translational research. One colleague calls him a "valuable asset for the research community here at Columbia." Another writes, "Chris assisted with the research ramp-down and ramp-up plans for the HICCC Shared Resource this past spring during the COVID-19 pandemic. He remained in constant contact with his direct reports and worked closely with the HICCC administration to coordinate these efforts with minimal disruption to the research efforts of our members."



SSA Union Member/Clerical Technical Award

Sofija Vlasevska

*Senior Research Worker
Institute for Cancer Genetics, Pasqualucci/Dalla-Favera Lab*

Colleagues call Ms. Vlasevska a "role model" and praise her proficiency in biochemistry and molecular and cell biology assays. She has co-authored impactful research papers as a member of the Columbia lab of Laura Pasqualucci, MD, and Riccardo Dalla-Favera, MD, who writes: "Sofija is an extremely hard worker, self-motivated, creative and goal-oriented, with a strong work-ethic. She is also very analytical, embodying the kind of resolve and tenacity that are needed in a research setting. Along with her remarkable commitment and dedication to her work, Sofija has superb technical skills and organization capabilities, which allow her to easily implement novel techniques and tackle more complex experimental approaches."



Diversity Award

Brandon Ray Christophe

Research Worker

Department of Neurological Surgery

Mr. Christophe, a senior researcher in neurological surgery, has been a driving force in creating research mentorship programs that draw a diverse talent pool to the Department of Neurological Surgery. About one mentorship program, a nominator writes: "Since 2015 Brandon has facilitated this program, recruiting over 65 undergraduates, NIH T-35 training grant recipients, and medical students conducting scholarly projects. In that time, over 50% of these students self-identify as members of a diverse group (race, color, creed, age, national origin, gender/identity, LGBT, and/or disability)." During the pandemic, he has led departmental efforts to launch a virtual research mentorship program for students.



Community Service Award

Joan S. Bregstein, MD

Associate Professor of Pediatrics (in Emergency Medicine) at CUMC

For more than 20 years, Dr. Bregstein has directed community outreach for the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine. She founded and oversees the annual Steven Z. Miller Pediatric Emergency Medicine Health Fair, now in its 20th year, an event that draws over 600 school children from Washington Heights each year. One nominator calls her a "champion for the children of our community." A colleague writes, "Her depth of knowledge coupled with humility allows her to approach her community work with integrity." During the pandemic she has spearheaded an effort with the organization Nido de Esperanza to deliver food and essential items to families in Washington Heights.



Special Recognition in Mentoring Award (Posthumous)

Rosellen Taraborrelli

Department Administrator, Department of Psychiatry

Beloved by colleagues and considered a mentor by many, the late Rosellen Taraborrelli is remembered for her dedication, competence, and humanity. She joined VP&S in 2015 as vice chair of administration and finance for the Department of Psychiatry—the largest academic department of its kind in the United States—and successfully oversaw its operations along with those of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/CUIMC Behavioral Health Services and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Her nominators note, "Throughout her career, Ms. Taraborrelli was regarded as an outstanding administrator, leaving every organization stronger than she found it, and everyone she worked with enriched by her generosity and kindness."



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Since 2008, the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (VP&S) has proudly presented annual Awards for Excellence to exceptional employees, or groups of employees, for their outstanding performance and contributions. This award is intended to inspire all of us to strive for the highest level of excellence by recognizing some of our truly exceptional people. For more information, contact Danielle Robbins in VP&S Human Resources at 212-305-0022.

VP&S is a superb place to work because so many of us put forth our best efforts every day. The level of excellence of our employees makes VP&S one of the finest medical schools in the country.