Ramanathan Raju, MD, MBA, President and CEO of the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation, delivered the keynote address to the graduating class of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine (NYCPM) and received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters-Honoris Causa, during the College’s 2014 Commencement Ceremony at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall in New York City on Wednesday, May 28th.

Louis L. Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of the College, presided at the commencement ceremony. Dr. Raju addressed the graduating seniors—who received their Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degrees—and an audience of nearly 1,000 faculty members, parents, family and friends. In addition, Richard K. Stone, MD, Medical Director, Metropolitan Hospital Center, received a Special Recognition Award for distinguished service to the College. Two members of the Board of Trustees of the College – Gabriel P. Caprio, MBA, Vice Chairman, and Peter J. Norton, BA, Treasurer – also received Honorary Degrees. Robert A. Russo, DPM, President of the New York State Podiatric Medical Association, delivered brief remarks.

In his speech, Dr. Raju spoke about access to healthcare as a fundamental civil and constitutional right, adding that none of us is free until there is equality of healthcare for all of us. He urged the graduates to never stop learning, and to maintain high standards in fulfilling their great responsibilities. He also spoke about the partnership between NYHHC and NYCPM, saying it recognizes the critical role podiatry plays in the health of New Yorkers. He described how the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation serves the community, and how he is looking forward to seeing some of the NYCPM graduates in white coats in the New York City HHC hospitals. He concluded by speaking about having compassion for patients, and by thanking the graduates for the care they would be giving.

NYCPM President and CEO Louis L. Levine said, “The leaders whom we are honoring today are exceptional individuals who are dedicated to improving the human condition. We are honoring them to applaud their service and their dedication, and for exemplifying the ideals that the New York College of Podiatric Medicine encourages in each of its students.”

RAMANATHAN RAJU, MD, MBA, FACS, FACHE

Ramanathan (Ram) Raju, MD, MBA, FACS, FACHE is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), the largest municipal healthcare system in the nation. Dr. Raju was appointed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio in January 2014 to lead the 37,000 employees of this $6.7 billion corporation, which includes 11 acute care hospitals, five nursing homes, six large diagnostic and treatment centers, more than 70 community-based health centers, a large home care agency, and one of the New York area’s largest providers of government-sponsored health insurance, MetroPlus Health Plan, the plan of choice for nearly half a million New Yorkers. Last year, HHC facilities served 1.4 million New Yorkers -- including more than 475,000 uninsured.

Prior to accepting the role of President and CEO at HHC, Dr. Raju was the Chief Executive Officer for the Cook County Health & Hospitals System (CCHHS) in Chicago, Illinois, and the third largest public health system in the country. During his tenure there, Dr. Raju turned the financial status of the system around, improving the cash flow by over 100 million dollars. His proposed healthcare delivery model fetched the much coveted 1115 Waiver to the Social Security Act, enabling the creation of CountyCare, an Illinois Medicaid program to provide coverage for low-income adults in Cook County, and leading to health coverage for more than 82,000 Cook County residents. Dr. Raju began his medical career at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn and went on to serve as the COO and Medical Director at HHC’s Coney Island Hospital. In 2006, he became the HHC Chief Medical Officer, Corporate Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President.

Dr. Raju attended Madras Medical College to earn his medical diploma and his Master of Surgery degree. He underwent further training in England and was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Dr. Raju is also a physician executive, having obtained an MBA from the University of Tennessee and CPE from the American College of Physician Executives.

Dr. Raju is the recipient of numerous national recognitions. In 2013, he was named Business Leader of Color by Chicago United. Modern Healthcare Magazine named him one of the top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare two times in a row, and one of the 50 most influential Physician Executives in Healthcare in 2013. Also in 2013, Becker's Hospital Review designated him as one of 20 Hospital and Health System Leaders to Follow on Twitter.
Richard K. Stone, MD, Medical Director, Metropolitan Hospital Center,  
Gabriel P. Caprio, MBA, Vice Chairman, NYCPM Board  
And Peter J. Norton, BA, Treasurer, NYCPM Board, Also Honored

Robert A. Russo, DPM, President, New York State Podiatric Medical Association,  
Delivers Greetings

Richard K. Stone, MD  
Richard K. Stone, MD is the Medical Director of Metropolitan Hospital Center and Professor of  
Clinical Pediatrics in the School of Medicine, and Professor of Clinical Public Health in the  
School of Health Sciences and Practice at New York Medical College, where he is also a Senior  
Associate Dean. Dr. Stone, a Board certified pediatrician, is a Fellow of the American Academy  
of Pediatrics, the New York Academy of Medicine, and a member of many other professional  
organizations. Dr. Stone has an undergraduate degree with majors in Biology and Chemistry  
from Queens College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and is a 1968 graduate of New  
York Medical College, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, the honor medical  
society. Dr. Stone first came to Metropolitan as a third-year medical student in 1966.  
Following his graduation, he was a resident and chief resident in pediatrics at Metropolitan,  
and served first as Pediatric Residency Director and director of ambulatory pediatric services,  
and then in 1981 became Chief of Pediatrics. Dr. Stone served as President of the  
Metropolitan Medical Staff from 1987 to 1989. In 1989 he was appointed the Hospital's first Medical Director.

Gabriel P. Caprio, MBA, Vice Chairman of the NYCPM Board, was elected President and Chief  
Executive Officer of Amalgamated Bank in November, 1991, and served until 2006. He  
previously served as the Bank’s Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer. In late  
2013, Mr. Caprio agreed to return to serve as Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Bank.

Mr. Caprio was employed at Chase Manhattan Bank for nine years, where he was responsible  
for expanding the Bank's operations and systems in South America, the Caribbean and  
Canada. Earlier, he was employed at Chemical Bank and Citibank. Prior to his banking career,  
Mr. Caprio served as an officer of the U.S. Navy, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.  
He served aboard ships in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Caribbean, and as an advisor  
to a Vietnamese Navy River Assault Group in the Mekong Delta. His last tour was in the Office  
of the Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Caprio is a past Chairman of the New York Bankers Association, and is Chairman Emeritus of the Bankers Advisory  
Board of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. He served as a longtime member of the Advisory Board of  
Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, and is a member of the Board of Overseers of New Jersey Institute of  
Technology. He serves as a Director of the National Association on Drug Abuse Problems, the Council of Senior Centers  
and Services of New York City, on the Advisory Board of Strategic Capital Investments LLC, and is a member of the  
Board of Directors and Finance Committee of Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services of the Dioceses of Brooklyn  
and Queens.

Mr. Caprio has a BA degree from Seton Hall University, and an MBA from New York University. He resides in Verona,  
New Jersey with his wife, Jerilyn.

Peter J. Norton, BA, Treasurer of the NYCPM Board, is Vice-President, Administration, at Arista  
Insurance Company of New York and Arista Investors Corp., where he has overall  
responsibility for Policyholder Service, the Claims Department, Sales, Personnel, and Home  
Office Services. Since July 1, 1997, he has also served as a member of the Board of Arista  
Insurance Company.

From May of 1982 to June of 1994, Mr. Norton was Senior Vice-President and a member of the  
Board of Directors of American Medical and Life Insurance Company. From August of 1976  
through May of 1982, Mr. Norton worked in the Liquidation Bureau of the New York State  
Insurance Department, where he was assigned to the Rehabilitation/Liquidation staff at  
various companies.

From September 1966 to August 1976, Mr. Norton was at Northeastern Life Insurance  
Company, where he progressed from Group Underwriter to Vice-President. Prior to joining Northeastern Life Insurance  
Company, Mr. Norton worked in Group Underwriting at New York Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Norton received his B.A. degree from St. Bonaventure University.