

## 2024 Truly Caring Touch Award finalists

The Truly Caring Touch Award celebrates employed physicians who *embody compassion* and have an *exceptional caring touch* and bedside manner, reflecting the *deep caring* that is the essence of doctoring. Read what nominators have to say about the award finalists. Vote for who you believe deserves a Truly Award in each of the six award categories at [TrulyAwards.northwell.edu](https://TrulyAwards.northwell.edu).



**Wojciech Czoch, MD**

Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery  
Central Region  
Cohen Children's Medical Center

"Dr. Czoch is ingenious in his ability to inspire hope and calmness in the littlest of minds. His caring touch, even for the smallest details is a talent admired by many. When meeting Dr. Czoch, you quickly realize how very lucky you are under his care."



**Nisali Gunawardane, MD**

Neurology  
Western Region  
Phelps Memorial Hospital

"Dr. Nisali Gunawardane would move mountains for her patients. She goes above and beyond in her practice, incorporating her strong sense of community and ethics to not only treat her patients, but to ensure they and their family have the resources in place for successful health outcomes."



**Antoinette Sakaris, MD**

Gynecologic Oncology  
Eastern Region  
South Shore University Hospital

"Dr. Sakaris' knowledge and genuine compassion, paired with a commitment to spending valuable time with each patient, sets her apart from other providers. She is so much more than a compassionate provider; she is a trusted ally and an empathetic guide for those navigating the often-challenging landscape of gynecologic cancer."



**Maria-Sheenna Sica, DO**

Hospice/Palliative Medicine  
Eastern Region  
South Shore University Hospital

"Dr. Sica is a gifted physician who is person-centered, compassionate, and empathetic with her patients and her colleagues. She embodies what the Truly Caring Touch Award is about."



**Jonathan Silver, MD**

Internal Medicine  
Central Region  
North Shore University Hospital

"All should vote for Dr. Silver, as he treats each patient and team member as if they were his own family member. He TRULY follows the Platinum Rule of 'Treat those as they want to be treated,' and NSUH is beyond lucky to have him here!"



**Vote Jan. 29 - Feb. 9, 2024**  
at [TrulyAwards.northwell.edu](https://TrulyAwards.northwell.edu)

## 2024 Truly Rising Star Award finalists

The Truly Rising Star Award celebrates employed physicians who, while relatively new to medicine, *shine brightly* by making *significant contributions* to education, research or healthcare delivery. Read what nominators have to say about the award finalists. Vote for who you believe deserves a Truly Award in each of the six award categories at [TrulyAwards.northwell.edu](https://TrulyAwards.northwell.edu).



**Miguel Alvarez  
Villela, MD**

Interventional  
Heart Failure  
Western Region  
Lenox Hill Hospital

"When I interact with Miguel, I am reminded of why I chose to be a physician. He displays a true passion and a drive to advance the field of interventional heart failure. He lights up with excitement when we discuss an interesting case. He goes the extra mile for patients."



**Randy S.  
D'Amico, MD**

Neurosurgery  
Western Region  
Lenox Hill Hospital

"As creator of the Brainterns student program and founder/director of the Brain and Spine Metastases Program, Dr. D'Amico exemplifies unparalleled dedication to patients and exceptional contributions to student education and neurosurgical research. He encompasses unwavering commitment to the field and patient care, and his merits warrant the highest recognition."



**Dana Gottlieb, MD**

Emergency Medicine  
Central Region  
Long Island Jewish  
Medical Center

"Who is the most well-liked person in the entire department? It's Dana Gottlieb. Who is the most caring physician in the hospital? Dr. Gottlieb. The driver of more changes for the betterment of every Emergency Department patient and staff member? Also Dr. Gottlieb."



**Daniel A.  
King, MD, PhD**

Medical Oncology  
Central Region  
Long Island Jewish  
Medical Center

"Dr. King provides a truly positive work atmosphere where everyone learns and grows, no matter your position. And in the process, he helps us all to provide the best, most up-to-date cancer care we can to our patients."



**Leila Tchelebi, MD**

Radiation Medicine  
Western Region  
Northern Westchester  
Hospital

"Dr. Leila Tchelebi is a consummate professional. She is a physician with not only clinical excellence, but also she has the compassion, patience, and commitment to her patients and our team in the department. She gives her time to mentor and accepts feedback with respect and understanding. Simply wonderful!"



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## 2024 Truly Leadership Award finalists

The Truly Leadership Award celebrates employed physicians who have the desire and ability to *push boundaries*, unlock potential and *inspire colleagues* to *seize opportunities* that make healthcare better. Read what nominators have to say about the award finalists. Vote for who you believe deserves a Truly Award in each of the six award categories at [TrulyAwards.northwell.edu](https://TrulyAwards.northwell.edu).



**William Chen, MD**

Radiation Medicine  
Eastern Region  
Long Island Jewish  
Medical Center

"Dr. Chen sees the big picture and realizes an image of exceptional leadership is not a portrait, but a group photo, one which can be enhanced by all team members. He is a visionary leader who is inspirational and continually empowers colleagues to contribute to the advancement of healthcare."



**Vera Feuer, MD**

Psychiatry  
Central Region  
Zucker Hillside  
Hospital

"Dr. Vera Feuer's ongoing commitment and excellence in service administration and leadership have been demonstrated through her innovative program development. It is because of this that adolescents throughout Long Island have access to quality and immediate mental health care, regardless of their ability to pay, exemplifying Northwell's mission."



**Varinder Kambo, MD**

Internal Medicine  
Western Region  
Northern Westchester  
Hospital

"Dr. Kambo's visionary leadership has transformed our department, fostering collaboration, reducing length of stay, and improving patient outcomes. From weekly shared goals meetings to innovative utilization processes, he empowers all to excel. His impact extends beyond numbers; it's about creating a culture where every team member thrives."



**Barbara Keber, MD**

Family Medicine  
Eastern Region  
Glen Cove Hospital

"Vote Dr. Keber for unmatched leadership that uplifts patients and empowers teams. She's the change we all strive for in healthcare."



**Sean LaVine, MD**

Internal Medicine  
Central Region  
Long Island Jewish  
Medical Center

"Dr. LaVine leads the charge for hospital efficiency and patient throughput, which contributes to the success of LIJMC. He easily and seamlessly translates vision into action for all who work with him. He definitely walks the walk and possesses all the characteristics and qualities of an effective leader."



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## 2024 Truly Mentorship Award finalists

The Truly Mentorship Award celebrates employed physicians who *selflessly give* time, energy and support to *help colleagues* and others recognize their potential and achieve greatness. Read what nominators have to say about the award finalists. Vote for who you believe deserves a Truly Award in each of the six award categories at [TrulyAwards.northwell.edu](https://TrulyAwards.northwell.edu).



**Sabina  
Hajiyeva, MD**

Anatomic/Clinical  
Pathology  
Western Region  
Lenox Hill Hospital

"It is universally agreed in the Pathology department that Sabina Hajiyeva provides selfless guidance and support to our residents, fellows, attendings and ancillary staff in the Anatomic Pathology Laboratory on a 24/7 basis, be it in her office or at home. She gives the word 'dependable' a new meaning."



**Christopher  
Paredes, MD**

Family Medicine  
Western Region  
Lenox Hill Hospital

"Dr. Paredes is committed to our team being the best we can be, individually and collectively. I am so enjoying the culture of openness and growth he cultivates. I feel extremely lucky to work with every one of you, and to have Dr. Paredes leading us, with humor and style!"



**Eleny Romanos-  
Sirakis, MD, MS**

Pediatric  
Hematology/Oncology  
Western Region  
Staten Island  
University Hospital

"Dr. Eleny Romanos-Sirakis represents the epitome of mentorship, a critical part of her being, by giving selflessly of her time and energy to help others advance and develop through a never-ceasing range of novel and creative approaches designed to meet every learner where he/she is."



**Sanjaya K.  
Satapathy, MBBS,  
MD, DM, MS**

Transplant Hepatology  
Central Region  
North Shore  
University Hospital

"Dr. Sanjaya, an exceptional mentor, exhibits unwavering dedication to his mentees and the growth of the hepatology department. His creation of invaluable educational resources, coupled with his encouragement and leadership in research, reflects a commitment to our success. My transformative mentorship experience with him is invaluable for lifelong career development."



**Nagashree  
Seetharamu, MD**

Medical Oncology  
Central Region  
Long Island Jewish  
Medical Center

"Dr. Seetharamu is among the most dedicated and passionate physicians with whom I have ever worked. She demonstrates incredible motivation and ability to work with trainees at Northwell and around the country. The main measure of her professional success is the success of her mentees."



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## 2024 Truly Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award finalists

The Truly Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award celebrates employed physicians who *promote belonging*, value diversity, and *advance inclusion* and the equity of care for all. Read what team nominators have to say about the award finalists. Vote for who you believe deserves a Truly Award in each of the six award categories at [TrulyAwards.northwell.edu](https://TrulyAwards.northwell.edu).



**William Gehrhardt, MD**

Pediatrics  
Eastern Region  
Huntington Hospital

"Through service and compassion, families find health and wellness, and futures become secure under the care of Dr. William Gehrhardt."



**Brenda Gomez, MD**

Family Medicine  
Eastern Region  
Glen Cove Hospital

"Dr. Gomez embraces diversity, equity and inclusion, creating a sense of belonging for her entire team while changing the perception of healthcare for the patients we serve. This creates an environment where people want to work and receive care."



**Nancy Kwon, MD**

Emergency Medicine  
Central Region  
Long Island Jewish Medical Center

"As an Asian American woman who faced explicit racism and bias throughout her childhood, Nancy has devoted her personal life and career to educating, volunteering, and bringing global awareness to DEI. Her publications, talks, and committee initiatives are truly amazing and an inspiration to all leaders!"



**Gianni Rodriguez-Ayala, MD**

Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Eastern Region  
Huntington Hospital

"Dr. Gianni Rodriguez-Ayala truly embodies health equity. Her leadership in the Hispanic Physician Initiative, inclusive seminars and research on healthcare disparities, reflects her unwavering commitment. She's a beacon of hope, making the American Dream inclusive in healthcare."



**David Rosenthal, DO, PhD**

Allergy and Immunology, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine  
Central Region  
North Shore University Hospital

"Dr. Rosenthal has pushed Northwell to prioritize the collection of sexual orientation and gender identity for all patients - a critical step in building programs to ensure Northwell's success in leading New York hospitals to deliver the best possible healthcare to LGBTQ communities in an informed and affirming way."



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## 2024 Truly Outstanding Contribution Award finalists

The Truly Outstanding Contribution Award celebrates voluntary physicians who make an *outstanding contribution* to Northwell and the communities we serve. Read what nominators have to say about the award finalists. Vote for who you believe deserves a Truly Award in each of the six award categories at [TrulyAwards.northwell.edu](https://TrulyAwards.northwell.edu).



**Louis Auguste, MD, MPH**

Surgery  
Central Region  
Long Island Jewish  
Medical Center

"Dr. Auguste is one of the most caring physicians I have ever met. He puts his heart into everything."



**Martin Edelstein, MD**

Family Medicine  
Central Region  
North Shore  
University Hospital

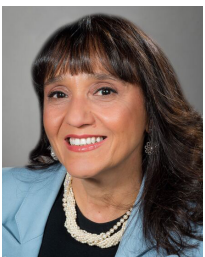
"Dr. Edelstein's dedication to his patients exemplifies the compassionate patient experience that the Truly Awards seek to recognize."



**Carl Pillitteri, MD**

Obstetrics and  
Gynecology  
Eastern Region  
Peconic Bay  
Medical Center

"We can all think of an instance when Dr. Pillitteri's kindness towards his patients or to our team was touching and impactful."



**T. Cristina Sardinha, MD**

Colon/Rectal Surgery  
Central Region  
Long Island Jewish  
Medical Center

"This physician puts her heart and soul into everything she does and accomplishes it with elegance and integrity."



**Kostas Sideridis, DO**

Gastroenterology  
Eastern Region  
Plainview Hospital

"Dr. Sideridis is an excellent doctor and physician leader. He is always there for his patients and he is always there to help and support his colleagues."



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