THE Truly AWARDS

2026 Truly Caring Touch Award finalists

The Truly Caring Touch Award celebrates employed physicians who *embody compassion* and *kindness* and have exceptional 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.



John Ames, MD

Radiation Oncology

Long Island Jewish Medical Center

Eastern market

"Dr. Ames champions the profound belief that our goal is not only to provide the most precise radiation treatments, but also to genuinely connect and truly understand who we are treating—the person, with all their intricate connections, navigating this journey."



Randy S. D'Amico, MD

Neurosurgery

Lenox Hill Hospital

Metro market

"Vote for Dr. D'Amico because he makes the impossible feel personal. He blends innovation with empathy, leading with both skill and heart. His patients trust him, his team trusts him, and his compassion elevates everyone around him."



Gabriel Jung, MD

Hematology and Medical Oncology

Long Island Jewish Forest Hills

Central market

"Hippocrates gave medicine its oath, Fleming gave it the cure, and Dr. Jung gave it soul. He reminds us that we're not just treating a disease but healing a whole person. That's the kind of doctor who elevates everyone around him."



Li Pan, DO

Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Vassar Brothers Medical Center

Westchester/Hudson Valley/Connecticut market

"Vote for Dr. Li Pan because he gives patients what medicine alone cannot. The time, dignity, compassion and peace at bedside transforms not just care, but lives."



Alexandra Peyser, MD

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

North Shore University Hospital

Central market

"I urge my team members to vote for Dr. Peyser because she embodies true compassion, excellence, and dedication. She listens, remembers, and supports patients through their most vulnerable moments. Her skill and humanity have brought countless families—including mine—hope, healing, and the gift of children after loss."

Vote Jan. 26 – Feb. 6, 2026
at TrulyAwards.northwell.edu

Northwell Health®

THE Truly AWARDS

2026 Truly Rising Star Award finalists

The Truly Rising Star Award celebrates employed physicians who, while relatively new to medicine, demonstrate a *growth mindset* and have made advancements in 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.



Aldo Alleva, MD

Family Medicine

North Shore University Hospital

Central market

"Dr. Alleva demonstrates unwavering commitment to patients, mentees, colleagues, and the field of primary care through his holistic lens of what it means to be a physician administrator. He invariably rises to the occasion with grace, taking every opportunity to advance clinical care, education, and community impact personally and beyond."



Erica Altschul, DO

Pulmonary Disease

Lenox Hill Hospital

Metro market

"Dr. Altschul is a visionary leader in pulmonary hypertension whose clinical excellence, compassionate advocacy, and energy in program building has transformed patient care at Lenox Hill Hospital."



Catherine Mae Geller, MD

Pediatric Otolaryngology

Cohen Children's Medical Center

Central market

"Dr. Catherine Geller is redefining pediatric airway care—her leadership in bringing Inspire therapy to children with Down syndrome and refractory sleep apnea is transforming outcomes and setting a new standard of innovation at Northwell."



Akash Shah, MD

Internal Medicine

Danbury Hospital

Westchester/Hudson Valley/Connecticut market

"Dr. Shah combines the heart of a caring physician with the mind of an innovator. He never stops looking for better ways to care for patients and support his colleagues. Voting for him is voting for the future of compassionate, patient-centered care."



Kanishk Sharma, MD

Geriatric Medicine

Phelps Hospital

Westchester/Hudson Valley/Connecticut market

"Dr. Sharma doesn't merely improve systems; he establishes new paradigms. He spearheaded CARE Day, a transformative clinic that redefines dementia care delivery in one coordinated, compassionate visit. His profound listening, leadership, and unwavering commitment uplift all who collaborate with him. He's not just a rising star; he's forging the future."

Vote Jan. 26 – Feb. 6, 2026
at TrulyAwards.northwell.edu

Northwell Health®

THE Truly AWARDS

2026 Truly Leadership Award finalists

The Truly Leadership Award celebrates employed physicians who have the desire and ability to *embrace change, push boundaries* and inspire colleagues and teams to 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.



William Chen, MD

Radiation Oncology

Long Island Jewish Medical Center

Eastern market

"Dr. Chen is committed to transforming cancer treatment. By embracing innovation and challenging outdated practices, he strives to create a new paradigm for radiation therapy, one where technology and compassion converge to provide the highest, quality care and quality of life."



Ninfa Mehta, MD

Emergency Medicine

Peconic Bay Medical Center

Eastern market

"In the high-stakes environment of Emergency Medicine, Peconic Bay Medical Center is blessed to have Dr. Ninfa Mehta whose leadership provides the steady anchor of patient-centered care and the guiding beacon that inspires a team of all-stars to continually grow, learn, adapt, and excel."



James Park, MD

Transplant Hepatology

North Shore University Hospital

Central market

"He is a visionary leader who expands access to care, empowers his team, and builds trust in the community. His work in advancing liver health—especially for underserved Asian populations—shows how medicine can be both innovative and compassionate, transforming lives and advancing Northwell's mission."



Sherri Sandel, DO

Internal Medicine

Northern Westchester Hospital

Westchester/Hudson Valley/Connecticut market

"Dr. Sandel leads with heart and results—elevating the patient voice, uniting teams, and building our future through new residency and fellowship programs. If you want safer care, stronger engagement, and a pipeline of outstanding physicians for our community, vote for the leader already making it happen."



Mitchell Weinberg, MD

Interventional Cardiology

Staten Island University Hospital

Metro market

"As Dr. William Osler was quoted and is so apropos to Dr. Weinberg's leadership: 'The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient with the disease.' Dr. Weinberg leads by this example."

Vote Jan. 26 – Feb. 6, 2026
at TrulyAwards.northwell.edu

Northwell Health®

THE Truly AWARDS

2026 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 work together to 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.



Margaret Andersen, MD

Internal Medicine

Northern Westchester Hospital

Westchester/Hudson Valley/Connecticut market

"Dr. Margaret Andersen is the heart of our residency program—a physician whose brilliance is matched only by her compassion. She lifts every resident and colleague around her, teaching not just medicine, but empathy, confidence, and purpose. Her mentorship transforms learners into leaders and makes our entire community stronger."



Adam Bitterman, DO

Orthopedic Surgery

Huntington Hospital

Eastern market

"His commitment to building trust and empowering residents through togetherness sets the standard for mentorship in orthopedic surgery."



Scott Gross, MD

Family Medicine

Huntington Hospital

Eastern market

"Dr. Gross is an exceptional mentor and a role model to those he trains. He takes time, care, and effort to answer questions, often staying late after hours. Medical students always appreciate the time and efforts he takes to teach them. They experience real patient care, with knowledgeable, guided supervision."



Stavros Mountantonakis, MD, MBA

Cardiac Electrophysiology

Lenox Hill Hospital

Metro market

"Dr. Mountantonakis is a tireless champion for both the personal growth and career advancement of all those around him regardless of position. He empowers his colleagues through his enthusiasm, passion, and commitment to pursuing excellence. He is truly an endless source of strength, perseverance, and resilience for everyone he encounters."



Dara Shalom, MD

Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery

North Shore University Hospital

Central market

"'What you learn from a mentor, you pass on to others. The best leaders grow other leaders.'

— John C. Maxwell

This quote by John Maxwell exemplifies exactly what Dr. Shalom has done over her career."

Vote Jan. 26 – Feb. 6, 2026
at TrulyAwards.northwell.edu

Northwell Health®

THE Truly AWARDS

2026 Truly Inclusive Award finalists

The Truly Inclusive Award celebrates employed physicians who are passionate advocates for fostering an *inclusive environment*, actively advancing high-quality care by addressing the unique needs of each individual patient.

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.



Elina Drits, DO

Addiction Psychiatry

Staten Island University Hospital

Metro market

"She sees the person behind the addiction, never the disease first, she fights for everyone. She makes each team member feel valued, nurtures their expertise and growth potential, and teaches us that inclusive care isn't just policy—it's compassion in action."



Julie Gonzalez, MD

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Peconic Bay Medical Center

Eastern market

"Dr. Gonzalez epitomizes a commitment to inclusion and demonstrated this in a community that needs a champion like her to help deliver complete women's health care services."



Jason McKean, MD

Orthopedic Trauma

North Shore University Hospital

Central market

"Dr. McKean's dedication to fostering inclusion, addressing individual patient needs, and advancing sustainable healthcare solutions truly embodies the spirit of Northwell. His leadership reminds us that equitable healthcare is not just about healing bodies—it's about empowering people and transforming systems so that quality care is accessible to all."



Santhosh Paulus, MD

Family Medicine

Huntington Hospital

Eastern market

"Dr. Santhosh Paulus embodies The Truly Awards' spirit. He leads the fight against human trafficking, building an inclusive, trauma-informed culture at Northwell. His innovative drive, from task force to 'Cycling for Change,' extends Northwell's impact, inspiring empathetic, courageous care. He makes Northwell Truly better."



Payal Sud, MD

Emergency Medicine

North Shore University Hospital

Central market

"Please vote for Payal. I've seen her sit with families, listen to what truly matters, and guide our team with warmth and clarity. She lifts people up, makes care safer for older adults, and turns good ideas into everyday practice. Payal's the leader we trust and the colleague we're grateful for."

Vote Jan. 26 – Feb. 6, 2026
at TrulyAwards.northwell.edu

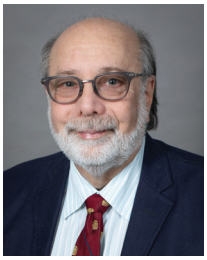
Northwell Health®

THE Truly AWARDS

2026 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.



Robert Prichep, MD

General Vascular Surgery

South Shore University Hospital

Eastern market

"He is the kind of surgeon every team hopes to work alongside. He lifts everyone around him. He teaches with patience, leads by example, and never hesitates to share his deep fund of knowledge to help a colleague or a trainee succeed. Simply put, he makes all of us better."



Shereen Russell, MD

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Lenox Hill Hospital

Metro market

"Dr. Shereen Russell truly represents the essence of a Northwell Truly Outstanding Contribution Award recipient—dedicated, compassionate, and relentlessly committed to advancing women's health and the values of Northwell Health."



Kostas Sideridis, DO

Gastroenterology

Plainview Hospital

Eastern market

"Dr. Sideridis is the doctor you would want at your lowest or scariest healthcare moment. His empathy, human-centered approach, expertise, and compassion are what make him special. He walks alongside his patients and families during their journey and cares for the whole person."



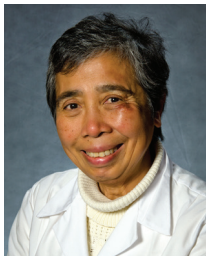
David Tuckman, MD

Hand and Wrist Surgery

Long Island Jewish Medical Center

Central market

"In every respect—clinician, teacher, and community advocate—Dr. Tuckman exemplifies what it means to be part of Northwell. His tireless dedication to education, his compassionate patient care, and his unwavering support for our mission make him a truly outstanding contributor to both Northwell Health and the broader community."



Francisca Velcek, MD

Pediatric Surgery

Lenox Hill Hospital

Metro market

"For her decades of unparalleled expertise, her profound compassion that extends far beyond the operating room, and her unwavering dedication to the most vulnerable among us, Dr. Velcek is unequivocally deserving of the Truly Outstanding Contribution Award. She is an inspiration to us all."

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