

RESEARCH DAY

MAY 9, 2024

**Cross River Campus at 3 Times Square
12:00 - 4:00 PM**

Resilience & Persistence



**TOURO
UNIVERSITY**



Message from the **PRESIDENT**

For more than half a century, Touro has set ambitious goals for our university, our faculty and our students. One of our great milestone achievements this past decade has been a notable increase in our institution's commitment to research. Indeed, our research accomplishments are a great source of pride. The growing deep and talented pool of faculty within our institution gives Touro professors and students increasing opportunities for collaborative research.

Fittingly, this year's Research Day will address "Resilience & Persistence," with Keynote Speaker Dr. Lorah Perlee, VP of Strategic Program Direction, Hematology Global Health Program Head, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, and our Distinguished Research Speaker Dr. Aurelio Lorico, Professor of Pathology, Touro University Nevada, School of Medicine. I look forward to hearing their perspectives.

Held at our beautiful Cross River Campus, Touro's all-inclusive Research Day allows the entire Touro family of campuses to participate. Organized and implemented by an intercampus Planning Committee led by Dr. Salomon Amar, Senior Vice President for Research Affairs, both our program and the posters being presented embody our institution's commitment to intellectual curiosity and scientific advancement. The varied and impressive work of our faculty and students allow us to showcase the impressive scope of Touro's research activities and academic offerings.

Excellence in scholarly publication has long been a hallmark of the research enterprise. We are pleased to highlight the importance of our faculty's contributions to knowledge in general, and to Touro's reputation in particular, within the academic community and beyond. Student and faculty research projects exhibited today span the gamut from medicine and pharmacy to social work, humanities and more. Touro's reach—both in terms of academic offerings and experiential, community-based learning opportunities—is unparalleled, and we are determined to explore and further develop a wide array of applied and theoretical knowledge.

Research Day is but a small window into the world of change that we effect. Touro University schools from across the country are well represented today and provide clear evidence of our growing enterprise as an important academic research institution, particularly in medicine and the allied health sciences. After the formal program, I urge you to participate in our Poster Session either virtually or in person. You will enjoy engaging with Touro's faculty and students, and speaking with them about the research initiatives that fuel their professional and educational passions. I hope today's presentations and poster exhibition stimulate in you the same kind of excitement I feel about research and inspire more collaboration and synergy across our entire University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Kadish". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Alan Kadish, M.D.
President | Touro University



A Researcher's Welcome

It gives me great pleasure as a scientist to welcome our community to this year's Research Day for Touro University. As the Vice President for Research, I am inspired each year as we continuously witness the growing prowess of Touro, especially now, on our third year of honoring Research Day on an institution-wide scale.

Last year, we proudly welcomed new affiliations, new intramural awards and, of course, novel endeavors amongst our diverse scientists' projects. In honor of this, our intramural awards and Research Day awards have now welcomed an even broader net of researchers, with the expansion to include our campuses at Berlin, Chicago, Great Falls, Israel and Moscow, and the second round of funding for the joint Touro University and Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute Innovative Intramural Research Grant. Each year, I am enthralled by the passion I see in our esteemed community and the tenacity in both our established and budding scientists as they too make strides towards achieving the milestones they have set in their individual careers.

As such, it is poignant and timely, given the state of affairs in the world today, that this year's Research Day be dedicated to that very commitment through this year's theme of "Resilience and Persistence." In years prior, we have celebrated our past achievements, shared hopes for the future and for those with whom we collaborate. However, equally important to ingenuity and collaboration are resilience and persistence, as they are key factors in how a scientist will fare, be they a pupil or a well-established innovator.

So, whether you are among us at 3 Times Square, or you tune in online,, join me in celebrating our faculty and students as we reward them for their diligent pursuit of excellence and knowledge; in welcoming our Keynote Speaker, a New York Medical College alum, Dr. Lorah Perlee of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, and our own TU Distinguished Researcher, Dr. Aurelio Lorico of Touro University in Nevada; and lastly, join me in applauding our award recipients and poster presenters.

Finally, I would also like to thank everyone presenting today on-site and online, as well as those who have collaborated with these innovators in research, and to commend those who submitted their work for consideration. I hope to see each of you thrive and succeed in your future endeavors. I ask that you keep in mind that we are strongest when working in tandem towards our goals and a brighter future as a community. Continue honing your skills with the same veracity that you show in your projects today.

Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for Research Affairs | Touro University



Welcome to **TOURO UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH DAY 2024**

Welcome to Touro University's Research Day 2024! The program this year is an outstanding reflection of the strength and breadth of Touro's research enterprise. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Lorah Perlee, Vice President at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, is a New York Medical College graduate. Dr. Aurelio Lorico, Touro's Distinguished Speaker, is a Professor at Touro University Nevada and a renowned researcher.

This year, the number of abstracts submitted across the University is the highest ever and nearly doubles that of 2023! New for 2024 is the "Innovation Forum," an opportunity for Touro schools and programs to display unique research and scholarship "diamonds" and to provide a platform for discussion, brainstorming, sharing of ideas and establishing new collaborations.

2024 marks the 13th anniversary of President Kadish's charge to a group of Touro and New York Medical College researchers to assess Touro's research capabilities and identify new initiatives that would grow research at the University. As a result of the group's input, many of the University's intramural grant programs were established. The progress during the past 13 years has been outstanding! With the continued "organic" research growth at Touro, as well as the addition of Lovelace Biomedical and the McLaughlin Research Institute, the future for groundbreaking research at Touro is very bright. Let's all take the opportunity to thank Dr. Amar, our "research champion," for his leadership and tireless dedication, as well as to thank the entire Office of Research Administration for their outstanding support on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Zvi G. Loewy, Ph.D.

Associate Dean, Research | Touro College of Pharmacy (New York)



**Patricia E. Salkin,
J.D., Ph.D.**

Senior Vice
President for
Academic Affairs
Provost,
Graduate and
Professional
Divisions
Touro University

Research Days on various campuses of what was the Touro College and University System originally grew out of local circumstances and in isolation from one another. Just as we forged ahead to craft our now shared identity as one “Touro University,” we prioritized establishing a University-wide Research Day during our 50th Anniversary year of celebration to affirm the centrality of research as part of our now university status.

With Dr. Kadish’s vision for Touro at the forefront, Dr. Amar has marshaled the collective support of the University’s entire academic leadership and the enthusiasm of our faculty and student researchers to move Research Day conceptually ever forward. Embarking this year on an exciting initiative—the Innovation Forum—we continue to foster the sharing of ideas and strongly encourage potential collaboration across our schools and our campuses. Having a Keynote Speaker from one of the leading biotechnology companies in the country—and a neighbor to our NYMC campus—is symbolic of the importance of industry and university partnerships in biomedical research and advancement in healthcare. The expansion of our research enterprise is well represented by our Distinguished Research Speaker, who brought the first NIH award to Touro University Nevada. And, as proof that we have finally turned the bend on the COVID-induced drag on research activity, we had a banner year for student poster submissions for Research Day 2024.

The richness of our heritage and the diversity of disciplines across the University provides fertile ground for ongoing and broader success in research at Touro. That success is achieved by our faculty and student researchers who engage in their inquiries through work in labs, clinics, offices, libraries—and home—across six states and four countries. It is through their endeavors that Touro contributes to new knowledge, one of the fundamental roles that higher education plays in our society. The scholarly output of our researchers results in Touro’s ever-increasing national and international reputation. The engagement of our students in research along with exposure to our faculty’s research endeavors in the classroom provides them with insights that enrich the instruction they receive.

The academic leadership across our campuses is proud of what our students and faculty accomplish, individually and collectively. We thank them for their hard work and heartily congratulate them on their success.



**Stanley L.
Boylan, Ph.D.**

Vice President of
Undergraduate
Education and
Dean of Faculties
Touro University

With deep appreciation for the tremendous effort involved, I thank all of those who have contributed to this year’s Research Day program—both participants and organizers.

We recently celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Touro College—now University—which provided us with the opportunity to focus on the accomplishments of our faculty and students over the years. It also reminded us of the core roles played by our excellent undergraduate schools and the University’s abiding commitment to the Jewish intellectual experience. Touro was founded with about three dozen undergraduate students and an outstanding faculty deeply steeped in the traditions of research and scholarship. Under the leadership of President Alan Kadish, the institution, its faculty, and their intellectual contributions, have grown exponentially, both in New York and across the entire University system, exhibiting a vitality that is amazing and most gratifying to witness.

Traditionally focused on excellence in instruction, it is important to realize that scholarship and research always have held a valued place at Touro. Dr. Kadish’s challenge to expand our research focus has been incredibly invigorating. Research Day provides clear evidence of the enrichment brought to instruction by the resultant synergy. We have broadened Research Day to now include all of our campuses using the technical innovations of live broadcast webinars and other virtual presentations.

We are one “University” community. I would like to congratulate the student researchers who are presenting. We are very proud of them as well as the research contributions made by Touro graduates over the past years—truly a testimony to the excellence of the Touro University educational experience.

ON “RESILIENCE & PERSISTENCE”

Meet the **SPEAKERS**

The research community across our many institutions is undoubtedly comprised of innovators and trailblazers. Be it our business and law schools, the public health campuses, basic or social sciences, research institutes or our many affiliated and collaborative organizations, there is a sense of pride and unity as each of our faculty, students and staff, progress in their respective fields of expertise. It is our privilege to honor their remarkable persistence in meeting their objectives and resilience in overcoming whatever hurdles come along the way, from failed experiments, to seeking funds, to worldwide epidemics. Nothing prevents the innovative mind from pushing forward.

Please welcome this year’s speakers as they highlight the importance of this year’s theme of “Resilience & Persistence” at Research Day 2024.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



“Resilience and Persistence: Developing a Treatment for a Recently Discovered Ultra-Rare Genetic Disease”

Lorah Perlee, Ph.D. | VP of Strategic Program Direction & Hematology and Global Health Program Head, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Perlee is a seasoned executive with over 25 years in the biotech industry. She has dedicated her career to the development of innovative platforms that transform patient health. She has published over 35 peer-reviewed articles and authored multiple patents related to predicting clinical outcomes, advancing cutting-edge technology platforms and developing strategies to leverage biomarker data to inform disease prognosis. Having started her career in the fields of histocompatibility and immunogenetics, Dr. Perlee has worked with various startups, and believes the future of science lies in the hands of the next generation of scientists. This inspires her deep commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration at Regeneron.

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH SPEAKER



“Novel mechanism of nuclear transport as potential therapeutic target in metastatic cancer, viral and neurodegenerative diseases”

Aurelio Lorico, Ph.D., M.D. | Professor, Pathology Touro University Nevada, School of Medicine

As a trained cancer pharmacologist, Dr. Lorico discovered the biochemical mechanism of the multidrug resistance protein and has also worked on projects involving pharmacology and gene therapy. Dr. Lorico has published over 100 articles, and is Editor for several journals, review for numerous grant agencies in both the United States and Europe. At Touro, he has fostered international collaboration to investigate the mechanisms of intercellular communication mediated by extracellular vesicles. Currently, his team is focused on developing new therapies to address metastatic cancer and viral diseases. His work has led to external and internal funding as well as his receipt of the Las Vegas Health Care Headliner Award.

Program **SCHEDULE**

- 12:00-12:05 p.m. **Introductory Remarks**
Alan Kadish, M.D. | President, Touro University
- 12:05-12:10 p.m. **Welcome to Research Day**
Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D. | Senior Vice President for Research Affairs,
Chief Biomedical Officer, Touro University
- 12:10-12:15 p.m. **Opening Remarks on Behalf of the Research Day Planning Committee**
Zvi Loewy, Ph.D. | Associate Dean of Research, Chair, Touro University
Research Day Committee, Touro University
- 12:15-12:30 p.m. **Award Introductions:**
Research Day 2024 Student Poster Competition Recipients
Zvi Loewy, Ph.D.
- 12:30-1:00 p.m. **Keynote Speaker**
*“Resilience and Persistence: Developing a Treatment for a
Recently Discovered Ultra-Rare Genetic Disease”*
Lorah Perlee, Ph.D. | VP Strategic Program Direction, Hematology,
Global Health Program Head, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals
- 1:00-1:10 p.m. **Q & A Session**
Moderated by **Salomon Amar**, D.D.S., Ph.D.
- 1:10-1:40 p.m. **Touro University Distinguished Speaker**
*“Novel mechanism of nuclear transport as potential therapeutic target in
metastatic cancer, viral and neurodegenerative diseases”*
Aurelio Lorico, M.D., Ph.D. | Professor, Pathology, Touro University Nevada,
School of Medicine
- 1:40-1:50 p.m. **Q & A Session**
Moderated by **Zvi Loewy**, Ph.D.
- 1:50-2:30 p.m. **Lunch & Networking Intermission**
- 2:30-3:00 p.m. **Outstanding Posters from Touro University Research Day 2024
Poster Competition**
Moderated by **Zvi Loewy**, Ph.D.
Selected poster presentations from student & faculty submissions.
- 3:00-3:10 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D. | Senior Vice President for Research Affairs,
Chief Biomedical Officer, Touro University
- 3:10-4:00 p.m. **Poster Session (Virtual and Live) & Innovation Forum**

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