

LANCASTER SCIENCE FACTORY

Lots of
FUN
to think about.

STEM IN ACTION

Profiles of STEM Professionals in our Community

Professionals in a wide variety of STEM careers are working during the COVID-19 outbreak to continue essential services in our community.

The Lancaster Science Factory is pleased to present profiles of these individuals and how they're putting STEM in Action right now.



Vito DiCamillo, MD

What is your role at LGH/Penn Medicine?

I am the Clinical Director of Corporate Partnerships, and am one of the three clinical

leaders that report directly to the president of Lancaster General Health Physicians, the health system's medical group. I am responsible for Urgent Care, Occupational Medicine, and Direct to Employer and Concierge medicine. My secondary roles include working with the innovation teams, clinical champion for Telemedicine and physician advisor to Aspire Ventures Precision Medical Fund

How has it changed during the COVID-19 outbreak? Tell us briefly about how LGH is addressing the crisis.

COVID-19 has forced all hospital systems to rapidly innovate in an ever-changing landscape. I am particularly proud to be part of the team that launched two telemedicine platforms at the start of the pandemic in 48 hours and 72 hours, respectively. LG Health's Urgent Care facilities have been secondary COVID-19 testing locations when the primary sites were closed. This has forced our team to think about how we see patients while keeping everyone safe.

The most significant change to my work has been in my clinical role with HealthWorks, LG Health's employee health and wellness program. I frequently am in contact with local business that are a part of the program to keep

them informed of the most current recommendations by Penn Medicine, the CDC, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

What would you like the community to know about the STEM skills involved in your work?

As physician executive with a focus on innovation, I am fortunate to be able to utilize all of the STEM skills. When I'm seeing patients I have to think about pathophysiology, microbiology and pharmacology. Innovation frequently involves new technology but often focuses on ways to improve well-established practices. From an engineering standpoint, I am constantly thinking about workflows to make things more efficient and safe for our patients and staff. Finally, in order to manage a health-care business you must have a solid understanding of certain math principles, specifically statistics and accounting.

I am grateful to been given the opportunity to use all of these skills to do my part to make LG Health one of the best health systems in central Pennsylvania.

As we look to scientists to provide us with the facts about this outbreak, we are reminded of just how essential STEM education is to our community. Could you share any reflections you've had on this topic recently?

Social distancing, masks and good hand hygiene make a significant impact. However, a true fix for this pandemic will result from a new scientific discovery like a vaccine. I am reminded how important it is to follow the scientific method when looking at problem. COVID-19 has had such an impact on our lives that scientists are being asked to speed up vaccine development. We must be mindful that an effective vaccine or treatment takes a significant amount

of time until it is helpful for the community.

What have you been doing to stay sane during this time? Any media recommendations?

I have really enjoyed spending my evenings with my wife and teenage daughters. In the absence of COVID-19, one daughter would be off at college and the other would be in 11th grade. I'm fortunate to have a wife that is an artist. She has a real interest in STEM and looks at things from a very different perspective than a scientist, which in turn has helped me to use both sides of my brain when analyzing a problem. From a media perspective, I get most of my information from The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Becker's Hospital Review, Gist Healthcare podcasts and New England Journal of Medicine websites. ■

Do you know someone working in a STEM profession during the COVID-19 outbreak? We would love to feature them in an upcoming interview. Please reach out to abakay@tlsf.org for more information.

For more information about the Lancaster Science Factory and how you can support our nonprofit mission visit:

www.LancasterScienceFactory.org

