Good day!

Keeping care local, providing great outcomes and offering patients the assurance of care coordination—we believe these are elements of the best possible health care.

We are very pleased to announce a new dimension in our clinical affiliation with Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston with the launch of the Center for Thoracic Surgery. This new program will offer the most surgically advanced care for patients with chest diseases, lung cancers, esophageal cancers, and other diagnoses, and it will be led by Marcelo DaSilva, MD, FACS, chief of thoracic surgery, along with a world-class team from the Brigham and Women’s Thoracic Surgery Associates. Like our affiliation with Brigham and Women’s for Care New England cardiology services, this new program is all about affording local patients with specialized expertise close to home.

In describing the service, Mike Dacey, MD, president and COO, Kent and Memorial hospitals, said, “With more than 220,000 new cases of lung cancer each year accounting for more than a quarter of all cancer deaths, it is imperative we provide patients with access to the best possible care from the leading clinical experts in the field. The creation of the Center for Thoracic Surgery at CNE, led by Dr. DaSilva and his team from Brigham and Women’s Hospital, is an opportunity to provide advanced care in a local setting. We welcome the opportunity to further serve the community in an area of tremendous clinical importance and need.”

The Center for Thoracic Surgery at Care New England will be based at Kent, and will offer initial consultations, surgical evaluations, testing, diagnostic imaging and advanced thoracic care nursing support and follow up care. The service will specialize in a broad range of lung diseases, including lung nodules, pleural effusions, pneumothorax (collapsed lung), lung cancer, esophageal disease, Mesothelioma, mediastinal tumors, chest wall diseases, and lung transplant evaluations. There will also be a lung cancer screening program at both Kent and Memorial hospitals. In addition, Dr. DaSilva will be establishing office hours at Memorial and South County hospitals.

This is a team who fully understands the frightening nature of a cancer diagnosis, but has seen the tremendous advancements in lung cancer and lung disease treatments.
The team is highly specialized and highly experienced:

- Marcelo DaSilva, MD, FACS, chief of thoracic surgery for Care New England, is board certified in thoracic surgery, surgical critical care and general surgery. His surgical experience involves the treatment of lung nodules, lung cancer, lung transplant, esophageal cancer, benign esophageal disease, pleural disease, achalasia, diverticulum, repair of giant paraesophageal hernia, surgery for reflux (GERD), and thorascopic sympathectomy for hyperhidrosis (increased sweating of hands and palms). He is recognized internationally for the diagnosis and treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma.

- Abby White, DO, is a thoracic surgeon who received her medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. White received her thoracic surgical training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, where she completed a thoracic surgery fellowship. Dr. White’s areas of interest include lung cancer, esophageal cancer, benign esophageal disease, anti-reflux surgery and minimally invasive and video assisted thoracic surgery (VATS). Dr. White is an instructor of surgery at Harvard Medical School.

- Kimberly Lamendola, PA-C, is a surgical physician assistant for Care New England. Lamendola worked in the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital for eight years, before coming to Care New England. She has special interests in caring for patients in the outpatient, inpatient and operating room settings.

This is a team who fully understands the frightening nature of a cancer diagnosis, but has seen the tremendous advancements in lung cancer and lung disease treatments. They have now come together at Care New England to provide an array of leading edge surgical and clinical treatments and protocols designed to best meet the personalized needs of patients and families.

“As someone who has dedicated my career to the surgical treatment of patients with cancer and other highly complex thoracic diagnoses, I am heartened to see the advancements we have made over time. This means more patient options resulting in greatly improved outcomes and long-term survival,” said Dr. DaSilva. “Our goal is to not only treat the patient but to bring hope to their lives. When there is hope, anything is possible.”

Please learn more about this latest Care New England offering by visiting http://carenewengland.org/thoracic-surgery or calling (401) 736-1092. Together we can all work to bring this new dimension in care to our local community.

Have a great week ahead, and to all of those observing the start of the Jewish New Year, L’Shanah Tovah!

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer
CNE names two to nursing leadership positions

The Department of Nursing and Patient Care Services at Care New England has announced a change in its leadership structure to facilitate sharing best practices and building upon excellence across the system, appointing Lauren Thorngate, PhD, RN, CCRN, as system executive director for nursing professional development, and Patricia Racioppi, MS, RPh, as system director for pharmacy.

In her new role, Lauren will support the chief nurses across the system in building a professional practice environment that promotes clinical excellence, shared decision-making and life-long learning, all of which will contribute to exceptional care for patients and families as well as advance the system’s strategic goals. Lauren will have responsibility for developing standards and increasing access to nursing education across CNE as well as establishing systems and processes to enhance evidence-based nursing practice. She will also act as CNE’s liaison to schools of nursing, overseeing student placement and promoting education and other scholarly opportunities for staff. Prior to this role, Lauren served as the executive director of education, research and professional practice at Women & Infants since 2014. Lauren is an experienced nursing leader, clinical expert, educator, scientist, and scholar, serving in roles with increasing responsibility in Washington state prior to joining the Women & Infants team. Lauren received her bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of San Francisco, a master of science degree in nursing from the University of California, and a doctor of philosophy in nursing science degree from the University of Washington.

As the pharmacy leader across the system, Patricia will be responsible for the overall direction, operation and management of the pharmacy departments at Kent, Memorial and Women & Infants hospitals. In addition to her administrative duties, Patricia will focus on recommending and implementing improvements to ensure the efficient and safe operation of pharmacy departments across the system while also being responsible for complying with all federal, state and CNE regulatory policies. In addition to being a registered pharmacist, Patricia’s background in health service administration gives her an advanced level of knowledge and understanding of the practices and procedures related to medication administration, pharmacology, and compliance. Her responsibilities also include the implementation of new technologies, oversight of the pharmacy residency program and professional development. A Kent employee since 1972, Patricia is known for the depth and breadth of her pharmacy expertise as well as her ability to build relationships across the patient care team. She has served as the director of pharmacy at Kent since 1992 and at Memorial since 2013. Patricia received her bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island and a master of science degree in health service administration from Salve Regina University.

Congratulations and best of luck to both Lauren and Patricia in their new roles.

CNE, Memorial officials interviewed for Consumer Reports article

A reporter with the national publication Consumer Reports recently interviewed staff members from Care New England and Memorial Hospital for an article on the incidence of central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) in hospitals. Consumer Reports, with the help of the Centers for Disease Control, ranked the hospitals based on their incidences of the bloodborne infections and Memorial was named number one in the category of teaching hospitals.

Participating in the interview were Michael Dacey, MD, president and chief operating officer of Memorial and a practicing physician, Raymond Powrie, MD, FRCP©, FACP, chief medical quality officer for Care New England, and Robin Neale, director of infection control for Care New England. The article will appear in the January 2017 issue of Consumer Reports.
Women & Infants social worker to speak at end-of-life care conferences

Sandra Salzillo, MA, CAGS, LMHC, APA, a licensed mental health clinician with the Program in Women’s Oncology at Women & Infants Hospital, was invited to deliver presentations at two upcoming conferences, one focused on end-of-life care and one designed to illuminate the unconscious forces of feminine oppression.

Salzillo is a nationally-acclaimed visual artist, expressive arts facilitator and archetypal pattern analyst. She is a senior faculty member at The Assisi Institute and an adjunct professor in the holistic counseling master’s program at Salve Regina University.

It is for The Assisi Institute’s “Seeing Red Conference” from October 6 to 7 in Stonington, CT, that she will co-present “Envisioning Medusa: The Serpent Archetype as Midwife in the Individuation Process of Women.” This, Salzillo says, is a workshop that will focus on the significance of the serpent’s relationship to the feminine, exploring the myth of Medusa as well as the historical relationship of this powerful image in ancient artifacts, dreams, and artwork to healing and transformation.

For more information on the conference, which includes some of the world’s leading scholars, psychologists, artists and trauma experts, visit http://www.seeingredconference.com or call (860) 415-5004.

On November 1 to 3, Salzillo will join the program coordinated by the Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts for its “Smooth Sailing: Navigating End-of-Life Care Today” conference in Norwood, MA. There, she will speak about helping patients and caregivers create meaningful dialogue at the end of life by discussing their dreams and understanding images and patterns that can appear in artwork as well.

“Images are universal and I have seen specific motifs associated with end of life,” Salzillo explains. “My work is to educate caregivers on this process as it provides a context for patients to explore inner emotions and fears that, once articulated, can allow for meaningful dialogue to occur.”

For more information on this conference, visit http://www.hospicefed.org.

Salzillo works with cancer patients at the Program in Women’s Oncology at Women & Infants, where she facilitates groups and workshops, and provides individual counseling to patients. Her work is based on connecting women to their imaginative abilities, which allows for a deeper understanding of their personal process. For more information, call (401) 453-7520.

Alzheimer’s event draws crowd at Butler Hospital

The Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital hosted a screening of the NOVA special Can Alzheimer’s Be Cured? on Wednesday, September 28 in the Ray Conference Center on the Butler Campus. Originally aired on PBS, the television feature on the current state of Alzheimer’s research and treatments included commentary from Dr. Stephen Salloway, director of Butler’s Memory and Aging Program, as well as participants from some of the studies being conducted there.

Following the screening, a panel fielded questions from audience members. Panel members included the show’s producer and director, Dr. Salloway and several study participants and their family members.


To learn more about the research studies currently underway in the Memory and Aging Program at Butler, visit http://www.butler.org/memory.
CODAC location at The Providence Center holds open house
CODAC, RI's largest provider of outpatient opioid treatment, held an open house to mark the official opening of its newest medication-assisted treatment facility, located on the ground floor of The Providence Center's (TPC's) North Main Street headquarters. The event gave visitors a chance to see the space and learn about the services provided. The speaking program included remarks from Rebecca Boss, acting director RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH); CODAC CEO Linda Hurley; Providence Police Chief Col. Hugh Clements; and TPC President Dale Klatzker (shown in picture left to right).

The goal of this new partnership is to provide more comprehensive and easily accessible services for clients diagnosed with co-occurring disorders—as well as for patients needing services from only one of the providers. CODAC North Main Street began accepting patients on August 8 following a “soft opening” and press conference with Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and other community advocates.

Parkinson's walk draws big support
On Saturday, September 10, more than 1,600 people came to support this year’s American Parkinson Disease Association’s (APDA) Race, Walk & Roll at Goddard Park, East Greenwich.

This year’s event had 130 runners, along with 52 families, support groups and corporate teams who participated in this beautiful scenic 5K race or 1.5-mile walk in honor of Walter Langford and the Langford family. This year's race raised more than $80,000 to support local Parkinson’s programs in Rhode Island as well as research for a cure. “It is truly rewarding to see how successful the 2016 APDA Race, Walk & Roll was. This year’s event brought family, friends and co-workers together to raise awareness and critical funds that will be used to help our local APDA chapter and their families,” said Joseph Friedman, MD, chief of Butler Hospital’s Movement Disorders Program. “It is an honor to be part of an amazing team of people who have dedicated their time and resources to help the RI APDA. Congratulations on your success!”

CNE helps celebrate recovery one day at a time
For the third year in a row, as part of its sponsorship of the Rhode Island Rally for Recovery, Care New England provided a recovery calculator for rally attendees to determine the number of days they’ve been in sobriety at http://www.talksyourhealth.com/mydays. At the conclusion of the two-day rally, more than 758,643 days had been calculated.

The inspiration for the calculator is based on a prominent concept in recovery that focuses on taking recovery one day at a time rather than becoming overwhelmed with what will happen in the future. A post on talksyourhealth.com explains the benefits of this concept, direct from the experts within Butler Hospital’s Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services.

The Rally4Recovery is Rhode Island’s largest celebration honoring National Recovery Month every September. This year, it began with its flagship event on Saturday, September 17, at Roger Williams National Memorial Park in Providence with a second rally on Saturday, September 24, at King Park in Newport. At each of the events a counter sponsored and provided by CNE displayed the number of days from the recovery calculator, as attendees participated and the number rose.

Women & Infants celebrates nurse midwives
This week (October 2 to 8) is National Midwifery Week as designated by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. This is an opportunity to acknowledge midwifery’s contributions to women’s health care, including attending births and providing well-woman care. At Women & Infants, community-based midwives provide incredible care to the women of our communities, offering routine gynecologic care, pregnancy management and obstetric care. In addition, the team of faculty-based midwives not only focus on clinical care, but also on research and teaching. Thank you to all of our midwives!