Good day!

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in three women and one in four men has experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender, affecting people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. As health care providers, it is our responsibility to know the warning signs and to provide appropriate care to our patients and our community. With statistics like these, we know that there are also members of our own Care New England family who are or have been victims of domestic violence. Understanding domestic violence and knowing what resources are available is crucial.

For the past several months, a multidisciplinary team from Care New England has been working with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence to raise awareness during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. All are invited to attend a panel discussion with survivors who will discuss the warning signs and experiences of being in an abusive relationship. Information about resources will also be available.

- Kent Hospital – Wednesday, October 12 at 11:30 a.m., Doctors’ Auditorium B
- Memorial Hospital – Wednesday, October 12 at 12 p.m., Goff Conference Room
- Women & Infants Hospital – Thursday, October 13 at 7:30 a.m., Obstetrics and Gynecology Care Center (OGCC) and at 9:30 a.m., Chapel
- Butler Hospital – Wednesday, October 26 at 1:15 p.m., Ray Hall

In addition, Women & Infants’ Sexual Assault Research and Awareness team is hosting a series of 30-minute self-defense classes led by trained instructors from Mastery Martial Arts. The interactive class will give the mental and physical basics to avoiding and protecting yourself in threatening situations. Classes will be held at Women & Infants on Monday, October 24 from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and Thursday, October 27 from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Admission is $10 and registration is required at http://www.womenandinfants.org/selfdefense. For questions, please call extension 47054 or email mhooks@wihri.org.

“As health care providers, it is our responsibility to know the warning signs and to provide appropriate care to our patients and our community.”

In this issue:

- Kent Hospital
- Memorial Hospital
- Women & Infants Hospital
- Butler Hospital

continued
This month, you may also see “silent witnesses” at each of our operating units. In 1990, the Silent Witness Initiative (http://www.silentwitness.net) began to honor the lives of domestic violence homicide victims and to offer support, community connections and advocacy for change. Take a moment to look at these red silhouettes and read the stories of the victims. We need to remember their stories to put an end to these tragic deaths.

**Town Hall Meetings now taking place across the system**

Town Hall Meetings are now taking place at each Care New England operating unit. Hosted by each facility’s president/executive leader, the meetings provide updates on system and operating unit activities with an open discussion providing time for employees to ask questions. For those who have already attended a meeting, I thank you! For all others, I urge you to take the time to learn about what is happening at Care New England. Remaining meetings will be held:

- **Tuesday, October 11** 12 noon Kent Hospital, Auditorium A
- **Tuesday, October 11** 4 p.m. Women & Infants’ Fertility Center, 90 Plain Street, 3rd floor
- **Wednesday, October 12** 8 a.m. Women & Infants’ Program in Women’s Oncology, One Blackstone Street, 3rd floor
- **Wednesday, October 12** 10 a.m. VNA of Care New England, John Chafee Conference Room
- **Wednesday, October 12** 12 noon Women & Infants Hospital, South Pavilion Auditorium 2
- **Monday, October 17** 12 noon Women & Infants Laboratory, 70 Elm Street, 2nd floor
- **Friday, October 21** 12 noon Women & Infants’ Obstetrics and Gynecology Care Center, 2 Dudley Street, 5th floor

**It’s time to get your flu shot!**

Flu season is now upon us, and I want to remind everyone that it is our responsibility to keep our patients, their families and each other safe. As you recall, Rhode Island was the first state in the nation to require that all health care workers be vaccinated, except those who are exempted for valid medical reasons, or wear a surgical mask during times of peak flu activity. Our VNA of Care New England and Employee Health offices are now offering flu shots—please check flyers posted in your location for dates and times of flu clinics.

Be kind to each other—and have a great week ahead.

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer

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**Butler researchers awarded grant to study options for treating pain in patients with opioid use disorder**

Researchers at Butler Hospital have been awarded a research grant to study yoga and health education classes to treat chronic pain in people with a history of opioid use disorder who are currently receiving opioid agonist therapy (OAT). OAT refers to medications including buprenorphine and methadone. The three-year grant was awarded by the National Institutes of Health and totals more than $600,000.

Chronic pain is a significant problem for people receiving OAT, with at least half of patients experiencing chronic pain, which is associated with impaired functioning, psychiatric problems, physical problems, and increased likelihood of misuse of opioids or other illicit drugs. Pharmacologic pain treatment in OAT patients is complicated by issues such as increased pain...
sensitivity that may be related to opioid use, increased tolerance of opioids, other substance use, and patients’ own fears about medications and addiction.

The research team, led by principal investigators Michael Stein, MD, and Lisa Uebelacker, PhD, hypothesize that hatha yoga may be a beneficial adjunctive approach to treating chronic pain and preventing opioid misuse during OAT. Yoga includes benefits of relaxation training, physical activity, and mindfulness training in a unified practice. In this particular study, the research group will conduct treatment development research that will prepare them to later study whether hatha yoga might be an effective adjunctive treatment for pain in people enrolled in OAT. They believe that, relative to a control group, yoga may decrease pain-related disability, decrease pain, and decrease opioid misuse.

To read more, visit [http://www.butter.org](http://www.butter.org).

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Kent Hospital will hold a dedication and grand opening event of the new Robert E. Baute, MD, Cardiac Catheterization Lab, on Tuesday, October 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be a reception and speaking program in the Kent Hospital Doctors’ Auditorium, followed by the cath lab dedication and tours.

Dr. Baute has given more than 35 years of dedicated service to Kent Hospital. Beginning his career as an internal medicine physician in private practice, he went on to become the hospital’s medical director and then served a 10-year term as president and CEO. Through his years of tireless effort, dedication, clinical care and leadership, Dr. Baute led Kent Hospital to a new level of health care service, accessibility and expansion.

Those interested in attending should RSVP to (401) 737-7010, ext. 31200 by Tuesday, October 18.

Parking will be available on the service entrance/Doctors’ Auditorium side of campus.

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The CNE Academic Council and CNE Philanthropy will sponsor a full-day workshop that will explore strategies for developing a successful research grant application from federal agencies and private foundation sources. The workshop will be held Friday, October 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Women & Infants South Pavilion. Moderated by Brian Kelley, PhD of Innovative Funding Partners, with panelists who are experienced researchers from across CNE, the sessions are intended for CNE investigators at any level. Participants may attend for the full day or choose sessions that fit their needs and interests.

For more details and to register, click this link: [https://events.carenewengland.org/ShoppingCart.aspx?com=detailview&iid=27](https://events.carenewengland.org/ShoppingCart.aspx?com=detailview&iid=27)

For information, contact Suzanne Fortier, CNE Philanthropy, sfortier@carene.org.

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An art exhibit titled, “Portraits of Hope, Healing, and Community,” is currently on display in the arboretum at Butler Hospital. The exhibit features collage self-portraits that were created by staff and patients on the Butler campus, each accompanied by an artist’s statement that answers the question, “What are you proud of about yourself?” The collages were submitted and are now displayed anonymously, according to exhibit organizers, “so as to not delineate or stigmatize, but to see each participant solely as ‘artist’.”

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Organized and hosted by members of the Healing Arts Committee at Butler, the exhibit includes over 100 submissions. The project was developed during the CNE Leadership Program, conceived by artist Laura White Carpenter, an occupational therapist on the senior treatment unit, and artist and writer Wendy Grossman, an activities therapist on the Intensive Treatment Unit on Riverview 3, with support by Carter Davis, a research assistant and artist. Exhibit organizers say the display is a testament to the diverse contributions that each person has to the well-being of the hospital.

Referring to the feedback she received from participants, Laura shared, “Several people said it was a relaxing exercise and they were able to shut off their stress during the project, especially while looking through magazines purposely for specific colors and types of images. It was escapism through self-exploration. I also heard from a small department’s staff that they had a blast doing the project together during their break. They said they appreciated getting to know each other better and wished they had something creative to do every day at noon.”

Drawing attention since it went up on September 28, the exhibit has received an overwhelmingly positive response. A closing reception for the exhibit will be held on Tuesday, October 11 at noon in the arboretum at Butler.

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**Women & Infants honored for breast health**

Congratulations to Women & Infants on earning the 2016 Women’s Choice Award for America’s Best Breast Centers for the second consecutive year!


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**Summer Infant donates SwaddleMe swaddles to Women & Infants**

Many thanks to Rhode Island-based Summer Infant, Inc., which has donated 9,000 SwaddleMe® Original Swaddles for patients at Women & Infants. Beginning this month, each new mom will receive a voucher for a complimentary SwaddleMe that she can redeem at Nursing Moms, Etc. Available in both English and Spanish, the voucher also relates the benefits of swaddling so that every parent and child can “sleep tight, every night.”

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**Additional On-Site Flex Health Screening dates added**

Effective January 1, 2017, Flex benefit-eligible non-union employees can earn a $50 per month wellness discount on medical contributions for their medical plans by achieving these three steps:

1. Know your numbers by completing a biometric screening at an on-site Flex Health Screening Event, administered by your PCP or at a designated LabCorp location. The screening will consist of a venipuncture blood draw testing for cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides, glucose, HbA1C, and nicotine; as well as a check of your blood pressure, BMI, and waist circumference.
2. Prove that you are tobacco-free (through the blood draw) or enrolled in a tobacco cessation program. An appeals form will be available on the eHealthScreenings website to attach/submit documentation of enrollment in a smoking cessation program in approximately a week. An additional email will be sent out at that time.
TPC to hold Circle of Stars event on October 18
The Providence Center will hold its annual Circle of Stars fundraising event on Tuesday, October 18 at Rhode Island Convention Center. This year’s honorees will be longtime supporters Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman, a Providence law firm.

“It is only fitting that Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman, its partners and employees are the stars of the show, because without their support we could not continue to offer services to those that need them most,” said TPC President Dale Klatzker.

The event will be emceed by NBC 10’s Alison Bologna, and speakers will include Klatzker and Anchor’s Jonathan Goyer.

If you’d like more information on attending or volunteering, please contact Chief Development Officer Lisa Desbiens at (401) 528-0127.