Good day!

We have talked often about our greater mission in population health management of improving the health of our community. Just how do we figure out what are the priorities?

Thanks to a focused initiative undertaken with the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its other member hospitals, we are working on the second round of community health needs assessments to better understand the health needs of diverse members of our community. This needs assessment will culminate in a three-year plan of action for community health improvement. Our hospital community health improvement plans will align with Rhode Island’s Health Equity Zone (HEZ) projects, which are 11 federal, state, and local partnerships to support innovative place-based approaches to preventing chronic disease, improving birth outcomes, and improving social and environmental conditions that impact health.

To date in our community health assessment efforts, we have analyzed much available data on health status and trends in Rhode Island and in our hospital service areas. We have also helped organize and lead five partner health forums in key areas of the state among people from government and community organizations to identify priority areas for community health improvement, barriers to health and well-being, and opportunities to work together on health issues. In January, we will be reaching out to residents and community members around the state to hear what they have to say about their health needs.
We are thankful to members of our Care New England Public and Community Health Committee, a Board committee comprised of a diverse array of community leaders and CNE clinical leaders and executives, who have been helping guide our efforts in understanding community health need. Chaired by Cynthia B. Patterson, long-time CNE director, and co-chaired by Mario Bueno, CNE director, the Committee has been meeting since May. It has played an invaluable role enhancing new and existing partnerships with local and state government, community organizations, professional groups, residents, and others to advance public and community health as well as in directing Care New England’s planning and programming to improve the health of our population and address public and community health needs.

Toward the latter end, the Committee has undertaken an extensive look at community health needs, particularly those involving disparity of health status among racial and ethnic minorities in Rhode Island. In the next few months, the Committee will help us make the important determination of which two health disparities we will work toward alleviating in the greater Providence area.

As we strive to improve public health, we will continue to work both at the macro and micro levels. That is, both to understand and act on the big picture issues that affect the health of our local communities, as well as to deliver health that recognizes the needs of individual patients from each and every diverse background or orientation. We look forward to making a difference.

Take care of each other—and have a great week ahead!

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer

Sixty physicians from CNE named to 2015-2016 Best Doctors in America® List
Sixty physicians affiliated with Care New England have been named to the Best Doctors in America® List for 2015-2016. Only five percent of doctors in America earn this prestigious honor, decided by impartial peer review. Kudos to our great clinicians for this recognition!

**Butler Hospital**
Benjamin D. Greenberg, MD, Phd
Paul B. Lieberman, MD
Lawrence H. Price, MD
James K. Sullivan, MD

**Psychiatry**
Psychiatry (also at Kent Hospital)
Psychiatry

**Kent Hospital**
Reginald Y. Gohh, MD
David R. Katzen, MD
Guy Lancellotti, MD
Robert C. Marchand, MD
Raymond Mis, DO
Landy P. Paolella, MD
Kathleen Rotondo, MD
S. Thirugnana Sambandam, MD
Joel S. Spellun, MD
Caroline S. Wilkel, MD
James W. Ziegler, MD

Nephrology
Pediatric Specialist
Vascular Surgery
Orthopedic Surgery
Gastroenterology
Radiology
Pediatric Specialist
Medical Oncology and Hematology
Gastroenterology
Dermatology
Pediatric Specialist (also at Women & Infants Hospital)

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**Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island**
Jeffrey Borkan, MD, PhD
F. Dennis McCool, MD, FACC
Kennon S. Miller, MD
Peter J. Quesenberry, MD
Joseph R. Tucci, MD

Family Medicine
Pulmonary Medicine
Urology
Medical Oncology and Hematology
Endocrinology and Metabolism

**Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island**
Ruben J. Alvero, MD
Stephen Carr, MD
Donald R. Coustan, MD
Michele G. Cyr, MD
Penelope H. Dennedy, MD
Jane M. Dennison, MD
Paul A. DiSilvestro, MD
Lloyd R. Feit, MD
Staci A. Fischer, MD
Cornelius O. Granai III, MD
Richard G. Greco, MD
Robert T. Griffith, Jr., MD
Pamela High, MD
Brenna L. Hughes, MD
Martin Keszler, MD
Peter D. Kramer, MD
Arlet Kurkchubasche, MD
Abbot Lapuook, MD
Michelle J. Lefebvre, MD
Francois I. Luks, MD
David E. Mandelbaum, MD
Leonard Alan Mermel, DO
John Harold Moran, MD
Deborah L. Myers, MD, FACOG
Richard K. Ohnmacht, MD
James Padbury, MD
Dwight Rouse, MD
Thomas K. Shahinian, MD
Judith Shaw, MD
Boris Skurkovich, MD
Linda K. Snelling, MD
Barbara S. Stonestreet, MD
Beth A. Toolan, MD
Thomas Tracy Jr., MD
William J. Turtle, MD
Katharine D. Wenstrom, MD
Erika F. Werner, MD
Yvette E. Yatchmink, MD

Obstetrics and Gynecology
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Internal Medicine (also at Memorial Hospital)
Pediatric Specialist
Pediatics
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Pediatric Specialist
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Psychiatry
Pediatric Specialist
Pediatric Specialist
Pediatrics
Pediatrics
Pediatric Specialist
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Pediatric Specialist
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Surgery
Pediatrics
Pediatrics
Pediatric Specialist
Pediatric Specialist
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Pediatric Specialist

Best Doctors has earned a worldwide reputation for reliable, impartial results by remaining completely independent. Doctors cannot pay to be included in the Best Doctors database, nor are they paid to provide their input. The List is a product of validated peer review, in which doctors who excel in their specialties are selected by their peers in the profession.

The Best Doctors in America® List, assembled by Best Doctors, Inc. and audited and certified by Gallup®, results from polling of more than 40,000 physicians in the United States. Doctors in more than 40 specialties and 400 subspecialties of medicine appear on this year’s List. In a confidential review, current physician listees answer the question, “If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer?” Best Doctors, Inc. evaluates the review results, and verifies all additional information to meet detailed inclusion criteria.

For further information, visit Best Doctors at [http://bestdoctors.com](http://bestdoctors.com).
CARE Awards event slated for December 7—Invitees RSVP today!

Cultivating and rewarding excellence has been the driving theme behind our CARE Awards program for the past 17 year—and this year’s sterling round of applications did not disappoint! All applicants have been invited to attend the Awards Ceremony being held next Monday, December 7, 2 pm, at the Ray Conference Center on the Butler Hospital campus. RSVPs are due today. Please call (401) 681-2824 or extension 12824. Don’t miss out on hearing your name being called—and cheering on excellence in the Care New England ranks!

Dr. Gary Frishman elected to Board of American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists

Gary N. Frishman, MD, associate director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and Residency Program Director at Women & Infants Hospital, and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been elected secretary/treasurer of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL). With more than 7,700 members from 100 countries, the AAGL is the leading association in the world in promoting minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. Dr. Frishman will begin duties later this month for a one year team. After his term as secretary/treasurer, Dr. Frishman will then ascend to vice president, and then president of the association the follow year.

Dr. Frishman currently sits on the Residency Review Committee for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) overseeing all obstetric and gynecologic residency training programs in the United States. He is also deputy editor for the Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery and serves as an oral board examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Frishman previously served on the board of directors for both the AAGL and its associated Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery.

Dr. Frishman received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and attended medical school at Columbia University in New York City. Following this, he completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia and a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at the University of Connecticut in Farmington.

Dr. Frishman joined the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology at Women & Infants in 1991. “Delivering the right treatment in the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high quality health care. I commend the efforts of Women & Infants Hospital for their excellent performance on the use of evidence-based interventions,” said Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, president and CEO, The Joint Commission.

WJAR shines spotlight on Butler Alzheimer research

With no fewer than eight research studies currently active in the Memory & Aging Program at Butler, there’s a lot of stories to be told. Earlier this month, Barbara Morse-Silva from WJAR sat down with Stephen Salloway, MD, head of the Butler program, and some of his patients to cover two of the stories for a two-night Health Check piece. The first night introduced the viewing public to Neil Corkery and his wife Maureen. Corkery, who is in the early stages of Alzheimer’s Disease, has been finding success in a Biogen study aimed at slowing the progression of the disease. The second night told the story of Peter and Joanna Bristol. Peter is currently halfway through a study for a new drug that has shown positive results in testing. Dr. Salloway said there’s a global push to come up with a breakthrough or a way to prevent or cure Alzheimer’s by 2025, but “we’re only going to make progress by people volunteering and participating in these studies.” You can read more and watch the videos of the segments on WJAR’s website.

• “New Drug for Alzheimer’s Disease”: http://bit.ly/1NiCZop
• Doctor Says New Drug Could Slow Progression of Alzheimer’s Disease”: http://bit.ly/1OzUywn
North Attleboro nurse recognized at Memorial Hospital

Memorial Hospital recently honored Shannon McKeon, RN, of North Attleboro, MA, a nurse on Wood 6, with the DAISY Award for November. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation’s program to recognize excellence in nursing.

McKeon has been a nurse at Memorial for 11 years. Patients and fellow staff members reported that she embodies the outstanding qualities of an extraordinary DAISY nurse. “Shannon is the kind of nurse you would want to take care of you. No matter how her shift is going, she always smiles when entering a patient’s room and gives them her full attention. She is very accommodating with her schedule to meet the needs of the hospital. She can adapt to the unit she is assigned to and the staff enjoy working with her,” said a fellow staff member.

The not-for-profit DAISY Foundation is based in Glen Ellen, CA, and was established by family members in memory of J. Patrick Barnes. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

McKeon is the first recipient of the newly created DAISY Award at Memorial Hospital. Anyone can nominate an extraordinary nurse at Memorial by submitting an application online or in person. Completed forms can be placed in a nomination box located at the Information Desk in the main lobby of the hospital and in the nursing office in the Sayles Building, second floor. An electronic version is available on the hospital website at http://mhri.org/daisy-award.

Butler team participates at American Psychiatric Nurses Association conference

This past October, two managers, four staff nurses and a mental health worker traveled to Orlando to represent the array of initiatives taking place at Butler in the areas of quality, safety and community outreach to join with more than 1,800 psychiatric mental health nurses and APRNs at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association’s (APNA) 29th Annual Conference. The work of the Butler Hospital team reflected the focused results coming out of the hospital’s Quality Council for Nursing Practice, formed a year ago and chaired by Kristen Kichefski, nurse manager, with Mary Leveillee, SVP and CNO, serving as the executive sponsor and mentor. When the team saw the call for abstracts for the APNA conference bearing the theme, “Collaboration in an Evolving Health Care System: Opportunities to Advance Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing,” they immediately recognized the opportunity to share Butler’s work. Three of the submitted abstracts were accepted for presentation, including: a lecture on the creation of Butler’s De-escalation Emergency Assistance Team, a poster on the Clinical Safety Committee, and a poster on the community outreach program to educate first responders on behavioral health. Congratulations Butler team on helping advance mental health nursing—and representing Butler so well!
Circle of Stars raises $173,000 for The Providence Center

On November 10th, The Providence Center held its annual “Circle of Stars” fundraiser at the Rhode Island Convention Center, where more than 250 supporters gathered to celebrate the organization. The $173,000 raised at the event will go to support more than 60 programs that help Rhode Islanders overcome mental illness and addiction issues, and will also contribute to professional development programs for staff. For their long-time support, Rich Cawthorne and Mark Salamone of Alpha Pension Group and Ro Mede of TPC were the event’s honorees.

The Providence Center President Dale Klatzker took the podium and praised the staff at the organization. “I know unequivocally that TPC employs the most dedicated, compassionate, and skilled behavioral professionals in Rhode Island,” Klatzker said.

Since 2007, Cawthorne and Salamone have served as TPC’s retirement plan advisers, and they also lend vital support to the organization’s annual golf tournament.

Mede has served as TPC’s chief human resources officer since 2010, and supported the organization since 2006. Mede is an ardent advocate of career growth and continuing education for TPC staff. 