Good day!

Recovery. What a powerful and inspiring word.

Recovery captures the movement from medical need toward long-term wellness and well-being. When you think about it, recovery is at the heart of all we do.

This term has special resonance and meaning for those struggling with chronic conditions. In recent years, our understanding about the value of recovery has increasingly come to include those with substance use disorders. This is a clear recognition that addiction is a chronic condition where recovery is both a goal as well as a demanding and rewarding process.

Every year, the nation celebrates National Recovery Month in September, and we at Care New England join in this observance as a fitting expression of our commitment to the many individuals and families we support through their recovery. Interestingly, well beyond the obvious roles of Butler Hospital and The Providence Center in this mission, there is not a single CNE affiliate that does not offer some level of recovery support and engagement.

Our activity ranges from cutting-edge research into new treatments to inpatient, outpatient, partial hospitalization, residential programs, recovery coaching—including putting recovery coaches in EDs to help those surviving overdose—and recovery community centers. We even operate the state’s only recovery high school, Anchor Learning Academy. All in all, Care New England operates the state’s nearly 25 different services in this field.

We are always looking for new ways to meet the needs of our patients. Soon we will launch a new Young Adult (18 to 26 years old) Partial Hospitalization Program at Butler Hospital to meet the unique needs of this age group and their families. Even further, on the first day of Recovery Month, we will be opening a new outpatient detox program at Butler Hospital.

“Addiction is a chronic condition where recovery is both a goal as well as a demanding and rewarding process.”
Because substance use disorders can be particularly traumatic for families and the options for service can be confusing and overwhelming, we are creating a central access point and assessment tool for all addiction services across Care New England. This service will also make referrals to our community-based partners.

Our commitment does not stop at service. Substance abuse is an issue that suffers from stigma and misunderstanding. That is why The Providence Center helped launch a new advocacy effort, the Recovery Works Coalition. Recovery Works seeks to change the way we talk about, treat, and respond to the toll of substance use disorders in the community and on our economy. To learn more, visit: http://recoveryworksrri.org.

I urge all CNE employees to get actively engaged with Recovery Month. There will be numerous events—large and small—throughout the month, and Care New England and our affiliates will be active at many of these.

Activities will get started Friday, September 4 at 10 a.m., with a kick-off event at Rhode Island College on the Main Quad. The statewide Rally4Recovery will take place on Saturday, September 19 from 2 to 7 p.m., at Roger Williams National Memorial Park in Providence. This family-friendly event is free, and it features food, national and local speakers, entertainment, information tables, activities for kids and more.

For many, this year’s Rally4Recovery will have special meaning as we lost a true champion in the cause with the recent passing of Jim Gillen, director of Recovery Services and Anchor Recovery Community Centers at The Providence Center. In the words of Dale Klatzker, president of The Providence Center, “Jim Gillen was the face, the voice, and the conscience of the recovery community in Rhode Island. Through the inspiring example he set, Jim showed the way for thousands of individuals to live a life in recovery.” This year’s rally is dedicated to Jim’s memory and will honor all he fought for and all he achieved.

Learn more about Recovery Month activities by visiting http://rally4recovery.com. Stop by the events, visit the Care New England table, support your colleagues, sign up to volunteer, get involved!

Let us all join in celebrating the power and the promise of recovery.

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Granai honored with national award for humanism in medicine

Cornelius O. “Skip” Granai III, MD, FACOG, FACS, director of the Program in Women’s Oncology at Women & Infants and executive chief of oncology for Care New England, will be awarded The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award at The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) annual meeting in 2016. This national honor recognizes practicing physicians who best demonstrate the ideals of compassionate and respectful care for a patient’s physical and emotional well-being.

Founder of the region’s largest focused cancer program for women, Dr. Granai created the area’s first multidisciplinary, prospective Tumor Board and initiated the first Integrative Care Program dedicated to women with cancer, offering such services as nutrition, massage therapy, acupuncture, chiropractic, social and psychological support, pet therapy, a sexual intimacy and recovery program, lymphedema therapy, poetry, patient retreats, performance art, and more.

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Memorial physician receives grant for leukemia research

Dr. Adam Olszewski, MD, of The Cancer Center at Memorial Hospital and assistant professor of medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, recently received a 2015 Medical Research Grant for $7,635 from the Rhode Island Foundation.

Dr. Olszewski’s research focuses on epidemiology and treatments for hematologic cancers (lymphomas and leukemias) using “big data” or clinical and administrative data bases integrating medical information from patients across the country. In this project, he will study the incidence of skeletal-related events among patients with Medicare insurance who are diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). CLL is a common blood cancer that typically affects older patients, often causes no symptoms at the time of diagnosis and may require no therapy for many years from diagnosis. Some patients remain under observation for prolonged periods of time, but little is known about potential health risks associated with such “watchful waiting” strategy.

In cooperation with statisticians from Brown University and Dr. Charles Eaton from the Brown Center for Primary Care and Prevention at Memorial Hospital, Dr. Olszewski will look at the incidence of fractures and other related medical events in CLL patients. Dr. Olszewski’s research on health care outcomes in lymphoma and leukemia is also partly supported by a Research Scholar Award from the American Society of Hematology. The Rhode Island Foundation is the largest and most comprehensive funder of nonprofit organizations in Rhode Island. In 2015, the Foundation awarded $320,000 in seed funding for 22 medical research projects selected by a panel of scientists and physicians.

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Dr. Dr. Granai has been awarded numerous teaching awards from Harvard, Massachusetts General Hospital, Tufts, Brown University, as well as achieving international recognition for teaching excellence. Dr. Granai is the director of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology approved-Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program, and the Society of Surgical Oncology-approved Breast Disease Fellowship program at Women & Infants. He is the founder of the International Health Foundation, a non-profit, educational exchange program in which students from all over the world are trained in women’s cancers.

Dr. Granai has been voted one of “Rhode Island’s Top Docs,” including “Best Doctor for Women,” in Rhode Island Monthly magazine on a yearly basis from 2004 to present. On a national level, he has been voted “Best Doctor in America” and “America’s Top Doctors for Cancer,” awarded by the Castle Connolly Medical LTD Group. He was the recipient of the “Lifetime Achievement Award,” sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

He has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed articles, more than 50 non-peer reviewed articles and chapters, and guest-edited a periodical on “Cancers Unique to Women.” He has been instrumental in bringing the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) to Women & Infants. Funded by the National Cancer Institute, the Program is now one of the highest contributing GOG members nationally. Dr. Granai is a highly regarded speaker and teacher who has lectured throughout the world, bringing his audiences a unique blend of philosophy, pragmatism, poetry and performance.

Dr. Granai’s nomination for the humanism award followed his talk, “The Good Fight,” at the ACOG Annual Meeting last May. Nominating committee members decided that Dr. Granai truly practiced compassionate care with an emphasis on patients’ physical and emotional well-being. The decision was later blessed by ACOG’s Executive Board.
Kent names new Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine fellowship director

Kent Hospital has appointed Mary Elizabeth Hanley, DO, as director of its Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship program.

Dr. Hanley was Kent’s first Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine fellow, after completing a family medicine residency at Kent from 2009 to 2011, and served as chief resident from 2010 to 2011. Prior to coming to Kent, Dr. Hanley completed her first residency in anesthesiology and critical care medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD, where she was also chief resident. She was then appointed to the faculty of The Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Medicine. Dr. Hanley also served as medical director of the Narragansett Indian Health Center in Charlestown from 2012 to 2013.

“It is a pleasure to have Dr. Hanley in this role, which is extremely important to not only the Wound Recovery and Hyperbaric Medicine Center but to Kent’s Graduate Medical Education program which continues to grow each year,” said Joseph Spinale, DO, SVP, chief medical officer and medical director of Kent’s Graduate Medical Education Program. “Dr. Hanley has been a vital part of our medical staff since starting her residency at Kent six years ago. We are looking forward to her clinical expertise and leadership of current and future fellows.”

Kent Hospital’s Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine fellowship was established in 2010. A teaching affiliate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, the fellowship consists of a one-year curriculum with a clinical focus on wound care, dive medicine and hyperbarics. It is the only such program in the country to be accredited by the American Osteopathic Association. Full-time and voluntary faculty, who provide a rich clinical and academic environment, supervise all training.

The Wound Recovery and Hyperbaric Medicine Center at Kent is regional referral center that treats diabetic ulcers, surgical wounds, ostomy care, bone infections and other chronic concerns. The center’s nationally-accredited advanced hyperbaric oxygen chambers are available 24 hours a day for emergency referrals needing immediate intervention.

Register now: CNE Behavioral Health Conference, October 8

CNE employees are encouraged to register for the third annual CNE Behavioral Health Quality Conference taking place in the Ray Conference Center on the Butler Campus on Thursday, October 8 from 2 to 5 p.m. The conference, entitled “The New Era of Care Delivery: Measures that Matter,” is sponsored by the Care New England Behavioral Health service line. Keynote speakers include Dr. Kathleen McCann, director of quality for the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems, who will discuss measurement development and what should be included in behavioral health measures. Dr. James Fanale, CNE chief clinical integration officer and Integra Community Care Network chief clinical officer, will discuss the role of behavioral health in population management and accountable care organizations.

A poster session will be held between the two speaking sessions, allowing attendees to learn about the varying patient populations cared for, as well as the current measures now in place across the system. This program will offer continuing education credits for physicians, nurses and social workers. For more information and to register call (401) 455-6286 or email qualityconference@butler.org.
W&I nurse awarded ‘Future of Nursing Scholars’ honor

Angelita Hensman, RN, of Providence, is among 46 nurses around the country to receive the Future of Nursing Scholars Program Award to support her doctorate study at the University of Rhode Island’s (URI) College of Nursing. The Future of Nursing Scholars Program began last year with an inaugural cohort of 16 scholars which brings the number of nurses it is supporting to 62. Hensman’s scholarship is funded by a Rhode Island Foundation grant totaling $75,000 and a $50,000 scholarship from URI. The University selected her for the nursing scholars program.

She began her career as a staff nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Women & Infants after receiving her bachelor of science degree in nursing from URI in 1985. She went on to become a research nurse and, since 1991, has been the research coordinator for the National Institute of Child Health and Development’s Neonatal Research Network at Women & Infants. She is also a research manager in the pediatric department at the hospital, a role she has had since 2004. In this role, she manages and coordinates all Neonatal Research Network trials—more than 60 studies to date—at Women & Infants.

Fewer than one percent of the nation’s three million nurses have doctorate degrees in nursing or a related field. In addition, the average age at which nurses get their doctorates in the United States is 46, 13 years older than those in other fields. Today, graduates are encouraged to continue their higher education sooner, and many bachelor of science and nursing doctoral programs allow for a seamless transition. This scholarship through the Rhode Island Foundation and URI will enable Hensman to reduce her workload at Women & Infants so she can pursue her doctorate on a full-time basis and complete it in three years, which is one of the primary goals of the nursing scholars program.

Angelleen Peters-Lewis, RN, PhD, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Women & Infants, said, “In the new health care environment, the interprofessional team will need to design and test interventions aimed at promoting a culture of health. Nurses play an essential leadership role in the redesign of health care. We are thrilled that the Future of Nursing Scholar program will prepare Angelita with the skills necessary to be a leader in health care as well as generate new knowledge for clinical practice.”

Take me out to the ballgame—one last time

Watch our beloved PawSox take the field as this summer’s season comes to a close. Care New England has free tickets for the game against the Buffalo Bisons on Labor Day, Monday, September 7. Opening ceremonies kick off at 12:45 p.m., and first pitch is 1:05 p.m. If interested, email PawSoxTix@carene.org. Tickets will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.