

# carenews

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Good day!

I am sure there is not one of you out there whose circle of family or friends has not been touched by the heartbreak of Alzheimer’s or dementia. Indeed, the numbers tell the story of an epidemic, with more than five million Americans living with Alzheimer’s and as many as 16 million projected to have the disease by 2050. In Rhode Island, this translates into approximately 27,000 individuals age 65 and older being diagnosed by 2025, with almost 40 percent between the ages of 75 and 84. When you consider that nearly one in every three seniors who dies each year has Alzheimer’s or another form of dementia, it is clear that the toll of this disease is both devastating and staggering.

Thankfully, right here at Care New England, our colleagues at Butler Hospital are doing something about it.

Led by Stephen Salloway, MD, MS, the Memory and Aging Program at Butler has been pioneering new insights and new treatments for Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and other memory disorders. Dr. Salloway has served on a number of national and international committees, including the Medical Advisory Board, Alzheimer’s Federation of America, Guidelines for the Treatment of Dementia Panel, American Academy of Neurology, and the Scientific Program Committee of the Third Congress of the International Society for Vascular, Behavioral, and Cognitive Disorders, and he has authored or co-authored more than 200 journal articles, book chapters, and abstracts on a wide range of aging topics and has made more than 250 presentations on such topics as early diagnosis and treatment of AD, vascular dementia, stroke and dementia, white matter and dementia, new treatments of memory disorders, the genetics of dementia, and so on. It’s no wonder that Butler and the Memory and Aging Program team are recognized worldwide for their contributions to the body of knowledge about Alzheimer’s and memory disorders.

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Our team is not working alone. As part of the Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation and the University of California, San Francisco's innovative internet-based Brain Health Registry, Butler is now partnering with other institutions to grow a global registry of potential Alzheimer's clinical trial candidates and help speed the discovery of a treatment for Alzheimer's disease by 2025. The goal is to add 40,000 new registry members to the growing global registry by the third quarter of 2016. In creating a large and readily available pool of clinical trial candidates located near major research sites, the Global Alzheimer's Platform will reduce the time it takes and the cost of recruiting for clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease. And, perhaps most importantly, by addressing key scientific issues regarding the identification of people at risk for Alzheimer's before symptoms appear, the initiative hopes to provide prevention medicines, enabling management of the disease without symptoms, much like we have seen with HIV medicines preventing the onset of AIDS or new heart medicines preventing heart disease.

We can all help in this work. We can join or encourage others to sign up for the Brain Health Registry. Those who are normal and healthy as well as those with early signs of memory loss can take part in this global effort to pioneer a cure. Registration is easy and free at <http://brainhealthregistry.org>.

There are also a number of studies based at Butler investigating different stages of the disease, which will enable researchers to better understand the brain, the causes of Alzheimer's and other types of dementia, the genetic risk factors associated with memory disorder and possible preventive treatments. These include testing the effectiveness of several medications to prevent, reverse or slow down Alzheimer's effects on the brain and the symptoms of short- and long-term memory loss. Additionally, researchers are gathering genetic information to determine how Alzheimer's may be passed down generation to generation.

The Butler research team is ready to assess eligibility for current or future studies, including:

- Healthy people, age 65 to 85, with no loss of memory symptoms testing a medication's ability to prevent Alzheimer's.
- Memory-impaired individuals, age 50 to 85, testing a medication's ability to reverse or slow the decline of memory function.
- Individuals with a short life expectancy from a terminal illness have a specialized PET scan image of the brain and after death have a brain autopsy to confirm the efficacy of the scan's ability to accurately detect signs of Alzheimer's.
- Individuals age 50 or older willing to include demographic and health profile information in a secure international database of potential participants in pending clinical trials with the goal of developing a cure and/or prevention for Alzheimer's disease.

If you are interested in learning more, visit <http://butler.org/memory> or call (401) 455-6403 to contact our research team.

Help spread the word. Together we can continue to make a difference for our patients and our community.

Have a great week ahead.

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## Women & Infants researchers publish on connection between anal cancer and HPV



Researchers at Women & Infants recently published the results of a study demonstrating a connection between anal cancer and human papillomavirus (HPV) infection.

The study—entitled “Anal Cytology and Human Papillomavirus Genotyping in Women with a History of Lower Genital Tract Neoplasia Compared with Low-Risk Women”—was published in a recent issue of the professional journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

The publication extends the research of Katina Robison, MD, of the Program in Women’s Oncology at Women & Infants. The initial research, presented at the 2014 HPV Conference, indicated an increased likelihood that the two diseases would coexist in some women.

“HPV is associated with anal cancer, which is more common among women. In 2014 alone, there were 7,200 cases of anal cancer noted and 4,500 of them are women. We believe that certain women with a history of an HPV-related genital infection would benefit greatly from anal cancer screening,” says Dr. Robison, who is also an assistant professor and co-director of colposcopy at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Anal cancer screening is routinely performed using anal cytology in HIV positive men and women, as well as in men having sex with men. Knowing that anal cancer is five times more likely in women with a history of cervical, vaginal or vulvar cancer, which are all linked to HPV, Dr. Robison wanted to evaluate the feasibility of screening HIV negative women with anal cytology and HPV testing.

The research—conducted from December 2012 to February 2014—examined 273 women recruited through Women & Infants’ outpatient clinics. Anal cytology and HPV genotyping were performed. All women with abnormal anal cytology were referred for high-resolution anoscopy. Biopsies were also conducted at the discretion of the colorectal surgeon.

The 273 women were divided into two groups—the “high-risk group” who had a history of cervical, vaginal or vulvar cancer, and the “low-risk group” who had no history of cancer, dysplasia or abnormal Pap smears. Of those, 40 percent of the high-risk group and 21.7 percent of the low-risk group were found to have abnormal anal cytology. In the high-risk group, 20.8 percent were found to have high-risk HPV, but only 1.2 percent of the low-risk group.

The study also included the work of other scientists affiliated with Women & Infants. Listed as co-authors were: Beth Cronin, MD; Melissa Clark, MD; Christine Luis, MS; Paul DiSilvestro, MD; Steven Schecter, MD; Latha Pisharodi, MD; Christina Raker, ScD; Amy Bregar, MD; and Joel Palefsky, MD.

{ For more information, please contact the Program in Women’s Oncology at Women & Infants at (401) 453-7520. }

## Women & Infants among America’s Best Hospitals for Cancer Care for second year

Women & Infants has received the 2016 Women’s Choice Award® as one of America’s Best Hospitals for Cancer Care for the second consecutive year (<http://bit.ly/1owEzH>). This evidence-based designation is the only cancer care award that identifies the country’s best health care institutions based on robust criteria that consider female patient satisfaction, clinical excellence, and what women say they want from a hospital.

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2015-2016  
WOMEN’S CHOICE AWARD®



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Last month, Women & Infants was also named one of America's Best Hospitals for Obstetrics (<http://bit.ly/1QTyFqq>).

The 366 award winners represent hospitals that have been accredited by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer, signifying Women & Infants' commitment to meeting the highest standards in cancer care.

"We are so proud of this honor and to be recognized again among some of the best hospitals in our country for cancer care," said Mark R. Marcantano, president and chief operating officer at Women & Infants. "Our Program in Women's Oncology is one of the nation's leading services for the diagnosis, treatment and research of women's cancers. We are very gratified that this excellence is being recognized."

The 2016 America's Best Hospitals for Cancer Care must have received accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer as well as any of the following: a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designated Comprehensive Cancer program, a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program, an Integrated Network Cancer Program, or an Academic Comprehensive Cancer Program. Selected hospitals were then given a score based on their patient recommendation rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Hospital Consumer Assessment for Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey.

Additional criteria considered are if a hospital offered on-site chemotherapy, radiation or hospice, and cancer research activities. Hospitals were penalized for having high infection rates.

## Ethics seminar: Stigma in Mental Health



In an effort to bring greater awareness and understanding of ethical issues that may arise in the psychiatric clinical setting, the Butler Hospital Ethics Committee offers quarterly educational programs focused on ethical issues in psychiatry. This year's first program titled "Stigma in Mental Health: Part Two" will take place on Wednesday, March 2, from 12 to 1 p.m., in Ray Hall on the Butler Campus. The program, provided by Brandon Gaudiano, PhD, research psychologist at Butler, will address ethical issues, interpersonal behaviors and sensitivity to diversity, in both patient-provider and professional situations. Professional education credits are available. The program is free of charge, but registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Jordan Robison at [JMRobison@Butler.org](mailto:JMRobison@Butler.org).

## EpicEdu upgrades assist in EMR implementation

CNE's Information Services department has announced the launch of an upgrade to EpicEdu, the website designed to provide a user-friendly online resource to assist in the ongoing implementation of EpicAmbulatory at Care New England. In addition to improved graphics and revised user interface, the EpicEdu platform now allows individuals to more quickly and easily access content related to their specific job functions. More changes, including the addition of Epic Workflow are coming soon to EpicEdu. To access the enhanced site, visit <https://epicedu.carenewengland.org/promisepoint>.



## VNA of Care New England calling for Hospice volunteers

The VNA of Care New England is looking for Hospice volunteers who will help make a difference for patients and their families. There are many volunteer opportunities available for direct patient support and clerical assistance to the hospice volunteer program, including:

- Companionship and supportive listening for hospice patients.
- Respite for caregivers (giving the caregiver a brief break while volunteer remains physically present with the patient).
- Meal preparation.
- Errands.
- Transportation.
- Spiritual support.
- Bereavement support.
- Vigil/Serenity Sitter (remaining present with the patient toward their final moments of life).
- Hobbies (knitting, sewing, scrapbooking, playing music, playing cards, chess, checkers, etc.).
- Telephone contact with patients and caregivers.
- Administrative office support for volunteer program.



VNA of Care New England

Skilled Nursing • Rehab Services • Hospice • Private Duty Home Care

VNA of Care New England volunteers have the opportunity to help others, meet new people, retain old skills and gain new ones. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact VNA of Care New England Hospice volunteer coordinator, Kiel Mitchell at [kwmittchell@vnacarenewengland.org](mailto:kwmittchell@vnacarenewengland.org).

## Kent honors DAISY recipient

Kent Hospital recently presented Kristen Frias, RN, of the Psychiatric Care Unit, (PCU), the hospital's January 2016, DAISY Award. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the above-and-beyond efforts performed by nurses every day.

Kristen was nominated by a patient who wrote, "Kristen goes the extra mile for her patients and their families, she stands above the rest. Kristen's professionalism is an understatement—she strives for perfection and it shows. I am very happy to have had a nurse like Kristen."

"It is a pleasure to recognize Kristen for all of her hard work and dedication to her patients and Kent Hospital," said Rebecca Burke, RN, MS, NEA-BC, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer, Kent Hospital. "In Kristen's nomination you can feel the appreciation of the patients as they explain how they were comforted to have Kristen as their nurse. We strive for the best patient care here at Kent Hospital and Kristen demonstrated that. Thank you Kristen."

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.

If you would like to nominate an extraordinary nurse who you encountered at Kent Hospital, you can submit an application to <http://kentri.org/daisyaward>. Fellow providers and patients may also nominate a nurse for the award.



DAISY honoree Kristen Frias, RN, center, is shown here with Rebecca Burke RN, MS, NEA-BC, senior vice president patient care services and chief nursing officer, on right, along with Kent Hospital nurse managers and hospital leaders.



## Nursing highlight: Laura's quest to help pregnant women in recovery

Laura Aussant of The Providence Center is one of the many Care New England nurses who is going above and beyond their job descriptions to find innovative ways of providing care. Recently, she spearheaded a weekly support group called "Baby on Board" to provide women who are pregnant or have recently given birth with education, support and resources to help ensure a healthy pregnancy and postpartum period.

Laura entered the nursing field just three years ago and hit the ground running, although she wasn't always so interested in the behavioral health aspect of care. "At first, I didn't want anything to do with psych. I tried as hard as I could to avoid it!"

Like many nurses, Laura started her career in a nursing home and came to find geriatric psychology work genuinely fulfilling. This newfound passion led to her role at the Dual Diagnosis Unit at Roger Williams Hospital doing inpatient psych work. She liked the position, but wanted something more family-oriented. She started at TPC last June in the Community Support Program, and soon after took a float nurse position which was exactly what she was looking for. "Not being restricted to a caseload really allows you to focus in on the nursing aspect and helping people. It's truly fun for me."

In addition to all her day-to-day duties work, Laura serves as a TPC nursing representative on the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) task force, a subcommittee of the Rhode Island State Opioid Prevention and Intervention task force that seeks to improve the clinical care of babies with NAS and enhance the support provided to their families.

A few months ago, Laura began to notice an influx of pregnant women to TPC programs. "I thought 'What if we started a group for pregnant women?' There's not much else like that at The Providence Center for that niche, and we could provide some really valuable info and support."

Next week, we'll talk to Laura about how the program came together to help pregnant women in need.



## Care New England Information Security Alert

Most people who regularly use computer systems are familiar with viruses, but other threats also exist to these systems. Ransomware and Malware are two forms of threats to peoples' data. Some of the most recent threats we are seeing come in the form of Ransomware, which usually arrives in the form of an email containing suspicious links or documents. In order to protect yourselves, our patients and CNE from these types of attacks here are few tips to follow if you run across a suspicious email.



- **DO NOT OPEN emails, links or attachments from email addresses you do not recognize or are not expecting.**
- **DO NOT try to respond to the emails or forward by mobile phone.**
- **DO NOT take an action when prompted by a message in a file attachment.**
- **IMMEDIATELY contact the HELP DESK (401) 921-1000 or [HelpDesk@CareNE.org](mailto:HelpDesk@CareNE.org) to report these emails or any other suspicious emails.**

It's also important that you pass the word to colleagues who may not have seen this message, but may be affected. This also applies to your personal email accounts, and should follow the same precautions to protect your personal data. [cne](#)

