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"Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity."

- Hippocrates

Follow Hartford Hospital on [facebook](#), [youtube](#) and [twitter](#)

1959: The first successful traumatic thoracic aortic repair in the U.S. was performed at Hartford Hospital by Dr. Max Zehnder.
Chief's Corner

- Dr. Jack Greene, Hartford HealthCare Regional Vice President of Medical Affairs for the Hartford Region and Hartford Hospital

Just Ask Us!

We have put in place a dedicated email box for the medical staff, called "Ask Jack." The emails will be picked up each day, and I will be responsible for making sure that you receive feedback. Send your concerns to askjack@hhchealth.org.

In addition, there is a dedicated email box to ask questions of Dr. Stu Markowitz. Send your questions or comments to StuandYou@hhchealth.org, and you'll get a response from Stu within 10 days.

Heart Failure Bridge Clinic Helps Avoid 30-day Readmission

The Bridge Clinic teaches patients with heart failure (HF) how to manage their HF and avoid 30-day readmission. The clinic is located on JB-208.

Patients are monitored weekly for the first month after discharge. The private cardiologist remains in charge of the care and is informed of all changes.

Key benefits of participating are early medicine reconciliation, ISTAT office blood work, and volume assessment and management. Patients unable to manage their volume with PO diuretics are seen immediately at the Infusion Center across the hall for IV diuretics.

Every patient with HF who is discharged from Hartford Hospital should be referred to the Heart Failure Bridge Clinic. If you have such a patient, call Nicole Chomick (860-972-3255) or Amy Majewski (860-972-0121), to make the appointment for you and meet the patient prior to discharge. You may also make a referral in EPIC (Provider Bridge), All-scripts, or just Tiger Text and we will follow up.

Stop Using Disclaimers in Epic Notes

Dr. Spencer Erman, Hartford HealthCare Vice President and Chief Medical Informatics Officer

It has been reported that physicians are using a disclaimer in medical records that reads:

"Disclaimer: This note was prepared using voice recognition software and direct typing. Please excuse inadvertent transcription or typing errors, or uncorrected word substitutions."

Please note that Hartford HealthCare does not allow the use of disclaimers in medical record documentation.

Please be aware that disclaimers will not protect you from any type of litigation. Always carefully read all notes before final signature to ensure accuracy.

PLEASE STOP using disclaimers from your notes immediately.

2016: A Great Year for the Transplant Program

Dr. Patricia Sheiner, Chief, Transplant Medicine

Last year was amazing for the transplant program. In 2016, we successfully transitioned to a new team, welcoming Dr. Bejon Maneckshana and Dr. Yong Kwon, multi-organ surgeons.

We sailed through our liver, heart, and kidney CMS survey and performed 99 transplants - the most since 2004.

Kudos to the entire hospital: OR, ICU, Inpatient units and transplant staff that worked so hard to make this successful.

Dr. Caroline Rochon, the new kidney director, has helped organize our kidney team. We have listed more patients who are active on the list, and our transplant volume continues to grow. We have also successfully
decreased length of stay.

We are also in the process of opening a dedicated Hepatitis C clinic which will increase our ability to treat and manage this difficult patient population.

I am pleased with what we accomplished in 2016 and have even greater hopes for the new year.

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**From the President of the Medical Staff**

*Dr. Stacy Nerenstone, President of the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff*

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**Seeking Nominations for Medical Staff Awards**

We are seeking nominations for the 2017 Medical Staff Awards, which honor individuals on the Medical Staff who have made exceptional contributions to the medical community.

If you know of someone you would like to nominate, please send their name, category (see list below) and a brief narrative as to why you feel they should receive the award to my attention at your earliest convenience.

Awards will be presented at the Board of Directors and Medical Staff Spring Event which will be held on June 8 at 6 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

**Categories**

**DAVID HULL, MD YOUNG PRACTITIONER AWARD**

For recognition of leadership, excellence in clinical care and research, innovation, teaching, advocacy and activism on behalf of the art and science of medicine and the Hartford Hospital community.

**JOHN K. SPRINGER HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

For extraordinary qualities of compassion, civility, vision and integrity that set an example for all future generations of caregivers at Hartford Hospital.

**PHYSICIAN IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD**

For recognition of exceptional leadership in philanthropy through work, commitment, personal giving and unending care and concern for mankind on behalf of Hartford Hospital.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

For extraordinary and sustained contribution to the health and welfare of the citizens of our community by advancing the science of medicine in his/her field, and for the exemplary initiative, creativity and long term commitment to the vision of Hartford Hospital.

**QUALITY & SAFETY AWARD**

For outstanding commitment to quality improvement, safety and learning directed toward enhancing the patient experience, improving clinical outcomes and making our workplace a safer environment.

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**From the Hospital President**

*Dr. Stu Markowitz, Senior VP, HHC, and Hartford Region President*

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**Black and Red Supports Neuroscience Institute**

Hartford Hospital held its 26th successful Black & Red gala Jan. 28. It’s a spectacular event, not just because of the beautiful Bushnell location and the wonderful people who attend, but primarily because of its purpose: to fund innovation and the state-of-the-art services we offer and to support our outstanding staff.

This year’s event, dedicated to further developing our Neuroscience Institute, was particularly special. Two families made truly transformational donations that will help us build a national destination for the best possible care for the full spectrum of neurological diseases. These gifts come to us because of our excellent staff and our commitment to delivering the very highest level of complex, comprehensive care - not just in neurosciences but in every specialty, every day.
The family of David Chase, a well-known philanthropist and leader, gave a gift to our Movement Disorders Center, which his family recognizes offers care and services unlike any other institution in our region. The center will become the David and Rhoda Chase Family Movement Disorders Center.

Our other gift comes from Ramani and Louise Ayer, visionary leaders who recognize the expertise and commitment of our clinicians and leadership. Ramani’s work with Hartford Hospital and Hartford HealthCare spans decades as a former hospital board chair and as a founding member of Hartford HealthCare Board. He has played a central role in the strategic growth and development of our healthcare system, helping us recognize our enormous opportunities to provide world-class care right here in Connecticut.

Through Ramani and Louise’s gift, our Neurosciences programs will become the Ayer Neuroscience Institute.

Over the years, gifts such as these have helped make Hartford Hospital the great institution it is today - a destination for innovative and complex care, delivered by compassionate, talented experts and a beacon of hope for the patients and communities who need us most.

Also at the Black & Red, Hartford Hospital launched a Think Fast campaign to raise community awareness of stroke.

Our stroke center was the first recognized and accredited comprehensive stroke center in New England and among the very first in the country. Today, one in eight stroke patients in the state is treated at Hartford Hospital.

And as you may know, time is of the essence in recognizing and managing stroke. The Hartford Hospital team’s ability to respond at any time, any day with rapid and effective treatments places us in the top one percent of stroke centers in the nation.

Successful treatment of stroke requires that we Think F.A.S.T., recognize the symptoms and call for help. As you know, F.A.S.T. is an acronym for:

- F - Face drooping
- A - Arm weakness
- S - Speech difficulty
- T - Time to call 911

We are committed to spreading the word to educate our communities, and hope you will join us in promoting this campaign.

Top News

Healthgrades names top hospitals for clinical excellence: HH, MMC and HOCC Among five in CT

Hartford Hospital, Midstate Medical Center, The Hospital of Central Connecticut are among five hospitals in Connecticut named by Healthgrades as among 258 recipients of the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence. According to the Healthgrades evaluation, these hospitals are among the top 5 percent in the nation that deliver high quality care in at least 21 of 32 common inpatient conditions and procedures.

During the 2017 study period -- inpatient stays from 2013-2015 -- these hospitals, as a group, had a 26.2 percent lower risk adjusted in-hospital mortality rate across 19 procedures and conditions where mortality was the clinical outcome, compared to all other hospitals. During this same period, if all other hospitals performed at the level of those facilities across those 19 procedures and conditions, 160,322 lives could potentially have been saved.

Healthgrades compared hospitals receiving the award, as a group, to those who did not receive the award as a group. It found that, compared to non-recipient hospitals, patients treated in hospitals receiving the award had, on average, a 22.5 percent lower risk of dying of a heart attack; a 30.5 percent lower risk of dying of heart failure; a 36.7 percent lower risk of dying of pneumonia; a 25 percent lower risk of dying of stroke; a 25.1 percent lower risk of dying of sepsis; and a 24.4 percent lower risk of dying of respiratory failure.

"High marks in clinical quality are a major differentiator for hospitals, and have a profound effect on consumers when they make decisions about where to receive care," said Brad Bowman, MD, Healthgrades' chief medical officer, in a statement.

Middlesex Hospital and Saint Francis Care were also on the list.
Cafeteria Renovations Begin Tomorrow

Renovations to the Hartford Hospital Cafeteria will begin on Monday, Jan. 30. To prepare for construction, the current cafeteria serving space closed at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27. Service through the duration of the renovation will be offered in a temporary service area set up where the condiments and utensils are currently located.

A full menu will be offered with the exception of French fries, frozen yogurt, fountain sodas. Additionally, the Exhibition Station with specially made salads and sandwiches will not be available. Hours of operation will remain the same.

The renovation will allow us to expand our hot and cold menu selections and provide a better dining experience for our customers. Renovations are expected to be completed in early spring.

Hartford HealthCare, GoHealth to Open Urgent Care Centers in Central and Eastern Connecticut

Hartford Business Journal

Hartford HealthCare and GoHealth Urgent Care are joining forces to open urgent care centers in central and eastern Connecticut.

The two companies plan to open up to 15 co-branded centers within the first 18 months that they do business together, beginning this spring.

Each Hartford HealthCare-GoHealth Urgent Care center will operate seven days a week with extended evening hours, and will welcome walk-in patients and allow online check-in.

The centers' exam rooms will provide charting on a wide screen, mobile x-ray equipment and electronic medical records that can be accessed by caregivers across the Hartford HealthCare network, the companies said.

One of the largest urgent care companies in the U.S., GoHealth operates nearly 60 urgent care centers in New York and Portland, Ore., metropolitan areas, as well as in the San Francisco Bay area.

Hartford Hospital Expansion Targets High-tech Training

The nearly 30,000-square-foot addition to the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) will boost its longstanding and ever-evolving array of training capabilities and services, which include surgical and other medical certifications, mock training exercises and medical device and product testing.

http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/20170123/PRINTEDITION/301199910

A Big Night for Neurosciences: Black & Red Raises over $1 Million; 2 Major Gifts Announced

Hartford HealthCare’s Neuroscience Institute took a major step forward Saturday with Hartford Hospital’s 26th annual Black & Red raising more than $1 million for the institute, and the announcement of two transformational gifts benefiting the institute.

Multi-million-dollar gifts from the Chase family and from Ramani and Louise Ayer will help to advance the institute’s goal of being a national destination for the highest-quality care for the full spectrum of neurological diseases.

The Chase gift will be recognized with the naming of the David and Rhoda Chase Family Movement Disorders Center. Last year, Greater Hartford lost a tremendous leader and philanthropist with the passing of David Chase. His legacy as a successful entrepreneur and advocate for Hartford and Connecticut is being carried on by his wife, Rhoda; his son, Arnold; his daughter, Cheryl; and the entire Chase family. Their gift will help to advance the center’s deep brain stimulation capabilities, the most complex surgical treatment for Parkinson’s disease; enhance other patient programs and services; and assist in the center’s geographic expansion. The gift will also support a neurology fellowship in movement disorders.

In recognition of the gift from Ramani and Louise Ayer, the Neuroscience Institute will be named the Ayer Neuroscience Institute. Louise and Ramani Ayer have been visionary leaders at the hospital for decades. Ramani Ayer, former CEO and chair of The Hartford, has played a central role in the strategic growth and development of the Hartford HealthCare system. He is a former chair of the Hartford Hospital Board of Directors and a founding member and former chair of the Hartford HealthCare Board of Directors.
“Thanks to such tremendous generosity and to other gifts, our Neuroscience Institute will take research to a new level and increase our understanding of the brain so we can translate that knowledge into new treatments,” said Hartford Hospital President Stuart K. Markowitz, MD, as he welcomed more than 1,000 guests and supporters to the hospital's signature fund-raising event, the Black & Red, on Saturday, January 28.

Held at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, the gala celebrated the Neuroscience Institute with a night of dining, dancing, and featured entertainment by Fitz & The Tantrums. Through gifts, ticket sales, and sponsorships, the gala raised more than $1 million to benefit the institute. It is the fifth consecutive year that community support of the Black & Red has raised over $1 million for hospital programs.

Hartford Hospital recently established the Neuroscience Institute to expand neuroscience services in Connecticut. Mark J. Alberts, MD, a nationally renowned physician leader, educator, and healthcare executive, was named physician-in-chief of the institute last fall.

The institute has a specially trained, dedicated staff of neurologists, neurosurgeons, advanced practitioners, nurses, neuro-interventional radiologists, and a full team of other experts. They all come together to offer comprehensive care for a broad spectrum of neurological diseases, including epilepsy, stroke, movement disorders, hearing and balance problems, headaches, sleep disorders, spinal issues, and pain. The institute also offers home care, rehabilitation, and behavioral health care to help ensure that patients receive all the necessary care they need to make their lives better.

The Movement Disorders Center is led by board-certified neurologists J. Antonelle de Marcoida, MD, a fellowship-trained subspecialist in movement disorders and experimental therapeutics, and Duarte Machado, MD, formerly director of neurology, Department of Specialty Services at the Yale University School of Medicine. The Movement Disorders Center gives patients with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders a path to improved quality of life with treatment options that range from medication to neurosurgery.

GOP Promise To Repeal Obamacare Worries Physicians And Hospitals

InsuranceNewsNet

"There are certainly flaws in the Affordable Care Act but partisan squabbling never allowed for the ability to repair a less-than-perfect bill," said Dr. Rocco Orlando, senior vice president and chief medical officer for the Hartford HealthCare system, which operates five acute care hospitals, two behavioral health hospitals and a myriad of outpatient programs across the region.

"I become concerned anytime there is a rush to do something this complicated this quickly," Orlando said. "We just run the risk of getting something wrong." https://www.insurancenewsnet.com/article/gop-promise-to-repeal-obamacare-worries-physicians-and-hospitals

Excellence

New Scoring System Gauges Risk of GI Surgeries in Pregnancy

Mediagenic Today

Published in JAMA Surgery, researchers led by Adam Sachs, MD, of Hartford Hospital have said that appendectomies and cholecystectomies are the most common non-obstetric surgeries during pregnancy, with about 2,800 and 2,000 procedures respectively performed annually on pregnant women.

They said that as prior research focused on diagnosis and surgical management of appendicitis and cholecystitis instead of pregnancy outcomes.

Obstetrical risk factors, instead of risk factors associated with maternal characteristics, disease severity, or surgical technique, are most associated with negative pregnancy outcomes after appendectomy and cholecystectomy during pregnancy. Risk factors such as cervical incompetence, preterm labor, and vaginal infections were strongly associated with a pregnant woman's risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes if she underwent an appendectomy or cholecystectomy, researchers found.

Researchers devised a scoring system to determine the risk categories for pregnant women undergoing these surgeries. Women in the highest risk group were associated with a 21.8% chance of an adverse pregnancy outcome, while women in the lowest risk group had a 2.5% chance of an adverse outcome.
"Accurate maternal counseling regarding anticipated outcomes following non-obstetric surgery during pregnancy remain challenging in clinical practice," they wrote.

Rehmer honored for a legacy of advocacy

Patricia Rehmer, Hartford HealthCare senior vice president and president of the Behavioral Health Network, received the Bob Savage Recovery Advocate of the Year Award at the annual meeting of Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

The award, named after the CCAR founder, is given annually to those who have made a lasting impact for people in recovery by consistently advocating for their interests and influencing decision-makers at all levels to support their needs.

Rehmer was recognized for the impact she has had on those recovering from addiction issues, both in her current role as BHN president and her previous role as Commissioner of the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. As the state’s most prominent figure in the effort to end discrimination against those who are suffering from addiction, Rehmer consistently fought for resources to support recovery programs and found innovative ways to partner with other organizations when faced with budget cuts, said John Hamilton, president of the CCAR Board of Directors.

Wear Red on Feb. 3 to Raise Awareness of Women’s Heart Health

Friday, Feb. 3, is National Wear Red Day - a day within Heart Month to raise awareness of women’s heart health. Heart disease and stroke cause 1 in 3 deaths among women each year, killing approximately one woman every 80 seconds, according to the American Heart Association. Fortunately, we have the power to change that because 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action, including ThinkFAST! Help raise awareness of women’s heart health by wearing red on Friday, Feb. 3, and encouraging others to do the same.

Flu cases seen as 'widespread' in Connecticut

"The mainstay of flu prevention remains vaccination," said Dr. Jack Ross, chief of infectious disease at Hartford Hospital, a facility in the Hartford HealthCare system.

http://www.centralctcommunications.com/newbritainherald/article_11e88868-d93a-11e6-aa6f-17927593e27e.html

Research and Academics

Volunteers Needed for a Research Study Aiming to Detect Cancer Earlier

HHC is conducting a research study to determine if a new blood test can be used to detect cancer earlier than standard screening tests.

We are seeking participants to make a study-related blood donation for laboratory analysis.

Participants may qualify if they:

- are at least 20 years of age
- are not pregnant
- do not feel feverish or have an inflammatory disease
- have never had cancer before (skin cancer other than melanoma is acceptable) or have recently been diagnosed with cancer but have not yet started treatment

Qualified participants will receive a $25 check card after their blood donation. To participate please contact 860.972.1588.

Clinical Trials Being Offered at HHC
Research is a critical aspect of our being the destination for innovative and complex care.

Through our membership in the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance, Hartford HealthCare is now offering more than 20 clinical trials to our patients, giving them access to innovative new treatments right here at home.

Our Neuroscience Center also is offering a number of clinical trials in our overall efforts to improve patient outcomes.

Accepting New Patients? We Can Help

Help New Patients Find You

Hartford HealthCare offers physicians a free powerful tool to help reach potential patients. The system-wide "Find A Doctor" search feature on our website helps potential patients connect with appropriate physicians when they need care.

Patients' searches lead to doctors' online profiles, which are based on information physicians provide to the Medical Staff Office. Details on education, specialty, office locations, languages spoken, biography and any promotional videos are displayed, helping patients make vitally important decisions in choosing a physician.

The HHC Planning and Marketing team is committed to making sure this online information is correct. Please spend a few moments reviewing your profile at HartfordHealthCare.org/verify. Click the "Physician Feedback Form" on the right hand side of your profile to submit changes.

You will need your NPI number to verify your identity. The "Accepting New Patients" filter is set as the default to help patients connect with physicians who are taking new patients. If you are no longer accepting new patients, please let us know. Changes to your profile will be made within three business days.

Operational Update

Patients in Need of Financial Assistance

Do you know a patient who is in need of financial assistance?

Hartford HealthCare can provide help to patients in need. Learn more about the program and how to assist patients on HHC Connect: https://intranet.hartfordhealthcare.org/inside-hhc/patient-support

Remind a Colleague: Wash In, Wash Out

All health care workers and patients should feel comfortable reminding any other health care worker to sanitize regardless of their role. This should always be done in a courteous and constructive manner. All health care workers should respond courteously and gratefully when reminded.

If you remind another health care worker to sanitize, and he or she responds with irritation or hostility, please notify their department chief, Dr. Jack Greene or Dr. Jack Ross, who will communicate with them to prevent recurrences.

Improving Doctor-to-Doctor Communication: TigerText

A Free Tool To Help You

We all want to do what is best for our patients. Problems in communication between hospital providers, consultants, and community providers has been identified as a major source of dissatisfaction for both patients and physicians. And it can lead to gaps in patient care.
Hartford Hospital has invested in a tool to help providers improve communication. It is a HIPAA compliant texting service called TigerText, and we are offering it to the medical staff at no charge.

TigerText allows a provider to send brief text messages, with patient identifiers, to another provider on the system. Examples of texts include quick reports of a procedure, notification of discharge, questions about medications, etc. There is an option to alert people if you are on vacation, and the notices that are sent are marked as read when they are opened by the recipient.

We are anxious for all of our Medical Staff to enroll in this free application. It is VERY easy to use, even for those of us who have problems with new technology. We urge everyone to register and get on this useful and HIPAA compliant system today—it will make your job easier and improve patient safety.

Here is a TigerText Request form with directions on how to get TigerText: You can download the form here

For further help with this, feel free to contact John.Rogalsky@hhchealth.org (860-972-3207).

Any problems not resolved by the TigerText Help line can be referred to Dr. Marc Palter at Marc.Palter@hhchealth.org.

Hartford Hospital Media Coverage

Seeking Physician Writers on Women’s Health Topics for Our Patient Health News Hub

The HHC Planning and Marketing Department is developing a women’s health newsletter, which will be featured on the new “Health Newshub.” They are seeking physician volunteers to write and answer FAQs regarding women’s health issues.

Called "What you need to know about...", the monthly newsletter will cover a variety of topics. We are looking for physician experts to contribute short explanations on topics such as: diabetes; menopause; family planning; uterine fibroids; heavy or painful menstrual periods; depression; uterine or ovarian cancer; osteoarthritis; high blood pressure; Fibromyalgia; chronic fatigue; neck, back and shoulder pain; exercise; weight loss; and naturopathic remedies.

We can provide editing services to content expert writers. Physician writers and their practices will be named and highlighted in the newsletter.

If you are interested in participating, either on a one-time or ongoing basis, please contact Christine LaSala at Christine.lasala@hhchealth.org.

The following links provide access to download the Bone and Joint Institute Launch TV spots.

MOV: https://files.adamsknight.com/_7RIFvEdKUYyZxR

MP4: https://files.adamsknight.com/_0IIfiDG_UYsZHR

Media Coverage Wrap-Up

Dr. Craig Allen on FOX 61/Meriden Police Press Conference on Narcan Training: https://youtu.be/GiX5Kbe8hpk

Dr. Virginia Beiluch on NBC CT/FLU: https://youtu.be/-jq3y-ZcBNo


Dr. Andrew Salner was interviewed on WFSB on medical marijuana. https://youtu.be/9zZ7SDG7Eyk

Dr. Aaron Shafer appeared on FOX 61 to discuss the findings of a study that revealed that more than half of the women diagnosed with cervical cancer did not receive treatment considered to be standard of care.
Dr. Paul Thompson on WTIC AM Radio/Statins: https://soundcloud.com/hartford-healthcare/thompson-on-statins-with-ray-dunaway-01202017/s-HO11m

Dr. Paul Thompson quoted in HealthDay on statin alternative: ‘Red Yeast Rice’ Statin Alternative Not Harmless Either, Study Says The supplements linked to muscle pain, other adverse effects similar to statins.

A feature on central sterile supply at the Bone & Joint Institute aired on WFSB, Ch. 3. https://youtu.be/47bOhGcItW0


Connect to Healthier on NBC-CT

HHC's two-minute "Connect to Healthier" segment airs each Sunday at 9:20 a.m. and it’s posted fresh each Monday on HHC Connect, our Intranet.

TAVR

This segment focused on TAVR, and the first time doctors at HH utilized a new approach through the carotid artery. https://youtu.be/GtzteutnFUI

The Gift of Life

They are called “Good Samaritan” donors-organ donors who are unrelated to the recipient, and they are life savers. There is an extensive screening process to ensure all potential donors are medically and psychologically suitable. This is one woman’s story. https://www.dropbox.com/s/wbmyjt4ciu8eyvnf/122416%20%20Transplant%20Gift.mov?dl=0

Resident Wish Come True

This is about making a lifelong dream come true, more than a New Year’s Resolution. HHC Senior Services teamed up with a local recording studio to grant a wish for one of their residents who always wanted to make a record. https://hartfordhealthcare.org/locations-partners/hartford-healthcare-senior-services

Pain Treatment Center

Debilitating pain can affect every aspect of someone’s life. One woman was nearing the end of her rope when she discovered the Hartford Hospital Pain Treatment Center. http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org:80/ermweb/player?id=eh6CkUyG

https://www.dropbox.com/s/e9nulcag768usi7/120416%20PAIN%20TREATMENT.mov?dl=0

Hartford Hospital Pain Treatment Center

https://youtu.be/3inFYqT4UMM

Recap of the Bone & Joint ribbon cutting

https://youtu.be/S3POcBVx4WM

Holiday eating and eating disorders

https://youtu.be/eZ_GpjF9QrM

Helping Adult Caregivers

Being a caregiver can be tough, but newer programs like Movies & More are helping adult caregivers connect with their aging parents.
New Technology to Treat Sleep Apnea

Jaime Fernando Ortiz couldn't stand his CPAP machine and was one of the first in the state to use a new technology to treat sleep apnea. Hypoglossal nerve stimulation or INSPIRE. https://youtu.be/2xOdLfI1VH8

Running the Marathon With Cancer

Every year, thousands flock to the Hartford Marathon to compete. One man this year- showed us he could tackle anything: 26 miles, even while fighting something else.

John Hayes looks like any athlete training to run a marathon. What you would never suspect is that John has cancer.

http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org:80/ermweb/player?id=dmw6agYU

Healing After an Aneurysm

This is the story of one inspirational young woman who made remarkable progress after an aneurysm ruptured and affected her ability to speak. She and her team never gave up.

The patient made a trip all the way from London to visit with the team on the neurointensive floor that saved her life and her voice.

http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org/ermweb/player?id=9ED911uI

Featuring A Roundup of HHC News

A remarkable achievement for Dr. Brian Grosberg; a grand opening for HHCMG in Bloomfield; and Breast Cancer awareness month. https://youtu.be/9ztEDTzSOi8

Sunday's Connect to Healthier segment on NBC CT highlighted the following events/accolades across HHC:

A remarkable achievement for Dr. Brian Grosberg, a grand opening for HHCMG in Bloomfield and Breast Cancer awareness month.

https://youtu.be/9ztEDTzSOi8

Introducing Hartford HealthCare's News Hub

Hartford HealthCare's new online health news site delivers lively, informative and useful health news in a whole new way. Look for print, video and audio stories produced by HHC's News Service, as well as timely tips on nutrition, fitness, health and wellness, and medical innovations.

http://healthnewshub.org/p/health-news-hub/

Read the latest health news or sign up for our e-newsletter at: healthnewshub.org

Upcoming News Service Content; Share Your Stories

The Hartford HealthCare News Service is actively creating content with media partners across the state. Please let us know if you have great patient stories to share. Share your stories with us so we can share them to a wider audience.

Connect to Healthier

Sundays in the 9 a.m. hour, we broadcast a two minute health segment on NBC CT.

Medical Rounds

Partnership with WFSB. Weekly live interview from the HHC studio at 5:45 p.m.
HealthCare Matters radio program

Every month, Elliot Joseph highlights an important health care related topic with nationally recognized experts on CBS affiliate WTIC-am, NewTalk 1080, Connecticut's largest and most popular talk radio station

Healthier Connections

Monthly partnership with FOX CT.

CT STYLE

Monthly partnership with WTNH.

HHC YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/user/HartfordHospitalCT

Link to contact information across the system: Hartford HealthCare Media Relations Team

Voices of Our Patients

Kudos to Drs. Joseph Wagner

Dr. Joseph Wagner - excellent in all phases.

Anonymous

CME Applications

Interested In Hosting a CME Event?

In order to ensure that your educational event meets the standards established by the ACCME and the CSMS, the HHC CME department has established the following deadlines for submission of CME applications.

To ensure a timely review of your application, we strongly recommend advance planning for all events.

- Complete applications for a recurring series such as Grand Rounds must submitted at least 4 weeks prior to the planned activity.
- For a conference, course, or symposia, a complete application must be submitted at least 12 weeks prior to the event. We strongly encourage activity planners to contact the HH CME department at least 6 to 12 months prior to the date of the course in order to begin the planning process.

We have developed educational resources to assist planners with the application process. Please contact the HHC CME office at ContinuingEd@HHCHealth.org or (860) 972-5816 to schedule an appointment with our team to discuss your CME needs.

CME Offerings on HealthStream Temporarily Unavailable

As we continue to enhance our eLearning through our new system-wide version of HealthStream, we will also be enhancing our online CME offerings.

As of December 1, the current CME programs are no longer be available via HealthStream. Once we have completed the upgrade, we will announce their availability and instructions on how you can access them.

We appreciate your patience during this transformation.

HH In the News
Hartford Hospital expansion targets high-tech training

Hartford Business Journal

Dr. Thomas Nowicki, medical director of Hartford Hospital's expanding CESI facility, uses virtual reality technology his staff is developing to train medical providers.

Last month, contractors at Hartford Hospital were installing doors and making other finishing touches on a state-backed expansion of an already bustling high-tech medical training hub.

The nearly 30,000-square-foot addition to the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) will boost its longstanding and ever-evolving array of training capabilities and services, which includes training certifications for various robotic surgery systems, such as da Vinci and MAKOplasty, and has forged research and development and other partnerships with major companies like Johnson & Johnson, Stanley Black & Decker and Medtronic.

The state granted the project $15 million several years ago and the addition is taking over adjacent space that used to be an employee gym. The expansion was originally slated for completion in 2014, but the hospital said state funding cuts forced administrators to prioritize projects, and the recently opened $150 million Bone & Joint Institute came first. CESI's expanded facility is now expected to open in March.

The center, which has been in its current location since 2010, represents a total investment of more than $34 million. Besides being an economic driver for the surrounding area, administrators hope it can be a financial driver for Hartford Hospital.

Post expansion, Flaks said he expects CESI to break even on its annual budget, which he said is "north of several million dollars."

The expansion aims to bring in more revenue from government training contracts, rental income, philanthropic donations, and manufacturers that want their products evaluated by doctors. Stanley has already donated $500,000 and could increase that amount in the near future, according to Stephen Donahue, the center's program director, who said CESI will be testing equipment for Stanley. A Stanley spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

Some of the corporate arrangements are confidential, but one is with Massachusetts-based Zoll, which makes defibrillators and other devices. CESI and Hartford Hospital doctors provide feedback to Zoll on new products and also help train the company's sales staff. Zoll pays rent and CESI doctors receive stipends for evaluating products, Donahue said.

Another partnership is with MAKOplasty manufacturer Stryker. CESI is the exclusive Northeast training provider for the robotic-arm-assisted technology that helps with joint replacements. The device is used to perform knee surgeries at Hartford Hospital's newly constructed Bone & Joint Institute.

Another feature of the CESI expansion is a larger cadaver lab, which administrators say is in high demand among companies in the region wanting to test new products.

Flaks said there are early positive signs that the growing facility will stir more business. Hartford HealthCare officials are in talks with an out-of-state biomedical company, for example, to relocate its headquarters near the hospital campus. He declined to name the company, as the deal is not yet done.

While corporate partnerships were harder to forge a decade ago, Flaks said CESI has become a draw for companies and healthcare organizations that want a combination of simulation and real-world medical care and expertise.

Surgeons could go to an office park to train on a simulator, but being located within the heart of a hospital campus allows trainees to observe operating room activities, he said.

A century of technological advancement

In the 1910s, long before CESI was ever dreamt up, nurse trainees at Hartford Hospital used a mannequin named "Mrs. Chase" to practice bathing and dressing patients.
The hospital still has Mrs. Chase, which is stored in the closet of an operating room simulator, alongside much more advanced mannequins that CESI staff use for training.

The high-tech mannequins, made by Norwegian manufacturer Laerdal, can bleed, sweat, cry, have seizures and simulate various other symptoms.

The mannequins have been a vital tool in training residents at the hospital, said Dr. Thomas Nowicki, CESI's medical director, who recalls sometimes working 110-hour weeks during his days as a medical resident. Now the rules have changed, and residents aren't allowed to work as many hours.

"We have to find more efficient ways to train," said Nowicki, who was standing in the observation room of an operating simulator, where he can alter the vital signs of a mannequin lying on the operating table and communicate with residents providing treatments.

Simulation exposes trainees to more diverse scenarios and allows them to be more hands on than they could be in the emergency room, with live patients, and learn from their mistakes.

"A resident may have seen one kind of heart attack," Nowicki said. "It's luck of the draw. Here, we can show them the top five types of heart attacks."

Besides their usefulness for training doctors, mannequins have also helped Hartford Hospital improve its procedures and patient outcomes. For example, after CESI training, the hospital lowered its rates of catheter infections and a birth condition known as shoulder dystocia, Donahue said.

Mere feet away from Mrs. Chase’s storage closet is Christopher Madison, CESI’s simulation technology developer, who is working on an HTC virtual reality headset. Madison, with the help of interns from the University of Hartford and Trinity College, is building training applications for surgeons and others.

In a demonstration, the headset displayed a human body, which can be "sliced" by a hand-held controller into various cross sections. There's also a virtual operating room, in which the user can pick up items from the counter and perform other actions.

Madison is still toying with the technology, but is hopeful it can be a useful training tool for surgeons and others. A virtual reality patient can display subtle symptoms that even the most advanced mannequin cannot, he said.

"You can do some neat stuff," Madison said. "It has a lot of potential."

In the HHC System

Should medical marijuana laws grow?

New Britain Herald:

As Connecticut considers expanding its medical marijuana program this year, local officials and medical professionals are weighing in on the benefits and risks of making the drug more widely available.

The program’s Board of Physicians appealed to the state Department of Consumer Protection, recommending four of seven proposed conditions be added to the 22 that currently qualify adults for treatment, which include multiple sclerosis, cancer, post-traumatic stress disorder and other terminal illnesses requiring end-of-life care.

The Hospital of Central Connecticut supports the work of Dr. Andrew Salner, on the board of physicians that recently weighed in on the expansion. As director of Hartford Healthcare’s Cancer Institute, Salner has certified hundreds of cancer patients for the treatment in the last two years.

“I was an early advocate for the program before it was approved,” Salner said. “I've treated carefully-selected cancer patients suffering from nausea, loss of appetite and pain syndromes who don’t respond to conventional medications or who have excessive side effects. The medical cannabis therapy has been very helpful, with an 80 to 90 percent success rate.”

Salner is one of nearly 600 Connecticut physicians licensed to prescribe the treatment to 15,000-plus registered patients, served by six dispensaries across the state. Three more locations are expected to open later this year. Hartford County has the most patients, with 3,771 registered.

Windham Hospital president: WCMH lost $13M in 2016

Willimantic Chronicle
While Windham Community Memorial Hospital invested in new services in 2016, it lost $13 million, the biggest deficit ever for the hospital.

During the annual meeting of the hospital’s board of corporators, Windham Hospital President Bimal Patel noted the hospital’s deficit was the “largest” ever.

The meeting was held at the Eastern Connecticut State University’s Student Center in the Betty Tipton Room. The hospital lost $13 million during the last fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

Responding to the deficit, Windham Hospital spokesman Steve Coates did not indicate specific places where cuts may be made at the hospital.

“We will continue to evaluate our services and look for areas of improvement that will allow us to remain a financially sound organization while providing the highest quality care to our patients,” he wrote in an email this morning.

While he recognized the hospital’s financial troubles, Patel, who has been working at Windham Hospital for slightly more than a year, said the “groundwork has been in laid in 2016 for success in 2017.”

“Please stand with us at Windham Hospital so we can stand with you,” he said. Patel pointed out that the Hartford HealthCare system has annual revenue of $2.5 billion.

As it aims to improve its services and grow, Patel said Windham Hospital is facing possible removal or modifications to the Affordable Care Act, which is also known as Obamacare.

“We don’t know exactly what is going to occur,” he said.

Republicans have announced intentions to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but have not yet indicated a plan to replace it.

Patel said the hospital provides a variety of types of care to its patients at various different times in their lives.

“We couldn’t do the work that we have done in health care without the dedicated staff at Windham Hospital,” he said.

In October, Patel announced a revitalization plan designed to improve the sustainability of Windham Hospital, which is part of the Hartford HealthCare network.

“The revitalization plan was developed in 2016,” said Patel, noting that input from staff, patients and community members was considered as part of the process.

Hartford HealthCare East Region Board of Directors chair Karla Fox said such feedback is “very important” for a community hospital.

The revitalization plan includes adding new orthopedic surgeons, new cardiologists, opening of the Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging and a surgical robot.

“We have achieved great things in the year at Windham Hospital and in the regional community,” said Fox.

The hospital reached an agreement with the Center for Bone and Joint Care Orthopedic Associates of Windham County, a Putnam-based practice, to provide services at Windham Hospital last year.

That agreement enabled the hospital to enhance its orthopedic surgical capabilities and add MAKOplasty, which is robotic-assisted hip and knee replacement surgery.

Coates said this morning that The William W. Backus Hospital and Hartford Hospital also have that technology.

“Windham Hospital is one of the few hospitals of its size in Connecticut to own a surgical robot for MAKOplasty for hip and knee replacement,” he said.

The Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging connects senior citizens to medical care and resources as well as provides behavioral health services through a partnership with Natchaug Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Mansfield.

Natchaug Hospital is also part of the Hartford HealthCare network.

Services at the Center for Healthy Aging include the GoodLife Fitness program, an individualized exercise program for senior citizens.

Patel said it was not an “economic decision” to open the center, rather, it was one based on the needs of the community.

Coates said the first robotic surgery will be performed in February.

The revitalization plan also includes an expansion of cardiology testing in hospital and outpatient settings, a partnership between the hospital’s Women’s Health Center providers and OB/GYN Services in Norwich and
enhancement of the hospital's hospitalist program. The hospitalist program is physicians who care for the sickest of patients, not those who are treated for minor illnesses.

**Miami Cancer Institute becomes third full member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance**

January 26, the $430 million, 445,000-square-foot Miami Cancer Institute, part of Baptist Health South Florida, has officially opened its doors. In addition, after a year-long review and collaboration process, Miami Cancer Institute has become the third full member, and the only member in Florida, of the Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Alliance, an initiative designed to collaboratively guide community providers toward state-of-the-art cancer care.

As an MSK Cancer Alliance member, Miami Cancer Institute will share educational resources with MSK and other members, which include Connecticut's Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute and Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley Health Network Cancer Institute. The dynamic and forward-thinking relationship will enhance the Institute's clinical research capabilities as well as its delivery of world-class, evidence-based cancer care.

**Health Care News In the Region**

**Baystate Health's operating income drops 52% in FY 2016**

Baystate Health saw revenue increase in fiscal year 2016, but the Springfield, Mass.-based system ended the period with significantly less operating income than the year prior.


**'It's a public health crisis:' Malloy proposals target opioids**

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy Thursday announced a series of legislative proposals intended to prevent opioid addiction and overdoses, including requiring physicians to prescribe opioids electronically rather than on paper; allowing visiting nurses to destroy unused medication; and allowing patients to add directives to their medical files indicating that they don't want to be prescribed an opioid medication.

The proposals, which Malloy announced at an event for families of people who died from drug use, also include requiring doctors to provide information about the risk of addiction when prescribing opioids, and removing legal restrictions that can prevent state agencies from sharing information that could help track trends and how resources are being used.

"Connecticut is trying to lead on this issue. We're probably, undoubtedly, not doing enough, but we always look for ways to do more," Malloy said. He spoke at an event to launch a remembrance quilt for people who died from drug use, with squares created by their loved ones. Two mothers whose young adult children overdosed on drugs spoke before the governor.

"It's not a human failure. It's a public health crisis," Malloy added.

The rise of prescription opioid and heroin use has drawn considerable attention from lawmakers in recent years, and many legislators have listed it as among their top priorities this session. In 2015 729 people died from accidental overdoses. Officials expect that number will be closer to 900 in 2016, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon said.

Legislators have introduced a wide range of bills related to opioids and drug use. They include measures to increase inpatient drug treatment beds, limit the prescribing of opioids, increase criminal penalties for people who possess heroin or sell drugs that cause another person to die from an overdose, and require insurance companies to cover long-term addiction treatment.

A law passed last year requires first responders to carry overdose-reversing drugs and limits initial opioid prescriptions to seven-day supplies in most cases involving acute pain.

Scanlon, who co-chairs the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, said that includes proposals intended to make sure people can get appropriate treatment for addiction, including 30-day treatment in facilities if needed.
Malloy described his proposals as building on efforts in past years to take on the opioid epidemic, which he said involves both the misuse of prescription drugs and heroin that is far purer and cheaper than in the past.

Some of Malloy's proposals are intended to reduce the supply of prescription opioids. Federal data indicate that more than half of those who misuse prescription painkillers got them from a friend or relative.

Currently, only the person prescribed a medication or a legal caregiver can dispose of that person's unused medications. Malloy's proposal would allow registered nurses from home health care agencies to do so as well. The governor said electronic prescriptions are easier to trace than paper, and banning the use of paper prescriptions for opioids would make it harder for doctors to prescribe massive amounts of opioids unnoticed.

**Hot Topics in Health Care**

**Hospitals sprout cost-efficient urgent-care centers as demand grows**

*Modern Healthcare*

Hospital systems are using acquisitions and joint ventures with urgent-care chains to build out patient access points in their markets that are a lower-cost alternative to emergency rooms for cuts, sprains and flu.

Northwell Health, based in New Hyde Park, N.Y., expects to have 45 urgent-care centers open around New York City by yearend from the 33 it started the year with.

Northwell owns and operates the centers through a 50/50 joint venture with for-profit GoHealth Urgent Care, Boll said. Having GoHealth as a partner allows Northwell to split the capital cost of the centers and GoHealth is an established operator with national experience, he said.

Patient demand is driving the expansion, Boll said. Northwell, with revenue of about $11 billion, has been expanding geographically around metropolitan New York. And patients want the convenience of an urgent-care center that can take care of their bumps, bruises and colds without the time and expense of going to an emergency room, he said.

An urgent-care visit typically costs between one-quarter and one-third what an emergency room visit would cost, said Christi McCarren, MultiCare senior vice president of retail health and community-based care.

Employed physicians and clinicians at the Northwell GoHealth centers can take X-rays, administer stitches and splint breaks at a fraction of cost of an emergency room, he said.

Numbers of urgent-care centers nationally range from 7,500 to 10,000, said Andrew Bab, partner and co-head of the healthcare practice for law firm Debevoise & Plimpton. He estimated hospitals operate about 20% of the centers, another 15% are in joint ventures like that of Northwell and the rest are free-standing.

Urgent-care centers in a hospital's system also likely can immediately share patient records safely and securely, he said.

**Coming Events**

**Business After Hours at the Bloomfield HHC Family Health Center and Medical Group Office**

*Wednesday, February 1*

5-7 p.m.

2 Northwestern Drive, Bloomfield

The Seymour Street Journal (SSJ) has been developed to communicate key messages pertinent to our hospital's physicians. It will keep you informed and up-to-date on hospital, network, and health care news in a concise, convenient format. The SSJ will be sent to your preferred e-mail address every other Sunday. If you would like to be added to the Seymour Street Journal email list, or to receive it at a different email address, please opt-in at harthosp.org/SSJ. This ensures that you will receive the newsletter at your preferred email address. For any questions or suggestions, please contact Dr. Stacy Nerenstone, Medical Staff president, at 860-545-3043, or editor Annie Emanuelli at 860-972-2199.