Seymour Street Journal

What’s news...

From the Offices of Stuart Markowitz, MD and Stacy Nerenstone, MD

Free CME for License Renewal: Click here for CME Information

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"Wherever the art of medicine is loved,

1959--First open heart surgery in Greater Hartford was performed by Dr. Thomas Donovan."
there is also a love of humanity."

- Hippocrates

Follow Hartford Hospital on facebook, youtube and twitter

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**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.

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**EPIC TIP: Update Problem List**

- In order to ensure the accuracy of your H&P, daily Progress Note and Discharge Summary, please make sure to update the problem list prior to starting the note.
- This will ensure that the Problem List in the note is accurate.
- If you accidentally start a note prior to updating the problem list, you can always leave the note open, update the problem list, come back to the note and refresh it to bring in the updated problem list.

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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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**Medical Staff End of Summer Event a Big Hit**

- I would like to thank every one for coming to the Medical Staff’s end of summer event at the New Britain Museum of Art.
- The venue was spectacular. About 90 people attended, and I have gotten very good feedback about it.
- It was a lot of fun, and we plan to have it again next year.

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**Women’s Physician Leadership Consortium**

*Wednesday, October 26*

*RSVP by October 19*

All physicians - male and female - are invited to the Women’s Physician Leadership Consortium on Wednesday, October 26 from 5:15-8 p.m., in Heublein Hall.

Keynote speaker Dr. Hope Ricciotti, chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, will speak on “Lessons from My Leadership Journey.”

Food and beverages will be provided.

Please RSVP to Joanne Jurs 860-972-2493 or Joanne.Jurs@hhchealth.org by October 19.
Recognizing Our PAs During Physician Assistants Week

As we celebrate Physician Assistants Week, it is important to recognize how essential these professionals are to our overall healthcare system and to thank all of our HHC colleagues.

PAs practice medicine and prescribe medication on healthcare teams with physicians and other healthcare providers. PAs are proven to create access, elevate health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction.

The first educational program for physician assistants began at Duke University 50 years ago in part as a response to a physician shortage. The impetus for the PA profession grew out of a changing social climate characterized by a shortage of doctors and the establishment of federally sponsored national healthcare programs, Medicare and Medicaid. Five decades later, similar conditions exist and the need for physician assistants is once again prominent.

America’s more than 108,500 certified PAs are a powerful force for better health for millions of patients across the country. Consistently recognized as one of the fastest-growing professions, PAs were ranked the most promising job of 2015 by Forbes.com.

Because of PAs, the healthcare system is stronger, and more patients get access to high-quality, cost-effective care. We celebrate National PA Week.

Top News

Rushford to Open New Center for Addiction Services in Avon

Rushford, which is part of the Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network, will be opening a new treatment center in response to the ongoing heroin and opioid addiction across Connecticut.

The new facility will provide a wide range of specialized outpatient treatment services for adults suffering from a variety of addiction-related issues.

The new location at 35 Tower Lane in Avon is set to open October 3. Rushford will unveil the newest addiction treatment center during a press conference at that location on November 21.

Rushford was formed 40 years ago as a comprehensive center to help treat addiction and mental illness within the state. Behavioral Health Network President Patricia Rehmer says Rushford will continue to add new locations for treatment centers throughout Connecticut.

The state is set to see an estimated 832 deaths related to substance abuse overdose this year. This is up from just over 700 deaths in 2015.

CESI Recognized As Innovation Center

Hartford Hospital's Center for Education, Simulation, and Innovation has been recognized on Becker's Hospital Reviews list of 40 hospitals and health systems with innovation centers.

The listing reads Hartford Hospital, home to the state's first medical simulation center, has since developed The Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation. The CESI facility offers a fully comprehensive range of robotic and high-tech training capabilities used to develop clinical techniques and educate medical school students. The center contains robotic and endovascular simulators, task trainers and five different simulated clinical environments.

Read more here.

Dr. Joseph McIsaac Appointed Chair of CSMS Disaster Preparedness Committee
Dr. Joseph McIsaac, senior attending anesthesiologist at Hartford Hospital, has been appointed chair of the Connecticut State Medical Society’s Disaster Preparedness Committee for 2016 - 2017. Dr. McIsaac has been with Hartford Hospital since 1989 and is the section chief for trauma in the Department of Anesthesiology.

Dr. Witold Waberski Named President of CT State Society of Anesthesiologists

Dr. Witold Waberski, clinical chief of the Department of Anesthesiology at Hartford Hospital and chair of the HHC Anesthesiology Council has been named president of the Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists (CSSA) for a two-year term starting in October. Dr. Waberski has been with Hartford Hospital since 1983. The CSSA is the state component society of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Its goals include fostering the science and progress of anesthesiology and promoting the highest level of safe patient care.

Dr. Peter Yu Meets With Vice President Biden

Dr. Peter Yu, physician-in-chief at the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, met with U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden at the Annual Meeting for the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in Chicago in June.

Dr. Yu, who is a past president of ASCO, spoke to Biden about the vice president’s “Moonshot” initiative to achieve a decade’s worth of progress in finding new approaches and solutions in the fight against cancer in just five years time.

BHN plans expansion of mental health clinicians in primary care offices

Clinicians in the Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Net-work’s primary care behavioral health project participated in the first of a series of trainings on the program’s new standardized curriculum at the Institute of Living on Sept. 1.

The primary care-behavioral health (PCBH) initiative, which embeds clinicians in primary care offices to provide consultation, diagnosis, treatment and referral for behavioral health issues, recently underwent a major expansion with grant support from the Connecticut Health Foundation.

During this fiscal year, the number of sites participating in the PCBH project will grow from three to as many as 12, with sites in downtown Hartford, New Britain and Willimantic.

“In the PCBH model, the behavioral health clinician operates as a member of a team whose role is to help the primary care provider manage the needs of their patients,” Fonfara said. “Visits are brief, problem-focused, and geared towards functional restoration, which requires a very different approach from that seen in traditional outpatient therapy.”

Since its inception in 2015, the PCBH initiative has been a tremendous success. Patients referred to the on-site behavioral health clinician were significantly more likely to attend their first visit (80 percent attendance as compared with 30 percent attendance for traditional referrals).

A reduction in emergency department utilization and inpatient admissions was also observed among patients who were referred to the embedded clinician

Cardiology Collaborates With Medical Device Manufacturer To Produce Educational Videos

A new educational collaboration was recently initiated between Hartford Hospital’s Division of Cardiology and Spectranetics Corp, Colorado Springs, CO, a medical device manufacturer.

Dr. Edmond Cronin, Interventional Electrophysiology, performed the first recorded transvenous lead extraction case, with commentary from Dr Steven Zweibel, director of Electrophysiology, and Dr. Chester Humphrey providing CT Surgery backup.

The case was filmed with multiple video angles along with feeds from the fluoroscopy screens and monitors. Recorded cases will be used for instructional and educational purposes for physicians performing and technical staff supporting lead extraction procedures across the US.

August Finances
Inpatient volumes based on transitions from inpatient care statistics fell below budget by (2.4%) in the month of August. The comparison to the prior year shows August, 2016 transitions from inpatient care volume to be (0.2%) below the prior year. Outpatient revenues exceeded budget by 0.5% in the month. The favorable outpatient revenue variance was primarily in Radiation Oncology and Neuroscience services.

Through the first eleven months of fiscal year 2016, transitions from inpatient care volumes were below budget by (0.8%) and were (0.7%) lower than the prior fiscal year. Outpatient revenues exceeded budget by 5.7% for the eleven months ending August 31, 2016. Year to date, the favorable outpatient revenue variances were primarily in Radiation Oncology, Radiology, Emergency and GI Endoscopy services.

Health Net and Hartford Hospital Reach Agreement to Cover Medicare Beneficiaries

Hartford Hospital has joined the Medicare provider network of Health Net of the Northeast, Inc.

Under the terms of the contract, Hartford Hospital will provide a range of outpatient and inpatient services to Health Net's SmartChoice members, including orthopedics, cardiology and endocrinology.

Read more here.

Universal Flu Prevention

Every individual who works, learns and volunteers at HHC is required to receive a flu shot or an approved medical or religious exemption by Nov. 1.

The deadline for submitting medical or religious exemption was Oct. 1. Individuals with existing religious and medical exemptions do not need to reapply.

The use of FluMist nasal spray vaccine no longer satisfies the HHC influenza vaccine requirement because it has shown to be ineffective.

Questions may be addressed to fluguru@hhchealth.org.

To learn more visit the Flu Prevention page of HHC Connect, http://hhcconnect.org/flu

Dr. Crombie Receives Nathan Smith Distinguished Service Award

Dr. David Crombie, Chief of Surgery Emeritus at Hartford Hospital, received the Nathan Smith Distinguished Service Award Sept. 17 at the Centennial Meeting of the New England Surgical Society in Boston.

In the 100 years of its existence, the award has only been given 23 times.

Also presented at the meeting was a book commemorating the 100th anniversary of the society edited by Dr. Crombie, Dr. John Welch (emeritus surgeon at Hartford Hospital) and Dr. Walter Longo from Yale.

Drs. Orlando Kirton and Karyn Butler contributed a chapter on the history of surgical intensive care in New England,

Dr. Rocco Orlando wrote a chapter on the birth of minimally invasive surgery in New England.

Dr. Robert Schweizer described the history of transplantation in New England.

Nathan Smith Distinguished Service Award

Nathan Smith, the first all-New England surgeon, was one of the most remarkable men ever to adorn the American surgical profession. Born in 1762 in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, his only education was from his parents, his father being a farmer-surveyor and his mother a midwife; from Doctor Josiah Goodhue, a prominent surgeon of the upper Connecticut Valley, and from the Harvard Medical School near the time of its inception.

In addition he accomplished a period of eight months of study in Edinburgh and London. During his long career, he was a major force in the establishment and development of Dartmouth Medical School while he developed an extensive surgical practice in the upper Connecticut Valley. Success in upper New England was followed by
an appointment in the new Yale Medical School, where he made contributions as a surgeon, teacher and practitioner with attention to the necessary requirements of politics. He further directly contributed to the establishment of the new medical school at Bowdoin College and to the new medical school at the University of Vermont.

During this time his contributions to the practice of surgery were of great importance. Essays on typhus (typhoid) fever, on the pathology and treatment of necrosis (osteomyelitis) and in the performance of ovarian cystectomy were notable. Other reports described new methods for fashioning skin flaps following amputation and the use of various apparatus for the treatment of fractures of the extremities.

His record in urinary lithotomy was enviable. No evaluation of this remarkable man would be complete without mention of his family. All four of his sons graduated from Yale Medical School and nine grandsons, six great-grandsons and at last count one great-great grandson entered medicine. In the New England area and perhaps in the country, no man contributed more than did Nathan Smith, not only to the birth of surgery as a specialty, but to the early evolution of the medical teaching institution. As a surgeon, as a teacher and as a person of high intellectual and moral quality, there is no one who surpasses him.

Dr. Faiqa Cheema Joins Infectious Disease Division with Focus on Transplant Medicine

Dr. Faiqa Cheema has returned to Hartford Hospital after completion of a dedicated Transplant Infectious Disease fellowship in Toronto, Canada.

She joined the Hartford Hospital Infectious Disease Division in September.

She will be working as consultant ID physician as inpatient and outpatient specialists with focus on transplant medicine.

Dr. Andrew Winokur Co-Authors Article on Ketamine Clinical Trials

Institute of Living psychiatrist Andrew Winokur, MD, Ph.D., co-authored an article on ketamine clinical trials for treatment-resistant depression that was featured in a recent issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry.

The study, which gathered positive results, represents a novel mechanistic approach to depression treatment that has not been utilized since the advent of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) in the late 1980s.

Research and Academics

"LGBTQ Across the Lifespan: How to care for this specialized patient population"
October 25

The Hartford Hospital Geriatric Resource Nurses are sponsoring a free symposium on October 25 at 4 p.m. in Gilman Auditorium. entitled

"LGBTQ Across the Lifespan: How to care for this specialized patient population."

The guest speaker will be Laura M. I. Saunders Psy.D. ABPP, Licensed Psychologist , Clinical Coordinator of The Right Track/LGBTQ Specialty Track at the IOL.

All disciplines welcome to attend. This event is for HH/IOL and HHC at Home employees only.

Light Refreshments will be served, 1 CEU for Nursing and SW; to register email only: Jessica.leroux@hhchealth.org

Foundations of Trust: Connecting Our Community to Research
October 25 and 26

Hartford HealthCare and The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) are hosting a Research Community Forum on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 25 and 26, at the Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel in Hartford, Connecticut. This will be a two day event full of exhibits, keynote presentations, interactive workshops and networking at its finest.
Tuesday, October 25 features a symposium style format focused on ethical issues of engaging community participation in research. The keynote speaker Camille Nebeker, Ed.D., M.S., is considered an expert in applying human research ethics in emerging technologies. Her presentation for this event is: “Connected and Open Research Ethics: Ethical Research Using Personal Health Data.” Several break-out sessions are available in various topics including: the impact of recent federal updates, community engaged participatory research, patient powered research as well as mobile health engagement.

Wednesday, October 26 is a workshop-style interactive day providing an opportunity for the research community to engage with staff from the Federal Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). This program will explore various key aspects of human research protection including the direct perspective of former participants.

This event has been approved for CME and CIP credits.
Click here for more information.

The Hartford Healthcare Cancer Institute Presents:
The Basics of Bone Marrow Transplant Lecture Series
6-7 p.m., Hartford Hospital Cancer Center, Taylor Conference Rooms

Oct. 24: Post-transplant Care for Autologous HCT Recipients: Can We Bring Patients Back Home Earlier?
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Lecturer to be announced

Nov. 28: Post-transplant Care for Allogeneic HCT Recipients: Can We Bring Patients Back Home Earlier?
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Lecturer to be announced

The lecture can also be viewed via videoconference (meet.cancer@video.hhchealth.org) at the following locations:

- Backus Hospital, MOB Conference Room
- MidState Medical Center, Conference Room IV
- The Hospital of Central Connecticut Cancer Center, Conference Room A
- Windham Hospital, Johnson Room

Lectures are CME-eligible. For more information, please contact Andrea Dash at Andrea.Dash@hhchealth.org.

32nd Annual Cardiovascular Symposium
October 5

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford

Information and registration: harthosp.org/CVSymposium

Please register for this event by calling 1.855.442.4373.

DPH Mandated Education for Physicians
October 15

Backus Hospital will be sponsoring a State Mandated Lecture Series on Saturday, October 15, beginning at 8 a.m. This all-day program will include one hour lectures on each of the DPH mandated lectures for re-licensure for physicians.

Topics covered will be Risk Management, Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence, Infectious Disease, Pain Management, Mental Health, and Culture Competence.

All disciplines and provider levels are invited regardless of hospital affiliation. Please look for additional information to follow.

Foundations of Trust: Connecting Our Community to Research
October 25-26
Hartford HealthCare is sponsoring a national conference with OHRP entitled “Foundations of Trust: Connecting Our Community to Research.”

Tuesday, October 25 features a symposium-style format focused on ethical issues of engaging community participation in research. The keynote speaker Camille Nebeker, EdD, MS, is presenting: “Connected and Open Research Ethics: Ethical Research Using Personal Health Data.” Break-out sessions include: Federal, Community Engaged Participatory Research and Mobile Health Engagement tracks.

Wednesday, October 26 is a workshop-style interactive day providing an opportunity for the research community to engage with our federal partners from OHRP. This program will explore various key aspects of human research protection including the direct perspective of former participants.

We look forward to engaging all our colleagues and research partners in this exciting event occurring in Hartford.

Click the link to view the symposium website and register: https://hartfordhealthcare.org/symposium

FOR MORE INFO email research@hhhealth.org or call 860.972.1255 or visit https://hartfordhealthcare.org/symposium

2nd Annual Blood Management Symposium
Friday, Nov. 11, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Heublein Hall

CME credits are pending. A brochure and registration form will be sent out shortly.

For any questions, please contact Erica Thompson at 860-972-5766.

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

Changes in AJCC Staging Requirements

The 8th edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Cancer Staging Manual is due out at the end of October.

Any physician involved with staging should know that there have been some pretty big changes in AJCC staging requirements.

There are many free resources available that are good refresher lessons, a tab for cancer staging education and a category specific to physician. https://cancerstaging.org
Save the Date for the 2017 Black & Red Benefiting Neuroscience

Save Saturday, January 28, 2017, for Hartford Hospital’s annual gala, the Black & Red. The Hartford HealthCare Neuroscience Institute at Hartford Hospital will be honored at the event, which will feature entertainment by Fitz & The Tantrums.

Funds raised through the 2017 Black & Red will help create the platform to further enhance the research and outcome measurements that will elevate the breadth and depth of neuroscience services in Connecticut. Tickets for the hospital’s signature fundraiser will go on sale in the coming months.

See our Sponsorship Opportunities Guide to find out about all event sponsorship options. The deadline to sponsor is Friday, December 16. For questions, contact Carla Burgess, director of development, at carla.burgess@hhchealth.org or (860) 972-1932. For event updates, visit giving.harthosp.org/blackandred.

General Internal Medicine Meeting-Save the Date

November 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m.- Pond House Cafe, West Hartford

*"The surge of Aedes, Aegypti and Mers: Vector-borne diseases" - Dr. Jack Ross*

Dinner will be provided.

Hartford Hospital is accredited by the Connecticut State Medical Society to provide Continuing Medical Education for Physicians. Hartford Hospital designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credit (s). Physicians should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Reminder! Do Your ALICE Armed Intruder Training

Deadline extended to December 31.

Link to training: [http://hhchelp.hhchealth.org/kinetic/login.jsp](http://hhchelp.hhchealth.org/kinetic/login.jsp)

Educational Events and Programs Calendar Available

[Click here to download.](http://hhchelp.hhchealth.org/kinetic/login.jsp)

The Hartford Healthcare Cancer Institute has published an Educational Events and Programs Calendar listing all programs and support groups available this fall.

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](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 gracefully 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.

TigerText Support

For Hartford Hospital users, TigerText support can be obtained by calling the Hartford HealthCare help desk at 860-545-5699 and choosing option #6; or by calling TigerText Pro support directly at 650-564-4722.

For issues related to password recovery, a helpdesk call is required and will be routed to the Mobility team.

Hartford Hospital Media Coverage

Media Coverage Wrap-Up

Dr. Virginia Bieluch on WTIC AM radio at 6:50 this morning to provide an update on the Zika virus. http://bit.ly/2cGVLrR

Dr. Linda Durst in WTIC AM radio to talk about Suicide prevention and the events planned at Hartford Hospital for Suicide Prevention Week http://bit.ly/2bX7z9D

Dr. Joseph Garner, HOCC, was interviewed by Ch. 3 about E. coli after two reported cases in CT. https://youtu.be/2qFdSHV-wao

Dr. Jonathan Gates about what it means to be a level I trauma center, how multiple patients are treated at once and what types of injuries that are seen in an event like this incident As a follow-up to the porch collapse at Trinity College; https://youtu.be/8ADojb36iBA

Dr. Jim O'Dea for a live interview on FOX 61 at 5 p.m. today to talk about depression. The interview was arranged after Bruce Springsteen revealed in a Vanity Fair article that he has dealt with clinical depression. https://youtu.be/dSCDKhmux54

Dr. Jack Ross on NBC CT yesterday about Flu vaccines. https://youtu.be/rJh4I9q1IOg

Dr. Laura Saunders on FOX 61 for a live interview to talk about the dangers of social media. The interview was prompted after a QU student posted a racially charged photo on snapchat. https://youtu.be/CqM7Lefod18

Dr. Saunders was also interviewed by Ch. 8 about the presidential election and children What parents and teachers should be focusing on when talking to elementary school-aged children about the election. https://youtu.be/_k6_QgkOT8E
Dr. Hank Schwartz and Dr. David Glahn, a neuroscientist at the Olin Center will appear live on the Colin McEnroe Show on WNPR Sept 19. Luke Dittrich, author of "H.M.: Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets" will also join the show. He is the grandson of Dr. William Beecher Scoville, the neurosurgeon who operated on Henry Molaison or "H.M." He was one of the early subjects to receive a radical (at that time) new version of a lobotomy in 1953 at the IOL to treat the severe epilepsy he developed after a head injury earlier in his life. Dr. Schwartz will provide a historical perspective while Dr. Glahn will discuss the depth and the nature of the surgery, the brain anatomy and brain function, and how far we have come today

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.

Sunday's Connect to Healthier segment on NBC CT featured the story of one inspirational young woman who made remarkable progress after an aneurysm ruptured, and affected her ability to speak. She- nor her team- ever 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=9ED911u

Sunday's Connect to Healthier segment on NBC CT profiles Malcolm Chapman, who never realized his fatigue was due to mitral valve disease: https://youtu.be/UUSDWba0QCK

This Sunday's Connect to Healthier segment on NBC CT profiles CESI and the training provided to law enforcement - teaching them how to save lives as first responders. https://youtu.be/nxqTSTetnAU

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 Dr. Immerman

Dr. Immerman,

Thank you for simply being the attending anesthesiologist at my father's surgery on the 23rd of September. He spoke very highly of you.

In fact, he has requested your presence at his next outing with Dr. Tarantino on October 14th. He was particularly struck by your attention to detail and your explanation to him of what exactly was going to happen.

You made a deep impression upon him especially when you said something to the effect of, "We'd like to have you leave in as good a shape as you came in, or better."

He will be 92 the next May 1. He's tough. He hasn't taken any pain meds since 45 years ago or more: No aspirin, no Tylenol, nothing. Unsurprising as he served overseas 1944 to 1945 in the original 10th Mountain division in the high North Appenines of Italy.

He was a Corporal in charge of a three-man team that served forward artillery observers with hardwire communications. He was decorated for bravery the day after telling a brigadier general to go f--- himself. He was quartered in the same village at the same time Benito Mussolini was executed.

Just thought you should know something about him. He trusts you.

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 HH 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 HH CME office at ContinuingEd@HHHealth.org or (860) 972-5816 to schedule an appointment with our team to discuss your CME needs.

State Mandated CME Renewal Available Free To HH Doctors through HealthStream LMS

State mandated CME for physician license renewal is available free on the Hartford Hospital HealthStream Learning Management System.

You will need your Employee ID to access HealthStream. If you need the CME Programs, but do not have a HealthStream ID, a Temporary ID can be provided for you.

Please email HealthStream@HHHealth.org and request an ID and password for CME Courses. You will receive an email with the ID, password and instructions for accessing the courses.

To access HealthStream, use the link from the intranet, or click here. Once you login, click on the Catalog tab and search for CME to view the available courses.

Once you have passed the post-test and evaluation, you will be awarded a printable CME certificate. Your CME will also be maintained and easily self-service accessed on the HealthStream site, should you need a copy in the future.
Drug Offers Hope In Minimizing Side Effects Of Breast Cancer Treatment
Hartford Courant: September 28

In March 2015, Carol Cleland received the diagnosis that every woman fears: She had breast cancer. There was good news and bad news. The cancer had been caught early; the tumor was small and could be removed via lumpectomy. Her lymph nodes were clear.

Tests, however, showed that Cleland carried the HER2 gene, which produces a protein that increases the risk of recurrence. Her doctor recommended chemotherapy and radiation after the tumor was removed. Cleland dreaded the thought of the treatments' severe side effects.

"It was the hair loss thing," the 50-year-old Ellington resident said.

But then Cleland learned of another option. Her oncologist, Dr. Patricia DeFusco, told her about a clinical trial of a treatment with far fewer side effects, including no hair loss. Hartford HealthCare, where DeFusco heads the disease management team, is taking part in the nationwide ATEMPT trial being conducted by the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, two of the world's leading cancer research institutions.

The trial is measuring the effectiveness of a drug called Kadcyla in treating early stage breast cancer in women with the HER2 gene. The treatment has already proven effective in women with more advanced HER2 breast cancer with fewer side effects, and researchers are trying to determine if it will work on early stage breast cancers, DeFusco said.

The drug combines the already proven cancer drug Herceptin with a chemotherapy drug designed to directly attack a malignancy, DeFusco said. As a result, fewer healthy cells are affected, and women are generally spared nausea, hair loss and other side effects associated with chemotherapy, she explained.

"To be able to offer the possibility of getting a treatment for early stage breast cancer that, from all the data we have, is an effective drug but does not cause the side effects is pretty exciting," said DeFusco, the study's local principal investigator.

Cleland jumped at DeFusco's offer to participate in the trial.

"I said, 'Sign me up,'" she said. "If it was effective on a cancer that had metastasized, why wouldn't be effective on me who was stage 1A?"

Starting in July of last year, Cleland underwent treatment every three weeks for nearly a year. The therapy lived up to its promise: She experienced no hair loss or nausea. While she sometimes felt fatigued and "fog brained," Cleland was able to keep working full time, exercise and live a normal life.

"The side effects were fine," Cleland said. "I was able to pursue all my activities. I was able to function. I thought it was great. You think you have to get sick for it to work."

Cleland's positive experience is typical of the eight or nine local patients who have taken part in the trial so far, DeFusco said. Most have likewise experienced far fewer and less severe side effects than women receiving the standard treatment, she said.

"People can live normal lives," DeFusco said. "They don't look like they have cancer. Their disease is controlled, which is what we want to see."

Researchers now have to wait to determine if the treatment is as effective as conventional chemotherapy, DeFusco said. One of every four women in the trial, which will ultimately include 480 patients nationwide, receives the standard treatment, she said; the rest get Kadcyla. Researchers will compare outcomes for the two groups, patients know which therapy they are receiving, over a number of years to determine if the new treatment is as effective, she said.

"Hopefully, we'll find that the Kadcyla is at least as effective in reducing recurrence of breast cancer, but also that it's better tolerated by the patient," DeFusco said.

Dr. Peter Yu, physician in chief of the Hartford Healthcare Cancer Institute, said that Kadcyla represents the new era of "precision medicine." Researchers today know far more about genetic changes in cancer cells and use that knowledge, he said.
"Now, we are able to design drugs to specifically attack a specific gene," Yu said.

Yu, who took over the cancer institute about two months ago, was attracted to the position because of Hartford HealthCare’s partnership with Sloan Kettering, where he once worked. He hopes to take part in many more of Sloan Kettering’s trials, doubling or tripling them from the approximately 100 today.

In the HHC System

Backus denied state approval to add angioplasty

The Day, Sept. 19

Primary and elective angioplasty services will not be offered at The William W. Backus Hospital, after state regulators on Friday denied the hospital’s application to add the cardiovascular surgery procedure, citing duplication of services and other factors.

The denial is good news for Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London, which has been offering primary angioplasty, which is provided as emergency surgery to heart attack patients since 2008.

In 2012 L+M added elective angioplasty, a procedure used to restore blood flow in non-life-threatening cases of partially blocked arteries. It is usually done within 24 to 48 hours of a diagnosis.

Backus and its parent network, Hartford HealthCare, submitted an application to the state Office of Health Care Access a year ago to add the service, and last March L+M was granted intervener status in the proceedings to argue against the approval.

"L+M is well positioned geographically to serve the needs of the region," said Mike O’Farrell, L+M spokesman. He added that L+M’s service is enhanced by its clinical partnership with Yale-New Haven Hospital, and has recently joined the larger hospital’s network.

Shawn Mawhiney, spokesman for Backus, said the hospital will continue seeking new ways to provide the best care for its patients.

“We respect OHCA’s decision and we’re going to use this as an opportunity to work with our health care partners to ensure that the residents of eastern Connecticut have access to life-saving services, no matter where they live," he said.

“That’s one of the benefits of being part of an integrated health care system," Mawhiney said. "We can work together in innovative ways to provide coordinated care for patients.”

In its decision, OHCA said Backus did not satisfactorily identify the patient population to be served, and that Backus stated incorrectly in its application that several of the towns in its proposed service area are closer to Backus than other hospitals with angioplasty capabilities. Those include patients in northeastern corner towns, who can now receive angioplasty at the UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester.

It also noted that Backus is a 21-minute drive from L+M, meaning that patients in southeastern Connecticut are already in proximity to angioplasty services at the New London hospital.

In addition, OHCA said Backus failed to establish that there is a need for an additional angioplasty service in this part of the state.

Backus estimated that in its first year, it would perform 55 primary, or emergency procedures, and 110 elective procedures. The total number falls short of the 200-procedure minimum needed to maintain good patient outcomes, OHCA said.

The low volume would increase the cost of the procedure at Backus and would put pressure on the service at L+M, potentially raising costs there, OHCA said.

OHCA also determined that there is no evidence that the proposal would improve quality, accessibility and cost effectiveness of health care delivery, including to indigent and Medicaid patients.

OHCA found only one point favoring approval of the application.

Backus had proposed investing almost $5 million to start the service, which would be spent to add a catheterization lab, new software and equipment upgrades.

OHCA determined that the hospital is financially able to make that investment.
Construction progresses on new $6.5 million Southington medical building

Record Journal, Sept. 7

Construction of the new Hartford HealthCare medical building on Queen Street in Southington is about 25 percent complete, according to officials.

Work on the $6.5 million, 45,000 square foot building at 462 Queen St. started nearly a year ago and is expected to be completed in spring.

The Knights Inn and two other buildings were demolished to make room for the medical building, which will offer primary care, imaging, physical therapy, behavioral health, endocrinology, and home care services, said Hartford HealthCare spokesperson Shawn Mawhiney.

The space will “better allow us to meet the community’s healthcare needs,” Mawhiney said in an email. “This $6.5-million project is part of Hartford HealthCare’s continued commitment to ensuring that the Southington community has access to the latest and best state-of-the-art healthcare services.”

Town Manager Garry Brumback said the new building will be a “complement to the emergency department” at Bradley Memorial Campus, also part of Hartford HealthCare’s network.

Hartford HealthCare originally planned to use the Queen Street location for a new emergency room, but changed plans after town officials and residents asked for the emergency room to remain at the Bradley campus, formerly Bradley Memorial Hospital.

“A lot of the rumors are that they’re trying to close Bradley and move it (to Queen Street)... everything that I’ve been told and led to believe is that it’s not true,” said Brumback.

Brumback mentioned that the new building, located off Exit 32 of Interstate 84, can help service both Southington residents and neighboring communities.

“I think at the end of the day it’s a great thing,” Brumback added. “It’s important for the community, now that Hartford HealthCare is committed to keep Bradley open, that we support Bradley. If there is care that is provided there that meets your needs, use Bradley.”

Backus Hospital in Norwich delivered the best margin among Connecticut hospitals

The finances of Connecticut hospitals weakened during the 2015 fiscal year, with a drop in the average margin and fewer hospitals turning a profit. Even so, the majority of hospitals in the state remained profitable, and the cost of uncompensated care fell by 15.6 percent, according to a report by the state Office of Health Care Access.

Seventeen of the state’s 28 hospitals had positive margins during the 2015 fiscal year, down from 24 in 2014. The average total margin which takes into account both operating revenues and non-operating revenues that include investments, endowments and donations - fell from 6.22 percent in 2014 to 3.89 percent in 2015.

Non-operating revenue fell especially sharply from 2014 to 2015, dropping 101 percent from $195.9 million to a loss of $1 million.

As in the past, the financial status of individual hospitals varied widely. Backus Hospital in Norwich, a consistently strong performer in recent years, topped the state with a 13.78 percent total margin. Sharon Hospital reported a -57.1 percent margin, which the report said reflected a one-time accounting change. The next lowest was Milford Hospital, which has struggled financially in recent years; its -7.2 percent margin in 2015 was an improvement over the two previous fiscal years.

The other hospitals with negative total margins were: Danbury, Day Kimball, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Johnson Memorial, Rockville, St. Francis, St. Vincent’s, Waterbury and Windham.

Total margins (which include both operating and non-operating margins) for Connecticut hospitals in the 2015 fiscal year:

Backus 13.78%
MidState 6.36%
Hartford 5.30%
HOCC -1.19%
Windham -6.84%
UConn Health opens extensive new Farmington research space
Hartford Business Journal: September 23

The expanded research space at UConn Health’s Cell and Genome Sciences Building in Farmington includes 32 laboratories and 40 offices dedicated to developing new biotechnology businesses.

UConn Health officially opened 32 new research laboratories and 40 offices at its Farmington campus, an initiative funded by the state’s expansive for Bioscience Connecticut efforts.

The new research space is 28,000 square feet and dedicated to developing new biotechnology concepts into businesses.

Twenty-one biotech startups are now housed on the UConn Health campus, one of three sites in Connecticut for UConn’s Technology Incubator Program (TIP).

UConn President Susan Herbst said the program's continuous growth has “helped fuel the economy, grow our research and the biotech industry, and speed product development leading to increased financial investments back into our state.”

Connecticut hospitals lose challenge to state user fee tax
Modern Healthcare: Sept. 26

Two Connecticut regulators last week upheld a controversial state tax on hospitals’ net patient revenue, opening the door for dozens of hospitals to take their challenge to court.

Connecticut’s Department of Social Services and Department of Revenue Services roundly rejected the Connecticut Hospital Association’s and two dozen hospitals’ allegations that the so-called hospital user fee was unconstitutional, maintaining the challenge was based on a “fundamental misunderstanding of what a tax rate is.”

“The petitioners appear to be under the mistaken belief that a tax rate must be a percentage and that the act of calculating the amount of tax due from a taxpayer formula set forth in statute is the same as setting a tax rate,” the 179-page opinion said. “Neither position is accurate. Rather, a tax rate can be a formula and the act of calculating the amount of tax due is a ministerial action that is not the equivalent of setting a tax rate.”

The regulators also overruled the hospitals’ claims that the tax violated the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution or that ineligible services had been taxed under the program.

The tax was initially created by the state’s General Assembly in 2011 and has raked in hundreds of millions of dollars to support Medicaid. Although hospitals can lower their tax burden with credits, that relief has shrunk in recent years.

According to CHA, which filed an administrative petition with 24 hospitals challenging the tax last year, the tax revenue has swelled to $556 million per year, which the association alleges is 30 times what other organizations pay.

“(It) is bad public policy,” CHA said after the decision was released on Sept. 22. “The tax results in the loss of hospital services and staff, increases the cost of healthcare and damages the state’s economy.”

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy’s administration and the hospitals have battled over the controversial tax for years. Although the hospitals maintain they could support thousands of additional jobs if the tax was eliminated, the state has argued hospitals continue to post positive operating margins and can withstand the tax burden. But Malloy has also frozen millions of dollars in state aid for hospitals, hurting their bottom lines.

Now that the administrative process has been exhausted, CHA and the hospitals can take their case to the courts, and CHA said it intends to “pursue every legal option” as it continues to oppose the hospital tax.

Read more here.
More Doctors To Retire As MACRA And Value-Based Pay Hit

Forbes, Sept 21

The nation’s doctors, facing a tsunami of changes in how they are paid, plan to retire in droves as value-based pay replaces fee-for-service medicine and they are forced to implement more new regulations, according to a new report.

The biennial survey from the Physicians Foundation shows 46% of physicians plan to “accelerate” their retirements, cut back on patients or seek “non-clinical roles,” according to the group’s survey, which is conducted by physician staffing and recruitment firm MerrittHawkins. More than 17,000 physicians are polled, Merritt said.

Read more here.

A day in the life of a doctor isn't what people expect

The recent study found half of a physician's day is devoted to the electronic health record (EHR) and other administrative tasks.

And that leaves only 27 percent of their time to spend with patients.

http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/practices/study-half-docs-time-spent-ehr-and-paperwork

Coming Events

"Foundations of Trust: Connecting Our Community to Research"

October 25-26

Hartford HealthCare is sponsoring a national conference with OHRP entitled “Foundations of Trust: Connecting Our Community to Research.”

We look forward to engaging all our colleagues and research partners in this exciting event occurring in Hartford.

Click the link to view the symposium website and register: https://hartfordhealthcare.org/symposium

The Hartford Medical Society Presents "Civil War Hospital Newspapers"

October 26 (Wednesday)

Presented by Dr. Ira Spar

Town and County, 22 Woodland Street, Hartford

5:30 p.m. Registration & Cocktails (cash bar)

6:15 p.m. Dinner, followed by program

Registration is $20/member, $35/guest or non-member, and includes cash bar, dinner, and presentation. If you have questions please call the HMS office at (860) 586-7573.

General Internal Medicine Meeting

November 1
Pond House Cafe

"Zika virus and new emerging bacteria"
Dr Jack Ross- Dinner Provided

Department of Medicine 2nd Annual Blood Management Symposium

Friday, Nov. 4, 7 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Heublein Hall
No charge. Light breakfast and lunch will be served.
5 hours CME for medical professionals
To register, call 1.855.HHC.HERE

Hartford Hospital State of the Hospital Meeting

Wednesday, Nov 16
10-11:30 a.m.
Heublein Hall

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 harrass.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.