

Seymour Street Journal



What's news...

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

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"Wherever the art of medicine is loved,

there is also a love of humanity."

- Hippocrates

1984: The first successful heart transplant in Connecticut was done at Hartford Hospital by Dr. Henry B.C. Low.

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

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.

A Call to Action: Our Hand Hygiene Compliance Rate is Slipping

Dr. Rocco Orlando III, Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer

Pepper Sobieski, RN, Vice President, Quality, Safety and Quality Improvement

Dr. Jack Ross, Chief, Infectious Disease

Dr. Jack Greene, Vice President of Medical Affairs for Hartford Hospital

We are faltering in our journey toward enhanced safety and quality. Our hand hygiene compliance rate is slipping - an unacceptable situation. We need your attention and your help. Our patients deserve

nothing less.

You know we've often celebrated our improvements in hand-washing compliance. Your work, combined with our organizational commitment, over years has brought us to nearly 100% compliance across Hartford HealthCare - the best rate achieved in our industry.

But in recent months, we've been declining. Your organization has the most recent hand hygiene scores available. For Hartford HealthCare as a whole, we have tumbled from 98% in December to 64% in July. We absolutely must turn this around - and we can. Our core value of safety demands it.

Everyone understands that we have many priorities competing for our time and attention. Our successful Epic and PeopleSoft roll-outs have required a great amount of energy and focus, for example. As grateful as we are for the success of these and other large-scale initiatives, we can't take our eye off the ball.

Improvement will happen the way it always has at Hartford HealthCare. It begins with your commitment. We know the drivers of progress: accountability, education, transparency and the sharing of real-time data. Together, with these tools and a renewed focus, we'll rebound and celebrate our success again.

Years ago, as we began our improvement journey, we adopted a slogan: "Our values are in your hands." That's especially true today. We know we can count on your focus and support.

Deadline is Monday for HealthStream Required Courses

Just a quick reminder that tomorrow (**MONDAY, AUGUST 28**) is the deadline to complete your 2017 annual required learning courses in HealthStream.

These courses, Rapid Regulatory Compliance Clinical I and II, must be completed by **August 28**.

Failure to complete these required courses could result in disciplinary action including suspension and termination of employment.

Please note that depending on your position, additional courses may have been added to your HealthStream to-do list. Please log in to [HealthStream](#) and check your requirements carefully. Remember, it is your responsibility to complete these courses.

From the President of the Medical Staff

- [Dr. Stacy Nerenstone](#), President of the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff

Call for Nominations for Medical Staff Officers and MEC 2017

Dear Colleague,

In November 2017, we will be holding an election for medical staff officers and five at-large members of the Medical Executive Committee.

CURRENT OFFICERS:

- President, Stacy R. Nerenstone, MD
- Vice-President, Matthew L. Saidel, MD
- Treasurer, William V. Sardella, MD
- Secretary, Michael O'Loughlin, MD

Officers may serve two consecutive two-year terms. The current president, vice-president and treasurer cannot run for their current position. Dr. Saidel, (vice-president) is running for president, Dr. O'Loughlin (secretary) is running for vice-president and Dr. Sardella (treasurer) is running for secretary.

CURRENT AT-LARGE MEMBERS:

These are the four members whose seats are up for election. The fifth seat is vacant and up in 2018 (one-year term to fill an empty seat).

- Mitchell McClure, MD, Medicine
- Samuel Pope, MD, Medicine
- Peruvamba Venkatesh, MD, Medicine
- Andrew Wakefield, MD, Neurosurgery

If you are interested in running or would like to nominate a colleague, please submit the name with a brief statement outlining the reasons for the nomination to the Medical Staff by September 15. Names will be submitted to the Nominating Committee. All nominees meeting the eligibility criteria will be submitted as candidates and their names and statements will be sent to the voting members of the medical staff by email at least 30 days prior to the election and will be posted in the Seymour Street Journal.

Nominations may also be submitted in writing by petition signed by a least five Active Staff members at least 10 days prior to the election.

All nominees must meet eligibility criteria outlined in Section 3.B. of the Medical Staff Bylaws (see below).

3.B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only those members of the Active Staff who satisfy the following criteria initially and continuously shall be eligible to serve as an officer of the Medical Staff.

They must:

- (1) be appointed in good standing to the Active Staff, and have served on the Active Staff for at least three years;
- (2) be certified by an appropriate specialty board or possess comparable competence, as determined through the credentialing and privileging process;
- (3) have no pending adverse recommendations concerning Medical Staff appointment or clinical privileges;
- (4) not presently be serving as Medical Staff officer, Board Member, or department chief at any other hospital outside of Hartford HealthCare and shall not so serve during their terms of office;
- (5) be willing to faithfully discharge the duties and responsibilities of the position;
- (6) have experience in a leadership position, or other involvement in performance improvement functions for at least two years;
- (7) have demonstrated an ability to work well with others.

All such individuals are encouraged to obtain education relating to Medical Staff leadership, credentialing, and/or professional practice evaluation functions prior to or during the term of the office.

The Medical Staff Office will be forwarding an email with a description of the required duties of the Medical Executive Committee. Please contact the Medical Staff Office for more information.

Join Us at the Medical Staff "End of Summer Event" September 27

6-9 p.m., New Britain Museum of American Art, 56 Lexington Street, New Britain

Join your colleagues from the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff on Wednesday, September 27 for an amazing evening at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

You and your guest are invited to join the Officers and other members of the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff for this special evening as a unique opportunity for members of the Medical Staff to socialize and enjoy each other's company.

You will have exclusive admission to the gallery spaces including the works of Howard Pyle, Frederic Rodrigo Gruger, N. C. Wyeth, Norman Rockwell, to name a few.

The evening will feature appetizers, small plates bursting with bold flavors and sweet endings as well as wine, beer and other beverages. Brought to you by Riverhouse Catering. Cost is \$50 per person.

To reserve your space by credit card: call Cathleen Aquino at 860.972.6167 or Luisa Machado at 860.972.3013.

To reserve your space by check: drop off at 85 Jefferson Street, JB 114, or mail to Medical Staff Office, Hartford Hospital, 80 Seymour Street, PO Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102-5037.

Please respond by September 10.

From the Hospital President

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

Ensuring Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

We are proud of our safety culture and grateful for your efforts to deliver safe care every day at Hartford Hospital.

It's easy to remain focused on safety when we are caring for patients at the bedside or during an emergency event. It's much harder to remain vigilant when we're distracted or going through the motions of the day. But ensuring safety is everyone's responsibility—from the moment we arrive at work until we go home to our loved ones.

Our colleagues at Brigham and Women's Hospital have created two videos to demonstrate how everyday actions like swiping your ID badge without being aware of your surroundings, or holding a door for those without identification, can have unexpected and dangerous consequences. We are grateful for their permission to share these videos with you so we can continue to reinforce our culture of safety.

Please take a moment to watch the videos. It will only take a few minutes of your time. "Be Aware" can be viewed [here](#) and "Don't Hold the Door" can be viewed [here](#).

These videos drive home an important point: every moment matters when it comes to the security of the people on our campus. That's why our culture of safety should always be top-of-mind, not just when a threat or emergency occurs.

In fact, in two recent incidents, employees noticed unidentified individuals wearing scrubs on our clinical units, who did not belong on our campus. These employees inquired about their identities and spoke up - and the appropriate action was taken.

This reinforces our need to be alert to our surroundings at all times and display our I.D. badges prominently, rather than tucked in a shirt or pocket.

We are currently reviewing access to our buildings, and will communicate any changes soon. If you have identified other ways to bring safe practices to everyday moments, please discuss them with your colleagues and manager. Today's best practices may become tomorrow's standards of safety

excellence.

Making Every Moment Matter

Regardless of what role you play at Hartford Hospital, your efforts matter to the people we serve. And even the seemingly small moments leave a lasting impression. People choose us because they value our clinical expertise, but they remember us for the care we devote to making them feel safe, secure and supported. Our work is important, but our warmth, concern and attention to detail are irreplaceable.

Our Every Moment Matters program is designed to highlight this critical - but often overlooked - part of each job at Hartford Hospital by elevating memorable examples of your peers undertaking noteworthy acts of kindness. By featuring these efforts, we remind ourselves what it looks like to go above and beyond. And we call each other to the most important work of all: not just applying our minds to our jobs, but pouring our hearts into serving the people who come to us in times of need.

To get started, we are unveiling new signage across the Hartford Hospital campus this month that features some of our own exceptional Hartford Hospital employees. They serve in many different roles across our campus, but they share a remarkable ability to create outstanding moments for our patients and their loved ones every day.

In the coming months, we'll zoom in on even more acts of caring and compassion as we call on all employees to share the ways their colleagues go above and beyond.

Thank you for reminding me each day what it means to make every moment matter. I am grateful for your contributions and the extra care you dedicate to this special place.

Top News

HHC Negotiating with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield on New Contract

David Whitehead, Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer

Hartford HealthCare has been negotiating with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield on a new contract for its members. Our current agreement is set to expire at midnight on September 30, 2017, and our focus remains on renewing the contract in advance of this termination date.

We understand this process can be disruptive for our patients, and our goal is to keep all who may be affected fully informed and to assure them that we continue to negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually beneficial agreement.

As required by law, Anthem must send letters to its members in advance of expiration, notifying them of the possibility that a new contract may not be in place by September 30. Patients should begin receiving those letters from Anthem shortly.

HHC will also send a notification to patients of our acute-care hospitals who are covered by Anthem. That letter and FAQs are available at a special website, which we encourage you to visit: www.hartfordhealthcare.org/anthem

In addition to the website, which we will update as needed, we have also established a 24-hour toll-free phone line for people who have questions: **800-644-5905**.

If we fail to reach a new agreement by September 30, Hartford HealthCare's hospitals, ancillary providers and employed physicians will be considered out of Anthem's network. This means Anthem's members will be subject to higher out-of-pocket fees to use our services.

As we continue to exchange proposals and meet with Anthem, we will communicate with staff,

physicians, patients, insurance brokers and key employers who offer Anthem plans.

We value the trust patients and their families place in Hartford HealthCare, and we work hard to earn that trust every day. This commitment requires us to have fair contracts so we can continue to serve our patients and our communities and operate in a sustainable way.

Hartford Hospital Ranked #1 in the Hartford Region

Hartford Hospital has been ranked #1 in the Hartford region and among the best in Connecticut for 2016-2017 by U.S. News & World Report. The annual U.S. News Best Hospitals rankings, now in its 28th year, recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients. This year, Hartford Hospital ranks in six specialties and nine procedures.

"It is an honor to be recognized as the best in the region yet again," said **Stuart Markowitz, M.D.**, president, Hartford Hospital; senior vice president, Hartford HealthCare. "Our commitment and reputation for excellence is cemented in the region thanks to the dedication of each Hartford Hospital staff member. Every day this team delivers the best possible care in the safest and most compassionate way. Our journey to excellence is a team effort, and we are so thankful to our staff and the patients who trust us with their care."

U.S. News & World Report recently changed its methodology making it much more difficult to achieve a rank in "High Performing" banners. The new methodology recognizes the best of the best—the top ten percent and Hartford Hospital ranks high-performing in six specialties and nine procedures:

High Performing Specialties:

- Diabetes & Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology & GI Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Nephrology
- Orthopedics
- Pulmonology

High Performing Procedures:

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair
- Aortic Valve Surgery
- Heart Bypass Surgery
- Heart Failure
- Colon Cancer Surgery
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Hip Replacement
- Knee Replacement
- Lung Cancer Surgery

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is ranked # 2 in the nation among the top the hospitals specializing in cancer care. This marks the 27th year that MSK has been recognized as one of the nation's top 2 cancer hospitals. The Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute is proud to be the charter member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance. The Cancer Institute is comprised of five cancer centers - one at each of Hartford HealthCare's acute care hospitals across Connecticut.

The rankings, available at www.usnews.com/best-hospitals, will appear in the U.S. News "Best Hospitals 2018" guidebook, available in August .

HHC's Charlotte Hungerford Affiliation Takes a Step Forward

A proposed \$73 million affiliation of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital with **Hartford HealthCare** took a

step forward this week as the Office of Healthcare Access declined to refer the deal to the Attorney General's Office for an investigation of unfair or anti-competitive behavior.

<http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/20170809/NEWS01/170809914/hhcs-charlotte-hungerford-affiliation-takes-a-step-forward>

New Cancer Treatment May Offer Hope to Some

A new treatment that enables the body's own immune system to kill cancer may soon be coming to HHC. The therapy involves removing immune cells from the patient's bloodstream, genetically reengineering them to recognize and kill cancer and infusing them back into the patient.

An FDA advisory committee recently recommended approval of the treatment for patients with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia that have relapsed or not responded to standard treatments.

"This is an exciting advance that has - and will - save lives," says **Peter Yu, MD, physician-in-chief of the HHC Cancer Institute**. "It is part of the growing story of immunotherapy and cancer - we have learned the immune system has so many weapons at its disposal."

Yu expects the FDA will approve limited use of the immunotherapy, which would then make it available to HHC patients through our partnership with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

"It's wonderful to have more options for patients who need these type of therapies," said Hartford Hospital oncologist **Mark Dailey, MD**. "I expect that this will improve outcomes with a variety of cancers in the years ahead."

Researchers are also looking at whether this treatment might offer hope to certain patients with "solid tumors." Yu says scientists want to learn if immunotherapy with reengineered T-cells will be as effective if it has to leave the bloodstream and locate targets in other parts of the body. But, he adds, the treatment may hold promise for use against glioblastoma, the type of brain cancer afflicting Sen. John McCain. The brain has typically been a challenge for standard cancer treatments such as chemotherapy, but immune cells may be better able to enter than brain and attack cancer cells, he explains.

Senator Blumenthal Speaks at HH to Urge FTC to Protect Consumers from Drug Shortages

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal held an event at **Hartford Hospital's ERD** on August 23 to urge the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to protect consumers against drug shortages and rising prices triggered by mergers in the pharmaceutical industry.

In May, Pfizer Inc. notified hospitals and other customers of shortages of several injectable drugs, including Sodium Bicarbonate, a common medication used during surgeries, emergencies, and in some chemotherapy treatments. The dramatic reduction in output resulted in the postponement of scheduled surgeries across the country. This shortage notably occurred immediately following the finalization of Pfizer's acquisition of Hospira.

Blumenthal released a letter pressing the FTC on how to prevent drug shortages from occurring as mergers and acquisitions become more common in the pharmaceutical industry.

Stanley Black & Decker to give \$2 million to Hartford Hospital campaign

Stanley Black & Decker will donate \$2 million to the campaign for Hartford Hospital.

Hartford Hospital holds an annual campaign from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30 to help sustain its work, including "increasing technology; expanding programs and services to provide high-quality care to patients, including those unable to pay; educating the next generation of physicians and enhancing the hospital's facilities," according to its website.

This donation will specifically be used to support Hartford HealthCare's Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation. CESI is a regional and national training destination for medical professionals. It is a hub for medical training.

The \$2 million will be donated over the course of three years. Stanley Black & Decker is one of CESI's corporate partners.

The gifts through the campaign, which in its lead phase has generated nearly \$64 million in donations, have touched every corner of the hospital, including CESI, the Brownstone Relocation Project and the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital.

Dr. Sabet Hashim Devises New Valve Technique

Dr. Sabet Hashim, co-physician-in-chief of the **Hartford HealthCare Heart & Vascular Institute**, has devised a new technique that restores a leaky mitral valve in patients who have had a heart attack.

Dr. Hashim, a world leader in mitral valve repair surgery, presented the results of a 10-year study that followed 60 patients whose mitral valves were repaired using a surgical innovation that avoids tissue resection during a ring annuloplasty that tightens the valve by sewing a ring (usually metal or cloth) around it. The results were positive.

<https://healthnewshub.org/heart-and-vascular/innovations/leaky-mitral-heart-valve-repair-possible>

COPD Pathways and Ordersets Now Live

Clinical Care Redesign is a system-wide Balanced Score Card Initiative focused on improving our clinical outcomes, reducing clinical and operational variation, and reducing costs. One of the Department of Medicine's areas of focus is care for COPD patients.

Our team has worked to align the clinical approach to practice and develop standard tools to facilitate the workflow and measure impact. The approach is interdisciplinary with the patient as a partner in care.

Key elements of COPD patient care include: implementation of a COPD clinical pathway based on recognized best practices, an admission and discharge COPD Epic order set, medication reconciliation processes in congruence with best practice, a patient education COPD booklet, and an interdisciplinary approach to care. Our success measures for this clinical care process change include reduced mortality, decreased readmissions, reduced complications, decreased length of stay, and more cost-effective care.

COPD Care Pathway and Ordersets went live on August 15. This pathway is a comprehensive plan based on the new 2017 [GOLD guidelines](#) to improve patient outcomes and quality, reduce variation, and improve the patient experience.

New Admission and Discharge order sets help initiate and progress patients through the COPD Care Pathway. Order sets help prevent dual therapy such as Pulmicort and systemic steroids. Patients to receive NEBULIZER throughout their hospital stay with AVOIDANCE of INHALERS (Breo).

Pulmonary rehabilitation assesses the patient's GOLD classification, provide patient education and support for their medication, including both sequence and technique.

Coordination and planning for these patients is essential. Transitions to post-acute support, such as **Hartford HealthCare at Home** (home services) for high risk patients, is part of the plan. The COPD clinical care redesign team will be following the implementation process closely on the care units and interacting with you as needed to clarify, refine, evaluate, and generally facilitate the care process.

Key physician, advanced practitioner, and respiratory therapy stakeholders have already received education and specific details. Nurses will be required to complete a COPD education and best

practices module via HealthStream by October 1.

For any questions or concerns, please TigerText **Dr. Misbahul Siddiqi, Dr. Padmanabhan Premkumar or Jenifer Ash, APRN.**

Center for Surgical Weight Loss Designated BDC+ Center

Hartford Hospital's Center for Surgical Weight Loss has been designated a BDC+ Center by Anthem Blue Cross / Blue Shield, Blue Distinction. This is the highest achievable rating in this national program that recognizes providers who demonstrate exceptional expertise in delivering quality specialty care.

Hartford Hospital has adopted a new model of care for surgery patients: Enhanced Recovery After Surgery, which begins long before the patient arrives at the hospital. In the weeks before surgery, patients receive a guidebook that advises them to eat healthier foods, increase activity and cut back on smoking and alcohol use.

Patients no longer are asked to stop eating and drinking 12 hours before an operation. Instead, the new guidelines advise patients to drink a glass of apple juice or Gatorade an hour before arriving at the hospital to prevent dehydration and boost energy after surgery.

To provide the highest-quality care with the best patient outcomes, the new model views surgery as a team effort, including the patient, surgeons, residents, nurses, technicians, dieticians, social workers, therapists, and other care providers. All hospitals in the system have adopted this approach, which was developed by physicians and surgical, anesthesia and peri-operative councils from all five Hartford HealthCare hospitals.

3D Mammography to be Available Across HHC

The latest and most advanced technology for early detection of breast cancer will soon be available across Hartford HealthCare.

During a 3D scan, an x-ray arm sweeps over the breast to take multiple images. Unlike traditional 2D technology, in which the mammogram is read as a single image, 3D allows the radiologist to scroll through the images like the pages of a book and view through overlapping tissue. Overlapping tissue is common in women with dense breasts, leading to the need for additional or repeated tests in more than 10 percent of cases, according to Backus radiologist **Stacy Spooner, MD.**

"When patients are called back we have to compress the tissue again and take additional mammographic images, sometimes performing an ultrasound," Spooner said.

The new technology might eliminate the stress of further testing and waiting for results. "For women with dense breasts, which is a significant portion of our population, [the new technology] allows us to find masses and other areas of concern that we might not see in traditional 2D mammography," Spooner said.

Starting in August, 3D mammography will be available at Backus to any patient who is due for an annual screening mammogram. The technology will soon be available at Windham Hospital, the Backus Plainfield Emergency Care Center, and will be available in the central region by October.

HH Doctors Implanting World's Smallest Pacemaker

Doctors at Hartford Hospital recently implanted the world's smallest pacemaker: the Micra transcatheter pacing system, designed for patients who need a single-chamber pacemaker.

The pacemaker is the size of a vitamin capsule and is implanted through a vein in the upper leg. A

catheter is placed into the femoral vein and a delivery system is placed up into the heart. The Micra pacemaker is then introduced into the lower right pumping chamber of the heart, the right ventricle. The device has tines on it that keep it secured to the heart muscle. Unlike the more traditional pacemaker, the Micra device has no leads or wires. It is completely self-contained.

Once the Micra is in a suitable location, the tether that secures it to the delivery system is cut and the delivery system and catheter are removed from the body. The procedure takes about 45 minutes to perform. There is a lower risk of infection and there is no visible scar. The Micra pacemaker is MRI compatible, as are many of the newer traditional pacemakers, and has a battery longevity of about 12 years.

Workshop: Cancer Screening for the Primary Care Provider

Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute and Hartford HealthCare Tallwood Urology and Kidney Institute are sponsoring a workshop called "Cancer Screening for the Primary Care Provider" on Monday, Oct. 2 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Pond House in West Hartford.

Dinner will be provided, and two hours of Continuing Education are available.

Attendees will be able to understand the role of the Primary Care Provider and screening criteria for:

- High risk breast cancer
- Melanoma
- Head and neck cancer
- Lung cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Cardiac considerations

To register, call 1.855.HHC.HERE.

Hospitals Paid More In State Tax In 2016 Than They Made From Operations

Connecticut's 28 acute-care hospitals collectively saw their gain from operations fall by 17 percent in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, to a level that's not sustainable for the system as a whole over the long haul.

One big reason for the decline: For the first time, a state tax on health care providers that started in 2012 exceeded the total amount of operating surplus the hospitals had after they paid the tax.

<http://www.courant.com/business/dan-haar/hc-haar-hospitals-in-trouble-20170628-story.html>

Hartford HealthCare opens new Orthopaedic Institute at MidState

Hartford HealthCare has opened a new Connecticut Orthopaedic Institute at MidState Medical Center. Once fully complete later this year, the Institute will be 14,500 square feet, including 11 operating rooms. It will feature newly redesigned and upgraded space with today's best technology.

<http://wtnh.com/2017/08/10/hartford-healthcare-opens-new-orthopaedic-institute/>

Excellence

Sports Medicine Team Trains Baseball Pitchers of Tomorrow

On August 13, **Hartford HealthCare's Sports Medicine and the Bone and Joint Institute** presented the 2017 Hartford HealthCare Pitching Clinic at Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford, the home of the Hartford Yard Goats. Some 75 young people took part.

The clinic featured a warmup and proper stretch training session given by the staff of HHC Sports Medicine, followed by training and proper throwing techniques offered by players and the pitching staff of the Yard Goats. Kids got to meet and talk to several of the players and found out what they do to stay fit and healthy as well as how to avoid injury while throwing a ball.

Dr. Joseph Cappa Named Humanitarian of the Year

Dr. Joseph Cappa has received the Humanitarian of the Year award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. It will be awarded at the CCF's Bottoms Up Fundraiser in late October.

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization dedicated to finding cures for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and improving the quality of life of children and adults affected by these digestive diseases.

Dr. Cappa said that through awareness raising events, like Bottoms Up, he hopes that the public will be educated on the fact that IBD is very different from IBS, despite the fact that some symptoms may mirror each other. IBD, chronic inflammation of the digestive tract, includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease and can be extremely debilitating and may even result in life-threatening complications.

Preventive Cardiology Staff Publishes Two Manuscripts

Researchers from the Department of Preventive Cardiology published two high impact manuscripts this month:

Dr. Beth Taylor, Amanda Zaleski, Gregory Panza, and Dr. Paul Thompson published data from a NASA funded study examining blood clot risk in women on oral contraceptives in the journal *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine*.

Amanda Zaleski, Dr. Beth Taylor, and Dr. Paul Thompson also published an analysis on the inability of the Wells score to adequately capture venous thromboembolism in endurance athletes in the journal of *Physician and Sportsmedicine* and can be found here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/JMzpJxmicZ9iEYmjS4Z3/full>)

Dr. Paul Thompson Lectures at National Institute of Aging Workshop

Dr. Paul D. Thompson, chief of Cardiology at Hartford Hospital, lectured on the effects of statins on skeletal muscle function at the National Institute of Aging's Workshop on July 31 on statin treatment in adults >75 years of age.

Researchers from Hartford Hospital Cardiology conducted a study on cardiovascular health and thermoregulation during heat stress at the 2017 New Balance Falmouth Road Race in Falmouth, MA.

The study was led by **Dr. Beth Taylor**, director of Exercise Physiology; **Amanda Zaleski**, exercise physiologist; **Gregory Panza**, exercise physiologist; and **Dr. Paul Thompson**, director of Cardiology. Dr. Thompson also provided medical support in the finish line medical tent.

Hartford Hospital Researchers Surprised by Findings About Vitamin D and Exercise

Runners World, July 14

A team of researchers at Hartford Hospital and the University of Connecticut were investigating the role of vitamin D in blood pressure, both at rest and during maximal exercise and were surprised when they found that their research subjects with the highest vitamin D levels also had the highest blood pressure.

Amanda Zaleski, MS, RPT (AMT), exercise physiologist and coordinator, Vascular Scanning Program at Hartford Hospital, was the study's lead author. The study's main goal, she explained, was to explore the links between vitamin D and blood pressure during all-out exercise.

Some people have a larger-than-normal increase in blood pressure during exercise, and these people are two to four times more likely to subsequently develop hypertension and cardiovascular disease, so it serves as a potential early warning system in people whose resting blood pressure is still normal.

Given that this result contradicts the results of so many other trials, like this one with over 100,000 subjects, in which those with vitamin D levels below 15 ng/mL were three times more likely to develop high blood pressure than those with vitamin D levels above 30 ng/mL, Zaleski's strong suspicion is that her result was essentially a fluke, resulting from the particular characteristics and genetic susceptibilities of her subjects.

Gilbane Receives Project Team Award for Hartford Hospital

Gilbane Building Company, which built the **Hartford Hospital Bone and Joint Institute**, recently was honored by the Connecticut Building Congress (CBC) with a first place Project Team Award in the New Construction category for the project.

<http://www.constructionequipmentguide.com/gilbane-receives-project-team-award-for-hartford-hospital/35080>

Research and Academics

Management of Complex Aortic Pathology

September 30, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Institute of Living, Commons Building, 2nd Floor

Keynote Address: "Healthcare Policy Surrounding the Development of Aortic Centers"

Dr. Prasad Srinivasan, Allergist and Connecticut State Representative for the 31st Assembly District

The goal of this conference is to provide education to primary care and non-vascular providers on management of complex aortic pathology. The program includes a multidisciplinary faculty discussing topics from trauma to healthcare policy issues. Faculty will be on hand from vascular/cardiac surgery, trauma, radiology, anesthesiology and cardiology.

Topics include:

- Patient screening for aortic pathology
- Management and treatment of Type A and Type B aortic dissection
- Thoracic trauma
- Advanced imaging modalities
- The future of managing complex aortic pathology

- Creating a comprehensive aortic center

Hartford HealthCare is accredited by the CSMS to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Hartford HealthCare designates this live activity for a maximum of 8 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in this activity.

To register, please contact Patty Bozeman, APRN, CVN, at 860.696.4119 or Patricia.Bozeman@hhchealth.org.

Healthy Volunteers Needed for Anxiety Disorders Center Research

The Anxiety Disorders Center at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital is recruiting participants with no current or lifetime history of psychiatric problems for a research study. This study is open to adults age 40-65 years old that meet study criteria.

Participants will complete two MRIs within 16 weeks to evaluate how the brain responds to different tasks. Enrolled participants will be compensated up to \$200 for their time.

For more information, please call 860.545.7039 or email ADC.research@hhchealth.org.

Management of Complex Aortic Pathology

September 30, IOL, Commons Building, 2nd Floor

The goal of this conference is to provide education to primary care and non-vascular providers on management of complex aortic pathology.

The program includes a multidisciplinary faculty discussing topics from trauma to healthcare policy issues. Faculty will be on hand from vascular/cardiac surgery, trauma, radiology, anesthesiology and cardiology. The keynote speaker will discuss healthcare policy surrounding development of aortic centers.

Come help us celebrate national aneurysm awareness month, meet and network while learning about aortic pathology.

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.

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. Mark Alberts was live on Ch. 8's new morning show about brain disease (CTE) study among deceased athletes. <https://youtu.be/9RpO2Uv7rhA>

Dr. Abigail Chua, WTNH interview about clinical trial at the Hartford HealthCare Headache Center on non-invasive device that could spell relief for migraine sufferers. <http://wtnh.com/2017/07/13/a-clinical-study-underway-on-non-invasive-device-that-could-spell-relief-for-migraine-sufferers/>

Amy Dimauro on FOX 61 about Racism and advice for parents in how to talk to their children about the events in Charlottesville, VA. https://youtu.be/zN_VN2KNUW0

Dr. Omar Eton and Dr. Robert Piorkowski were on Ch. 3 during our melanoma event at Westfarms Mall: <https://youtu.be/yd46CPDq9yA>

Dr. Lyndon Lee was on FOX 61 speaking on eye safety when viewing the total solar eclipse. <https://youtu.be/KSE5eRUOpOM>

Dr. Chris Lynch was on News 8 speaking on the new CT Orthopaedic Institute at MidState. <https://youtu.be/ypUnxaqMS7g>

Dr. Reza Moien/HHC Urgent Care was on WFSB, Ch. 3 speaking on ticks. <https://youtu.be/TZWIE26O8Bg>

Dr. Ken Robinson was on WFSB, Ch. 3 speaking on ED preps for concert in Hartford: <https://youtu.be/NR1ip27uioQ>

Dr. Laura Saunders was on NBC CT speaking on back-to-school anxiety. https://youtu.be/n7JAPuYrr_8

Dr. Mani Seetharama was on News 8 speaking on concussions. <https://youtu.be/2oZeTFR8-Go>

Dr. Alan Solinsky was on NBC CT and WTNH, Ch. 8 discussing the dangers of looking at the eclipse: <https://youtu.be/jJqZEjYHb0c>

Dr. Peter Yu was on WTIC AM radio speaking on breakthroughs in cancer screenings: <https://soundcloud.com/hartford-healthcare/dr-peter-yu-the-ray-dunaway-show-friday-aug-18-2017/s-Bjn4c>

Dr. Jennifer Zajac, child and adolescent psychiatrist at the IOL, adds commentary on new Netflix movie raising concerns about eating disorders. <http://www.wfsb.com/story/35850668/new-netflix-movie-raises-concerns-about-eating-disorders>

A group of **APRNs in Cardiology** at Hartford Hospital held an event to collect back-to-school supplies. The group filled 100 backpacks at the hospital and donated them to Hartford Public Schools. WFSB, Ch. 3: <https://youtu.be/ZDygJgurhbl>

WFSB, Ch. 3 coverage of a special event at Hartford Hospital to celebrate World Breastfeeding Awareness Week. <https://youtu.be/eQ3vb9bmzo0>

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.

New option in orthopedics

Joint degeneration due to osteoarthritis can be debilitating. But patients don't have to live in pain. Newer tools like robotic-assisted orthopedic surgery are helping patients like Frank Sena get their lives back, eliminate pain and get back to what they love to do.

<https://hartfordhospital.org/health-wellness/classes-events/event-detail?id=968>

Bloodless Heart Transplant

This follows the story of Jonathan Henry, a heart failure patient who waited for months at Hartford Hospital for a heart to become available. But what makes his story even more amazing? He had a bloodless heart transplant. Jonathan is a Jehovah's Witness, and because of his faith cannot accept blood products. Only a handful of the most advanced hospitals in the country can perform this complicated procedure.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jnkafafwycz71ch/040917%20CTH%20BLOODLESS.mov?dl=0>

<http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org:80/ermweb/player?id=yf8Z3OdW>

This week's NBC CT segment <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/health/Connect-to-Healthier-338800432.html>

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/wbmyjt4ciu8evnf/122416%20CTH%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>

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 Dr. Elena Tunitsky

"Recently, I had surgery at Hartford Hospital, and I want to thank all associated with that surgery.

*First, is **Dr. Elena Tunitsky**. She is knowledgeable, dedicated, and compassionate. Patients always want to understand the procedures and Dr. Tunitsky's ability to communicate effectively with the patients makes her an outstanding doctor. She also exhibits a great sense of humor that allows the patient to be at ease. For example, she referred to my surgery as "the blue plate special."*

Furthermore, the staff at Urogynecology Associates is exceptional. The receptionists at West Hartford and Glastonbury shared a sense of humor, were caring and accommodating. As I waited, in the Glastonbury office the receptionist there noted I had an issue, and she brought me in to see a nurse immediately! Certainly, I am most appreciated of her efforts.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to Kathy, a nurse in the Glastonbury office, who was just the right person to perform my procedure. I was nervous about the procedure, but she explained step-by-step what was happening. She, too, expressed a sense of humor, knowledge, and compassion.

In conclusion, I want to thank all for their genuine care. I praise all associated with my surgery at Hartford Hospital and especially Urogynecological Associates."

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 be submitted **five business days 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 HHC CME Department at least 6 to 12 months prior to the date of the course in order to begin the planning process.

Please contact the HHC CME Department at ContinuingEd@HHHealth.org or (860) 972-5816 to schedule an appointment with our team to discuss your CME needs.

State Mandated CME Available Free To HH Doctors through HealthStream LMS

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

Please note with HealthStream you login using the same username and password that you login to your computer with every day (your network login). If you have other HealthStream questions: Contact

Eric Bennett, Eric.Bennett@hhchealth.org.

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. (<https://intranet.hartfordhealthcare.org/human-resources/education-training-and-certifications/elearning-healthstream>)

Once you have passed the post-test and evaluation, you will be awarded a printable CME certificate.

Please note that your Risk Management required activities through MRM will provide your Risk Management CME.

HH In the News

Are Physicians, Nurses Obligated to Protect Patients During an Active Shooter Event?

Becker's Hospital Review, Aug. 17

"Ten years ago, an active shooter event was a non-concept for hospitals, but clearly things have changed," **Lenworth Jacobs Jr., MD, lead author of the survey, chairman of the Hartford Consensus, professor of surgery and vice-president of academic affairs at Hartford Hospital,** said.

Patients and hospital staff have different perceptions about the risk of active shooter events in hospitals, according to a recent survey conducted by the Hartford Consensus, which is part of an American College of Surgeons-led committee formed to improve survivability from mass casualty events.

These events, defined by the FBI as an event where a person attempts to kill people in a populated, public place, are on the rise across the country, and hospitals are not exempt. One FBI study showed active shooter events grew from an average of 6.4 events per year from 2000 to 2006 up to an average of 16.4 events per year from 2007 to 2013.

The Hartford Consensus survey showed the general public felt safer than healthcare professionals in hospitals. The public was less likely to feel the risk of an active shooter event in a hospital was high or very high (18 percent) than healthcare professionals (33 percent). The public was also more likely to believe hospitals are prepared for an active shooter event (72 percent) than healthcare staff (55 percent).

"Our findings also show that the public tends to view the hospital as a safe haven, certainly safer than other public places like shopping malls or airports," Dr. Jacobs said. "But we've also learned that healthcare professionals are realistically more aware of the potential danger."

The hospital is a uniquely vulnerable setting for active shooter events because patients may not be mobile or lucid enough to flee the area. This presents a potential conundrum for hospital staff, who in an active shooter event may be torn between the instinct to flee and the duty to protect patients. Nearly two-thirds of both the public (61 percent) and healthcare professionals (62 percent) felt physicians and nurses had an obligation to protect patients during a shooter event, although only 39 percent of the public and 27 percent of healthcare professionals felt this obligation should hold if physicians or nurses had to take on a high or very high degree of personal risk.

The survey authors suggest hospitals prepare staff, especially those working in settings with patients who are immobile, like the emergency department, operating room or intensive care unit, to discuss the risks, consequences and strategies for decision-making in the event of an active shooter.

[http://www.journalacs.org/article/S1072-7515\(17\)30591-4/fulltext](http://www.journalacs.org/article/S1072-7515(17)30591-4/fulltext)

Farmington Resident Lends Strength To Heart Transplant Recipients

Hartford Courant: Aug. 11

Andrew Jones never let his hereditary heart condition keep him from achieving his fitness goals and now he is on a mission to help others in a similar situation. In 2012, Jones was diagnosed with myocarditis which quickly turned into cardiomyopathy. Jones made headlines last summer as "The Bodybuilder with his Heart in a Backpack," because of the shoulder pack he had to carry with the battery pack and controller for his LVAD - a left ventricular assistive device. Jones received a heart transplant in September of 2016, and he began working out again as soon as he could after receiving the transplant.

Dr. Konstadina Darsaklis, the cardiology director of pulmonary vascular disease at Hartford Hospital, worked with Jones prior to and following his surgery. She said his condition was more serious than many of her patients but he remained physically fit.

"He was one of our most active patients of all time," Darsaklis said. "It's a very sick population that we deal with."

Darsaklis said she has seen Jones come back to the hospital for outreach and to support other patients who are about to go through what he already has. As a fitness model, Jones has used his platform to share his story and inspire others. He's also started his own charity, Hearts at Large, which he hopes can provide home cleaning services to those who receive heart transplants. Jones said because patients have to go on immunosuppressants following a heart transplant for up to a year, an unclean environment can be detrimental to the patient's recovery.

Currently, the organization is working to provide support to those having a transplant for the first time, as well as encouraging more people to be organ donors.

In the HHC System

Charlotte Hungerford Ruling Coming: Decision on Torrington Hospital Merger With HHC Likely Will Be in the Fall

Republican-American, Aug 16

A state report on the proposed affiliation of **Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and Hartford HealthCare** will not be referred to the attorney general's office, meaning a decision by the Office of Health Care Access is likely to be made by this fall. OHCA has until Oct. 7 to decide on the certificate of need.

The two health care companies are seeking a certificate of need from the state so the Torrington hospital, and its medical offices throughout the Northwest Corner, can become part of Hartford HealthCare. State law would have required OHCA to refer the proposed affiliation to the attorney general's office if it found that the deal would give the hospital's "dominant market share" or charge for services at a higher rate than the median.

The report found the affiliation would have a minor impact on Hartford HealthCare, which is the second largest health system in the state with 19.4 percent of the total bed in the state.

The state used another factor known as "net patient service revenue," which is what hospitals end up making for services they provide by factoring what the hospital's charge versus what they actually are reimbursed for. For Hartford HealthCare, it's 18.9 percent. An affiliation with Charlotte Hungerford Hospital would increase that figure by 1 percent to 19.9 percent, according to the report.

The report noted a merger with Charlotte Hungerford would have little effect because of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital's size and that the two organizations are not competitors now.

Hartford HealthCare does intend to invest \$73 million in the hospital and community, including \$50

million to fund maintenance and replacement projects in Litchfield County over seven years, as well as emergency department renovations, and physical plant and infrastructure improvements. Hartford HealthCare also expects to spend \$20 million on upgrades to services.

Hartford HealthCare Posts Healthy 15.9% Return on Investments

Institutional Investor

Hartford HealthCare returned 15.9 percent on its \$3 billion fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, setting a high bar for large nonprofits as they report over coming weeks and months.

Among those who have posted FY17 results, Hartford ranks in the top decile for the year and rolling five-year returns. Growth assets and active management drove the strong returns, said Chief Investment Officer David Holmgren .

"From the portfolio side, we took a number of biases or factor bets," Holmgren said, "including a modest growth overexposure."

This segment of portfolio contributed most to Hartford's strong returns, gaining 20.7 percent and representing 57 percent of assets. On top of vibrant equity-market beta, Hartford's active plays largely paid off. Hartford's "economic hedge" assets - including commodities, infrastructure, ship financing, aircraft leasing, and other investments minimally correlated to the growth portfolio - earned 11.5 percent in FY17. The pool will remain tilted to commodities in 2018, the summary stated, given their positive valuation.

Holmgren and his team pride themselves on building tight and supportive relationships with the funds' investment managers. This partnership approach also led to five "noticeable manager changes" during the year, including three hedge funds terminated due to portfolio manager turnover.

Overall, Hartford finished more than 500 basis points ahead of its 10.2 percent policy benchmark return for the year ending June 30.

Life Star: A Life Saving Flight

Hartford Courant, Aug 18

When minutes matter, a flight in a Life Star medical helicopter can mean the difference, increasing the chances for a successful outcome.

Jesse Peters, a communications specialist with Life Star, holds 20 years of experience as an emergency medical technician in East Windsor. Safety takes top priority at Life Star, which strategically stations a helicopter at **Midstate Hospital in Meriden**. He said Life Star provides the highest level of care in the field. The service works closely with first responders throughout the state.

A Life Star medivac helicopter may be called to an isolated accident scene or fly a seriously ill child to a specialized medical center. The flight team consists of pilots, nurse, respiratory therapists, mechanics and communication specialists.

For patients who need specialized care, Life Star crews will fly to hospitals in Boston and New York. During the initial call, Peters must determine the physiological, anatomical and situational factors and the type of injury sustained, such as a burn or severe bone fracture. Heart attacks take high priority.

"We're basically like a flying intensive care unit," he said, unlike a field emergency medical technician.

A flight crew can cover the primary service area, from the shore to western Massachusetts, in 14 minutes. During the summer, Life Star responds to calls on Block Island, which does not have a hospital. Life Star also coordinates with partners in the New England and New York regions.

First responders will get a 5 minute out call from the flight crew, who will likely receive a victim's update. Once on scene, the flight crew gets a quick patient update, switches out medical equipment and departs within 10 minutes. One aircraft is always on-call.

Health Care News In the Region

Connecticut Hospital Association Officials Say PatientPing Allowing for Better Coordinated Care

New Haven Register: July 28

Officials with the Connecticut Hospital Association say a technological initiative, launched in May of last year, is working to improve patient care.

The use of a technological platform called [PatientPing](#) allows multiple health care providers to better coordinate with each other through real-time access to critical information about a patient's care. Jennifer Jackson, chief executive officer of the health care industry group, said that PatientPing allows providers to manage care "in a way that ensures patients get the right care in the right place at the right time."

PatientPing gives health care providers access to such important information as visit history to different care facilities as well as care instructions from other providers and any care programs to which the patient belongs. The goal of the technology is to keep patients from getting lost in the system.

Patient information is encrypted and protected in compliance with HIPAA and National Institute of Standards and Technology standards. The system does not provide direct clinical information about patients, he said. Providers are able to access information about patients by logging into a secure portal, or by receiving messages about patients through a secure communications channel from PatientPing.

In almost 14 months PatientPing has worked with 25 Connecticut hospitals to send more than 455,000 notifications to more than 300 post-acute providers along with health care provider organizations in 10 states, CHA officials said. PatientPing's community includes tens of thousands of providers nationwide.

Yale Chemist's Upcoming Trial Could Open Doors For New Medical Treatments

Hartford Courant: Aug. 2

A Yale chemistry professor is closing in on a medical breakthrough that could help cure a rare genetic disorder as well as pioneer a novel way of treating disease. Yale professor Alanna Schepartz is working to send protein-based therapies into hard-to-reach areas of the cell.

This summer, Schepartz is beginning preclinical trials that could prove she's done it. If her treatment is successful, it would be a first for the long-studied drug-delivery method -based on what are called cell-penetrating miniature proteins - and a potential model for other therapies.

Schepartz will soon begin mouse trials on a potential cure for Type 1 Citrullinemia, a rare genetic disorder that affects 1 in 56,000 people worldwide. By the summer of 2019, Schepartz hopes to know whether she can successfully hitch a therapy to that protein, called ZF5.3, and treat the disease.

For more than a decade, Schepartz has been studying the chemistry behind this treatment method, which involves understanding and then manipulating the traffic patterns of molecules in and out of and within cells. Her first major breakthrough came in 2012 with her lab's discovery of a protein that traveled where she needed it to go.

But Schepartz's research goes back much further, and she once had something different in mind for

its application. In 2012, she was one of three professors awarded \$2.5 million from the National Cancer Institute to study ways to prevent cells from becoming cancerous. Her attention expanded to Type 1 Citrullinemia when she applied to Yale's new \$10 million Blavatnik Fund for Innovation, established in August 2016 to help move research out of labs and into the market.

The key to Schepartz's work has been the protein her lab discovered in 2012. Cells are full of compartments, and it's hard to predictably move large molecules - like those designed to treat disease - from one compartment to another, Schepartz said. But this special protein "magically" seems to make this movement happen easily and predictably. That may allow her to send treatment to regions of the cell it otherwise couldn't go.

The "why" is still a mystery. That's another goal of her upcoming trials, to learn more about how the machines of the cell work so she can rewire them to heal people.

JAX granted \$6M in research funds

Hartford Business Journal: Aug. 23

Researchers at the Jackson Laboratory (JAX) in Farmington have just received more than \$6 million in federal, five-year grants to fund three studies, the lab announced.

In the past week, researchers at the independent nonprofit biomedical research institution received \$2.3 million from the National Institute of General Medical Studies (NIGMS) to analyze what causes the immune system to decline with age; \$1.8 million from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke involving potential treatments for multiple sclerosis; and \$2 million from NIGMS to study the role of RNA structure used in the diagnosis of cancer and other diseases.

The researchers, respectively, are: JAX assistant professor Duygu Ucar, JAX research scientist Yanjiao Zhou and JAX assistant professor Zhengqing Ouyang.

New Haven Lab Creating 'Heat-Seeking Missile' For Tumors

Hartford Courant

A team of serial investors has spun a new venture out of tumor-fighting technology developed at Yale University. Venture capitalists Per Hellsund, Kevin Rakin and Kevin Didden - who have led half a dozen businesses that sold for more than a combined \$1 billion - launched Cybrea this year after raising \$6 million from individuals, investment firms and Connecticut Innovations, the state's enterprise-funding entity.

Over two years, the young company will try to develop chemotherapy-enhancing drugs that target cancerous cells while sparing the healthy tissue around them.

"It's really like a heat-seeking missile toward tumors," said Yale physician-scientist Dr. Ranjit Bindra, Cybrea's chief scientific adviser. "I know it sounds over the top but we're really re-writing the rules of what makes a drug good and what drugs are possible to deliver to humans."

Working out of an 8,000-square-foot lab in New Haven's Science Park, Bindra and chief medical adviser Peter Glazer, a therapeutic radiology and genetics professor at Yale, hope to identify the most effective combinations of chemotherapy and DNA inhibitors, a class of drugs that prevent cells from repairing themselves after they are damaged or killed.

They're using technology that Glazer helped develop with Yale molecular biophysicist Donald Engelman and the University of Rhode Island. It's based on a chemical compound that forms a corkscrew-like structure when it comes into contact with acidic cells.

If successful, that chemical reaction will only drill into and deposit toxic chemotherapy treatments in cancerous tumor cells, not healthy tissue, "thereby making a drug that's both more effective in terms of reducing the size of a tumor but also would have less of these horrible side effects that so many

people are plagued with,” Hellsund said.

The therapy has the potential for general use but Cybrexa will develop it with particularly deadly tumors in mind, like those formed by ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer and breast cancer, he said.

Hot Topics in Health Care

Why So Many Urgent Care Centers?

Record Journal, Aug 21

Experts say there are four main reasons more walk-in or urgent care health facilities are opening in the region: doctors find them profitable, insurance companies prefer them to hospital visits, patients enjoy the easy scheduling and savings and health care networks like the ability to refer patients within their group.

The state Department of Health doesn't have separate licenses for urgent care facilities so tracking with precision the number that have opened in recent years is difficult. But it's clear from talking with those in the health care industry and with owners of urgent care companies that the past decade has been a boom for the facilities.

In Southington, a 203 Urgent Care opened last summer at 826 Queen St. Since the company's founding in 2009, it's opened ten locations.

With less waiting time and at less cost than at a hospital, patients can get injections, physicals and X-rays.

“They can come here and be seen in 45 minutes and leave,” Dwy said.

While there are a host of other urgent care facilities on Queen Street and a **Hartford HealthCare-affiliated GoHealth urgent care** opening across the street from Dwy's facility, she said there's been no lack of patients.

This month, a MedExpress opened at 875 E. Main St. in Meriden. **Hartford HealthCare, the parent company of MidState Medical Center**, is opening a health care center at 498 S. Broad St. this year. In 2014, orthopedic urgent care locations opened in Southington and Wallingford. In 2013, Health Med Urgent Care opened at 1257 South Broad St. in Wallingford.

John Yaylagul, an emergency room certified doctor, said profit is drawing doctors and hospitals to start urgent care practices. Patients looking for cheaper health care options know they'll pay less at an urgent care than if they go to a hospital emergency room. Yaylagul and a fellow emergency room doctor started Velocity Urgent Care, which has a location at 365 Queen St. in Southington as well as a branch in Rocky Hill.

Kirsten Jones, GoHealth Market President for Connecticut, said the group has joint ventures with health care networks around the country. Growth in urgent care is a nation-wide trend.

Insurance companies are encouraging the trend since they want patients going to urgent care facilities rather than more expensive hospitals.

Jones said partnering with **Hartford HealthCare** gives them a recognizable name to patients in the area. Hospitals in the network can also refer patients to GoHealth, which can in turn refer patients to doctors or specialists in the network. It also means that records can easily transfer from one facility to another. Not all urgent care companies have electronic medical records, Jones said, although GoHealth does.

The company has opened three locations in Connecticut and has plans for eight more, including the Southington facility.

Under Trump, Hospitals Face Same Penalties Embraced By Obama

CT Mirror: Aug 7

Amid all the turbulence over the future of the Affordable Care Act, one facet continues unchanged: President Donald Trump's administration is penalizing more than half the nation's hospitals for having too many patients return within a month.

Medicare is punishing 2,573 hospitals, just two dozen short of what it did last year under former President Barack Obama, according to federal records released Wednesday. Starting in October, the federal government will cut those hospitals' payments by as much as 3 percent for a year.

Medicare docked all but 174 of those hospitals last year as well. The \$564 million the government projects to save also is roughly the same as it was last year under Obama.

High rates of readmissions have been a safety concern for decades, with one in five Medicare patients historically ending up back in the hospital within 30 days. In 2011, 3.3 million adults returned to the hospital, running up medical costs estimated at \$41 billion, according to the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The penalties, which begin their sixth year in October, have coincided with a nationwide decrease in hospital repeat patients. Between 2007 and 2015, the frequency of readmissions for conditions targeted by Medicare dropped from 21.5 percent to 17.8 percent, with the majority of the decrease occurring shortly after the health law passed in 2010, according to a study last year in the *New England Journal of Medicine* conducted by Obama administration health policy experts.

Some hospitals began giving impoverished patients free medications that they prescribe for their recovery, while others sent nurses to check up on patients seen as most likely to relapse in their homes. Readmissions dropped more quickly at hospitals potentially subject to the penalty than at other hospitals, another study found.

Coming Events

Monday, September 18

Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Golf Tournament

Join the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary for their 28th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, September 18 at the Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield. The day includes a 10:30 a.m. shotgun start, lunch served on the course, then hors d'ouerves and cocktails, a silent auction, and dinner with awards and a raffle.

This year's tournament will benefit Hartford Hospital's Cancer treatment Innovation Unit. Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute's partnership with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center has given patients unprecedented access to MSK medical trials. The Cancer Treatment Innovation Unit at Hartford Hospital will allow this partnership to bring the most promising and cutting-edge cancer fighting drugs, based on precision medicine and immunotherapy, offer hope for more rapid advances in cancer care. Proceeds from the tournament will help create a dedicated in-patient unit that will provide Hartford Hospital's patients battling various types of cancer a comfortable and safe environment for Phase 1 clinical trials.

Save the Date: Medical Staff End-of-Summer Event

September 27 (Wednesday), 6-9 p.m., New Britain Museum of American Art

Join your colleagues from the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff for an amazing evening at the New

Britain Museum of American Art.

You will have exclusive admission to the gallery spaces including the works of Howard Pyle, Frederic Rodrigo Gruger, N. C. Wyeth, Norman Rockwell, and more.

Food will be provided by Riverhouse Catering. The menu will vary depending on the inspiration of the Chef at Riverhouse Catering. The evening will feature heavy appetizers, small plates bursting with bold flavors and sweet endings as well as wine, beer and beverages.

September 30

Management of Complex Aortic Pathology

Commons Building, 2nd Floor at the Institute of Living

The goal of this conference is to provide education to primary care and non-vascular providers on management of complex aortic pathology. The program includes a multidisciplinary faculty discussing topics from trauma to healthcare policy issues. Faculty will be on hand from vascular/cardiac surgery, trauma, radiology, anesthesiology and cardiology. The keynote speaker will discuss healthcare policy surrounding development of aortic centers.

Save the Date: Wednesday, October 4

33rd Annual Cardiovascular Symposium

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford

Information and registration: hartfordhospital.org/CVSymposium

Please register for this event by calling 1.855.HHC.HERE (1.855.442.4373)

Friday, October 13

20th Anniversary Nite of Lite Laughter

LITE 100.5 WRCH and Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital present legendary comedian JAY LENO for the 20th Annual "NITE OF LITE LAUGHTER," with proceeds to benefit the fight against breast cancer.

Friday, October 13, The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

Tickets are on sale now at www.bushnell.org, The Bushnell box office, or charge by phone at 860.987.5900. To learn more, please visit the [Lite 100.5 WRCH Nite of Lite Laughter page](#).

Save the Date: Thursday, November 9

12th Annual Interdisciplinary Transplant Symposium

Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill

Medical Staff Meetings

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU FOR EACH EVENT.

Questions may be directed to Luisa Machado, physician navigator,

at Luisa.Machado@hhchealth.org or by phone at 860-883-8497.

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | LOCATION |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Thursday, September 14 | 6:45-7:45 a.m. | Town Hall Medical Staff Meeting | Gilman Auditorium (Continental breakfast 6:15-6:45 a.m.) |
| Wednesday, September 27 | 6 p.m. | End of Summer Event | New Britain Museum of American Art (Registration required; Call 860-972-3013; \$50/pp) |
| Thursday, December 14 | 6:45-7:45 a.m. | Annual Medical Staff Meeting | Gilman Auditorium (Continental breakfast 6:15-6:45 a.m.) |

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.

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