

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](#)

In This Issue...

December 11, 2016

- [Chief's Corner](#): Jack's Holiday Message; HHC Office of Patient and Customer Experience
- [From the President of the Medical Staff](#): Results of Medical Staff Elections; Proposed HHC Late Career Practitioner Policy
- [From the HH President](#): Establishing Institutes for Disease Management and Wellness
- [From the HHC Chief Medical Officer](#): Dr. Spencer Erman and Sue Marino to Lead Clinical Informatics
- Annual Medical Staff Meeting This Week: Thursday, Dec. 15
- Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital Unveiled
- Important Update on Bone & Joint Institute Parking
- Teams of the Year Named
- HH Recognized By American College of Surgeons for Meritorious Outcomes
- OB Clinical Council To Present at National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care
- Louisa Machado Named Physician Navigator
- Changes to Epic To Facilitate Discharge Process
- Elliot Joseph Creates Blog Called "Our Moment"
- New Option for Treating Enlarged Prostate Performed at Hartford Hospital
- Corporators Annual Meeting Features Presentation on Heart and Vascular Institute
- HH Launches New Brand Awareness Campaign
- Open Payments: Physicians and Teaching Hospitals Should Review Public Data by December 31

- **Reminder! Do Your ALICE Armed Intruder Training**
- **Voices of Our Patients: Kudos to Dr. Barry Immerman**
- **[Learn to Assist: Patients in Need of Financial Assistance](#)**
- **[Help New Patients Find You](#)**
- **[CME Application Submission](#)**
- **[Free CME for License Renewal](#)**

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

- Hippocrates

**1984 - Hartford Hospital Named
First Blue Cross Heart Transplant Center
of Excellence in New England**

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.

Happy Holidays to Our Exceptional Medical Staff

As 2016 comes to a close, I want to offer my best wishes to the medical staff for a happy holiday season.

It's been another challenging year for Hartford Hospital, but thanks to your hard work and cooperation, we have continued to serve our community with high quality medical care and a caring spirit.

I've never been so proud of all of you.

Sincere wishes for hope, happiness and peace during the holiday season.

HHC Office of Patient and Customer Experience

HHC established the Office of Experience to create *one* exceptional patient experience across HHC. In addition to managing patient complaints and grievances, the work of the team is to advance the six best practices that fall under our three strategies of Service Excellence, Environment and Communication:

1. Leader Interactive Rounding
2. Clinical manager Rounding
3. Hourly Intentional Rounding
4. Patient Journals
5. Patient & Family Advisory Councils
6. Experience Education

The team includes a chief experience officer (Stacie Pallotta from Press Ganey, interim), a director (Kate Sims) and regional advisors and advocates.

HH Patient Care Advocates: For patient complaints and grievances:

Carmen Diaz & Joe Rapisarda, HHAdvocacy@hhchealth.org or 860.972.1100

HH Patient Care Strategic Advisors: For Press Ganey data and information on best practices to improve patient experience:

Lynn Deasy 860.972.3125; lynn.deasy@hhchealth.org and Jan Mello 860.972.3203; jan.mello@hhchealth.org

From the President of the Medical Staff

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

Results of Medical Staff Elections

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote in the Medical Executive Committee election for three at-large active staff members.

Congratulations to the winners:

Dr. Heather Einstein, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Hartford Hospital, appointed 2011

Dr. Michael Golioto, Medicine/Gastroenterology, Connecticut GI, PC, appointed 2002

Dr. Michael O'Loughlin, Radiology, Jefferson Radiology, appointed 2001

The Medical Staff Officers appreciate all of the years of service that Dr. Peruvamba Venkatesh has already given and look forward to his continued involvement with the MEC through his work representing the Credentials Committee.

Louisa Machado Named Physician Navigator

Louisa Machado has been named to the position of physician navigator.

Machado has been with Hartford Hospital since 1976, serving as call center marketing specialist,

manager of health referral service and physician liaison.

Proposed HHC Late Career Practitioner Policy

Because there is a high percentage of adults older than 70 who have some cognitive impairment, the issue of physicians who are late in their career is becoming a national issue. We at Hartford Hospital have joined with Hartford HealthCare in attempting to address this important issue. This will be voted upon for final approval by the MEC in January 2017. Comments or questions can be address to Dr. Kenneth Robinson.

The Physician Wellness Committee of the MEC with other system-wide physicians have proposed a draft (below) which will be voted on by the MEC:

HHC Late Career Practitioner Proposal

This policy applies to all practitioners with privileges at an HHC hospital.

Up to age 70: There will be biannual reappointment.

Age 70 and thereafter:

- Annual reappointment
- Medical examination
 - Neurologic
 - Mental status with focus on executive function (Montreal Cognitive Assessment or other)
 - Motor exam, strength and fine motor skills
 - Sensory
 - Ophthalmic
 - Visual acuity
- Performance evaluation
 - Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE)
 - Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE), if indicated from OPPE

Procedure:

- Practitioners who are at least age 70 at time of application for reappointment will be required to fulfill the requirements listed above.
- The medical examinations above will be conducted by a member of the HHC Senior Primary Care Program). The examining physician must not be an individual with whom the practitioner has had, or currently has a personal or professional relationship.
- The practitioner will be responsible for the cost of this examination.
- The practitioner will make arrangements for these examinations and will provide the examining physician with the neurologic and ophthalmic examination forms and a copy of their requested privileges. The examining physician will conduct the neuropsychiatric screening test.
- Physicians who conduct these exams will be asked to consider the results of the exam relative to the privileges sought by the medical staff member and to identify any issues from the examination that may affect, or have the ability to affect, the practitioner's ability to safely exercise the requested privileges.
- The examining physician will return the forms directly to the Medical Staff office. Both of the examinations are required in order for the application for reappointment to be considered complete.

Information Review:

- The Medical Staff Office is responsible for processing the reappointment applications, and medical forms submitted along with all other material required to complete the application process. All evaluations will be retained by the Medical Staff Office in the practitioner's file.

- For practitioners with medical examinations with no findings, the results will be filed and the application will continue to be processed.
- Evaluations containing findings will be brought to the attention of the VPMA and the Department Chief. If the practitioner is the Chief, then the findings will be brought to the attention of the VPMA and the President of the Medical Staff.
- If it is concluded that the results of the neurologic exam, ophthalmic exam or any other pertinent medical exam suggests that the practitioner may not be able to safely exercise all or a subset of the requested privileges, the Department Chief will review the requested privileges with the practitioner and discuss appropriate modifications. This may include voluntary relinquishment of some or all privileges or requirements for proctoring or other forms of oversight to ensure safe practice.
- In the event that the practitioner does not pass the neuropsychiatric screening test, the practitioner will be referred for more comprehensive neuropsychiatric testing.
- In the event that the practitioner will not voluntarily relinquish relevant privileges or agree to requirements recommended by the Department Chief, his/her application will be referred to the full Credentials Committee for review.
- If the recommendation of the Credentials Committee and, subsequently, the Medical Executive Committee of the Medical Staff and the Board of Trustees of the Hospital, are unfavorable to the practitioner, he/she will be entitled to all due process rights as outlined in the Medical Staff Bylaws and Credentials policy.
- Issues identified in the OPPE process may result in the initiation of a Focused Professional Practice Evaluation, requirement for proctoring or other oversight as recommended by the Department Chief.
- Regardless of the results obtained through the medical examinations or OPPE/FPPE referenced herein, the Credentials Committee, the Department Chief or the VPMA may request repeat, more extensive or different testing or additional Peer Review Evaluations as deemed necessary to obtain sufficient information to determine appropriateness of the practitioner to exercise the requested privileges. Additional testing may include, but is not limited to, neuropsychiatric or other cognitive testing, physical examination, testing of competencies in a medical simulation setting, or other evaluation of current competence.

From the Hospital President

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

Establishing Institutes for Disease Management and Wellness

Over the past few years, we've seen the healthcare environment change dramatically. At Hartford HealthCare and Hartford Hospital, we have worked hard and with great purpose to lay a foundation for a successful future, one that is dominated by value and the customer experience, while lowering the cost of care, improving quality, and keeping patients healthier.

Hospital care should be the last resort to managing disease and illness. To that end, we have targeted growth in access to care in our communities and, when appropriate, to bringing healthcare resources closer to home. We are intentionally becoming less "hospital-centric" as our system of care evolves and we strive to innovatively manage populations in the communities and regions we serve.

This means we must think about and deliver healthcare differently. Hartford HealthCare is making inroads to doing that with the establishment of institutes that bring all aspects of disease management and wellness together in an organized and highly coordinated fashion to improve patient outcomes and the overall health of our communities.

The Bone & Joint Institute (BJI) is a very visible example of the institute model. Although the BJI has a brick-and-mortar facility, that is not what defines an institute. What defines it is the coordination, integration and best-practices standardization of the comprehensive care provided. Every professional

in the institute is exclusively trained in musculoskeletal care.

The Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, following Memorial Sloan Kettering protocols, has standardized care throughout our system so a patient receives the same treatment no matter where in our system he or she is cared for. Hartford HealthCare also has created the Neuroscience Institute and the Heart and Vascular Institute, while the Tallwood Urology and Kidney Institute has become a system resource.

All the institutes are led by physicians well-known in their fields: **Dr. Mark Alberts** for Neuroscience and **Dr. Sabet Hashim and Dr. Paul Thompson** for Heart and Vascular. They join our other institute physician leads **Dr. Courtland Lewis** for the Bone & Joint Institute, **Dr. Peter Yu** for the Cancer Institute and **Dr. Steve Shichman** for the Tallwood Urology and Kidney Institute.

Our institutes are early in their evolution but already showing great results. They break down the traditional silos of care and pave the way for a new model that already is bringing true value to our patients and their families and greater satisfaction to our staff for the work we can do and the results we are able to accomplish.

Thank you for your support as we move forward in this new era of care.

From Dr. Rocco Orlando, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Spencer Erman and Sue Marino to Lead Clinical Informatics

I am pleased to announce two appointments to lead HHC's Department of Clinical Informatics, which is responsible for designing and executing technology-enabled process change and data-driven solutions to maximize patient safety, quality and operational efficiency.

Dr. Spencer Erman will take on the role of vice president and chief medical informatics officer.

Sue Marino, RN, MBA, will assume the new position of vice president and chief nursing informatics officer.

Both have done exemplary work with our CareConnect design and implementation in their previous roles as associate CMIO and director of nursing informatics.

Spencer and Sue will report to me.

Top News

Annual Medical Staff Meeting This Week: Thursday, Dec. 15

Thursday, December 15 from 7-7:50 a.m. in Gilman Auditorium.

Continental breakfast will be available from 6:30-7 a.m.

Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital Unveiled

Hartford HealthCare unveiled its all-new \$150 million **Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital** on November 15, culminating years of planning and construction.

The facility is New England's only orthopedic specialty hospital, and will offer an immense range of surgical procedures, new technologies and amenities in one location.

Read all about the institute and view more photos from the ribbon-cutting ceremony [here](#).

Electronic and print coverage of the Bone & Joint Institute at HH:

- Rob Dibble:
 - Elliot Joseph: <https://app.box.com/s/7mqzqum3cks9byrm8uhbi9owf8q1isv7>
 - Dr. Courtland Lewis: <https://app.box.com/s/ex5p8haqwv7l45fr4elx7xl7m9pp66vl>
 - Stefanie Bourassa: <https://app.box.com/s/9p02a7a641kw3azhvq5o4zaljsqx0btk>
- Editorial: <http://www.courant.com/opinion/editorials/hc-ed-bone-and-joint-institute-1116-20161115-story.html>
- Fox 61: https://youtu.be/WwbkzPp_iDE
- Healthier Connections Fox 61: https://youtu.be/WwbkzPp_iDE
- Photo Gallery: <http://www.courant.com/business/hc-hartford-hospital-opens-bone-and-joint-institute-20161115-photogallery.html>
- November 15 Opening story: <http://www.courant.com/business/hc-bone-joint-institute-opens-20161114-story.html>
- November 13 "Aims to Capture National Attention": <http://www.courant.com/business/hc-hartford-hospital-bone-joint-20161111-story.htm>
- HBJ: <http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/20161115/NEWS01/161119974>
- Facebook Live:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwwuozPtUVo&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmflcedCPFsbhfu2SqpltMLh&index=2

Important Update on Bone & Joint Institute Parking

Please be advised that effective Monday, December 19, the Bone and Joint institute will begin caring for patients in the new building.

During the initial phase, it is expected that all patients and guests of the BJI will use valet services to manage their parking needs. Additionally, parking spaces will be dedicated within EG1 (Seymour Street side of the employee garage) for BJI patients, visitors and staff. Those spaces will be clearly marked with signage on the ground level as well as parts of levels 1,2 and 3. The Washington Street entrance to the garage has also been expanded to accommodate more cars.

Employees can still enter and exit the garage via Seymour or Washington Street and park in the non-BJI designated spaces. With the increased BJI patient traffic on Seymour St., we strongly encourage use of the Washington St. entrance and exit.

In the coming weeks, a cashier system will be installed at the Seymour Street entrance to allow BJI patients and guests to valet or self-park within the designated spaces of the garage. Employees should expect to continue to be able to use their ID badge to gain access, if they are assigned to the garage.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steven Alexandre, director of Real Estate at steven.alexandre@hhchealth.org.

Teams of the Year Named

Once a year, Hartford Hospital publicly honors a Clinical and a Clinical Support team of the year to recognize outstanding work that not only improves patient care but also clearly demonstrates our values of safety, excellence, integrity and caring.

We recognized them and four finalists at our annual State of the Hospital, now called Celebrating Achievement, meeting where we also look back at the past year and our accomplishments. The teams represent who we are as an institution that strives daily to make a difference in thousands of people's lives.

The 2016 Teams of the Year and finalists are:

- **Clinical Team winner:** Hartford Hospital VTE Action Team
- **Clinical Team finalists:** North 9 Stroke Discharge Kaizen Team; the "IDEA" Team (Innovative De-escalation Emergency Assistance) Team
- **Clinical Support Team winner:** Hartford Hospital Bed Management and Transfer Center Team
- **Clinical Support Team finalists:** Hartford Hospital Periop Materials Management Team and the Belongings Action Group (BAG) Team

HH Recognized By American College of Surgeons for Meritorious Outcomes

The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP®) has recognized Hartford Hospital for achieving meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care.

Hartford Hospital is among the only 61 out of 615 hospitals considered to receive this distinction nationwide. ACS NSQIP participating hospitals are required to track the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and then analyze their results. These results direct patient safety initiatives within the hospital and impact the always improving quality of surgical care.

The ACS NSQIP recognition program commends a select group of hospitals for achieving a meritorious composite score. That composite score was determined through a weighted formula combining eight outcomes, including mortality, cardiac (cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction,) pneumonia, unplanned intubation, ventilator (greater than 48 hours), renal failure, surgical site infections (SSI), including superficial incisional SSI, deep incisional SSI and organ/space SSI, and urinary tract infections (UTI.)

ACS NSQIP is the only nationally validated quality improvement program that measures and enhances the care of surgical patients. This program measures the actual surgical results 30 days postoperatively as well as risk adjusts patient characteristics to compensate for differences among patient populations and acuity levels.

This recognition is a testament to the quality care we provide. We are proud of our staff's role in this tremendous accomplishment from the American College of Surgeons.

OB Clinical Council To Present at National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care

Hartford Hospital's OB Clinical Council has been selected to present at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 28th Annual National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care next week. They will do a podium presentation called Driving Obstetrical Excellence Through a Council Structure. **Dr. Deborah Feldman, Dr. Beth Deckers and Kate Sims** will describe our HHC Council structure and process.

Changes to Epic To Facilitate Discharge Process

Starting December 6, several changes were put into Epic to facilitate the discharge process. All of them can be accessed via the discharge navigator.

We have prepared a "cheat sheet" for the Pended Orders workflows as well as the Free Text

Discharge Instructions going into production. This is designed to give step by step instructions to supplement the more detailed Power Point presentation, which is also available. Please contact Heather Quinn, administrative assistant to Cheryl Ficara and Jack Greene, at Heather.Quinn@hhchealth.org.

To summarize:

1. Providers (MDs and APs) will be able to save work prior to the day of discharge. This can be completed by the provider completing discharge on the actual discharge day.
2. Providers will have an additional section (Free Text Discharge Instructions) in the Discharge Navigator where they can place additional discharge instructions for the patient.
3. Interprofessional services (Only Dietary and Care Coordination as of 12/6) recommendations will be available as pended orders in the Index report that appears on the right side of the screen under the Summary/Sidebar reports. Additional services (Respiratory, PT, etc) will appear as pended orders in the future, until then they will only be recommendations that must be transcribed into orders.

Elliot Joseph Creates Blog Called "Our Moment"

Elliot Joseph, HHC Chief Executive Officer, has created a new multimedia blog called "Our Moment," on the system-wide intranet, [HHC Connect](#).

"I want you to contribute to the conversation and there is an email link on the blog page so that you can do just that," Elliot said. "Let's share our stories and ideas as we continue to make Hartford HealthCare the first choice for care in Connecticut."

The link is: hhcConnect.org/OurMoment

New Option for Treating Enlarged Prostate Performed at Hartford Hospital

The First Urolift procedure was done at Hartford Hospital/Tallwood Institute on Nov. 15. Urolift is a minimally invasive therapy to relieve the bothersome urinary symptoms associated with an enlarged prostate in men. It avoids many of the side effects associated with traditional transurethral surgery.

Urolift, which is newly approved in Connecticut, is a real advance in the way we will be treating men with bothersome symptoms.

The UroLift® System treatment is a revolutionary, minimally invasive approach to treating an enlarged prostate, or BPH, that lifts or holds the enlarged prostate tissue out of the way so it no longer blocks the urethra. There is no cutting, heating or removal of prostate tissue.

Clinical data has shown that the UroLift System treatment is safe and effective in relieving lower urinary tract symptoms due to BPH without compromising sexual function^{1,2,3,4}. The goal of the UroLift System treatment is to relieve symptoms so patients can resume daily activities.

Corporators Annual Meeting Features Presentation on Heart and Vascular Institute

More than 200 hospital supporters gathered for the Annual Meeting of Hartford Hospital Corporators Nov. 17.

At the meeting, 19 new corporators were elected to join the more than 400 current corporators in serving as community ambassadors for the hospital.

In addition to the election, the meeting featured a presentation on the future of the Hartford HealthCare Heart & Vascular Institute by the co-physicians-in-chief of the institute **Dr. Sabet Hashim**, chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Hartford Hospital; and **Dr. Paul Thompson**, chief

of the Division of Cardiology, Hartford Hospital.

HH Launches New Brand Awareness Campaign

Hartford Hospital has launched a new brand awareness campaign. This new campaign marks the first time in two years we have aggressively marketed Hartford Hospital.

The position of the campaign reinforces Hartford Hospital's ability to care for patients - and even their doctors - when it matters most and when every second counts.

With 6,130 transfers last year, it builds on a foundation that Hartford Hospital is "the hospital's hospital," ready to provide the most advanced procedures, technology and expertise at a moment's notice.

The campaign includes a radio commercial, print and digital advertisements, billboards, and television commercials, which can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

You may notice that the creative for the campaign is a deliberate departure from the many "lifestyle" TV spots currently in market. We believe the campaign will differentiate Hartford Hospital in our state and call attention to the high caliber of care we provide each and every day.

Open Payments: Physicians and Teaching Hospitals Should Review Public Data by December 31

Physicians should check Open Payments data every year, even if you don't think there is data reported on you, because drug or device companies can submit older data from previous years. If there is anything inaccurate, make sure you dispute it quickly. This will let drug and device companies know that you disagree with their records and give you a chance to resolve the dispute.

- 2015 Open Payments data can still be disputed until the end of 2016
- Review your data

CMS publishes financial data by June 30 each year, providing data collected in the previous program year, as well as updates from previous program periods. The refreshed data will include data corrections made since the initial publication of data that were submitted by applicable manufacturers and group purchasing organizations.

For questions, contact the Help Desk at openpayments@cms.hhs.gov or call 855-326-8366.

This data is from the CMS.gov website.

Reminder! Do Your ALICE Armed Intruder Training

Deadline is December 31.

Link to training: <http://hhchelp.hhchealth.org/kinetic/login.jsp>

Excellence

Technology and Innovation Roundup

- Hartford Hospital became the first hospital in the nation to perform bloodless heart and kidney transplants in a single patient.
- Our Neurosurgery Department performed the second-ever reported (in the world) awake craniotomy in a pregnant woman with a brain tumor.
- The Bone & Joint Institute (BJI) at Hartford Hospital has pioneered a new and advanced technology to improve outcomes for total knee replacement. The BJI is the first in the state of Connecticut and one of the first hospitals in the nation to offer patients a new tool in orthopedic surgery for total knee replacement using the RIO[®] Robotic Arm Interactive Orthopedic System or MAKoplasty. **Dr. Paul Murray** performed the procedure. Surgeons from across the country will train at the Hartford Hospital campus, learning how to perform this procedure and other robotic arm procedures at CESI. RIO is a surgeon-controlled robotic arm system that enables more precise alignment and placement of implants. It features a patient-specific visualization system and robotic arm technology that is integrated with surgical instruments. It assists surgeons in pre-planning and treating each patient uniquely, and has been used for years for partial knee resurfacing and total hip replacement procedures.
- Hartford Hospital's Cardiology Department completed a first in Connecticut when they delivered a TAVR via the left carotid artery in a patient who had an occluded left subclavian artery, very poor iliofemoral access and severe COPD. The operation was an excellent outcome for a very sick patient.
- **Dr. Darren Tishler**, chief of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, and his team placed our first endoscopic Orbera intragastric balloon for the treatment of class 1 obesity. The entire procedure took less than 15 minutes, and the patient left the surgery center shortly after the procedure. The patient is the first to be enrolled in Hartford Hospital's new platform for virtual telemedicine for nutrition and other lifestyle coaching services. These adjunctive treatments and technologies enable us to further expand the services offered at our comprehensive multidisciplinary weight-management program throughout Hartford HealthCare. The procedure was made possible thanks to the collaboration of multiple departments, including nutrition, nursing, the WHSC, and anesthesia .

What's Your Best Practice?

As Hartford HealthCare mobilizes to improve our patient/customer experience, we know that great things are already happening in our offices, on our units and in our patient rooms every day. The next step is to make sure that these best practices are shared across the system so that we can create one exceptional experience at every location that displays the HHC logo.

The HHC Patient Experience Council would like to hear about what you are already doing and what new ideas you have to improve patient experience. Please help us to spread our best practices by submitting yours for review.

Your submission should explain what you are doing and how it has had a measurable impact on improving patient experience. All submissions should explain how the practice relates to least one of the HHC 2016 Experience focus areas - Service, Communication and Environment. The council, comprised of leaders across the system, will evaluate every entry. The best of the best will be celebrated at our next patient experience event and the implementation of the practice will be encouraged system-wide.

If you would like to submit a best practice for consideration, please visit our Patient & Customer Experience page on HHC Connect to find answers to your frequently asked questions (FAQs) and an electronic submission form.

If you have questions, please contact one of HHC's Strategic Experience Advisors.

Wayne Levesque Golf Tournament Raises \$10,500 for Cancer Center

Representatives of the 6th Annual Wayne Levesque Memorial Golf Tournament presented a check for \$10,500 to the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center in November.

The tournament, which was held this year on August 20 at the Pequabuck Golf Club in Terryville, was established in 2011 by Wayne Levesque's friends and family, who were inspired by the great care he received from **Drs. Jeffrey Kamradt, Andy Salner, Rocco Orlando** and **Evan Fox**, as well as nurse practitioner **Laurie Scarpo**.

Dr. Cronin Presents Lecture at International Symposium on Progress in Clinical Pacing

Dr. Edmond Cronin, interventional electrophysiologist in the Division of Cardiology, gave an invited lecture on ICD lead extraction at the XVII International Symposium on Progress in Clinical Pacing in Rome, Italy.

He also presented the results of original research, performed at Hartford Hospital along with **Felix Krainski**, cardiology fellow, and **Eric Crespo**, electrophysiologist, on ventricular tachycardia ablation.

In addition, Dr. Cronin was appointed to serve on the Scientific and Clinical Documents committee of the Heart Rhythm Society, the professional organization for cardiac electrophysiologists, whose vision is to end death and suffering due to heart rhythm disorders. The committee oversees the development and endorsement of clinical documents, such as guidelines and consensus statements, relevant to heart rhythm disorders.

Dr. Harold "Hank" Schwartz Speaks at Press Conference

Dr. Harold "Hank" Schwartz, psychiatrist in chief at the Institute of Living, spoke at a news conference with Senator Richard Blumenthal and Senator Chris Murphy celebrating the passing of the 21st Century Cures Act in the U.S. House. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill early next week and send it to President Obama's desk before he leaves office.

The bipartisan bill that includes emergency federal funding to combat the opioid and heroin epidemic, significant reforms to the mental health system, and funding for medical research on cancer and other diseases. Murphy is an author of the bipartisan [Mental Health Reform Act](#) that was included in the bill.

Experts point out that the bill is the most significant piece of mental health legislation in decades. It has been described as a way to speed up the development of life saving drugs, and pushes parity (the same insurance coverage for mental health as any other physical ailment.)

Hospital Review Recognizes Elliot Joseph

Elliot Joseph, CEO of Hartford HealthCare, have been named by Becker's Hospital Review as one of its "130 Nonprofit Hospital and Health System CEOs to Know" in 2016. The list features presidents and CEOs across the country working in healthcare's not-for-profit sector.

Joseph came to Hartford Hospital in 2008 as president and CEO. Under his leadership, all Hartford HealthCare member organizations are driven by clear, measurable goals and metrics. His vision for Hartford HealthCare has focused on integrating the care continuum to produce consistently excellent and affordable healthcare for all, especially the poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

He is a member on the Connecticut Hospital Association Board of Trustees and chairs the CHA Committee on Hospital Finance. He also is a member of the Greater New York Hospital Association Board of Governors. He serves as the American Hospital Association State Alternate Delegate on Regional Policy Board 1. He also serves on the boards of the Metro Hartford Alliance and Hartford's Bushnell Performing Arts Center, and was named one of Hartford's "50 Most Influential People."

HHC Bariatric Team Presents at Obesity Week Conference

The Surgical Weight Loss Centers of Hartford HealthCare, under the direction of **Drs. Darren Tishler, Pavlos Papasavas** (Hartford Region) and **Aziz Benbrahim** (Central Region), presented multiple posters at the national Obesity Week conference in New Orleans on October 31-November 4.

Obesity Week combines the annual meetings of two organizations, the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons and The Obesity Society. These posters represent work surrounding quality improvement and integrated health.

Presentations included: *Best Practices For Real-time Data Management Using MBSAQIP*, (the ASMBS' national data registry), *Implementing an Inter-Rater Reliability Process to Improve Data Accuracy*, and *Hernia Case Determination: Developing a Rubric for Accurate Data Reporting*.

With an attendance of roughly 5,000 professionals this year, these presentations were well-received and reached a large audience of physicians and investigators in the field of obesity and related diseases.

Additionally, the Connecticut state chapter of the ASMBS, under the leadership of Dr. Benbrahim, joined the newly incorporated New England Regional Chapter of ASMBS for their inaugural meeting. **Dr. Benbrahim** is the current president of the CT Chapter and helped facilitate this important representation and integration of CT into the broader New England chapter and is a member of the Board of Directors.

Drs. Tishler and Papasavas also had the unique opportunity to participate in a political action committee event with Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana on the important health issue of obesity and challenges with insurance coverage of bariatric surgery.

Dr. Sally Strange, the Hartford region program coordinator, was also awarded the 2016 Distinguished Certified Bariatric Nurse Award on November 2. Dr. Strange was nominated by her peers based on her commitment to the care of the bariatric patient and her continued service to the program.

Dr. Pearlson Awarded Grant To Study Roadside Testing of Marijuana Impairment

Dr. Godfrey Pearlson, director of the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center at the Institute of Living, has been awarded a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to examine roadside testing of cannabis (marijuana) impairment.

Participants will be admitted to the Clinical Research Center for a five-day stay and on each study day they will receive a single acute dose of cannabis (or placebo). The resulting outcomes may guide NHTSA in identifying feasible field sobriety tasks and generating cannabis related policies.

Dr. Witold Waberski Named President of the Connecticut 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.

Dr. Waberski has been with Hartford Hospital since 1983. 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. Arthur Tarantino Instrumental in Election of Urologist to the U.S. House of Representatives

Dr. Arthur Tarantino, a leader of the American Association of Clinical Urology and UROPAC, the bipartisan political action committee sponsored by the American Association of Clinical Urologists, was instrumental in the recent election of Florida urologist **Dr. Neal Dunn** in his first attempt at running for public office.

Dr. Dunn secured 67% of the vote in his Panama City-area district to win election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Dr. David Glahn Receives Research Award

Dr. David Glahn from the Olin Neuropsychiatry Center at the IOL received the Joel Elkes Research Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology at the ACNP Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Florida, December 4-8.

The Award is presented to a young scientist in recognition of an outstanding clinical contribution to neuropsychopharmacology. The contribution may be based on a single discovery or a cumulative body of work.

Of particular interest in selecting the awardee are contributions that further our understanding of self-regulatory processes as they affect mental function and behavior in disease and well-being.

Dr. John D'Avella and John McNab were honored By National Kidney Foundation

Dr. John D'Avella and John McNab were honored last month at the National Kidney Foundation Serving Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Awards Gala.

Dr. D'Avella's received the Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing his many achievements that have supported patients with chronic kidney disease over his entire career. He recently retired after a very distinguished career at Hartford Hospital.

McNab's received the Outstanding Achievement Award and recognizes service, support, and commitment to helping people who suffer from chronic kidney disease. He has been with the transplant program for 29 years.

Dr. Steven Sharfstein Presented IOL's Burlingame Award

Dr. Steven Sharfstein, retired president and CEO of the Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore, was named the 29th recipient of the Institute of Living's C. Charles Burlingame, MD, Award, one of the most prestigious annual psychiatric health awards in the nation.

HH Researchers Publish 291 Papers; Receive \$10 Million in Grants

In FY 2016, researchers at Hartford Hospital from 16 departments/divisions published 291 papers and submitted 87 scientific abstracts/presentations during the year.

Our total research revenue for FY16 totaled nearly \$10 million, with funding from federal, state, foundation, industry, and internal grants.

Volunteers Needed for a Research Study Aiming to Detect Cancer Earlier

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

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

Participants may qualify if they:

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

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

Clinical Trials Being Offered at HHC

Research is a critical aspect of our being the destination for innovative and complex care.

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

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

“Musculoskeletal Medicine in the Advanced Medical Home: What do you need from us?”

January 12, 2017 (Snow Date January 19, 2017) from 6-9 p.m. at the HH Bone and Joint Institute/Orthopedics

This free program will inform and assist Primary Care Physicians to identify, screen and coordinate care of the musculoskeletal patient.

Appetizers and cocktail hour. 1.5 CME Hours.

To register, call the HHC Call Center at 1-855-HHC-HERE (1-855-442-4373)

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

Call for Posters: Annual Hartford Hospital Department of Medicine Advanced Practitioner Symposium

The Hartford Hospital Department of Medicine Advanced Practice Team announces the Second Annual Advanced Practitioner Symposium to be held on April 28, 2017.

This year, we will be holding a poster session as well. We invite you to present a poster highlighting your innovation, research, quality or role projects.

Submit the following information by January 3, 2017:

- One copy of a completed CALL FOR POSTERS form, available from Erica Thompson, erica.thompson@hhchealth.org.
- One copy of original abstract and cover sheet with identifying information on corresponding author (name, credentials, contact information)
- One copy of abstract without identifying information for blind review

Abstract format guidelines:

1. Limit to 500-word document using Times New Roman 12pt font (do not include headings in word count)
2. Single-spaced with one-inch margins on 8.5" x 11. paper
3. Adhere to identified format headings: a. Abstract Title b. Authors c. Purpose & Rationale d. Research Questions (if research) e. Synthesis of Review of Literature f. Methods/Procedures g. Results h. Discussion/Application to Practice

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Erica Thompson at (860) 972-5766 or erica.thompson@hhchealth.org.

Compliance and Privacy Update: Using Social Media

If you participate in social media networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) outside of work, please remember that you represent Hartford HealthCare at all times.

Social media posts must not disclose any protected health information (PHI) of any patients of HHC.

Understand that PHI may be inadvertently present in photos or videos, and that having this appear online still constitutes an inappropriate disclosure of PHI. For that reason, and because of the potential disruption to patient care, employees are not permitted to take photographs or videos in patient care areas or areas where PHI may be visible.

Employees should not engage in social media activities during working time, unless required by their position. Employees may access social media during breaks, subject to the restrictions of the Social Media Policy.

Please remember that if you view a post that appears to violate the social media policy, they should not "share" it further; they should notify a supervisor or the Hartford HealthCare Office of Compliance, Audit and Privacy (OCAP). The Compliance Line is 1-855-HHC-OCAP (1-855-442-6227). You can also reach OCAP directly at 860-972-1573.

For more details, please refer to the Hartford HealthCare Social Media Policy at

<https://myhh.hhchealth.org/hospitalwidepolicies/layouts/WordViewer.aspx?id=/hospitalwidepolicies/Policies/HHC%20Social%20Media%20Policy.doc&DefaultItemOpen=1>.

Avoid Verbal Orders

The process of verbal orders should be avoided except when it is impossible or impractical for the prescriber to write the order or enter it in the computer.

Most of these orders were given in day time ie work hours.

Please note that it is JC violation to give verbal orders on patients unless it's an emergent event. Please refrain from VOs.

Volunteers Needed for No One Dies Alone Program

Please join those currently serving in the nationally recognized program called *No One Dies Alone (NODA)*. A compassionate companion volunteer provides reassuring presence to patients who would otherwise die alone. With the support of the nursing staff, companions are able to help provide patients with that most valuable of human gifts: a dignified death.

Attendance at a three-hour training session conducted by the Spiritual Care department's chaplain Erica Richmond is required. The next training will be Thursday, January 5, 2017 from 4-7 p.m. in the Special Dining room. Attendees will be escorted to the Dining Room from the main lobby at 3:50 p.m. If you are able to attend, please complete a volunteer application at this link:

<http://hartfordhealth.vsyshost.com/vsys/app/HQGL45AS0GY1II7N>

For questions regarding the program, please contact the Volunteer Department at (860) 972-2182 or email: Kelley.boothby@hhchealth.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 fund raiser 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.

Educational Events and Programs Calendar Available

[Click here to download.](#)

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>

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](mailto:Dr.Marc.Palter@hhchealth.org) 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. Craig Allen was interviewed on WTNH, Ch. 8 about Response to the Surgeon General's report on the nation's addiction crisis. <https://youtu.be/nJvZ8ISdfVQ>

Dr. David Bendor was interviewed on Face the State about election discussions: https://youtu.be/v_eHDxpbKus

Dr. Len Jacobs was interviewed by WFSB, Ch. 3 about "Stop the Bleed - Hartford Consensus." <https://youtu.be/mnmYymGuRO0>

Dr. Fawzu Mohamradu was interviewed by New Britain Herald about flu and whether area medical centers are ready for flu season with vaccines available

Pat Rehmer was interviewed live on 93.7 FM about depression and suicide around the holidays.

Dr. Laura Saunders was interviewed by Fox 61 about discussing politics with family during the holiday. <https://youtu.be/tiJziBDG1VY>

Dr. Erica Schuyler was interviewed by FOX 61 about Epilepsy. <https://youtu.be/7VF6TICjA-E>

Dr. Hank Schwartz was interviewed by CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley about the release of a video and brochure, "knowing the signs" of gun violence by the Sandy Hook Promise. The interview will focus on threat assessment and what specific signs lead to violent behavior.

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.

Pain Treatment Center

Debilitating pain can affect every aspect of someone's life. One woman was nearing the end of her rope when she discovered the Hartford Hospital Pain Treatment Center.

<http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org:80/ermweb/player?id=eh6CkUyG>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/e9nulgag768usi7/120416%20CTH%20PAIN%20TREATMENT.mov?dl=0>

Hartford Hospital Pain Treatment Center

<https://youtu.be/3inFYqT4UMM>

Recap of the Bone & Joint ribbon cutting

<https://youtu.be/S3POcBVx4WM>

Holiday eating and eating disorders

https://youtu.be/eZ_GpjF9QrM

Helping Adult Caregivers

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

<https://youtu.be/rlwCACcLuRQ>

New Technology to Treat Sleep Apnea

Jaime Fernando Ortiz couldn't stand his CPAP machine and was one of the first in the state to use a new technology to treat sleep apnea. Hypoglossal nerve stimulation or INSPIRE. <https://youtu.be/2xOdLfl1VH8>

Running the Marathon With Cancer

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

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

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4mc3qjngt4kd8j1/101616%20CTH%20Marathon%20Runner.mov?dl=0>

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

Healing After an Aneurysm

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

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

<http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org/ermweb/player?id=9ED911ul>

Featuring A Roundup of HHC News

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

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

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

<https://youtu.be/9ztEDTzSOi8>

Introducing Hartford HealthCare's News Hub

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

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

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

Upcoming News Service Content; Share Your Stories

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

Connect to Healthier

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

Medical Rounds

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

HealthCare Matters radio program

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

Healthier Connections

Monthly partnership with FOX CT.

CT STYLE

Monthly partnership with WTNH.

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

[Link to contact information across the system: Hartford HealthCare Media Relations Team](#)

Voices of Our Patients

Kudos to Dr. Barry 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 14.

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

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

CME Offerings on HealthStream Temporarily Unavailable

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

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

We appreciate your patience during this transformation.

HH In the News

Anti-gravity treadmill offers different way to exercise

WFSB, Ch. 3

A type of technology astronauts, and some professional athletes have been using for some time will soon be offered to residents in Connecticut. Eyewitness News went to Hartford Healthcare's Bone and Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital to find out more about the anti-gravity treadmill.

"The big thing is, is that we can unweight you. Anything from 20 percent of your body weight, up to 100 percent of your body weight; and we can make some variations in between," said Stefanie Bourassa, the director of the Sports medicine Clinical Program.

The more one is "unweighted" on the treadmill, the less of an impact the motion will have on their joints, which is huge for those undergoing physical therapy and rehabilitation.

"Research shows that getting things moving faster is actually more beneficial than waiting," Bourassa said. "Whether it's somebody who is obese or overweight and they need to lose weight before they have surgery...or our ACL patients that we want to get walking earlier...or even our osteoporosis who might be afraid of walking, we get them on the treadmill and we get them back to doing their patterns."

The treadmill doesn't have to necessarily be used for an injury.

Athletes like to take advantage of the machine too, in order to enhance their training experience.

"It has camera systems in it so we can look at what your foot patterns are doing, what your hips are doing, and we can maybe make some adjustments," Bourassa said.

Channel 3 Meteorologist Mark Dixon gave the treadmill a try. He stepped into what Bourassa calls the "air bladder." Once sealed, the machine is turned on and the bladder fills with air.

The machine automatically calibrates for the user calculating their weight, BMI and pressure systems. Once Dixon started running, Bourassa slowly began to decrease the weight.

Dixon's body was experiencing "muscle confusion" so he was still getting a workout, even though he was running on only 45 pounds at one point.

"Your muscles are used to your body weight doing what your body tells it to do; so if you unweight it--now your muscles have to figure things out; and it re-signals to the brain what's going on so you can create this new learning pattern," Bourassa said.

"When we were at 25 to 50 percent, it felt like I was kind of bouncing on every step because of the force wasn't as great; but then as I was coming back to 100 percent of my weight, I felt every step and every pound," Dixon said.

The amount of force and impact changes for the user, but one thing that won't change while you're on the treadmill is your cadence and turnover rate.

Video: <http://www.wfsb.com/story/33773861/anti-gravity-treadmill-offers-different-way-to-exercise>

In the HHC System

Hospitals seek state OK Hungerford, Hartford HealthCare propose affiliation

Republican-American

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington is one step closer to a partnership with Hartford HealthCare.

The final step in forming an affiliation between Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and the parent company of Hartford Hospital began last week when the two health care organizations filed paperwork with the state.

Charlotte Hungerford and Hartford HealthCare filed their application for a certificate of need with the Department of Public Health's Office of Health Care Access on Nov. 28.

The state has 30 days to put together questions on the hospitals' 323-page application, and the hospitals will have 60 days to respond. The process likely will push an approval into next spring.

While the hospital affiliation isn't like a company merger where money is changing hands to the seller, Hartford HealthCare does intend to invest \$73 million in the hospital and community. Part of that \$73 million focuses on capital improvements, 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.

The affiliation likely will expand health care in the region. Hartford HealthCare is looking to start a number of new offices for the northwest region, including a geriatric medicine institute; a gastrointestinal and digestive diseases program; an orthopedic program; a women's health program; a behavioral health network; and expanded treatment of dementia and related diseases.

Hartford HealthCare also seeks to expand neurology and neuroscience service lines "by building upon the existing tele-stroke program, and establishing practice clinics in the northwest region, including a pain management satellite location in Torrington."

MidState, doc group propose Wallingford outpatient surgery center

Hartford Business Journal

MidState Medical Center in Meriden and a group of nine gastroenterologists who are members of the hospital's medical staff have applied to the state to open a new outpatient surgery facility in Wallingford for gastroenterological services that include colonoscopies and endoscopies.

The proposed Wallingford Endoscopy Center LLC - a joint venture of the hospital, which will own 51 percent, and MidState Endoscopy Center Holdings LLC, a new company that will be owned by the nine physicians with a collective 49 percent stake in the center - is slated to go inside the Wallingford Family Health Center at 863 N. Main St.

The hospital holds the master lease for the building, according to the certificate of need for the center filed last week with the state Department of Public Health.

The estimated cost to build out the space for the center is about \$2.8 million.

State reviews typically take about six months, meaning the applicants - Wallingford Endoscopy Center LLC and MidState Medical Center - would hope to receive regulatory approval by about May with opening of the facility sometime in 2018, according to Barbara Durdy, director, strategic planning for Hartford HealthCare.

Health Care News In the Region

UConn, CaroGen seek colon cancer vaccine

Hartford Business Journal

The University of Connecticut and CaroGen Corp., an emerging immunotherapy company doing research in UConn's Technology Incubation Program (TIP) in Farmington, said this week they are collaborating on developing a vaccine to potentially treat and cure colon cancer.

CaroGen's proprietary technology will be applied to a specific target studied by UConn Health's Kepeng Wang, assistant professor of immunology. CaroGen will provide a \$70,000 grant to Wang and his collaborator at UConn Health, Anthony T. Vella, professor and Boehringer Ingelheim chair in immunology, who will aid in the development of this platform.

CaroGen's platform is a transformative virus-like vesicle (VLV) technology developed at Yale University School of Medicine and exclusively licensed by CaroGen for the development and commercialization of immunotherapies worldwide, according to a news release from UConn's Office for the Vice President of Research.

The company is developing a portfolio of immunotherapies with a lead program in chronic hepatitis B viral infection in collaboration with Professor John Rose of Yale University School of Medicine and Michael Robek of Albany Medical College.

Colon cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States for men and women. Colon and rectal cancer deaths increase with age and are highest among people 75 to 84.

CaroGen is also working on the development of VLV immunotherapies against *C. difficile* bacterial infection in collaboration with UConn Health researcher Kamal Khanna, assistant professor of immunology, and a [vaccine against Zika](#) with UConn researcher Dr. Paulo Verardi, associate professor of pathology.

Hot Topics in Health Care

Hospital industry warns of 'crisis' if health law is repealed

Hartford Courant

The nation's hospital industry warned President-elect Donald Trump and congressional leaders on Tuesday that repealing the Affordable Care Act could cost hospitals \$165 billion by the middle of the next decade and trigger "an unprecedented public health crisis."

The two main trade groups for U.S. hospitals dispatched a letter to the incoming president and Capitol Hill's top four leaders, saying that the government should help hospitals avoid massive financial losses if the law is rescinded in a way that causes a surge of uninsured patients.

The letter, along with a consultant's study estimating the financial impact of undoing the Affordable Care Act, makes hospitals the first sector of the health care industry to speak out publicly to try to protect itself from a sharp reversal in health policy that Trump is promising and congressional Republicans have long favored.

When it was enacted in 2010, the health care law was a product of a delicate balancing act among

various parts of the health care industry. Each essentially agreed to sacrifices in exchange for the prospect of millions of Americans gaining insurance to help cover their medical expenses.

Since Trump's election last month, most health-industry sectors have quietly been trying to glean - and influence - the thinking within Congress' GOP majority and the president-elect's transition team.

America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), the insurers' main lobby, has been holding private meetings with members of Congress. According to an AHIP spokeswoman, the group is urging that a repeal of the Affordable Care Act avoid disrupting newly gained coverage, eliminate certain taxes the law placed on insurers and replace the requirement that most Americans carry insurance with strong financial incentives for coverage.

In contrast, the American Hospital Association and the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) convened a news conference Tuesday to release the study's findings and draw attention to their concerns.

Charles "Chip" Kahn III, president of FAH, a for-profit group, said the amount of money that hospitals could lose under a repeal of the Affordable Care Act was "unsettling."

Joann Anderson, president of Southeastern Health, a financially fragile rural hospital in Lumberton, N.C., one of that state's most economically depressed areas, said the prospect of repealing the health law without a replacement to keep people insured is "gut-wrenching. ... We cannot take additional cuts."

The study, by the health economics consulting firm Dobson DaVanzo, used as its starting point a bill that is the only Affordable Care Act-repeal legislation that Congress has produced. It was vetoed early this year by President Barack Obama. That legislation would have eliminated crucial parts of the health law - among them, federal subsidies for health plans people buy through insurance marketplaces created by the law, penalties for violating its insurance requirements, and the expansion of Medicaid that 31 states have adopted.

The study says a similar repeal would cause an additional 22 million people to be uninsured by 2026. By then, it predicts, hospitals would lose \$165 billion as a result - and \$102 billion more unless the government reverses certain payment cuts the law made to hospitals that treat many uninsured patients.

The hospital groups say that if Trump and Congress repeal the Affordable Care Act without replacing it right away, they should also restore government payments for hospital care of Medicare and Medicaid patients to what they were before the 2010 law. When it was enacted, the premise was that hospitals could absorb lower payments if more people were insured.

A spokeswoman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., noted that Ryan has said he favors a transition period to phase out the law but has not specified how long he prefers. A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the senator has held over 100 meetings with hospital leaders, employees and patients "to hear firsthand about the damage the law is doing."

Spokesmen for the Trump transition team did not answer repeated requests for a reply, except for a note that said: "We have received your request. Due to the volume of requests coming in, response time may be slower than usual."

Coming Events

Annual Medical Staff Meeting

Thursday, December 15

7-7:50 a.m. in Gilman Auditorium

Continental breakfast will be available from 6:30-7:00 a.m.

“Musculoskeletal Medicine in the Advanced Medical Home: What do you need from us?”

January 12, 2017 (Snow Date January 19, 2017) from 6-9 p.m. at the HH Bone and Joint Institute/Orthopedics

This free program will inform and assist Primary Care Physicians to identify, screen and coordinate care of the musculoskeletal patient.

Appetizers and cocktail hour. 1.5 CME Hours.

To register, call the HHC Call Center at 1-855-HHC-HERE (1-855-442-4373)

2017 Black & Red Benefiting Neuroscience

Saturday, January 28, 2017

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.

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.

[Update your profile](#) | [Manage your subscriptions](#) | [View as a web page](#)

This email was sent by: **Hartford HealthCare**
1 State Street Hartford, CT, 06103