

What's news...

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

[Free CME for License Renewal: Click here for instant access](#)

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April 10, 2016

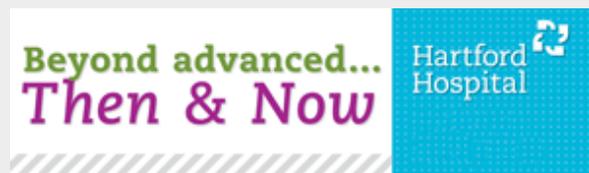
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Housestaff Appreciation Week

April 10-16

Please join us in thanking our Hartford Hospital and UConn residents and fellows for all of their efforts, knowledge, expertise and compassion that they bring to the care of our patients at Hartford Hospital.

Their participation in our clinical activities is essential to the quality of outcomes for our patients.



1998-- Urologic surgeon Dr. Steve Shichman was the national pioneer of a minimally invasive procedure, called Hand-Assisted Laparoscopic Nephrectomy, to remove kidneys.

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.

Welcome To "Chief's Corner"

We recognize the need for sharing information about activities throughout the hospital more widely with our Medical Staff.

Chief's Corner will bring you highlights of activities of interest, which will be authored by our Department Chiefs. Should you have any comments or suggestions along the way, please share them with us.

Printing of Physicians' Names Next to Signatures is Mandatory

It is imperative for patient care that all care givers be able to identify physicians involved in the care.

With that being said, we were cited during the Joint Commission visit for instances of illegible physician signatures. Individuals looking through the chart could not identify the physician based on his/her signature.

This obviously raises a concern if they needed to reach the physician. This is a serious violation in addition to a safety concern.

This must be fixed immediately. Printing of names next to signatures must be mandatory in addition to a contact number (pager or cell phone).



From the President of the Medical Staff

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

Announcing Award Winners To Be Recognized at Annual Medical Staff/Board Spring Event

June 9 (Thursday)

The Annual Medical Staff-Board Spring Event will be held on Thursday, June 9 from 6-8:30 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

Part of the event is the Annual Medical Staff Awards, which honor individuals on the Medical Staff who have made exceptional contributions to the medical community. I'm pleased to announce this year's winners of these awards:

Dr. Subramani Seetharama, John K. Springer Humanitarian Award

Dr. Padmanabhan Premkumar, David Hull, MD Young Practitioner Award

Dr. Elizabeth Deckers and Jenifer Ash, APRN, Quality and Safety Award

Dr. Michael Conway, Distinguished Service Award

Don't Miss It! Town Hall Open Forum April 21

Please join us for a Town Hall Open Forum on **Thursday, April 21** from 6:45-7:45 a.m. in Gilman Auditorium.

Dr. Stu Markowitz, Dr. Jack Greene, Dr. Marc Palter, Dr. Spencer Erman, and I will be available for any questions people may bring.

Continental breakfast will be available from 6:15-6:45 a.m.



From the Hospital President

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

Please read the following letter from Elliot Joseph, HHC president and chief executive officer, regarding a new armed intruder response training program for all employees.

Dear Colleagues:

"We do the safe thing."

Hartford HealthCare's core value of safety can't be more simply expressed. Every day, across our system, we work hard to put those five short words in action by creating and maintaining the safest possible environments for all who rely on us. Our communities benefit from these efforts, and my colleagues and I applaud you for your commitment.

But our world is changing, and we need to do more.

We all know of horrific mass-shooting events around the globe and closer to home. Every community we are part of "from the biggest cities to the smallest villages" faces heightened concerns about threats to public safety and anxiety about effective ways to minimize and prevent harm. No place, no person, no organization is immune from the possibility of violence. That's our reality.

For the past several months, leaders across our organization have discussed how we can address this reality here at HHC "for those we serve, and for all who work here. I am proud of this group's willingness to dig deep and examine the issues surrounding violence. I am also grateful for your ongoing efforts to ensure that we create and support the safest environment for our patients, customers and colleagues.

Today, we're announcing a new armed intruder response training program for all employees. You will receive detailed information very soon, but for now we are seeking 100 volunteer leaders to assist with this initiative. Information is attached. I encourage you to read it and I know that we can count on your participation.

In every sense, this training is an investment. Yes, it will take money and resources to provide this education across our system, even as we confront financial challenges in our state. It will also require an investment of your time, even as we are all involved in many other significant initiatives, like CareConnect, to improve care coordination. Having participated in this training, I can personally assure you: it will be worth it.

HHC has long been a leader in creating awareness and solutions to deal with mass casualties. Our own Dr. Lenworth Jacobs, Jr., is a national leader in this effort through The Hartford Consensus, a program to improve survival from active shooter events. And just last month, HHC demonstrated its leadership again by adopting plain-language emergency communication across our system. We should be proud of these efforts, because they show how "we do the safe thing."

Talking about the possibility of tragic incidents can be unsettling. But, as healthcare professionals, we have a special obligation to make sure we each have the skills to protect ourselves and those we have the privilege to care for. Thank you in advance for again putting HHC's vision into action.

Sincerely,
Elliot Joseph
President and Chief Executive Officer

Drs. Hashim and Thompson Named Co-Physicians-in-chief of HHC Heart and Vascular Institute

Dr. Sabet Hashim, an international leader in cardiac surgery, has been appointed chairman of cardiac surgery and co-physician-in-chief of the Hartford HealthCare Heart and Vascular Institute. Dr. Hashim is best known for his expertise in mitral valve repair. For the past decade, he has served as director of Cardiac Valve Surgery at Yale-New Haven Hospital, where he performed New England's first mitral valve repair in 1984.

The Institute's cophysician-in-chief will be the internationally recognized cardiologist **Dr. Paul Thompson**, currently director of cardiology at Hartford Hospital. Dr. Thompson has authored more than 200 scientific articles on topics including the effects of exercise training on preventing and treating heart disease, the risk of sudden death during exercise, the effects of statins on muscle function, and genetic factors affecting the exercise response. He has served as a television medical commentator for two Boston and five New York marathons and was NBC's Sports Medicine Analyst at the Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea.

Dr. Thomas Divinagracia, currently director of endovascular services at Hartford Hospital, will expand his role by leading our systemwide vascular surgery strategy.

Dr. Ed Sauter Named Director of Breast Surgery Program at HHC Cancer Institute

Dr. Ed Sauter, a highly accomplished breast surgeon, has joined the HealthCare Cancer Institute (HHCCI) as director of the Breast Surgery Program.

He joins us after serving as director of the Cancer Treatment and Prevention Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, where he built on an international reputation as a world-class surgeon, scientist, medical educator and physician administrator.

Physicians Have 45 Days to Review and Dispute 2015 Records in Open Payments System

According to CMS MLN Industry is currently submitting data to the Open Payments System on payments or transfers of value made to physicians and teaching hospitals during 2015. When data submission ends, physicians and teaching hospitals are given 45 days to review and dispute records attributed to them.

In order to review the data, physicians and teaching hospitals need to register in the Open Payments system. The system is available for physician and teaching hospital registration. The review and dispute period began April 1 and will last for 45 days. CMS will publish the 2015 payment data and updates to the 2013 and 2014 data on June 30, 2016.

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HHC Offers Geriatric Consultations for your Patients 55 and Older

- Group consists of three geriatricians and two geriatric nurse practitioners
- Board-certified geriatric physicians and nurse practitioners experienced in caring for patients from 55 through the final stages of life
- We are currently able to see patients within a week of receiving the referral.
- Patients need to be older than 55 to be seen, however for memory assessments we accept any age.
- Recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance as a level 2 Patient Centered Medical Home

Services offered:

*Memory Assessments and Management of both Dementia and its behavioral symptoms.

*Fall and Balance Evaluations and Management

*Medication Management: Polypharmacy

*Any Complex Geriatric patient

Coordinating Care for Seniors

Hartford Hospital Senior Primary Care at Duncaster coordination with Connecticut Center for Healthy Aging to assess and provide support for the family and caregivers.

- Dementia experts who coordinate closely with us to help educate caregiver about dealing with patient's behaviors are also available through the **Connecticut Center for Healthy Aging**
- Connecticut's first objective functional assessment test - Cognitive performance test done by an Occupational Therapist to aide our Dementia diagnosis.
- Close coordination with Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network and Hartford HealthCare at Home to further refer needed patients for Gait and Balance training
- Team based resource rich care that offers excellent quality of life for both patients and their families.
- **You can reach us at:** Hartford Hospital Senior Primary Care at Duncaster, 30 Loffler Road, Bloomfield: Phone: 860-380-5150

Big Y Awards \$26,000 to Partnership for Breast Care

Hartford Hospital's Partnership for Breast Care has been awarded \$26,000 on behalf of Big Y's ninth annual Partners of Hope Campaign to promote breast cancer screening, education, and treatment.

Dr. Patricia DeFusco, a medical oncologist, is the physician lead for the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute Breast Disease Management Team (DMT) and the medical director of Hartford Hospital's breast program.

The DMT is comprised of physician and program leads, multidisciplinary physicians, research, survivorship, navigation, genetics, quality of life, information systems, and cancer registry staff. Dr. DeFusco, in her role as a physician lead, is responsible for professional oversight, clinical leadership, and strategic planning for the DMT and for the breast program.

The donation from Big Y will support breast care for uninsured women as well as provide support for Hartford Hospital's high-risk breast care program.



Obituary: Dr. Joseph Civetta

Dr. Joseph Civetta, formerly chief of surgery at Hartford Hospital and UConn and program director for the residency, died March 30 at his home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was 77.

Dr. Civetta was a giant in American surgery – he was a pioneer who was one of the inventors of Surgical Intensive Care as a discipline in addition to being a nationally recognized medical ethicist.

We grieve at the passing of a remarkable individual, devoted father and husband, friend and colleague.

Excellence

Dr. Hank Schwartz Chosen as Hometown Hero Award Winner

Hartford Courant, March 18

Dr. Harold "Hank" Schwartz takes time from his busy schedule as psychiatrist-in-chief for the Institute of Living to walk across campus to get lunch at the cafeteria.

Schwartz came into prominence with the governor's commission on the Sandy Hook school shootings in December 2012. His professional activities are varied and many. The campus walk is his alone time.

"As I am walking," he says, "I try to make it a practice not to be checking my phone or to be talking to someone, but to be taking in the trees and the air. I wish our patients here could be exposed to this even more."

Schwartz, a nationally recognized psychiatrist, hospital executive and author, is comfortable in many roles. He is psychiatrist-in-chief at the Institute of Living and Hartford Hospital, and regional vice president of Hartford HealthCare. He is also professor of psychiatry in the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and an adjunct professor of psychiatry in the Yale University School of Medicine.

[Read more here.](#)

Our Physicians Are Great Sources For Local Media

Dr. Laura Saunders was interviewed on Fox 61 about aggressive parents. [Listen here.](#)

Dr. Andrew Salner on FOX 61 to promote the Zero Prostate Race/Prostate Health hosted by HHC. (Fox 61 March 28, [Watch it here.](#))

You can always view a list of media interviews on the website under [Hartford Hospital Making Headlines](#)

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.

Here's a look at what's coming up.

[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.

Check [this link](#) for a look at the stories currently running on our HHC screens, waiting rooms and at Westfarms Mall.

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

Research and Academics

Palliative Care Symposium

April 12

There will be a Palliative Care Symposium on Tuesday, April 12 from 5- 8 p.m. in the Education & Resource Center.

Registration and dinner is at 5 p.m.

Advance Care Planning: A Life Cycle Approach will be presented at 5:30 by Colleen Mulkerin, MSW, LCSW.

The Importance of Communication Skills in Working with the Seriously Ill will be presented at 6 by **Dr. David Weissman**. In 1991, Dr. Weissman began one of the early palliative care programs in the United States. He was the Founding Editor of the Journal of Palliative Medicine and founder of EPERC (End of Life/Palliative Education Resource Center) and Founding editor of Palliative Care Fast Facts and Concepts. In 2013, he was named one of 30 Visionaries in Hospice and Palliative Medicine by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

A panel called *"Incorporating Advance Care Planning into Daily Practice"* will be held at 7 p.m., moderated by **Dr. Ross Albert**. Panelists are Katherine Lepak, Erica Richmond, and Maryann Steed.

REGISTER: 1.855.HHC.HERE

12th Annual Electrophysiology and Heart Failure Symposium

April 20

Wednesday, April 20 from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill.

A patient presenting to the provider with symptomatic heart failure and/or arrhythmias can be a challenge to diagnose and treat. It is often difficult to distinguish whether heart failure or arrhythmias precipitated the symptoms.

This conference will explore multiple aspects in the workup and management of these patients and provide guidelines and new information that are not commonly appreciated by the medical community.

Inaugural Symposium for Advanced Practitioners

April 29

Hartford HealthCare is sponsoring a free symposium designed for and by advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants on **Friday, April 29** from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

This symposium will offer key clinical topics with updated and evidence-based information from clinical experts, as well as networking and current clinical information in pulmonary, cardiology and other topics of interest to advanced practitioners.

Watch for the comprehensive brochure due out in March.

For more information, please contact Erica Thompson at 860-972-5766 or erica.thompson@hhchealth.org.

Multidisciplinary Neurovascular Symposium: Updates in Stroke and Carotid Artery Disease

May 21

Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

Fees:

Hartford HealthCare employees: \$15

Students, residents and fellows: Free

Non-Hartford HealthCare professionals: \$30

For more information:

98.188.110.106/NeurovascularSymposium or 1.855.HHC.HERE (1-855-442-4373)

Physician Resilience Series Offered by AMA

CSMS and HCMA have introduced a new educational series from the American Medical Association, focusing on the growing issues of physician burnout and resiliency.

1. **Tuesday, May 24**, 5:30 -8:30 p.m. (dinner and program): Nationally-known speaker Dr. Bruce Bagley will lead *Physician Work Life and Wellness*, a live CME event at Hartford Hospital . There is a fee for this dinner program: \$40 for CSMS members and \$65 for non-members. Registration starts at 4:30 p.m.
2. **Wednesday, July 20**, from 6-7:30 p.m.: *Physician Resiliency Assessment and Response*, a webinar led by **Dr. Christine Sinsky**.

For registration links and additional information, please visit <http://csms.org/resiliency>

Questions? Contact Catherine Wagner, EdD, CSMS VP for Education and Health Information at cwagner@csms.org.

Save the Date: 32nd Annual Cardiovascular Symposium

October 5

Wednesday, October 5

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

Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford

Information and registration: 98.188.110.106/CVSymposium

Please register for this event by calling 1.855.HHC.HERE (1.855. 422.4373).

Voices of Our Patients

Voices of Our Patients

After being transported from Bloomfield by ambulance, I was treated at Hartford Hospital Emergency Department for a kidney stone that was causing me unbearable pain.

As soon as I arrived at the ED, I was taken into a private room where two physicians and several nurses immediately treated me. My pain was relieved within minutes, the physicians asked me a series of questions and quickly diagnosed my problem

Shortly thereafter I was wheeled upstairs where a CT scan was taken of my abdomen. Once the physicians had the CAT scan results, they provided me with details about the location of the kidney stone, explained that the kidney stone had not passed but that it should pass in a matter of days and should pass without causing me further great pain. They also provided me with prescriptions for pain killers in case their predications about future pain proved to be incorrect.

My entire experience in the ED was extremely positive. All the staff members who assisted me, physicians, nurses and technicians, were professional, compassionate and attentive. I would rate their performance as an A+.

I am happy to congratulate Hartford Hospital on the outstanding treatment it provided me when I was in an emergency predicament.

*Sincerely,
Thomas Farnham*

Operational Update

Please Note: Change in BNP Testing

Clinical Laboratory Partners at Hartford Hospital has switched from BNP to NT-proBNP for the diagnosis of individuals suspected of congestive heart failure.

Please carefully review the [attached fact sheet](#) for information regarding this new test. As can be seen, the new NT-pro-BNP results will be substantially higher than current BNP results.

Current reference range for BNP: <100 pg/mL.

**New reference range for NT-pro-BNP: <125 pg/mL (≤75 years of age)
<450 pg/mL (>75 years of age)**

If you have any questions or desire additional information, please reach out to us at any time.

Many thanks for your attention to this test change.

Dr. Bradford Sherburne - 860-972-2848

Dr. Gregory S. Makowski - 860-696-8024

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.



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.

"Find a Doctor" Feature Helps Potential Patients Connect With You

Help New Patients Find You

Hartford HealthCare offers physicians a free powerful tool to help reach potential patients. The systemwide "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.

Man Battles Third Cancer With Help From CT Cancer Institute

CT Style, April 7

At first glance, you might not realize it, but Carll Pallokat is battling cancer. This isn't the 73-year-old's first or second bout with the disease. It's his third.

"I'm a fighter," Pallokat said. "I'm not one that's going to let this get me down."

After being diagnosed and treated for thyroid and prostate cancer, Pallokat is now facing colon cancer with the help of the skilled doctors and nurses at The **Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at The Hospital of Central Connecticut**.

"It was very upsetting and I said, 'Oh my goodness, what am I going to do?' And then we met the great doctors here at The Hospital of Central Connecticut and they said no we can treat it."

With 100,000 square feet of clinical and medical office space, The Hospital of Central Connecticut's Cancer Institute is the largest facility in the region dedicated to cancer care.

[Read more here.](#)

27th Annual Mary Mulready Sullivan Oncology Symposium - LYMPHOMA: Innovations in Diagnosis and Treatment

May 5 (Thursday)

The 27th Annual Mary Mulready Sullivan Oncology Symposium will be held on **Thursday, May 5** from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

The symposium will feature these speakers from Memorial Sloan Kettering:

- Anas Younes, MD- Introduction to Lymphoma
- Ahmet Dogan, MD - Diagnosis and Classification
- Paul Hamlin, MD - B Cell Lymphoma
- Craig Moskowitz, MD - Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Steven Horwitz, MD - T Cell Lymphoma
- Amy Copeland, RN, MSN, CNS - Clinical Research Issues from Nursing Perspectives
- Sergio Giralt, MD - Indications for Stem Cell Transplant

Cost is \$50 for MDs; \$20 for APRNs/ RNs/others; and free to students or residents who register. The cost includes morning refreshments and a box lunch.

Registration is required: call 855-HHC-HERE.

Read Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute's newsletter, Plus

[Click here to read the latest issue of Plus](#), the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute's newsletter.

This special edition is the Cancer Institute's 2015 Annual Report.

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.

ICP News

ICP News: 2016 Incentive Program

Please see the attached [April issue of ICP News](#).

Top Stories:

ICP CMO Dr. Michael Pinnolis - MACRA Redux: Transforming Medicare Payments to Providers

Inside:

- ICP Appoints Regional Medical Director
- Geriatric Consultations Available
- The Conversation of a Lifetime
- New Price for ICP Members for EHR
- A Patient Story of Dementia Care
- How to Be An Inbox Ninja

For a look at our previous issues, visit www.integratedcarepartners.org.

For your information: Videos from the first ICP Conference (The Mind/Body Connection: Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care) are posted on the ICP Web site: [Click here to view](#).

CME Applications

Important Information Regarding CME Application Submissions

Over the last year there have been several changes to the HH CME program designed to ensure that all planned activities meet the new and more stringent standards set by the ACCME and CSMS for accredited CME. The HH CME team has met with department chairs, physician planners and others involved in this process to outline the changes and new expectations. We have also worked directly with physician planners to help educate them about the criteria required to plan an educational activity that will qualify for accredited CME.

Recently we have observed a significant increase in the number of CME applications at HH. While we are pleased to see this growth of CME offerings, we have also observed that many submitted applications have required additional attention with respect to completeness and documentation.

The required documentation is often significant and requires careful review by our team to ensure that all ACCME standards are met. We often need additional information from invited speakers and this process can sometimes take several weeks to ensure that all documentation has been received for a complete application. The committee is unable to review any incomplete applications. For this reason, the HH CME committee has decided that **we must strictly enforce the following deadlines for submission of all CME applications.**

Effective January 1, 2016, the CME Department will only review **complete** applications that are submitted **4-weeks prior to the planned activity for recurring series events such as Grand Rounds and 12-weeks prior to courses or symposia.**

We have developed educational resources to assist planners with the application process. Please contact the CME office at ContinuingEd@HHCHHealth.org for further information about available planning resources. Additional support from our CME planner is available on a first come first serve basis. In order to ensure a timely review of your application, we strongly recommend advance planning for events.

Courses and symposia should be planned at least 6 months in advance and ideally up to 12 months in advance. We encourage you to contact the CME office with any questions you have regarding the timing of application submission.

As the holidays approach we would also like to set clear expectations regarding application submissions over the next several weeks. The following deadlines noted below will also be strictly enforced.

For educational activities scheduled to be held between December 21, 2015, and January 8, 2016, CME applications must be submitted by noon on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.

Any questions regarding these deadlines or policies should be directed to the CME Office, ContinuingEd@hhchealth.org.

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

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

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

Temporary ID can be provided for you.

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

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

Once you have passed the post-test and evaluation, you will be awarded a printable CME certificate. Your CME will also be maintained and easily self-service accessed on the HealthStream site, should you need a copy in the future.

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

HH In the News

Prediabetes: The Silent Health Condition That Affects Thousands

Hartford Courant, April 4

Thousands of Connecticut residents are prediabetic but don't know it and if they did, doctors say, early detection and lifestyle changes could prevent diabetes from developing in most people at risk.

"Prediabetes is a huge problem," said Maria Daigneault, an advanced practice registered nurse at Hartford Hospital's Diabetes LifeCare Center. "People are walking around with it and have no idea what the risk factors are."

[Read more here](#)

West Hartford 5K Will Raise Awareness About Prostate Cancer

Hartford Courant, April 4

West Hartford will host a 5K run/walk on April 10 to raise awareness about prostate cancer and raise money towards researching the disease.

The event is a partnership between ZERO, a national nonprofit with a mission to end prostate cancer, and Hartford HealthCare's Tallwood Urology and Kidney Institute.

Stuart Kesler, a urologist with Hartford HealthCare, lives in West Hartford and is part of the partnership responsible for bringing the ZERO race to Connecticut for the first time.

He wants this event to continue the efforts of bringing prostate cancer into the public discussion, similar to how breast cancer is discussed today.

"The way I look at it, ZERO is trying to raise awareness for prostate cancer similar to what Susan G. Komen did for breast cancer," Kesler said. "Before that, breast cancer wasn't as talked about. It really brought it to the forefront for conversations for everyday people."

[Read more here](#)

In the HHC System

A behind-the-scenes look at Life Star helicopter

My Record Journal, April 4

Alarms sound on the phones of Brian Wilson and Burt Cox shortly after 11 a.m. Wednesday in the LifeStar barracks at MidState Medical Center. A Code 200 has come in, requiring transport of a patient via helicopter from Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam to Hartford Hospital.

Wilson, a flight nurse, and Cox, a respiratory therapist, rise from their seats, and within seconds, are whisking through the hallways of the hospital headed for the helipad.

"Let's go make the magic happen," Cox says.

[Read more here.](#)

Windham Hospital's future depends on financial performance, administrators say

The Bulletin, March 30

Windham Hospital may be facing the prospect of a vastly-scaled back facility if its financial turmoil-especially in the midst of a state budget battle-continues, administrators from its parent company said Wednesday.

In January, Hartford HealthCare said the hospital lost \$4.4 million in 2015, ending a rocky year which included a June announcement that 119 full-time jobs would be lost as part of the system's overall reduction of 335 positions as a cost-savings measure.

"You can't lose money at that rate forever. Absent Hartford HealthCare, it probably would not exist today. Certainly not to the point it does," Keith Fontaine, the company's vice president of marketing and branding, told The Bulletin's editorial board Wednesday.

[Read more here.](#)

Health Care News In the Region

Hospital administrators not celebrating restored payments yet

The Bulletin: March 30

Eastern Connecticut hospital leaders are breathing a sigh of relief following a Tuesday vote that restores promised Medicaid payments to them. But leaders from Hartford HealthCare said the money should never have been on the block to begin with.

"Something the governor has done very effectively is to turn this payment in the minds of the public into a grant. It's not," Keith Fontaine, vice president of marketing and branding for the health care giant that runs The William W. Backus and Windham hospitals, told The Bulletin's editorial board on Wednesday. "This is a payment for service, it's that simple."

As part of a bipartisan deficit mitigation package approved by the General Assembly to wipe out a \$220 million budget shortfall, lawmakers restored \$140 million in Medicaid payments due to hospitals this fiscal year.

And with a looming \$900 million budget gap on the horizon for 2017, administrators aren't celebrating just yet.

[Read more here.](#)

Hot Topics in Health Care

Let Patients Read Their Medical Records

New York Times, March 31

When I read a patient's electronic health record, I now assume what's written there is as likely to be wrong or outdated as it is to be accurate. Sometimes these discrepancies are minor and inconsequential; sometimes they can be devastating. And unlike what happens in Vegas, what's written in your medical record often stays with you forever.

One study found that there's complete agreement between medications listed in the electronic health record and what patients actually take only in about 5 percent of patients. Another study found that 43 percent of medications listed in the electronic health record were inaccurate-with 29 percent having been stopped and 14 percent changed. Many allergies and adverse drug reactions aren't recorded. Research from the Veterans Health Administration found that 60 percent of patient records had at least one error. From 2013 to 2014, the percentage of lawsuits related to electronic health record issues doubled and is expected to rise.

The ease with which doctors can copy and paste the information in a medical record can be one source of error—as well as a potent source of “note bloat”: notes so filled with extraneous information that you have to scroll through pages and pages of nonsense to find anything useful. Almost all doctors use the copy-paste function when writing notes, and by some estimates between half and three-quarters of daily notes are copied text. There are advantages: Forwarding text for stable patients can be safe and efficient and a majority of doctors believe it doesn’t hurt patients. But, if not done carefully, it can perpetuate false or outdated material.

One solution may be to encourage more patients to read their medical records. Doctors may be motivated to write more thoughtful and accurate notes if they know their patients will be reading them.

[Read more here.](#)

Report: CT fifth worst state for doctors

Hartford Business Journal, March 31

The opportunities for doctors are better in Mississippi than Connecticut, according to an analysis by the personal finance website WalletHub, which this week released a report titled, “2016’s Best & Worst States for Doctors.”

WalletHub’s analysts compared the 50 states and District of Columbia across 11 key metrics, including physicians’ monthly average starting salary, number of hospitals per capita and medically underserved areas or populations.

Connecticut ranked 47th nationally. Mississippi ranked first.

Here’s what WalletHub found for the medical profession in Connecticut, with 1 the best and 25 average.

- 47th Cost of living-adjusted mean annual wage
- 39th Projected physicians per capita (2022)
- 44th Malpractice award payouts per capita
- 23rd Cost of living-adjusted average starting salary
- 50th Number of hospitals per capita
- 16th Projected percentage of population 65-plus by 2030
- 41st Number of physicians per capita

WalletHub ranked Connecticut 44th under the dimension of “opportunity and competition,” comprising the metrics of physicians’ mean annual wage, adjusted for cost of living; physicians’ monthly average starting salary, adjusted for cost of living; number of hospitals per 100,000 residents; insured population rate; medically underserved areas or populations; future elderly population; current competition: future competition.

It ranked the state 38th under the dimension of “medical quality,” comprising the metrics of punitive state medical boards; malpractice award payouts per capita; and malpractice liability insurance rate.

Coming Events

Palliative Care Symposium

April 12 (Tuesday)

There will be a Palliative Care Symposium on Tuesday, April 12 from 5- 8 p.m. in the Education & Resource Center. Registration and dinner is at 5 p.m.

Advance Care Planning: A Life Cycle Approach will be presented at 5:30 by Colleen Mulkerin, MSW, LCSW.

The Importance of Communication Skills in Working with the Seriously Ill will be presented at 6 by Dr. David Weissman. In 1991, Dr. Weissman began one of the early palliative care programs in the United States. He was the Founding Editor of the Journal of Palliative Medicine and founder of EPERC (End of Life/Palliative Education Resource Center) and Founding editor of Palliative Care Fast Facts and Concepts. In 2013, he was named one of 30 Visionaries in Hospice and Palliative Medicine by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

A panel called *“Incorporating Advance Care Planning into Daily Practice”* will be held at 7 p.m., moderated by Dr. Ross Albert. Panelists are Katherine Lepak, Erica Richmond, and Maryann Steed.

REGISTER: 1.855.HHC.HERE

Medical Staff Town Hall Meeting

An open forum for the medical staff with HH and HHC leadership: **Thursday, April 21** from 6:45-7:45 a.m.

Save the Date: Inaugural Symposium for Advanced Practitioners - April 29

Hartford HealthCare is sponsoring a free symposium designed for and by advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants on **Friday, April 29** from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

This symposium will offer key clinical topics with updated and evidence-based information from clinical experts, as well as networking and current clinical information in pulmonary, cardiology and other topics of interest to advanced practitioners.

Watch for the comprehensive brochure due out in March.

For more information, please contact Erica Thompson at 860-972-5766 or erica.thompson@hhchealth.org.

27th Annual Mary Mulready Sullivan Oncology Symposium - LYMPHOMA: Innovations in Diagnosis and Treatment

May 5 (Thursday)

The 27th Annual Mary Mulready Sullivan Oncology Symposium will be held on **Thursday, May 5** from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

The symposium will feature these speakers from Memorial Sloan Kettering:

- Anas Younes, MD- Introduction to Lymphoma
- Ahmet Dogan, MD - Diagnosis and Classification
- Paul Hamlin, MD - B Cell Lymphoma
- Craig Moskowitz, MD - Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Steven Horwitz, MD - T Cell Lymphoma
- Amy Copeland, RN, MSN, CNS - Clinical Research Issues from Nursing Perspectives
- Sergio Giralt, MD - Indications for Stem Cell Transplant

Cost is \$50 for MDs; \$20 for APRNs/ RNs/others; and free to students or residents who register. The cost includes morning refreshments and a box lunch.

Registration is required: call 855-HHC-HERE.

The Hartford Medical Society Presents "Evoking Emotion in Painting: Lessons Learned in Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience"

May 11 (Wednesday)

Presented by Dr. Robert Schweizer

Town and County, 22 Woodland Street, Hartford

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

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

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

Save the Date: Multidisciplinary Neurovascular Symposium: Updates in Stroke and Carotid Artery Disease

May 21

Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

Physician Work Life and Wellness Dinner Program

May 24 (Tuesday)

From the American Medical Association, focusing on the growing issues of physician burnout and resiliency.

4:30 -8:30 p.m. (registration, dinner and program)

Nationally-known speaker Dr. Bruce Bagley will lead *Physician Work Life and Wellness*, a live CME dinner event at Hartford Hospital.

There is a fee for this dinner program: \$40 for CSMS members and \$65 for non-members.

For registration links and additional information, please visit <http://csms.org/resiliency>

The Hartford Medical Society Presents "Genomic Personalized Medicine"

June 8 (Wednesday)

Presented by Dr. Weinstock of The Jackson Laboratory

Town and County, 22 Woodland Street, Hartford

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

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

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

Widener on Physician Resiliency Assessment and Response

July 20 (Wednesday)

6-7:30 p.m.

Webinar led by nationally-known speaker by **Dr. Christine Sinsky**.

From the American Medical Association, focusing on the growing issues of physician burnout and resiliency.

For registration links and additional information, please visit <http://csms.org/resiliency>

The Hartford Medical Society Presents "The Upcoming Presidential Elections"

Sept 14 (Wednesday)

Presented by Attorney Kevin F. Rennie

Town and County, 22 Woodland Street, Hartford

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

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

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

Medical Staff End of Summer Event

September 16 (Friday)

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

Join the Medical Staff Officers and your colleagues from the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff for a unique opportunity to socialize and enjoy each other's company. More details to follow!

The Hartford Medical Society Presents "Civil War Hospital Newspapers"

Oct 26 (Wednesday)

Presented by Dr. Ira Spar

Town and County, 22 Woodland Street, Hartford

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

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

Registration is \$20/member, \$35/guest or non-member, and includes cash bar, dinner, and presentation. If you have

questions please call the HMS office at (860) 586-7573.

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 98.188.110.106/SSJ. This ensures that you will receive the newsletter at your preferred email address. [Back issues can be viewed here](#). 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.