

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...

May 28, 2017

- [Chief's Corner](#): Please Review Dragon Documents for Accuracy; Epic Updates
- [From the President of the Medical Staff](#): Medical Executive Committee: The Basics; MEC Key Points
- [From the HH President](#): Employee Engagement/Culture of Safety Survey to go out June 5
- Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute Receives Accreditation
- Cancer Institute Receives 2 Ron Foley Foundation Grants
- Leadership Changes in Department Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
- HHC Names System Vice President for Community Health and Engagement
- First Two Micra Transcatheter Pacemakers Implanted
- First Cryoballoon Ablations for Atrial Fibrillation at Hartford Hospital
- Applicants Sought for 7th annual Provider Leadership Development Institute (PLDI)
- Urgent Care Services Being Relocated to Retail Sites in Partnership with GoHealth Urgent Care
- Center for Healthy Aging Opens at Hartford Hospital
- Region's Hospitals Would Lose Millions More Under Malloy's New Budget Plan
- Ransomware Attacks Do Not Affect HHC
- Voices of Our Patients: *Kudos to Dr. Chike Chukwumah*
- [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: The first successful heart transplant in Connecticut was done at Hartford Hospital by Dr. Henry B.C. Low.

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

Chief's Corner

- [Dr. Jack Greene](#), Hartford HealthCare Regional Vice President of Medical Affairs for the Hartford Region and Hartford Hospital

Just Ask Us!

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

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

Please Review Dragon Documents for Accuracy

Dragon Dictation has been a tremendous success in Hartford HealthCare and is being used by many, if not most, providers. A document that is dictated with Dragon appears exactly the same as one that has been typed and carries with it the same responsibilities

Although Dragon is remarkably useful and accurate, it can make mistakes that can render a document or statement incorrect or incomprehensible. These documents can be read and used by our peers, legal experts and now our patients.

Before you sign any dictated document, please review carefully what is present for others to see.

Epic Updates

Marc Palter

Results Review Filter Update - This will provide information about the NEWEST filter update and a guide on how to navigate Results Review Options.

<https://hartfordhospital.org/File%20Library/Unassigned/Results-Review-Filter-Update-and-Tip-Sheet.pdf>

Drug/Pregnancy Alert Update - A previous special update has increased the number of drug-pregnancy alerts present to providers. This is due to Epic considering female patients less than 50 to be potentially pregnant if they have no pregnancy status documented. After considerable discussion with system councils HHC has decided to only display drug-pregnancy alerts if a patient is documented as pregnant. Now when a provider is presented with a drug-pregnancy alert it means that the patient is currently documented as pregnant. If the patient is not pregnant the provider should update the patient's OB/Gyn status appropriately

<https://hartfordhospital.org/File%20Library/Unassigned/HHC-Drug-Pregnancy-Update.pdf>

From the President of the Medical Staff

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

Medical Executive Committee: The Basics

The Medical Executive Committee (MEC) is chaired by the president of the Medical Staff. The MEC is the primary authority over activities related to the functions of the Medical Staff and for performance improvement of professional services provided by individuals with clinical privileges.

The MEC consists of no more than 21 voting members; the four officers of the Medical Staff; 6 chiefs who are elected by the Department Chiefs and 7 at-large members. At-large members represent at least 50% of the voting membership and are elected by the Medical Staff.

The hospital president and vice president of Medical Affairs are ex-officio members, without vote.

MEC Key Points

New Chief of Pathology - Dr. Srinivas Mandavilli

Dr. William Pastuszak will be stepping down as chief of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the end of June. The Department voted in favor of electing **Dr. Srinivas Mandavilli** as the new chief. The recommendation of Dr. Mandavilli will be forwarded to the board for confirmation.

Nominating Committee

The president of the Medical Staff is in process of appointing three members of the Active Staff 40 days prior to the election to assist with the nominating process. A call for nominations for the 2018 open positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasury and four At-Large positions will be sent out soon. Election this year will be on November 14.

OFFICERS

Stacy Nerenstone, MD (President)
Matthew Saidel, MD (Vice President)
Michael O'Loughlin, MD (Secretary)
William Sardella MD (Treasurer)

AT-LARGE

Mitchell McClure, MD* (At Large)

Samuel Pope, MD* (At Large)
Peruvamba Venkatesh, MD * (At Large)
Andrew Wakefield, MD* (At Large)

Reappointments

An email will be sent to practitioners in this reappointment cycle during the week of May 30 notifying them that reappointments will be mailed out to each practitioner's office during the week of June 6 and will be due back no later than July 12.

If you do not receive a reappointment by June 12, please contact Nancy Ritone in the Medical Staff Office by email/phone: Nancy.Ritone@hhchealth.org / 860-972-0957.

Medical Staff Eligible to Take Advantage of Barney Fitness Center

As a member of the Hartford Hospital Active Medical Staff one of your benefits includes free, 24/7 access to the Barney Fitness Center located on the first floor of the Hudson Street employee parking garage.

If you are interested in becoming a fitness center member, please complete the questionnaire by clicking on the following link - <http://intranet.harthosp.org/hh/dept/341?route=2> and then selecting Enrollment Forms on the right. The completed form is to be faxed to 860-545-2397.

If you have any questions, contact the Barney Fitness Center at 860-972-3077 or by email at FitnessCenter.FitnessCenter@hhchealth.org

Reminder: Annual Medical Staff/Board Spring Event June 8

The Annual Medical Staff-Board Spring Event will be held on **Thursday, June 8** from 6-8:30 p.m. in Heublein Hall. Please join your colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of the recipients of our Annual Medical Staff Awards, and welcome our new faculty members joining Hartford Hospital.

Reminder: Semi Annual Medical Staff meeting June 15

The semi annual medical staff meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15 from 6:45-7:45 a.m. in Gilman Auditorium. 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

Employee Engagement/Culture of Safety Survey to go out June 5

On Monday, June 5, we will open our system-wide Employee Engagement/Culture of Safety Survey to all staff members. It will give you a chance to answer important questions about your work. It's completely confidential, so don't hold back.

Here's how it works:

- Each employee will get an email with the survey link. (It also will be available online for those without email.) Completing it takes 15 minutes. You will have two weeks to finish it.
- If you have any questions about how to take the survey, help is available. We have trained more than 650 of your coworkers as “survey ambassadors” - at least one in nearly every department. These individuals will have special Engagement Ambassador ID badge tags (like the flu-vaccination tags).
- This is worth repeating: It’s totally confidential. Managers supervising work units with fewer than five employees will not see survey results to protect employee confidentiality. We can’t - and don’t want to - track responses back to employees or individual employee computers. So please be open and honest in your answers.
- More information is available here: <https://intranet.hartfordhealthcare.org/engage-develop/employee-engagement>

Your responses matter. We have made many changes in response to past surveys. We’re listening and responding. Together, we can improve workplaces across HHC.

Please take the Employee Engagement/Culture of Safety Survey and help make Hartford HealthCare an even better place to work, so that we can expand and deepen the care we provide to our communities.

Top News

Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute Receives Accreditation

The Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute meets or exceeds all the national standards required by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, according to recent site surveys and data analysis. The site surveys and data analysis were part of a rigorous survey process by the commission, which in March accredited the HHCCI as an Integrated Network Cancer Program, something only a small percentage of cancer centers have been able to accomplish nationwide.

The accreditation focused on 34 standards, 31 of which the HHCCI met and three of which surpassed expectations. “Commendations” were granted in the three areas that surpassed - clinical research, nursing care and accuracy of data.

“This has been a major undertaking, and a clear indication of the progress we have made in realizing our vision to become one cohesive cancer center that ensures that patients have access to the highest standards of care no matter where they enter our system,” said Donna Handley, vice president of operations for the institute. “This took an incredible amount of teamwork - I am so proud of everyone who helped make this happen.”

Requirements for Courtesy Staff Surgeons Performing Surgical Cases at Hartford Hospital

Hartford Hospital went live with EPIC in August 2016 and, as a result, new requirements have been instituted regarding performing surgical cases. Whether you wish to perform ambulatory or inpatient surgical cases, the following is required prior to scheduling a surgical case:

EPIC: Epic training (at any of the HHC facilities) is required. If previously trained at a *non-HHC facility*, you will be able to test out of the Epic 100 Fundamental Class and simply take the Surgery 200 class. **Please note** that if you don’t log in for 180 days your access will be deactivated and you must contact IT prior to the procedure to reactivate it.

Contact Cynthia Thompson, Consulting Analyst, Information Technology at 860-250-7361 (Cynthia.Thompson@hhchealth.org)

HH SECURITY BADGE: The surgeon must have a Hartford Hospital badge. **Contact** Luisa Machado, Physician Navigator-Medical Staff Office at 860-883-8497 (Luisa.Machado@hhchealth.org)

OR ORIENTATION: For Hartford Hospital, orientation is required prior to the date of surgery. For the West Hartford Surgery Center, orientation will be done the day of surgery unless other arrangements are made. **Contact** Joana Pereira, Administrative Assistant-OR, at 860-972-2089 (Joana.Pereira@hhchealth.org) to discuss your needs. For orthopedic procedures performed at the Bone & Joint Institute (BJI) at Hartford Hospital, orientation is required prior to the date of surgery.

Contact Kim Ward at the BJI OR, at 860-972-6594 (Kim.Ward@hhchealth.org) to discuss your needs.

MEDICAL RECORDS: There are three options to create reports:

- Dragon Voice Recognition (training optional)
- Epic Templates (training optional)
- Telephone dictation (no training required).

Contact the HIM Department at 860-972-2366 to discuss your needs

Cancer Institute Receives 2 Ron Foley Foundation Grants

Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital has received two grants totaling \$53,500 to support pancreatic cancer programs from the Ron Foley Foundation. The foundation awarded \$7,500 for Ask the Experts public education sessions and \$46,000 toward a cyst registry for pancreatic cancer research.

Dr. Andrew Salner, director of the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital, has long been involved with the pancreatic cancer program and its work with the Ron Foley Foundation. **Dr. Michael Golioto** is the principal investigator of the research study.

Ron Foley Foundation's mission is to support pancreatic cancer research, raise awareness of pancreatic cancer, and provide patient aid.

Leadership Changes in Department Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Bradford Sherburne will be assuming the role of medical director of the Hartford Hospital Laboratory June 30. Included in this role will be the responsibility for Laboratory Quality and Compliance under CLIA and regulatory bodies including the State of Connecticut and the College of American Pathologists.

Dr. Srinivas Mandavilli will become the next chief of the Department Pathology and Laboratory Medicine July 1. His designation as the next Department Chief has been forward by the Hospital and Medical Staff leadership for final approval by the Hartford Hospital Board of Directors.

HHC Names System Vice President for Community Health and Engagement

Greg M. Jones has been named system vice president for community health and engagement at HHC. He will work to further develop our community health and engagement strategies and action plans across the system. Last year, Hartford HealthCare invested more than \$268 million in community health activities.

Jones began last July in an advisory capacity to help HHC align our community health program to our mission. Since then, he has assessed our community benefit program and worked to develop our Community Health Needs Assessments and corresponding improvement plans.

Jones is the founder, chairman and executive director of The Legacy Foundation of Hartford, which creates and supports programs to address health and education among youth. This organization

launched the Take Charge of Your Health Initiative in partnership with Hartford Hospital. A former investment banker, Greg has an MBA from The Wharton School and a master's degree in Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University. He has held executive leadership positions at United Technologies Corp., Lehman Brothers and JP Morgan Securities, Inc. He also was a longtime and active member of the Hartford Hospital Board of Directors.

HH Reaccredited as Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program

Hartford Hospital has been re-accredited as a Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP) Comprehensive Center by the American College of Surgeons and The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery through March of 2020.

In this review cycle, we were not asked merely what we do. Instead, we were required to prove that we actually do what we say we do. As many can attest, no stone was left unturned during this site visit - the reviewer looked under chairs, asked meaningfully difficult questions about safety and quality, and scrutinized every line of our data reporting.

We want to share with you a couple of lines from our reviewer that truly sums up what we are able to do at Hartford HealthCare:

"This center takes the concept of quality improvement further than most centers. They perform a careful analysis of all identified issues and then create a robust solution that allows ongoing monitoring of their intervention. Finally, they present their results so other bariatric centers can benefit from the "lessons learned." This represents the "Best Practice" desired in an MBSAQIP center."

The program is directed by **Dr. Darren Tishler, Dr. Pavlos Papisavas, and Sally Strange**, RN, PhD, program coordinator.

First Two Micra Transcatheter Pacemakers Implanted

Dr. Meir Friedman and Dr. Steven Zweibel implanted the first two Micra transcatheter pacemakers at Hartford Hospital.

Unlike other pacemakers, this device is completely self-contained with no need for leads and is implanted inside the heart through a puncture in a vein in the groin. The device has been designed for patients who need single-chamber pacemakers and has eliminated complications such as fracture of the leads and infections of the pacemaker pocket. The device is MRI compatible allowing patients to undergo an MRI scan and the battery is expected to last 12 years on average.

First Cryoballoon Ablations for Atrial Fibrillation at Hartford Hospital

On May 17, **Dr. Eric Crespo**, director of the Interventional EP lab, utilized the Medtronic Arctic Front Advance system to perform Hartford Hospital's first two cryoballoon ablations for atrial fibrillation (AF).

This system, which utilizes extreme cold to ablate tissue, has been shown to be as effective as traditional AF ablation techniques, but has the benefit of offering patients a shorter, more consistent, and potentially safer procedure. Hartford Hospital is the only institution in the Hartford area to offer this technology.

HH Teams repairs complex thoracic aortic aneurysm using a novel Thoracic Branched Endograft

Hartford Hospital delivered another first in the state when a team of vascular surgeons, cardiac

surgeons, and cardiovascular anesthesiologists successfully repaired a complex thoracic aortic aneurysm using a novel Thoracic Branched Endograft as part of an exclusive research trial.

The operating team was led by **Dr. Thomas Divinagracia**, chief of Vascular Surgery and institutional principal investigator for this trial.

Hartford Hospital is one of only three institutions in New England that have been accepted into the Thoracic Branched Endograft Trial. This is the first device that allows surgeons to repair life-threatening aortic aneurysms in the upper chest using a 100 percent minimally-invasive approach.

The patient went home in good condition on postoperative day three after receiving the endograft through pinhole incisions in his skin. This technology opens the door to innovative treatment options of the future.

Applicants Sought for 7th annual Provider Leadership Development Institute (PLDI)

We are pleased to announce our seventh annual Provider Leadership Development Institute (PLDI) at Hartford HealthCare. This nine month program provides advanced leadership skills and education to select providers practicing in the HHC system.

Thirty providers will be accepted and given the opportunity to participate in the PLDI as a cohort group from October 2017 through June 2018. The program will meet monthly for a full day on the first Wednesday of the month.

Particular emphasis is placed on creating sessions that build off of each other to provide an all-encompassing framework of the HHC system. We are interested in selecting a diverse group of individuals from group practice, hospitals and other HHC organizations with the objective of building relationships and learning from each other.

Deadline for application submissions: Friday, June 2.

Applications will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee with letters of acceptance status sent out on **June 30**.

Successful applicants must be willing to commit to attend all monthly training and fully participate in development opportunities. This is an investment we are making to develop leaders for Hartford HealthCare. We want to ensure that those selected will take full advantage of this program.

This program is being supported by Hartford HealthCare and offered at no charge to participants.

HHC Urgent Care Services Being Relocated to Retail Sites in Partnership with GoHealth Urgent Care

Hartford HealthCare is spending millions of dollars to relocate most of its urgent care services from regular physicians' offices to standalone retail sites with high customer visibility.

A renovated former Rite Aid in a retail plaza in Avon marks the initial site of Hartford HealthCare's reinvented urgent care strategy. It opened May 1.

HHC expects to open 15 locations by next summer, which would make it one of the state's largest urgent care providers. Lease talks and plans are in various stages for locations in West Hartford, Glastonbury, Bristol, South Windsor and Vernon.

All will be joint ventures with GoHealth Urgent Care, a Georgia-based outpatient developer that has similar partnerships with three other health systems across the country - including New York's Northwell Health system - comprising nearly 60 urgent care locations.

Patients can make appointments and check wait times online, and the lobby has a check-in kiosk and flatscreen monitor displaying the patient queue by first name. Flatscreens also adorn the wall in each of the five exam rooms, aimed at showing patients what the doctor or nurse is writing into their medical record on a nearby computer.

“These are built to meet people where they are, so in their local communities, at the times they’re available not the times we’re available,” said Elliot Joseph, CEO at Hartford HealthCare. “We can move you across a wide array of specialists very, very easily and very quickly. Not only will you move, but your records, your information moves with you electronically.”

The centers have mobile X-ray equipment and wide screens in each exam room so patients can see what doctors are writing in their records. Because the centers are in the Hartford HealthCare network, those medical records can be shared system wide.

Dr. Jeff Finkelstein, who is overseeing the rollout, said the strategy is to bring more patients through the door by giving them the convenience they want. The office will be open 12 hours a day during the week and eight hours a day on weekends.

Finkelstein said the urgent care centers will be able to secure same-day or next-day appointments with Hartford HealthCare specialists and other providers, as needed. Urgent care staff can reach those doctors by phone, HIPAA-compliant TigerText or through Hartford HealthCare's Epic electronic medical records system.

Karen Goyette, Hartford HealthCare's senior vice president for strategy and system integration, estimated that the health system serves approximately 90,000 urgent care patients per year. She expects that number to grow over the coming months.

Center for Healthy Aging Opens at Hartford Hospital

There will be an open house at the new Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging at Hartford Hospital in Bliss 104 on June 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m., and on June 15 from 3-6 p.m. You can also learn more by visiting an information table in the Hartford Hospital main lobby on June 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The new Center for Healthy Aging is designed to serve the complex needs of elderly patients and help seniors age safely at home. The center provides in-home, in-office or telephonic assessments that make it easy for seniors, along with their loved ones and caregivers, to access information and services that optimize quality of life.

The center offers a menu of comprehensive services, including one-on-one consultations with geriatric specialists, resource coordinators and Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease specialists.

These resources will help older adults, loved ones and caregivers overcome the many challenges they face throughout the aging process. Referrals can be made by visiting the office in Bliss 104, calling 860.696.5499 or faxing documentation to 860.972.3738. EPIC referrals are coming soon.

Penelope “Penny” Ross, MPH, is the resource coordinator for the new Center. In this role, she is the community point person for patients and families, assisting them in coordinating and accessing necessary programs and interventions to enhance the quality of life through the aging process. Penny provides home, office and telephonic assessments to determine the most appropriate services including home care, medical alert technology, home modifications, state programs and veterans services, as well as provides education about the same.

For more information, contact Penny at Penelope.Ross@hhhealth.org or 860.696.5499.

HH Adds Pulmonary Vascular Disease Program

Hartford Hospital has added a Pulmonary Vascular Disease Program for patients with pulmonary

hypertension.

The multidisciplinary program team assists primary care physicians, cardiologists, pulmonologists, gastroenterologists, and rheumatologists with patients who have this complex condition. As an existing Heart Failure Center, Hartford Hospital can identify patients who also require advanced heart failure therapies, including mechanical circulatory support/ventricular assist devices and transplant.

The Pulmonary Vascular Disease Program team is led by a heart failure cardiologist with imaging expertise and a pulmonologist, both trained in pulmonary hypertension. With this comprehensive cardiology and pulmonary program, Hartford Hospital is offering care beyond what most other pulmonary hypertension centers offer.

Neurosurgery Moved to Suite 1003

On May 22, Neurosurgery moved to Suite 1003 on the 10th floor (from Suite 709).

It is the office of **Dr. Brendan Killory, Dr. Joel Bauman, and Nicole Davis, PA.**

Region's Hospitals Would Lose Millions More Under Malloy's New Budget Plan

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's revised budget proposal for the next two years would cost local hospitals millions more than they were expecting. The new biennial budget plan proposes a total \$215 million reimbursement to the state's 27 hospitals, a combination of federal Medicaid reimbursements and state payments to offset a new local property tax that would be imposed. Under Malloy's plan, cities and towns would be allowed to tax nonprofit hospitals' real property, bringing in about \$212 million to municipalities.

The \$215 million reimbursement to hospitals in the new plan is \$35 million less than the budget plan Malloy released in February. Hospitals already were critical of that plan and the local property tax provision. The governor's revised budget plan was created to compensate for a \$1.5 billion projected decline in state income tax receipts over the next two years.

The HHC network would lose \$126 million compared to the current level of state reimbursement. The losses come on top of several years of cuts and new state taxes on hospitals.

Ransomware Attacks Do Not Affect HHC

The WannaCry ransomware that recently attacked computers globally, including the U.K.'s National Health Service and medical devices in the U.S, has had some effect on healthcare providers statewide, who are mounting their defenses to curb the damage and secure their systems.

WannaCry is software that infects computers by exploiting the vulnerability in outdated operating systems, including Windows XP. Hackers prevent users from accessing the operating system unless they receive a ransom paid in bitcoin.

Hartford HealthCare began acting immediately after news broke of the attacks, according to HHC's chief technology officer Joseph Venturelli.

"Our partner [an anti-virus firm] sent us the first of many mitigation tools which we deployed to our enterprise overnight. On Saturday morning, we hand-inspected the critical devices that are housed in critical patient care areas to ensure that all devices were safe; installed with the latest patches and anti-virus signatures," he said. "By sundown, we were confident that Hartford HealthCare was prepared for any eventualities of the WannaCry ransomware."

HartfordHealthCare intercepts 715,000 viruses, and eliminates two million spam messages each month, Venturelli said.

Excellence Dr. Karen Blank has been named the 2017 recipient of the Alzheimer's Association CT Chapter Physician's Leadership Award.

Dr. Karen Blank Receives Alzheimer's Association Physician's Leadership Award

Dr. Karen Blank has been named the 2017 recipient of the Alzheimer's Association CT Chapter Physician's Leadership Award. This award recognizes physicians and medical professionals that go above and beyond in their patient care and diagnosis of persons with dementia by referring them and their families directly to the Alzheimer's Association for continued support through their journey with the disease. It will be presented at the annual Brain Ball V.I.P. cocktail reception on June 10.

Dr. Stacy Nerenstone Invited to serve as Special Consultant to Oncology Drug Advisory Committee

Dr. Stacy Nerenstone was invited by the FDA to sit on the Oncology Drug Advisory Committee as a Special Consultant to evaluate a new drug application for adjuvant therapy in women with breast cancer.

The medication, Neratinib, is one of a new class of cancer drugs called tyrosine kinase inhibitors. The drug improved the disease free survival in a subgroup of women with aggressive early stage breast cancer, and was approved by the Advisory Committee in a meeting May 24 in Washington, DC.

Dr. Jason Gluck Presents Grand Rounds at Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Jason Gluck gave Mechanical Circulatory Support Grand Rounds at Massachusetts General Hospital on May 11. His presentation was entitled "ECMO Here... ECMO There.. We can do ECMO Anywhere!" It focused on ECMO and cardiogenic shock highlighting Hartford Hospital's "ECMO on the Go" program and superior outcomes.

Dr. Gluck also co-chaired a white paper for the AHA on mechanical circulators support (MCS) and cardiac resuscitation which gives direction to the advanced heart failure community in management for adults and children suffering cardiac arrest while supported by MCS. The paper can be viewed at: <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/early/2017/05/22/CIR.000000000000504>.

Dr. Paul Thompson Contributes to Medpage Today Re: Statins and Back Problems

Back disorders may be more common when taking a statin, an observational database of military members and their families showed. Administrative claims data for back disorders (spondylosis, intervertebral disc disorders, and other back problems) were a significant 27% more likely among statin users than nonusers, researchers reported in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Secondary analyses looking at longer use and higher intensity statins showed similar results in the analysis, which matched 6,728 patients who used a statin for at least 120 days to 6,728 nonusers during the period covered by the study, both drawn from the military's TRICARE health insurance system in the San Antonio area.

However, Dr. **Paul Thompson**, chief of cardiology at Connecticut's Hartford Hospital argued that the findings shouldn't lead to statin discontinuation or otherwise influence use.

"All such reports are concerning because statins are lifesaving drugs and we want people to use

them. I want people to use them and yet my research is in statin side effects," said Dr. Thompson.

Newington Stroke Survivor Shares His Story at HH's Living with Stroke Symposium

Bob Newbold of Newington, a self-described "positive outcome person," spoke at Hartford Hospital's 16th annual Living with Stroke Symposium, held the first week of May. He also shared his story with Steve Parker on WTIC-AM 1080 and with Mill Pond Church pastor Joel Rissinger on WSDK-AM 1550. <http://www.newbritainherald.com/NBH-General+News/284727/a-stroke-survivors-story>

HH Authors Publish Article in Journal of hHealth Psychology

An article written by Gregory Panza, Dr. Beth Taylor, Dr. Charles White, and Dr. Paul Thompson about attitude regarding exercise intensity from the Journal of Health Psychology has been getting over the past week.

PsyPost.org: <http://www.psypost.org/2017/03/study-better-attitude-regarding-exercise-intensity-may-not-true-psychological-well-48228>

Medical News Today: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/317451.php>

Psychology Today: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-athletes-way/201705/exercise-researchers-find-more-is-better-mindset-overrated>

NY Daily News: <http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/health/sloth-guide-boosting-well-being-study-article-1.3159428>

Dr. Brian Grosberg Reviews Migraine Study for Reader's Digest

Dr. Brian Grosberg, director of the Hartford HealthCare Headache Center, reviewed a new study about the connection between weight and migraines for Reader's Digest. He said the findings related to obesity make sense.

After evaluating 12 studies involving close to 300,000 individuals, researchers found that obese people were 27 percent more likely to have migraines than people who were at a normal weight, and people who were underweight were 13 percent more likely to have migraines. This risk is considered to be moderate, and in line with the link between migraine and bipolar disorders and some types of heart disease. The findings appear online in the journal *Neurology*.

"We know that fatty tissue contains substances that have inflammatory properties and migraine is a pro inflammatory condition," he says.

While regular exercise is an important part of maintaining a healthy weight, it can be a double-edged sword for some people with migraine, he says. "We all try to promote exercise at least a couple of days per week, but intense exercise can trigger a migraine in some," he says.

The best bet is to work with a headache specialist to make sure that you are making healthy choices about what you eat as well as how often you exercise. Controlling the elements you can control can also help you get ahead of migraines, he says.

Reuters Health Interviews Dr. Lenworth Jacobs About Teaching Public to Stop Bleeding in Emergencies

Dr Lenworth Jacobs, director of the Hartford Hospital Trauma Institute, told Reuters Health that regular people should learn techniques to stop bleeding after mass-shooting events or everyday injuries.

"It's a simple skill, which if you don't have it, could lead to someone bleeding significantly and potentially dying," Jacobs said. "Our goal is to inform and empower the public because that first line of defense can really make a difference. If someone drops in front of you, you want to feel like you can save a life."

Jacobs and his colleagues tested their 15-minute bleeding control course, called B-Con, at a national meeting of surgeons in October 2016 by teaching 341 attendees techniques for stopping bleeding just as members of the public would be trained. Jacobs' team found that 94 percent of the doctors agreed that teaching bleeding control should be a national priority. In addition, 93 percent said the course was at the right difficulty level to train citizens. About 82 percent said people would need a refresher course every two or three years to remember proper bleeding control techniques.

"In a previous survey across the country, we found that 90 percent of the public was interested in learning how to stop bleeding, which really surprised us," Jacobs said. "What they don't want is to feel frozen when something happens right in front of them."

Bank of America Grant Supports Brownstone Clinic

Hartford Hospital has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from Bank of America in support of the Brownstone Clinic.

On hand for a check presentation on May 11 were Stuart Markowitz, MD, president, Hartford Hospital, and senior vice president, Hartford Healthcare's Hartford Region; Jill Hutensky, senior vice president, market manager, Hartford Enterprise Business & Community Engagement, Bank of America; Kevin J. Cunningham, specialized industries and Canada credit products executive and market president, Connecticut, Bank of America; Chris Zell, senior vice president, senior relationship manager, Specialized Industries Healthcare and Institutions, Bank of America; Elliot Joseph, chief executive officer, Hartford HealthCare; and Carol Garlick, vice president, philanthropy, Hartford Hospital.

Dr. Hank Schwartz Writes Op-Ed about Netflix Series on Suicide

Dr. Harold Schwartz, psychiatrist-in-chief at the Institute of Living in Hartford and regional vice president for behavioral health at Hartford HealthCare, wrote an op-ed piece in the Hartford Courant about public discussion of suicide. He said it should be embraced, not avoided.

"13 Reasons Why," the Netflix series about the fictional Liberty High School and Hannah Baker, the protagonist, who takes her life, is criticized for glamorizing suicide and risking a rise in copycat deaths.

"There has been a crush of adolescents brought to psychiatry emergency rooms around the country including Connecticut in recent weeks. Many are mentioning "13 Reasons Why," he wrote. "This series, however, offers more than the risk of suicide contagion. There may also be the benefit of deterrence in the graphically brutal depiction of Hannah's suicide and its terrible impact on those who care for her. More brutal still is the depiction of her parents' unbearable grief when they find her dead."

"Suicide is always a choice," Schwartz said. "Help is out there but you have to reach out for it. As a society, accountability means extending a helping hand, through education, anti-bullying campaigns, access to treatment and dialogue. The jury remains out on just how much harm "13 Reasons Why" may do, but it has certainly fired the dialogue."

Dr. Laura Saunders, a psychologist at Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living, also discussed the controversial show "13 Reasons Why," on FOX 61: <https://youtu.be/kBAezz-fX8E>

Research and Academics

Clinical Trials Being Offered at HHC

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

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

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

Accepting New Patients? We Can Help

Help New Patients Find You

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

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

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

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

Operational Update

Systemwide Annual Required Learning Starts Now

For the first time ever, every Hartford HealthCare employee will complete the same online learning courses on a consistent schedule with the same expectations no matter where you work in our system.

Required courses are posted in HealthStream now and **must be completed by Aug. 28, 2017.**

With every HHC employee using **HealthStream** for online learning, it will be easier to ensure that we are always learning and improving together so we can provide the best care to the patients, families and communities that depend on us.

We are very excited to have finally reached this point in Hartford HealthCare's journey to become the

region's most coordinated healthcare system. Here are some important things to know:

- New courses will be interactive and more engaging.
- New courses can be completed much more quickly than before.
- Failure to complete required courses by Aug. 28 will result in suspension and could potentially lead to termination.
- Additional, job-specific courses may be assigned by individual organizations.

To find this year's required courses, visit the [eLearning](#) page of HHC Connect and click the log in button on the right side of the page. Use your network user ID and password to log in. The page includes detailed trouble-shooting instructions for those who may have trouble logging in.

If you have questions, please contact Eric Bennett at eric.bennett@hhchealth.org.

Patients in Need of Financial Assistance

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

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

Remind a Colleague: Wash In, Wash Out

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

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

Improving Doctor-to-Doctor Communication: TigerText

A Free Tool To Help You

We all want to do what is best for our patients. Problems in communication between hospital providers, consultants, and community providers has been identified as a major source of dissatisfaction for both patients and physicians. And it can lead to gaps in patient care.

Hartford Hospital has invested in a tool to help providers improve communication. It is a HIPAA compliant texting service called TigerText, and we are offering it to the medical staff at no charge.

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

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

- Here is a TigerText Request form with directions on how to get TigerText: [You can download the form here](#)
- For further help with this, feel free to contact John.Rogalsky@hhchealth.org (860-972-3207).
- Any problems not resolved by the TigerText Help line can be referred to [Dr. Marc Palter](#) at Marc.Palter@hhchealth.org.

TigerText Support

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

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

Hartford Hospital Media Coverage

Media Coverage Wrap-Up

Dr. Mark Alberts was interviewed by NBC CT about how researchers will study Aaron Hernandez's brain to determine if the former NFL star suffered from a degenerative brain disease: <https://youtu.be/29t4yQcVw6U>

Dr. Craig Allen appeared on News 8 to discuss the State of Connecticut receiving a \$5.5 million federal grant to expand the state's efforts to combat the prescription opioid and heroin crisis: <https://youtu.be/eE1OeiKl2-0>

Dr. David Bendor was interviewed on WFSB about the UK Bombing: <https://youtu.be/hvmcW57xfgw>

Dr. Jonathan Gates appeared live on FOX 61 to discuss his experience treating patients from the Boston Marathon Bombing four years ago. <https://youtu.be/9VDO0mE2dQY>

Dr. Brian Grosberg, director, Hartford Healthcare Headache Center, did a media piece with a reporter for Reader's Digest. <http://www.rd.com/health/conditions/weight-link-to-migraines/>

Dr. Linda Matonis appeared live on WNPR's "Where We Live" Wednesday to discuss HPV risks. <http://wnpr.org/post/all-too-common-understanding-hpv-risks-and-prevention>

Dr. Rocco Orlando comments on changes to the ACA on Channel 8: <https://youtu.be/O5-X0O9GI8Y>

Dr. Michelle Petrucelli was interviewed on FOX 61 about health implications of Gypsy Moths. <https://youtu.be/7ec1dYHNlmU>

Dr. Kari Rancourt was interviewed live on FOX 61 about the Living Donor Champion program: <https://youtu.be/Zn9dr0Fmmsk>

Dr. Jack Ross talks with WTIC-AM's Ray Dunaway about expectations for ticks this year: <https://soundcloud.com/hartford-healthcare/tick-season-2017/s-WCCj7>

Dr. Andrew Salner on NBC CT supporting the 17th Annual Matthew Phillips Cut-A-Thon to raise funds for breast cancer research: <https://youtu.be/vQAhy17j4-8>

Dr. Laura Saunders, a psychologist at Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living, explained the best ways to speak with your kids about the Manchester bombings if they approach with questions. "The guideline I always use is just answer their question," said Dr. Saunders. She was interviewed by Fox 61, NBC CT and the /Hartford Courant. <http://fox61.com/2017/05/23/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-the-manchester-bombing/>

Dr. Robert Sidman was interviewed on WFSB about health implications of Gypsy

Moths. <https://youtu.be/Y2nz0Raddkg>.

Connect to Healthier on NBC-CT

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

New option in orthopedics

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

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

Bloodless Heart Transplant

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

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

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

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

TAVR

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

The Gift of Life

They are called "Good Samaritan" donors-organ donors who are unrelated to the recipient, and they are life savers. There is an extensive screening process to ensure all potential donors are medically and psychologically suitable. This is one woman's story. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/wbmyjt4ciu8evnf/122416%20CTH%20Transplant%20Gift.mov?dl=0>

Resident Wish Come True

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

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. Chike Chukwumah

Dear Dr. Chukwumah,

Thank you for the fantastic job that you, the office staff and all the people at the West Hartford facility did.

When people ask me about my hernia surgery, I say I had a wonderful time, which is true. I also tell them I had a great surgeon and to call me when they have a hernia and I will refer them to you. You have a great bed-side manner and from my nearly pain free an steady recovery, I know you must be an excellent surgeon. Thanks for making surgery fun.

*In addition, I also want to mention the outstanding work of two other people. The first is **Sherry Avarista**, the surgical scheduler, who was wonderful to me and very concerned to get my operation rescheduled very quickly after that blizzard. The second is **Catherine Brown** at the on-call-number. I had a concern about extensive bruising two days after the surgery. She returned my call in less than five minutes an told me exactly what was happening and put all my concerns to rest.*

I do think I must have had the best possible medical care in the world.

Thank you.

-Anonymous

CME Applications

Interested In Hosting a CME Event?

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

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

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

We have developed educational resources to assist planners with the application process. Please contact the HHC CME office at ContinuingEd@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

Hartford Hospital Researchers Studying Pot Smoking And Driving *Hartford Courant*

Pot-smoking volunteers are getting high at Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living these days courtesy of the federal government, and it's all part of scientific research into marijuana's impact on highway safety.

One federally funded study now underway at the hospital's Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center is looking at the ways cannabis affects the brains of people as they drive motor vehicles. A second involves a search for a quick, reliable roadside test police can use to determine if a motorist is intoxicated on pot.

A key reason the two federal projects were awarded to the Hartford Hospital team was its 15 years of experience in studying brain function of people operating motor vehicles, said **Dr. Godfrey Pearlson**, director of the Olin Center and co-leader with Stevens of the studies.

"It's become a huge thing," **Michael Stevens**, one of the co-leaders of the research team and director of the clinical neuroscience and development laboratory at the Olin Center, said of the issue of pot and driving safety.

As more states - including Colorado, California and Washington - have legalized recreational marijuana and other states debate the question, police have struggled to come up with an accurate and quick assessment to test drivers for impairment. What's missing, Stevens says, is more scientific information about pot.

The marijuana for the studies is coming from a federal growing facility in Mississippi, and every bit of the pot must be carefully accounted for and kept in a safe when not in use. Stevens said it took the Hartford Hospital team nine months to get federally approved marijuana for use in the two studies.

The Olin Center studies appear to be the first federally funded research projects in Connecticut looking into non-medical pot issues. Pearlson said the Olin Center has developed sophisticated simulated driving programs that enable researchers to take MRI scans while individuals are lying on their backs operating the driving program. He said the same system has been used to research the way alcohol can affect the brain while driving. Driving "involves many cognitive functions," Pearlson said, including sight, memory and the correct use of muscles to operate a vehicle. "You need to be able to react quickly to changing situations," Pearlson said. "It's far from simple behavior."

In the past four months, more than 150 volunteers have responded to requests for participants on a government clinical study website, as well as through brochures left at area coffee shops and colleges. Both studies involve using only volunteers who are already pot smokers. Federal officials have banned any marijuana studies involving people who've never used pot before because of fears about introducing individuals to drug use.

The center's driving computer program is set up so a participant operates the virtual vehicle just as he or she would a car, except lying down so their brains can be scanned using an MRI. "The virtue of virtual driving is that you can do things that wouldn't be ethical to do with a real vehicle," Pearlson said, such as seeing how a driver reacts when a child runs out in front of a moving car.

In the HHC System

Hartford HealthCare Office on Queen Street in Southington to Open in September

Record Journal

A new Family Health Center on Queen Street in Southington will open in September, according to Hartford HealthCare officials. The medical building on the site of the former Knight's Inn at 462 Queen St. will offer neurological services, general surgery, podiatry and bariatric and vascular surgery. The Knights Inn and two other buildings were demolished to make room for the medical building

Construction of the \$6 million, 48,000-square-foot building started in 2015. Shawn Mawhiney, a Hartford Healthcare spokesman, said it'll offer complimentary services to Hartford HealthCare's other locations such as the Bradley campus of the Hospital of Central Connecticut located at 81 Meriden Ave. Hartford HealthCare originally planned to use the Queen Street location for a new emergency room, but changed plans after town officials and residents asked for the emergency room to remain at the Bradley campus, formerly Bradley Memorial Hospital.

The facility is expected to generate \$400,000 in new taxes for the town and 50 new jobs.

Advocates for Bradley were concerned that the new Queen Street center would compete with the hospital and lead to its closure. Hartford HealthCare officials have said that they're committed to keeping Bradley open.

"A project of this size and scope is rare in the current economic environment," said Lucille Janatka, Hartford HealthCare central region president. "But it's also a reflection of how healthcare is changing - fewer people are requiring hospitalization, and more people are seeking care outside the traditional inpatient setting."

Federal grant commits \$5.5 million to opioid battle

Connecticut's battle with the opioid epidemic will be aided by a \$5.5 million federal grant, but sustained effort is key, said U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro at Rushford's Middletown facility.

"The federal government has a critical role to play in supporting states and local communities as they work to combat the tragic consequences of addiction," DeLauro said. "The grant, part of the \$1 billion set aside by the 21st Century Cures Act to battle the opioid epidemic, will fund a number of initiatives: local prevention councils, college outreach, alternative treatments for pain management, the inclusion of recovery coaches in hospital emergency departments and methadone clinics and expanded access to medication-assisted treatment.

DeLauro was joined by **Rushford Medical Director Dr. J. Craig Allen**. The importance of medication-assisted treatment, which benefitted from \$56 million in funding in 2017, cannot be overstated, said Dr. Allen. "90 percent of people who try to abstain from using opioids [without medication-assisted treatment] once they have an addiction will relapse," Dr. Allen said. "With the potency of the opioids available in our communities, those people are all vulnerable to overdoses."

Health Care News In the Region

Norwich Bulletin: Connecticut court takes up doctor-patient confidentiality

The Connecticut Supreme Court will be deciding an issue that most people may think is already settled - whether medical providers have a duty to keep patients' medical records confidential.

A trial court judge in Bridgeport, Richard Arnold, ruled in 2015 that Connecticut law, unlike laws in many other states, has yet to recognize a duty of confidentiality between doctors and their patients, or that communications between patients and health care providers are privileged under common law. The decision came in a paternity case where a doctors' office in Westport sent the medical file of a

child's mother without her permission to a probate court under a subpoena issued by the father's lawyer - not a court - and the father was able to look at the file.

The mother, Emily Byrne, a former New Canaan resident now living in Montpelier, Vermont, sued the Avery Center for Obstetrics & Gynecology in 2007 for negligence in failing to protect her medical file and infliction of emotional distress. She alleges the child's father used her highly personal information to harass, threaten and humiliate her, including filing seven lawsuits and threatening to file criminal complaints. But Arnold dismissed the claims, saying "no courts in Connecticut, to date, recognized or adopted a common law privilege for communications between a patient and physicians."

The state Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the case Monday. Byrne, a nurse, referred questions to her lawyer, Bruce Elstein, who said the case will result in an important, precedent-setting decision by the Supreme Court.

"The confidentiality of medical information is at stake," Elstein said. "If the court rules in the Avery Center's favor, the tomorrow for medical offices will be that no patient communications are privileged. Their private health information can be revealed without their knowledge or consent."

The concept of doctor-patient confidentiality dates back roughly 2,500 years to the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates and the famous oath named after him that includes a pledge to respect patients' privacy.

The attorney for the Avery Center, James Biondo, wrote in court papers that there is no common law duty for Connecticut doctors to keep patients' information confidential. He also wrote that Byrne signed a statement for the Avery Center confirming she had reviewed the center's privacy policy, which notifies patients that it is under no obligation to seek their authorization when complying with subpoenas.

There is a state law that prohibits disclosure of patient information by doctors, but there is an exception that allows for information to be released without the patient's consent "pursuant to ... the rules of court."

Elstein argues that the Avery Center failed to comply with the state law as well as the federal law on patient information confidentiality, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA. The federal law says a medical provider can disclose patient information in response to a subpoena not issued by a judge, if reasonable efforts have been made to notify the patient of the subpoena.

Hot Topics in Health Care

Teaching hospitals have lower mortality rates than non-teaching hospitals, study finds

The study found that 30-day mortality rates were 1.5 percent lower at teaching hospitals, and that rate was consistent across nearly every procedure.

<http://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/teaching-hospitals-have-lower-mortality-rates-non-teaching-hospitals-study-finds>

Healthcare Finance News: 5 ways retail clinics are poised to upend healthcare

By their very existence, retail clinics could threaten parts of the healthcare system, according to a new report from healthcare research firm Kalorama Information. By Kalorama's count, there are 2,200 small one-person healthcare facilities located within a retail store, across the United States and hospitals, doctors' practices, government, insurers, and healthcare IT companies could all be affected

by them.

"The retail clinic concept is brought up in nearly every discussion of healthcare, in cost-cutting for governments or methods for better preventive care," Kalorama said in its report, [Retail Clinics 2017: The Game-Changer in Healthcare](#). It's Kalorama's eighth report on retail clinics in the past 10 years. Clinics tend to upend the normal healthcare delivery environment and the direction of flow of services, according to the research.

"They deliver healthcare to customers where they are, where the rest of the healthcare system awaits patients," Bruce Carlson, publisher of Kalorama Information, said in a statement. "Ten years ago, the retail clinic concept was novel," he added. "Now, it's rare to hear a discussion of healthcare trends that doesn't include these clinics. Everyone is thinking about how they can align to the trend."

Here are five ways Kalorama figures disruption will occur:

1. They are a lower-cost solution than the emergency room and can be used both to compete for insurance company business with high-cost emergency rooms and also be used by healthcare organizations to reduce the traffic at the ER.
2. As 85 percent of retail clinic patients have a physician they have seen regularly, they are a potential boon or threat to the doctor's office. On one hand, they offer better hours on average and do provide treatment for routine services like colds and flu. On the other hand, they do refer patients -- even suggesting the patient obtain a primary care doctor -- and don't provide all services.
3. They are already a source of focus in the in vitro diagnostics industry, as major IVDs develop testing units for both retail and urgent care clinics.
4. They are building consumer awareness and reputation year over year, and they've been around more than 15 years, with favorable waiting times and hours, and they continue to receive high ratings.
5. They are in the forefront of electronic medical records and technology in healthcare, introducing EMR, billing innovation and virtual waiting room technology that physician offices are slowly adopting.

Coming Events

Annual Medical Staff/Board Spring Event June 8; Medical Staff Award Winners Announced

Thursday, June 8

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

Part of the event is the Annual Medical Staff Awards, which honor individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the medical community.

Please join your colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of the recipients of our Annual Medical Staff Awards, and welcome our new faculty members joining Hartford Hospital. Awards will be presented to:

- **Dr. Robin Deutsch** and **Dr. Amre Nouh** - *DAVID HULL, MD YOUNG PRACTITIONER AWARD*
- **Dr. John McArdle** - *JOHN K. SPRINGER HUMANITARIAN AWARD*
- **Patricia Veronneau, RN, MSN** - *CLINICIAN IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD*
- **Dr. R. Frederic Knauff** - *DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD*
- **Dr. Adam Steinberg** - *QUALITY & SAFETY AWARD*

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

September 27 (Wednesday), 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.

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

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

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

Save the Date: Wednesday, October 4

33rd Annual Cardiovascular Symposium

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

Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford

Information and registration: hartfordhospital.org/CVSymposium

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

Save the Date: Thursday, November 9

12th Annual Interdisciplinary Transplant Symposium

Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill

Medical Staff Meetings

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

Questions may be directed to Luisa Machado, physician navigator, at Luisa.Machado@hhchealth.org or by phone at 860-883-8497.

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | LOCATION |
|------------------|--------|---|---|
| Thursday, June 8 | 6 p.m. | HH Board/Medical Staff Spring Event Featuring new physicians | Hartford Hospital ERC, Heublein Hall |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Thursday, June 15 | 6:45-7:45 a.m. | Semi-Annual Medical Staff Meeting | Gilman Auditorium (Continental breakfast 6:15-6:45 a.m.) |
| Thursday, September 14 | 6:45-7:45 a.m. | Town Hall Medical Staff Meeting | Gilman Auditorium (Continental breakfast 6:15-6:45 a.m.) |
| Wednesday, September 27 | 6 p.m. | End of Summer Event | New Britain Museum of American Art |
| Thursday, December 14 | 6:45-7:45 a.m. | Annual Medical Staff Meeting | Gilman Auditorium (Continental breakfast 6:15-6:45 a.m.) |

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

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

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