Transitions

Hittner, first woman physician to head Miriam Hospital, retires from Lifespan position

PROVIDENCE – In October, KATHLEEN HITTNER, MD, retired from her position as Lifespan’s senior vice president of community health and perioperative services. She is the former president and CEO of The Miriam Hospital.

In a memo to Lifespan staff, Dr. Timothy J. Babineau, president and CEO of Lifespan, praised Dr. Hittner, saying that she was owed a debt of gratitude for her more than 30 years of dedication and commitment to the system.

Dr. Babineau said that “her crowning achievement was the construction of The Victor and Gussie Baxt Building, with state-of-the-art technology, designed to facilitate the high-quality care that The Miriam’s patients expect.”

Dr. Hittner served as The Miriam’s president and CEO from April 2000 until September 2009, and was the first woman physician to head the hospital.

She was also the first woman president of the Rhode Island Medical Society (1991). In the fall of 2007, she received the Physician of the Year Award from the Society and the Banice Feinberg Physician of the Year Award from the American Heart Association. In January 2004, Senator Jack Reed recognized Dr. Hittner as a Local Legend in Rhode Island for her accomplishments as a woman physician.

Dr. Hittner has served on the boards of the American Heart Association, RI Chapter; the Urban League, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, and Bryant University. She has chaired the Rhode Island Airport Corporation since March 2007 and currently serves on the board of the Rhode Island Foundation.

She earned her MD from Tufts University School of Medicine and received board certification as Diplomat to the American Board of Anesthesiology in 1978.

Dr. Hittner is also on the faculty of The Alpert Medical School of Brown University, where she is a clinical professor of surgery in the department of anesthesiology. She was the recipient of the School of Medicine’s “Distinguished Teacher Award” in 2000 and 2004.

Wing to step down as dean at Alpert Medical School

PROVIDENCE – EDWARD J. WING, MD, dean of medicine and biological sciences at Brown University since 2008, will step down as dean on June 30, 2013, at the end of the current academic year.

“I have been privileged to serve The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University for the last 14 years, first as chair of medicine and for the last four-and-a-half years as dean,” Dr. Wing said. “The Alpert Medical School and the University have grown remarkably in all respects during that time and it has been wonderful to be part of the process. I predict even greater success for the school in future years. After a sabbatical, I will return to the faculty to pursue my deep interests in international health, writing and editing, teaching, and caring for patients.”

“Dean Wing has led the Division of Biology and Medicine with confidence and vision during a remarkable period of growth and change,” said Brown President Christina Paxson. “Under his leadership, the Alpert Medical School has grown and expanded into a new home in the Jewelry District, closer to teaching hospitals, with the promise of new opportunities for community development, economic growth, and institutional collaboration.”

Dr. Wing was appointed chair of the Department of Medicine and physician-in-chief at the University’s affiliated hospitals in 1998. He came to Brown from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he had been chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases.

The University will organize a national search for his successor under the chairmanship of Provost Mark Schlissel, MD, PhD. “Through Ed’s vision, skill, and stewardship, Brown is well-positioned to attract another dynamic leader to continue the momentum we’ve established with the Alpert Medical School,” Dr. Schlissel said.
Coustan named president-elect of gynecological society

PROVIDENCE – DONALD R. COUSTAN, MD, director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine’s Diabetes in Pregnancy at Women & Infants Hospital, and a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been named president-elect of the American Gynecological and Obstetrics Society (AGOS). He assumes leadership of the professional organization on September 20, 2013.

Dr. Coustan is an internationally recognized expert on the management of diabetes in pregnancy, and is the author of more than 200 research papers and scholarly publications, many of which deal with diabetes.

Society for Surgery of the Hand elects Akelman president

PROVIDENCE – EDWARD AKELMAN, MD, an orthopedic surgeon at Rhode Island Hospital and a leader in the field of hand and upper extremity surgery, has been elected the 67th president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH), the oldest medical specialty society in the U.S. devoted to continuing education related to hand surgery.

Dr. Akelman serves as professor of orthopedics and vice chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

His research interests include improving orthopedic education of medical students, orthopedic residents and orthopedists in practice, as well as nerve healing and wrist injuries.

Medical school names Rasmussen department chair

PROVIDENCE – STEVEN A. RASMUSSEN, MD, MMS, will serve as the new chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University beginning January 1. Brown announced the appointment, made jointly with Lifespan and Care New England on November 26, 2012.

Dr. Rasmussen won the new appointment after a competitive national search, conducted jointly by Brown, Lifespan, and Care New England. As chair of the department, he is also appointed the Mary E. Zucker Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior.

“In his work at Brown and Butler Hospital, Steve has become a national leader in his field,” said Dr. Edward Wing, dean of medicine and biological sciences at Brown.

“As chair he will be a crucial part of the team that is working to further strengthen brain science research and treatment within the academic medical center of Brown, Care New England, Lifespan, and the VA. Dr. Rasmussen will coordinate research and education in psychiatry and brain science across the Brown teaching hospitals and the main campus.”

In 29 years at Brown University and Butler Hospital, Dr. Rasmussen has collaborated with Rhode Island Hospital neurosurgeons to develop, study, and implement precise treatments such as gamma knife surgery to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder and deep brain stimulation to treat depression.

Patricia Recupero, MD, president and CEO of Butler Hospital where Rasmussen has been medical director since 1998, said Dr. Rasmussen has had a profound impact at Butler and across the country on the treatment, teaching, and research of brain-based illnesses.

“A pioneer in the field of psychiatry and brain science, Steve’s research at Butler led to worldwide recognition of obsessive compulsive disorder and related illnesses as serious, widespread disorders,” she said.

In his new position, Dr. Rasmussen also gains an affiliation with Lifespan, where he will also see patients and participate in research.
Fatima names Child chief of emergency medicine

PROVIDENCE – JOSIAH CHILD, MD, has been named chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Fatima Hospital. Dr. Child is a graduate of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and completed his emergency medicine residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He also completed his residency in medicine/pediatrics at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Dr. Child was most recently an attending physician at St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven.

Hasbro names Telfeian head of pediatric neurosurgery

PROVIDENCE – Hasbro Children’s Hospital has named ALBERT TELFEIAN, MD, PhD, as the hospital’s new director of pediatric neurosurgery. In this new role, Telfeian will oversee a wide spectrum of brain-related surgeries for children, including brain and spine tumor removal and surgical treatments for epilepsy, stroke, spina bifida, cerebral palsy and chronic pain.

Prior to joining Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Telfeian was an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and associate professor of neurosurgery at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

“Dr. Telfeian is an incredible addition to the surgical team at Hasbro Children’s Hospital,” said Thomas F. Tracy, Jr., MD, pediatric surgeon-in-chief at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. “He has extensive experience in minimally invasive surgery, which is crucial for the infants and children we treat, to minimize their pain and improve their outcomes.”

Telfeian is a graduate of the MD/PhD program at Brown University. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University and his neurosurgical residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He also completed fellowship training in spine and functional epilepsy surgery at Switzerland’s Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, and a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Telfeian was the recipient of the American Association of Neurologic Surgeons Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Research Award, the American Epilepsy Society Young Investigator Award, and the J. Kiffin Penry Pediatric Epilepsy Award, and was included in the 2011 Newsweek “15 Leaders in Neurosurgery” showcase.

Fatima names Moss orthopaedics chief

PROVIDENCE – DAVID A. MOSS, MD, FAAOS, has been named chief of the Division of Orthopaedics within the Department of Surgery at Fatima. Dr. Moss specializes in sports medicine and reconstructive shoulder surgery.

Dr. Moss received his medical degree from Hahnemann University Medical School. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedics, a member of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, the Rhode Island Medical Society, and is president Rhode Island Orthopaedic Society.

He is currently affiliated with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and several local sports teams.
Roger Williams names Findley director of Geri-Psychiatry unit

PROVIDENCE - JOHN K. FINDLEY, MD, who was recently named medical director of the Dual Diagnosis unit at the Roger Williams Medical Center, has also assumed responsibility as medical director of the Geriatric-Psychiatry unit.

Prior to his arrival at the hospital, Dr. Findley was an associate in the divisions of psychiatry and pain management at Geisinger Medical Center in Pennsylvania. From 2006-2009, he was chief of psychiatric consultation at Tufts Medical Center and an assistant professor at Tufts Medical School.

Westerly names Lehrach to senior leadership role

WESTERLY - CHRISTOPHER M. LEHRACH, MD, MBA, has assumed a senior leadership position at The Westerly Hospital overseeing current operations. Dr. Lehrach will remain in this new position after the anticipated purchase of the Hospital by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, becoming as he notes “the eyes and ears” in Westerly for L+M, helping to facilitate the Hospital’s transition to the L+M system.

Dr. Lehrach is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and did an internship and residency at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He has been with the Hospital since 1998, as an emergency medicine physician. In 2005, he was appointed Chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine, and in 2011 he became CEO of the Atlantic Medical Group (AMG). AMG, a subsidiary of Westerly Hospital Healthcare, includes a group of physicians and medical offices in specialty and primary care areas. Lehrach also brings academic credentials to his new role, having completed his MBA at Yale University in 2010.

Kent Hospital names Graves ER chief

WARWICK - PETER GRAVES, MD, of West Greenwich, has been named chief of emergency medicine at Kent Hospital. Dr. Graves had been serving as interim chief of emergency medicine at Kent since March 2012 and served as vice chief of Kent Hospital's Department of Emergency Medicine from April 2011–April 2012.

Dr. Graves has worked at Kent Hospital since 2003, when he joined the Kent Hospital Emergency Department as an emergency medicine staff physician following completion of his emergency medicine residency training at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital. Dr. Graves has also worked as an emergency medicine physician at several other Rhode Island hospitals including: Newport Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital.

In addition to his role as a physician at Kent Hospital, Dr. Graves also serves as a physician on the RI-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, to provide medical assistance to victims of natural disasters, which included deployment to Ground Zero after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He has also served as medical director of the RI-1 Urban Search and Rescue Team, which provides care for team members deployed to regional and natural disasters.
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Recognition

Carpenter receives lifetime leadership award

SAN FRANCISCO – The International Antiviral Society–USA (IAS–USA) awarded CHARLES C. J. CARPENTER, MD, director of the Lifespan/Tufts/Brown Center for AIDS Research and professor of medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, its Lifetime of Leadership Award for his outstanding impact on the fields of global health, HIV medicine, and research.

Dr. Carpenter was honored on November 8, 2012, at the Center for AIDS Research in San Francisco. The award recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary and lasting contributions to the field of HIV medicine through scientific and academic leadership, as well as physician education and training, to improve the treatment and care for people infected with HIV or other viral infections.

The organization acknowledged Dr. Carpenter as “a pioneer in global-health efforts, a revered mentor to medical researchers and clinicians worldwide, and a model of uncompromising principles and extraordinary grace.”

Harrison receives humanitarian award

PAWTUCKET – EMILY C. HARRISON, MD, MPH, a family physician affiliated with Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island and clinical professor of family medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been selected to receive the national Humanitarian of the Year Award for 2012 from the American Academy of Family Physicians.

In addition to her clinical and faculty work, Dr. Harrison has been a volunteer since 2006 with Shoulder to Shoulder, a non-profit delivering health care and public health services to remote southwestern Honduras. She has served as Shoulder to Shoulder director of Women’s Health, was instrumental in building the Brown affiliation with the village of Guachipilincito, and now serves as executive director of the organization.
Recognition

**Provost Schlissel elected to science society, AAAS**

PROVIDENCE – Brown University Provost **MARK SCHLISSEL, MD,** has been elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world’s largest general scientific society. Fellows are nominated by the AAAS Council, the association’s policymaking body.

This year the AAAS recognized 702 fellows for their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. The new fellows will be officially welcomed on February 16 at the AAAS annual meeting in Boston.

Dr. Schlissel became Brown’s 11th provost and professor of biology in the Department Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry, in July 2011. He came to Brown from the University of California–Berkeley where he was dean of biological sciences.

Schlissel earned his MD and PhD at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1986.

As an immunologist, he has focused his research on the developmental biology of B lymphocytes, the cell type in the immune system that secretes antibodies. His work has led to a detailed understanding of genetic factors involved in the production of antibodies and how mistakes in that process can lead to leukemia and lymphoma.

The AAAS recognized Schlissel “for advancing understanding of lymphocyte development from precursor cells through antigen receptor gene rearrangement of immunoglobulin and T cell receptor genes leading to B and T lineage cells.”

**Jenny honored for work in child-abuse prevention**

PROVIDENCE – **CAROLE JENNY, MD,** director of the Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. Child Protection Center at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, has been awarded the Bertram Yaffe Award from the Rhode Island Public Health Association (RIPHA). Dr. Jenny was presented with the award at the RIPHA annual meeting where she was honored for her long time work in preventing child abuse.

“To say that Carole Jenny is an advocate for children is a vast understatement,” said Robert Klein, MD, pediatrician-in-chief at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. “Carole has traveled the world, working tirelessly to end abuse against children. Her impact is immeasurable.”

**Home & Hospice honors Aronson**

PROVIDENCE – Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island (HHCRI) bestowed its Human Dignity Award on **STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD,** in November. Dr. Aronson was honored for his significant contributions to “enhance human dignity and meaning at end of life.”

Dr. Aronson, dean of medicine emeritus at Brown University’s Warren Alpert Medical School, is one of the founders of the HHCRI, the first hospice in the state.
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COLEEN CLEARY BAVOSA, MD, 53, died on August 14, 2012. Born in Rochester, NY, she is survived by her husband, Anthony Bavosa of Cumberland.

She was a 1981 graduate of Ithaca College, and a 1986 graduate of Stony Brook Medical School in New York. Dr. Bavosa was in private practice as a family physician for over 20 years in Pawtucket. She was a clinical assistant professor of Family Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University; served as president of the Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians from 1995–1997, and was Rhode Island’s alternate delegate to the American Medical Association from October 2000–May 2005.

RICHARD “RICK” A. BROWNING, MD, 59, of Barrington died on November 13, 2012. Dr. Browning was past chief of anesthesia at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital and served as clinical professor of anesthesia at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He joined the Rhode Island Hospital Department of Anesthesia in 1985 and had served as chief of that department since 1988.

He served on the boards of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the Rhode Island Society of Anesthesiologists, the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia, among others, and was a Fellow with the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Browning earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Brown University, where he also earned his medical degree. He completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at Rhode Island Hospital, where he served as chief resident. He also completed a residency in anesthesia at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and a fellowship in anesthesia and critical care medicine at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa, and their three children, Chris, Karen and Lauren, as well as his mother and father, Armande and Jackson Browning of Sarasota, FL, and three siblings.

JAMES “JAKE” MOTT BLISS, MD, 37, of Santa Barbara, CA, died on November 10, 2012, of complications from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig’s disease). He leaves his wife, Dr. Laurel A. Bliss, and his daughter, Devon A. Bliss. Born in Rehoboth, MA, he was the son of Dr. Thomas F. Bliss and the late Josselyn Hallowell Bliss.

He was a 1998 graduate of Yale University and earned his medical degree at Tulane University in 2002. He completed his orthopedic surgery residency at Brown University in 2007; a fellowship in orthopedic trauma at Brown in 2008; and a fellowship in total joint replacements at the Scripps Clinic in San Diego in 2009.

He then joined the medical staff of the Sansum Clinic in Santa Barbara, where he specialized in complex joint replacement surgery.

Besides his wife, daughter, and father, he is also survived by his brothers and sisters: Anna Bliss and husband, Dr. Michael Schaffer, of Providence; Dr. Molly Bliss and husband, Jim Wolf, and daughter, of Lebanon, NJ; Tim Bliss and wife, Jennifer, and their three children, of Merrimack, NH; and Ned Bliss of Cambridge, MA.

STEPHAN ISTVAN FRATER, MD, 90, of Providence, husband of Suzy Viola Patakki Frater, died on October 31, 2012. Born in Debrecen, Hungary, he graduated from Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest, and immigrated to the United States in 1956.

During his career, he served as chief of nuclear medicine at Rhode Island Hospital. He was a founding assistant professor at Brown University’s School of Medicine and a founding partner at Rhode Island Medical Imaging. He was also treasurer of the Hungarian Medical Association of America.

Besides his wife of 60 years, he leaves three children, Professor Stephen I. Frater, Jr. of Narragansett, Dr. Susan Candace Stephens [and Henry Diamond] of Providence, and Thomas P.B. Frater [wife Daniela] of Greenwich, CT, and five grandchildren.

MANUEL L. DA SILVA, MD, 86, prominent physician, historian, author and activist in the Portuguese-American community, died on October 21, 2012.

Prior to retirement in 1998, Dr da Silva was associated with the Bristol County Medical Center for over 35 years and before that the Lahey Clinic in Boston and St. Luke’s Hospital in New Bedford. He also served as medical director at the RI Veterans Home for 21 years.

In addition to his wife, Silvia Tavares Jorge, he is survived by two sons, Manuel and his wife Kelly [Ahearn] and their daughters Victoria and Alexandra; and Jose and his wife Christine [Tracy] and their children.

RAYMOND GUY ENDRENY, MD, 68, died suddenly on Oct. 11, 2012 at his home in Providence. Born in Pelham Manor, NY, a son of the late Dr. Emil and Elizabeth Endreny, he was a Providence resident for 39 years.

Dr. Endreny practiced with Nephrology Associates in East Providence for 34 years. He was a graduate of Hobart College in Geneva, NY, and Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia.