

Alpert Medical School physicians among partners in Rwanda

PROVIDENCE – An article in Nov. 21 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine* reports on a medical education partnership in Rwanda, known as the Human Resources for Health Program, includes Alpert Medical School professors **DR. MICHAEL KOSTER**, **DR. ADAM LEVINE** and **DR. BRIAN MONTAGUE**.

The Clinton Health Access Initiative and the Rwandan Ministry of Health launched the program in 2012. It is a \$150-million effort with 25 academic institutions, including the Alpert Medical School, which “deploys nearly 100 U.S. faculty members to Rwanda each year. Each school in the consortium sends full-time faculty members for 1-year periods to partner with Rwandan faculty-member counterparts in direct academic and clinical teaching. Several subspecialist physicians from the United States rotate throughout the year as well.”

The Brown faculty members are helping to advance medical teaching, research, and curriculum development at the National University of Rwanda. Referring to the physicians’ practice groups and hospital affiliations as well as their Brown affiliation, HRH program director Tej Nuthulagati said, “UMF, UEMF, Rhode Island Hospital, and Brown Medical School are playing an essential role in the program by providing immense support in increasing the quality of medical education in Rwanda.”

In an article on Brown’s website, Dr. Levine said medical training provides benefits that donating materials, equipment, and medicine alone cannot: “One of the wonderful things about knowledge and training is that they are inherently renewable resources. Unlike drugs and equipment, knowledge never has a stock-out, never breaks down, and never stops working when the power goes out. In my experience, improving medical provider training also has the effect of improving other components of the healthcare system, since trained doctors and nurses feel empowered to demand the medications, equipment, and efficient systems that they know they need in order to save patients’ lives.” ❖

Hittner, Ferguson reject President's call to continue cancelled coverage in RI

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Health Insurance Commissioner **KATHLEEN HITTNER, MD**, and HealthSource RI Director **CHRISTINE FERGUSON** issued the following joint statement November 15 on the federal decision to continue coverage through certain individual and small business plans that had been subject to cancellation under the Affordable Care Act.

The statement read: “All plans available in 2014, whether through HealthSource RI or in the private

market, have been through a rigorous review process designed to ensure that they meet the standards set forth in the Affordable Care Act. After reviewing the President’s announcement, we have decided to continue in the direction we are going, and therefore will not be adopting the option made available to us by the President. We will continue to closely monitor any and all changes at the federal level that have the potential to impact Rhode Islanders.” ❖



WOMEN & INFANTS HOSPITAL

Canadian expert Dr Timothy Whelan, center, spoke at Women & Infants Hospital on the latest advances in radiation therapy for treatment of early breast cancer. Among those at the grand rounds talk were Drs. Robert Legare, Jennifer Gass, Darlene Gabeau, Ashley Stuckey and Timothy Shafman.

Breast cancer expert speaks at Women and Infants Hospital

PROVIDENCE – **DR. TIMOTHY WHELAN** came to Women & Infants Hospital Oct. 31 to speak to physicians at grand rounds about the latest advances in radiation therapy for treatment of early breast cancer.

Dr. Whelan is responsible for overseeing cancer research and development as the Canada Research Chair in Health Services Research in Cancer with McMaster University in Ontario. He is also professor in the Department of Oncology and associate member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics.

“We are honored to have brought this international expert to Rhode Island,” said **DARLENE GABEAU, MD, PHD**, a radiation oncologist with 21st Century Oncology who is affiliated with Women and Infants’ Hospital and is an assistant professor at the Alpert Medical School.

The program, “The Systematic Effect of Locoregional Radiotherapy in Early Breast Cancer,” examined breast cancer progression, clinical trials and meta-analyses, and treatment advances over half a century. Dr. Whelan is currently the principal investigator on two clinical trials evaluating the role of radiation therapy for the treatment of early breast cancer.

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