

Transitions

Dr. Schlissel appointed president of Univ. of Michigan

ANN ARBOR, MICH. – With a unanimous vote of the Board of Regents, **MARK S. SCHLISSEL, MD, PhD**, was appointed the 14th president of the University of Michigan on January 24.

Dr. Schlissel, currently serving as provost of Brown University, will succeed Mary Sue Coleman July 1, 2014. Coleman is retiring after 12 years leading U-M.

Dr. Schlissel, 56, is a nationally recognized biomedical researcher who has risen through the ranks of academic and administrative positions in higher education. Before being named provost at Brown in 2011, Dr. Schlissel was University of

California at Berkeley's Dean of Biological Sciences in the College of Letters & Science and held the C.H. Li Chair in biochemistry.

A graduate of Princeton University, Dr. Schlissel earned both MD and PhD degrees at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He did his residency in internal medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. His research program has focused on the developmental biology of the immune system. ♦



MARY KORR

Gov. Lincoln Chafee and Brown University Provost Mark S. Schlissel, MD, PhD, shown at a healthcare showcase held in the fall at the Alpert Medical School.

Dr. Doberstein named interim chief of neurosurgery, interim dept. chair at Brown

PROVIDENCE — **CURTIS DOBERSTEIN, MD**, has agreed to serve as interim chief of neurosurgery at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals and as interim chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Alpert Medical School.

The announcement on Jan. 29 from Lifespan and the Alpert Medical School came after **GARTH REES COSGROVE, MD, FRCSC**, stepped down for personal reasons as chief of the Department of Neurosurgery at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital and Stoll Professor and as chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Alpert Medical School. Dr. Rees also served as clinical director for the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute and was a member of the Brown Institute for Brain Science.

The announcement stated: "Dr. Rees has been an important part of the creation of a nationally recognized neurosciences institution with the establishment of the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute. He is credited with advancing the neurosurgical academic, clinical and research programs since his arrival in 2010 and for helping to forge strong collaborations across the academic medical center among neuroscience, neurology, neurosurgery and psychiatry and human behavior. He has been critical to efforts aimed at advancing brain science collaborations among our institutions. Dr. Rees was also instrumental in bringing the BodyTom intraoperative, portable CT scanner to Rhode Island Hospital."

"We are extremely grateful to Dr. Rees for his contributions to the field of neurosurgery and the broader enterprise of brain science in Rhode Island and for his tireless advocacy and compassion for his patients."

A national search for his replacement will be led by **KAREN L. FURIE, MD**, chief of the Department of Neurology at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital and the chair of neurology at Alpert Medical School. ♦

Recognition

RWMC honors Drs. Skowron, Calenda

PROVIDENCE — **GAIL SKOWRON, MD** and **CHARLES CALENDRA, MD** were recently honored by the medical staff of Roger Williams Medical Center (RWMC) for their outstanding contributions to the hospital. Dr. Skowron, a nationally recognized expert in HIV antiretroviral therapy and HIV immunology, is RWMC's chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and a professor of medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine.

Dr. Calenda, who has been director of Ophthalmology at Roger Williams since 1987, is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, a charter member of the American College of Eye Surgeons, and also has membership in the Rhode Island Medical Society and the Kent County Medical Society. ♦



RWMC

Pictured here at the ceremony are, from left, Edwin J. Santos, chairman of the CharterCARE board, Dr. Charles Calenda, Roger Williams medical staff president Dr. Mark Braun, Dr. Gail Skowron, and CharterCARE President and CEO Kenneth H. Belcher.

Recognition

W&I's oncology program awarded \$50,000 for patient mentoring program



Cornelius "Skip" Granai III, MD

PROVIDENCE – Ovarian Cancer Research Fund (OCRF) recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Program in Women's Oncology at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island for the creation of a Woman to Woman patient-to-patient mentoring program at the hospital.

Woman to Woman, sponsored nationally by QVC, pairs gynecologic cancer patients with survivors, supporting women and their families through all phases of treatment, recurrence and recovery. The program will begin at Women & Infants in 2014.

"Being diagnosed with any type of cancer can be traumatic and can leave a patient feeling like no one truly understands her fears and anxiety," said **KATINA ROBISON, MD**, a gynecologic oncologist with the Program in Women's Oncology who will oversee Woman to Woman with **DIANE THOMPSON**, director of Social Services for the Program. "Through Woman to Woman, gynecologic cancer patients at Women & Infants will receive vital emotional support and mentoring from our survivors. The result is an improved quality of care for these women. They will also feel more empowered to advocate for themselves going forward."

"Our goal at the Program in Women's Oncology is to give women whatever it is they need to make their cancer journey easier," said **CORNELIUS "SKIP" GRANAI III, MD**, director of the Program in Women's Oncology. "That's a very personal need and might mean having an appointment for acupuncture, joining a poetry workshop or sitting with a survivor who understands the emotional and physical difficulties of a cancer journey."

"We are thrilled that Ovarian Cancer Research Fund has given our patients this opportunity."

Thompson added that the Woman to Woman Program will be available for women who want to meet face to face, but will also tap social media to connect women.

"We are in the golden age of electronics, which will help us make the Woman to Woman experience available to more isolated women through any medium they have. We have young patients who are blogging, older women who text throughout the night because they have only each other," she explains. ♦

Coastal's Moss honored with health care leadership award

PROVIDENCE – **MERYL MOSS**, COO, Coastal Medical, was honored with the annual "Regent's Award" January 16 by the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE). The award recognized Moss for her leadership role in advancing the PCMH model of care at Coastal Medical, as well as for supporting Coastal's use of Health Information Technology.

The ACHE leadership also expressed gratitude to Moss for lending her voice to various ACHE and MGMA educational discussions and programs to help others understand how to translate "lessons learned" into their own improved PCMH transformation, and Health IT use and development.

Moss studied economics at Boston University, received her Master's in Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School and completed post-graduate work at Boston College's Carroll School of Management. She is currently attending the Executive Masters in Healthcare Leadership Program at Brown University. Also an accomplished public speaker, Meryl presents to groups across the nation on a wide range of topics, some of which include: The Electronic Health Record as a Business Tool • Building a Physician Owned/Governed Practice from the Ground Up.

Coastal Medical is Rhode Island's first Medicare Shared Savings ACO. ♦



Meryl Moss

COASTAL



WESTERLY HOSPITAL

Westerly's Hospital's **Erin Kennedy, RN**, was recently honored at the "Celebration of Excellence in Hospital Care," an annual awards ceremony held by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. She was recognized along with employees of the year from HARI's member hospitals by the HARI Board of Trustees for exemplary performance and dedication to health care.

Recognition

Healthcentric Advisors awarded \$835,000 grant to evaluate public reporting of home health care outcomes

PROVIDENCE – Healthcentric Advisors has been awarded a three-year \$835,000 research and evaluation grant from the Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AHRQ is the lead federal agency charged with improving the quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of the nation's health care primarily through the funding of health services research that will improve healthcare quality and promote evidence-based decision-making.

The research study, Evaluating the Impact of Patient-Centric Home Health Quality Reports, takes advantage of Healthcentric Advisors extensive experience in measuring healthcare outcomes and public reporting.

Although information about health care quality is increasingly available on public and private websites, little is known about what consumers look for when choosing providers and how the format of the information provided affects their choices and outcomes. This study will ask consumers what they would find helpful when choosing home health agencies, and incorporate their preferences into a new report format. Researchers

at Healthcentric Advisors will examine the impact of the new report on patients' home health agency choices and the quality outcomes they experience. Healthcentric Advisors is partnering with Lifespan and Brown University to conduct this work.

"This grant attests to Healthcentric Advisors' growing national reputation for applied healthcare research," says H. John Keimig, President and CEO at Healthcentric Advisors. "We have more than 15 years of experience measuring health care outcomes and assisting providers in improving health care quality, locally and nationally."

"In Rhode Island, we've published information about home health agencies and other care providers since 1999," says Rosa Baier, MPH, Senior Scientist at Healthcentric Advisors and principal investigator of the AHRQ study. "We believe public reporting improves health care quality by changing provider and purchaser behavior. This study will help us demonstrate that consumer-centric public health care reports can improve patients' choices of providers and ultimately the quality of the care they receive." ♦

Newport Hospital birthing center earn WHO, UNICEF re-designation



NEWPORT – Through its Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center, Newport Hospital has again earned the prestigious Baby-Friendly designation from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF). The designation recognizes the commitment and dedication the hospital and staff embrace for breastfeeding mothers and their babies.

"Earning this re-designation was truly a team effort and is something all of us in the birthing center are committed to each and every day," said Debra Venancio, RN, manager of maternal and child health at Newport Hospital. "Being recognized as Baby-Friendly means our moms and their families know that we maintain an environment that promotes, protects and supports breastfeeding."

The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, which was launched in 1991, is a global program of the WHO and UNICEF. The initiative encourages and recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that offer an

optimal level of care for infant feeding and mother/baby bonding.

Newport Hospital first earned Baby-Friendly designation in 2003 and at the time was one of only 40 U.S. hospitals to have achieved it. Today, there are 172 hospitals that have been honored as Baby-Friendly. To meet the requirements of the designation, Newport Hospital had to successfully implement the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, and also was required to implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. This means the hospital offers educational materials that promote human milk rather than other infant food or drinks. The hospital also does not accept or distribute free or subsidized supplies of breast milk substitutes or other feeding devices. Through the birth center, Newport Hospital offers a breastfeeding class, as well as a breastfeeding support group. The hospital also has four International Board Certified Lactation Consultants on staff. ♦

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Obituaries

MILTON W. HAMOLSKY, MD, 92, died on January 18, 2014. He was the husband of the late Virginia (Maglin) Hamolsky, and the beloved husband of Sandra (Rosman) Hamolsky for 34 years. Born in Lynn, MA, he was a son of the late Israel and Sophie (Cremer) Hamolsky. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, Class of 1946, he was an accomplished physician. He was an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, and while serving as a physician at Beth Israel Medical Center he discovered the T3 Uptake Thyroid Test.

Dr. Hamolsky was the first full time Physician-In-Chief of Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital and a Professor of Medical Science at Brown University where he helped develop the Brown University Medical School. He was the first Chief Administrative Officer of the Board of Medical Licensure & Discipline for the State of Rhode Island. He continued to be an active board member of Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island and beloved by his colleagues; he has numerous awards within the medical community named in his honor. He was a member of many medical associations.

Dr. Hamolsky was a member of Temple Beth El. Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Deborah Hamolsky and her spouse Toby Dyner of San Francisco, David J. Hamolsky and his spouse Tina L. of Rindge, NH, Joy Scharfman and her spouse Stewart of Roslyn, NY, and Robin Folk and her spouse Ron of



Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island (HHCRI) honored Milton W. Hamolsky, MD, center, with its annual Human Dignity Award presented at an annual breakfast Sept. 24, 2013. From left are, Vince Mor, PhD; Rabbi Leslie Guterman, Sandra Hamolsky, Dr. Hamolsky, Joseph Chazan, MD, and Diana Franchitto, President & CEO of HHCRI.

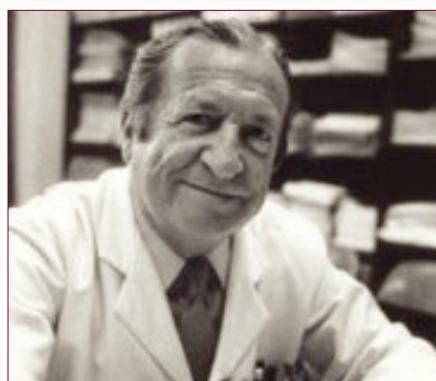
Long Beach, NY; his siblings, Dorothy Stern of Chattanooga, TN, and Sidney Hamolsky of Portland, OR; and his grandchildren, Adam, Johnathan, Johanna, Rachel, Ginny and Sydney.

He was the father of the late John S. Hamolsky and grandfather of the late Spenser Scharfman. Contributions in his memory may be made to Home & Hospice Care of RI or to the Dr. Milton Hamolsky Lectureship Fund.

TRIBUTE

Milton W. Hamolsky, MD: Four decades of leadership

STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD



BROWN

(Editor's note: The following commentary first appeared in 2009, in a compilation of Dr. Aronson's work called *Perilous Encounters, Commentaries on the evolution, art and science of medicine from ancient to modern times*.)

A decade before Brown University's medical school became a reality, Brown already had a professor of medicine.

Back in 1963, Rhode Island Hospital recognized that its future as a tertiary care medical center, as well as its contemplated role in providing a site for the clinical training of medical students, depended upon the recruitment of a full-time director of an internal medicine service.

This appointment would represent the first crucial step in transforming the hospital from a community institution managed by physicians in private practice to one with an expanded role to include medical and health

care education at all levels, basic and applied research as well as rigorous supervision of the care rendered to its patients. The appointment of a director of internal medicine is typically the first critical undertaking in the transition of a community hospital to an academic medical center.

A search committee examined the credentials of many physician-candidates for this critical post. They finally selected a 42-year-old Massachusetts physician, then an assistant professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School and an attending physician at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. His name was Milton William Hamolsky.

Hamolsky was born in Lynn, Mass. (and not Milton, Mass., as some of his admirers had claimed). He was the son of a local shopkeeper and a member of a closely-knit family that cherished learning above all other graces. Milton (named after his grandfather, Mordecai) attended Harvard College graduating *summa cum laude*. He then went on to Harvard Medical School in 1943.

The nation was in the depths of World War II and medical education was accordingly shorn of all its summer vacations, thus accelerating the process of educating future physicians to three years. Hamolsky received his medical degree in 1946 and his diploma bore those seldom-imprinted words, *magna cum laude*, signifying his station as the school's outstanding student.

In the summer of 1946, Hamolsky entered into a long and productive relationship with Beth Israel Hospital, beginning with an internship on the medical service, followed by a three-year medical residency which culminated in his appointment as chief resident physician in medicine.

In the midst of his graduate training, Hamolsky entered the armed services and was assigned to the Army Medical Research Facility at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he conducted extensive investigations on the diagnostic and therapeutic uses of newly devised radioactive chemicals in a variety of human diseases. He was discharged in 1950, with the rank of captain, returning then to his beloved Beth Israel Hospital. In 1951, he was appointed both to the hospital's attending staff and, concurrently, to Harvard's Dept. of Medicine. And for the succeeding decade he established himself as one of the hospital's authorities on endocrine diseases, particularly ailments of the thyroid gland. By 1958, he was promoted to chief of endocrinology and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard.

During much of this productive interlude, Hamolsky invested his spare

time in studying the role of iodine in the metabolism of the thyroid gland, both in normal and abnormal conditions. This investigation was so promising that the Commonwealth Foundation underwrote a research fellowship allowing Hamolsky to devote an entire year (1961-'62) to his investigative pursuits. He chose the College de France, in Paris, to undertake this research, which led to the discovery of a laboratory test, used to this day, as a standard diagnostic procedure in determining the status of thyroid function. This research brought him to the attention of medical centers beyond Boston. And, in 1963, Rhode Island Hospital recruited him as their physician-in-chief, a position he held until 1987.

And what had he accomplished on behalf of Rhode Island Hospital during those 24 years?

He maintained a superb residency training program, certainly the finest in Rhode Island and one of the best in New England. There are, here in Rhode Island and elsewhere in the United States, hundreds of practicing internists who learned both their clinical skills and their high ethical standards from Milton Hamolsky. In addition, he recruited outstanding full-time chiefs of the subspecialties of internal medicine, including cardiology, pulmonary, gastroenterology, nephrology and other disciplines. And in doing so, he created the groundwork for a multidisciplinary clinical service that could easily accommodate the educational needs of a medical school. Brown, in its wisdom, appointed him as professor of medicine despite the absence of any medical school in 1963 or even a corporate commitment to create a medical school in the foreseeable future.

Hamolsky's contributions to health care in Rhode Island extended beyond the portals of the Rhode Island Hospital. He was senior consultant to The Miriam Hospital and the Veterans Administration Hospital, served

concurrently as chief at Women and Infants Hospital, worked on countless committees under the aegis of the state government, the state medical society and private organizations such as Planned Parenthood of R.I. During those active years he also served as presidents of the R.I. Heart Association and the R.I. Diabetes Association and governor of the American College of Physicians.

The internal medicine service of the Rhode Island Hospital, under Hamolsky's leadership, has now provided the core inpatient experience for 30 consecutive classes of Brown medical students. And, in rotation with his colleagues at the other Brown teaching hospitals, he had taken on the additional responsibilities of chairing Brown University's Department of Medicine.

In 1987, Hamolsky retired but only to assume yet another heavy responsibility as chief administrative officer of the state's Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. Under his inspired stewardship, the board has been transformed into a superbly managed agency that has become a model for other states to emulate. And when the directorship of the R.I. Dept. of Health became vacant, it was Hamolsky who was called upon to briefly assume its leadership.

In 2002, Dr. Milton Hamolsky retired as a practicing physician. He has given Rhode Island almost four decades of dedicated and exemplary leadership as an administrator, as teacher, and as wise and humane practitioner. Rhode Island, its local medical school and its teaching hospitals, are collectively indebted to that anonymous search committee which, some 40 years ago, brought a gifted physician named Hamolsky to this community. ♦

Obituaries



WARWICK – **WILLIAM R. THOMPSON, MD**, 84, a towering and revered figure in his professional community of physicians and surgeons, nurses, aides, and administrators and a leader in the advance of surgical practice and medical education, died January 15, 2014, from cancer.

A member of the American College of Surgeons and many other professional societies, and the author of numerous medical science articles, Dr. Thompson was Clinical Professor of Surgery-Emeritus at Brown University's Alpert Medical School. He was a pillar of

wisdom and commitment in his field, stepping forward to take the chairmanship of the Brown Department of Surgery and serving as Acting Surgeon-in-Chief of Rhode Island Hospital on two separate occasions when the duties of leadership called.

He grew up in the logging and paper mill town of Livermore Falls where he acquired that "State of Maine" stalwart common sense that characterized his life with family, friends, and co-workers ever after. A loyal University of Maine alumnus, he received his bachelor of science degree from Orono in 1951. He then entered Cornell University's School of Medicine and graduated in 1955.

Dr. Thompson's surgical training began at Rhode Island Hospital in 1955. Two years later he joined the United States Navy Reserve in which he served as an active flight surgeon, assigned first to Pensacola, Florida and then to Quonset, Rhode Island, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Upon leaving the Navy he joined the surgical staff of Rhode Island Hospital and Providence Lying-In/Women's and Infants Hospital and remained on the surgical staff of both institutions until reaching the honor of surgeon-emeritus.

In the early 1960s Dr. Thompson, along with his partner Dr. J. Robert Bowen, formed Surgical Group Inc., one of the first organized medical groups in Rhode Island, which later expanded to include Drs. Brian Dorman, Clarence Soderberg and Thomas Shahinian.

Throughout his long career, Dr. Thompson held numerous committee and association assignments, served on a variety of special boards and commissions, and earned awards for services performed for his profession, patients and the community. He was known not only for the breadth of his achievements but his compassion and selflessness, gaining him a distinguished reputation across Rhode Island, New England, and beyond.

In recognition of Dr. Thompson's 34 years of dedication to the practice of surgery and teaching of residents and medical students, University Surgical Associates established an endowment upon his retirement that supports the William R. Thompson MD Annual Lectureship in Esophagogastric Surgery, The Thompson Library at Rhode Island Hospital, and various resources for residents, including the annual sponsorship of a

resident for surgical training in Africa.

Over the past two decades Dr. Thompson indulged his love for Maine through his rustic camp on a wooded point of land at Kennebago Lake where, during the kinder months of the calendar he could take out one or the other of his two "Rangeley Boats" to sharpen his art of fly-fishing and, at dawn and dusk, keep an eager look-out for moose and other wild neighbors of his cabin. And here he welcomed a steady flow of family and other visitors from near and far.

He is survived by his wife Diane Thompson and his stepson Daniel Brouillard; his former wife Sylvia (Sullivan) Thompson and their children Mary, an airline analyst; John, a bio-medical scientist; Kathryn, an attorney and legal ethicist; Norma, a college faculty member and academic administrator; and Bill, a wildlife biologist. Grandchildren include Jesse, Maegan, Kaila and Kiera Schedeen and Madeleine, Gary, and Kristen Thompson, and great-granddaughter Lilia Thompson.

A private memorial service is being planned and memorial donations may be made to the USA William R. Thompson Fund, PO Box 16149, Rumford RI 02916.



Sam Berns and his mother, Dr. Leslie Gordon.

FOXBORO, MA. – **SAM G. BURNS**, 17, passed away on January 10, 2014, following a lifelong battle with progeria. He was the beloved son of Leslie Gordon, MD, associate professor of pediatrics (research) and Scott Berns, MD, clinical professor of pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School. His parents confirmed Sam's passing in a statement on the website of the Progeria Research Foundation, which they founded in 1999 to battle the disease.

Sam was a junior at Foxboro High School, where he achieved highest honors and was recently selected to be a member of the National Honor Society. He was a percussion section leader in his high school band and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He was a highlighted speaker at Tedx MidAtlantic in 2013 and is featured in the documentary "Life According to Sam."

Sam teaches us that every day is a gift, and that we can achieve anything we set out to do. Through his courage, spirit, kindness and love, Sam will forever inspire those who have come to know him.

Remembrances may be made to The Progeria Research Foundation, P.O. Box 3453, Peabody, MA 01961-3453. www.progeriaresearch.org.