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Appointments

Brown, Lifespan announce new pediatrician-in-chief, dept. chair

PHYLIS DENNERY, MD will lead pediatric care, teaching and research at the Lifespan health system and Alpert Medical School, the institutions announced October 20.

Dr. Dennery, currently the Chief of the Division of Neonatology and Newborn Services at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania, will begin work in Rhode Island on April 15, 2015. She’ll serve as Pediatrician-in-Chief and Medical Director at Hasbro Children’s Hospital and as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Brown.

In Philadelphia, Dr. Dennery oversees more than 300 neonatal intensive care beds in 11 hospitals as well as 90 medical faculty and staff members and 18 fellows. She earned her medical degree at Howard University and performed her residency at Children’s Hospital National Medical Center [both in Washington, DC]. She then conducted research and taught at Stanford University from 1990 to 2003 before moving to Philadelphia.

As Chair of Pediatrics at Brown, Dr. Dennery will lead academic programs at the hospital for medical students, residents and fellows alike. She will also oversee the advancement of research programs and faculty recruitment.

“We’re delighted to welcome Dr. Phyllis Dennery to Hasbro Children’s Hospital. Her long tenure as Chief of the Division of Neonatology and Newborn Services at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania Health System demonstrates a deep commitment to excellence that is congruent with the mission of Hasbro Children’s Hospital,” said Dr. Timothy J. Babineau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lifespan. “Having served as Associate Division Chief at Stanford University and as tenured faculty at both Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Dr. Dennery will continue to elevate our graduate programs for medical students and residents. Her credentials as a clinician, researcher, academic and leader are truly exceptional.”

Dr. Babineau added, “Dr. Dennery’s appointment comes as Hasbro Children’s Hospital celebrates its 20th anniversary — it’s a unique institution in Rhode Island and a vital one, and I can think of no one better to lead Hasbro Children’s Hospital in the years ahead.”

Dr. Jack Elias, Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences at Brown, said students and patients alike will benefit from Dr. Dennery’s work in Rhode Island.

“Her extensive knowledge in Neonatology makes her an excellent candidate for leading and training our students in the field of Pediatrics,” Dr. Elias said. “We look forward to the significant contributions she will bring to clinical care, education and research at Alpert Medical School and our affiliated hospitals.”

In her medical duties she will oversee clinical programs including centers and clinics for pediatric imaging, hematology/oncology, asthma and allergies, neurodevelopment and the heart.

Dr. Dennery is a member of the Institute of Medicine and has won numerous awards during her career, including the 2014 Marion Spencer Fay award. She serves in many professional and scientific societies, including as an associate editor of the influential journal Pediatrics.

Srilakshmi Mitta, MD, joins Center for Obstetric and Consultative Medicine

PROVIDENCE – Obstetric medicine specialist SRILAKSHMI MITTA, MD, of Providence, returned to the Women & Infants Center for Obstetric and Consultative Medicine on October 1.

Dr. Mitta is a graduate of the Alpert Medical School. She completed an internship and residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine where she earned the title of chief resident of internal medicine and pediatrics. Dr. Mitta also completed an obstetrics medicine fellowship at the Alpert Medical School during which time she saw patients at the Center for Obstetric and Consultative Medicine, where she also served as an attending until 2011.

Dr. Mitta is a member of the North American Society of Obstetric Medicine [NASOM] and International Society of Obstetric Medicine [ISOM]. Most recently, she was an assistant professor of clinical medicine at Columbia University Medical Center Department of Medicine, a joint appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Board-certified in internal medicine, Dr. Mitta’s research and clinical interests include medical education and pre-pregnancy care.
Appointments

Hasbro names new chief of pediatric ophthalmology

Wendy Chen, MD, PhD, has been named the new chief of pediatric ophthalmology at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, the pediatric division of Rhode Island Hospital. In this role, Dr. Chen will oversee the delivery of comprehensive, emergency, outpatient and surgical eye care for children ranging in age from infants to teenagers.

“Dr. Chen brings a high level of expertise to our ophthalmology team,” said Michael E. Migliori, MD, ophthalmologist-in-chief at Rhode Island Hospital. “She is equipped to handle any eye or vision need that the children in our care may have, from basic vision assessment to surgical consults on our inpatient units.”

With the arrival of Dr. Chen, Hasbro Children’s Hospital has expanded its ophthalmology services to offer state-of-the-art, child-centered technology in a new clinic space with four exam rooms designed specifically for children.

“Since Rhode Island Hospital began offering ophthalmology services in 1963, pediatric ophthalmology patients have always been accommodated in the same space as adult patients and often treated by the same clinicians. This can be quite challenging because eye exams and eye care are so very different for children versus adults,” said Dr. Migliori. “The need for a dedicated pediatric ophthalmology clinic has grown tremendously over the past few years, and we are thrilled that Dr. Chen now provides these services on a full-time basis.”

Dr. Chen received her bachelor’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, followed by a combined MD and PhD degree from The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She completed her medical internship and ophthalmology residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and her pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr. Chen’s primary areas of expertise are amblyopia, adult and pediatric strabismus, pediatric cataract, pediatric glaucoma and retinopathy of prematurity. Her research interests include neuroplasticity, refinement of screening criteria for retinopathy of prematurity and development of effective teaching methods for medical and surgical ophthalmology.

She is an assistant professor of surgery (ophthalmology) at Alpert Medical School and serves on a multidisciplinary team treating children with complex craniofacial disorders and also participates in the screening of premature infants for retinopathy of prematurity at Women and Infants Hospital. She is active in cross-disciplinary teaching, including pediatrics, neonatology, and emergency medicine.

Dr. Chen is the recipient of numerous awards and is an active member of several professional societies, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology and American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, where she serves as the co-chair of the Young Ophthalmologists Committee for Medical Education.

Lifespan names new Rhode Island Hospital president

Margaret M. Van Bree, DrPH, succeeds Timothy J. Babineau, MD, who will remain president and CEO of Lifespan

Providence – Lifespan, Rhode Island’s largest health system, has named Margaret M. Van Bree, DrPH, to lead Rhode Island Hospital, and its pediatric division, Hasbro Children’s Hospital. Her new position is effective January 5, 2015.

Van Bree has held positions as chief operating officer at a number of academic medical centers, including the University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview and Amplatz Children’s Hospital, the University of Virginia Health System, and the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. Most recently, she served as the senior vice president and chief executive officer of the 864-bed St. Luke’s Medical Center, the flagship hospital of St. Luke’s Health System and the primary adult private teaching hospital for Baylor College of Medicine.

Van Bree will succeed Timothy J. Babineau, MD, who has served as Rhode Island Hospital president since 2008 and will continue in his role as president and CEO of the Lifespan system.

“During our extensive national search, Dr. Van Bree stood out because of her experience and leadership in implementing innovative approaches to quality, her knowledge of large academic medical centers and her success in advancing and elevating hospitals’ critical service lines,” said Dr. Babineau.

Van Bree received her doctoral degree in health systems management from Tulane University and her master’s degree in health care administration from the University of Minnesota.
**Appointments**

**Souza appointed president of HARI**

CRANSTON – **MICHAEL R. SOUZA** has been appointed president of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), where he will oversee day-to-day operations of the association and direct member services. Souza had been serving as acting president following the retirement of Edward Quinlan on May 1. He has worked at HARI for more than five years as vice president of finance and senior vice president.

“The HARI Board of Trustees is proud to have Mike Souza leading the organization,” said Dennis D. Keefe, chair of the HARI Board of Trustees and president and CEO of the Care New England Health System. “Mike’s background and skills in hospital finance and reimbursement have strengthened the association. He brings vision, determination and a sense of humor to his work. He is the ideal person to lead HARI into the future.”

“I look forward to steering the association and its members through this tumultuous time of change in health care,” said Souza. “Rhode Islanders count on hospitals to be there in their greatest times of need. We must ensure hospitals are able to continue their important mission.”

Souza joined HARI in 2009 from Signature Healthcare in Brockton, MA, where he served as corporate controller and was responsible for the accounting, reporting and control functions of the corporation’s various entities. He also served as director of financial planning at Landmark Medical Center. Souza was awarded a master of science management degree by Bridgewater State College. He received a bachelor of arts degree in humanities and social sciences from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. The Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) has awarded him the certification of fellow. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts-Rhode Island Chapter of HFMA.

**Rebecca Mclean, PhD; Meredith Amaya-Hodges, PhD, appointed to Memorial**

PAWTUCKET – Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island recently appointed **REBECCA MCLEAN, PHD**, and **MERRIDETH AMA-YA-HODGES, PHD**, to its medical staff in the Department of Pediatrics at the New England Pediatric Institute of Neurodevelopment, formerly known as the Neurodevelopmental Center. Both are pediatric neuropsychologists who specialize in evaluating children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental, psychological, learning, behavioral and/or medical conditions.

Dr. McLean earned her PhD in clinical psychology, with a focus in neuropsychology, from Suffolk University in Boston, MA. She completed her internship in clinical psychology, neuropsychology track, and a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in clinical psychology, pediatric neuropsychology track, through the Alpert Medical School.

Dr. Amaya-Hodges earned her PhD in clinical psychology, child/adolescent focus, from Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL. She completed her internship in pediatric psychology and two-year post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology, concussion track, at Children’s National Health System, Washington, DC.

McLean evaluates children with a broad range of neurodevelopmental disabilities (e.g., ADHD, learning disability, communication disorders, intellectual disability). She also sees children with anxiety, behavioral difficulties, and medical conditions that can impact thinking (e.g., prematurity, sleep disorders, genetic syndromes, concussion). She has particular interests in children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), along with associated medical and genetic conditions. She is trained in the use of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) and is a member of the Rhode Island Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment (RI-CART). Her research has focused on the relationship between aspects of neuropsychological functioning and clinical outcomes in individuals with ASD and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Amaya-Hodges has experience in working with children with a variety of developmental, psychological, and medical diagnoses. She has specialized training in the evaluation and management of concussions and other acquired brain injuries. She also focuses on assessment of children with genetic conditions that may impact neurodevelopment. Other areas of interest include depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

**Natalia Lukankina, MD, appointed to Memorial medical staff**

PAWTUCKET – Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island recently appointed **NATALIA LUKANKINA, MD**, to its medical staff in the Department of Pediatrics.

Dr. Lukankina earned her medical degree from Voronezh State Medical Academy, Russia. She completed her residency in pediatrics at Albany Medical Center and went on to complete a developmental behavioral fellowship at Rhode Island Hospital.

Fluent in Russian, Dr. Lukankina is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association and the Society of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics.

Her clinical interests include: attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, and pediatric sleep disorders.
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Recognition

Rami Kantor, MD, receives Bruce M. Selya excellence in research award

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan has honored RAMI KANTOR, MD, an infectious disease expert, with the 2014 Bruce M. Selya Award for Excellence in Research. Named for Judge Bruce M. Selya of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and a former Lifespan chairman, the award is presented annually for outstanding biomedical research among Lifespan partner hospitals.

Dr. Kantor, a researcher and clinician, is an internal medicine and infectious diseases physician at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals, as well as an associate professor of medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. He is the director of research for the Brown-Kenya Program and director of the Immunology Center and HIV Drug Resistance Laboratory at The Miriam Hospital.

“Dr. Kantor’s commitment to the improvement of the HIV-infected community, not only here in Rhode Island, but also in the resource-limited countries where HIV is most prevalent, is commendable,” said Peggy McGill, director of research administration for Lifespan. “His clinical experiences and scientific curiosity are giving rise to global advances in HIV research.”

Major themes of Dr. Kantor’s research include HIV diversity, treatment monitoring, and the evolution of drug resistance. Among his current projects are: an examination of HIV drug resistance, transmission and diversity in adults and children in Rhode Island and in resource-limited settings; development of advanced methods to detect and interpret HIV drug resistance and investigate HIV transmission; establishment of point-of-care platforms for HIV drug resistance testing in limited settings; and monitoring of HIV-infected patients with limited resources.

Dr. Kantor’s research has led him to India, Thailand, China, Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, Cape Verde and Israel. He is a scientific expert for PLoS Medicine, Clinical Infectious Diseases, and JAMA medical journals, and was recently invited to serve as a standing member of the AIDS Clinical Studies and Epidemiology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health. He has participated in local, national and international organizations including the AIDS Clinical Trials Group, the World Health Organization HIV Drug Resistance Network, Center for AIDS Research Retrovirology and Biostatistics Cores, and TREAT Asia.

Dr. Kantor demonstrates excellence in research as exemplified by the incredible health-relatedness of his research to the local, national and international HIV-infected community,” said Louis B. Rice, MD, physician-in-chief at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals. “The impact of his research is high and as he has done in the past, I am confident that he will continue to inform treatment policy and improve HIV patient care worldwide.”

The Hon. Bruce M. Selya presents Rami Kantor, MD, with the 2014 Award for Excellence in Research.

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Steward Health Care System is the largest fully integrated community care organization and community hospital network in New England, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.

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All inquiries will remain confidential.
Recognition

Gamache, VP of Extended Care for CharterCARE, Named President of Eden Alternative Board
Focus is on changing the culture of elder care

PROVIDENCE—RICHARD GAMACHE, Vice-President of Extended Care for CharterCARE Health Partners, has been named President of the Board of Directors of the Eden Alternative, an international, non-profit organization dedicated to creating quality of life for elders and their care partners, wherever they may live.

CharterCARE Health Partners is the corporate parent of Roger Williams Medical Center and St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island.

He has been a board member of the Eden Alternative since 2009, most recently serving as treasurer. Gamache serves as administrator of Elmhurst Extended Care, Rhode Island’s only Eden Alternative community. He is a Certified Eden Alternative Educator and Eden Mentor, and under his direction, Elmhurst has been practicing the Eden Alternative philosophy since 2002.

“This is a personal and professional honor for me, given how much respect and admiration I have for my fellow board members and all people, worldwide, who are practicing The Eden Alternative in an effort to make lives better for elders and those who care for them,” said Gamache. “In my new role, I will work with the board and our CEO Chris Perna to collectively provide guidance and leadership to our organization and the people we serve.”

Focused on changing the culture of elder care since the early 1990s, the Eden Alternative approach to person-directed care initially came to life in nursing homes and has since expanded its reach to all care settings, including home care and residential care for people living with different abilities.

Gamache has more than 25 years of experience as a health-care executive in the field of elder care. He is a licensed and nationally certified nursing home administrator who has worked in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, including multi-site management of nine facilities in three states. He has achieved the rank of Fellow within the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) and is the immediate past-president of the Rhode Island chapter. Currently, he serves on the national education committee for the ACHCA.

He is a founding member and past chair of “RI Generations,” a partnership to promote person-centered care in RI nursing homes and is also the immediate past chair of the Rhode Island Health Care Association.

This year, the ACHCA honored Gamache with the 2014 Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award.

Gamache holds a Master of Science in Health Services Administration from Salve Regina University, and a BA in History from UMass/Dartmouth.

Pioneer in Hearing and Language Development in Children Named 2014 Landmark Award Winner

PROVIDENCE—BETTY R. VOHR, MD, FAAP, director of the Neonatal Follow-Up Program at Women & Infants Hospital and professor of pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School, was awarded the annual Landmark Award of the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics for her efforts in establishing the first Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program in the United States. This program has now been replicated across the country as a means of detecting congenital hearing loss as early as possible for auditory intervention to optimize language development in children. Dr. Vohr received the award at the annual Section on Perinatal Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition in San Diego, CA.

Prior to the establishment of the newborn screening program, screening for hearing impairment in infants and children was done by practitioners in routine physicals. Dr. Vohr’s passion to see the process of detection improve drove the acquisition of funding from the Maternal and Child Health and Department of Education to test and study universal newborn hearing screening. The results demonstrated positive and preventive effects leading to national recognition. Rhode Island subsequently became the first state to successfully implement a statewide universal newborn hearing screening program under Dr. Vohr’s direction.

Dr. Vohr said, “All Rhode Islanders can be proud that the study demonstrating the feasibility of newborn hearing screening was done in Rhode Island between 1989 and 1991, and that RI was the first state to mandate and achieve universal newborn hearing testing. Today more than 97% of newborns in the U.S. are screened. The ultimate reward is seeing the wonderful outcomes that are now possible for early identified children.”

Throughout her career dedicated to infant hearing and newborn health, Dr. Vohr has served on numerous committees including serving as an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) delegate and chair of the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, the AAP Task Force on Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention, and she has been a Rhode Island AAP Chapter Champion for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention.

The Section on Perinatal Pediatrics was founded in 1974 for the purpose of improving the care of pregnant women, fetuses, and newborn infants by providing an educational forum for the discussion of problems relating to pregnancy, and neonatal medicine. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Board of Directors receives recommendations from the section on programs, policy statements, and other matters relating to the fetus and newborn. “I was incredibly honored to receive the 2014 AAP Perinatal Section Landmark Award. Universal newborn hearing screening would not have been possible without the support, enthusiasm and commitment of so many professionals and parents of children with hearing loss,” said Dr. Vohr.
Recognition

Brown names DEANS Award recipients

PROVIDENCE – The first Dean’s Emerging Areas of New Science (DEANS) Awards have been awarded to Brown University faculty members. Announced earlier this year, the DEANS Awards will foster scientific discovery through partnerships between basic science faculty in the Division of Biology and Medicine and Alpert Medical School clinical faculty members. The intent is for the translational nature of these awards to lead to advances in pathogenesis and ultimately medical care. The following projects each received an $80,000 grant.

**BRENNA ANDERSON, MD** (Obstetrics and Gynecology) and **SUE HUSE, PhD** (Pathology and Laboratory Medicine) The impact of vaginal microbiome on HIV infectivity among pregnant and non-pregnant women

**RICHARD BENNETT, PhD** (Molecular Microbiology & Immunology) and **JOSEPH BLISS, MD, PhD** (Pediatrics/Neonatology) Defining the Factors Responsible for Persistent Candidemia by C. albicans

**ADAM CHODOSKI, PhD** (Emergency Medicine) and **JOSEPH BLISS, MD, PhD** (Pediatrics/Neonatology) Development of a New Treatment for TBI

**GAURAV CHOUHARY, MD** (Medicine) and **EDWARD HAWROT, PhD** (Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology) Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors in Right Ventricular Fibrosis

**KAREEN L. K. COULOMBE, PhD** (Engineering) and **ULRIKE MENDE, MD** (Medicine/Cardiovascular Research Center) Functional Integration of Aligned Engineered Cardiac Tissue in Infarcted Hearts

**ERIC DARLING, PhD** (Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology) and **YUPENG CHEN, PhD** (Orthopaedics) Predicting post-traumatic osteoarthritis via in vivo biomarkers of inflammation

**BETH BURGWYN FUCHS, PhD** (Medicine) and **ANITA SHUKLA, PhD** (Engineering) Anti-microbial activity of auranofin and assessment of a coated delivery device

**STEPHEN L. HELFAND, MD** (Molecular, Cellular Biology and Biochemistry) and **BHASAT RAMATNAM, MD** (Medicine) Retroviral inhibitors: effects on retrotransposons and aging in flies and humans

**DIANE HOFFMAN-KIM, PhD** (Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology) and **CARL SAAB, PhD** (Neurosurgery) Tissue Engineering Neuroma Prevention & Nerve Repair

**AMANDA JAMIESON, PhD** (Molecular, Microbiology and Immunology) and **JORGE ALBINA, MD** (Surgery) Post-surgical pneumonia & development of wound repair macrophages

**STEPHANIE JONES, PhD** (Neuroscience) and **WAEL ASAAD, MD, PhD** (Neuroscience) Deep Brain Stimulation to Reduce Beta Rhythms in Parkinson’s Disease Guided By Neural Modeling

**RAMI KANTOR, MD** (Medicine/Infectious Disease) and **CASEY DUNN, PhD** (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) Extended Phylogenetic Inference of HIV Transmission Networks

**DEREK L. MERCK, PhD** (Diagnostic Imaging), **DAMIAN DUPUY, MD** (Diagnostic Imaging), and **BEN KIMIA, PhD** (Engineering) Thermal Models for Ablation Treatment Planning

**RICHARD G. MOORE, MD** (Obstetrics and Gynecology) and **CHRISTOPH SCHORL, PhD** (Molecular and Cellular Biology and Biochemistry) Establish Genomic Targets of HE4 & Antisense Therapy for Treatment of Ovarian Cancer

**REBECCA PAGE, PhD** (Molecular and Cellular Biology and Biochemistry) and **ELEFTHERIOS MYLONAKIS, MD** (Medicine/Infectious Disease) Novel Paradigms for the Treatment of Biofilm Forming Pathogens

**SHARON ROUNDS, MD** (Medicine/Pulmonary and Critical Care) and **DAVID RAND, PhD** (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) Cigarette Smoke Effects on Mitochondria—From Flies to Lungs

**JEROME N. SANES, PhD** (Neuroscience) and **BENJAMIN D. GREENBERG, MD, PhD** (Psychiatry and Human Behavior) Probing Inflexibility: Mechanisms for Change of Mind in Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

**DAVID SHEINBERG, PhD** (Neuroscience) and **KATHARINE A. PHILLIPS, MD** (Psychiatry and Human Behavior) Modification of Perception in Body Dysmorphic Disorder and Neural Correlates

**KRISTI WHARTON, PhD** (Molecular, Cellular Biology and Biochemistry), **HELENA TAYLOR, MD, PhD** (Surgery/Plastic Surgery), and **STEPHEN SULLIVAN, MD, MPH** (Surgery/Plastic Surgery) Importance of BMP Processing in Craniofacial Development