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Please RSVP to Brian Falconer at:

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**Join us on either of the
following dates**

•
Thursday, April 30 2015

Registration 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Seminar 7:00pm - 8:00pm

•
235 Promenade St. #500
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 331-3207

Light refreshments and
hors d'oeuvres will be provided

Wednesday, May 13 2015

Registration 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Seminar 7:00pm - 8:00pm

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Dr. Michael Fine Steps Down as Health Director to 'Explore New Opportunities'

Tireless public health advocate for primary care, prevention, protection

MARY KORR
RIMJ MANAGING EDITOR

PROVIDENCE—Dr. Michael Fine, the director of the Rhode Island Dept. of Health (HEALTH) since 2011, resigned his position on Feb. 24, effective March 27, “to explore new opportunities” and said he will work to ensure a smooth transition.

In a letter to Gov. Gina M. Raimondo, he expressed his gratitude to his 400-plus colleagues at the department he oversaw. “Their work is invaluable, but often unsung,” he wrote.

He cited HEALTH’s achievements during his tenure; among them were the following:

- Maintained or improved immunization rates for adults and children, making RI the best-immunized state with first-in-the-nation protocols for healthcare workers to be immunized or masked during the height of influenza season;
- Along with community partners developed a school-based health clinic in Central Falls, a new model for delivering neighborhood primary care;
- Effective response to threatened epidemics, most recently meningitis and comprehensive response to Ebola crisis, conducting “stress” tests with all hospitals in the state;
- Oversaw five hospital conversions;
- Addressed serious drug overdose numbers in the state, creating public awareness on addiction and treatment, and worked to develop more professional training about screening, and helped promote the use of Narcan by law enforcement, EMS, patients and families; and
- Enhanced the Prescription Drug Monitoring System for use by health professionals before dispensing narcotics.

“As Dr. Fine stated in his letter of resignation, he has spent ‘every fiber of his being’ protecting the health and safety of all Rhode Islanders over the past four years. I am incredibly thankful to him for this dedicated service to our state,” Gov. Raimondo said.

In the letter, Dr. Fine also cited goals which remain to be achieved, including cutting HIV transmission to zero, reducing rates of colorectal cancer and cigarette smoking, and cutting the cost of health insurance while providing access to primary care for all Rhode Islanders.

Prior to being nominated director of health by former Gov. Lincoln Chafee, Dr. Fine was the medical program director at the RI Dept. of Corrections. His career has been spent in the field of primary care and healthcare reform, notably for underserved populations. He was the founder and managing director of HealthAccessRI, the nation’s first statewide organization making prepaid, reduced fee-for-service primary



care available to people without employer-provided health insurance. He also founded the non-profit Scituate Health Alliance, the first community in the United States to provide primary medical and dental care to all its residents.

At Hillside Avenue Family and Community Medicine in Pawtucket, he was the founder and physician operating officer.

He also served as physician-in-chief of the Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals’ Departments of Family and Community Medicine.

Dr. Fine has served on a number of boards and legislative committees throughout the state and is a past president of the Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians and past Open Society Institute/George Soros Fellow in Medicine as a Profession.

He has published several books and is the co-author, with James W. Peters, of *The Nature of Health* (Radcliffe, 2007), a study of healthcare services, human rights, society, technology, and industry. He also wrote *The Zero Calorie Diet* (Red House Press, 2010), a look at the culture of excess through the lens of fasting.

A graduate of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 1983, he was a resident in Brown’s family medicine program at Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Fine and his wife, Dr. Carol Levitt, are Scituate residents and the parents of two grown children. ❖

South County Hospital Re-accredited Pathway to Excellence Hospital



SOUTH COUNTY HOSPITAL

South County Hospital was re-accredited as a Pathway to Excellence™ Hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The designation identifies the elements of work environments where nurses can flourish. Above are some of the staff integral in the reaccreditation: (l-r) Maureen Pearlman, RN; Allison Hoffman, RN; Bobbie Fay, RN; Pat Towle, RN; Laura Weindel, RN; Julie Parrillo, RN; Donna Donilon, RN; Maggie Thomas, Human Resources; Suzanne Chinn, RN; Anne Schmidt, CNO; Holly Marcello, RN; Steve Juchnik, RN

South County Hospital Earns Women's Choice Award

Recognized as a top hospital for obstetric care

WAKEFIELD – South County Hospital was one of only two hospitals in Rhode Island to receive a 2015 Women's Choice Award® for outstanding care in obstetrics. This designation is one-of-a-kind and identifies the country's best healthcare institutions based on female patient satisfaction, clinical excellence, and what women say they want from a hospital.

"South County Hospital is honored to have received The Women's Choice Award," said **LISA RAMEAKA, MD**, Medical Director of the Women's Health Service Line at South County Hospital. "It speaks to the high level of patient satisfaction, quality, and personalized care that we strive to provide each woman who receives obstetrical care at South County Hospital." ❖

OHIC Adopts Revisions to Regulation 2: The Affordability Standards



CRANSTON – Health Insurance Commissioner **KATHLEEN C HITTNER, MD**, has adopted revisions to OHIC Regulation 2: Powers and Duties of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, with changes specific to the "Affordability Standards." To support the agency's mission of improving the affordability of health insurance for consumers, OHIC first implemented its nationally recognized Affordability Standards in 2010.

In August 2013, OHIC evaluated the efficacy of the Affordability Standards and used the results to recommend changes to the current Standards. The assessment found that the Standards have increased primary care infrastructure in the State, accelerated patient-centered medical home transformation efforts, and reduced the rate of hospital cost increases.

In 2013 and 2014, OHIC worked diligently with health insurance carriers, its Health Insurance Advisory Council (HIAC), and other critical stakeholders to refine the recommended modifications and draft the revised regulation based on these changes.

"Through our revisions to the Affordability Standards in Regulation 2, OHIC is striving to move the healthcare delivery system in a direction that will not only slow the growth of healthcare costs, but also improve the efficiency and quality of the care that is being delivered to Rhode Islanders," explained Commissioner Hittner.

OHIC has published a technical document that details the implemented changes and the rationale behind such changes, which are designed to update the Affordability Standards by recognizing current developments in the health care sector. The standards also newly incorporate administrative simplification requirements that grew out of a legislatively established taskforce and incorporate OHIC's work on price transparency.

For more detailed information, including the referenced technical document, please visit www.ohic.ri.gov. ❖

Women's Heart Health Program Launched by Care New England

PROVIDENCE – Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island recently announced the establishment of a new women's cardiovascular program from Care New England Cardiovascular Care.

Women's Heart Health of Women & Infants will be co-directed by **HEATHER HURLBURT, MD, FACC**, and **ALICE KIM, MD, FACC**.

Dr. Hurlburt, who also serves as director of non-invasive imaging at Kent Hospital, is board certified in internal medicine and cardiology. She has special expertise in cardiac imaging and women's heart health and completed training in advanced imaging modalities, including cardiac CT and trans-esophageal echocardiography. Dr. Hurlburt is a member of the cardiovascular division at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Kim is director of Care New England's Advanced Valvular Heart Disease Clinic and a cardiologist on staff at Memorial, Kent and Brigham and Women's hospitals.



Heather Hurlburt, MD



Alice Kim, MD

PHOTOS: CARE NEW ENGLAND

She is board certified in cardiovascular medicine, nuclear cardiology, echocardiography and vascular interpretation. Dr. Kim specializes in the management of complex valvular heart disease, noninvasive cardiology and consultative medicine. She is a part of the advanced valve clinical team at Brigham and Women's structural heart disease clinic, working closely with interventional

cardiologists and cardiac surgeons.

Services offered by the Women's Heart Health program include stress testing, personalized cardiovascular risk assessment, advanced cardiac imaging, cardiac catheterization, cardiac arrhythmia, vascular and venous ablation, advanced valvular heart disease, advanced heart failure, and pulmonary hypertension/adult congenital heart disease services, as well as weight loss, smoking cessation and nutritional counseling. Inpatient services are provided at Kent, Memorial and Brigham and Women's hospitals. ❖

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Physical Therapy Foundation Awards Brown \$2.5M for Research Linda Resnik to lead new Center of Excellence



BROWN

PROVIDENCE — The Foundation for Physical Therapy has awarded Brown University a \$2.5-million, five-year grant for a new center of excellence to spur research in the field. In the Center on Health Services Training and Research (CoHSTAR), Brown, Boston University, and the University of Pittsburgh will train researchers and seed new studies to build the evidence base for physical therapy care and to improve how care is delivered.

“Physical therapists are integral parts of the health care system,” said CoHSTAR director **LINDA RESNIK**, a physical therapist, associate professor of health services, policy and practice in the Brown University School of Public Health, and a research career scientist at the Providence VA Medical Center. “Everyday there are 750,000 people who see a physical therapist. There’s great clinical research that goes on, but there have been very few physical therapist researchers with the skills to conduct health services research. Because of that we are lacking the kind of evidence that we need to inform improvements in health service delivery and policy.”

The center will focus on three areas of research: rehabilitation outcomes measurement, implementation science and quality assurance, and analysis of large datasets. CoHSTAR’s faculty members will expand the capacity for research in these areas by training nine postdoctoral students and five to six visiting scientists during its five years of funding. Those programs will begin this summer and fall.

Other programs will include curriculum development and annual summer institutes and webcasts, led by Boston University, to reach many more physical therapy scholars.

“We are beginning recruitment immediately for our first cohort of trainees,” said Resnik, a physical therapist who came to Brown in 2002 as a postdoctoral trainee in health services research. “We plan to be reviewing applications as soon as possible.”

In addition, CoHSTAR has already selected the first three research projects to earn seed grants, to be administered by the University of Pittsburgh. One will examine the effect on care and costs of physical therapy being the first point of care — rather than, for instance the primary care doctor or chiropractor — for people with lower back pain. A second will seek to develop a linking of measures for tracking patient functioning through the many settings of post-acute care, such as inpatient rehabilitation, nursing home, and then home. The third will accelerate the development and testing of a pilot registry for management of knee pain.

Resnik said she is pleased to lead a multi-institution team in creating more opportunities for people to study physical therapy services and policy.

“I have had the opportunity to be in this kind of training environment and to launch my career in this area, but I’ve been one amongst a very small number of physical therapist health services researchers,” she said. “Health services research has never been more important than in this era of health care reform as the United States tries to determine how to provide its citizens with the best quality care and the best value of care. As the call for others to enter the field has grown louder and louder there really have been limited opportunities for physical therapist training.”

Funding for the foundation’s grant came from the APTA and from dozens of physical therapists, foundations, and corporations. ❖

American College of Healthcare Executives Holds Annual Meeting, Recognizes Members

WARWICK – The American College of Healthcare Executives Rhode Island Chapter (ACHE RI) recently held its annual meeting at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Retired U.S. Navy Captain **ALBERT SHIMKUS, JR.** led the keynote address.

Several members of ACHE RI received awards, including:

- **EDWARD M. SCHOTTLAND**, FACHE – ACHE Service Award
- **ANN DANIELS**, FACHE – ACHE Distinguished Service Award
- **LT. CDR LISA WHITE**, FACHE – Regent’s Early Careerist Award
- **MYRA J. EDENS**, MSN, RN NE-BC, FACHE – Regent’s Senior Executive Award
- **KATHLEEN C. HITNER, MD** – ACHE RI Chapter’s Career Achievement Award

JENNIFER TOMASIK, MS, FACHE, principal at CFAR, was elected president of the chapter. **JOSEPH YANISH**, MHSA, FACHE, senior health systems specialist at the Providence VA Medical Center, is the immediate past president.

The ACHE annual meeting, co-sponsored by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, also included the Chapter’s year in review, a look ahead at events and opportunities in 2015, and social networking among members.

The mission of the ACHE RI Chapter is to advance healthcare leadership and management excellence; to promote high ethical standards and conduct; to promote the mission of the ACHE for its members; and to meet its members’ professional, educational and leadership needs.

To learn more about ACHE RI Chapter visit:

www.rhodeisland.ache.org. ❖