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Appointments

Nitin S. Damle, MD, named President of the American College of Physicians

PHILADELPHIA — NITIN S. DAMLE, MD, MS, FACP, has been named President of the American College of Physicians [ACP]. ACP is the nation’s largest medical specialty organization with 143,000 members. Dr. Damle’s term began at the conclusion of the organization’s annual scientific meeting, in Washington, DC, from May 5–7, 2016.

Dr. Damle is the founding and managing partner at South County Internal Medicine Inc. in Wakefield, Rhode Island since 1988. He is past President of the Rhode Island Medical Society and past President of the Medical Staff of the South County Hospital Health Care System and a member of the Board of Trustees.

He has been a Fellow (FACP) of the ACP since 1992. Prior to his term as a Regent he was the Governor from the Rhode Island Chapter of the ACP and during his term, was the Vice-chairman of the Education, Quality and Publications Policy Committee. As Governor, he won an ACP Evergreen Award for innovative College Chapter activities.

He was the Chairman of ACP’s Medical Practice and Quality Policy Committee for two years and Chairman of ACP Services and ACP Services Political Action Committee, which is the advocacy arm of the College.

Edward Akelman, MD, named Chair of Department of Orthopaedics at Brown
Will also lead programs at RIH, Miriam

PROVIDENCE — EDWARD AKELMAN, MD, has been named Chief of the Department of Orthopedics at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital and will become the Chair of the Department of Orthopaedics at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and the Vincent Zecchino Professor of Orthopedics, pending the approval of Brown’s Corporation.

Dr. Akelman, an internationally known expert in hand surgery and orthopedic education, joined Rhode Island Hospital and Brown University in 1985 and has served as the chief of hand, upper extremity and microvascular surgery for the last 30 years. He replaces MICHAEL EHRLICH, MD, who retired late last year.

Dr. Akelman earned his bachelor’s degree at Princeton University, and his medical degree at Dartmouth Medical School. He completed his general surgery residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, his orthopedic residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and spine and hand surgery fellowships at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven and Roosevelt Hospital in New York, respectively.

Dr. Akelman is past-president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. He served as chairman of the Council on Education of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, and served on its board of directors. He is a past-president of the New England Hand Society and the Rhode Island Orthopaedic Society. He has served on the Board of Trustees at Rhode Island Hospital, on Rhode Island Hospital’s Board of Governors and as President of the Rhode Island Hospital Medical Executive Committee.

Vivian Sung, MD, named President of Society of Gynecologic Surgeons

PROVIDENCE — VIVIAN W. SUNG, MD, FACOG, a board certified urogynecologist in the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been named president of the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons [SGS].

Dr. Sung is the principal investigator of the Pelvic Floor Disorders Network [PFDN] grant awarded to only eight sites across the country by the National Institutes of Health, including Women & Infants Hospital. The network is studying innovative, non-surgical and surgical treatments for women suffering from urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse and fecal incontinence.

A resident of Providence, Dr. Sung is a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine and completed her residency at Magee Women’s Hospital at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She completed a dual fellowship in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive pelvic surgery, and epidemiology and clinical trials at Women & Infants Hospital/Brown University.
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Appointments

Dr. Robert Insoft named to American Academy of Pediatrics Committee

ROBERT M. INSOFT, MD, a neonatologist at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and associate professor of pediatrics at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been appointed to the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Steering Committee for the Task Force for Guidelines and Protocol Sharing. Dr. Insoft is also senior vice president and chief medical officer at Women & Infants.

According to Dr. Insoft, “This newly-established committee is charged with the development and publishing of evidence-based clinical guidelines for neonatal medicine nationwide and internationally. It is an honor and a privilege to work with my colleagues from across the nation on ensuring the safest, most effective treatment protocols for some of our tiniest and most vulnerable patients.”

Dr. Insoft is an academic pediatrician and neonatologist whose time has been divided among patient care, clinical research, health policy, quality improvement, administration and teaching. Prior to joining Women & Infants, he served as the medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Neonatal Respiratory Services at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, where he was also the quality officer in the NICU.

A graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the Boston University School of Medicine, Dr. Insoft completed an internship and residency in pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital, fellowships in neonatal-perinatal medicine and intensive care transport in the Department of Pediatrics and the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco. He is also an executive scholar from the Brigham Leadership Program at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Business School.

Across his career, Dr. Insoft has had the opportunity to contribute to the field of critical care transport and has taught nationally and internationally in this area. He has led the Section of Transport Medicine (SOTM) of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and is the editor in chief and senior author on the AAP National Guidelines for Air and Ground Transport of Neonatal and Pediatric Patients, published this past year.

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Betty Vohr, MD, inducted into Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame
Recognized for her contributions in pediatric and neonatal care

PROVIDENCE – Neonatologist BETTY R. VOHR, MD, medical director of the Neonatal Follow-Up Program in the Department of Pediatrics at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and professor of pediatrics at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, was recently inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

Dr. Vohr has been the director of Women & Infants’ Neonatal Follow-Up Program since 1974, medical director of the Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Program (RIHAP) since 1990, and the national coordinator of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development’s Neonatal Research Network follow-up studies since 1990. Dr. Vohr’s primary clinical and research interests focus on improving the long-term outcomes of high-risk premature infants and infants with hearing loss.

“I have been fortunate to have had a rewarding career in pediatrics and neonatology at Women & Infants, and I have had the privilege of witnessing the remarkable changes in the care of high-risk infants over the past 40 years,” said Dr. Vohr. “There have been amazing strides in the care of low birthweight babies. In 1974, we had one survivor of less than 1,000 grams (2 lbs. 3 oz.); in 2014, we had 108. One of the greatest rewards of doing follow-up for the past 40 years has been witnessing the continued improved outcomes of premature infants.”

One of her greatest professional achievements was in bringing forward the issue of universal newborn hearing screening. “Near and dear to my heart is the study that we conducted at Women & Infants that showed the feasibility of newborn hearing screening, resulting in the National Institutes of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommending universal newborn hearing screening in the U.S., with Rhode Island being the first state to comply with these recommendations. Today, more than 98 percent of infants in the U.S. have their hearing screened at birth, and infants with hearing loss now have significantly improved outcomes.”

Dr. B. Star Hampton honored by Society of Gynecologic Surgeons

B. STAR HAMPTON, MD, FACOG, a urogynecologist in the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at Women & Infants Hospital and an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has recently received the inaugural distinguished service award from the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons (SGS).

The Society’s distinguished service award is presented annually to one SGS member in good standing who has provided important contributions to the Society. The selection is made by the executive committee and is based on the nominee’s scientific leadership, organizational or society service, contributions to the SGS, and gynecological and/or surgical patient care expertise.

Dr. Hampton is a graduate of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at New York University Medical Center in New York City. Following residency, Dr. Hampton completed a three-year fellowship specializing in urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery at New York University Medical Center. She has achieved board certification in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery (FPMRS) by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG).
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Recognition

Lifespan Hospitals earn top grades in national patient-safety report

PROVIDENCE – Each of Lifespan’s acute care hospitals earned the highest designation possible in the recent “Hospital Safety Scores” report by The Leapfrog Group, a national health care watchdog organization. Lifespan is the only hospital system in Rhode Island awarded an “A” at each of its hospitals as part of Leapfrog’s spring report.

Rhode Island Hospital, including Hasbro Children’s Hospital, The Miriam Hospital and Newport Hospital were among only five hospitals in the state to receive an “A.” Across the country, only 798 of the 2,571 (31 percent) of hospitals graded by Leapfrog received the top mark.

Developed under the guidance of Leapfrog’s Blue Ribbon Expert Panel, the “Hospital Safety Score” uses 30 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign A, B, C, D and F grades to U.S. hospitals twice per year. These measures include safe practices such as identifying and mitigating risks and hazards as well as infection control procedures such as hand hygiene and proper care of ventilated patients.

The report, calculated by top patient safety experts, is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. This year, the report added five new measures of patient-reported experiences with the hospital as well as two common infections, *C. difficile* and methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus infections (MRSA).
JWU graduates inaugural class of PAs; nine will practice in RI

PROVIDENCE — On May 19, Johnson & Wales University’s (JWU) awarded the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies to its first class – a total of 23 students received degrees; nine have accepted job offers in Rhode Island, and two have pending offers.

In 2014, Johnson & Wales’ physician assistant program was the first to be offered in the state of Rhode Island. This June, the third class of physician assistants will begin their studies at JWU.

Kent Hospital honors employee service at annual recognition dinner

WARWICK — Kent Hospital honored employees for dedicated service and accomplishments recently at its annual employee awards banquet at Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown.

Employees were recognized for their years of service ranging from five to 45 years.

The 2016 Lang Employee of the Year Award was presented to LISA FERRY, RN, Outpatient Infusion, who has worked at Kent since 1982.

The 2016 Lang Manager of the Year Award was presented to JUDITH WOODSTOCK, RN, Nurse Manager, Patient Care Services, who has worked at Kent since 2011.

Kent’s 45-year employees were also recognized for their years of service. They include LEONARD DUFFY, JR., SHARYN GILLIS, RN, and GAIL WILLIAMS, RN.

Terrie Fox Wetle, MS, PhD, keynote speaker at the graduation, and Dean of the School of Public Health at Brown, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Kent Hospital honored Judith Woodstock, RN, and Lisa Ferry, RN, at its annual awards dinner.
The Eleanor Slater Hospital (ESH), with campuses in Cranston and Burrillville, Rhode Island, is seeking physicians either board certified or board eligible in Internal Medicine or Family Practice interested in working with our patient population who suffer from acute and long term medical illnesses.

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Recognitions

**Gateway Healthcare honors Community Champions at annual awards luncheon**

PROVIDENCE – Gateway Healthcare hosted its annual awards luncheon on May 2 and honored individuals and organizations who demonstrate a commitment to their community. Honorees included Bristol Rotary Charities Foundation, Shriners of Rhode Island Charities Trust, Chris Martinez of Procter & Gamble, and OTIS WARREN, MD, of the University Emergency Medical Foundation.

Dr. Warren, with the University Emergency Medical Foundation, received Gateway’s Champion Award. He was the primary driver for the creation of the Enhanced Care Team, a unique program that promotes emergency room alternatives and care for individuals who live with alcohol and drug dependence.

**Southcoast earns 2016 Women’s Choice Award**

NEW BEDFORD — Southcoast Health has received the 2016 Women’s Choice Award as one of America’s Best Hospitals for Patient Safety. This evidence-based designation is the only patient safety award that identifies the country’s best healthcare institutions based on robust criteria that considers female patient satisfaction and clinical excellence.

“Southcoast Health staff works hard every single day to promote and maintain a culture of safety,” said Tim Eixenberg, Chief Nursing Officer for Southcoast Health.

The award winners represent hospitals that have exceptional performance in limiting a wide range of hospital-associated infections and complications from surgery and medical treatment.

**Kathleen Carrigan named school nurse teacher of the year for RI**

EAST PROVIDENCE – The RI Certified School Nurse Teacher Association recently announced that KATHLEEN CARRIGAN has been selected as school nurse teacher of the year for RI 2016.

She has served as District Nurse Coordinator and school nurse/teacher for the City of East Providence for 29 years. She also worked as a pediatric staff nurse at Rhode Island and Hasbro Children’s Hospital for 21 years, concurrently with her position in East Providence.

She graduated in 1988 from Rhode Island College (RIC) with a bachelor of science in nursing. She then received her master’s of education from RIC in May 2002.
Recognition

Taro Minami, MD, and Sajid Saraf, MD, honored for teaching by Brown

PAWTUCKET – The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University Department of Medicine recently honored eight physicians with the Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Two of those doctors were Memorial’s Taro Minami, MD, FACP, FCCP, director of simulation and ultrasound training, fellowship site director, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, and assistant professor of medicine (clinical) at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Sajid Saraf, MD, FACP, director, Internal Medicine Clerkship Program, associate program director, Internal Medicine Residency Program, and assistant professor of medicine (clinical) at Alpert Medical School.

The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund was established at Brown through generous gifts from the Beckwith Family Foundation. The endowment fund is used to support the education and research mission of the Department of Medicine, with an emphasis on the education and training of medical residents.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock is seeking BC/BE Psychiatrists in multiple areas. These positions involve delivering high-quality, team-based care in a collaborative environment. Current areas of recruitment include: Child Psychiatry, Adult Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, and Addiction Services. Successful academic candidates will receive a faculty appointment at the Geisel School of Medicine at a rank commensurate with experience. EOE. Please submit CV on our career site at: www.NHbehavioralhealth.org.

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Obituaries

PAUL L. ROSSIGNOLI, MD, passed away on May 15, 2016. A longtime resident of North Kingstown, Paul was a well-respected otolaryngologist for over 30 years. He was a graduate of Classical High School in Providence, Tufts University and the University of Bologna School of Medicine. He did his residency at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and was a longtime Chief of ENT at Kent Hospital before retiring in 2000.

During his time there, he served as Chief of Surgery, President of the Greater Attleboro Unit of the American Cancer Society and was a Fellow of The American College of Surgeons. He spent decades as the physician for the Attleboro High School football team and in the late 80’s, he also became the Director of Medicine at MetLife Healthcare in Canton, MA.

Harvey grew up in Revere, MA and graduated from Brandeis University and Tufts University School of Medicine. From 1961 to 1963, he was a Captain in the United States Air Force in Turkey. He is survived by his wife Anne (Molloy) Liberman, two daughters Kathleen Hanley and Tamara Liberman of Attleboro, MA, five grandchildren and seven nieces and nephews.

Harvey and his wife were former members of the Wickford Yacht Club where he was Commodore during 2006. He enjoyed sailing, skiing, traveling and was a great fan of all Boston sports teams. He was also an avid reader. A private Celebration of Life will be held to honor the memory of Harvey who touched the lives of so many people. As a surgeon, he was devoted to the care of his patients and was a kind and generous man who was always willing to help someone in need. Harvey will be lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

HARVEY LIBERMAN, MD, 85, of North Kingstown, died peacefully on Wednesday, May 18th at Briarcliffe Manor in Johnston. He was a surgeon at Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro, Mass., for over 30 years until his retirement in 1996.

During his time there, he served as Chief of Surgery, President of the Greater Attleboro Unit of the American Cancer Society and was a Fellow of The American College of Surgeons. He spent decades as the physician for the Attleboro High School football team and in the late 80’s, he also became the Director of Medicine at MetLife Healthcare in Canton, MA.

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ALEXANDER S. RUHIG, MD, 87, passed away peacefully on May 22, 2016. Born in Hungary, he survived the Nazi persecution of World War II and attended the University of Graz where he received his medical degree in 1955. He emigrated to the United States where he obtained his license to practice medicine in Rhode Island in 1961. He specialized in psychiatry providing care to patients in Rhode Island and Massachusetts over a long career.

He enjoyed skiing the glamour resorts of Europe for many years along with tennis in the summer and sailing with friends on Narragansett Bay. Alex is survived by his loving nieces and dear friends throughout the world. He will be missed by all for his unique personality and love of life and food.