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## Appointments



### Dr. Albert Woo Named Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery at Hasbro Children's Hospital

PROVIDENCE— Hasbro Children's Hospital has appointed **ALBERT S. WOO, MD**, as chief of pediatric plastic surgery and director of its Cleft and Craniofacial Center. Woo is a board-certified plastic

and reconstructive surgeon who treats children and adults affected by a variety of facial and body malformations. He also serves as a faculty member in the department of surgery at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Woo most recently served as chief of pediatric plastic surgery at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

"Dr. Woo has more than a decade of clinical experience and is nationally recognized for his skills in complex craniofacial reconstruction," said **PAUL LIU, MD**, chief of plastic surgery at Rhode Island Hospital and its pediatric division, Hasbro Children's Hospital. "Because pediatric plastic surgery can be an understandably emotional process for families, we are fortunate to have Dr. Woo who is not only innovative and technically skilled but brings compassionate care to his patients and their families."

Woo's clinical interests include craniofacial surgery, cleft lip and palate, facial reconstruction, cosmetic procedures, treatment of moles and vascular malformations, hand surgery, trauma reconstruction and facial paralysis. He is an expert in the field of endoscopic craniosynostosis surgery and craniofacial reconstruction. He has pioneered a new technique for cleft palate repair that improves speech outcomes in both primary and secondary operations.

Published in more than 40 peer-reviewed publications, Woo's research interests include cleft lip and palate, velopharyngeal insufficiency, craniosynostosis (endoscopic and open), robotic plastic surgery and 3D printing technology.

He earned his medical degree at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and completed his residency in plastic surgery at Rhode Island Hospital. He also completed a fellowship in craniofacial surgery at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.

Woo currently is a member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. He is the recipient of numerous awards including Best Doctors in America since 2011. ❖

### Peter Snyder, PhD, to Head Statewide Committee on Neuroscience Research



*Panel will guild partnership of Lifespan, Brown, URI, Care New England and Providence VA*

**PETER J. SNYDER, PhD**, senior vice president and chief research officer at Lifespan, has been named the inaugural chairman of the Rhode Island Neurosciences Leadership and Steering Committee, the panel responsible for lead-

ing a collaboration of Rhode Island's most prominent research institutions engaged in the brain sciences.

**STEVEN RASMUSSEN, MD**, chair of the department of psychiatry and human behavior at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and representing Care New England on the committee, will serve as vice chair.

The new 10-member committee also announced at its first meeting last month that the collaboration has \$200,000 in seed money. The committee is working on a thorough assessment of the organizations' resources and capabilities, and identifying shared interests in the neurosciences.

A memorandum of understanding was signed last year by leadership from Lifespan, Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, Care New England and the Providence VA Medical Center.

The five institutions will focus on identifying causes and potential treatments for a wide range of diseases and disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, stroke, traumatic brain injury and autism.

"The neurosciences are a broad area of study, one in which we have the potential to effect some real advancements in our lifetime," said Snyder. "It is not commonplace for academic and medical institutions to collaborate, rather than compete. The sharing of mutual goals by these institutions will allow us to maximize our resources, in terms of personnel, physical research space, and, of course, funding. I am honored to have been chosen as the first leader of this exciting endeavor."

Along with creating a critical mass in attracting large grants, Snyder says the partnership has started exploring initiatives like research opportunities for students of the neurosciences and planning a statewide research conference around brain sciences. ❖

## Appointments

### Southcoast Health President & CEO Keith Hovan to Chair Massachusetts Hospital Association Board of Trustees

**KEITH HOVAN**, President & CEO of Southcoast Health in Southeastern Massachusetts was recently named the 76th Chair of the Massachusetts Hospital Association Board of Trustees. In his inaugural address, Hovan noted the unique responsibilities of healthcare institution and organization leaders.

"As executives, we have a special role within healthcare," Hovan said. "We do not diagnose disease. But we ensure that our hospitals and clinics are staffed with the highly skilled clinicians who can. We do not remove tumors or set bones. But we help provide the operating rooms and high-tech equipment for those who do. And we do not deliver infants. But we help provide the best settings for our obstetrics professionals to usher in new life. We work every day to make sure that our hospitals, clinics and health centers deliver safe, high quality care at a cost that patients, businesses and, indeed, society can bear." ❖



### Dr. Donald Coustan appointed to committee of American Diabetes Association

PROVIDENCE – **DONALD R. COUSTAN, MD**, of Jamestown, director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine's Diabetes in Pregnancy Program at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University,

has been appointed to serve a two-year term of the Professional Practice Committee of the American Diabetes Association.

Dr. Coustan was chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Women & Infants and the Alpert Medical School from 1991 to 2008. He is a past president of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, past board member of the American Diabetes Association, and has held numerous other national positions. ❖



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## Recognition

### Kent, Memorial Recognized for Quality Stroke Care by American Heart/ American Stroke Association

PROVIDENCE – Kent and Memorial hospitals have been recognized by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for their commitment to quality stroke care.

Kent Hospital has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke<sup>SM</sup> Honor Roll. Memorial Hospital has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. These awards recognize the hospitals' commitment and success in ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

Hospitals must achieve 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Stroke achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month periods and achieve 75 percent or higher compliance with five of eight Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Quality measures to receive the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.

To qualify for the Target: Stroke Honor Roll, hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke. If given intravenously in the first three hours after the start of stroke symptoms, tPA has been shown to significantly reduce the effects of stroke and lessen the chance of permanent disability. Kent Hospital earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. ❖



Lynn E. Taylor, MD, accepts certificate honoring the program she created, Rhode Island Defeats Hepatitis C, from Karen B. DeSalvo, MD, acting assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), at a White House event in May, the first time HHS presented awards for hepatitis testing. The 12 non-profit organizations honored were selected based on their success in reaching out to underserved populations and getting people tested and linked into care. Dr. Taylor developed and directs Miriam Hospital's HIV/ Viral Hepatitis Coinfection Program.



Lianna Karp, MD '16, shown with Herbert Rakatansky, MD, received the Herbert Rakatansky Prize at the Alpert Medical School in May. The award was endowed by the Rhode Island Medical Society in 2012 and is given to the graduating senior medical student who has done the most to promote the well-being of her/his fellow medical students.

## Recognition



PROVIDENCE VAMC PHOTO BY WINFIELD DANIELSON

Dr. Andrew Cohen, Chief of Nephrology at the Providence VA Medical Center, right, gives a tour of the new dialysis facility's state-of-the-art water treatment plant to Dr. Michael Mayo-Smith, director of the VA New England Healthcare System, Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

### Providence VA Dialysis Unit Wins ICARE Award

PROVIDENCE — **DR. MICHAEL MAYO-SMITH**, director of the VA New England Healthcare System, visited the Providence VA Medical Center June 15th and presented an ICARE award to the Providence VAMC's Dialysis Unit for their exceptional service to veterans.

For the past two years, the unit was one of a select group of recipients of a National VA Renal Disease and Dialysis Office of Specialty Care Award.

Dialysis at the Providence VAMC has also achieved an infection rate of zero for several years, and implemented a Ticket to Ride program to seamlessly transition patients from their hospital bed to hemodialysis treatment.

ICARE awards are presented to a VA employee, or group of VA employees, who through their outstanding service, exemplify VA's core values of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence. ❖



Members of the Providence VA Medical Center's Dialysis Unit show-off their ICARE awards after a presentation by Dr. Michael Mayo-Smith.



Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VA Medical Center, Dr. Satish Sharma, chief of staff, far left, and Dr. Paul Pirraglia, chief of Primary Care, second from left, present Dr. Monty VanBeber with the VA Secretary's Hands and Heart Award Monday, June 13, 2016. The award recognizes VA employees whose dedication to Veterans is marked by the highest standards in patient care. Dr. VanBeber oversees primary care at all of the Providence VAMC's community outpatient clinics. In addition to his administrative duties, Dr. VanBeber works tirelessly to personally deliver care to Veterans as the primary care physician for many clinic patients in Hyannis and New Bedford, Mass., and Middletown, R.I., as well as on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket islands.

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## Recognition



### Blood and Marrow Transplant Program reaccredited by FACT

PROVIDENCE – The Roger Williams Medical Center Blood and Marrow Transplant program, the only unit of its kind in the state, has been awarded renewed accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) for demonstrating compliance with the

FACT-JACIE International Standards for the full scope of bone marrow transplant programming. The accreditation is effective January 2016 for a period of three years.

“Patients with leukemia, lymphoma or other life-threatening disease or other blood disorders need the most effective care to improve and prolong their lives,” said **DR. TODD F. ROBERTS**, Program Director of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit and Section of Hematologic Malignancies. “FACT reaccreditation for the program at Roger Williams confirms the excellent care and treatment we are delivering to patients in need of transplant services.”

The FACT accreditation process involved an on-site inspection, which took place in December 2015 and was conducted by inspectors qualified by training and experience in cellular therapy. FACT accreditation is embraced by the overwhelming majority of transplant programs. More than 90% in the United States are FACT accredited.

A dedicated unit located in the hospital is supplied with high-efficiency particulate air-filtration systems that provide protection to patients who cannot resist infection. Patients are monitored through a centralized intensive care patient monitoring system, which includes highly skilled nurses who have expertise in high-dose, anti-tumor chemotherapy administration and management of transplant-related side effects.

The unit is a full-service program, which provides compassionate care to patients diagnosed with acute and chronic leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, aplastic anemia, and myelodysplastic syndrome.

This voluntary accreditation is based upon compliance with the most comprehensive standards in the field, verified by rigorous peer-reviewed inspections. FACT-accredited organizations voluntarily seek and maintain FACT accreditation through a rigorous process, demonstrating their belief that patient needs are paramount.

The accreditation includes adult allogeneic and autologous transplantation, hematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation, marrow and peripheral blood cellular therapy product processing with minimal manipulation, and cellular therapy product processing with minimal manipulation. ❖

## Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care earns national seal of accreditation from the American College of Radiology

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. — The Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care, part of Southcoast Health, has been awarded a three-year term of accreditation in radiation oncology as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The ACR seal of accreditation represents the highest level of quality and patient safety.

“American College of Radiology certification for radiation oncology has been the gold standard in our field for quite some time, yet has historically not been achievable by many institutions – even some of the most renowned,” said Sheri Weintraub, MS, DABR, Director and Chief Physicist of Radiation Oncology for Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care. “Certification requires an organized, systematic, and well-documented adherence to published best practices. As simple and reasonable as this sounds, there are many ways to follow best practices and it took a lot of focused teamwork to develop standard operating procedures that utilized the best of what each of us brought to the table. Developing those procedures was one thing, and holding ourselves accountable was another. We spent countless hours tracking and evaluating data to determine where our weak areas were and what was being done effectively to improve not only quality, but the patient experience.” ❖

## Obituary

 **DR. LOUIS VINCENT SORRENTINO** died on June 12, 2016. Born February 19, 1923 in Providence, he was predeceased by his wife, Rosemary Pierrel Sorrentino. Surviving are his brother, Stanley Sorrentino, daughter, Kathy Lytle (Rev. Bern) of Fishers, IN, son, Rev. Dr. Paul Sorrentino (Karen) of S. Deerfield, MA. He also leaves behind four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Military service in World War II shortened his Princeton studies. After the war, he graduated from Boston University Medical School. After his residency, he served for five years as a medical missionary in Japan. Upon returning from Japan, he completed his psychiatric training at Boston State Hospital.

His psychiatric practice began in Rhode Island in 1960. He was a member and Past President of the RI Psychiatric Society, the American Medical Association and the RI Medical Society. He was active for many years on the RI Medical Society Physician Health Committee and the RI Group Psychotherapy Society of which he was a founder. He was on the staff of RI Hospital and Butler Hospital and a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Brown University Medical School.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the Dean of Pembroke College Endowed Visiting Professorship (Brown University, Gift Cashier, Box 1877, Providence, RI 02912, Butler Hospital (Foundation Office, Butler Hospital, 345 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence, RI 02906) or the charity of your choice. ❖

## Recognition



The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) recently awarded the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award to **Cornelius "Skip" Granai III, MD**, director of the Program in Women's Oncology at Women & Infants Hospital. He was presented the award at ACOG's recent annual meeting.

## Dr. Jennifer Gass serves as international breast cancer resource

PROVIDENCE – **JENNIFER S. GASS, MD**, surgeon-in-chief and co-director of the Breast Health Center at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, a Care New England hospital, continues to be recognized as an international resource in the field of oncoplastic breast cancer surgery and cancer survivorship issues and was recently invited to participate in two key groups.

Dr. Gass completed a one-month sabbatical at the Paris Breast Center in 2011 in the novel surgical procedure that combines the best techniques from plastic surgery with oncologic surgery to remove breast cancer, and then brought oncoplastic surgery to Women & Infants, making it the first facility in New England to use it.

Dr. Gass – who has also served as a surveyor for the National Accreditation for Breast Centers, directs the breast fellowship at Women & Infants, and serves as a clinical associate professor at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University – was recently invited faculty to the Internationale Senologic Society in Warsaw, Poland. There, she presented on oncoplastic surgery and served on the Global Breast Health Initiative working group.

"As we gain a greater appreciation of the cancer survivorship journey, we better catalogue patient reported outcomes in survivorship. Oncoplastic surgery is one technique surgeons can provide that may empower women who want to preserve and reconstruct their breasts in the most natural looking way at the time the cancer is removed," Dr. Gass says.

In addition, she was the invited co-chair of the American Society of Breast Surgeon's survivorship pre-conference course at the group's recent annual meeting. As such, she was asked to submit a manuscript for the course offering. ❖



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Graduation day exercises were held on Friday, June 17, 2016, for residents and fellows completing their training at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. Family Medicine graduates, pictured left to right, were: kneeling front row, Jeremy Stricsek, MD, Jeffrey Sorokin, MD, Samantha Greenberg, MD, Sarah Phillips, MD and Susan Boisvert, MD. Standing, back row, left to right, David Dick, DO, Rachel Trippett, MD, Gabriel Pleasants, MD, Katherine Jarrell, MD, Jessica Heney, MD, Laurie Garabedian, DO, Bridget Marvinsmith, MD and Michael Chen-Illamos, MD.



Internal Medicine graduates, pictured left to right, were Omair Tahir, MD, Umama Gorski, MD, Ameya Hodarkar, MD, Rachana Sedhai, MD, Jae Young Lee, MD, Nicole Yang, MD, Muhammad Shafi, MD, Anum Saeed, MD, Arman Uzunyan, MD, Mervat Saleh, MD and Fady Marmoush, MD.