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Recognition

Southcoast Health named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care by Healthgrades

Southcoast Health has been recognized as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care for the seventh year in a row by Healthgrades (2012–2018), the leading online resource for healthcare consumers. Southcoast Health is one of just four hospitals in Massachusetts to receive this distinction for seven consecutive years.

In all, Southcoast Health was recognized for superior cardiovascular services with 11 recognitions, including receiving the Healthgrades Cardiac Care Excellence Award for the 12th year in a row (2007–2018).

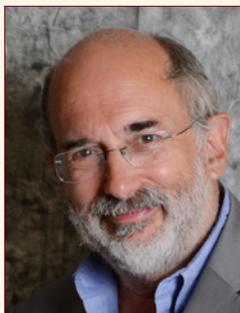
"These recognitions are a much-deserved acknowledgment of the tremendous dedication of the team of physicians, nurses and clinical staff at the Southcoast Health Cardiovascular Care Center," said **DR. MARGARET FERRELL**, Physician-in-Chief of Cardiovascular Services at Southcoast Health.

Southcoast Health also received awards in pulmonary, gastrointestinal and critical care.

These achievements are part of new findings and data released on Healthgrades.com and in the Healthgrades 2018 Report to the Nation. For its analysis, Healthgrades evaluated approximately 45 million Medicare-patient records for nearly 4,500 short-term acute care hospitals nationwide, assessing hospital performance relative to each of 34 common conditions and procedures.

Healthgrades recognizes a hospital's quality achievements for cohort-specific performance, specialty area performance and overall clinical quality. Individual procedure or condition cohorts are designated as 5-star (statistically better than expected), 3-star (statistically as expected) and 1-star (statistically worse than expected) categories.

Detailed performance information, such as cohort-specific outcomes data and quality achievements, as well as more information on the Healthgrades 2018 Report to the Nation, including the complete methodology, can be found at www.healthgrades.com/quality. ❖



Michael Fine, MD, honored with Primary Care Leadership Award

Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC) honors Michael Fine, MD, with the prestigious Barbara Starfield Primary Care Leadership Award. The award was presented during the Annual Conference at the PCPCC's Annual Awards Dinner on October 11, 2017.

Dr. Fine holds the titles of Health Policy Advisor to Mayor James Diossa of Central Falls, Rhode Island, as well as Senior Population Health and Clinical Services Officer at Blackstone Valley Community Health Care (BVCHC). In addition to these roles, Dr. Fine is the driving force behind the Central Falls Neighborhood Health Station, which is slated to open in 2018, and will provide all health services, including primary care and population health, for most of the municipality's residents. Fine is the co-author of, "The Nature of Health," and a new book, "Healthcare Revolt," slated to be released in 2018.

"We are elated to recognize Dr. Fine," said PCPCC's President and CEO, Ann Greiner. "As a family physician, community organizer, and advocate, Dr. Fine has devoted his career to reforming primary care to better reduce costs, improve access, and help the underserved community. He has also been a policy leader, successfully driving primary care and public health collaboration."

"There is no greater honor than to receive the Barbara Starfield Award," said Dr. Fine. "Dr. Starfield's lifetime of research and advocacy helped me understand the important relationship between health equity and democracy as well as the reason that primary care must be at the center of a health care system." ❖

Ann Meers, RN, from Women & Infants receives award from American Urogynecologic Society

PROVIDENCE – **ANN MEERS, BS, RN, CCRC**, of Barrington, research supervisor in the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at Women & Infants Hospital, was recently presented with the Robin Haff Research Award by the American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS).

According to AUGS, this award is presented annually to an individual in recognition of outstanding and sustained contributions to female pelvic floor disorders research. The Robin Haff Research Award recognizes the important role that clinical research nurses and coordinators play in the clinical research process.

Meers has worked in women's health research for two decades, with a particular focus on pelvic floor disorders. She has served as chair of the Research Coordinator Committee of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institutes of Child Health and Development Pelvic Floor Disorders Network. ❖

Appointments

Dr. Vanessa M. Britto named Executive Director of Health and Wellness at Brown

VANESSA M. BRITTO, MD, currently the director of health services for Wellesley College, has been appointed assistant vice president and executive director of health and wellness at Brown University.

Reporting to the vice president for campus life and student services, Dr. Britto will provide strategic, administrative and clinical leadership for medical and mental health services for students at Brown. She will oversee a wide range of health and wellness departments – including Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services – to provide high-quality, comprehensive and collaborative health care on campus.

Dr. Britto has served since 2001 in her current role at Wellesley, and previously was the college physician at Stonehill College. Prior to her career in higher education, Dr. Britto practiced medicine both in community health centers and in private practice.

Having completed her internal medicine residency and a fellowship in general internal medicine at Rhode Island Hospital and with a master of science in community health from Brown, Dr. Britto also brings to the position firsthand experience on the Brown campus. She says the position is a natural extension of



her commitment to student health and well-being and the foundational role health plays in the ability of students to achieve their educational goals.

As part of her work at Brown leading Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services, Dr. Britto will oversee services including BWell Health Promotion, Emergency Medical Services, nursing, pharmacy and more. She will lead a staff of approximately 106 employees and 125 student workers, who provide clinical services for more than

34,000 patient encounters annually.

In addition, Dr. Britto will develop programs for students and residents at the Warren Alpert Medical School and will hold an appointment on the medical school faculty. Her appointment follows a search conducted by a committee that included faculty and staff from Brown along with undergraduate, graduate and medical school students.

In addition to her master's degree from Brown, she holds a bachelor of arts from Dartmouth College and an MD from the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Dr. Britto will begin her work at Brown on January 16, 2018. ❖



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Appointments

Dr. Alexander-Scott named President-Elect of national organization of state health directors



State health directors from across the nation have elected **NICOLE ALEXANDER-SCOTT, MD, MPH**, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), to be President-Elect of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), providing Dr. Alexander-Scott with a national platform to advocate for the health priorities of Rhode Islanders and people throughout the country.

ASTHO is comprised of the chief health official in each U.S. state and territory. Dr. Alexander-Scott will spend a year working with the current President to help steer the organization before assuming the role of President in September, 2018. Dr. John Wiesman, Secretary of Health at the Washington State Department of Health, is beginning his term as ASTHO's President as Dr. Alexander-Scott begins her term as President-Elect.

"I was both humbled and honored to be elected President-Elect of ASTHO. State health directors from across the country made this decision after looking at the tremendous successes brought about in Rhode Island by the 480 individuals that I am honored to call colleagues at RIDOH," said Dr. Alexander-Scott. "Our focus at RIDOH is ensuring that every person and community in Rhode Island has an equal opportunity to be as healthy as possible, regardless of zip code, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, level of education, level of income, or insurance status. As President-Elect of ASTHO, I will be partnering with the top public health officials in the nation whose expertise will help us make this vision a reality."

"We are honored to have Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH serve as ASTHO president-elect," said ASTHO Executive Director Michael Fraser. "She brings unique experience to this role

as a practicing physician who specializes in adult and pediatric infectious diseases. We applaud her commitment to public health and appreciate her ongoing leadership to ensure optimal health for all."

ASTHO develops and guides public health policy and ensures excellence in state-based public health practice. Through its leadership team, ASTHO coordinates and advises state health directors on the impacts of health policy and provides them with guidance and technical assistance on improving the nation's health. In addition to the numerous public health policy areas that ASTHO contributes to, each President selects an ASTHO President's Challenge for her or his term. Secretary Wiesman is continuing the 2017 focus (Public Health Approaches to Preventing Substance Misuse and Addictions).

Dr. Alexander-Scott has been the Director of Health at RIDOH since April 2015. She is board-certified in Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and Adult Infectious Diseases. ❖



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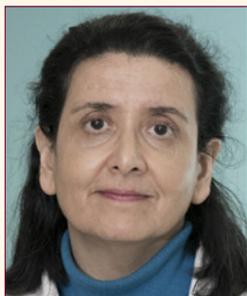
The Rhode Island Medical Society has 442 square feet of newly renovated office space (3 contiguous offices of 200 sq ft, 121 sq ft and 121 sq ft), complete with convenient

sheltered parking and the opportunity for tenants to share three well-equipped meeting spaces, break room, office machinery, etc. on the western edge of downtown Providence. Suitable for a small non-profit organization, boutique law firm, CPA firm or other office-based small business.

Inquiries to Newell Warde, nwarde@rimed.org

Appointments

Drs. B. Mona Wirk, Scott LeTellier join Roger Williams Cancer Center



PROVIDENCE – **DR. B. MONA WIRK** has joined the Blood and Marrow Transplantation Unit at Roger Williams, the only unit of its kind in Rhode Island. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/Seattle Cancer Care Alliance in Seattle. Dr. Wirk also completed a one-year Blood and Marrow Transplant Fellowship in the BMT program

at Fox Chase Cancer Center at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. Her professional experience includes serving as an assistant professor in the Blood and Marrow Transplant Programs of both Stony Brook University in New York and University of Florida. She also worked in the Department of Hematology Oncology at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida.



DR. SCOTT LETELLIER has joined the Medical Oncology division at Roger Williams. Dr. LeTellier completed a fellowship in Hematology Oncology from University of Mississippi Medical Center. He attended medical school at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara in Mexico where he became proficient in Spanish. He completed another year of medical school through New York Medical College and later went on to

complete his residency at Staten Island University Hospital. ❖



Anne Schmidt, RN, to serve on national nursing board

VP of patient care services, chief nursing officer at South County Health

ANNE SCHMIDT, RN, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at South County Health in Wakefield, RI was elect-

ed to the board of directors for the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE). She will serve a three-year term on the AONE Board of Directors, beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

She served in the United States Navy Nurse Corps, received the State of Connecticut Nightingale Award for Nursing Excellence and Leadership, and was named San Diego Naval Hospital's Navy Nurse of the Year. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of San Diego and certification as an adult nurse practitioner and certified executive of nursing practice.

The American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) is the national professional organization for nurses who design, facilitate and manage care. With more than 9,700 members, AONE is the leading voice of nursing leadership in health care. The organization provides leadership, professional development, advocacy and research to advance nursing practice and patient care, promote nursing leadership excellence and shape public policy for health care. AONE is a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association. ❖

Obituary

 **DR. LOUIS M. DAMIANI**, 71, of Naples, FL, passed away peacefully at his home after a long illness. He was the beloved husband of Elaine for 44 years.

After graduating from E. Providence High School and URI, he chose to serve in the U.S. Army and later the Army Reserve.

Dr. Damiani graduated from medical school in Guadalajara, Mexico and completed his studies at the State University of New York, Buffalo. He returned to Rhode Island to do his internship and residency in internal medicine at Rhode Island Hospital.



Dr. Damiani practiced medicine in East Providence for over 25 years. He was a past member of the Rhode Island Medical Society, the American College of Physicians and the Aurora Civic Association.

He leaves 2 brothers, Michael J. (Sharlene) of East Providence, Steven R. (Linda) of Barrington and a sister-in-law Dianne Zoglio of Cranston. He also leaves several nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered as a loving husband and a witty, intelligent gentleman who loved medicine and had boundless compassion for his patients. ❖