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Recognition



Welch Award 2017: Pictured from left to right are Robert Insoft, MD, senior vice president of quality and chief medical officer; **Edie McConaughy, CNM**, winner of the Richard P. Welch Award, Clinical; Mary Welch, wife of Dick Welch; **Lori Bailey**, winner of the Richard P. Welch Award, Non-Clinical; and Matt Quin, RN, MSN, senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer.



Mattis Award 2017: Pictured from left to right are Robert Insoft, MD, senior vice president of quality and chief medical officer; Noreen Mattis; **Jennifer Silva**, 2017 winner of the Noreen Mattis Award for Excellence in Patient and Family Centered Care; Therese Stafford, 2016 Noreen Mattis Award winner; and Matt Quin, RN, MSN, senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer.

Women & Infants staff members receive awards of excellence

Women & Infants Hospital recently presented its annual customer excellence awards at the sixth annual Patient, Family, and Community Centered Care Summit, "Celebrating the Patient and Family Experience," held on Wednesday, January 24, 2018.

Receiving the awards were Edie McConaughy, CNM, of Warwick, clinical winner of the Richard P. Welch Award; Lori Bailey of North Providence, non-clinical winner of the Richard P. Welch Award; and Jennifer Silva of Rehoboth, MA, winner of the Noreen Mattis Award for Excellence in Patient and Family Centered Care.

EDIE MCCONAUGHEY, a certified nurse midwife in the Midwifery Department who has worked at Women & Infants for more than 25 years, was nominated by department director Elisabeth D. Howard, CNM, PhD, FACNM, on behalf of the entire department. In nominating her, Howard said, "On a daily basis, Edie has shown herself to be exemplary in patient care, teaching, and collaborating with nurse and physician colleagues. Edie always places the woman and family she is caring for at the center of the obstetric team."

LORI BAILEY, who works in Food and Nutrition, was nominated by a colleague in Women & Infants' Carter Family Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) who wrote about Lori's involvement with a lunch delivery program for families who are caring for their baby in the NICU. The program was established through a partnership with the Philanthropy Department and the NICU Family Advisory Council.

JENNIFER SILVA, a member of the NICU Family Advisory Council (NFAC), was nominated separately by two council members. One wrote, "Jenn is more than just a council member, she is an advocate for families who is always willing to do what it takes to make sure NICU families have what they need...Her passion and dedication shows as you walk through the NICU family room which she has taken as her personal project to keep comfortable and welcoming...The NICU is a better place because of Jenn, and our NFAC is beyond blessed to have her." ❖

Rhode Island Hospital cardiothoracic intensive care nurses earn Silver Beacon Award

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital's cardiothoracic intensive care nursing staff was recently recognized by the American Association of Critical-Care Nursing (AACN) with a Silver Beacon designation, the third such designation for the unit.

The Rhode Island Hospital CTIC unit is one of only 42 across the country to achieve

this level, indicating the unit meets or exceeds evidence-based criteria in leadership structures and systems, staffing and staff engagement, communication, knowledge management, learning and development, evidence-based practice and processes, and outcome measurement.

Rhode Island Hospital Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer

BARBARA RILEY, DNP, says the CTIC nurses are highly skilled and dedicated to excellence, which is reflected in the Beacon designation. "The citizens of Rhode Island are fortunate to have professionals of this caliber ready to care for them when they need it most," she says. "This is great news for both our nurses and our patients." ❖

Recognition

Southern New England Rehabilitation Center reaccredited

The Southern New England Rehabilitation Center (SNERC) has been re-accredited for three years by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an international accrediting body focused on helping organizations measure and improve the quality of their inpatient rehabilitation programs and services. This accreditation recognizes SNERC's success in delivering high-caliber patient-centered care and validates the organization's drive to meet and exceed nationally and internationally accepted standards of care. SNERC is one of only three CARF-accredited rehabilitation programs in Rhode Island.

SNERC was re-accredited through January 31, 2021 for its Stroke Specialty Rehabilitation, as well as Inpatient Rehabilitation for adults, children and adolescents. The CARF surveyors noted that SNERC "employs strong and dedicated staff members who are tenured. The staff members are innovative and remain current in evidence-based practice." The surveyors also recognized strong supportive leadership and a commitment to outreach in the community.

"This achievement is an indication of SNERC's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for our patients," said **DAVID KOBIS**, President of Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, which is home to SNERC's inpatient rehabilitation program. "We are proud to be recognized for quality by CARE, which is considered the premiere accrediting body for rehabilitation programs."

Founded in 1966, CARF is an independent, non-profit accreditor of health and human services in a number of areas including medical rehabilitation. CARF-accredited service providers are recognized for their commitment to excellence.

This year, SNERC is celebrating its 30th year of delivering comprehensive rehabilitation services. The Center's skilled staff of professionals led by medical director **KHIN SEIN YIN, MD**, provide a full range of coordinated rehabilitation care. SNERC's 24-bed inpatient center offers rehabilitation programs for people who have experienced serious injury or illness that limits their abilities to function in everyday settings. The Center's clinical staff maintains academic affiliations to help train future rehabilitation professionals. ❖

Roger Williams' Weight Loss Surgery program reaccredited for three years

The Weight Loss Surgery program at Roger Williams Medical Center has been reaccredited for three years as a Comprehensive Center by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP). The center has held this accreditation since 2005. More than 3,000 people have had their weight loss surgery at Roger Williams Medical Center. The Weight Loss Surgery team at Roger Williams, under the leadership of surgeon **DR. DIETER POHL**, has been performing bariatric surgery for more than 16 years.

MBSAQIP works to advance safe, high-quality care for bariatric surgical patients through the accreditation of weight loss surgery centers. A bariatric surgical center achieves accreditation following a rigorous review process during which it proves that it can maintain certain physical resources, human resources, and standards of practice. All accredited centers report their outcomes to the MBSAQIP database.

"We are pleased to work with MBSAQIP to ensure we are meeting high standards for bariatric surgery," said Dr. Pohl. "Our continuing accreditation lets patients know we are meeting national goals related to safe and high-quality bariatric surgery." ❖

Women & Infants Fertility Center named Nursing Center Of Excellence

The Fertility Center at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island been named a Nursing Center of Excellence by the Nurses' Professional Group of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).

The Fertility Center is the only such program in Rhode Island to achieve this recognition for nursing care.

"Nurses play a key role in providing compassionate, comprehensive care to patients, not to mention their importance in patient and family education and satisfaction," said **MATT QUIN, RN**, senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Women & Infants. "We are so proud of the nurses in our Fertility Center on this achievement, and are appreciative of the collaborative work that was done with SEIU 1199 New England, which helped support the funding for this application process."

A center may achieve center of excellence designation if at least 50 percent of the practice's registered nurses and/or nurse practitioners are experienced in reproductive endocrinology nursing and have completed additional training through ASRM. At Women & Infants' Fertility Center, 61 percent of their nursing staff – 10 registered nurses and one certified nurse midwife – completed the certificate examination. Six additional nurses have already begun the coursework and preparation for the exam. ❖



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Appointments

Syeda Maria Sayeed, MD, joins Southcoast Physicians Group



FALL RIVER – **SYEDA MARIA SAYEED, MD**, has joined the Rheumatology department as a member of the Southcoast Physicians Group.

Dr. Sayeed earned her medical degree at Dow Medical University in Karachi, Pakistan. She completed her residency at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. Dr. Sayeed also completed her fellowship in Rheumatology at the University of Vermont.

She is a member of the American Medical Association, the Rhode Island Medical Society, and the American College of Physicians. ❖

John J. Holiver elected chair of HARI Board of Trustees; Michael Souza named vice chair

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) has recently welcomed CharterCARE Health Partners Chief Executive Officer **JOHN J. HOLIVER**, as the newly-elected chair of the HARI Board of Trustees.

Holiver was named Chief Executive Officer of CharterCARE Health Partners in July 2016, having served previously as interim President of Roger Williams Medical Center. Prior to joining Prospect Medical Holdings in 2015 as Chief Integration Officer, Holiver held several executive leadership positions in the Steward Health Care System.

In addition, Chief Executive Officer of Landmark Medical Center and the Rehabilitation Hospital of Rhode Island Michael Souza was recently elected the vice chair of the HARI Board of Trustees. Souza joined the Prime Healthcare system in 2017.

Prior to becoming CEO of Landmark Medical Center and the Rehabilitation Hospital of Rhode Island, Souza served in several roles at Hospital Association of Rhode Island, including president of the association. 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. ❖

Clinical audiologists, Drs. Stephany Briggs, Brianna Schiff, join Women & Infants

Clinical audiologists Stephany Briggs, AuD, CCC-A, F-AAA, of Providence, and Brianna Schiff, AuD, CCC-A, F-AAA, of Warwick, have joined the Department of Audiology at Women & Infants Hospital, providing hearing services for children and adults of all ages. Both audiologists are Care New England Medical Group providers.



DR. STEPHANY BRIGGS received her doctoral degree in audiology from the University of Connecticut and completed her externship at Rhode Island/Hasbro Children's Hospital. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology and holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She works with children, adults, and families in the diagnosis and management of hearing loss. Dr. Briggs' main areas of interest are electrophysiology and pediatric diagnostic audiology.

DR. BRIANNA SCHIFF, who was inspired to become an audiologist by her brother who has hearing loss, attended Muhlenberg College and graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in neuroscience. She then earned a doctoral degree in audiology from Montclair State University and was elected to the Alpha Epsilon Lambda Graduate Honor Society. She completed her fourth year clinical externship at JFK Medical Center Johnson Rehabilitation Institute. Dr. Schiff is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology, holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and is a member of the Educational Audiology Association. Her areas of interest include auditory brainstem response testing, diagnostic testing, educational audiology, and genetics of hearing loss. ❖



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Appointments

Peter J. Snyder, PhD, joins URI as VP for Research and Economic Development

KINGSTON – The University of Rhode Island has named **PETER J. SNYDER, PhD**, to the position of vice president for Research and Economic Development and professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science. He succeeds Gerald Sonnenfeld, the former vice president of the division, who retired in December 2017.

Snyder has served as senior vice president and chief research officer at Lifespan Health System since 2008.

Prior to joining Lifespan in 2008, he served as an early clinical leader at Pfizer Inc., as a professor of psychology at the University of Connecticut, and as chief of the Division of Behavioral Neurology at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. Snyder is an internationally renowned expert in Alzheimer's disease, and he is editor-in-chief for one of the journals of the Alzheimer's Association. He will



move his laboratory and active research program to the Ryan Institute for Neuroscience, and he plans to continue to mentor promising graduate students and junior faculty.

Snyder earned his bachelor's degree with high honors in neuroscience and psychology from the University of Michigan, his master's degree in psychology from Michigan State University and his doctorate in clinical psychology from Michigan State. He was a clinical neuropsychology resident in the Departments of Neurology and

Psychiatry, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and he completed the Wilder Penfield Post-Doctoral Fellowship (awarded by the American Epilepsy Society) at the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. ❖

Obituary



DR. GEORGE PHILLIP LEWIS, JR, 84, died January 31, 2018 surrounded by his family.

He met his wife, Elaine Nunes, in high school, while working as an orderly at Newport Hospital. Elaine was a nurse's aide.

They married at Jesus Savior Church in Newport and then moved to Queens, NY while he finished medical school and Elaine worked as a nurse at Children's City Hospital. They were married for 59 years.

He graduated from Providence College and New York Medical School. He completed his internship at Rhode Island Hospital. He served in the U.S.

Army as a Captain in the medical corps in several locations including Tokyo. After completing his surgical residency at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport, CT, he moved his growing family back to the Newport area. Upon returning to Newport, he opened his medical practice on Touro Street and was a surgeon at Newport Hospital. He served as Chief of Surgery at Newport Hospital and was a member of the American College of Abdominal Surgeons, American College of Physicians Executives, American Medical Association and the Rhode Island



Medical Society. He also served on the Board of Trustees at Newport Hospital and the Bank of Newport. He was a founding partner of Blenheim Newport and served as President and Medical Director until 1999.

Dr. Lewis retired from his medical practice in 1998. He then trained and received his pilot's license. He enjoyed flying for many years and was an avid reader, gardener and painter. He enjoyed sailing with his family on Narragansett Bay and camping with his children and grandchildren.

He was known in the Newport area for his work in medicine as a general surgeon. His treatment of patients, co-workers and staff was compassionate and kind. His colleagues and his family enjoyed his sense of humor and his shenanigans.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, George of Colorado, Dianne (Jim) of Virginia, Maureen (Michael) of Rhode Island, Peter of Massachusetts, Suzanne (Todd) of Pennsylvania, Karen of Rhode Island and 16 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. His greatest love was spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren and his great-granddaughter.

Donations may be made in Dr. Lewis' memory to St. Augustin's Church PO Box 357, Newport, RI 02840 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, www.stjude.org. ❖