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Recognition

Brian Ott, MD, honored with Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island chapter of the American College of Physicians has awarded **BRIAN OTT, MD, FACP**, director of the Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center at Rhode Island Hospital, the Milton Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Ott has served as director of the center, the largest memory diagnostic and treatment center in Rhode Island, since 2005, dividing his time between clinical care and research. He has been affiliated with Rhode Island Hospital since 1995.

Dr. Ott is a professor of neurology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and adjunct professor of neuroscience and pharmacy practice at the University of Rhode Island. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Neurological Association and the American College of Physicians. He has received excellence in teaching awards for his work with both medical students and geriatric psychiatry fellows. He is the director of the Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital Aging and Dementia Fellowship.

"I am honored to be recognized by the American College of Physicians which has been a leader and major force in support of medical research and excellence in health care for all," Dr. Ott said. "This acknowledgment is particularly meaningful coming from my fellow physicians in Rhode Island."

Dr. Ott has been principal investigator or co-investigator on more than 80 research grants, from policy and advocacy groups, foundations, and pharmaceutical companies, totaling over $19 million in funding. Ott contributed to the pivotal clinical trials that led to the approval of tacrine, the first drug for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, as well as other cholinesterase inhibitor drug trials. Later, he was an investigator and author on reports for clinical trials of memantine, the most recent drug approved for Alzheimer's. Currently, he leads six clinical trials for the treatment of early Alzheimer's and two clinical trials for the prevention of Alzheimer's.

He is widely published in a range of topics including driving, quality of life, experimental pharmacotherapy, and pharmaco-epidemiology in people with preclinical Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment and dementia. His current research includes understanding the changes in the blood-brain barrier that may contribute to Alzheimer's disease, the effects of cholesterol lowering drugs on cognition, and the development of effective primary and secondary drug therapies aimed at the ultimate prevention of Alzheimer's disease. He has contributed to over 140 research presentations at national and international scientific meetings.

He serves on the national steering committees for the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study and the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative. He has served on boards and committees of the local chapters of the Alzheimer's Association and the American College of Physicians. He currently serves on the Governor's Commission on Aging and the Rhode Island Executive Committee for the Alzheimer's State Plan.

An advocate of the anti-nuclear war movement, Dr. Ott has been a member of the Physicians for Social Responsibility and the International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War. He served as chair of the Sierra Club New England Chapter Nuclear Issues Committee, and during his tenure was co-recipient of the Code Blue Award from the Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility. He is also an active supporter of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence.

The Milton Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award is given each year "in recognition of academic, clinical, research and administrative excellence to a physician who epitomizes the attributes of the award's namesake, Dr. Milton Hamolsky." The late **MILTON HAMOLSKY, MD**, was an endocrinologist who came to Rhode Island Hospital in 1963 and served as the first full-time physician-in-chief. ❖

South County Health Wound Care Center receives national excellence award

The South County Health Wound Care Center has been recognized with a national award for continued excellence in wound healing and for clinical excellence by Healogics Inc., the nation's leading and largest wound care management company.

For nine consecutive years, the South County Health Wound Care Center has received the Robert Warriner III MD Center of Excellence Award.

To meet the criteria for the Center of Excellence Award, the South County Health Wound Care Center achieved patient satisfaction rates higher than 92 percent, a healing rate of at least 91 percent in less than 30 median days, along with several other quality standards for two years in a row. Across the country, there were 630 Centers eligible for the Center of Distinction award, of which 334 achieved this honor in 2018. ❖

Appointments

Dr. B. Star Hampton to lead Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

B. STAR HAMPTON, MD, FACOG, of Providence, has been appointed to a two-year term as chair of the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee of the Association of Professionals of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO). This 12-member committee addresses issues of medical student education and faculty development in a changing health care environment, producing teaching tools, organizing faculty development seminars, and promoting innovative teaching methods for continued excellence in undergraduate medical education.

Dr. Hampton is a urogynecologist in the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery and vice chair of education for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Women & Infants Hospital; and an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

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).

Dr. Hampton specializes in non-surgical and surgical approaches to pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence, including minimally invasive options for pelvic floor disorders. She is a national leader in medical education as well as the field of urogynecology and reconstructive surgery. Dr. Hampton is committed to teaching physicians in training, takes an active part in the academic growth of her field, and travels yearly for international women's health outreach. ❖

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Appointments

Kathleen Peirce named to board of Visiting Nurse Association of America

KATHLEEN PEIRCE, RN, BSN, MS, vice president of operations, executive director, and chief nursing officer of the VNA of Care New England, has been named to the board of directors of the Visiting Nurse Association of American (VNAA). Peirce is among six new board members voted on at the VNAA annual National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, recently. The VNAA supports, promotes, and advocates for the role of mission-driven, home-based care providers including home care, hospice, and palliative care.

Peirce has been a registered nurse for more than 30 years. Her experience includes acute care and 20 years of home health and hospice care. She joined the VNA of Care New England in 2014 after working for Hartford HealthCare and Masonicare Home Health and Hospice in Connecticut, serving as chief operating officer. ❖

Dr. Joseph Renzulli named Chief of Urology at South County Health

JOSEPH RENZULLI, II, MD, FACS, has joined the South County Health medical staff as Chief of Urology. He will provide patient care and perform robotic surgery through the South County Health Urology practice.

Dr. Renzulli, a graduate of Boston University School of Medicine, completed his urologic surgery residency at Yale New Haven Medical Center and is board-certified by the American Board of Urology. Before joining South County Medical Group, he was part of the medical staff at Brown University and Lifespan for 12 years, and currently holds a position as an Associate Professor at the Yale School of Medicine.

With years of experience treating urologic disorders and performing urologic surgeries, Dr. Renzulli has published over 50 peer-reviewed publications and 70 abstracts. His research is largely focused on prostate cancer and robotic assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy outcomes, two areas that will play a key role in treating patients at South County Health. ❖

Appointments

Bharat Ramratnam, MD, named Chief Science Officer at Lifespan, a new position

BHARAT RAMRATNAM, MD, has been named as Lifespan's Chief Science Officer, it was announced last week.

The new, part-time, role of Chief Science Officer (CSO) was established to provide scientific guidance to the Vice President, Research Administration and to senior Lifespan management on matters of biomedical and translational science.

The CSO will serve as a leading scientist of the research community and help foster a climate of scientific inquiry at the highest ethical standards. The CSO will advise and assist Lifespan officials in representing the research enterprise with external parties, including local, state and federal government.

Among other responsibilities, the CSO will co-chair the Research Advisory Committee; help determine the goals and status of institutional core labs; and advise on the ongoing laboratory space management and new construction.

Dr. Ramratnam, who assumes the new role immediately, will continue to serve as Medical Director of the NIH supported Lifespan Clinical Research Center and Principal Investigator of Rhode Island Hospital's NIH-funded COBRE (Center for Cancer Research Development).

He received his bachelor's and medical degrees from Brown University, completed his internal medicine residency and chief residency at The Miriam Hospital. He was a clinical scholar at Rockefeller University in New York and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in virology at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, The Rockefeller University in New York.

He has received numerous awards including the NIH Career Development Award, the Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Award, the Daland Fellowship in Clinical Investigation from the American Philosophical Society, and the Culpepper Award from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Locally, he received the Lifespan Bruce Selya award for Research Excellence, and the Dean's Teaching Excellence Award from the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Ramratnam serves as a permanent member of the NIH AIDS Immunology and Pathogenesis Study Section.

His current research focuses on host factors that impact HIV-1 replication and latency. His laboratory has made important contributions in multiple fields including virology, basic RNA biology, extra-cellular communication and translational medicine.

In addition to his Lifespan roles, Dr. Ramratnam serves as Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Medicine. ❖

Recognition

Lifespan hospitals earn A rating from Leapfrog

PROVIDENCE – All eligible Lifespan hospitals – Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital and Newport Hospital – earned an "A" grade in the most recent Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades announced recently.

The Leapfrog Group is a Washington D.C.-based organization that assigns grades of A, B, C, D and F to hospitals across the country, based on performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harms. Nationally, approximately 2,500 hospitals are graded twice per year, and just 750 earned an "A," putting Lifespan's three hospitals in the top third of graded hospitals. This is the third time in recent years that Lifespan's facilities have achieved top grades across the board.

"Whether it's in patient experience, infection prevention, clinical outcomes or any other measure, there is always a dedicated community of professionals working together in pursuit of excellence," said **CATHY E. DUQUETTE, PhD, RN**, Lifespan executive vice president for nursing affairs. "We are proud that our three hospitals have again achieved this top distinction as measured by The Leapfrog Group."

Developed under the guidance of an expert panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data. It is peer reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. ❖

Obituaries

PETER ANTHONY PIZZARELLO, MD, 77, of Providence and Longboat Key, FL, passed away peacefully on April 21, 2018. He is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Karen Hancock Pizzarello; his children Lisa Pizzarello Pryor and her husband Lawrence Pryor of Providence; Laura Pizzarello Scott of San Francisco, CA, and Peter Pizzarello, Jr., MD and his wife Martha Pizzarello, MD of Providence,; his four grandchildren, Arden and Avery Pryor and Franklin and Anna Pizzarello; and his brother Donald J. Pizzarello, PhD of Brooklyn, NY.

A graduate of Saint Louis University Medical School (1967), he completed his Brown University orthopedic surgery residency at Rhode Island Hospital (1972), and served as Major and Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Cutler Army Hospital, Fort Devens, MA (1972-1974).

At the start of his long career, he performed surgery at Rhode Island Hospital and was an Assistant Clinical Professor at Brown University Medical School. He held staff privileges at Saint Joseph's Hospital and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital and maintained his private practice, Orthopedic Services, on Admiral Street in Providence. He proudly served as a member of the Medical Advisory Board of R.I. Workers' Compensation Court for 24 years and as president of the medical staff of Our Lady of Fatima Hospital (1995-1997). For more than 40 years, he skillfully and compassionately diagnosed and cared for people of all ages.

As a long-standing member of Metacomet Country Club and Longboat Key Club, he found great joy, friendships and appreciation of nature's beauty in the game of golf. His family was his greatest treasure and legacy, and his memory will always be with them.

Contributions in his memory may be made to St. Edward Food and Wellness Center, 997 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI 02904 and The Pizzarello Pryor Family Endowed Fund for financial aid at The Wheeler School, 216 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906. ❖

JACQUES G. SUSSET, MD, passed away peacefully April 12, 2018 at Roger Williams Medical Center, Providence. He was the beloved husband of Anastasia (Triantopoulos) Susset. Born in Paris, France, he was a son of the late Jean-Charles and Marie-Jeanne (Faure) Susset.

Dr. Susset was one of the founders of urodynamics and established many surgical procedures. He was also a medical researcher of the American Board of Surgery and Clinical Professor of Urology Emeritus at Brown University. He was an active member of the American Urological Association, the American College of Surgeons and the Association Francaise d'Urologie in Paris as well as other organizations. He contributed to revolutionize medicine by supporting the creation of urodynamic testing and uroflowmetry.

After graduating from the University of Paris in 1944, he served on the faculty of Medicine for Paris and Public Assistance Hospitals. He fulfilled his compulsory military obligations in surgery at Cherbourg Maritime Hospital with the French Navy.

He moved to Montreal, Canada in 1955 and completed his residency in urology at Royal Victoria Hospital. In 1977 while serving as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Urology in Sherbrooke, Canada, he moved to the United States and accepted a position as senior urologist at St. Paul Ramsey Hospital in Minnesota. In 1979, he served as Director of Urodynamics at Roger Williams Medical Center and Chief of Urology at the Providence VA Hospital. Afterwards, he went into private practice in Providence and joined the University Urological Associates.

He received his Master of Science Degree from McGill University and a Master of Art Degree from Brown University. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Claude-Bernard, Lyon, France. In 1998, he was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Urodynamics Society in recognition of significant accomplishments and leadership in the field of neurology.

Besides his wife, he is survived by one daughter, Francoise Susset and her partner, Lucas Lemonnier; one son, Pierre Susset and his wife, Julie Grenier; two stepsons, and six grandchildren. He was the father of the late George Susset.

Contributions in Dr. Susset's memory to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 97 Walcott Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860 or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38148-0142 would be appreciated. ❖