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Appointments



Athena Poppas, MD, named Chief of Cardiology at Brown, Lifespan; VP of ACC

PROVIDENCE – **ATHENA POPPAS, MD, FACC, FASE**, has been named Chief of the Division of Cardiology for Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals, as well as The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Poppas has served as interim chief since June 2017. She also

is director of the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute, which includes Rhode Island, The Miriam and Newport hospitals and multiple offices around the state.

“Lifespan is fortunate to have the leadership of Dr. Poppas in such a vital and rapidly evolving area as cardiology,” said Lifespan President and CEO **TIMOTHY J. BABINEAU, MD**. “She has helped bring the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute to the forefront of the diagnostic, therapeutic, and research arenas in our region, and we look forward to building upon our program with her leadership.”

“Dr. Poppas has led a distinguished career in research, clinical leadership, and medical education,” said **JACK A. ELIAS, MD**, senior vice president for health affairs and dean of medicine and biological sciences at Brown. “I am thrilled that she will remain in this role in a permanent capacity.”

Dr. Poppas was also recently named vice president of the American College of Cardiology (ACC). She will assume her position in March, when the organization holds its convocation, inauguration and awards ceremony. This is the first of a three-year leadership role (vice president, president and immediate past-president). As vice president, she will be an officer of the board of trustees.

“Dr. Poppas has been actively engaged in leadership roles at the state and national level within the college for many years, including leading the recent transformation of the ACC’s governance structure and processes,” said ACC Immediate-Past President **MARY NORINE WALSH, MD, MACC**. “Her wealth of experience and knowledge of how the college is best suited to meet the diverse needs of the global cardiovascular community ensures she will be a strong leader for the ACC.”

Her clinical and research specialties are in valvular heart disease, heart disease in women, and echocardiography and heart disease during pregnancy. She has over 100 publications and frequently presents internationally.

Dr. Poppas earned her BS in biology at Brown University, followed by a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Wisconsin Medical School. She completed her residencies in internal medicine at University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics and in cardiovascular medicine at University of Chicago Hospital. She practiced and taught at University of Chicago and then Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University before joining Lifespan and Brown in 1998. ❖



E. Bradley Miller, MD, joins South County Urology

E. BRADLEY MILLER, MD, recently joined South County Urology where he will continue to treat adult patients in the areas of urologic oncology and reconstructive urology, using laparoscopic and daVinci Xi robotic assisted surgical procedures. He is certified by the

American Board of Urology.

Dr. Miller received his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School (Worcester), and completed a urology residency at Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine in Norfolk, VA. He also received extensive training in reconstructive urologic surgery at the Devine Reconstructive Center in Norfolk, VA. Prior to joining the South County Health Medical Staff, Dr. Miller taught as a clinical assistant professor in surgery (urology) at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Miller’s experience with the daVinci Xi robotic assisted technology will expand South County Hospital’s ability to treat urological conditions and urologic cancer patients with minimally invasive surgery. ❖



Adam Klipfel, MD, elected to ACS Board of Governors

ADAM KLIPFEL, MD, FACS, FASCRS, has been elected to the Board of Governors as a Governor-at-Large for the American College of Surgeons.

His appointment was made official by the Fellows at the Annual Business Meeting of Members on October 24, 2018 for an initial three-year term ending at the conclusion of the 2021 Clinical Congress.

Dr. Klipfel is a colorectal surgeon with expertise in colon cancer and surgical oncology. He received his medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and completed a residency at New York Methodist Hospital. Dr. Klipfel gained further experience through a colorectal fellowship and an anorectal physiology fellowship at University of Southern California-affiliated hospitals. He has expertise in robotic surgery for benign and malignant disease.

He is a clinical assistant professor of surgery at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, affiliated with University Surgical Associates, Inc. and The Miriam and Rhode Island hospitals. ❖

Recognition



Dr. Vivian Sung (left), who received the Best Clinical Paper Award at the American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) annual meeting is pictured here with colleagues from Women & Infants Hospital/Brown University Dr. Charles Rardin, president of AUGS, and Dr. Deborah Myers, past president of AUGS.

Dr. Vivian Sung receives two awards for urinary incontinence research

VIVIAN SUNG, MD, MPH, FACOG, of the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at Women & Infants Hospital, was recently presented with two awards for research she is leading for the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development's (NICHD) Pelvic Floor Disorders Network.

At the October American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) Annual Meeting, Dr. Sung won Best Clinical Paper for the study "The ESTEEM Trial: A Randomized Trial Comparing Combined Midurethral Sling and Behavioral/Pelvic Floor Therapy to Midurethral Sling Alone for Mixed Urinary Incontinence." In August, she received the International Continence Society Best Abstract Award for the same research.

The ESTEEM Study supports midurethral slings as a highly effective treatment for mixed urinary incontinence with low rates of worsening urgency incontinence. The addition of behavioral and pelvic floor therapy to surgery can further improve certain outcomes. Women & Infants Hospital was a top recruiter for this trial. ❖

Dr. Thomas Miner inducted into ACS

PROVIDENCE – **DR. THOMAS MINER**, a surgical oncologist with University Surgical Associates, was recently inducted into the New American College of Surgeons (ACS) Academy of Master Surgeon Educators™.

Dr. Miner, an associate professor at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, was among 91 surgeons honored during the Academy's inaugural ceremony held on October 3, 2018. Hailing from seven different countries, inductees convened for the ceremony at the John B. Murphy Memorial Auditorium in Chicago, Illinois.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to train the next generation of surgeons. It's very rewarding to contribute to their path of excellence," said Dr. Miner. "I look forward to collaborating with internationally renowned surgeons to improve patient outcomes not only for the people of Rhode Island, but also the international community-at-large."

Dr. Miner was inducted as a member following a stringent peer review that examined his surgical achievements and lifelong history as an educator. As a newly inducted member, Dr. Miner will share in the responsibility to promote the Academy's overarching goals and help promote improvements in surgical care and patient safety.

"University Surgical Associates recognizes that our faculty are thought leaders in surgical practices and experts in their respective fields. Dr. Miner's recognition reflects his passion for the field of oncology as well as the high quality of care patients should expect to see when they seek services at one of our facilities," said **DR. WILLIAM CIOFFI**, President of University Surgical Associates and the surgeon-in-chief at the Miriam and Rhode Island hospitals. "All of us at University Surgical Associates would like to congratulate Dr. Miner on his recent achievement." ❖



Rhode Island Hospital named one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by IBM Watson Health

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital is among the nation's top cardiovascular programs, according to IBM Watson Health™. The Watson Health 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals™ study is now in its 20th year. This is the fifth time Rhode Island Hospital has been recognized with this honor, one of only three hospitals in New England to earn the distinction this year, and the only one in the state.

The Watson Health 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals study uses 2016 and 2017 Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR) data, 2017 Medicare cost reports (2016 if 2017 reports were not available) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare published in the second quarter of 2018. Hospitals were scored in key value-based performance areas: risk-adjusted mortality, risk-adjusted complications, percentage of coronary bypass patients with internal mammary artery use, 30-day mortality rates, 30-day readmission rates, and severity-adjusted average length of stay, among other areas.

"Rhode Island Hospital is proud to be named to this list of top hospitals for cardiovascular care for a fifth time. The expertise and cutting-edge treatment of our Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute, coupled with the outstanding experience provided by our entire inpatient and outpatient care teams, have made Rhode Island Hospital a top center in our region and across the country," said **MARGARET M. VAN BREE, MHA, DRPH**, president of Rhode Island Hospital. ❖

Recognition

Dr. Carol Wheeler earns designation in pediatric and adolescent gynecology

To help address the gynecologic needs of females from birth to young adulthood, **CAROL A. WHEELER, MD**, a reproductive endocrinologist at the Fertility Center at Women & Infants Hospital, recently took and passed the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology's (ABOG) Focused Practice Designation Exam in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. Dr. Wheeler is one of only 100 physicians nationwide who took the exam, and the only one in Rhode Island.

ABOG introduced this new designation earlier this year. **GARY FRISHMAN, MD**, interim director of the Fertility Center at Women & Infants said, "This is a new designation on the part of ABOG with relatively few providers around the country so recognized in the field of pediatric and adolescent gynecology. We are truly fortunate to have Dr. Wheeler's expertise to help provide care for this patient population."



Dr. Wheeler is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology, clinician educator, at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University is the director of the Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic, Third-Party Reproduction Program, and medical director of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF). She's sees patients at both Women & Infants Obstetrics and Gynecology Care Center (OGCC) and Fertility Center.

Board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology and reproductive endocrinology and infertility, Dr. Wheeler earned her medical degree from Jefferson

Medical College in Philadelphia. Following this, she completed her residency training in obstetrics at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, OH, and her fellowship training in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. ❖



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Recognition

Hospital Association of Rhode Island holds annual meeting; honors healthcare leaders

PROVIDENCE – The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) recently hosted its 86th Annual Meeting at the Providence Marriott Downtown. Recipients of the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award, Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service, and the American Hospital Association (AHA) Grassroots Champion Award were honored by the association and its attendees.

South County Health Chief Executive Officer **LOU GIANCOLA** was awarded the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award by Rhode Island Primary Care President Albert Puerini, MD. Giancola was honored for his significant contributions to Rhode Island's healthcare community. The Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award honors and recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the improvement of health and hospital care in Rhode Island.

The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service was presented by HARI Board of Trustees Chairman John Holiver to Representative **MARVIN ABNEY** and Senator **WILLIAM CONLEY, JR.** for their leadership in restoring essential funds in the Fiscal Year 2019 State Budget for Rhode Island's most vulnerable patients. The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service honors individuals

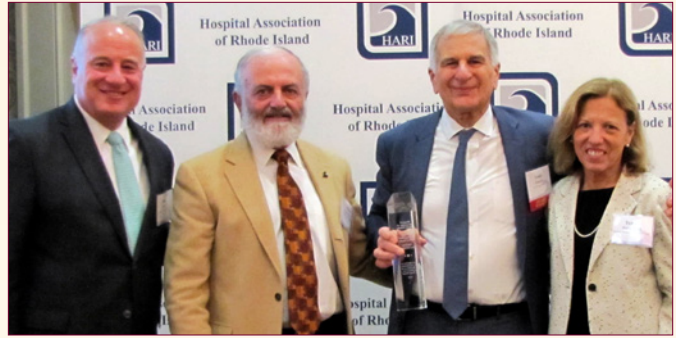
for remarkable contributions to health care issues.

The American Hospital Association's Grassroots Champion Award was presented by AHA Regional Executive Jack Barry to **MICHAEL SOUZA**, chief executive officer of Landmark Medical Center and The Rehabilitation Hospital of Rhode Island, for his exceptional dedication to grassroots advocacy. The award recognizes hospital leaders who effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect hospitals' vital role in the community, who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support

for hospitals, and who have been tireless advocates for hospitals and patients. The AHA Grassroots Champion Award is presented annually to one individual from each state.

HARI President **TERESA PAIVA WEED** presented the HARI 2018 Annual Report. The report included highlights of the association's numerous legislative victories and quality initiatives. In addition to HARI's advocacy efforts, Paiva Weed provided attendees with a six-month summary of HARI's efforts with The Campaign to Change Direction.

The morning concluded with keynote speaker **A. KATHRYN POWER, MD**, former Regional Administrator, Region One for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Prior to her federal role, Power served for ten years as the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at what is now known as the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals. ❖



From left, John Holiver, HARI Board of Trustees Chair; **Dr. Albert Puerini**, of Rhode Island Primary Care, presented the Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award to South County Health CEO **Lou Giancola**; shown with HARI President **Teresa Paiva Weed**.



HARI Board of Trustees Chairman **John Holiver**, left, presented The Francis R. Dietz Award for Public Service to RI Rep. **Marvin Abney**; at right is HARI President **Teresa Paiva Weed**.



RI Senator **William Conley Jr.**, center, also received the public service award.



The American Hospital Association's Grassroots Champion Award was presented by AHA Regional Executive **Jack Barry** to **Michael Souza**, chief executive officer of Landmark Medical Center and The Rehabilitation Hospital of Rhode Island. [PHOTOS: HARI]