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Appointments

South County Health names Aaron Robinson new President/CEO

South County Health announced recently that Aaron Robinson will become the organization’s President/CEO starting April 1, 2019. Board of Trustees Chairman, Dennis Lynch, said that the search for a new CEO began shortly after Lou Giancola, President/CEO, announced his intent to retire in May 2018.

Mr. Robinson, who will relocate from Florida, served as CEO of Community Hospitals and was also System Service Line Executive for Heart & Vascular services at Health First. Located in Rockledge, FL, Health First is a $2 billion Integrated Health System of hospitals, a multi-specialty medical group, post-acute & wellness services, and a health plan. He previously served as that organization’s Oncology Service Line Executive and System Vice President overseeing the Outpatient & Wellness Division.

“The Board of Trustees initiated a nationwide search for qualified candidates who possess the experience, vision and leadership qualities to sustain South County Health’s reputation for high quality healthcare and exceptional patient experience,” Mr. Lynch said.

Using an executive search firm experienced in the healthcare industry, over 80 applicants were vetted. The final selection was made giving full consideration of input from South County Health’s Board of Trustees, donors, past board chairs, organization leadership, medical staff, and staff.

“Aaron’s extensive executive-level leadership experience within community hospital settings, in combination with his energy and engaging style, distinguished him among the other highly qualified finalist candidates,” Mr. Lynch said, noting Aaron’s past successes in hospital operations and innovative service line development. “His enthusiasm and thoughtfulness for meeting South County Health’s current and future challenges, coupled with his warmth and sense of humor is a good match for South County Health’s culture of caring for the community.”

Lou Giancola agrees with Mr. Lynch’s confidence in Aaron’s ability to lead South County Health.

“I’ve had the opportunity to meet with Aaron during the hiring process and was impressed by his understanding and commitment to the role of community hospitals, his commitment to sustaining our collaborative culture and his forward thinking perspective on healthcare,” Mr. Giancola said. “He understands the importance of building the kind of relationships with providers and staff that are necessary to sustain the organization.”

Partners appoints Anne Klibanski, MD, interim CEO

BOSTON – The Partners HealthCare Board of Directors has named Anne Klibanski, MD, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Partners HealthCare. Dr. Klibanski will succeed Dr. David Torchiana, who has served since March 2015 and will retire at the end of April.

In her current role as Chief Academic Officer for Partners, a position she has held since 2012, Dr. Klibanski has leadership responsibilities spanning research, teaching and clinical activities. She leads multiple systemwide efforts aimed at clinical and educational collaboration and oversees the Partners research enterprise of more than $1.8 billion annually. As Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Klibanski has management responsibilities for personalized medicine, Partners Clinical Trials Office, Partners Innovation, which includes commercialization and licensing, research data science/digital health and research subject protection as well as graduate medical education and continuing professional development.

Dr. Klibanski is also the Chief of Neuroendocrine at MGH and is recognized internationally for her high impact research in neuroendocrine disorders and pituitary tumors.

“She is an excellent fit for our current and future leadership needs and the excitement she brings to the role is evident,” said Scott Sperling, Chair of the Partners Board of Directors. “Anne will work closely with hospital presidents, clinicians, researchers and administrative leadership to guide important system-wide initiatives such as Partners 2.0.”

“We have a strong team of more than 74,000 committed employees across our system, all working to provide outstanding patient care, develop innovative health care solutions, and improve the quality of life for those living in the communities where our patients live and work,” said Dr. Klibanski. “I look forward to guiding Partners through this important transition as we chart our course for Partners’ future.”

Dr. Klibanski received her BA, magna cum laude with honors in literature from Barnard College and her MD from New York University Medical Center. She is the Laurie Carrol Guthart Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an Academic Dean for Partners at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Klibanski is a recognized expert in the field of translational research focusing on rare endocrine diseases and serves on the MGH General Executive Committee, the Board of Albireo Pharmaceuticals, Scientific Advisory Board of Crinetics and the Board of Partners International.

She is an elected member of the Association of American Physicians and the American Society of Clinical Investigation, recipient of the Clinical Endocrinology Trust Medal – British Endocrine Society and the Endocrine Society Clinical Investigator Award.

The timeline for naming a permanent CEO is expected to take up to one year.
Angel Jimenez, boy who reported fire at Hasbro, honored

STATE HOUSE – The House of Representatives welcomed 7-year-old ANGEL JIMENEZ, the boy who alerted adults to a fire at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, to the House chamber in February.

REP. GRACE DIAZ (D-Dist. 11, Providence) welcomed Angel, who lives in her district, along with his mother and uncle. “Heroes come in every size, every color and every ethnicity,” said Representative Diaz on the House floor. “But you never expect that a 7-year-old boy would be alert, be ready to notify adults of a situation that could have a tragic impact on so many people. If he hadn’t sounded the alarm when he did, firefighters said it could have been devastating.”

Angel was visiting his little brother, who was a patient at the hospital, on Jan. 15 when he witnessed and alerted adults to a fire on the rooftop of one of the hospital’s buildings. Because of the quick alarm, firefighters were able to have the fire under control within 10 minutes of arriving at the scene.

Providence MAYOR JORGE ELORZA presented him with a citizen’s citation and Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare called Angel a hero.

Stroke Center at Kent earns joint commission certification

The Advanced Primary Stroke Center at Kent Hospital has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Heart-Check mark for Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers. Joint Commission experts evaluated compliance with stroke-related standards and requirements, including program management, the delivery of clinical care, and performance improvement.

“Kent Hospital’s dedicated team of professionals is committed to providing outcome-oriented, exceptional stroke care to our communities,” said SUSAN MOORE, the Stroke Center’s nurse director. “The stroke program continues to evolve, using evidence-based recommendations and quality assessment and reporting.”

William Chen, MD, named Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association

WILLIAM CHEN, MD, of University Gastroenterology, has been named Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), the nation’s oldest medical society dedicated to disorders of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Through the fellowship program, AGA honors superior professional achievement in clinical private or academic practice and in basic or clinical research. Fellowships are awarded to AGA members whose accomplishments and contributions demonstrate personal commitment to the field of gastroenterology. Dr. Chen joins University Gastroenterology’s Dr. Thomas Sepe and Dr. Peter Margolis who are also Fellows of the American Gastroenterological Association.

David A. Lieberman, MD, AGAF, AGA Institute President, stated, “The American Gastroenterological Association is proud to announce the 2019 inductees for the AGA Fellowship program, which acknowledges AGA members with superior professional achievement in the field of gastroenterology with fellowship within our organization. We are proud of those members who have been recognized by their peers and community as being at the forefront of our field.”

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Obituaries

LOUIS ANTHONY COLANTONIO, MD, 76, of Cumberland passed away unexpectedly on February 2, 2019. He was the husband of 53 years to Jo-Ann (Stubbs).

Louis was a 1960 Graduate of LaSalle Academy, 1964 graduate of Providence College and received his medical degree from the University of Bologna, Italy. He was the first physician at Rhode Island Hospital to complete a straight 3-year Pediatric internship/residency. He was on the staff of Rhode Island Hospital, Hasbro Hospital, and Women and Infants.

Louis had a thriving pediatric practice in northern Rhode Island for 45 years and touched the lives of many families with his attention to detail and genuine care for the wellbeing of all the children who came to see him. He left a special mark on the community that will not soon be forgotten.

Louis loved Italy and anything Italian. He shared this affinity with all around him and loved to tell stories about when he and Jo-Ann lived there with no money during medical school in the ‘60s and how they were the best years of their lives.

He is survived by his loving children David Colantonio, Esq. and Marisa Bettencourt and her husband, David. He was the beloved Nonno to his three grandsons, Andrew, Joseph, and David. He is survived by his brother Gaetano (Susan), and sister Carmella (Steve), as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends both in the US and Italy. Louis was a humble and loyal man who lived his life with intention and love for his family, friends, and patients. He will be deeply missed.

RICHARD E. LAND, MD, 89, died February 13, 2019 at home. He was the beloved husband of Francine [Finck] Land for 63 years. Born in Brooklyn, NY, a son of the late Maurice and Jeannette [Warshaw] Land, he was a longtime resident of Cranston.

He was the Director of Radiology for 30 years at St. Joseph & Fatima Hospitals in Providence, retiring in 2003, and was previously a radiologist at Mass General Hospital. Richard was a Captain and Director of Radiology in the US Army, serving in Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

He graduated from James Madison High School, Class of ‘47, attended NYU, and graduated from Northwestern University with a BS and MD.

Richard was an accomplished classical pianist and was a performing member of the Chopin Club and Henschel Club. He loved dogs, telling jokes, and spending time with his family.

He was the devoted father of Susan Land [Mark Goodman], Robert Land and William Land, MD [Margaret Seif] and loving grandfather of Jeremy Land Goodman, Sasha Land and Zoe Land.

DIANA MONACO, MD, 81, of Cranston passed away on February 20, 2019. She was the dear sister of Alfred Monaco, Jr. and his wife Joyce of Cranston and the late Barbara C. Monaco, loving aunt of Gina DiGregorio and her husband, Paul Musco, and Christina Hinton; and his 12 grandchildren, and his great-granddaughter.

Lou graduated from La Salle Academy, Providence College and Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his internship at St. Joseph’s Hospital, surgical residency in Boston, and orthopedic training at Walter Reed Medical Center followed by subspecialty training in hand surgery. After his service commitment at Eglin Air Force Base, FL where he was chief of orthopedics, Lou returned to Rhode Island in 1964 to launch his career in private practice. His practice grew exponentially over the years to become Orthopaedic Associates, Inc. He served as chief of orthopedics at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital. Throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s, Lou pioneered multiple new orthopedic procedures and was one of the first to perform knee and hip joint replacement surgery in Rhode Island after receiving special approval by the FDA. He later introduced and advanced arthroscopic surgery in Rhode Island and internationally during the late 1970s and early 80s.

He was a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the Arthroscopy Association of North America, the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, and a founding member of the International Society of Aquatic Medicine.

While Lou loved his work and was especially proud to work alongside his sons and other respected colleagues as the practice grew, his truest devotion was to his family and friends. He was a guiding light in the lives of his children and grandchildren through every stage and humbly unaware that his greatest impact was simply leading by his extraordinary example of a life well-lived. Approachable, open-minded, and willing to listen, he gently guided and was the steadfast go-to for so many who sought his caring insight, ability to keep perspective, and sprinkling of humor when needed. Lou was genuinely interested in learning from every walk of life and was like a father or brother to so many friends and colleagues. He had many passions and introducing and enjoying them with others brought him great joy. Generations of family and friends were inspired and will carry on his love of skiing, boating on Narragansett Bay, quahogging, summer cookouts, and his taste for classic and exotic cars.

While his passing leaves an unimaginable void, his legacy will continue through all those he has touched, taught and inspired.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to: Hope Hospice & Palliative Care Rhode Island, 1085 North Main St. Providence, RI 02904.