

## Appointments

### Jonathan Friedman joins University Gastroenterology as COO

PROVIDENCE – University Gastroenterology recently announced **JONATHAN FRIEDMAN** is joining the organization as Chief Operating Officer.

“It’s an exciting time for University Gastroenterology and we couldn’t be more excited to have Jonathan on board. His focus on not only the day-to-day operations but also long-term goals will enable our doctors to spend quality time with their patients instead of on administrative duties,” said **DR. ERIC P. BERTHIAUME**, UGI president. “His proven track record of growing practices, running them in a fiscally prudent manner while managing diverse workforces is exactly what our growing practice needs.”



For 14 years, Friedman served as COO of Somnia, growing the practice from seven to more than 350 physicians operating in 17 states. Most recently, he served as COO at Integrated Medical Partners in Milwaukee, WI. He received his undergraduate degree in accounting at the University at Albany and his MBA in Healthcare Administration at Baruch College’s Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

“The entire staff at UGI provides care that is second-to-none. I am just honored to be able to help this well-renowned practice continue to fulfill its mission of providing cutting-edge, compassionate care to the people of Southern New England.” ❖

### Rebecca Boss joins CODAC as COO

PROVIDENCE – CODAC Behavioral Healthcare announced that **REBECCA BOSS**, former Director of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH), has accepted the new position of Chief Operating Officer & Vice President of Strategic Development. Boss, who served over 15 years as BHDDH director and achieved national recognition, will be working to develop a new division of service for CODAC.

Boss will lead strategic development initiatives to further the organizational mission beyond state borders, specifically Massachusetts, for service delivery and nationally for consultation and training. In her new position, Boss will oversee overall strategic development and will be responsible for implementing programing and supervising the clinical and operational aspects of the organization. Boss joins the executive leadership team with CODAC CEO Linda Hurley to establish a national consulting center.

“I am so excited that Rebecca is coming back home to CODAC,” said Linda Hurley, President & CEO of CODAC Behavioral Healthcare, who was referring to Boss’ previous tenure at CODAC in

2004 as a program director. “We could see early on at CODAC that Rebecca was remarkably committed to her patients. She provided cutting edge and creative programming that would follow her to BHDDH, where she would develop the BH Link as well as other nationally recognized programs that connected people with recovery and establish peer recovery in emergency departments.”

During her time as the Director of BHDDH, Boss was a highly regarded leader of behavioral healthcare and developmental disabilities services with special expertise in addiction and recovery solutions. She was responsible for the management, design and delivery of statewide efforts for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) expansion, developing national behavioral health integrated care models, and expanding recovery outreach programs. A published national speaker and presenter, Boss delivered Congressional testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate subcommittees in 2017, and oversaw a \$500 million state budget.

“I am excited about the opportunity to rejoin CODAC to continue to ensure access to quality, community-based

behavioral healthcare services. CODAC has continually demonstrated a commitment to its mission, the people served, and our community for nearly 50 years. Having worked with CODAC, I believe we can take our experience to a national level to have an even greater impact,” Boss said.

Honored for her service, she received several awards including the Advocate Award for outstanding support of the Tune In & Tune Up RI Musicians Health Awareness Program and the Karen Rosene Montella Spark Award for Innovation in Women’s Health in Rhode Island.

She also earned the “Service Award” from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) for outstanding service in the field of substance use disorder treatment and prevention in 2018 as well as the National Treatment Network Representative of the Year in 2016.

A resident of Harmony, RI, Boss received her MA in Counseling and Educational Psychology from Rhode Island College and her BA in Psychology from the University of Rhode Island. ❖

## Recognition

### Integra Community Care Network #2 in overall quality score in national ranking of 'Next Generation ACOs'

PROVIDENCE – Integra Community Care Network is the second-highest-rated accountable care organization (ACO) in the country, according to data recently released by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Integra, a local care network comprised of a collaboration between Care New England, South County Health and the Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation, was one of just 49 ACOs in the country to be included in CMS's Next Generation ACO Model, a three-year program that recognizes ACOs "that are experienced in coordinating care for populations of patients" and "allows these provider groups to assume higher level of financial risk and reward" than are available under other programs.

CMS recently released its Financial and Quality report from 2018, the third year of the Next Generation ACO Model. Integra's "Quality Score," graded on a scale of 100, was reported at 98.59 – the second-highest score reported in the nation and well above the average score of 92.98.

CMS measures participating ACOs' Quality Scores by analyzing four primary categories of value-based care: patient/caregiver experience, care coordination and patient safety; preventive health; and serving at-risk populations.

"We take great pride in our proven ability to provide the best possible patient experience, a more efficient and effective approach to health care delivery, and – most importantly – the opportunity to achieve optimal health and wellbeing for our more than 120,000 members across Rhode Island," said **JOHN MINICHIELLO**, president, Integra Community Care Network. "The quality scores reflected in this report are a testament to our network of dedicated care providers, and to our highly coordinated approach to value-based care. We are proud of these results, and we look forward to continue building on this success in 2020 and beyond."

Since its launch in 2015, Integra Community Care Network has closed every fiscal year with a surplus, distributing significant shared savings to its participating primary care physicians and reducing the cost of care for its Medicare members by more than \$15 million. ❖

### Southcoast Health awarded AHA Gold for workplace health

FALL RIVER – The American Heart Association's Workplace Health Achievement Index has awarded Gold to Southcoast Health for building a culture of wellness within the organization. It is the third consecutive year in which Southcoast has earned the highest level of recognition for employers.

The American Heart Association has defined best practices for employers to use to build a culture of health for their employees in the workplace.



Southcoast Health System's employees were the recipients of the AHA Gold recognition for workplace wellness and celebrated this achievement in February.

[PHOTO: SOUTHCOAST]

The Workplace Health Achievement Index measures the extent to which a company has implemented those workplace health best practices.

The AHA's Workplace Health Achievement Index assessment is grounded in data-driven science and a quality improvement framework. Companies recognized at the Gold level have achieved an Index score of 175 to 217 out of a maximum 217 points. The Index scores organizations on 55 individual best practices in seven categories: leadership, engagement, programs, policies and environment, partnerships, communications and reporting outcomes.

The framework of the Index was built so that organizations would continue to strive to improve the health of their workplace and their workforce from one year to the next. **KRIS AIMONE**, Southcoast Health Wellbeing Program Manager, cited the hard work and effectiveness of Southcoast Health's Wellbeing Committee and the support the group receives from leadership for the continued success.

The Index was called for and tested by the AHA's CEO Roundtable to provide employers with best practices to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of workplace health programs.

"We are honored to be recognized as a Gold Level recipient for the third year in a row," said Southcoast Health President and CEO **KEITH HOVAN**. "This achievement reflects our commitment to employee health and wellbeing, as well as the dedication of our staff to participating actively in our wellness programs. With our system's emphasis on preventative care and addressing social influencers of health in the region, I commend the Southcoast community – more than 7,500 employees strong – for setting a positive example."

**LAUREN DE SIMON JOHNSON**, Southcoast Health Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, agreed.

"The Gold Level designation is a very special acknowledgment of the amazing work we have all done together to ensure that workplace health is front and center at Southcoast," she said. ❖

## Recognition

### Lindsay Orchowski, PhD, earns Selya Award for Excellence in Research

Psychologist **LINDSAY ORCHOWSKI, PhD**, was honored at Lifespan's most recent annual meeting with the 2019 Bruce M. Selya Award for Excellence in Research, an honor created to recognize rising stars in their fields of medical research.

Dr. Orchowski is a member of the Lifespan Physician Group and a staff psychologist in the Rhode Island Hospital adult outpatient division. She was recently promoted to associate professor of research in the department of psychiatry and human behavior at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and also serves as the medical school's deputy Title IX coordinator. She was nominated by **JODY UNDERWOOD, MD**, psychiatrist-in-chief at Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital and Lifespan Physician Group, and clinical associate professor at Brown.

Dr. Orchowski has distinguished herself nationally in the fields of alcohol abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence, with her current work dedicated to sexual assault prevention. Her research program has garnered more than \$6.7 million in funding to advance the development and evaluation of sexual assault prevention programs for middle school, high school, college and military populations. She's earned this impressive funding in the span of less than a decade, and as the principal investigator on four

federally funded projects. Her work is supported by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense and the Department of Education.

In her nomination letter, Dr. Underwood notes that, "Dr. Orchowski's work is not only known for its theoretically-driven, methodologically rigorous approach, but also for its emphasis on leveraging community partnerships for maximum impact and sustainability... Her research has tremendous potential to contribute not only to our scientific understanding of 'what works' in real communities, but also to reduce the rates of sexual assault among adolescents throughout the state."

The results of her work, says Dr. Underwood, will likely serve as an exemplar for other states, and taken to scale across the country.

Dr. Orchowski holds posts as associate editor for *Psychology of Women Quarterly* and consulting editor for *Psychology of Violence*. She has published more than 75 peer-reviewed scientific papers and chapters, and has given over 225 presentations at regional, national and international conferences. Most recently, she published the book, "Sexual Assault Risk



Reduction and Resistance: Theory Research and Practice," and is the co-editor of a forthcoming volume addressing men's role in sexual assault prevention.

Dr. Orchowski earned her undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College, then completed her PhD in clinical psychology at Ohio Uni-

versity in the Laboratory for the Study and Prevention of Sexual Assault, concurrently earning a graduate certificate in women's studies. She completed her psychology residency at Brown University, and a NIAAA T32 fellowship at the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies at Brown. At the completion of her training in 2012, she was hired onto the Brown faculty and at Lifespan.

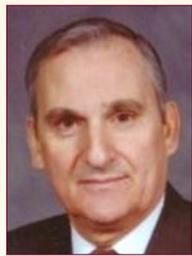
The Lifespan Board instituted the award in 1999 to honor Judge Selya, chairman of the Lifespan Board from the creation of Lifespan in 1994 until 1999. Lifespan recognizes Judge Selya's "steadfast commitment to academic medicine and his keen insight concerning the importance of academic programs to quality health care at Lifespan." The award is intended to recognize a rising star in research, an independent investigator who has demonstrated excellence through a record of high-quality peer-reviewed publication and ability to attract research funding. ❖

## Obituaries



**VINCENT A. DECONTI, MD**, 90, of North Providence, passed away on Feb. 1st after a brief illness.

He was a graduate of Classical High School and received an A.B. degree from Brown University, completed post-graduate studies in biology at Georgetown University and was a graduate of the University of Bologna School of Medicine. Upon graduation, he completed an internship at St. Joseph Hospital, Providence, and was a resident at Rhode Island Hospital and V.A. hospitals in Providence and West Roxbury, MA.



He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War for two years.

Dr. DeConti entered private practice in July 1964 and served on the medical staff at St. Joseph Hospital, Providence and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, North Providence until his retirement in 1994. He served as Director of the Department of Medicine at St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima Hospitals from 1986 until 1994.

He was known among his patients and nursing staff alike as the consummate professional with a warm, compassionate, personal touch. He will be remembered among his colleagues as one who never compromised his ideals in the area of quality and who was truly the “physician’s physician.”

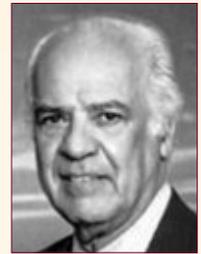
Dr. DeConti was the recipient of the Unitam Award for Outstanding Contribution to Mankind in 1992. He was a member of the Rhode Island Medical Society, Providence Medical Association, American Medical Association, RI Heart Association, Brown University Medical Association, American and RI Society of Internal Medicine, and the American College of Physicians.

He was a Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine and was board-certified in internal medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

He was the loving husband for 64 years of Ann (Giovine) DeConti, whom he met while both were students at Classical High School. He was the beloved father of Linda A. DeConti and Brenda M. Coutu (Robert), and was the adored grandfather of Robert Coutu Jr., John Coutu, and Alexandra Coutu. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Edward Food and Wellness Center, 1001 Branch Ave., Providence, RI 02904. ❖

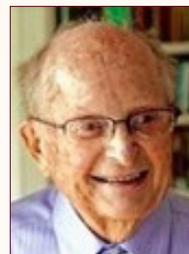
**ALCEU L. PEDREIRA, MD**, of Tiverton, RI, formerly of Westport, MA, died on Jan. 16th. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Martha W. Pedreira. Dr. Pedreira was born in Corumba, Brazil, on May 14, 1933.



He attended secondary school in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, and received a bachelor of science degree from La Fayette College and his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro. Prior to moving to the United States, he served in the Brazilian Navy. Upon arrival in the US, he interned at Edward W. Sparrow Hospital at Michigan State University, Lansing, MI, and did his residency in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago.

He practiced thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the Truesdale Clinic, Charlton Memorial Hospital and at St. Anne’s Hospital in Fall River, MA. He was the chief of the division of surgery at Charlton Memorial Hospital from 1990 until his retirement.

He is survived by his children, Patricia Pedreira of North Bennington, VT; Paul Pedreira of Portland, OR; Susan Pedreira of Westport, MA and his grandson, Maxwell Perry-Pedreira of North Bennington, VT. He is also survived by his stepdaughter, Elizabeth Hearn and her husband Kevin Hearn, and three step-grandchildren, William, Charles and Andrew Hearn of Wheatfield, NY. Donations may be made in his memory to the Visiting Nurse Home & Hospice, 1184 East Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI 02871. ❖



**JACOB Y. SCHINAZI, MD**, 87, passed away Jan. 29th. He was the beloved husband of Helen Schinazi, MD, for 56 years.

Born in Cairo, Egypt, he earned his medical degree from Cairo University, with post-graduate degrees and training in England and the United States. He was in private practice for many years, and an assistant professor at Brown University and Boston University. He served as president to the New England Ophthalmological Society (NEOS), as well as of the Rhode Island Ophthalmological Society. During his tenure at NEOS he created the Educational Trust Fund, one of his proudest contributions to the future of the field.

An old-school physician, his profession was the gift of sight, yet his true gift was making each patient feel truly seen.

Known for his calming presence, and welcoming, gentle soul, he was always an entirely present listener, rich with meaningful pearls shared at the right moment. Loved by all who knew him, he will be dearly missed.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his sons, Alan Schinazi and his wife Bre Goldsmith, and Robert Schinazi and his wife Lauren DeRosset; sister Laurette Galapo and grandson Robert Jacob Schinazi.

Contributions in his memory may be made to The New England Ophthalmological Society’s Educational Trust Fund, <http://www.neos-eyes.org/Donations>.