

Appointments

Heather Hall, MD, named president of Newport Hospital medical staff

NEWPORT – **HEATHER HALL, MD**, medical director and chief of psychiatry at Newport Hospital, has been named president of the medical staff of the hospital.

Medical staff leadership is represented by the Medical Executive Committee, which is comprised of active medical staff and associate medical staff from the community. The

committee plays a critical role in offering input into hospital operations and credentialing of medical providers for hospital privileges.

“Having been at Newport Hospital for 12 years, I feel very invested in the hospital and the community,” said Hall, a Portsmouth resident.

She is the first psychiatrist and first woman to lead the Medical Executive Committee in recent memory.

“Women continue to make strides toward equality in the medical field – like so many others – and representation at the top of the organization is a piece of that,” she said. “There are many women in leadership roles at Newport Hospital and I’m proud to work alongside them for the benefit of the hospital and the community.”

Hall is a graduate of the State University of New York Downstate College of Medicine. She completed her residency at New York University Medical Center. ❖



Ashish K. Jha, MD, named Dean of Brown School of Public Health Currently serves as faculty director of the Harvard Global Health Institute

PROVIDENCE [BROWN UNIVERSITY] – **ASHISH K. JHA, MD**, currently the faculty director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, has been appointed the next dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, effective September 1, 2020. He succeeds Bess Marcus, who will conclude her term as dean this summer to return to full-time research and teaching as a member of the Brown faculty. He will oversee the School of Public Health’s academic departments, research centers, doctoral and master’s programs, and undergraduate concentrations. Key responsibilities include developing and executing strategies to expand sponsored research funding and elevate the school’s profile and impact locally and globally. Integral to his role will be cultivating a diverse and inclusive academic community, providing administrative oversight and ensuring the school’s fiscal strength.

Brown President **CHRISTINA H. PAXSON** and Provost **RICHARD M. LOCKE** announced the appointment on February 26th.

In addition to his role leading the Harvard Global Health Institute, Jha is a professor of global health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and has served as the school’s dean for global strategy since 2018. He is also a practicing general internist at the V.A. Boston Healthcare System and a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

His background as a practitioner providing care for individual patients, a scholar focused on national and global public health systems, and a global health advocate engaged on major issues such as the impact of climate change on public health, makes him an ideal leader to advance academic excellence and provide strategic direction for the school, Paxson and Locke wrote in the appointment announcement.

Jha said that the potential to build on the School of Public Health’s strengths and work with students, faculty and staff to position it as a leading public health school born in and built for the health challenges of the 21st century is exciting, especially in the context of Brown’s collaborative academic culture. And Brown’s track record of partnership with health care leaders and agencies in Rhode Island – through the School of Public Health, the Warren Alpert Medical School and other academic departments – is another essential factor in ensuring the role of public health educators and researchers in fulfilling the University’s mission, Jha added.

“The most significant public health problems of our time demand a multi-disciplinary approach, and faculty and students at Brown live that in addressing major challenges,” Jha said. “Brown is also deeply embedded in Rhode Island’s communities. The fact is, as Brown demonstrates, academic institutions function best when they partner with public health agencies and individuals to test ideas. It’s not a standard model for every university but it is for Brown, and that’s part of what makes me so enthusiastic about this new and important opportunity to be part of a community making a difference, locally and globally.”

With sponsored funding from sources such as the National Institutes of Health, the Gates Foundation, the Climate Change Solutions Fund and the Commonwealth Fund, Jha’s research focuses on improving the quality of health care systems with a specialized focus on how national policies impact care. He has led some of the seminal work comparing the performance of the U.S. health system to those of other high-income countries to better understand why the U.S. spends more but often achieves less in population health. ❖



Brief bio:

- Special assistant to the secretary in the Department of Veterans Affairs, 2009 to 2013.
- Elected as a member of the National Academy of Medicine in 2013.
- Earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Columbia University in 1992; MD 1997, Harvard Medical School
- MPH 2004, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Recognition



Katherine Sharkey, MD, PhD, named Woman Physician of the Year by RIMWA

The Rhode Island Medical Women's Association (RIMWA) will honor **KATHERINE M. SHARKEY, MD, PhD**, as Woman Physician of the Year during the organization's annual event, to be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This award is given annually to a Rhode Island female physician who excels in both her field of medicine, and her dedication to the betterment of our community.

Dr. Sharkey, an Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School, was appointed Assistant Dean for Women in Medicine and Science in 2016. She is also the medical director of the Brown Medicine Sleep Center and the Sleep for Science Research Laboratory of Brown University. She was recently awarded a \$5.1 million, multi-site grant from the National Institute for Mental Health for research on perinatal depression during pregnancy.

Dr. Sharkey is a fellow of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and a member of the Society for Women's Health Research Interdisciplinary Network on Sleep. She is an associate editor of Behavioral Sleep Medicine and serves on the editorial board of Sleep Health.

She obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania and received her MD and PhD degrees from Rush University, Chicago, IL. She completed a combined medicine and psychiatry residency at Rush University in 2006. ❖

Integra Community Care Network partnering with Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation

PROVIDENCE – Care New England recently announced that Integra Community Care Network is partnering with the Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation (RIPCPC) to enhance the quality and focus of Integra's primary care delivery system.

Integra is a local care network comprised of a collaboration between Care New England, South County Health, and RIPCPC that covers commercial, Medicare and Medicaid patients. Since its launch in 2014, the network has established itself as one of the strongest and most efficient ACOs in the country, closing every fiscal year with a surplus while delivering high-quality care. Since its inception, Integra has reduced the overall cost of healthcare by more than \$51 million.

Integra was recently listed as the second-highest-rated ACO in the country, according to data released by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. ❖

W&I's Program in Women's Oncology receives reaccreditation

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) has recently granted reaccreditation to the Program in Women's Oncology at Women & Infants Hospital with three nominations for national best practice. The CoC and NAPBC are organizations for the American College of Surgeons which establish standards to ensure quality, multidisciplinary, and comprehensive cancer care delivery.

One area of special recognition was for the clinical research conducted by the Programs nationally recognized research team. The Program in Women's Oncology has the second highest amount of patients enrolled in clinical trials through the GOG foundation and NRG oncology in the nation. Both the GOG foundation and NRG oncology are industry leading research organizations. Another area of strength and commendation included the rate of nurses who are oncology certified which was substantially above the established standard.

"Our mission has always been to provide outstanding clinical care, contribute to the latest standard of care through cutting edge research, and educate the future leaders in our discipline," said **PAUL DISILVESTRO, MD**, director of the Program in Women's Oncology and the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. "These accreditations are affirmation of that mission."

To achieve accreditation, it took a collaborative, team approach as these surveys touch upon on all facets of the program – from surgeons and medical oncologists to social workers and genetic counselors. Fortunately, by having each member already fully engaged in delivering the highest quality health care in the region, it was simply a matter of showcasing to the surveyor the tremendous work already being done every day. ❖

Recognition

The Miriam Hospital attains Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence, celebrates amid challenging times for health care workers

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital has once again attained Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence and now joins just three other U.S. hospitals in receiving the four-year designation six consecutive times. The announcement came amid a coronavirus outbreak that has changed the lives of health care workers, focused attention on the critical front-line role they are playing in the pandemic, and had nurses at The Miriam celebrating wearing masks and gathered only in small groups

The honor, bestowed upon the hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program®, is considered the gold standard for nursing excellence and provides consumers with the ultimate benchmark for measuring quality of care. Only hospitals that meet rigorous standards for high-quality nursing excellence can achieve Magnet® recognition, the highest national honor for professional nursing practice.

recognition every four years based on adherence to Magnet concepts and demonstrated improvements in patient care and quality. An organization reapplying for Magnet recognition must provide documented evidence to demonstrate how staff members sustained and improved Magnet concepts, performance and quality.

MARIA DUCHARME, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, chief nursing officer and senior vice president of patient care services, said, "While the bar is raised with each designation and the process only becomes more challenging, our ingrained culture allows for an environment that lives and breathes nursing excellence. It's who we are; it's what we do every day. I am so proud of all our nurses and feel so fortunate to work with such outstanding colleagues. To achieve Magnet recognition, hospitals must submit documented evidence as well as undergo a site visit. Our appraisers remarked on our nurses' spirit of patient centeredness and their unwavering pursuit of the best evidence to care for their patients. I couldn't agree more."

This year, the hospital re-attained Magnet designation with exemplars in seven areas, more than in any recent Magnet review.

"Exemplars are best practices highlighting exceptional nursing excellence. They indicate that we are outperforming national benchmarks," said **LYNN D'ANGELO, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**, director of Professional Practice, Innovation and Magnet. "Our seven exemplars were related to empirical outcomes including nursing sensitive indicators and patient experience, both inpatient and ambulatory. The exemplars we received were related to a variety of infection prevention practices, courtesy, respect, listening

and safety. This is a testament to the countless contributions of nurses in the delivery of exemplary care."

According to the Magnet Recognition Program® Commission, the designation provides benefits to hospitals and their communities, including the following:

- Higher patient satisfaction with nurse communication
- Lower risk of 30-day mortality and lower failure to rescue rates
- Higher job satisfaction among nurses ❖



The Miriam Hospital has continuously maintained Magnet recognition since 1998 – one of just four hospitals in the nation to accomplish that.

To achieve Magnet recognition, organizations must pass a rigorous and lengthy process that demands widespread participation from leadership and staff. This process includes an electronic application, written patient care documentation, an on-site visit, and a review by the Commission on the Magnet Recognition Program®. Health care organizations must reapply for Magnet

Obituaries

 **THOMAS G. BRESLIN, MD**, a resident of Bristol, and Delray Beach, Fla., passed away peacefully on March 7, 2020, with his wife of 58 years, Carolyn J. (Anderson) Breslin, by his side.

Dr. Breslin graduated from the Moses Brown School (where he started a legacy of 3 generations of graduates and met one of his best life-long friends, Joe Kinder), Brown University and the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He became a urological surgeon affiliated with Rhode Island Hospital, Fatima Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital and successfully ran his private practice, Breslin Urosurgical, for 31 years. He was appointed to the RI Board of Medical Review, was a clinical instructor at Brown University Medical School and was the founder and first president of the RI Urological Society. He was the first to practice groundbreaking surgical techniques in the state, including cryosurgery and lithotripsy.

Dr. Breslin loved to tinker and invent and, had he not been a surgeon, would have loved to be an inventor creating things in his tool shop to make the world a better (or at least more interesting) place. His vast knowledge and wisdom on a wide array of topics was always a source of amazement to his children, with whom he would take every opportunity to teach.

He and Carolyn lived in Bristol for nearly 60 years where they raised their children. He was active not only in his career but in his community. He is a past president of the Bristol Highlands Improvement Association, a member of the Harbor Commission, as well as fleet surgeon and former board member of the Bristol Yacht Club, where he spent years pursuing his love for sailing.

This passion for sailing began as a youth at the Edgewood Yacht Club where he met his other two best, and lifelong, friends: Herb Browne and Kenny Knowles. His love for the sport, and the competition and fellowship it offered, followed him throughout his life. He enjoyed numerous Block Island Race Weeks, Newport to Bermuda races and even frostbiting in his sunfish in the winter. But there was nothing he loved more than cruising with his family aboard his beloved yacht, *The Watch*, named after his own father's boat, and teaching his family the joys and challenges of sailing and a love of water, especially Narragansett Bay.

He was also incredibly proud of his service to country in the US Navy, where he followed in his father's footsteps. His patriotism was a source of great pride and guided his intentions and efforts throughout his life. The American flag always hangs proudly at his home.

In addition to his wife, Dr. Breslin is also survived by five children: Kate Harden, Jane Sorensen (Soren), Robert Breslin, Amy Breslin (Peter) and Amity Jackson (Benjamin). He is predeceased



by his son, Thomas William Joseph and his parents, Drs. Kate and Robert Breslin. He leaves behind his 11 grandchildren and his older brother, Robert H. Breslin (Carol), whom he looked up to and admired.

Based on current health concerns, at the direction of the Episcopal diocese, funeral services are pending. Donations in his memory may be made in his name to the Seaman's Church Institute, 18 Market Square, Newport, RI. ❖



CHARLES C.J. CARPENTER, JR., MD, 89, passed away peacefully on March 19th, 2020, at his home in Falmouth, Maine, after a brief illness, with his wife of 61 years, Sally, and his three sons, Charles M. Carpenter, MD; Murray Douglas Carpenter, and Andrew Fisher Carpenter, by his side.

Dr. Carpenter, Professor of Medicine at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and former Physician-in-Chief at The Miriam Hospital (1986-'98), moved to Maine in retirement to be closer to his sons and seven grandchildren. He is remembered as a pioneering medical researcher, a mentor to many physicians, an innovator in cholera and HIV/AIDS treatment, and a big-hearted family man.

Known as Chuck to his friends, he was born Jan. 5, 1931, in Savannah, Georgia, where his ancestors had fought in the American Revolution and the Civil War. When he was 5, his family moved to Birmingham, where his father and namesake served as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. After attending public schools in Birmingham, Dr. Carpenter attended the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, where he graduated as salutatorian. He then went to Princeton University, where he majored in English Literature and wrote his thesis on the poetry of Yeats. Upon graduation in 1952, he decided on a career in medicine and attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, graduating in 1956. He was chief resident there when he met Sally Fisher, whose father, Dr. A. Murray Fisher, was known for his research on penicillin. They were married near Baltimore in 1958, and Sally often quipped that he married her because he was so impressed by her father's research.

Dr. Carpenter did his residency training at Johns Hopkins and later joined the faculty. During a stint of research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, the couple bore Charles, the first of three sons. Eighteen months later their second child, Murray, had come along. With two children under three years old, the family decamped for Calcutta, India, which was in the midst of a cholera epidemic. Dr. Carpenter's lab studied cholera, and his team of researchers was instrumental in contributing

to the development of oral rehydration therapy (ORT), a simple treatment that has saved millions of lives worldwide and that is still the treatment of choice today. Returning to Baltimore after two years in India, the Carpenters had their third son, Andrew.

Dr. Carpenter soon became a tenured professor at Johns Hopkins, Director of the Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Physician-in-Chief at Baltimore City Hospitals, while continuing his cholera research. In 1973, he moved to Cleveland to become the Chair of the Department of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. At CWRU, one of his innovations was to develop the nation's first division of geographic medicine. His work took him to two dozen countries. In 1986, Dr. Carpenter moved to Rhode Island, and served as the Director of the Brown University International Health Institute, and the Director of The Lifespan/Tufts/Brown Center for AIDS Research (CFAR).

Dr. Carpenter was among the first to recognize the extent of heterosexual transmission in AIDS worldwide, and this led to his pioneering work on HIV in women. In the 1980s, he started a program to care for Rhode Island state prisoners with HIV, a move that inspired some younger physicians to look at the larger issues of caring for people caught up in mass incarceration. He also worked with colleagues in India and the Philippines to reduce the spread of HIV. For the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine, he chaired a treatment subcommittee to evaluate the President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Research, which took him to several countries in Africa.

Dr. Carpenter retired in 2015 at the age of 84. Throughout his career, he was known for his gentle bedside manner, and compassionate treatment of all patients. He was driven by the conviction that all patients deserve equal treatment, regardless

of race, social status, gender, or sexual orientation. And he is remembered for collaborations with overseas colleagues, especially in Bangladesh, India, Japan, and Ghana.

Dr. Carpenter was a member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine, where he served on committees studying smallpox and malaria. He also served as President of the Association of American Physicians, and Chairman of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and was co-editor of seven editions of Cecil Essentials of Internal Medicine. In 1998, he received the Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Emperor of Japan for his contributions to the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program. In 2007, he received the Robert H. Williams, MD, Distinguished Chair of Medicine Award from the Association of Professors of Medicine awarded to a physician who has demonstrated outstanding leadership as the chair of a department of medicine.

Still, his children and grandchildren say he always had time for them. Sometimes this meant fishing with worms and bobbers from a rented rowboat; other times it meant an evening jog, a few sets of tennis, or a weekend pedal on his beloved East Bay Bike Path in Barrington, where he and his wife lived while in Rhode Island.

In addition to his wife and three sons, Dr. Carpenter is survived by his brother, the Rev. Douglas Morrison Carpenter, of Birmingham, Alabama; sisters Ruth Pitts, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, and Alex Cole of Short Hills, New Jersey; and seven grandchildren.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Immunology Center Patient Assistance Fund at The Miriam Hospital, or the Southern Poverty Law Center. A memorial service will be held later, when public gatherings are more prudent. ❖