Athena Poppas, MD, named president of the American College of Cardiology

ATHENA POPPAS, MD, FACC, is the new president of the American College of Cardiology. Her term officially began March 30th.

Poppas has been a long-standing leader of the College throughout her more than 20 years of membership. She previously served as president of the Rhode Island chapter, holding a seat on the ACC Board of Governors. She also served as Annual Scientific Session chair for ACC.15 where she led the scientific program planning for the conference’s 13,000 professional attendees.

As a member of the Governance Committee, she helped spearhead the restructuring of the ACC’s governance structure and process to ensure the ability of the College to be nimble, strategic, accountable and inclusive of the diverse needs of the global cardiovascular community. She’s also held positions on the Cardiometabolic Strategic Work Group, Clinical Quality Committee and Women in Cardiology Council.

Poppas has been a member of the ACC Board of Trustees since 2010, most recently serving as vice president.

“I am honored to be serving as president and helping to advance the mission and vision of the College,” Poppas said. “I’m particularly focused on continuing to expand our efforts in diversity and inclusion, clinician well-being and global expansion of education, science and quality.”

Poppas is a professor of medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and chief of cardiology and director of the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute at Rhode Island, The Miriam and Newport hospitals.

She received a Bachelor of Science from Brown University and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Wisconsin Medical School. Poppas completed her residencies in internal medicine at University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics and in cardiovascular medicine at University of Chicago Hospitals.

Poppas specializes in valvular heart disease, heart disease in women, and echocardiography and heart disease in pregnancy and focuses her research on echocardiography and heart disease in women and the elderly.

Other ACC officers for 2020–2021 are Vice President Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC, Board of Governors Chair Daniel Philbin, MD, FACC; and Treasurer Howard T. Walpole Jr., MD, MBA, FACC.

Anitra L. Galmore named VP, CNO/COO at South County Health

South County Health has named ANITRA L. GALMORE, RN, BSN, MS, NEA-BC, as Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Operating Officer. She joined the health system on April 6.

In this capacity, Anitra will oversee and lead South County Health system in its continuing efforts to improve patient care and operational efficiencies.

Prior to joining South County Health, Anitra was Vice President of Nursing/CNQ at SSM Health St. Joseph and Wentzville Hospitals in St. Charles, MO.

She earned a Bachelor of Nursing from Webster University and a Master’s in Health Administration from Lindenwold University. She holds Advanced Nurse Executive Certification and Bronze and Silver Certifications in Lean Methodology.

Anitra is currently enrolled in the Doctoral program at St. Louis University.

“Anitra brings 20 years of diverse experience as a healthcare executive to this role and will contribute greatly to sustain our reputation of healthcare excellence,” said Aaron Robinson, President and CEO of South County Health. “We welcome the leadership experience she brings as it aligns with our mission, vision, and values.”

Appointments
Recognition

Matt Collins, MD, named 2020 Career Achiever by PBN

PROVIDENCE – Providence Business News recently announced its winners for the 2020 C-Suite Awards, honoring top C-level executives in the public, private and nonprofit sectors for their efforts as innovators, trailblazers, role models and leaders in the community.

MATT COLLINS, MD, MBA, executive vice president and chief medical officer for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, has been named the 2020 Career Achiever by PBN. Collins’ career at Blue Cross began in 2015 as its vice president of clinical integration and, among other tasks, leads Blue Cross’s efforts to help Rhode Islanders connect with a primary-care practice to help ensure health care affordability. Collins also serves as a clinical assistant professor at The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University and is a member of Gov. Gina M. Raimondo’s Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force.

In April, representatives from the Laborers Union New England region drove by Women & Infants Hospital with a large truck, showcasing a message of appreciation to the doctors, nurses and staff at Women & Infants Hospital, who are working diligently during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Obituaries

**ARTHUR G. BONIVART, MD**, died at home on March 19, 2020. He was 94 years young.

He was the husband of Elizabeth L. (Stewart) Bonivart and the devoted father of Jennifer E. Bonivart.

He was born in Tiszagyulaháza, Hungary in 1925. Following its revolution, he chose to leave his native country in 1956, emigrating first to Ontario, Canada, then finding permanence in the United States in 1959.

He held a private surgical practice in Pawtucket for many years before retiring in 1990. He was affiliated with Memorial Hospital, Miriam Hospital and Notre Dame. He was a longtime member of the Rhode Island Medical Society.

Arthur loved sports – especially tennis, skiing and swimming. He travelled widely and enjoyed reading, learning languages and gardening in his yard. He savored peaches, a good port wine and the services of the U.S. Postal Office. He jogged and rode his bicycle around Slater Park regularly. Finally, he walked in his neighborhood, a late private practice he cherished fully.

Along with his wife and daughter, he leaves behind four siblings: Adel Scholtz of Grand Junction, Colorado; Erwin Bonivart of Windsor, Ontario, Canada; Laszlo Bonivart of Örnsköldsvik, Sweden; and Istvan Bonivart of Budapest, Hungary. He also leaves his brother-in-law, Laszlo Ujvary of Windsor, Ontario, Canada along with many nieces, nephews and great nieces who were dear to him. Arthur was also brother to the late Vali Ujvary and his late older brother Antal (Tony) Bonivart.

A celebration of his life will be held once this pandemic is over.

**ALFRED F. PARISI, MD**, 82, passed away on April 15, 2020.

He is survived by wife Susan Ferriman Jenkins and his children, Mark A Parisi and wife Lydia, Christy (Parisi) McLean and husband Robert, and John F. Parisi. He was predeceased by his former wives, Joan S. Parisi and Anna Albrecht.

He received his undergraduate degree at Georgetown University where he served as president of Alpha Sigma Nu honor society. He subsequently attended Cornell University Medical College in New York City where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. After military service in the US Air Force as Major [1969–1971] in San Antonio Texas, Dr. Parisi pursued a distinguished career as an academic teacher, clinician and researcher.

Early in his career, he was an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Chief of Cardiology VA Hospital, Baltimore Maryland [1971–1974]. He moved to Boston in 1974 as Senior Associate in Medicine at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital [now Brigham and Women’s Hospital] and advanced to Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School in 1977. As Chief of Cardiology at the West Roxbury VA Medical Center [1974–1988], he directed a cardiology training program considered by many to be the leading independent program in the VA. He later moved to Providence, as Professor of Medicine at Brown University School of Medicine and Chief of Cardiology of the Brown University Hospitals [1988–2002].

He was the former President of the American Society of Echocardiography. He earned a national reputation as an innovative researcher. His extensive research publications helped to advance clinical practice in the field of echocardiography.

He was also an outstanding teacher. In addition to being awarded Teacher of the Year while at Brown University, he mentored scores of cardiologists. He was admired and respected by those who were fortunate enough to be trained by him. He was also selected on more than one occasion by his peers to be included in The Best Doctors in America.

In his later years he enjoyed watching baseball, good food and conversation. He especially treasured living on Cape Cod and spending time with his beloved wife, Susan, and dog Caz, family, and friends.

An early summer memorial is planned at our Lady of Victory Church in Centerville, Massachusetts. Please check Our Lady of Victory website for future details. A funeral service will be held at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Miriam Hospital Foundation [Development Office PO Box H Providence, RI 02901], the Weill Cornell Medical College [1300 York Ave, Box 314 New York, NY 10065] or the American College of Cardiology.