

Appointments

Alan Daniels, MD, named Spine Surgery Division Chief at University Orthopedics



EAST PROVIDENCE – University Orthopedics recently announced that **ALAN DANIELS, MD**, has been appointed to Chief of the Division of Spine Surgery.

Dr. Daniels has been a member of the University Orthopedics family for years – completing both his residency training and his Trauma and Spine Fellowships here. He has been serving as Interim Chief since August of 2019 – helping to guide the Department of Orthopaedics through a very difficult time after the untimely passing of his predecessor, Dr. Mark Palumbo.

“In his time as Interim Chief, Dr. Daniels has worked diligently with the Spine Service physicians and we could not be any more thrilled that he has agreed to take on this role permanently,” said **DR. EDWARD AKELMAN**, President of University Orthopedics. “In addition to the wealth of knowledge and insight he brings to his specialty, Dr. Daniels is committed to a higher level of patient care – a mission that is at the very heart of our practice.”

Dr. Daniels is a board-certified spine surgeon who specializes in complex spinal disorders. He serves as the Chief of the Adult Spinal Deformity Service at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. He is also the Director of Spine Surgery Research, an Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Co-Director of the Brown Spine Surgery Fellowship. ❖

URI Nursing Professor Betty Rambur appointed to Medicare Payment Advisory Commission



KINGSTON, URI, MAY 27, 2020 – University of Rhode Island College of Nursing Professor **BETTY RAMBUR** has been appointed a commissioner on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, which holds a powerful role in advising Congress on Medicare policy.

Rambur, the College’s Routhier Endowed Chair for Practice and Professor of Nursing, joins Harvard Medical School Professor of Health Care Policy Michael Chernew, and President and Professor of Internal Medicine and Health Policy and Management at the State University of New York Wayne Riley on the commission, announced Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Congress established MedPAC in 1997 to analyze access to care, cost and quality of care, and other key issues affecting Medicare. MedPAC advises Congress on payments to providers in Medicare’s traditional fee-for-service programs and to health plans participating in the Medicare Advantage program. The Comptroller General is responsible for naming new commission members.

Rambur has been a national leader in health policy and health reform for 25 years. She is a recognized leader in the area of workforce redesign within alternative payment models and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She served as the only nurse on Vermont’s Green Mountain Care Board, which regulates health care in Vermont and provides oversight of the transition from fee-for-service to value-based care. Her particular focus is population health, reducing disparities and overtreatment, cost containment and reconceptualized models of care, including primary care nursing and e-connected/virtual care.

“I am thrilled to be appointed to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission,” Rambur said. “It is truly an honor to join this distinguished Commission and staff as we grapple with the complex challenges of Medicare payment and policy. I am eager to lend my experience and expertise as we collectively advise Congress in its critical efforts to analyze and implement Medicare policy in the best interests of the nation.”

Previously, Rambur led North Dakota’s statewide health reform efforts that resulted in omnibus health reform legislation. Her 2015 book, *Health Care Finance, Economics, and Policy for Nurses*, provides a user-friendly guide to support nurses’ effectiveness and contributions to organizations in rapid transition in response to evolving financial and reimbursement incentives. A second edition is slated for 2021. ❖

Recognition

Dr. Andrew Zullo receives AGS New Investigator Award

ANDREW ZULLO, PharmD, ScM, PhD

is among the four recipients of the American Geriatric Society (AGS) Health in Aging Foundation New Investigator Awards, which honors individuals whose original research reflects new insights in geriatrics and a commitment to the discipline's role in academia.



Dr. Zullo is an assistant professor of health services, policy, and practice specializing in geriatric pharmacoepidemiology, comparative effectiveness and safety research, and health services research at the Brown University School of Public Health. His research focuses on improving medication use for older adults, especially those receiving post-acute care or residing in long-term care settings. Additionally, he practices as a geriatric pharmacist and leads the non-experimental research activities for the Department of Pharmacy at Lifespan.

Dr. Zullo has published over 65 peer-reviewed manuscripts in geriatrics and other journals, and his research is supported by the National Institute on Aging. ❖



American Geriatrics Society (AGS) honors John B. Murphy, MD

NEW YORK, MAY 8, 2020 – The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) recently announced that **JOHN B. MURPHY, MD**, has been selected as the recipient of the 2020 Dennis W. Jahnigen Award celebrating work to train health professionals in the care we all need as we age.

Dr. Murphy, President of Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital, executive vice president of physician affairs at Lifespan and a professor of medicine and family medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School, has dedicated nearly four decades to advancing geriatrics and gerontology, helping lead innovation vital to New England and beyond.

"We know the cornerstones of better care for us all as we age: Improved clinical practice, and better education to make that care possible," notes **SUNNY LINNEBUR**, PharmD, FCCP, FASCP, BCPS, BCGP, AGS board chair. "Dr. Murphy is a force to be reckoned with on both fronts: Improving care quality for older adults while also using those improvements to model the way for a geriatrics workforce whose expertise is needed now more than ever."

Dr. Murphy not only helped launch Lifespan's innovating Palliative Care Consultation Program, which seeks to connect those with advanced or serious chronic illnesses to services that can address discomfort as well as physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, but also facilitated the launch of a novel program for helping geriatrics experts and orthopedic surgeons co-manage care for older people hospitalized with hip fractures. The latter program reduced mortality, re-hospitalization, and the risk for complications, and also served as a model for the launch of AGS Co-Care: Ortho™ – a new AGS offering that has expanded the scope of co-management opportunities to health systems across the U.S.

In his current roles at Lifespan and Brown, Dr. Murphy directs everything from leading Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital (a 719-person tertiary care hospital and the principal teaching hospital of Alpert Medical School) to overseeing graduate medical education, quality, and safety across multiple system-wide clinical service lines (including those for cancer, cardiovascular concerns, and diagnostic imaging). He also is responsible for system-wide pharmacy, laboratory, and supply chain purchasing, as well as Lifespan research, all with an operating budget of \$2.2 billion and a research portfolio valued at \$95 million. From 2004 to 2008, Dr. Murphy served as the director of graduate medical education and designated institutional official for Lifespan, which serves 650 residents and fellows.

Dr. Murphy honed much of the expertise he brings to this work over a 40-year career as an educator at Brown, where he began work as a family medicine resident in 1980. Dr. Murphy went on to serve Brown in a variety of roles, including the director of the division of geriatrics from 1986 to 2003 and director of education from 2000 to 2003. His efforts included initiatives to enhance geriatric education for primary care providers in China (Shanghai and Beijing) and Jordan.

An AGS member since 1984, Dr. Murphy served on the AGS Board of Directors from 2003 to 2010, including stints as AGS president from 2008 to 2009 and board chair from 2009 to 2010. He served as an author or on the editorial board of the AGS's Geriatrics Review Syllabus from its second to sixth edition. He earned his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University in 1980, later pursuing board certification in family medicine and geriatrics. ❖

Brown establishes COVID-19 Research Seed Fund; 15 awardees named

Fifteen teams of Brown faculty researchers have received a total of \$350,000 from the University's new COVID-19 Research Seed Fund. Brown established the fund to fast track innovative research proposals that directly address the urgent needs of the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards will support research with the potential for significant and rapid impact on human health and research that could create products of immediate need for the healthcare system in Rhode Island and the nation.

Awards

Co-PIs: **Rosa Baier**, Center for Long-Term Care Quality & Innovation, School of Public Health; **Elizabeth White**, Center for Gerontology & Healthcare Research, School of Public Health; **Terrie Fox Wetle**, Center for Gerontology & Health Care Research

An electronic survey will be administered to frontline staff working in nursing homes and other long-term care settings across the country to capture and rapidly disseminate best practices.

PI: **Lalit Beura**, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
With males apparently at higher risk for infection and death from COVID-19, this project will test, in a mouse model, the role of testosterone in disease severity.

PI: **Ugur Cetintemel**, Computer Science
Co-PIs: **Harrison Bai**, Diagnostic Imaging, **Ritambhara Singh**, Computer Science

This research will develop an AI platform to differentiate COVID-19 from other viral pneumonia on chest CT, and use the information to identify early-stage patients who are likely to transition to severe disease.

PI: **Elizabeth Chen**, Brown Center for Biomedical Informatics
Co-PIs: **Philip Chan**, Medicine; **A. Rani Elwy**, Psychiatry and Human Behavior; **Fizza Gillani**, Medicine; **Joseph W. Hogan**, Biostatistics; **Sorin Istrail**, Computer Science; **Indra Neil Sarkar**, Brown Center for Biomedical Informatics and Rhode Island Quality Institute.

This project will establish an inter-institutional informatics infrastructure to support COVID-19 research in Rhode Island through electronic health data, digital health technology, and data science techniques.

PI: **Wafik El-Deiry**, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
This research aims to reduce the virus' capacity to cause death, through immune modulation and discovery of drugs that block it.

PI: **William Fairbrother**, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry

This project aims to develop a sample unit for a potential home testing kit for COVID-19.

PIs: **Daniel Harris**, **Jacob Rosenstein**, **Roberto Zenit**, School of Engineering

Ventilators are among the most critical aspects of COVID-19 treatment, and this project is aimed at speeding their production through a new design using 3D printed and off-the-shelf parts that can be produced rapidly and locally.

PI: **Edward Hawrot**, Biology and Medical Science
Co-PIs: **Bharat Ramratnam**, Medicine; **Gregory Jay**, Emergency Medicine and Engineering; **Francesca Beaudoin**, Emergency Medicine.

An inter-institutional blood biorepository to support COVID-19 research in Rhode Island will be created.

PI: **Amanda Jamieson**, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
Co-Is: **Emily Oster**, Economics; **Jeffrey Bailey**, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine ; **Shaolei Lu**, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; **James Barbeau**, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Responding to the existence of a large number of asymptomatic COVID-19 cases, this research seeks to gain a broader understanding of how widespread exposure to the COVID-19 virus is in the local population.

PI: **Amanda Jamieson**, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
Collaborators: **Graphene Composites Limited**.

This research will test the ability of graphene/silver nanoparticle ink formulation to be used in personal protective equipment as a way of reducing virus transmission rates.

PI: **Chun Lee**, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
Co-PIs: **Jack A. Elias**, Medicine; **Suchitra Kamle**, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology; **Bing Ma**, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology; **Bharat Ramratnam**, Medicine

This research will test whether Chitinase 3-like 1 (Chi3l1), a powerful inhibitor of epithelial cell death, can be used as a biomarker of CoV-2 infection that predicts disease severity and progression.

PI: **Eleftherios Mylonakis**, Infectious Diseases
Co-PI: **Philip Chan**, Medicine, Behavioral and Social Sciences
A statewide Rhode Island model will be created to understand the epidemiology and clinical outcomes of patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

PIs: **Mandar Naik**, Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology; **Walter Atwood**, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry; **Gerwald Jögl**, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry; **Nicolas Fawzi**, Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology

This research will identify inhibitors of the CoV2 N protein that can potentially be further developed as drugs against coronaviruses.


PI: **Anubhav Tripathi**, School of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering; **Rami Kantor**, Infectious Diseases

This project will develop a molecular surveillance tool and capacity to monitor spread of the virus regionally and beyond.

PI: **Ira Wilson**, Health Services, Policy and Practice
Co-PIs: **Omar Galarraga**, Health Services, Policy and Practice; **Amal Trivedi**, Health Services, Policy and Practice

This research will review health care claims in Rhode Island to examine the impact of COVID-19 social distancing measures on health care utilization and outcomes, particularly for the most needy people, such as chronically-ill patients

Obituaries

 **PETER B. BAUTE, MD**, 86, of Block Island and Wakefield, RI, died at home on April 4, 2020. He was the beloved husband of Cynthia (Cindy) Baute.



He was a graduate of Lockwood High School and the University of New Hampshire. After receiving his medical degree from the Hahnemann School of Medicine in Philadelphia in 1960, he completed a fellowship in tropical medicine at Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in Panama. He then served as a Lieutenant in the US Navy Medical Corps from 1961–1964, spending two years in South Vietnam and one at the Newport Naval Hospital. Peter pursued his residency in general surgery at Wayne State University Hospitals in Detroit, serving as chief resident from 1968–1969. He was board certified by the American Board of Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Peter joined the staff of Kent County Memorial Hospital in 1968, where he was Assistant Chief of Surgery from 1979–1981 and Chief of Surgery from 1981–1984. With Drs. Arthur Hardy and Richard Dyer, they formed Toll Gate Surgical Associates, Inc. Their practice expanded to include Drs. Daniel Reardon, David Luz, Candace Dyer and John Isaac. Peter was the managing partner of Toll Gate Associates, a medical office building partnership.

Throughout his career, Peter engaged extensively in research, teaching, and professional leadership. He published journal articles on breast cancer research in surgery, gynecology and obstetrics and radiology, and delivered numerous presentations on cancer care. He twice directed American College of Surgeons (ACS) Courses on Cancer Management and served as State Chairman for the ACS Commission on Cancer. He chaired the Kent County Hospital Cancer Committee and developed a model community cancer program which received accreditation by the ACS Commission on Cancer. He was President of the Providence Surgical Society from 1985–1986, served on the Executive Committee of the New England Surgical Society and was a Cancer Program Surveyor for the Commission on Cancer. Peter also volunteered on surgical teams in Honduras and Nepal. In retirement, he was a volunteer physician at the Rhode Island Free Clinic for eight years.


Peter determined that he would stop doing surgery when he turned 65 and he did, but he could not give up the practice of medicine. Instead, in 2001 he accepted a position as Co-Medical Director at Block Island Health Services. For many years, Pete had covered for island doctors on leave. He and Cindy had fallen in love with Block Island and built a home on the island. He confessed to a friend that retooling from surgery to primary care was a major challenge in late career, but he loved getting to know each patient, their family members, even their pets, a few

of which were also seen “professionally” in emergencies. After retiring in 2006, Peter completed URI’s Master Gardening Program and volunteered at the Roger Williams Botanical Gardens. He was elected to the New Shoreham Town Council in 2006 and served for three terms where he successfully championed the wind farm and expanded solar power on the island. His passionate efforts to create bike paths on the island did not come to fruition but he retained hope in that quest.

In addition to his wife Cindy, Peter is survived by siblings, Joseph Baute and his wife Stephanie; Barbara Dowd, MD, and Robert Baute, MD, and his wife Barbara J. Baute. He was predeceased by brother-in-law, Thomas Dowd, MD and sister-in-law, Cynthia F. Baute. Peter is also survived by four children, Linda Crosette, Peter Baute, Jr, Barbara Baute, and Michael Baute; six grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and by Cindy’s daughters, Kimberly Cardarelli and Jennifer Koziol and grandson Colby Cardarelli.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated when it is possible for family and friends to gather.

Pete will be remembered for his sharp powers of observation and analysis, his quiet wit, his dedication to public service and his devotion to the promotion of health care in a wide range of settings. In 2018, Block Island Health Services established an endowment for the Peter Baute Award to recognize individuals who demonstrate the traits that are Peter’s legacy: exceptional interpersonal skills and compassion coupled with a high level of acumen in delivering healthcare on Block Island and also to support health education and research advancing knowledge and awareness of wellness on Block Island. Memorial gifts may be directed to Block Island Health Services, Box 919, Block Island, RI 02807 or to the Rhode Island Free Clinic, 655 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02907. ❖

 **VINCENT A. DEROBPIO, MD**, 86, passed away peacefully at the RI Veterans Home on May 13, 2020. He was the beloved husband of the late Patricia (Gasbarro) DeRobbio for 53 years. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Angelo and Gesualda (Castaldi) DeRobbio.



He was a graduate of Classical High School, Class of 1951, and Providence College, Class of 1955. He attended Dalhousie Medical School in Nova Scotia, Canada, and upon completion of his medical training, he became an officer in the Naval Medical Corps. Dr. DeRobbio practiced internal medicine in RI until 1980 and then specialized in occupational medicine working for New Jersey Bell. His last position was as Medical Director at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. Special thanks are extended to

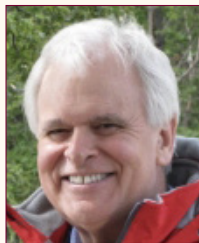
Obituaries

the nurses and staff of Bravo 1 at the RI Veterans Home for the love shown and the exceptional care given Dr. "D" during his stay at the facility.

He is survived by his daughters, Patti-Dee Cioe (Ronald) of Warwick, Michele Kovacs (Charles) of Manchester, NJ and Sandra Manco of Cranston. He was also the father of the late Tracey DeRobbio-Laranjo. He was the grandfather of Nicholas J. and Christopher J. Cioe, Jillian Marsiglia, Anthony J. and John A. Cunha, Elisha Curran, and Vincent DeRobbio and Tyler Laranjo, as well as 13 great-grandchildren. He was the brother of Richard DeRobbio and the late Madelaine DeRobbio.

His funeral and burial will be private due to the current health protocol. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his memory may be made to America's Vet Dogs, 371 East Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, NY 11787, or the Rhode Island Veterans Home, 480 Metacom Ave, Bristol, RI 02829. maceroni.com ❖

ANDREW EDMUND SLABY, MD, PhD, MPH, 78, died peacefully on May 4, 2020, from complications from COVID-19. Dr. Slaby was a psychiatrist in private practice in New York, New York as well as in Summit, New Jersey. Dr. Slaby also served as a clinical professor of psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine, and as an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at New York Medical College. He was President of the HealthCare Chaplaincy Network; a board member of the Albert Ellis Institute; a member of the National Board of the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention;



Treasurer of the Board of the International Academy of Law & Mental Health; and co-chair of the Decorative Arts Committee of the National Arts Club. Dr. Slaby earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons, a Doctor of Philosophy degree as well as a Master of Public Health from Yale University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin.

In 1978, Dr. Slaby moved to Brown University (working with Yale Psychiatry alumni, Richard Goldberg, MD, and Peter Kramer, MD) as professor of Psychiatry and Psychiatrist-in-Chief of Rhode Island Hospital and then, in 1979, Women & Infants Hospital.

In addition, Dr. Slaby served in the United States Public Health Service, stationed at The Staff College, National Institute of Mental Health, and at the United States Public Health Service, stationed at the Laboratory of Clinical Psychopharmacology.

Andrew is survived by Rosemarie Dackerman, his partner of 25 years, as well as by his sisters Constance Curtis (Gary Curtis, husband); Doreen Slaby (Bill Delo, husband); and sister-in-law Maureen Slaby (Theodore Slaby, deceased husband).

In addition, Andrew is survived by nephews: Shaun Curtis (Sarah Curtis, wife); Shannon Curtis (Sasha Curtis, wife); Stefan Curtis (Katy Curtis, wife); Jeffrey Slaby (Carlene Slaby, wife); Theodore Slaby, Jr. (Kerry Houlihan Slaby, wife); and nieces Sierra Curtis; and Jill Slaby-Rotunda (FJ Rotunda, husband). Andrew is also survived by six great nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Andrew Slaby's memory to the Albert Ellis Institute; the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; the HealthCare Chaplaincy; the National Arts Club; the New York Junior League and the Single Parent Resource Center. For more information, please contact Angela Ippolito at angela@ippolitofuneralhomes.com. ❖