

## Appointments



### Todd Conklin named Lifespan Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan has appointed **TODD CONKLIN, BS, MBA, CPA**, as its executive vice president and chief operating officer, a newly established position for Rhode Island's largest provider of health care.

Conklin will oversee Lifespan's five hospitals and its Gateway Healthcare programs and will be responsible for the system's operational performance, including patient satisfaction, quality of care, and effective service delivery.

He has over 20 years experience in the health care field and joins Lifespan from Ascension Health System, one of the nation's largest Catholic and non-profit health systems, where he served as chief operating officer and oversaw 31 hospitals across Wisconsin and Kansas. Under Conklin's leadership, Ascension improved its operating performance and patient satisfaction levels, and expanded its clinical services and teaching programs. Previously, Conklin was senior vice president of operational finance for the Catholic Health Initiatives system, encompassing 109 hospitals across 19 states.

"Todd is a welcome addition to our team at a critical time for health care both in Rhode Island and nationally," said Lifespan President and CEO **TIMOTHY J. BABINEAU, MD**. "Todd has a strong record of engaging teams in improving operations, efficiency, and care delivery across the health systems he has helped lead and is well-positioned to serve as Lifespan's first executive vice president and chief operating officer."

"In light of the impact of COVID-19 on public health, the workforce, and state and local economies, ensuring that quality healthcare is accessible to all individuals is now more important than ever," said Conklin. "I'm looking forward to working with a great team in navigating these challenges, and continuing to innovate and transform Lifespan's operations for the better."

Conklin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Illinois State University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He is a certified public accountant. ❖

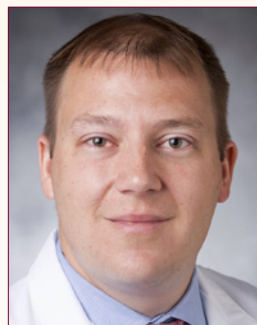


### Gerald Colvin, DO, joins CharterCARE

**DR. GERALD COLVIN** joined CharterCARE Medical Associates in July. Formerly, he was an active member of the staff and cancer program from 2001 thru 2006.

Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Hematology & Oncology, Dr. Colvin is a graduate of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Pennsylvania. He completed his fellowship training in hematology/oncology at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center in Worcester.

Dr. Colvin is the former Director of Hematology/Oncology at South County Medical Group, and has served on the faculty of both the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Boston University School of Medicine. ❖



### Samuel H. Eaton, MD, joins Brown Urology in Newport County

PROVIDENCE – Brown Urology's newest physician, **DR. SAMUEL H. EATON**, is now seeing patients at its new location on Aquidneck Island, across from Newport Hospital.

Dr. Eaton sub-specializes in endourology. Some of the procedures and treatments in which he specializes include: robotic and laparoscopic surgery, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, upper tract reconstruction, and comprehensive stone management and BPH surgery.

"I'm excited to work with Newport Hospital and Brown Urology to help expand the reach and breadth of what the practice has to offer," said Dr. Eaton, who added he plans to bring his holistic approach to patient care to the practice. "When treating patients, not only do I want to understand what brought them to me medically, but I also want to understand where they're coming from more generally in life. This way we can work together on whatever problem they're facing in a way that is not only medically appropriate but also in a way that fits with their goals."

Dr. Eaton comes to Brown Urology from Duke University Medical Center. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign and earned his MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He completed his urology residency at Boston University Medical Center and subspecialty training in endourology at Northwestern University in Chicago. ❖

## Appointments



### Pulmonologist James M. Ferguson, MD, joins Newport Hospital

Newport Hospital and Lifespan Physician Group, Inc. recently announced that pulmonologist

**JAMES M. FERGUSON, MD**, who specializes in the treatment of ailments of the lung and respiratory system, has joined the hospital's medical staff. He began on July 27 and is now welcoming new patients.

Dr. Ferguson is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He completed both his residency and fellowship in pulmonary and critical care at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, where he is now an associate clinical professor. Prior to his fellowship, he spent one year as an intensive care hospitalist at The Miriam Hospital, an affiliate of the Lifespan health system. He is board certified in pulmonary and internal medicine.

Dr. Ferguson has a special interest in lung cancer screening and identifying and improving disparities in health and health care. He is a member of the American College of Chest Physicians, American Thoracic Society, and American College of Physicians. ❖

### Dr. Eren Kuris returns to University Orthopedics

EAST PROVIDENCE – University Orthopedics is happy to welcome **DR. EREN KURIS** back into the UOI family after a year away completing a Spine Surgery Fellowship.

Dr. Kuris spent the last year at the University of Colorado as a Spine Surgery Fellow, concentrating specifically on complex spinal conditions. As part of the UOI team, he will treat all aspects of spinal care, including degenerative conditions such as disc degeneration, disc herniations, and spinal arthritis; spine deformities; spine trauma; and spine infections.

“Spine surgery is a very dynamic field. We have made significant advances in recent years with regard to our overall understanding of spinal pathology and alignment and the methods and technologies we have to treat spine conditions, which will lead to improved patient outcomes,” Dr. Kuris said.

Dr. Kuris completed both his Orthopaedic Surgery Residency and an Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship at the Alpert Medical School, where he currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics. He holds both an undergraduate and medical degree from Tulane University. Additionally, he is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), the North American Spine Society (NASS), and the Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA). He serves on two committees for NASS (the SpinePAC Advisory Committee and the Political Engagement Committee) and is the Spine Section Editor for the 5th edition of the OTA's Core Curriculum. ❖



### Andrew Chen, MD, joins University Orthopedics' Sports Medicine team

EAST PROVIDENCE – University Orthopedics (UOI) recently announced the addition of **DR. ANDREW CHEN** to its Sports Medicine team.

Dr. Chen's specialty is Primary Care Sports Medicine. He treats a wide range of sports-related injuries including finger, hand, and wrist injuries; elbow issues; shoulder issues and pathologies; hip pain and injuries; knee pain and injuries; and ankle and foot

problems. Dr. Chen will also treat chronic tendinopathies and injuries that have failed conservative management.

Dr. Chen recently completed a fellowship with Case Western Reserve University at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. He holds an undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University and an MD from Jefferson Medical College. Additionally, he is board-certified in family medicine through the American Board of Family Medicine. He has served as team physician for Kent State University, Lake Erie College, and Hawkin Upper School, which is a college prep school in Ohio.

“I take pride in not only helping my patients recover from an injury but also returning them to optimum health so they excel in the sports and activities they love,” Dr. Chen said. “I am honored and humbled to be joining such an experienced and well-regarded team like the one at University Orthopedics.”

Dr. Chen is joining UOI September 1 and will eventually be located at UOI's new Mansfield, Massachusetts location when it opens in January 2021. ❖

## Appointments

### CNE CEO James E. Fanale, MD, to chair American Diabetes Association® event, Ocean State Tour de Cure

PROVIDENCE – Care New England and The American Diabetes Association® (ADA) recently announced that **JAMES E. FANALE, MD**, Care New England Health System president and CEO, will chair the 2020 Ocean State Tour de Cure on Saturday, October 3, 2020, for the second year in a row. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event will be held virtually, offering participants an opportunity to join the event wherever they are.

Every dollar raised through the Ocean State Tour de Cure plays an important role in supporting the ADA's mission: to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. This year, Care New England will serve as the lead community partner for the Tour event. CNE has made a commitment to the ADA to work together to raise awareness and provide much needed education in order to prevent and assist those in the community affected by diabetes in Southern New England.

Tour de Cure brings together volunteers and participants invested in bending the curve on the diabetes epidemic and funding research to find a cure.

"Care New England cares about the community and everyone affected by, or at risk of developing diabetes. As this year's virtual chair, I look forward to, once again, rallying our employees and all Rhode Islanders, to come together to educate the community about COVID-19 safety, diabetes management, and how to make behavioral and lifestyle adjustments to help fight diabetes," said Dr. Fanale. "Diabetes affects many people on a personal, as well as a community level. Unfortunately, the prevalence of diabetes continues to grow, affecting more than 106,000 individuals here in Rhode Island. Another 200,000 are undiagnosed or living with prediabetes. Attention and action is necessary to help us advance the pace of progress in the fight against diabetes."

The ADA's New England Executive Director, Susan Sarro, thanked Dr. Fanale and Care New England for their continued commitment. "Support from community leaders such as Dr. Fanale make a critical difference in our efforts to engage the business community and other organizations in coming together behind the ADA mission. With CNE's involvement as a leading health system, we can reach deeper into the community to address the needs of those who live with diabetes."

Dr. Fanale and Care New England would like to invite Southern New England participants to join the celebration and be part of the movement to fight diabetes by taking part in Tour de Cure. This virtual fitness and community event will take place Saturday, October 3 to help raise funds to support the ADA's mission. Registration is free with no fundraising minimums. Participants are encouraged to donate and raise funds to the extent they are able. Individuals can join the Care New England Team, called Team CNE, by visiting <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/CareNewEngland>. ❖

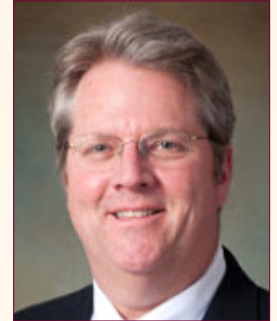
### Robert H. Schwengel, MD, to lead the Southern New England Board of Directors

PROVIDENCE – **ROBERT H. SCHWENDEL, MD, FACC**, of Southcoast Health, has been appointed President of the Association's Board of Directors in Southern New England.

Serving for several years on the Southern New England American Heart Association Board of Directors, Dr. Schwengel has been instrumental in the Association's local influence towards funding cutting-edge research and promoting quality systems of care.

"It is a great honor to be chosen as President of the American Heart Association's Board of Directors in Southern New England," said Dr. Schwengel. "I am passionate about helping the American Heart Association continue to raise awareness about cardiovascular and neurovascular health and reduce the health disparities that exist in our communities. I thank my fellow volunteers and Board Members for this opportunity."

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of the American Heart Association and Dr. Robert Schwengel's unwavering commitment, time and compassion inspires endless possibilities to further our mission in Southern New England," said **ALISSA MEMOLI**, Regional Vice President of the Southern New England American Heart Association. "During these unprecedented times, the work of the Association is more important than ever, and we are honored to have him at the helm as we pioneer innovative solutions to build a world of healthier and longer lives." ❖

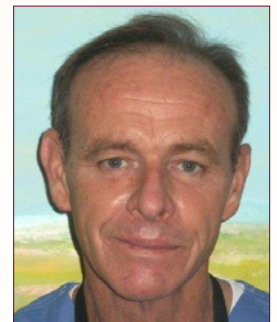


## Recognition

### James Taylor, RN, receives 2020 Clare Sullivan Award for Nursing Leadership

Each year, Butler Hospital presents the Clare Sullivan Award for Nursing Leadership, to one of its own for outstanding compassionate care. The award is named in honor of Clare Sullivan, who was the Butler Hospital director of nurses from 1964 to 1992. The first award was given out in 2005.

This year's Clare Sullivan Nursing Leader is **JAMES TAYLOR, RN**. He has been with Butler since starting as an LPN in 2001. ❖



## Recognition

### South County Hospital receives two 5-Star ratings from CMS

South County Hospital has received a Double 5-Star rating from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) in the recent Hospital Compare report.

The CMS Hospital Quality Star Rating was created by Medicare to help healthcare consumers make informed decisions by simplifying complex criteria that measures healthcare quality.

As a result of data collected by CMS, South County Hospital measured the highest rating of 5-Stars in overall Hospital Quality and Patient Experience in the ratings released in July.

Patient Experience is measured using a national survey that asks patients about their experiences during a recent hospital stay. The survey is administered by HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems).

The overall hospital rating includes a variety of measures calculated by CMS, the federal agency that runs the Medicare program, including the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program and the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program.

South County Hospital measured above the national average in:

- Safety of Care (hospital acquired infections, complications of hip/knee surgery, and other patient safety indicators)
- Low Readmission Rates (patients readmitted within 30 days of inpatient discharge)
- Patient Experience (HCAHPS survey)

South County Hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission and is the recipient of numerous accreditations, awards and recognitions for high quality care and excellence in patient satisfaction.

Results of the Hospital Compare are listed and explained on the Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare. ❖

### Kent Hospital's Women's Care Unit scores big for maternity practices in infant nutrition

Following the completion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2018 Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey, Kent Hospital's women's care unit score was 94. The average score in the US is 79. And, for hospitals the same size at Kent Hospital, the score is 78.

Kent Hospital was one of 2,045 US hospitals that responded, demonstrating its commitment to quality improvement in maternity practices that support optimal infant nutrition. The mPINC is a national survey of newborn feeding practices in hospitals in the United States. ❖

### Fatima Hospital receives Gold Achievement Award for stroke care

NORTH PROVIDENCE – Fatima Hospital, an affiliate of CharterCARE Health Partners, has received a prestigious national award for quality in stroke care that has been jointly presented by the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Stroke Association (ASA).

Fatima received the highest level of this award, the Gold Achievement, for achieving compliance with AHA's and ASA's seven stroke achievement measures for 24 consecutive months.

These achievement measures are:

- Percent of acute stroke patients who arrive at the hospital within 2 hour of occurrence and for whom care was initiated at this hospital within t3 hours of occurrence of time last known well. Corresponding measure available for inpatient stroke cases.
- Percent of stroke patients who receive antithrombotic therapy by the end of hospital day two
- Percent of stroke patients who receive VTE prophylaxis the day of or the day after hospital admission.
- Percent of stroke patients who are prescribed antithrombotic therapy at discharge.
- Percent of stroke patients with an ischemic stroke or TIA with atrial fibrillation/flutter discharged on anticoagulation therapy. Corresponding measures available for observation status only as well as inpatient stroke cases.
- Percent of stroke patients with a history of smoking cigarettes, who are, or whose caregivers are, given smoking cessation advice or counseling during hospital stay.
- Percent of stroke patients who are discharged on statin medication.

CharterCARE CEO Jeff Liebman stated "While we are proud to receive any national quality recognition, I am especially proud that this award recognizes consistent quality performance for stroke patients over a sustained period. This reflects that our commitment to quality performance is a constant mission, every day of every year".

The AHA-ASA award is an advanced level of recognition acknowledging hospital for consistent compliance with stringent quality measures on which that the two organizations have collaborated to develop. ❖

## Recognition

### Lifespan hospitals honored for excellence in stroke care

PROVIDENCE – Three Lifespan hospitals – Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital and Newport Hospital – have received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

The hospitals earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients including use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients.

Rhode Island Hospital was additionally recognized with the Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Advanced Therapy designation. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke. Also, "door to device times" must occur within 90 minutes for direct arriving patients and within 60 minutes for transfers (for at least 50% of applicable patients).

"Our staff who care for stroke patients are part of a highly skilled, specialized team trained to provide rapid assessment and treatment for the acute stroke patient," said **JO-ANN SARAFIN, MS, APRN, CNP, FNP-BC, SCRNP**, stroke program manager for Rhode Island Hospital. "It takes quick recognition of stroke in the community, including astute assessment by EMS with appropriate knowledge of stroke triage protocols. It entails efficient management in the Emergency Department encompassing clinical assessment, imaging, and state-of-the-art treatment in Neurointerventional radiology if indicated. It involves frequent monitoring, education, early rehabilitation and support to assist the stroke patient in achieving the best possible outcome. We are honored to receive this award reflecting on the entire spectrum of stroke care we provide, allowing as many patients as possible to regain their best quality of life."

Newport Hospital was additionally recognized with the Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award. To qualify, hospitals must meet quality measures developed with more than 90% of compliance for 12 consecutive months for the "Overall Diabetes Cardiovascular Initiative Composite Score."

"This is wonderful news. It takes a team to be able to achieve these awards and it's due to the efforts of everyone across the hospital – nurses, doctors, rehabilitation specialists, and more. It's exciting that Newport Hospital earned the Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll Award in the first year it was available," said **KAREN SCHAEFER, MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, ASC-BC**, stroke program manager for Newport Hospital and The Miriam Hospital.

Newport Hospital and The Miriam Hospital have met specific criteria to each be designated as a Primary Stroke Center while the Rhode Island Hospital is designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. Primary Stroke Centers are equipped to stabilize and provide emergency care for patients with acute stroke, and Comprehensive Stroke Centers can provide more specialized care for patients with complex strokes. ❖

### Westerly Hospital receives Get With The Guidelines – Stroke silver quality achievement award

WESTERLY – Westerly Hospital has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

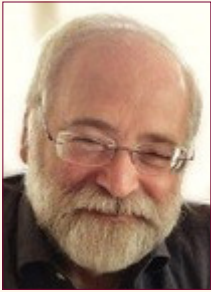
Westerly Hospital earned the first time award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

The award reflects the investments Westerly Hospital has made in attracting high caliber providers and enhancing capabilities at its certified stroke center. As part of Yale New Haven Health, Westerly augments its stroke care through a Telestroke program that provides 24/7 communication with stroke-trained neurologists, so patients can be treated quickly to preserve brain function in the critical early onset of stroke.

"For stroke patients, time is critical and this award recognizes Westerly Hospitals' commitment to ensuring that our patients receive the best care that adheres to nationally-respected clinical guidelines," said chief medical officer **OLIVER MAYORGA, MD**. "The tools and resources help us track and measure our success in meeting evidenced-based clinical guidelines developed to improve patient outcomes."

In 2019, Westerly Hospital became certified as an Acute Stroke Ready hospital by The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The certification allows smaller and rural hospitals to demonstrate their ability to comply with standards of care for the initial treatment of stroke patients when prompt action and proper medications can save lives and limit the long-term disabling effects of strokes. ❖

## Obituaries



**JOHN N. BERGERON, MD**, 66, of West-erly, passed away on July 30, 2020. He graduated magna cum laude with a Master's in Science from Brown University in 1977, later earning his medical degree from Brown University in 1983.

He was a committed community doctor, caring for the underserved at Wood River Health Services for 37 years. His colleagues described him as "an astute

physician and a tremendous diagnostician."

His fascination with understanding how all things worked drove his skills in construction and carpentry, renovating the family home and engineering creative solutions that rivaled those of experts. He raised his sons with his shared interests in technology, computers, and engineering.

Throughout his life he remained a gentle spirit – modest, selfless, and dedicated to the service of others.

He was the loving husband of Joanne (Catanzaro) Bergeron with whom he shared 38 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son Stephen (Gretchen Taubl) and their children Charlotte, Theodore, Griffin, Max; his son Thomas (Katherine Casey) and their children Ryan, Henry; his siblings Celine Bergeron (Jim Morris), Roberta Landry (Dave), David (Lydia), Claude (Geraldyn), Denise Tiemissen (Tim), Paul (Theresa), Anne Martin (Greg), Norman (Susan), Daniel (Cheleasa), Philip Joel; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A donation in his memory may be made to Wood River Health Services, 823 Main St., Hope Valley, RI 02832. ❖



**DR. VINCENT F. P. MARCACCIO III**, 67, of Cranston, passed away peacefully on August 17, 2020. He was the beloved husband of Anne Marcaccio (Schavone).

Born in Providence, he was a graduate of Hope High School and the University of Rhode Island. He earned his medical degree from the University of Rome, Italy, and completed his residency at Roger Williams Hospital.

He worked as a general practitioner for many years and then returned to Roger Williams specializing in behavioral medicine. He was a parishioner of the former St. John's Church in Providence and, subsequently, of Holy Name Church in Providence.

Dr. Marcaccio is survived by his two loving sons, Andrew S. Marcaccio (Amanda), and Vincent F. Marcaccio. He was blessed with two beautiful granddaughters, Hallie and Hannah. He was the dear brother of Michael and Mary-Ann Marcaccio.

Donations in his memory may be made to: Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, 99 Camp St., Providence, RI 02906, or the charity of your choice. ❖



**ROCCO MARZILLI, MD**, 91, of East Providence and Jamestown, passed away peacefully on August 18, 2020.

He graduated from Providence College and served in the United States Army for two years during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the Seventh Army stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, and received two letters of commendation for acts considered above and beyond the call of duty.

He was the husband of the late Kathryn (Vucci) Marzilli. Soon after their marriage, he enrolled at the University of Bologna School of Medicine in Bologna, Italy, where he and Kathryn would spend the first several years of their marriage. Upon returning, they settled down in East Providence where they would remain for over fifty years.

Dr. Marzilli completed his residency at the V.A. hospital in Providence and remained on staff until 1968 when he decided to enter private practice specializing in gastroenterology. He was on staff at St. Joseph's Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital, the latter for 37 years until 2008. He was the first Medical Director for Waterview Villa Rehabilitation and Health Care Center and continued in that role until 2010. He was also on the clinical staff at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

He was a member of many medical associations including the RI Division of the American Cancer Society. He also served as Medical Advisor for the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Foundation of Ileitis and Colitis (NFIC) while also serving on the board of directors of the Colitis and Ileitis Association. Dr. Marzilli was also the President of the Rhode Island Gastroenterological Society.

Apart from his work, he was an adoring husband to Kathryn for fifty-seven years. They spent many of those years traveling around Europe, including several trips to Italy. Still, nothing was quite as peaceful and enjoyable as the view from their home in Jamestown.

He is survived by his sister, Rita Perrino of Warwick, his children, Stephen Marzilli of Lansing, MI; Lori Kahler and her husband Jeffrey of Marion, MA, as well as his grandchild, Raymond Leonardo and his wife Olivia of Rockland, MA. Memorial service will be held at a later date. Please visit [rebellofuneral-home.com](http://rebellofuneral-home.com) for online condolences. In his memory, please consider making a donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation by visiting [wish.org](http://wish.org). ❖

