

Appointments



Beth Ryder, MD, named director of Center for Bariatric Surgery

BETH RYDER, MD, has been appointed director of the Center for Bariatric Surgery, a program of The Miriam Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital.

Dr. Ryder is an active researcher of advanced surgical techniques and the metabolic and physiological effects of weight loss surgery and has made significant contributions to the scientific literature as co-author of many peer-reviewed publications. In addition to bariatric surgery, she specializes in emerging technologies for minimally invasive surgery, and surgical education.

Dr. Ryder is Associate Professor of Surgery (clinician educator) and an Associate Professor of Medical Science (clinician educator) at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She received her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed her residency in general surgery and a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at Brown and Rhode Island Hospital.

She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and belongs to the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, the Association for Surgical Education, the New England Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, the New England Surgical Society, the Rhode Island Medical Women's Association and the Providence Surgical Society. ❖



David Vegari, MD, joins Ortho, RI; South County Health medical staff

WESTERLY – **DAVID VEGARI, MD**, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, has joined Ortho Rhode Island and was recently approved to practice at South County Hospital.

He specializes in reconstruction of the hip and knee in adults, including total hip and knee replacement, partial knee replacement, and revision hip and knee replacement.

After earning his medical degree from the Drexel University College of Medicine, Dr. Vegari completed his orthopedic residency at Thomas Jefferson University, and his fellowship training at OrthoCarolina. ❖



Dean Jack A. Elias, MD, to transition to senior health advisor at Brown

PROVIDENCE [BROWN UNIVERSITY] – **DR. JACK A. ELIAS**, Dean of the Warren Alpert Medical School, has been named to a new senior position at Brown in which he will work with University leadership to advance the development of the

University's new relationship with two local health systems to create the first integrated academic health system for Rhode Island, once the merger of the two systems is approved.

After helping to transform medical education and biomedical research in his eight years at Brown, in the coming months Dr. Elias will transition to the role of senior advisor for health affairs, reporting jointly to the University president and provost. In this role, he will continue to play a key part in working with Lifespan and Care New England to implement future plans announced in February (<https://www.brown.edu/news/2021-02-23/academic-health>) to align health system operations and Brown's leading-edge research and renowned medical expertise.

A national search for his successor will be launched this month. Until his successor is in place, Elias will continue in his current roles as dean. ❖



Brittany Star Hampton, MD, invited to be ABOG examiner

BRITTANY STAR HAMPTON, MD, has been invited to be an examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) Subspecialty Certifying Exam. She joins her colleagues,

Dr. Vivian Sung, who is already an ABOG FPMRS subspecialty examiner and Dr. Charles Rardin who was selected as an ABOG OBGYN specialty examiner.

In this position, annually, Dr. Hampton will be evaluating, via oral exam, candidates for board certification in their specialty of FPMRS. There are a limited number of certifying examiners nationally. Overall, the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Women & Infants Hospital has a total of 13 ABOG examiners, for general Ob/Gyn as well as different subspecialties.

Listed below are the ABOG examiners from the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery:

Dr. Brittany Star Hampton: FPMRS examiner

Dr. Vivian Sung: FPMRS examiner

Dr. Charles Rardin: OBGYN (specialty) examiner

Dr. Deborah Myers: former OBGYN specialty and FPMRS examiner ❖

Recognition

Frank Sellke, MD, to receive Distinguished Research Achievement Award

PROVIDENCE – Brown University will award Research Achievement Awards to six faculty members as part of its annual program honoring extraordinary scholars for their research across a wide range of academic disciplines.

FRANK SELLKE, MD, (cardiothoracic surgery)

will receive a Distinguished Research Achievement Award. Sellke specializes in the study of microvascular cardiac injury,



as well as restoring blood flow to the heart. His translational research focuses on optimizing outcomes after cardiac surgery and the microcirculation of the heart, lung, brain and other organs. Sellke's research has been funded continuously by the National Institutes of Health for more than 28 years, and he has mentored and trained more than 80 pre- and postdoctoral students. He has won many awards, served

on the editorial boards of nine journals, edited three textbooks, and has more than 540 peer-reviewed publications. He is professor of cardiothoracic surgery at the Warren Alpert Medical School and chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Rhode Island Hospital and the Miriam Hospital.

Nominations for the awards were sought in multiple categories and reviewed by panels of Brown faculty. In addition to the awards, the winners will each receive a \$5,000 research stipend. They will be honored at a virtual Celebration of Research program on Tuesday, May 18. ❖