

Appointments



Abbas El-Sayed Abbas, MD, to lead Brown Surgical Associates' Thoracic Surgery Division; named Chief of Thoracic Surgery at Lifespan

PROVIDENCE – Brown Surgical Associates recently announced **ABBAS EL-SAYED ABBAS, MD**, has joined the practice as Chief of Thoracic Surgery. He will also serve as Chief of Thoracic

Surgery at all Lifespan hospitals in addition to Chief of Thoracic Oncology at the Lifespan Cancer Institute and at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Abbas specializes in robotic thoracic surgery for lung, mediastinal and esophageal diseases, including robotic lobectomy and totally endoscopic robotic esophagectomy. His expertise also extends to advanced thoracic endoscopy and minimally invasive management of foregut disease such as esophageal motility disorders and complex antireflux procedures.

He comes to Rhode Island from Temple University Health System in Philadelphia where he held the title of System Thoracic Surgeon-in-Chief and System Director of the Foregut Disease Thoracic Oncology Programs where he served as Chief of Thoracic Surgery at Fox Chase Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Abbas' other areas of specialization include endoscopic procedures for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), esophageal and bronchial stents, robotic surgery for myasthenia gravis and thymic tumors, airway surgery, laser endoscopy, and cryoendoscopy. His past and current research interests include gene therapy for esophageal and lung cancer, outcome-based research in robotic surgery, esophageal cancer and lung cancer, the role of tumor-initiating cells in the microenvironment of esophageal cancer and transplant immunology.

Dr. Abbas earned his medical degree with honors at the Ain-Shams University School of Medicine in Cairo, Egypt, where he also earned a Master of Science with honors. He went on to complete general surgery internship and residency at the University of Pennsylvania after which he completed a three-year fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Abbas also completed postdoctoral research fellowships in mechanical cardiac support at Penn State University in the laboratory of Professor William Pierce and gene therapy for thoracic malignancies at the University of Pennsylvania in the laboratory of Professor Larry Kaiser. ❖

Patricia Ryan Recupero, MD, JD, named to NIH Mental Health Council

PROVIDENCE – **PATRICIA RYAN RECUPERO, MD, JD**, Senior Vice President of Education and Training, Care New England, Butler Hospital, has been appointed to serve on the National Advisory Mental Health Council of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Recupero's term will begin immediately and end on September 30, 2024. The National Advisory Mental Health Council is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees. The Council will advise, assist, consult with, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) and the Director, National Institute of Mental Health (NTMH, also referred to as Institute) on matters related to the activities carried out by and through the Institute and the policies respecting these activities. ❖



Tammi-Marie Phillip, MD, has been appointed Chief of Adolescent and Young Adult Services at Butler

PROVIDENCE – **TAMMI-MARIE PHILLIP, MD**, has been appointed Chief of Adolescent and Young Adult Services at Butler Hospital. In this role, Dr. Phillip will oversee the clinical programs in the Inpatient, Partial, and Intensive Outpatient Programs. She will continue her work as Unit Chief of the Adolescent Unit.

Dr. Phillip completed her undergraduate studies at the Johns Hopkins University, received her medical degree from Yale University, followed by a fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Yale. ❖



Urologic surgeon, Melinda Knight, MD, joins South County Medical Group

WAKEFIELD – **MELINDA KNIGHT, MD**, has joined South County Medical Group.

Dr. Knight specializes in the surgical treatment of urologic cancers using minimally invasive techniques, including the da Vinci XI surgical robotic system.

She received her medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, and completed a urological surgery residency at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Rochester, MN. She completed her general surgery residency and general surgery internship at the Medical College of Georgia.

During her career, Dr. Knight has been instrumental in starting multiple robotic surgery programs in Wisconsin, and most recently was Director of Robotic Surgery at Southwell Medical in Tifton, Georgia. ❖



Appointments



Stephanie Graff, MD, named Lifespan's Director of Breast Oncology

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan has appointed **STEPHANIE GRAFF, MD, FACP**, to serve as Director of Breast Oncology at the Lifespan Cancer Institute.

Dr. Graff is board-certified in medical oncology, hematology, and internal medicine. She obtained a medical degree at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine where she also completed a residency in internal medicine and later served as chief medicine resident with its partner, St. Luke's Hospital. She completed a fellowship in hematology/medical oncology and sub-fellowship in breast oncology at the University of Kansas.

Dr. Graff is the medical director of the Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. She is also active in the American Society of Clinical Oncology and a graduate of its 2019–20 leadership development program.

Dr. Graff comes to Lifespan from the Sarah Cannon Cancer Center of HCA Healthcare, where she was director of the breast program for HCA Midwest in Kansas City and both the National Breast Lead and Associate Director of Breast Cancer Research for the entire Sarah Cannon network. ❖

Lifespan appoints David Kirshner Exec. VP, CFO

PROVIDENCE – **DAVID KIRSHNER** has been appointed executive vice president and chief financial officer for Lifespan, where he will oversee the budget for the health system and serve as senior finance executive for all Lifespan hospitals and affiliates.

Kirshner will develop operational, budgetary, and balance sheet goals that ensure Lifespan's long- and short-term financial and operational stability. He will provide counsel to the CEO and board of directors on matters of financial management.

"I began my career trajectory working for and inside hospitals, and I was compelled to return when the COVID-19 pandemic made salient the need for a strong health care delivery infrastructure at the local level," said Kirshner.

Kirshner has more than 30 years of experience in public accounting, hospital financial management, and chief financial officer positions in academic medicine. Over his career, he has led the financial turnarounds of several hospitals in Massachusetts, most notably for Boston Children's Hospital, where in his 15 years as senior vice president, treasurer and CFO, he engineered an improvement plan that transformed a \$50 million operating loss in FY '97 to an operating surplus of \$62 million in FY '05.

Kirshner joins Lifespan from Ernst & Young in Boston, where he was senior executive advisor for healthcare.

He holds a bachelor of arts from University of Pittsburgh, and a master of business administration in health care administration and management from Boston University. He is a certified public accountant.

Kirshner replaces Mamie Wakefield, who is retiring after nearly 24 years at Lifespan. ❖

Recognition

JH Communications wins three national awards for Brown Physicians campaign

PROVIDENCE – JH Communications has received three Aster Awards for excellence in healthcare marketing for a series of video campaigns it produced for Brown Physicians, Inc.

JH Communications is a Gold Winner for recruitment videos for the Brown Emergency Medicine Residency and Fellowship program; a Gold Winner for videos for Brown Emergency Medicine's telecare program; and a Silver Winner for a patient education video for the Brown Medicine's Endoscopy Center.

"We are excited and proud of our video production and marketing team, who worked tirelessly to develop a series of videos to meet the marketing and communication needs of the Brown Physicians during the COVID-19 crisis. These awards are a testament to their hard work and expertise and the power of video as an effective marketing tool," said **JOHN HOULE**, President, CEO, and founder of JH Communications. "We look forward to similar partnerships in the future."

The Aster Awards is one of the largest and most respected national and international competitions of its kind. This elite program has recognized outstanding healthcare professionals for excellence in their advertising and marketing efforts for over 20 years.

JH Communications' award-winning videos can be viewed by clicking the below links:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8663671>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7346800>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8663719>

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Erica Reiter, right, from North Smithfield, RI, receives the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Cmdr. Joseph Burgon, from Cottonwood, CA., aboard Independence-variant littoral combat ship *USS Charleston* (LCS 18), July 19. Charleston, part of Destroyer Squadron Seven, is on a rotational deployment, operating in the U.S. 7th fleet area



of operations in the Philippine Sea to enhance interoperability with partners and serve as a ready-response force in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

[U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS ADAM BUTLER]

Miriam named top hospital in RI in 2021–22 *U.S. News & World Report*

The hospital receives "high performing" honors for 12 specialties and conditions

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital has been named by *U.S. News & World Report* as the top hospital in Rhode Island and in the greater metropolitan area and was designated as "high performing" in a dozen specialties and conditions.

"Our number one priority through the pandemic has been to maintain excellent care for our patients and their families," said **MARIA DUCHARME, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**, president of The Miriam Hospital. "It's a testament to the work of The Miriam Hospital's amazing team that, under such incredibly challenging circumstances, not only do we continue to be ranked No. 1 in the state and the metro region, we also were classified as 'high performing' in a remarkable number of specialties – 12, the most in the recent memory."

U.S. News ranked The Miriam Hospital a Best Regional hospital – No. 1 among all Rhode Island hospitals as well as the top hospital in the Providence metro area (which includes Providence, Pawtucket, Fall River and New Bedford). The Miriam Hospital received "high-performing" honors for the following 12 specialties and conditions:

- Knee replacement
- Hip replacement
- Stroke
- Kidney failure
- Heart failure
- Heart attack
- Diabetes
- Colon cancer surgery
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Urology
- Orthopedics
- Neurology and neurosurgery

For the 2021–22 ratings, *U.S. News* evaluated more than 4,750 medical centers nationwide in 17 procedures and conditions. Fewer than a third of all hospitals received any high-performing rating.

The annual Procedures & Conditions ratings are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care for common conditions and elective procedures. These ratings extend the beyond the Best Hospitals rankings, which are geared toward complex specialty care. "High Performing" recognizes care that was significantly better than the national average, as measured by factors such as patient outcomes. ❖