

Appointments

URI's Peter Snyder, PhD, appointed deputy executive editor of Alzheimer's journal

KINGSTON [URI] – A University of Rhode Island scientist has been named deputy executive editor of *Alzheimer's & Dementia*®: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association. **PETER SNYDER, PhD**, URI vice president for research and economic development and professor of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, assumed the role this month. Snyder has served as senior associate editor for the journal since its inception.

Alzheimer's & Dementia is the leading peer-reviewed, monthly journal in Alzheimer's and dementia research. Launched in 2005, the publication has contributed significantly to the field of Alzheimer's research and is now considered one of the top-ranked journals in the world in the broad field of clinical neuroscience. **ZAVEN KHACHATURIAN, PhD**, widely considered the "father of modern-day Alzheimer's research," serves as its editor-in-chief.

In addition to his role with *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, Snyder helped to launch *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring*, an open access journal of the Alzheimer's Association in 2015, serving as its founding editor-in-chief before stepping down in December. Snyder will remain on as an editor.

"Dr. Snyder is an internationally renowned and widely-respected expert in the field of Alzheimer's disease. He both launched and led the open access journal of the Alzheimer's Association for the past eight years and has been active on the senior editorial team of *Alzheimer's & Dementia* since its inception," said Khachaturian. "With his new role I look forward to working with him to identify the important areas of new emphasis for the field and for the journal. Our journal is the most highly cited publication in our field, and with his promotion on the editorial board Dr. Snyder will continue to creatively impact the growth of our field."

As deputy executive editor of *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, Snyder will work closely with both Editor-in-Chief Khachaturian, as well as the journal's executive editor, **ARA S. KHACHATURIAN, PhD**, to help craft the strategic vision of the journal.



"This is a very exciting time to be asked to fulfill this role. As a field, we have come a long way very fast. We know much more now than we did just five or six years ago," said Snyder. "I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with this group of extremely talented, well-respected leaders to push the field further by identifying and exploring areas of debate and current gaps in the field as well as bringing a more international perspective to the journal in the interest of advancing the science. This has been a labor of love for me."

A highly productive and accomplished researcher in his own right, Snyder publishes regularly within this field in addition to managing a robust research program at the University of Rhode Island. He has delivered more than 200 presentations at international scientific conferences.

Currently, Snyder is a principal investigator, along with **STUART SINOFF, MD**, medical director of Neurosciences for BayCare Health System in Florida, on the Atlas of Retinal Imaging in Alzheimer's Study, a clinical trial of retinal screening processes. The five-year study, taking place in collaboration with BayCare Health System in Florida and The Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital in Rhode Island, could help clinicians detect Alzheimer's disease decades before patients begin to reveal clinical symptoms.

Snyder earned his doctorate in clinical neuropsychology and behavioral neuroscience from Michigan State University in 1992, following a residency at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. He was awarded the 1992 Wilder Penfield Fellowship by the American Epilepsy Society and the Epilepsy Foundation of America, and served as a Clinical Neurosciences Fellow in the National Institutes of Mental Health Clinical Research Center for the Study of Schizophrenia at Hillside Hospital (Albert Einstein College of Medicine) in 1992 and 1993.

Snyder also serves as an adjunct professor of neurology and ophthalmology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and as a Scholar-in-Residence at the Rhode Island School of Design. ❖

Appointments



Julie Principe, RN, MS, promoted to Vice President of Lifespan Cancer Institute

PROVIDENCE – **JULIE PRINCIPE, RN, MS**, an experienced nurse and administrator within the Lifespan health system and a national leader in radiation oncology administration, has been appointed Vice President of the Lifespan Cancer

Institute (LCI), which took effect January 1.

Principe, president-elect of the Society of Radiation Oncology Administrators for 2022-23, has been with Lifespan for 20 years, consistently taking on greater leadership responsibilities. She was the nurse manager who helped lead the opening of the 3 North Surgical/Orthopedic unit in the Baxt Building in 2007 and managed such ambulatory services as HIV, tuberculosis, and men's health. She was promoted nurse manager of inpatient psychiatry at Rhode Island Hospital in 2014.

In 2016, Principe was recruited to Lifespan Cancer Institute to oversee the Rhode Island Hospital cancer center eventually overseeing clinics, infusion centers and radiation therapy there as well as in East Greenwich. She also oversaw planning for the institute's new cancer center in Lincoln. She is involved in plans to pursue NCI designation for the newly named Legorreta Cancer Center of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Principe is as a member of the Vizient Cancer Center Network and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in healthcare administration from Salve Regina University.

"Julie has been a key member of the leadership team for LCI (Lifespan Cancer Institute) and responsible for driving many initiatives. She is team player who works collaboratively with physicians and all the departments that support cancer care," said Director David Wazer, MD.

Howard Safran, MD, LCI's chief of hematology/oncology, said, "Julie has been a great partner for our physicians as we have worked to strengthen and grow our cancer program to be a leading provider in the region." ❖



CODAC appoints Susan Figueiredo as COO

CRANSTON – CODAC Behavioral Healthcare appointed **SUSAN FIGUEIREDO, LMHC, LADC**, as chief operating officer in November 2021. In her new role, Figueiredo will oversee clinical operations, logistics, strategic planning, census reporting, national sourcing and infrastructure to lead the company's efforts at improve efficiency,

efficacy and the achievement of short-term and long-term goals.

Prior to CODAC, Figueiredo has served in operations for various levels of care, including inpatient, outpatient, medication assisted treatment, community-based services, and Opioid Treatment Programs. In these roles, Figueiredo was responsible for financial and operational oversight, growth and development of mid-level managers, policy review and development, grant writing, and project management.

Figueiredo was born and raised in Fall River, MA. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire in Plymouth, with a bachelor's in psychology. She then completed a master's in clinical psychology at UMass Dartmouth. Figueiredo went on to attain her LMHC license and has received awards for implementing notable pilot programs focused on substance abuse treatment, as well as facilitating trainings aimed at increasing quality assurance and staff retention. ❖



Katherine Baysinger, MD, joins Brown Surgical Associates' Colorectal Surgery Division

PROVIDENCE – Brown Surgical Associates expanded the practice's Division of Colorectal Surgery with the addition of **KATHERINE A. BAYSINGER, MD, FACS**.

Specializing in colorectal surgery, Dr. Baysinger has clinical interests in robotic surgery for the treatment of rectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease; pelvic floor disorders in women; quality improvement; and a commitment to resident education.

Dr. Baysinger comes to Rhode Island from Augusta, Georgia, where she was recently a member of Colon and Rectal Surgery Associates. She earned her medical degree at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences and went on to do her internship and residency in general surgery at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, Georgia. This was followed by a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the University of Texas at Houston. ❖

Appointments



Thomas Miner, MD, FACS, to represent RI on American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer

PROVIDENCE – **THOMAS J. MINER, MD**, was appointed as Rhode Island's state chair of the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer (CoC) Cancer Liaison Program. State chairs are volunteer physicians who

serve as CoC representatives and provide leadership and support to the CoC-accredited programs and Cancer Liaison Physicians in their state.

Dr. Miner, who is chief of Surgical Oncology at Brown Surgical Associates and professor of surgery at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, is among a network of 64 state chairs who guide the activities of more than 1,500 volunteer Cancer Liaison Physicians (CLPs) appointed in cancer programs across the country. CLPs are responsible for evaluating, interpreting, and reporting their facilities' performance data through the National Cancer Database (NCDB) and facilitating quality improvement initiatives based on data findings. In addition, the CLP is responsible for leading CoC initiatives within their cancer programs and collaborating with agencies such as the American Cancer Society on behalf of the hospital.

The CoC collects data from its accredited cancer programs and provides tools for these programs to facilitate analysis of patterns of diagnosis, treatment, and quality of care for patients treated at the hospital. The NCDB, a joint program of the CoC and the American Cancer Society, is a nationwide oncology outcomes database for Commission-accredited cancer programs in the United States and Puerto Rico. Some 70 percent of all newly diagnosed cases of cancer in the United States are captured at the institutional level and reported to the NCDB.

During his three-year term, Dr. Miner will also work with the American Cancer Society, state cancer coalitions, and departments of health to support data-driven comprehensive cancer control planning throughout Rhode Island. This collaborative effort is an integrated and coordinated approach to reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality.

As state chair, Dr. Miner is the main contact between the CoC and the local chapter of the American College of Surgeons. ❖



PHOTO: BARBARA RIES, UCSF

Tejal Desai, PhD, biomedical engineer, named Brown School of Engineering dean

Tejal Desai, a professor and researcher who has led academic programs at the University of California San Francisco, Boston University and elsewhere, will work to expand collaborative engineering research and teaching.

PROVIDENCE [BROWN UNIVERSITY] – **TEJAL DESAI**, an accomplished biomedical engineer and academic leader who earned a bachelor's degree with Brown's Class of 1994, has been appointed the next dean of Brown University's School of Engineering.

An expert in applying micro- and nanoscale technologies to create new ways to deliver medicine to targeted sites in the human body, Desai is a professor and a former longtime chair of the Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences at the University of California San Francisco, and inaugural director of UCSF's Health Innovations Via Engineering (HIVE) initiative.

She has held academic leadership positions at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Boston University and UCSF and has served in recent years as a member of Brown's biomedical engineering advisory board.

Brown President Christina H. Paxson and Provost Richard M. Locke announced Desai's appointment in a January 12 letter to the School of Engineering community.

"In addition to her groundbreaking research, Professor Desai has been a transformative leader of programs that develop and support young researchers, foster cross-disciplinary approaches to critical engineering challenges and support diversity, equity and inclusion in the engineering field," Paxson and Locke wrote. "As a Brown graduate, she keenly understands the innovative and collaborative character of engineering at Brown, and we look forward to working with her in her new role as dean."

Desai will begin her tenure on September 1, 2022, succeeding Lawrence Larson, who has served as the inaugural School of Engineering dean since 2011. Last fall, Larson announced his plans to return to full-time teaching and research at the conclusion of the 2021–22 academic year.

After receiving her bachelor's degree at Brown in 1994, Desai earned her PhD jointly from UCSF and UC Berkeley in 1998. That same year, she became the first faculty hire in University of Illinois at Chicago's newly formed Department of Bioengineering. She joined the Boston University faculty in 2002 before moving to UCSF in 2005.

As dean of engineering, Desai will report directly to Locke and serve as a member of the Provost's Senior Academic Deans committee and of the President's Cabinet. Her appointment follows a comprehensive search process led by a committee that included faculty, staff and administrators as well as student representatives from Brown's undergraduate and graduate engineering programs. ❖

Appointments

Emily G. Blosser, MD, PhD, and Jennifer Enos, DO, join Newport Women's Health



E. Blosser, MD, PhD

NEWPORT – Lifespan Physician Group has enhanced its Newport Women's Health practice by expanding the physician staff with the addition of two new Lifespan Physician Group members, both obstetrician-gynecologists, **EMILY G. BLOSSER, MD, PhD**, and **JENNIFER ENOS, DO**.

Dr. Blosser earned her medical and PhD degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed her residency at Ochsner Clinic Foundation in New Orleans. She has most recently been a clinician educator at Brown University, working with medical student and resident trainees. Dr. Blosser has a strong interest in research, with work focusing on route selection for hysterectomy for benign conditions, earning multiple awards at Ochsner. She has served as the Junior Fellow District VII Louisiana

Section Vice Chair and Chair in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Dr. Enos earned her doctorate in osteopathic medicine from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency at McLaren Macomb Hospital in Mount Clements, Michigan. She provides complete gynecological, prenatal, and postpartum care to women, including high-risk obstetrics. She has also performed gynecological surgeries, such as laparoscopic and abdominal hysterectomies. Dr. Enos is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and American Osteopathic Association. ❖



J. Enos, DO

Section Vice Chair and Chair in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

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RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL JOURNAL

RIMJ Seeks Volunteer Physician Editor

The *Rhode Island Medical Journal* (RIMJ) is seeking a Rhode Island physician with an interest and expertise in editing and writing to assist with issue planning, theme development, peer review, and author correspondence.

This volunteer editorial position, with a flexible time commitment, is a unique opportunity for a physician familiar with the State's healthcare landscape to engage with colleagues, faculty, students and allied healthcare professionals.

RIMJ publishes 10 online issues a year (available at rimedj.org), with a hiatus in January and July. The publisher is the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), and editors are approved by the RIMS Board for a three-year tenure, with an option to renew for an additional term.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and CV to **Editor-in-Chief William Binder, MD**, at william_binder@brown.edu.

Recognition

Rhode Island Hospital, Miriam achieve Center of Excellence Designation for Antimicrobial Stewardship

The award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America recognizes exemplary efforts to stem antibiotic overuse and deter antimicrobial resistance

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital and Miriam Hospital have each been designated as an Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), an award that recognizes that the hospitals have created programs led by infectious diseases-trained physicians and pharmacists that advance antimicrobial resistance science.

The hospitals, by achieving standards aligned with evidence-based national guidelines, are among just 145 programs worldwide to have received the Center of Excellence designation since IDSA launched the program in 2017. Both Lifespan hospitals were honored recently.

“Antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest public health threats we face. Antibiotics are amazing and life-saving drugs but if used improperly, or when not needed, bacteria can develop ways to make our antibiotics ineffective. If we use our antibiotics judiciously, then we will be able to preserve these precious medications so they will be effective when needed,” said **CHESTON B. CUNHA, MD, FACP, FIDSA**, medical director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. “Receiving this designation is an amazing honor and recognizes the hard work and dedication of our team and the entire hospital system to help combat antibiotic resistance and provide the best care and outcomes for our patients.”

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital has been active since the fall of 2014. The program works in concert with pharmacy, microbiology, infection control, and other hospital departments to improve the judicious and optimal use of antimicrobials. The program reviews antimicrobial use at both hospitals and its recommendations are directly communicated to medical teams to provide direct feedback and improve patient outcomes.

Among the standards attained by the two hospitals are those included in the joint guidelines of IDSA and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America as well those established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The core criteria for the Center of Excellence program place emphasis on an institution’s ability to implement stewardship protocols by integrating best practices to slow the emergence of resistance, optimize the treatment of infections and reduce adverse events associated with antibiotic use. A panel of IDSA member experts evaluates applications against high-level criteria established by IDSA for determining merit.

The designation is further recognition of Lifespan’s commitment to responding to antimicrobial resistance. In 2018, Lifespan obtained a five-year \$9.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish its Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) for Antimicrobial Resistance and Therapeutic Discovery. The funding has allowed researchers at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital to delve into the causes of antibiotic resistance and identify potential new drugs. ❖

Miriam named Top Hospital by Leapfrog

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital has once again been honored as a national Top Hospital for outstanding patient safety and quality by the Leapfrog Group.

Over 2,200 hospitals were considered for the 2021 Leapfrog Top Hospital award. Of those, 149 received awards. The Miriam Hospital was among 72 selected in the teaching hospital category.

The Miriam Hospital has received a Top Hospital designation from Leapfrog numerous times in recent years.

“We are very proud to be included on this select list of the top hospitals in the nation, especially when the criteria relate directly to patient safety,” said President **MARIA DUCHARME, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**.

The Leapfrog Group is a national watchdog organization focused on health care safety and quality. The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, surgery, and hospital capacity to prevent medication and other errors.

The winners are being announced at virtual annual meeting on December 7. ❖

Recognition



Christine Foley, MD, receives AAGL award

The 50th Congress Annual Global Congress of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) meeting was held in Austin, Texas in November.

Women & Infants Hospital participants included: **RIMSHA AHMED, MD, CHRISTINE FOLEY,**

MD, and **GARY FRISHMAN, MD.** Gary Frishman, MD, presented and chaired the Editorial/Advisory meeting.

Christine Foley, MD, was the recipient of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) Golden Laparoscope Award. ❖



Linda Hunter, EdD, receives peer reviewer award

LINDA HUNTER, EDD, CNM, FACNM, Women & Infants Hospital, was recognized by the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* with the Outstanding Peer Reviewer Award. Recognized winners are those who provided the highest quality and quantity of reviews

over the past decade. Dr. Hunter holds the distinction of having done the most reviews in the last decade (68 in total). ❖



Jim Willsey, left, chairman of the Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island, presents healthcare professional award to **Dr. Abdul Saied Calvino.**

Abdul Saied Calvino, MD, honored at annual cancer summit

PROVIDENCE – **ABDUL SAIED CALVINO, MD, MPH, FACS,** a surgical oncologist at Roger Williams Medical Center (RWMC), was recently presented with the Dr. Joseph DiMase Healthcare Professional Award by the Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island. This distinguished honor was made at the Rhode Island Annual Cancer Summit and was presented by Jim Willsey, chairman of the Partnership and former chaplain at RWMC.

Dr. Calvino has led the work of the Cancer Screening and Detection Workgroup during the past 5 years with significant results. The award recognizes Dr. Calvino as “The unsung hero for cancer prevention and inclusion, dedication to his patients, imparting wisdom on his students.” He is also assistant professor of surgery and program director of the complex general surgical oncology fellowship program at Roger Williams, an affiliate of CharterCARE Health Partners. ❖