

Rhode Island Hospital awarded \$12M to establish first Injury Control Center of Biomedical Research Excellence

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital recently announced it has received a \$12.1 million federal grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to establish the first Injury Control Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE).

The Injury Control COBRE will investigate all phases of injury control from prevention of injury occurrence to defining optimal treatment of and rehabilitation from injuries.

“I am extremely proud that Rhode Island Hospital will host the first-of-its-kind Injury Control COBRE,” said **SAUL N. WEINGART, MD**, president, Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital. “Accidents and injuries correlate directly with other negative health effects like chronic pain, substance use disorder, and adverse mental health outcomes. So, it’s important this grant will support innovation in injury prevention and treatment that provides better outcomes for patients.”

“Nationally, injuries account for 27% of all emergency department visits and in 2020 resulted in 278,345 fatalities,” said Principal Investigator **MICHAEL J. MELLO, MD, MPH**, Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Rhode Island Hospital. “This award will allow us to build research infrastructure that is critically needed to understand and prevent injuries.”

The Injury Control COBRE will support studies by early career investigators and will house the Injury Control Digital Innovation Core led by **MEGAN RANNEY, MD, MPH**, and the Injury Control Research to Practice and Policy Core led by **FRANCESCA BEAUDOIN, MD, PhD**.

“Together, these cores provide infrastructure to enhance the rigor and dissemination of injury science,” Dr. Beaudoin said. “We will educate the community of injury prevention experts in topics like cutting-edge methods for analyzing injury data and disseminating research findings for different target audiences, from policy makers to the public.”

“Technology has great potential to reduce injuries, but is underutilized in communities,” said Dr. Ranney. “Under this grant, we will establish a COBRE that will position researchers in Rhode Island to lead the way in innovative injury control research on topics such as childhood abuse, firearm violence, and motor vehicle crashes. Our innovative cores will also ensure that our research is used for good.”

The first research projects the COBRE will fund include: “Derivation of a clinical prediction rule for pediatric abusive fractures” and “A prospective study of posttraumatic stress symptom development and cannabis use among trauma exposed injured emerging adults following Emergency Department discharge”. One additional research project will also be named in the first year of the grant.

Members of Rhode Island’s Congressional delegation supported Rhode Island Hospital’s application for the NIH grant to establish the COBRE.

The five-year Phase 1 grant includes \$800,000 for a pilot to support 16 additional injury control investigators at the COBRE. ❖

Lifespan’s Norman Prince Spine Institute opens new Providence location

PROVIDENCE – The Norman Prince Spine Institute (NPSI) at Lifespan, an arm of the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute (NPNI), recently announced the opening of its new Providence location at 690 Eddy Street, adjacent to the Rhode Island Hospital campus. The newly renovated building, with three stories and nearly 17,000 square feet of space, replaces the Spine Institute’s existing smaller evaluation and treatment space within Rhode Island Hospital. Ample on-site parking promises to ease access for patients often experiencing mobility issues.

“Lifespan’s investment in this new facility for the Norman Prince Spine Institute is illustrative of our commitment to our patients and meets our need for patient care space as the demand for multidisciplinary spine care grows. Whether chronic back and neck pain, degenerative disc disease, spinal trauma, spinal deformity, spinal tumors, or congenital spinal disorders, these all inhibit patients’ wellbeing, and we are dedicated to their treatment,” said **ZIYA L. GOKASLAN, MD**, neurosurgeon-in-chief at Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals, and clinical director of Lifespan’s Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute.

NPSI provides the highest level of comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for spine patients, including non-surgical interventions (physical therapy, chiropractic care, acupuncture, and pain intervention procedures); minimally invasive and endoscopic spine procedures; and complex reconstructive surgeries. NPSI not only offers cutting-edge care for Rhode Island and the larger New England community but also serves as a national and international destination center for spine care, education, and research.

“Spine care means something unique to every patient, but every patient looks to us to improve their function, minimize their pain, and regain enjoyment of the things they have missed out on. With this new location, we can offer patients a broader spectrum of well-coordinated care than ever,” said **ADETOKUNBO A. OYELESE, MD, PhD**, director of the spinal surgery division and director of the Norman Prince Spine Institute at Rhode Island Hospital.

NPSI’s services will also continue to be offered at its Newport Hospital and The Miriam Hospital, and at offices in Bristol, Smithfield, and East Greenwich. ❖