

Transitions



James E. Fanale, MD, CNE's President/CEO, to retire in early 2023

PROVIDENCE – Care New England Health System has announced the intention of its President and CEO, **DR. JAMES E. FANALE**, to retire effective early 2023, staying on to guide a new CEO as well as provide strategic advice to the Board.

“Many years ago, it was my passion for caring for others which led me to practice as a geriatrician, which I still do to this very day, aside from serving as CNE’s president and CEO. It was one of the best decisions I ever made, because it gave me the opportunity to pursue my true passion of caring for others. I am proud to look back on my career, feeling that I’ve made a difference,” said Dr. Fanale. “Now, after having spent my career doing what I enjoy and feeling that I’ve effectively improved access to state-of-the-art healthcare for all individuals who come to CNE, it’s time to leave the office behind and be with my wonderful wife and children.”

He added, “When you’re a physician, and a healthcare system leader, you can see the result of your actions. There is a personal reward that can never be matched. I wish that for everyone, no matter what industry they are in.”

Charles Reppucci, Care New England’s Board Chair, added, “I thank Dr. Fanale for his many years of leadership and look forward, upon his retirement, to his continued support and guidance of a new CEO and the Board. He is a stalwart supporter of CNE and a respected community leader on healthcare quality and accessibility. His successes and accomplishments are extraordinary.

“As a practicing physician and CEO, his healthcare perspectives have been a benefit to Rhode Island, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. Upon his retirement, Jim will continue in a consultative role. Representatives from the Board, executive and clinical leadership, and Dr. Fanale, will comprise members of a Search Committee to identify a successor. Then, continuing to work alongside a new CEO will be an experienced executive transition team.” ❖



Arthur J. Sampson named Lifespan interim CEO, president

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan Corp. announced on May 20 that **ARTHUR J. SAMPSON** has been named interim CEO and president of Lifespan, effective June 1. The appointment follows the mid-April resignation of **DR. TIMOTHY J. BABINEAU**.

Sampson most recently served as the president and CEO of The Miriam Hospital, after previously serving as president and chief executive officer of Newport Hospital.

Sampson holds a master’s degree in health care administration from the George Washington University and served administrative residencies at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and Union-Truesdale Hospital (now Charlton Memorial Hospital) in Fall River, Massachusetts. Sampson is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

LAWRENCE A. AUBIN, SR., chairperson of Lifespan’s board of directors, sent a message to Lifespan’s more than 15,000 employees on May 20th, notifying them of the appointment. He said Sampson will lead the nonprofit hospital company while the Lifespan board of directors conducts a national search for a permanent successor to replace Babineau, who will serve the board in an advisory role through the end of September.

“Arthur is an agile and strong leader and works well with individuals at all levels of the organization,” Aubin said. “We are fortunate to have him rejoining Lifespan during this transition period, bringing his institutional knowledge, expertise and experience to continue the important work laid out in our Lifespan 2025 strategic plan.”

Aubin said the Lifespan board of directors will initiate a national search for a new president and chief executive officer “in the coming weeks,” with the most immediate steps in the process involving the selection of an executive search firm and a search committee to support the search. ❖

Recognition

HCV healthcare leaders will kick off July 30th WaterFire in honor of World Hepatitis Day

PROVIDENCE – After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RI's HCV medical, public health and advocacy leaders will reunite and re-commit to HCV elimination. On July 30th, in honor of July 28th's World Hepatitis Day, healthcare workers across disciplines, from across Rhode Island, will join in collaboration, celebration and support of what can be achieved together.

This year's theme is, "Test to Treat," to get all Rhode Islanders with HCV diagnosed and promptly treated and cured. RI Defeats Hep C is partnering with WaterFire for the event and will honor five lead torch bearers who continue to light the way in preventing illness, death and suffering due to HCV through the challenges of COVID-19.

They are: Jennifer Clarke MD, MPH; Alan Epstein, MD; Osvaldo Lugo; Megan M. Pinkston-Camp, MA, PhD; and Sophie Sprecht-Walsh, LPN.

Kickoff is at Waterplace Park at 8:05 pm.

2022 Lead torch bearers



JENNIFER CLARKE MD, MPH

An internal medicine physician, women's health expert and researcher, Dr. Clarke began working in the RI's women's prison in 1998 to provide primary medical care and conduct public health research. She received an NIH Career Development Award to improve reproductive health care for women released from jail; directed a project

to evaluate Title X services at the RI Department of Corrections (RIDOC) and the reproductive health needs of incarcerated women, and conducted a study to decrease unplanned pregnancies and HIV/STD risk among incarcerated women at community re-entry. As RIDOC medical director from 2015-2020, Dr. Clarke spearheaded provision of medications to treat opioid use disorder – a cornerstone of HCV prevention – and initiated an HCV-elimination program.



Torch bearers at the 2018 RI Defeats Hep C WaterFire Lighting. [YVONNE COYLE, WATERFIRE.]



ALAN EPSTEIN, MD

Dr. Epstein is director of gastroenterology at Roger Williams Medical Center and an assistant professor at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Epstein has been treating HCV since 1990, starting with three times weekly interferon injections, through myriad clinical trials, to today's direct acting antiviral agents. Dr. Epstein founded the

RI branch of the American Liver Foundation in 1994 and was named its New England Clinician of the year in 2015. He has tirelessly supported HCV access for all patients with the Rhode Island Hepatitis Action Coalition and other advocacy groups. This grandfather hopes to see HCV eliminated by 2030.



OSVALDO LUGO

Osvaldo Lugo is a prevention specialist for AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS), home of RI's syringe services program. He has been working on HCV prevention via harm reduction since before harm reduction was a term used widely in RI. Lugo is the key person for community-based HCV screening and runs ACOS' Street Outreach program.

He has contributed tremendously to HCV-related research and expansion of harm reduction services in RI. He worked at all previous HCV WaterFires conducting HCV screening.


MEGAN M. PINKSTON-CAMP, MA, PhD

Dr. Pinkston-Camp is an associate professor of psychiatry and human behavior and medicine, Alpert Medical School of Brown University, clinical health psychologist, Department of Psychiatry, Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals, and behavioral medicine track coordinator for Brown's Clinical Psychology Training Program. She has been engaged in work dedicated to persons living with HIV and HCV for nearly 30

years in different regions of the country. She provided evidence-based assessment and care for patients living with HCV/HIV coinfection during the interferon era. She facilitated the longest running support group for persons living with HCV in RI. Dr. Pinkston-Camp feels fortunate to have walked alongside many individuals on their HCV journey; they have inspired her academic writings and grants that attend to the intersection of HCV, HIV, substance use, alcohol use and mental health.


SOPHIE SPRECHT-WALSH, LPN

Sophie Sprecht-Walsh has been providing nursing care in Rhode Island since 2008. She has dedicated her career to working with persons living with and at risk for viral hepatitis and HIV and caring for persons with substance use disorders. She provides comprehensive HCV education, counseling, screening, diagnostic testing, patient navigation,

and HCV care to drug-involved populations and patients on opioid agonist therapy. She facilitates streamlined HCV treatment to expand access and optimize cure. For years she has contributed to research to eliminate HCV and ameliorate the opioid crisis. Ms. Sprecht-Walsh served on the medical boards of Clinica Esperanza and Project Weber Renew and is currently co-chair of the GAIA Vaccine Foundation. ❖

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Recognition



American Liver Foundation honors Thomas Sepe, MD, at May gala

BOSTON – **THOMAS SEPE, MD**, was among the honorees recognized by The American Liver Foundation (ALF) at the ALF New England Legacy Gala held at the Exchange Conference Center on May 5th. The award recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the liver community, fields of biotechnology, medical innovation, and philanthropy.

Dr. Sepe is director of The Liver Center at University Gastroenterology (UGI) in Providence and a clinical professor of medicine at Brown University. He is also a long-serving ALF New England Medical Advisor.

He oversees UGI's clinical trials unit in liver disease, which has conducted more than 70 research trials in hepatitis C infection. The unit is now focused on disease-specific drug therapy for NASH (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis) and cirrhosis.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to honor those making significant contributions to the liver community," said Lorraine Stiehl, ALF's chief executive officer. "With nearly 100 million Americans affected by liver disease, their collective work is more important now than ever."

"The American Liver Foundation, University GI, and I all share the same vision – to find new treatments and cures for all forms of liver disease," Dr. Sepe said. "While we have a lot of work to do, I am deeply honored to have received this grand award for our accomplishments thus far." ❖

Rhode Island Hospital Trauma and Burn Centers achieve reverification

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital has achieved reverification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma and the American Burn Association (ABA). This achievement comes on the heels of the hospital's pediatric division receiving reverification of its trauma and burn centers, making Rhode Island Hospital home to the only comprehensive adult and pediatric Level 1 trauma and burn center in New England.

ABA verified burn centers meet evidence-based standards that establish a threshold for high quality burn care and have demonstrated proficiency in a wide range of burn treatments. ACS verified trauma centers have confirmed that they have the necessary resources for delivering optimal trauma care to injured patients and have demonstrated both readiness and performance in trauma care.

"The Burn Center at Rhode Island Hospital is the only verified and accredited burn center in the state with the most advanced technology to provide superior treatment for each patient," said **DAVID HARRINGTON, MD**, the center director. "Our care is comprehensive through all phases from injury through reconstruction and rehabilitation, to final recovery. We are honored to be able to serve those in our community who have suffered a burn injury."

Rhode Island Hospital's adult trauma center reverification extends through January 2024 and adult burn center verification extends through January 2025. ❖

Appointment

Ana Tuya Fulton, MD, MBA, named CNE Chief Population Health Officer

WARWICK – **ANA TUYA FULTON, MD, MBA**, has been named Care New England's Chief Population Health Officer. She will maintain her current titles of Chief Medical Officer of Integra, and Executive Chief of Geriatrics & Palliative Care at Care New England.



She will serve as the primary Care New England system leader for setting the overall strategy for value-based care within the CNE Health System. In her capacity as Chief Population Health Officer, Dr. Fulton will also work with key regulatory bodies to reduce the cost trends in health care across Rhode Island and work to improve quality, access, service, and equity. She will also oversee the creation of new programs to continue to advance innovation and population-based strategy and the expansion of Integra's nationally recognized nascent hospital-at-home program for its most frail members which was created before the CMS program came into effect.

Since 2008, Dr. Fulton has worked for Care New England in various roles, including as Chief of Medicine at Butler Hospital, Director of Geriatrics and Chief of Geriatrics for Care New England, and most recently as Medical Director for Integra Community Care Network. ❖