

Appointments

Utpala Bandy, MD, MPH, named Interim Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health

PROVIDENCE – In June, Governor Dan McKee announced the appointment of **UTPALA BANDY, MD, MPH**, as Interim Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH).

Dr. Bandy currently serves as the Director of RIDOH's Division of Preparedness, Response, Infectious Disease, and Emergency Medical Services. She has led RIDOH's infectious disease division since 2012. In that time, she has helped steer the State's response to the COVID-19 and H1N1 global pandemics, and she has led efforts to prevent or control outbreaks of diseases of significant concern, including tuberculosis, measles, rabies, and meningococcal disease. She has helped guide efforts to dramatically reduce rates of new HIV infections over the last 30 years in Rhode Island, and manages



the federal grants received by RIDOH to do routine infectious disease surveillance and response work.

Dr. Bandy completed a pediatric residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard University School of Public Health. She joined RIDOH in 1993 as Rhode Island's State Epidemiologist and the Medical Director for the division that oversaw RIDOH's infectious disease prevention and control work. She became the Director of RIDOH's Division of Infectious Disease

Epidemiology in 2012.

Dr. Bandy assumed the role of Interim Director on Sunday, June 26. Dr. James McDonald's last day of state service was July 29. ❖

Nancy L. Stanwood, Brown alumna, named CMO at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

NEW HAVEN – Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) announced that **NANCY L. STANWOOD, MD, MPH**, joined the organization as the inaugural full-time Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Stanwood is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist with over 20 years of experience in clinical practice, medical education, and reproductive health and rights advocacy—with a long-standing relationship with Planned Parenthood. In her new role, she will lead, oversee, and participate in PPSNE's clinical care services, ensuring high-quality, safe, and patient-centered health care across the 15 health centers in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Dr. Stanwood will lead the organization's strategic efforts to advance health equity, focusing on improving health outcomes and reducing disparities in PPSNE patient communities.

Since 1998, she has worked as an abortion provider at Planned Parenthood health centers. And for the past eleven years, she has served dual roles: at Yale School of Medicine as the Section Chief of Family Planning and director of the Complex Family Planning fellowship while also serving part-time as PPSNE's Associate Medical Director.

In reflecting on this new chapter in her career, Dr. Stanwood says, "I first walked into a Planned Parenthood health center as a patient seeking contraception when I was in medical



school. This care allowed me to focus on becoming a physician so that when I next walked into a Planned Parenthood health center, it was as an abortion care provider." She continues, "In this critical time, with the erosion of almost 50 years of legal protection for reproductive rights and with growing health disparities due to systemic racism, I am committing myself fully to the mission and work of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. All people deserve access to the care they need to live their lives with dignity and to thrive.

I am thrilled to join the vibrant PPSNE team as we work to bring high-quality health care to the communities we serve."

A Connecticut native, Dr. Stanwood received her undergraduate degree from Brown University, a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency training at the University of Michigan and her fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Stanwood has been awarded notable distinctions for her work in sexual and reproductive health and medical education. She is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecologists and of the Society of Family Planning. ❖

Appointments

Arthur S. Robbins named chair emeritus, HopeHealth Board of Directors

PROVIDENCE – Over the years, Providence business leader **ARTHUR S. ROBBINS** has earned a shelf's worth of honors for his leadership, citizenship and philanthropy in the community.

He recently received another, this time from a health organization he helped shape: After 41 years as a board member, Robbins was appointed chair emeritus of the HopeHealth Board of Directors.

In the mid-1970s, when Robbins first got involved with the organization, HopeHealth was one of just two hospice providers in the United States. Today, it's a regional leader in hospice, palliative and home health care. Robbins looms large in that success story: As the organization helped blaze the trail for hospice in the U.S., Robbins was at the governance table. He was a passionate advocate for creating a center for inpatient hospice care, at a time when very few health systems understood or appreciated the need for such a facility.

"Arthur was steadfast," says HopeHealth Chief Medical Officer **EDWARD MARTIN, MD, MPH**. "He was this very strong voice on the board: 'We have to do this for our patients.'"

Robbins subsequently led the fundraising campaigns that built HopeHealth's first inpatient unit, the Hular Hospice Center, which opened in 1993, followed by the current Hular Hospice Center on North Main Street in Providence which opened in 2010 – the only freestanding inpatient hospice facility in Rhode Island. There, patients who need the most acute levels of hospice can receive the care they need.

"Arthur Robbins has been an absolute champion for end-of-life care in this community," says HopeHealth President & CEO **DIANA FRANCHITTO**. "Through our inpatient hospice center alone, he has helped bring compassion and dignity to thousands of patients in their final days, and to their loved ones. That legacy will only grow."

The Board of Directors, led by Chair Keith Kelly, named Robbins chair emeritus at a special ceremony June 29, 2022.

"Without Arthur Robbins, we would not be here today," Kelly said. "Arthur was and continues to be a driving force at HopeHealth, and we owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude."

Robbins, who is 89 years old, is the principal of Robbins Properties in Providence. He is renowned for his philanthropy and leadership in the community; among many notable contributions, he helped launch the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the first charter school in Rhode Island. He has served on more than 20 civic and nonprofit boards, including HopeHealth's.

"It takes dedicated people to move any organization to greater heights," Robbins said, reflecting on his move to chairman emeritus of the HopeHealth Board of Directors. "Having been a [HopeHealth] board member for all of these years and having seen what has happened in our organization after all these years, is truly amazing." ❖



Woo Jin Lee, MD, joins pain medicine team at University Orthopedics

EAST PROVIDENCE – University Orthopedics will now offer pain management services in the southwestern part of Rhode Island with the addition of **DR. WOO JIN LEE**, board-certified in anesthesiology and fellowship-trained in pain medicine.

Dr. Lee treats all types of pain, specializing primarily in spinal conditions like degenerative disc disease/spondylosis, spinal canal stenosis, radiculopathy, facet joint arthropathy, sacroiliac joint arthropathy, vertebral compression fractures, and complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS). He also treats major peripheral joint pain, including hip, shoulder, and knee arthropathy. He offers a variety of interventional treatment options, including epidural steroid injection, radiofrequency nerve ablation, joint steroid injection, peripheral nerve blocks, sympathetic plexus blocks, spinal cord stimulation, and vertebral augmentation.

Dr. Lee completed a fellowship in pain medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Prior to that, he completed his anesthesiology residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. He earned his medical degree at George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, DC. In addition to seeing patients at University Orthopedics' Westerly location, Dr. Lee will also perform procedures and surgeries in various locations including Westerly Hospital, UOI's East Bay Surgery Center in East Providence, and the practice's East Greenwich office. ❖



Griffin Kane Reynolds, MD, joins the Roger Williams Hematology Oncology group

PROVIDENCE – **DR. GRIFFIN KANE REYNOLDS** has joined the Roger Williams Hematology Oncology group and the skilled team of medical, surgical and radiation oncologists at the Roger Williams Cancer Center.

Dr. Reynolds is a graduate of Bucknell University and St. George's University School of Medicine. He is triple board-certified in internal medicine, hematology, and oncology, respectively. He joins Roger Williams Cancer Center from Lincoln Medical Center in New York City and was previously affiliated with Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, New York. Dr. Reynolds has conducted cancer research at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute in Boston and the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia.

He joins the members of the Hematology Oncology group at RWMC of Drs. Ritesh Rathore, Todd Roberts, Bharti Rathore and Gerald Colvin. ❖

Recognition

Newsweek names Women & Infants one of America's best maternity hospitals

PROVIDENCE – Newsweek and data firm Statista have recently announced their ranking of America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2022, and has awarded Women & Infants Hospital with a Four Ribbon Performance.

The list names the top 350 leading hospitals for maternity care in the U.S., divided into two performance categories: five ribbon hospitals (161 institutions) and four ribbon hospitals (189 institutions). The evaluation is based on three data sources: a nationwide online survey in which hospital managers and maternity healthcare professionals (e.g., neonatal care providers and OB/GYNs) were asked to recommend leading maternity hospitals; medical key performance indicator data relevant to maternity care (e.g., a hospital's rate of cesarean births); and patient satisfaction data (e.g., how patients rated a hospital's medical staff for responsiveness and communication).

Women & Infants Hospital, a designated Baby-Friendly® USA hospital, is the ninth largest stand-alone obstetrical service in the country and the largest in New England, delivering approximately 8,500 babies annually. ❖



Matthew David Howe, MD, PhD, receives 2022 NIMH Outstanding Resident Award

PROVIDENCE – **MATTHEW DAVID HOWE, MD, PhD**, Psychiatry Resident (PGY-3), Research Track, at Butler Hospital has been selected to receive the 2022 National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Outstanding Resident Award. He is currently working in the Memory and Aging Pro-

gram at Butler Hospital on blood biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease detection.

As an ORAP awardee, he will be invited to participate in the virtual award program, which is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 3rd through Tuesday, October 4th.

The program will include talks from NIMH investigators and interactive meetings with NIMH leadership, extramural staff, and current clinical fellows. ❖

Thundermist NP Fellowship programs gain national accreditation

WEST WARWICK – Thundermist Health Center achieved national accreditation of its Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program and Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program. The National Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Training Consortium (NNPRFTC) Accreditation Committee granted the program's initial programmatic accreditation for the period of three years. Thundermist is the first organization in Rhode Island to earn national accreditation for Nurse Practitioner Fellowship programs.

Thundermist launched its Nurse Practitioner Fellowships in 2015 to help address the growing need of primary care providers and to better prepare providers to provide care in the community health center setting.

"Our organization has always recognized and valued the contributions of Nurse Practitioners as Primary Care and Psychiatric Mental Health Providers," said **JEANNE LACHANCE**, President/CEO. "The shortage of Primary Care Providers and Psychiatric Mental Health prescribers urged us to think creatively and strategically about how to build upon workforce development, work life balance, education, and talent. Seeking and achieving national accreditation through the NNPRFTP further strengthens our commitment to creating satisfying and long-term career opportunities for Nurse Practitioners within community health centers."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the critical importance of the nursing profession in ensuring the health and well-being of our Rhode Island communities. Our programs two specialization tracks both meet our fellow's career goals and our health centers' needs in Primary Care and Psychiatric-Mental Health. The accreditation will further our efforts in developing our program's ability to support achieving outstanding clinical quality outcomes, address social determinants of health and health inequity amongst the populations we serve."

"Since 2015, Thundermist Health Center trained 20 primary care Nurse Practitioner Fellows and 10 psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Fellows," said **MILAGROS COLON PILLA**, Program Manager, Nurse Practitioner Fellowships. "Sixteen of these graduates continue to provide care at our health center. This is a workforce development strategy that works and improves access to care for our community."

The one-year fellowship program prepares new nurse practitioners to provide exceptional care to patients with complex medical, behavioral health, and social needs. The intensive training supports fellows in developing the skills to deliver comprehensive health care as leaders of a robust care team. They develop long-lasting skills to achieve outstanding clinical quality outcomes, address social determinants of health, and create health equity amongst the populations they serve. Fellows are required to work at Thundermist for one year following graduation. ❖