

Appointments



Kaitlin Lee, MD, joins South County Center for Women's Health

WAKEFIELD – The South County Medical Group recently announced that **KAITLIN R. LEE, MD, FACOG**, is now part of Center for Women's

Health where she specializes in obstetrics/gynecology.

Dr. Lee has expertise in providing obstetric and gynecologic care for patients from adolescence through menopause. She brings experience in traditional laparoscopic and abdominal surgery, with additional expertise in vaginal surgery.

Prior to joining South County Health, Dr. Lee provided care for normal and high-risk patients in private practice.

She received her medical degree from University of Illinois College of Medicine and completed her Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH, and is board-certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. ❖

BCBSRI expands physician clinical team



LouAnne Giangreco, MD

PROVIDENCE – Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) has recruited two experienced physicians to serve as senior medical directors.

LOUANNE GIANGRECO, MD, an emergency medicine physician and former vice president and chief medical officer of Cayuga Health System in Ithaca, NY, and **GONZALO PAZ-SOLDÁN, MD, CPE** a pediatrician and former medical director for partner transformation in value-based programs with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

“Dr. Giangreco and Dr. Paz-Soldán each have outstanding experience as physicians and medical leaders,” said **MATTHEW COLLINS, MD, MBA**, BCBSRI executive vice president and chief medical officer. “With their expertise and diverse backgrounds, they are ideally qualified to lead BCBSRI’s efforts to enhance our members’ experience, advance the quality of the care they receive, address health inequities and improve the well-being of all Rhode Islanders.”

Dr. Giangreco received her medical degree from Albany Medical College in Albany, NY, and completed a residency in emergency medicine at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY. She is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.



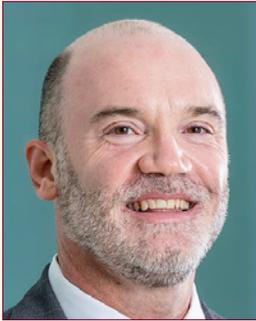
Gonzalo Paz-Soldán, MD

Prior to her role at Cayuga Health System, Dr. Giangreco was vice president and chief medical officer of healthcare improvement for Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield and chief medical officer for Five Star Urgent Care, both in Syracuse. She served as an emergency medicine physician at several New York medical centers, including Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca, Auburn Memorial Hospital in Auburn, United Health Services in Binghamton, and Community General Hospital in Syracuse.

Dr. Paz-Soldán received his medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine and completed his residency in pediatrics at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC. He is board-certified in pediatrics and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is a Certified Physician Executive.

Prior to working for Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Dr. Paz-Soldán served as regional executive medical director for pediatrics at Reliant Medical Group in Worcester, Mass.; medical director for Arlington Pediatric Center at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Va.; medical director for the Inova Pediatric Center at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, Falls Church, Va.; and general pediatrician at Virginia Medical Associates, Fairfax, Va., and the University of Maryland Department of Pediatrics, Baltimore, Md. Dr. Paz-Soldán, who speaks Spanish, also worked as a pediatrician in Lima, Peru. ❖

Appointments



Kevin Charpentier, MD, named VP SCMG, CMO at South County Health

WAKEFIELD – **KEVIN P. CHARPENTIER, MD**, has been named Vice President, South County Medical Group and Chief Medical Officer at South County Health. His position on the Executive Leadership Team began July 5, 2022.

Dr. Charpentier was selected by a diverse search committee of physicians, board members, executive leadership and additional key stakeholders based on his outstanding contributions to academic and community medicine, as well as his exemplary leadership demonstrated in similar roles. He was most recently Chief of Surgery at Signature Healthcare, a \$381 million organization, headquartered in Brockton, Massachusetts.

A proven leader in healthcare, Dr. Charpentier brings extensive clinical and leadership experience in service line development, network integration, physician recruitment, profit and loss management, regulatory compliance, and clinical and translational research.

Through his leadership, Dr. Charpentier has united disparate hospitals, medical groups, and foundations toward shared visions and common interests developing regional thoracic surgery, urology, minimally invasive foregut surgery, oncology, and medical and surgical programs while facilitating the development of many other medical specialties.

“Dr. Charpentier’s ability to develop, grow, and scale service lines across multiple hospitals while acting as a steward of health system resources and champion of patient safety, quality, and experience made him a standout candidate for South County Health’s Vice President of South County Medical Group and Chief Medical Officer,” said Aaron Robinson, president and CEO of South County Health.

In this executive leadership role, Dr. Charpentier will serve as an expert resource to the medical staff and will work closely with its leaders, South County Medical Group providers, and administrators, under the direction of the president and CEO, to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the system.

Dr. Charpentier holds a Master of Arts from Brown University. He received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and is currently completing a Master’s of Business Administration from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. ❖



Vanzetta James, DNP, MBA named Senior VP of Patient Care Services, Chief Nursing Officer at Miriam

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital has appointed **VANZETTA JAMES, DNP, MBA**, as its Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and

Chief Nursing Officer. James comes to The Miriam with over 20 years nursing leadership experience in magnet, teaching, and academic medical centers.

Dr. James most recently served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing officer at University of Maryland Capital Region Health, where she was responsible for the overall nursing practice in the inpatient, emergency and trauma, perioperative, procedural, and ambulatory settings. Her major accomplishments included the implementation of a shared governance structure, a quarterly nursing publication and a successful transition into a new hospital.

“Following a thorough national search, we are pleased and privileged to have Dr. James join us in this important hospital leadership role. With her background, experience, and passion for nursing practice, patient safety, patient experience, quality improvement and evidence-based practice, I am confident she will be a great fit for The Miriam Hospital team,” said **MARIA DUCHARME, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**, president of The Miriam Hospital.

She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in leadership from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Baltimore, a Master of Science in Health Services Leadership and Management from the University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore, MD, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Delaware, and an Associate of Science in Nursing from the College of the Virgin Islands. Dr. James is certified in critical care nursing as well as nursing executive practice.

Dr. James is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau, and the American Organization for Nursing Leadership. ❖

Recognition



Emily Miller, MD, named Aspen Institute Fellow

WASHINGTON, DC – The Aspen Institute in August announced its 2022 Aspen Institute Ascend Fellows, 22 leaders from across the United States who are

primed to transform systems so that our youngest children and families can thrive. Among the honorees is **EMILY MILLER, MD**, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and the Division Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Women and Infants Hospital.

The 2022 cohort is focused on mindset and systems change to ensure our youngest children and families thrive. These leaders work across sectors and systems of early learning and care, from connecting mental health and infant-maternal well-being to critical economic supports. In addition, the 2022 cohort includes a commitment to building services and policies designed by and for parents and caregivers to drive national early learning, racial equity, and family well-being in systems of care and well-being as well as solutions and learning from Indigenous wisdom and cultural traditions. The diverse cohort includes Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other leaders of color focused on eliminating systemic inequities and disparities for young children and families.

“Breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty starts by changing the trajectory for our youngest children and families in early childhood, and we are honored to have these 22 change-makers committed to making that change happen,” said Anne Mosle, vice president of the Aspen Institute and founder and executive director of Ascend.

Ascend is accelerating its investments in leadership, with a new cohort each year and every other year prioritizing leadership focused on our youngest children and families. The emphasis on our youngest children and families builds on lessons illuminated in Ascend’s recent publication, *Toward A More Equitable Tomorrow: A Landscape Analysis of Early Childhood Leadership*.

“At the Aspen Institute, we work to understand the lived experiences of those with whom we partner so we can support



Arun K. Singh, MD, receives honorary doctorate from Bryant University

SMITHFIELD – **ARUN K. SINGH, MD, FLCS**, received a Doctor of Humane Letters *Honoris Causa* from Bryant University and delivered the commencement address to the 47 members of the Physician’s Assistant Graduating class of 2022, who earned their Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS).

Dr. Singh is a Professor of Surgery *Emeritus* at the Alpert Medical School and has been an adjunct professor at Bryant University’s Physician Assistant program since 2016.

He began practicing at Rhode Island Hospital almost 50 years ago and helped to build a nationally recognized cardiac surgery program there. Dr. Singh performed more than 15,000 heart surgeries and 5,000 related procedures before retiring from active surgery in 2016.

He has authored, edited, and co-edited many books including “Your Heart, My Hands,” which chronicles his life, from his childhood in India to his career and interaction with his patients. (See RIMJ book review: <http://rimed.org/rimedicaljournal/2019/02/2019-02-78-book-singh.pdf>)

Dr. Singh has received numerous awards, including the Hero at Heart award from The American Heart Association and the lifetime achievement designation from Rhode Island Hospital. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 2017. ❖

the systems that are working for the most vulnerable in our society, and change those that are not,” said Dan Porterfield, President and CEO of the Aspen Institute. “Our new 22 Ascend Fellows are leaders who are doing just that – driving change that advances equity for children and families – and we could not be more excited to support them and welcome them into our community.”

In the spirit of radical collaboration and fostering partnerships, these leaders will gather together in person four times over the next 18 months to learn from and with each other. With Ascend and their cohort, Ascend Fellows will develop an action plan that aligns with their organizational goals and individual leadership journeys to advance the north star of intergenerational economic mobility and well-being for children and families. Fellows will also have the opportunity to apply for small grants intended to be catalytic capital to accelerate Fellows’ work where flexible resources could help drive results or meet a critical need. ❖

Recognition

Rhode Island Team Hope Walk to take place at Colt State Park on Sept. 25th

Hosted by local chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA)

BRISTOL – The Massachusetts and Rhode Island Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) will host the Rhode Island Team Hope Walk on Sunday, September 25th at 11:00 a.m. at Colt State Park. All proceeds support HDSA's mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington's disease (HD) and their families.

"Team Hope Walks have always been a favorite HD event of mine," said **ABIGAIL DESROSIER**, HDSA's Massachusetts and Rhode Island Chapter President. "Every day I am blown away by the hard work and dedication of our organization to put these events together - it makes me proud to be involved. The spirits of our community will bring a beautiful event to Colt State Park and I look forward to seeing everyone there."

Team Hope is HDSA's largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the U.S. and has raised more than \$20 million for HD since its inception in



2007. Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and communities walk together each year to support HDSA's mission to improve the lives of people affected by HD and their families.

For more information about the event, please contact Abigail Desrosiers (abigaildesrosiers18@gmail.com, 978-995-7798). Online registration and donation can be found at hdsa.org/thwrhodeisland

HDSA's Team Hope Walk Program is nationally sponsored by Genentech and Teva Pharmaceuticals. ❖



HCV healthcare leaders at July WaterFire

RI Defeats Hep C partnered with WaterFire on July 30th after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Torchbearers included RI's hepatitis C virus (HCV) medical, public health and advocacy leaders, who reunited and re-committed to HCV elimination. This year's theme was "Test to Treat," to get all Rhode Islanders with HCV diagnosed and promptly treated and cured. [PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNN TAYLOR, MD]

Recognition

HopeHealth, URI graduate first nursing fellows in palliative care

KINGSTON – University of Rhode Island nursing students **BECCA ALLDER** and **KATIE FITZMAURICE** graduated from a summer of clinical training and practice in one of healthcare's fastest-growing fields, becoming the inaugural fellows of the Susan Flynn Palliative Care Nursing Fellowship.

The fellowship is a new partnership between HopeHealth, the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing and the Susan Flynn Oncology Nursing Development Program aimed at addressing the growing need for nurses with experience in palliative care.

Over eight weeks, Allder and Fitzmaurice shadowed HopeHealth's palliative care experts and met with multidisciplinary teams. They also researched and reviewed clinical practice and literature supporting topics that are critical to patients and families receiving palliative care. As fellows in the program, they prepared and delivered evidence-based research presentations on the influence of comfort feeding on patient quality of life, and the impact of respite care for pediatric palliative patients.

"Palliative care is committed to providing person-centered care that is based

on the seriously ill person's and family's beliefs, values, and goals," says **SUSAN DESANTO-MADEYA, PhD, APRN-CNS, FAAN**, who holds the Miriam Weyker Endowed Chair for Palliative Care at the URI College of Nursing. "This fellowship is a powerful way to advance that



URI nursing students **Becca Allder** (left) and **Katie Fitzmaurice** (right) were celebrated as the inaugural graduates of the Susan D. Flynn Palliative Care Nursing Fellowship, a new partnership for HopeHealth and the URI College of Nursing.

commitment for future generations of nurses, thanks to hands-on experience with a leading team of experts."

The Susan Flynn Palliative Care Nursing Fellowship is the most recent expansion of the Susan Flynn Oncology Nursing Development Program, founded by Fred Flynn in honor of the care that his late wife, Susan, received after a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. The program's namesake oncology fellowship, created in 2014, has already produced 262 oncology nursing fellows from more than 10 hospitals.

Now, Allder and Fitzmaurice join their ranks as the program's first two palliative nursing fellows.

"The more we can educate and inspire future nurses about palliative care, the better quality of life we give to a growing population of patients," says HopeHealth President & CEO **DIANA FRANCHITTO**. "As a regional leader in palliative care, HopeHealth is uniquely positioned to do just that. It was a privilege to be part of the experience of our first two fellows and show them firsthand what a difference palliative care makes in the lives of patients and families living with serious illness." ❖