

## Appointments

### CNE President, CEO, James E. Fanale, MD, set to retire

*Michael Wagner, MD, FACP, named to position*

PROVIDENCE – **JAMES E. FANALE, MD**, president and CEO, Care New England Health System (CNE) will serve his last day at the helm of Rhode Island's second-largest healthcare system on December 1, 2022, at which time he will retire.

"Working alongside the leadership team at Care New England to improve the quality of healthcare in Rhode Island, while making it more readily accessible and affordable, has been among the highlights of my career. It is truly bittersweet to retire while there is still so much work to be done, however, the time has come for me to pass the torch to someone well-equipped to handle the challenges of operating a healthcare system of this magnitude. I will forever be grateful to those who hold the same vision I do, and that's to always put patients first, no matter the circumstances," said Dr. Fanale.

Chairman of Care New England's Board of Directors, **CHARLES REPPUCCI**, is thankful to Fanale for his unwavering commitment to healthcare while serving as president and CEO, saying, "During his tenure as president and CEO, Jim faced obstacles that seemed, at times, insurmountable, including financial stresses and national labor shortages, that were a result of the global pandemic. Anyone can lead a ship through calms waters, but it takes a true leader to right it, and stay the course, during unprecedented times, and that's precisely what Jim did for us. Through it all, Jim persevered and lead with vision and confidence in his plan, and in his hand-picked team, whom he respected. For this, and for so many more reasons, we will forever be grateful to him. I, and the board and staff, wish Jim well in his retirement"

With that said, Care New England Health System's Board of Directors prepares to welcome Dr. Fanale's successor aboard.

After conducting an intensive search, CNE's Board of Directors has unanimously decided to install **MICHAEL WAGNER, MD, FACP**, as Care New England's newest President and CEO, effective December 1, 2022.

Dr. Wagner has built his career and reputation on being a leader who combines his unique experience as a physician,



James E. Fanale, MD



Michael Wagner, MD

entrepreneur and healthcare executive to transform health care. Throughout his career, he has worked with caregivers in academic and community health care settings across the country.

Dr. Wagner most recently served as Chief Physician Executive (CPE) for Tufts Medicine, a \$2.2B leading integrated health system. Tufts

Medicine is world-renowned for bringing together the best of academic and community healthcare to deliver exceptional, connected, and accessible care experiences to Massachusetts. As CPE, he led the company's physician enterprise, which includes the Tufts Medicine Integrated Network, Tufts Medicine Professional Group, and Quality and Patient Safety and Service Lines.

He is also currently President and CEO of the Tufts Medicine Professional Group and Tufts Medical Center Physicians Organization.

During 2019, Dr. Wagner was Interim CEO for Wellforce (now Tufts Medicine), a system recognized for its high quality, lower cost value position and its commitment to keeping care in the community. As Interim CEO, he led the formation of a single obligated group, the selection of a singular EMR platform and drove numerous strategic growth initiatives.

Before that, Dr. Wagner served as President and CEO of Tufts Medical Center, the academic medical center of Tufts Medicine and the principal teaching hospital for Tufts

University School of Medicine. During his tenure, Tufts MC achieved a strong financial performance and was twice recognized with a Five Star rating on the Vizient (University

Health System Consortium) annual quality and effectiveness evaluation – the only AMC in New England to achieve this recognition.

A magna cum laude graduate of Connecticut College and a graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Wagner completed his residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine at Dartmouth in Hanover, NH. ♦

## Appointments

### Drs. Alessandra J. Sax, Jason M. Aliotta join RIMJ's Editorial Advisory Board

PROVIDENCE – **ALESSANDRA J. SAX, MD**, and **JASON M. ALIOTTA, MD**, have joined the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal* (RIMJ). They join current members **CHARLES A. ADAMS, JR., MD**; **PHILIP CHAN, MD**; **STACI FISCHER, MD**, and **BRETT OWENS, MD**.

#### Brief bios



**ALESSANDRA J. SAX, MD**, is an Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Imaging, Clinician Educator at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and a radiologist at Rhode Island Medical Imaging. She completed a Diagnostic Radiology residency and mini-fellowship in Emergency Radiology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. She also completed

her fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, where she held a chief fellow position in Musculoskeletal Radiology. Dr. Sax holds both a BS in Neuroscience, cum laude, and a BA in Studio Arts from Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, and an MS in Biomedical Science from Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston. She earned her MD at Boston University School of Medicine.



**JASON M. ALIOTTA, MD**, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He attended Tufts Medical School and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Alpert Medical School. Dr. Aliotta joined the faculty of Rhode Island Hospital

and The Miriam Hospital in 2006 and currently serves as the Medical Director of the Department of Respiratory Therapy at Rhode Island Hospital and the Associate Medical Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Rhode Island Hospital. ❖



### Vamsy Bobba, MD, joins University Orthopedics' Center for Spine Health

EAST PROVIDENCE – University Orthopedics recently announced the addition of **VAMSY BOBBA, MD**, to the practice's Center for Spine Health.

Dr. Bobba's areas of focus include spinal stenosis, degenerative disc disease, herniated discs, instability, deformity, trauma, compression fractures, tumor, and infection. He has extensive experience with in-patient and outpatient procedures; fusions and motion-preserving (non-fusion) procedures; minimally invasive and robotic procedures; disc replacements; and kyphoplasties.

"Each patient's situation is unique and should be treated as such. It is always my goal to tailor an appropriate plan for each patient's individual needs, whether surgically or non-surgically, to help restore their quality of life," Dr. Bobba said. "I am thrilled to join a practice that embraces the same commitment to world-class, comprehensive care as I do."

After completing his undergraduate years at Columbia University, Dr. Bobba obtained a Master's Degree from Johns Hopkins University in Bioscience Regulatory Affairs. He then attended medical school at Drexel University in Philadelphia and went on to complete his Orthopaedic Surgery residency at the Detroit Medical Center. Most recently, he completed his spine fellowship at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. ❖

## Appointments



### Edward McGookin, MD, named president of Coastal Medical

PROVIDENCE — **EDWARD MCGOOKIN, MD, MHCDS, FAAP**, has been promoted from his position as chief medical officer to president of Coastal Medical, which became effective October 20th.

Dr. McGookin practiced general pediatrics for more than 15 years at Coastal

Medical Waterman Pediatrics before he assumed the chief medical officer role full-time in 2013.

"Dr. McGookin has lived and breathed Coastal's values of patient-centered care since joining in 1998, and there is no one more deserving to lead as Coastal's next president. The future of primary care and population health in Rhode Island is bright under Dr. McGookin's leadership and vision," said Lifespan Senior Vice President for Primary Care and Population Health and former Coastal Medical President **AL KUROSE, MD**.

Dr. McGookin laid the foundation for Coastal's population health initiatives and built successful clinical programs that have greatly improved patient outcomes, including the clinical pharmacy, diabetes management, heart failure and behavioral health programs. He also spearheaded Coastal's infection control protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to keep Coastal patients and employees safe from exposure to the virus.

"Providing patients with access to innovative, high-quality care is what Coastal stands for, and I am humbled to work alongside remarkable colleagues who share the same goal," said Dr. McGookin. "In this new role, my commitment to enhancing Coastal's team-based primary care model and Lifespan's population health strategy will only grow stronger."

He received his MD from the State University of New York Health Science Center, Syracuse, NY, and completed his residency training in Pediatrics at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence. He also earned a master's degree in Health Care Delivery Science at Dartmouth College. Dr. McGookin holds an appointment as Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

He succeeds Dr. Al Kurose, who transitioned to full-time in his role as Lifespan SVP for Primary Care and Population Health after serving as Coastal president since 2008. Dr. Kurose will also serve as chair of the Coastal board. ❖

## Recognition



### Patrick L. Green, FACHE, of L+M Healthcare, awarded Senior Health Services Executive of the Year

NEW LONDON, CT/WESTERLY, RI — **PATRICK L. GREEN, FACHE**, president and CEO of L+M Healthcare, has received the Senior Health Services Executive of the Year award from the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE).

He has over 22 years of well-rounded leadership experience with private not-for-profit health systems and major comprehensive academic health systems. "I humbly accept this award on behalf of all of my fellow healthcare executives and frontline staff who have shown us over the last three years what it looks like to persevere and lead through the most difficult of times," said Green.

The award, presented at the NAHSE Annual Educational conference in New Orleans recently, recognizes and celebrates the major contributions and efforts of seasoned African American healthcare professionals to the field of healthcare and NAHSE. Green has been president and CEO of Lawrence+Memorial and Westerly hospitals since 2017 and a member of NAHSE for the past 15 years.

NAHSE is a non-profit association of Black health care executives founded in 1968 for the purpose of promoting the advancement and development of Black health care leaders and elevating the quality of healthcare services rendered to minority and underserved communities. ❖

## Recognition

### National Academy of Medicine elects 100 new members

*Among the newly elected regular members is Megan L. Ranney, MD*

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) recently announced the election of 90 regular members and 10 international members during its annual meeting. Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

"This extraordinary class of new members is comprised of exceptional scholars and leaders who have been at the forefront of responding to serious public health challenges, combatting social inequities, and achieving innovative discoveries," said National Academy of Medicine President **VICTOR J. DZAU, MD**. "Their expertise will be vital to informing the future of health and medicine for the benefit of us all. I am truly honored to welcome these esteemed individuals to the National Academy of Medicine."

Among the newly elected regular members is **MEGAN L. RANNEY, MD, MPH, FACEP**, Warren Alpert Endowed Professor of Emergency Medicine and deputy dean, School of Public Health, and director, Brown-Lifespan Center for Digital Health, Brown University, "for recognition as a national public health leader and communicator who has brought deeper understanding of public health challenges and who has changed public health paradigms through technology-based interventions to reduce violence (particularly firearm injury), mental illness, substance use, and infectious disease risk."

New members are elected by current members through a process that recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care, and public health. A diversity of talent among NAM's membership is assured by its Articles of Organization, which stipulate that at least one-quarter of the membership is selected from fields outside the health professions – for example, from such fields as law, engineering, social sciences, and the humanities. The newly elected members bring NAM's total membership to more than 2,200, including the 190 international members.

Established originally as the Institute of Medicine in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of



Medicine addresses critical issues in health, science, medicine, and related policy and inspires positive actions across sectors. NAM works alongside the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering to provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation and conduct other activities to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine also encourage education and research, recognize outstanding contributions to knowledge, and increase public understanding of STEM. With their election, NAM members make a commitment to volunteer their service in National Academies activities. ❖

## Help your Patients Keep their Medicaid Coverage

With the Public Health Emergency coming to an end, Medicaid members will need to renew their eligibility with the State of Rhode Island to keep their health insurance.

You can help now by reminding your Medicaid patients to update their account information with their current address and phone number. Medicaid members can update their information by:

- Logging into their HealthSource RI account: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/>
- Calling HealthSource RI at 1-855-840-4774 (TTY 711)

Thank you from all of us at Neighborhood for your commitment and partnership in ensuring Rhode Island families keep their health care coverage!



 **Neighborhood Health Plan**  
OF RHODE ISLAND™  
[www.nhpri.org](http://www.nhpri.org)

Neighborhood members can scan the QR code to update their address through our new e-form or visit [www.nhpri.org](http://www.nhpri.org)





## Recognition

### Miriam Hospital recognized by Vizient as 2022 Birnbaum Quality Leadership Top Performer

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital announces it achieved 9th place out of 148 complex care medical centers/hospitals in the 2022 Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Ranking by Vizient, Inc. The ranking is part of the Vizient Quality and Accountability Study, which rates 650 hospitals and health system against their peers for performance in patient care and safety.

The Birnbaum Quality Leadership Ranking recognizes Vizient members who have demonstrated superior performance in delivering high-quality care, as rated by The Vizient Quality and Accountability Study, which measures quality of patient care across six domains: safety, mortality, effectiveness, efficiency, patient centeredness and equity.

“At The Miriam Hospital we take great pride in our tradition of providing superior patient care, and our commitment to excellence in all that we do,” said **MARIA DUCHARME, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**, president of The Miriam Hospital. “Our team embraces the belief that everyone is a caregiver – both those in clinical and non-clinical roles. Valuing all contributions has been key to our success in being a consistently high-quality organization.”

The Vizient Quality and Accountability Study rankings factor in measures from composite scoring of patient-level data, and performance data from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control’s National Healthcare Safety Network.

Vizient gives the Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Award annually to its top performing members by organization size/type: comprehensive academic medical centers; large, specialized complex care medical centers; complex care medical centers and community-based medical centers. Complex Care

Medical Centers are hospitals and medical centers that perform between 25 and 75 combined cardiothoracic and neurosurgery cases in a year.

The complex care medical center top performers in Vizient’s 2022 Birnbaum Quality Leadership Ranking are:

- Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital
- Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital
- Houston Methodist West Hospital
- Penn Medicine Chester County Hospital
- Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital
- Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
- Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse
- Union Memorial Hospital
- The Miriam Hospital
- Baptist Memorial Hospital - Golden Triangle
- Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital
- Duke Regional Hospital
- NorthShore Highland Park Hospital
- Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital
- Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato
- UCHHealth Poudre Valley Hospital
- Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire

The Vizient Quality and Accountability Study has been conducted annually since 2005. The recognition period is for work spanning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. ❖