

Appointments

Patrick McGann, MD, named to Obama Foundation's Leaders USA program



Patrick McGann, MD, PhD
[LIFESPAN]

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan announced in August that **PATRICK MCGANN MD, PhD**, director of The Lifespan Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center and associate professor of pediatrics and medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, is among the first cohort of 100 emerging changemakers selected to participate in the Obama Foundation's Leaders USA program.

The Obama Leaders program is a six-month virtual program that supports and connects emerging leaders in the United States, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Europe through a values-based leadership framework inspired by the ideals and legacy of President and Mrs. Obama. Chosen from a highly competitive pool of applications, Dr. McGann was selected to join the program for his commitment to improving the lives of individuals with sickle cell disease through a focus on anti-racism and health equity both locally and internationally.

The inaugural cohort of United States "Obama Leaders" is composed of values-driven changemakers from every corner of the country.

Since joining Lifespan in September 2021 as Director of the Lifespan Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, Dr. McGann has worked to develop an innovative "lifespan" approach to sickle cell care that aims to provide seamless, high-quality and equitable care across the lifespan, directly addressing the well described challenges related to transition from pediatric to adult care. Dr. McGann leads many US-based and global research studies related to sickle cell disease with funding from the National Institutes of Health, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and American Society of Hematology.

As part of the six-month program, Dr. McGann will convene virtually each week with the United States Obama Leaders cohort for interactive sessions designed to help them drive change by honing their leadership skills, building deep relationships with their peers, and engaging with thought leaders and members of the Obama Foundation community. Dr. McGann will also have an opportunity to engage with President Obama, participate in various virtual experiences and special events, including one-on-one conversations with experienced mentors in the Foundation's global network.

Obama program started in Africa in 2018

These emerging leaders from around the world, generally 24–45 years old, forge societies and communities rooted in shared values, where all people belong, participate, and thrive.

The Leaders program launched in Africa in 2018, expanded to Asia Pacific in 2019, and inaugurated in Europe in 2020, and in 2023 in the United States.



The Obama Foundation Leaders program is composed of emerging leaders from around the world, generally 24-45 years old, and was first launched in Africa in 2018, Asia Pacific in 2019, Europe in 2020, and now in 2023 in the United States. [OBAMA FOUNDATION]

Obama Foundation Leaders hail from a wide variety of nations and territories, work across public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and address a full range of social impact issues.

The Leaders program offers practical skill building for social change, leadership coaching, discussion of critical issues, and small group support. As participants, Leaders self-define a values-based foundation for sustained leadership, cultivate relationships with others to catalyze more inclusive, lasting change, and prepare to engage with issues at the systems level.

Upon completion of the program, Leaders will have gained a deeper understanding of how values-based leadership advances their ability to enact change. They will be inspired to take further action, propelled by new ideas and skills. Most importantly, Leaders will continue to gain a broader continental and global perspective, joining the Obama Leadership Network, a growing global alumni community of nearly 900 active changemakers.

To learn more about this program and the individuals who make up the inaugural cohort, visit obama.org/leaders. ❖

Appointments

Francesca Beaudoin, MD, PhD, and Brandon Marshall, PhD, appointed to new positions at Brown School of Public Health



PROVIDENCE – On Aug. 25, the Brown School of Public Health (SPH) announced that **FRANCESCA BEAUDOIN, MD, PhD**, will take on the role of Interim Academic Dean at the School of Public Health.

In addition to her continued role as the Chair of the Department of Epidemiology, she will assume responsibility for helping to guide the school's academic mission, serve as the school's chief academic officer, and a key member of the leadership team. She will work in partnership with department chairs, center directors, and associate deans to carry out our shared vision for the school and represent SPH in critical moments both within and beyond the university. This will include working with advancement in meetings with supporters and

collaborating with key senior leaders across Brown. Dr. Beaudoin's dedication to advancing public health research and education makes her an exceptional fit for this pivotal role.

BRANDON MARSHALL, PhD, has agreed to be Vice Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Director of the Center for Epidemiologic Research. As Vice Chair, Professor Marshall will collaborate closely with Dr. Beaudoin to identify and develop additional actions that will amplify the department's strategic initiatives and further the commitment to advancing the field of epidemiology. ❖



Bassel G. Diebo, MD, joins University Orthopedics' Center for Spine Health

EAST PROVIDENCE – University Orthopedics recently announced the addition of **BASSEL DIEBO, MD**, to the practice's Center for Spine Health. His areas of focus are complex and revision spinal reconstruction, flatback syndrome,

adolescent and adult scoliosis, Hip-Spine Syndrome, full-body, three-dimensional alignment and posture.

Dr. Diebo attended medical school at Aleppo University in Syria before fleeing the war-torn country. He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at The State University of New York in Brooklyn, New York. Previously, he completed research fellowships in spine surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery and NYU Langone Medical Center's Hospital for Joint Diseases, both in New York. Most recently, Dr. Diebo completed a fellowship in complex adolescent and adult spine and scoliosis surgery at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and took part as an inaugural traveling fellow with the International Spine Study Group (ISSG).

In 2023, Dr. Diebo was the recipient of Brown University's Lucas-Palumbo Award for Excellence in Orthopaedic Spine Surgery; was named one of Becker's Spine Review's "Ten Spine Surgeons Under 45 to Know" in 2022; and in 2020 he was listed among North American Spine Society's "20 under 40." ❖



Breton N. Roussel, MD, joins University Gastroenterology

PROVIDENCE – University Gastroenterology announced gastroenterologist **BRETON N. ROUSSEL, MD**, is joining the practice.

Dr. Roussel is a fellowship-trained gastroenterologist interested in the treatment of all GI diseases, specifically Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. He's no stranger to Rhode Island, completing both his GI fellowship and his internal medicine residency at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and his undergraduate degree at Providence College. He earned his medical degree at Rutgers University's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey, where he also earned a master's in biomedical science.

"Many of the mentors and teachers I've worked with while at Brown University are from University Gastroenterology, so I was already familiar with the practice. Not only are the doctors and staff here on the forefront of medicine, they care about their patients, and they care about teaching the next generation of GI doctors like myself," Dr. Roussel said. ❖

Appointments



Cynthia Ring, MBA, named CNE's new EVP Chief People Officer

WARWICK – **CYNTHIA RING, MBA**, has been named Care New England's new EVP Chief People Officer. She brings with her 30 years of experience in business and human resources, and has

served as a trusted visionary, coach, mentor, and thought partner to executive teams she has worked with throughout her career.

Previously, as an Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer for Harvard Pilgrim, a VP of HR for UMASS Memorial Healthcare, and serving as a Consultant and Executive Coach while the Principal of her own consulting firm, her focus has always been on fostering connections and delivering tangible business outcomes, which will greatly benefit CNE's mission and goals.

Helping clients through successful business turnarounds, managing through growth and change, and achieving a collaborative, results-driven culture is her specialty. Under her leadership, Harvard Pilgrim celebrated seven straight years of achieving a 100% rating on the Human Rights Campaign and Corporate Equity Index; 'Best Places to Work' designation, and was one of the first organizations in MA to sign onto the Wage Compact; an entity focused on transparency in wage equity.

She holds an MBA from Bryant University and a BA from Framingham State College. She also holds professional credentials as a Lean-Green Belt and ACC-ICF Credentialed Coach, showcasing her commitment to continual growth and excellence.

As a thought leader, Cynthia's contributions extend to publications such as "Ensuring Equity in the Digital Age" and "Beyond ROI: Measuring the Value of Well-Being Programs." Her professional recognition includes the Bob Gatti Mentor of the Year Award and the HR Leadership Excellence Award from HRLF.

Her first day will be September 18th. ❖



Seth Berkley, MD, AMS alum, joins Brown Pandemic Center

PROVIDENCE – In a press statement on Aug. 28th, the Brown School of Public Health announced that Brown '81 alum **SETH BERKLEY, MD**, returns to Brown University to advise the Pandemic Center.

JENNIFER NUZZO, director of Brown's Pandemic Center, announced

that beginning September 1, Dr. Berkley will join the School of Public Health as a senior advisor to the Pandemic Center and as adjunct professor of the practice in the Department of Epidemiology.

"Dr. Berkley joins our Pandemic Center team at an important moment, bringing his unmatched experience as a global change-maker to our shared work to improve pandemic preparedness and response," Nuzzo said. "He has made life-changing and life-saving differences around the globe and we look forward to working with him to continue to improve public health."

Following his training at the Warren Alpert Medical School, he worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and then to Uganda, where he worked as an epidemiologist at the Ministry of Health during the rise of the country's AIDS epidemic. He then spent eight years with the Rockefeller Foundation managing programs in epidemiology, public health, medical and nursing education, vaccination, AIDS, STIs, and reproductive health in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

From 2011 to 2023, Dr. Berkley served as CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. During his tenure at Gavi, he led a team that worked toward broadening global immunization access, resulting in more than half of the world's children being vaccinated annually. His leadership was equally significant in co-founding and spearheading COVAX, an initiative that facilitated the distribution of over 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to 146 nations.

"The work of my life is to improve public health and to confront the global threat of infectious disease," Dr. Berkley said. "This aligns well with the work of the Pandemic Center. I am eager to join them to meet the challenges we face as a global commons now, and knowing the evolutionary certainty of further outbreaks ahead, to advance our shared values. The health and quality of life of people around the globe demands our urgent attention and action." ❖

Recognition

U.S. News & World Report names Miriam top hospital in state

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the Top Hospital in Rhode Island in its 2023–2024 Best Hospitals report released in August. The Miriam Hospital has earned this honor for 12 straight years, starting with the first state rankings in 2012–2013.

U.S. News also ranked The Miriam Hospital the top hospital in the Providence metro area (which includes Providence, Pawtucket, Fall River, and New Bedford), and gave the hospital a “high performing” ranking or distinction for its care and treatment in 11 conditions and adult specialty areas, as follows:

- Hip replacements
- Knee replacements
- Colon cancer surgery
- Heart failure
- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Kidney failure
- Diabetes
- Leukemia Lymphoma & Myeloma
- Prostate Cancer
- Surgery

For the 2023–2024 rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 hospitals across 15 specialties and 21 procedures and conditions; only 12% of evaluated hospitals earned a Best Hospitals ranking. Hospitals awarded a “Best” designation excelled at factors such as clinical outcomes, nursing care and patient experience. State and metro area rankings reflect the highest performing hospitals in the area across multiple areas of care. ❖

Kent Hospital named among U.S. News High Performing Hospitals; Hospital at Home recognized by PBN

WARWICK – Kent Hospital was named among U.S. News “High Performing Hospitals” in its Best Hospitals 2023-2024 rankings and ratings. U.S. News evaluated over 4,500 hospitals and their specialties, procedures, and conditions. According to U.S. News, only 6% to 33% of hospitals were rated High Performing.

Kent Hospital was specifically recognized for medical care in treating heart failure, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

In addition, *Providence Business News* announced its 27 honorees for the 2023 Fastest Growing & Innovative Companies Awards program. Kent Hospital at Home won a PBN 2023 Innovative Companies Award in the category of Health & Wellness. Members of the Hospital at Home Program and other winners will be honored at the 12th Annual Fastest Growing & Most Innovative Companies Awards Ceremony on September 20th at the Graduate Hotel from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. ❖

Rhode Island Hospital recognized as High Performing in Lung Cancer Surgery by U.S. News & World Report

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital has been named a high performing hospital for lung cancer surgery by U.S. News & World Report in their prestigious ‘Best Hospital’ rankings for 2023–2024. Rhode Island Hospital was the only hospital in the state to receive the high performing rating in lung cancer surgery. Hospitals that earned a high performing rating scored significantly better than the national average.

The lung cancer surgery score is determined based on several data categories including patient survival rates after undergoing lung cancer surgery, prevention of long hospitalizations, treating a high volume of patients, nurse staffing ratios, and prevention of Emergency Room visits after chemotherapy. Rhode Island Hospital’s outstanding performance in these areas sets it apart from its peers.

“Lung cancer is a devastating disease that affects millions of individuals worldwide. With advancements in medical technology and treatment options, it is crucial for patients to receive care from hospitals that excel in lung cancer surgery,” said **ABBAS ABBAS, MD**.

“As Rhode Island Hospital continues to prioritize excellence and innovation, this recognition as a high performing hospital in lung cancer surgery further solidifies its position as a trusted healthcare provider,” said **DEAN ROYE, MD**, senior vice president for medical affairs and chief medical officer at Rhode Island Hospital. “Patients can have confidence in the hospital’s ability to deliver exceptional care and achieve positive outcomes.”

Rhode Island Hospital was also ranked high performing in this year’s rankings for aortic valve surgery, diabetes care, and stroke treatment. More information about Rhode Island Hospital’s scores is available on the U.S. News & World Report website: <https://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/area/ri/rhode-island-hospital-6150150>. This resource offers a comprehensive overview of the hospital’s performance.

Recognition

Westerly Hospital recertified from The Joint Commission for its Acute Stroke Ready Hospital program

WESTERLY – Westerly has been re-certified by The Joint Commission for its Acute Stroke Ready Hospital program, a validation that patients presenting with stroke symptoms will be treated quickly and safely to prevent brain loss.

The Acute Stroke Ready Hospital (ASRH) certification was developed in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. These hospitals become part of a larger stroke system of care in which the hospital is equipped to evaluate, stabilize and provide emergency care to patients with acute stroke symptoms. Westerly was first certified in 2019 after implementing Yale New Haven Health's Telestroke program which provides 24/7 communication with stroke-trained neurologists.

"This recertification reflects the commitment of our employees and medical staff to provide the greatest of care to our patients," said **RICHARD LISITANO**, president, Westerly Hospital. "Being a member of the Yale New Haven Health Stroke Network our Stroke team has adopted a comprehensive set of evidence-based care guidelines and performance measures that leads to better outcomes for our patients. Being able to offer this level of care in Westerly further demonstrates that delivering high-quality health care to our patients is our number one priority."

By collaborating with EMS, a Yale School of Medicine Telestroke neurologist, ED providers, nurses, Radiology, Lab and Pharmacy, patients received timely coordinated care from the time of arrival at the hospital. In addition, engagement and sharing of best practices allows the hospital to continually improve its stroke care program to meet the needs of a continually changing health care environment.

"For a small community hospital like Westerly, Acute Stroke Ready Hospital certification means that our patients can be certain they will receive the greatest of care during a very time-sensitive emergency," said **LISA BEDARD, APRN**, stroke program manager. ❖

NRC Health recognizes Brown Medicine with Excellence in Patient Experience Award

PROVIDENCE – NRC Health honored Brown Medicine with the 2023 Excellence in Patient Experience Award, recognizing the top-performing hospitals and health systems in the nation for their excellence in delivering outstanding patient experiences across the continuum of care.

This award recognizes organizations for their commitment to enhancing care experiences for each patient. They selected health systems and hospitals based on their Net Promoter Score (NPS) for the "Would Recommend Facility" question during the time period of April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023.

"We are extraordinarily proud to receive this recognition, especially since it comes from our patients," said **DR. LOUIS B. RICE**, Chair of Medicine at Brown Medicine. "It reflects the efforts of every member of our organization to provide top-notch health care in a welcoming, patient-centered environment." ❖

Help your Patients Keep their Medicaid Coverage

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 1-800-459-6019 (TTY 711)

Neighborhood members can scan the QR code to update their address through our new e-form or visit www.nhpri.org



Recognition

Landmark Medical Center recognized by Lown Institute as one of the most socially responsible hospitals

WOONSOCKET – Landmark Medical Center, a member of Prime Healthcare, has been recognized by the Lown Institute as one of the most socially responsible hospitals in America, receiving “A” grades in Health Equity, Value, and Outcomes on the 2023–24 Lown Institute Hospitals Index.

Lown evaluated more than 3,600 hospitals and Landmark is among only 54 nationwide to earn Honor Roll status with “A” grades in all top categories.

Landmark ranked #1 out of 9 hospitals in Rhode Island and #39 nationally on the Social Responsibility metric. According to the Index, the hospital also performed well on Equity and Outcomes metrics. These are independent rankings and hospitals do not apply or pay to be listed.

“This distinguished award from the Lown Institute reflects the incredible generosity and altruism of our employees,” said **MICHAEL SOUZA**, CEO at Landmark Medical Center. “I am proud of the great work that is taking place at Landmark for the benefit of our patients and communities of Northern Rhode Island and neighboring Massachusetts.”

“Few hospitals are able to deliver high-quality, high-value care while prioritizing equity at the same time,” said **VIKAS SAINI, MD**, president of the Lown Institute. “That’s why it’s so important to hold up the hospitals on our Honor Roll as examples for others to follow.”

The Lown Hospitals Index for Social Responsibility is the only ranking to include metrics of health equity and value

of care alongside patient outcomes, creating a holistic view of hospitals as total community partners. In the fourth annual and largest set of rankings to date, the 2023–24 Lown Index evaluates hospitals on 50+ measures—including novel metrics such as community benefit, racial inclusivity, and avoidance of overuse – for more than 3,600 hospitals nationwide. Data sources include Medicare fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage claims, CMS patient safety data and hospital cost reports, and IRS 990 forms, among others. Full methodology can be found on the Lown Index website.

Learn more at www.LownHospitalsIndex.org. ❖



[LANDMARK MEDICAL CENTER]

Recognition

Lifespan Hospitals honored by American Heart Association

PROVIDENCE – Three Lifespan hospitals have again been recognized by the American Heart Association (AHA) for their exceptional commitment to quality care and patient outcomes.

Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Newport Hospital each received the prestigious Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke GOLD PLUS Quality Achievement Award for reducing barriers to prompt treatment for cardiovascular events and providing coordinated patient care that results in shorter recovery times and reduces the need for hospital readmission. All three hospitals also received AHA's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll designation for providing exceptional diabetes care. This designation is given to hospitals that meet quality measures with over 90% compliance for the "Overall Diabetes Cardiovascular Initiative Composite Score" over a one-year period.

Additionally, Rhode Island Hospital received the AHA's Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll and Target: Stroke Advanced Therapy Honor Roll designations, and The Miriam Hospital received AHA's Target: Stroke Honor Roll designation. These additional accolades highlight the hospitals' commitment to providing advanced stroke care and implementing innovative therapies.

"We are honored that the American Heart Association has bestowed these awards to Lifespan's stroke centers," said **MELISSA HARMON, MSN, RN**, Manager, Comprehensive Stroke Program at Rhode Island Hospital. "It is a great accomplishment for all three centers to have achieved these awards for so many years. This is a testament to our staff's dedication across affiliates to providing top quality stroke care that produces the best possible outcome for our patients."

"Our dedicated staff's commitment to providing exceptional care to stroke patients has been recognized once again," said **KAREN SCHAEFER, MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, ASC-BC, FCNS** stroke program manager for The Miriam Hospital and Newport Hospital. "We believe that this recognition highlights the exceptional care our staff provides. We are grateful for their dedication and proud of their accomplishments." ❖

Center for Advanced Orthopedic Surgery at South County Hospital earns national accreditation from The Joint Commission for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement

WAKEFIELD – South County Hospital's Center for Advanced Orthopedic Surgery, a joint partnership between South County Health and Ortho Rhode Island, has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification by demonstrating the highest standards for quality and safety in joint replacement procedures.

"This serves as yet another indicator of the world class orthopedic program Rhode Islanders have come to know us for through our outstanding partnership with Ortho Rhode Island," said **AARON ROBINSON**, President & CEO, South County Health.

MICHAEL BRADLEY, MD, MBA, MS, President & CEO of Ortho Rhode Island said, "Ortho Rhode Island is honored to partner with South County Hospital to deliver innovative orthopedic care that has earned Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification. This recognition is a testament to our collaborative effort and shared commitment to world-class care that puts patients first. We are grateful to work together to provide the high-quality care our community members deserve."

South County Hospital underwent a rigorous, onsite review in May. The certification focused on the pre-surgical orthopedic consultation, hospitalization, rehabilitation activities, and follow-up visit with the orthopedic surgeon. The review process included interviews with team members and evaluated compliance with certification standards developed in consultation with health care experts, providers, and patients. ❖