

Appointments

Linda L. Brown, MD, named Chair of Emergency Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at Lifespan, Brown



PROVIDENCE – Lifespan and Brown University recently announced the appointment of **LINDA L. BROWN, MD, MSCE**, as the Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine and physician-in-chief of emergency medicine for Rhode Island Hospital and its Hasbro Children's Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Newport Hospital, which became effective November 1. Dr. Brown will also

assume the role of president of Brown Emergency Medicine, a faculty practice group that is a member of Brown Physicians, Inc. In addition, she will hold the Frances Weeden Gibson-Edward A. Iannuccilli, MD, Professorship in Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Brown, a professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics, previously served as the Vice Chair of pediatric emergency medicine for Brown Emergency Medicine and as the Director of the Lifespan Medical Simulation Center. Since December 2022, she has been serving as the interim chair of Emergency Medicine and physician-in-chief.

"I am thrilled to have one of our own former trainees take the helm of the Department of Emergency Medicine, which plays such an important role not only in our academic medical center but in the health care of Rhode Islanders," said Lifespan President and CEO **JOHN FERNANDEZ**. "Dr. Brown is widely recognized as a national leader in pediatric emergency medicine, and is a highly accomplished researcher on pediatric resuscitation and pediatric disaster triage. She is thoroughly qualified and has earned this well-deserved appointment."

"Among Dr. Brown's many qualities is a deep commitment to medical education and mentoring," said Brown University Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences **MUKESH K. JAIN, MD**. "She is an outstanding educator and leader for our medical students and residents."

Throughout her tenure at The Warren Alpert Medical School and Lifespan, Dr. Brown has received numerous accolades, including the Brian J. Zink, MD Outstanding Leadership in Emergency Medicine Award, the Brown EM Foundation Award, the Libby Nestor, MD Outstanding Mentor Award, the Jacek Franaszek Exemplary Educator Award, and the Barnet Fain Quality Award, among others. Nationally, she has been honored with the Dr. Marianne Gausche-Hill Award for Teaching Mentorship and the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Simulation Academy Distinguished Educator Award.

"I am honored to lead a department dedicated to providing the highest quality, compassionate, and equitable emergency care to the patients in our communities," said Dr. Brown. "I am

eager to support and expand the strong tripartite mission of the Department of Emergency Medicine, with a focus on innovation in education and research, diversity and inclusion, community engagement, and improving the well-being of all physicians and providers."

Dr. Brown earned her undergraduate degree in biology from Colby College in 1992 and her medical degree from Pennsylvania State College of Medicine in 1997. She completed her residency in pediatrics, including a year as chief resident, at Hasbro Children's Hospital/Brown University. Following this, she pursued a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 2004, during which time she also obtained a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Brown returned to Brown and Hasbro Children's Hospital in 2007 after working as an attending physician at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and an assistant professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at Yale School of Medicine. ❖

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



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Recognition



Sanjay Mishra, PhD, recognized by National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine

PROVIDENCE – **SANJAY MISHRA, MS, PhD**, Research Program Manager at the Lifespan Cancer Institute, has received the Eric and Wendy Schmidt Award for Excellence in Science Communications

from the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine in partnership with Schmidt Futures. This prestigious award recognizes science journalists, research scientists, and science communicators who have developed creative, original work to communicate issues and advances in science, engineering, and medicine to the public.

The National Academies gave 24 Eric and Wendy Schmidt Awards in 2023: nine for science communication by research scientists, nine for science journalists, and six for science communicators. Mishra was honored in the “Research Scientist: Early Career” category.

Mishra is the coordinator of the Brown University/Lifespan Center for Clinical Cancer Informatics and Data Science (CCIDS) where he promotes research, operation, and education of clinical cancer informatics. He also serves as a coordinator for the COVID-19 and Cancer Consortium (CCC19), where he collects data about patients with cancer who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

In collaboration with hundreds of international researchers, Mishra’s research has helped understand the effect of COVID-19 on people with cancer; and has highlighted the racial disparities in healthcare outcomes and access to treatments. Previously, Mishra worked on developing vaccine candidates against Zika and Dengue; and uncovered the evolutionarily conserved role of stress-responding proteins in aging and preventing diseases.

“This award assures me that my peers value my efforts to share the joy of scientific discoveries. This recognition is also very motivational because growing up, English was not my first language. This award reminds me that institutional support exists to popularize science, although academic research is often more celebrated,” said Dr. Mishra.

The winners will be honored during an invitation-only workshop and recognition event on Jan. 11 and 12, 2024, in Washington, D.C. ❖

Newsweek names RIH, Miriam, Newport hospitals among America’s Best-In-State

PROVIDENCE – Newsweek has named Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Newport Hospital to their 2024 America’s Best-In-State Hospitals list. Rhode Island Hospital was ranked first in the state with a score of 81.39%, The Miriam Hospital was ranked third with a score of 79.89%, and Newport Hospital was ranked fourth with a score of 78.18%.

The America’s Best-In-State Hospitals 2024 ranking was created to identify the top hospitals at the state level. Hospitals from all US states were eligible for the ranking and included in the nationwide survey. The 25 states with the most hospitals according to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) were surveyed individually.

Four data sources were used for the evaluation:

- **Nationwide online survey:**
Over 10,000 medical professionals (doctors, hospital managers, and healthcare workers) were asked to recommend the best hospitals (in and out of state) based on their expertise.
- **Quality Metrics Data:**
Data from Medicare and Medicare Services available for Mortality, Safety, Readmission, Experience, Timely & Effective Care was considered.
- **Patient Experience:**
Cleanliness of the hospitals and quietness, communication of the nurses/doctors and staff responsiveness, care transition, medicine communication, and discharge information.
- **PROMS Implementation survey:**
To account for the increasing importance of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs). ❖

Lifespan’s nursing assistant training school graduates first class

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan’s nursing assistant school graduated its first class on November 17th. The school was licensed in May 2023 by the Rhode Island Department of Health as an approved training program for nursing assistants. Sixteen students graduated, nearly half (seven) from Providence.

All 16 graduates will stay on and work as nursing assistants at Lifespan hospitals or facilities for at least a year. Training was provided at no cost to students, and all expenses were paid including tuition, textbooks, supplies, exam fees and any other associated costs such as childcare and transportation. ❖



Sara Kavanagh is one of 16 graduates of Lifespan’s first nursing assistant program. [LIFESPAN]

Places

University Gastroenterology introduces Velacur to help combat fatty liver disease

PROVIDENCE – In an effort to combat fatty liver disease – a condition that affects one in every three adults in the United States – University Gastroenterology (UGI) has added a new liver assessment tool to its arsenal. Velacur[®] is an ultrasound-based imaging tool capable of helping quantify the amount of fat and fibrosis in the liver by measuring the liver's stiffness and attenuation.

By 2030, it is estimated 100 million Americans will be affected by this condition.

The Liver Center at UGI

The Liver Center at University Gastroenterology was the first in Rhode Island to introduce noninvasive liver imaging technology seven years ago when it implemented Fibroscan testing. The practice is now excited to be the first center in Rhode Island to offer the Velacur imaging system, reinforcing its commitment to providing cutting-edge care.

In contrast with existing diagnostic methods such as liver biopsy and MRI technologies, which are invasive and costly, Fibroscans and Velacur scans are a quick, painless, non-invasive alternative that can be conducted in the physician's office with immediate results.

DR. TOM SEPE at University Gastroenterology commented on the introduction of Velacur. "Fatty liver disease is a silent but rapidly growing concern, and early detection is the key to combating its devastating effects. With Velacur now available to patients in Portsmouth and East Greenwich and with Fibroscans still being performed in Providence, we now have tools throughout the state allowing us to reach more patients and provide both faster diagnosis and more effective management of this condition. Patients will benefit tremendously from the increased access to these non-invasive tests." ❖



From left to right: **Sarah DelSesto**, Project Sweet Peas; **Laurie Hoffman, MD**, NICU Associate Medical Director; **Meghan Murray**, March of Dimes NICU Family Support Program Coordinator, Women & Infants Hospital; **Janie Carlisle**, Cigna Healthcare; **Victoria Gomez**, NICU mom; **Jack Tanner, BSN, RN**, Nurse Director of the NICU and Respiratory Care; **Julie Traynor** Senior Manager, Cigna Healthcare, A Common Thread, National Co-Lead; **Sophie Pickering**, NICU mom; **Megan Feeley-Couns**, NICU mom; **Ailyn Bohan**, Assistant Nurse Manager NICU; **Robert Cormier**, US President and CEO, Sentec; **Michelle Gagne**, Assistant Nurse Manager NICU; **Brittany Wishart**, Director of Marketing, Sentec; **Chuck Smith**, Digital Marketing Manager, Sentec; **Sofia Billeri**, Assistant Nurse Manager NICU. [CARE NEW ENGLAND]

W&I NICU receives holiday donations from Sentec, Cigna

PROVIDENCE – Women & Infants Hospital is giving thanks this holiday to Sentec and Cigna Healthcare who are helping families in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) celebrate Thanksgiving with the generous donation of baby caps and meals.

"It is hard to have a baby in the NICU, especially during the holidays. Something as simple as the gift of a cozy hat and a special meal prepared just for them can make all the difference for our families," **JACK TANNER, BSN, RN**, Nurse Director of the NICU and Respiratory Care at Women & Infants Hospital.



A group of Cigna Healthcare employees started A Common Thread as a community service project to knit or crochet baby caps to provide warmth for babies facing serious health challenges. Since the group started, more than 25,000 baby hats have been donated to NICUs throughout the country, including 700 caps being donated to the Women & Infants Hospital NICU. ❖

Sentec provided Thanksgiving meals, prepared by Russ Morin Fine Catering and Events, along with desserts for the NICU staff working on Thanksgiving. Sentec is headquartered in Lincoln and considers Women & Infants their "hometown hospital". They hope these delicious meals give the families a taste of home on this special day as well as on Christmas.

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