

Appointments

Benjamin Greenberg, MD, PhD, named Director of the VA RR&D Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology



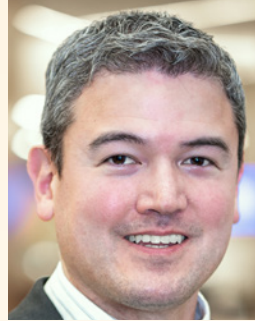
PROVIDENCE – Leigh Hochberg, MD, PhD, Director of the VA RR&D Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN), announced his intent to step down as the Center's director on March 6, 2024. **BENJAMIN GREENBERG, MD, PhD**, CfNN's Associate Director, will become Director.

Dr. Hochberg has been CfNN's Director since 2018, and will return

to the role of Associate Director of CfNN, a role he held from the Center's founding in 2012 through 2018. He is also L. Herbert Ballou University Professor of Engineering and Professor of Brain Science at Brown University, Director of the Center for Neurotechnology and Neurorecovery at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Senior Lecturer on Neurology at Harvard Medical School. As Director of the BrainGate clinical trials and consortium, Dr. Hochberg's research is focused on the development and testing of intracortical brain-computer interfaces for Veterans and others with paralysis resulting from ALS, spinal cord injury, stroke, and other neurologic disorders. Dr. Hochberg was also the recipient of the 2022 Paul B. Magnuson Award for outstanding achievement in VA Rehabilitation Research.

Dr. Greenberg became the founding leader of CfNN's Mental Health Focus Area in 2012, and has been CfNN's Associate Director since 2018. He is also Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University, and directs the COBRE Center for Neuromodulation at Butler Hospital. Dr. Greenberg's main research is on development of brain circuit-focused therapies, including non-invasive and invasive neuromodulation methods for conditions representing major burdens for Veterans and others including PTSD, depression, and OCD. He treats patients at the VA Providence Healthcare system in Trauma Recovery Services and in the Neuromodulation Clinic.

Dr. Greenberg commented, "I'm looking forward to continuing the great tradition of service-based leadership that Leigh has exemplified since CfNN was launched in 2012. Our mission to support Veterans Health is central to all of our research, and to our recruiting and training the next generation of researchers dedicated to improving the health and function of our nation's Veterans. I am proud to say that, across our fields of research, CfNN has made a real difference in interventions available to Veterans. Thanks to the groundwork Leigh has laid, and our dedicated, multidisciplinary team, we are poised to do even more in the future." ❖



Stephen Hendricksen, MD, FACEP, appointed Medical Director of the Wound Care Center and Hyperbaric Medicine at Kent

WARWICK – **STEPHEN HENDRICKSEN, MD, FACEP**, has been appointed Medical Director of the Wound Care Center and Hyperbaric Medicine at Kent Hospital. Dr. Hendrickson will divide his time between Kent Hospital's Emergency Department and the Wound Center.

He attended The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, in New Jersey. He completed his residency training in Emergency Medicine with Brown University at Rhode Island Hospital and the Miriam Hospital, where he did additional training in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine.

He continued his training at the University of Pennsylvania with a Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine fellowship. ❖



Jeffrey Cabral named Chief Philanthropy Officer at Care New England Health System

PROVIDENCE – **JEFFREY CABRAL, BA, MFA**, has been named Chief Philanthropy Officer at Care New England Health System effective April 1. As a native Rhode Islander and someone passionate about advancing healthcare and positively

impacting the well-being of the State's patient communities, he is the ideal professional to lead the system's strategic philanthropic efforts into the future.

Most recently, he served as the Vice President of Development at the University of Rhode Island Foundation, where he provided strategic vision for a comprehensive \$300M campaign, as well as managerial oversight to all URI's college and unit-based, athletic, regional, annual fund, and planned giving development officers.

Before his role at URI, he was the Senior Director of Development for the New York Program & Brown Arts Initiative at Brown University. While there, he directed Brown's fundraising strategy and team in New York and managed the Cultivating Creative Expression campaign, a \$256M arts fundraising campaign inclusive of the Brown Arts Initiative, and the Performing Arts Center.

An undergraduate of Rhode Island College, he earned a BA and later attended Wayne State University where he earned an MFA in Theatre Management. In 2022, he attended Cornell University, where he received a certificate in Diversity and Inclusion. ❖

Appointments

Chris Thanos, PhD, appointed to Rhode Island Life Science Board of Directors

PROVIDENCE – Governor **DAN MCKEE** recently announced the appointment of **DR. CHRIS THANOS** to serve on the Rhode Island Life Science Hub Board. This appointment completes the board and fulfills the statutory requirement that the Governor appoint a senior executive of a Rhode Island-based life science company specializing in bio-manufacturing and design.



Currently, Thanos is the Vice President of Engineering Sciences and Providence Site Research Head for Vertex Pharmaceuticals and leads the company's efforts on device design and translational bioengineering research to develop novel cell and delivery platforms. He is the lead inventor of the immunoprotected cell delivery platform used in Vertex's VX-264 program to treat Type 1 Diabetes (T1D).

Before that, Thanos was a founder of CytoSolv, Inc., a cell therapy company that was later acquired by Semma Therapeutics where he served as vice president of delivery. In 2019, Vertex Pharmaceuticals acquired Semma to commercialize the technology for T1D.

Thanos earned his PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Brown University in 2001 and completed his undergraduate degree at Brown in 1997. He has been an editorial consultant for multiple scientific

journals, and his research has been published in more than 50 journals and has resulted in numerous patents for his work.

"I am honored to be selected to the Rhode Island Life Science Hub Board and to work with Governor McKee, Neil Steinberg, and fellow Board members to catalyze innovation in life sciences in Rhode

Island," said Thanos. "From exposure to unparalleled technical expertise to working through local mechanisms that enabled me to start and grow a business, Rhode Island has been instrumental in helping me advance science to the clinic. I am excited to contribute to the life science hub's effort to expand opportunities in Rhode Island and to establish a framework to help future endeavors in the life sciences to impact patients."

The appointment of Thanos completes the Life Science Board of Directors:

- **Neil Steinberg**, Chairman (Sr. Exec. Banking, Grant Making & Fundraising)
- Secretary **Liz Tanner**, RI Commerce, Vice Chair (Ex-officio)
- **Ernest Almonte**, Treasurer (Public Member, CPA & member of the RI Society of CPAs) Director of Economic Development, City of Providence (Ex-officio)

- **Christina Paxson, PhD**, President, Brown University (Ex-officio)
- **Jack Warner, EdD**, President, Rhode Island College (Ex-officio)
- **Marc Parlange, PhD**, President, University of Rhode Island (Ex-officio)
- **Armand Sabitoni** (Representative of Organized Labor/ Designee)
- **John Fernandez** (President/chief executive officer of the Lifespan Corporation/designee)
- **Michael Wagner, MD FACP**, President & CEO, Care New England (Ex-officio)
- **Mukesh K. Jain, MD**, Dean, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University (Ex-officio)
- **Patrice Milos, PhD** (Life Science Trade Association/ Designee)
- **Chris Thanos, PhD** (Sr. Exec. RI-based Life Science Company specializing in Biomanufacturing/Designee)
- **Brian Britson** (Sr. Exec. RI-based Life Science Company specializing in Bio-manufacturing/Designee)
- **Kerry Evers, PhD** (President/Sr. Exec of RI-based Life Science Company/Designee)

Appointments

Brown Physicians, Inc. announces Ann Kashmanian, CPA, MBA, as Chief Financial Officer

PROVIDENCE – Brown Physicians, Inc. announced the appointment of **ANN KASHMANIAN, CPA, MBA**, as the Chief Financial Officer effective March 1, 2024. With a proven track record in financial leadership and strategic planning, Kashmanian brings a wealth of experience to her new role. As the CEO of Brown Medicine, Kashmanian has demonstrated a deep understanding of the organization's mission and values, making her transition to CFO a seamless and natural progression.

In her new position, Kashmanian will play a vital role in steering Brown Physician's Inc. towards continued financial success and sustainable growth. Her dedication to innovative financial strategies aligns with the organization's commitment to delivering exceptional healthcare services. Brown



Physicians, Inc. looks forward to the continued success under Kashmanian's financial leadership.

She has been active in financial management in the health care sector of Rhode Island since 1987. She served in a number of executive roles for the Lifespan Corporation for over 16 years, including Senior Vice President of Financial Operations and Care Management for the Lifespan System, Vice President Finance for Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital, and Treasurer and CFO of Newport Hospital.

She is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and received Masters' degrees in Business Administration, and the Science of Accounting, at Northeastern University. ❖

Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute names Christine K. Lee, MD, PhD, Director of Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery Program, Co-Director of Skull Base Surgery

PROVIDENCE – Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute recently announced the addition of **CHRISTINE KYUYOUNG LEE, MD, PhD**, as the Director of Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery Program and Co-Director of Skull Base Surgery. Dr. Lee brings her exceptional expertise in neurosurgery, with a specialization in skull base, pituitary, and brain tumor surgery.

Dr. Lee's educational background includes an MD and PhD in Neuroscience from Stanford University School of Medicine. She furthered her skills during her neurosurgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Lee then completed a prestigious fellowship in skull base surgery at Stanford University, working alongside Dr. Juan C. Fernandez-Miranda, a globally recognized authority in endoscopic and open skull base surgery.

"Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute is already a world-class program. Still, we are steadfast in our commitment to constantly advance our capabilities," stated Ziya L. Gokaslan, MD,



neurosurgeon-in-chief at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. "We recruited Dr. Lee because of her incomparable skills and training. The value she adds to our team and the care she can provide our patients is unmatched in the region."

In her new role, Dr. Lee will collaborate with Brown Neurosurgery to expand the skull base surgery division, partnering with Curtis Doberstein, MD, director of cerebrovascular and skull base surgery program at Rhode Island Hospital. She will focus on establishing a leading multi-disciplinary

endoscopic skull base program, aiming to become a regional and national referral center for pituitary lesions, complex cranial tumors, and skull base pathologies.

Additionally, Dr. Lee will serve as the Director of the Translational Skull Base Laboratory. Her research will involve identifying therapeutic targets in chordomas, investigating the cancer neuroscience of skull base tumors, and developing innovative tumor imaging tools. ❖

Recognition

AMA names Thundermist Health Center a 2023 Joy in Medicine™ Recognized Organization

WOONSOCKET – The American Medical Association (AMA) named Thundermist Health Center a 2023 Joy in Medicine™ recognized organization in early October. Thundermist is the only healthcare provider in Rhode Island to receive the Joy in Medicine recognition. The AMA grants this prestigious distinction only to organizations that attest to the rigorous criteria of the Joy in Medicine™ Health System Recognition Program and demonstrate a commitment to preserving the well-being of clinical care team members through proven efforts to combat work-related stress and burnout. Thundermist first received the Joy in Medicine recognition in 2021 at the Bronze level and progressed this year to the Silver level.

“Thundermist is at the cutting-edge of promoting healthcare worker well-being,” says **MATTHEW MALEK, MD, MPH**, medical director of clinician wellness at Thundermist. “At Thundermist, we understand the primary driver of burnout among healthcare professionals is not a lack of resiliency among the clinicians, but rather the broken system in which they practice. As such, our wellness work focuses on optimizing the system in which our clinicians practice.”

“The Joy in Medicine recognition doesn’t mean that we are done,” he adds. “To the contrary, this recognition means that we have put into place the infrastructure to really accelerate, and then sustain, our wellness efforts with our staff.” Currently, there are 120 medical providers at Thundermist Health Center.

Burnout rates among the nation’s physicians and other healthcare professionals spiked dramatically as the COVID-19 pandemic placed acute stress on care teams and exacerbated long-standing system issues. While the worst days of the pandemic are over, the lingering impact of work-related burnout remains.

“Health organizations that earned recognition from the AMA’s Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program are leading a national movement that declared the well-being of health professionals to be an essential element for providing high-quality care to patients, families, and communities,” says AMA President **JESSE M. EHRENFELD, MD, MPH**. “Each Joy in Medicine recognized organization is distinguished as among the nation’s best at creating a culture of wellness that makes a difference in the lives of clinical care teams.”

Since its inception in 2019, the Joy in Medicine™ Health System Recognition Program has recognized more than 100 organizations across the country. In 2023, a total of 72 health systems nationwide earned recognition with documented efforts to reduce system-level drivers of work-related burnout



Matthew Malek, MD, MPH, medical director of clinician wellness at Thundermist. [COURTESY OF THUNDERMIST]

and demonstrated competencies in commitment, assessment, leadership, efficiency of practice environment, teamwork, and support.

Learn more about the AMA Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program at ama-assn.org/joyinmedicine.

Recognition

Rhode Island Hospital named among World's Best Hospitals

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital has been recognized as one of the world's best hospitals in Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals 2024 ranking. This annual ranking, conducted in partnership with Statista, evaluates hospitals from around the globe.

Rhode Island Hospital also received an Infection Prevention Award included in this ranking. The Infection Prevention Award identifies which hospitals featured on the list were above the national average based on reported measures.

The comprehensive list includes data on 2,400 hospitals across 30 countries, with each hospital's score determined by an online survey of over 85,000 medical experts and public data from post-hospitalization patient surveys. Factors such as general satisfaction, hygiene, patient/doctor ratio, and the use of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) were also considered in the evaluation process.

"Being named among the world's best hospitals is a testament to the exceptional care and dedication of our staff," said **DEAN ROYE, MD**, interim president at Rhode Island Hospital. "We are proud to be recognized for our commitment to providing high-quality healthcare to our patients." ❖
