Appointments

Valentin Antoci, MD; Brett Owens, MD, assume new leadership roles in total joint, sports medicine divisions

EAST PROVIDENCE – University Orthopedics announced in July that two of its orthopedic surgeons are taking on new leadership roles. **DR. BRETT OWENS** will now serve as division chief of sports medicine for the Department of Orthopedics at Lifespan and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, while **DR. VALENTIN ANTOCI** will take the reins as division chief of arthroplasty at the Department of Orthopedics at Lifespan and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Antoci and Dr. Owens will assume the roles previously held by Dr. John Froelich and Dr. Paul Fadale, respectively. While Drs. Fadale and Froelich have chosen to step back from the leadership positions they have skillfully administered for many years, they remain at University Orthopedics and continue to see patients.

**About Dr. Antoci**
Dr. Antoci is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in adult reconstruction and hip and knee joint replacement surgery. He has a special interest in unicompartamental partial knee replacement, minimally invasive surgery, complex reconstructions, failed total joints, preservation techniques, and trauma.

In addition to his surgical duties at University Orthopedics, Dr. Antoci has served as director of outpatient adult reconstruction at the practice. Outside of UOI, he is the medical director of Newport Hospital’s Total Joint Replacement Program and an associate professor of orthopedic surgery at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

**About Dr. Owens**
Dr. Owens, MD, is a board-certified pediatric and adult orthopedic sports medicine surgeon. He specializes in arthroscopic repair of sports-related injuries, as well as complex knee and shoulder reconstructions.

Dr. Owens serves as director of the Rhode Island Cartilage Repair Center, the director of Sports Medicine at The Miriam Hospital, and the director of Sports Medicine Research at Brown University, where he is also a professor of orthopedic surgery.

Stephen Marcaccio, MD, joins Sports Medicine Center at University Orthopedics

EAST PROVIDENCE – University Orthopedics recently announced the addition of Rhode Island-native **STEPHEN MARCACCIO, MD**, to The Sports Medicine Center.

Fellowship-trained in both orthopedic sports medicine and orthopedic trauma, Dr. Marcaccio treats a wide variety of injuries and ailments in athletes and active individuals—with a specific focus on the shoulders, hips, and knees. He is also experienced in treating fractures of the upper and lower extremities, including clavicle fractures, fractures of the humerus, elbow, and forearm, as well as those of the hip, femur, knee, tibia, and ankle.

“Dr. Marcaccio’s comprehensive knowledge of both sports medicine and orthopedic trauma makes him an outstanding addition to our practice. His experience—combined with a dedication to patient-centered care and positive outcomes—ensures our patients will receive tailored treatment that is of the highest standard,” said Dr. Edward Akelman, president of University Orthopedics. “We are truly excited to welcome a surgeon of his caliber to University Orthopedics.”

Before completing the orthopedic sports medicine fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Marcaccio received the majority of his medical education and training at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, earning his medical degree, and completing both his residency in orthopedic surgery and a fellowship in orthopedic trauma while there.

“During my orthopedic surgery residency and orthopedic trauma fellowship at Brown University, many University Orthopedics physicians were my teachers and mentors. I’m now incredibly honored and excited that these skilled surgeons and doctors, from whom I’ve learned so much, will now be my colleagues,” said Dr. Marcaccio, who grew up in East Greenwich.

“Not only do I get to continue my career at one of the best orthopedic practices in the country, but I get to do so in my home state, helping my fellow Rhode Islanders. It doesn’t get much better than that.”

Dr. Marcaccio will see both adult and pediatric patients at the University Orthopedics locations in East Providence, East Greenwich, Providence, and Cranston.

Beyond his clinical practice, Dr. Marcaccio is the assistant team physician for Brown University Athletics and team physician for the school’s men’s and women’s hockey teams. He also serves as head team physician for East Greenwich High School Athletics.
Blue Cross & Blue Shield RI wins top honor for member retention

PROVIDENCE – Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) has received a Brand Excellence Award for outstanding performance in member retention in 2023. BCBSRI garnered top honors for attaining a member retention rate of 96.4%.

Brand Excellence awards are presented by the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Association to independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies across the country.

“At BCBSRI, our top priority in everything we do is the health and well-being of our members. That’s why we are extremely honored to receive the Brand Excellence Award for member retention,” said Melissa Cummings, BCBSRI executive vice president and chief customer officer. “This award is a testament to our commitment to providing convenient and responsive customer service and ensuring the satisfaction of our members. Our retention rate of 96.4% is indicative of the trust and loyalty our members have in us and how we advocate on their behalf. We are proud to have received this top honor and will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of our service.”

This marks the 29th year that Blue Cross Blue Shield Association has presented Brand Excellence Awards to recognize BCBS companies nationwide in categories that promote the BCBS brand, including attracting new customers, fostering loyalty among existing customers and brand innovation.

The winners were announced at the June Board of Directors meeting.

William Grobman, MD, MBA, joins CNE, Brown

PROVIDENCE – Nationally renowned maternal-fetal medicine expert, William Grobman, MD, MBA, joined Care New England and Brown University on July 1, 2024. He will serve as Chief Scientific Officer for Care New England, and the Associate Dean of Research, Care New England, at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He will also serve as Executive Vice Chair for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from December 1, 2024.

An elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, Dr. Grobman recently served as Professor and Vice Chair of Clinical Operations for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Ohio State College of Medicine. He is nationally known for research work focused on predicting and preventing adverse obstetric outcomes and associated disparities. He has completed pivotal work leading to changes in the standard of care in obstetrics and maternal-fetal medicine, including the 2018 ARRIVE Trial, which showed that inducing labor at 39 weeks reduced the rate of cesarean deliveries and other complications. This publication was listed among the 12 most impactful and practice-changing papers since the year 2000 by the New England Journal of Medicine. He has over 650 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals, and his work is supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and the American Heart Association.

Dr. Grobman has held several national leadership roles including President of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine from 2021-2022. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He was elected to the National Academic Medicine in 2020 “for his paradigm-shifting research and organizational leadership that has been instrumental in defining modern obstetric practice and improving care and outcomes for women and children.”

In his roles at Care New England and Brown University, Dr. Grobman will help advance the academic and research goals of both institutions. He will continue his research, including work within the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units (MFMU) Network, a research collaborative established by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Women and Infants Hospital/Brown University is one of 14 centers within the MFMU Network.

Dr. Grobman received his medical degree from Harvard University, followed by residency training in Obstetrics & Gynecology and fellowship training in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Northwestern University. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Recognition

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Recall and Recognition

Newsweek names Hasbro among best in country for pediatric endocrinology

Providence – Hasbro Children’s Hospital has been recognized as one of America’s Best Children’s Hospitals 2024 for pediatric endocrinology. The designation is awarded by Newsweek and Statista Inc., a global statistics portal.

“The division of pediatric endocrinology at Hasbro Children’s Hospital is committed to providing the community with first-rate quality care, treating each child as an individual, and prioritizing research to learn more about the effects of diabetes and other endocrine disorders. Being identified as one of the country’s best children’s hospitals is confirmation of the comprehensive clinical care our team delivers to children and their families,” said Phyllis Dennery, MD, pediatrician-in-chief and medical director, Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

The ranking is based on hospital quality metrics and the results of a nationwide survey of healthcare professionals and hospital managers with pediatric care knowledge, a patient experience survey and a patient reported outcome measures implementation survey.

“We have a passionate and dynamic multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, dietitians, mental health professionals, medical assistants, and administrative staff who work closely with patients’ families and the community at large to manage diabetes and other endocrine diagnoses. Our goal is to provide the best care possible, and this designation is terrific validation of our efforts,” said Jose Bernardo Quintos, MD, director of the Diabetes Outpatient Education Center and division chief of pediatric endocrinology and diabetes at Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

Hasbro recognized as Highest Level Center for Children’s Surgical Care by ACS

Providence – Hasbro Children’s Hospital announced that it has been verified as a Level I Children’s Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The designation, the highest ACS award available for quality of care, is given as part of The ACS’ Children’s Surgery Verification Improvement Program, or CSV program, which addresses the surgical care of infants and children. Hospitals that participate in ACS quality programs, such as the CVS program, earn the distinction of being an ACS Surgical Quality Partner (SQP). Hasbro Children’s Hospital, the only Level 1 verified children’s surgery center in RI, is among only 50 surgery programs nationwide to have attained level 1 verification.

The CSV Program, which recognizes institution-wide excellence in patient care, collaboration, and quality improvement processes, addresses gaps in surgical care to achieve better clinical outcomes, from relatively simple to high-risk and complex procedures, including:

- Trauma care
- Neonatal surgery
- Intussusception
- Pyloric stenosis; and
- Appendicitis

“Being recognized as a level 1 children’s surgery center recognizes our cohesive delivery of extraordinary surgical care for children throughout Rhode Island and southern New England,” said Sarah Frost, Chief of Hospital Operations, and President, Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital. “This distinction acknowledges the expertise, efforts and dedication of our exceptional staff.”

Receiving a level 1 CSV designation demonstrates that a hospital has invested in systems directed toward pediatric surgical patients receiving high-quality, coordinated care and that its programs have made the effort to provide supportive services and resources addressing the full continuum of care in surrounding communities. A Level I children’s surgical center is a regional resource and tertiary- or quaternary-care facility central to the children’s health care system and must have the capability of providing leadership and comprehensive care for all aspects of children’s surgical needs. In this central role, the Level I center must have adequate depth of resources and personnel and is expected to manage large numbers of patients. The scope of care at a Level I center includes care for major congenital anomalies and complex diseases, requiring multidisciplinary teams.

“It really is about us having a whole system of specialists and subspecialists at Hasbro Children’s Hospital working collaboratively as a team and continually learning from each other that has enabled us to build a massive center of excellence and provide our patients with progressive, top-notch care year after year,” said Francois Luks, MD, PhD, pediatric surgeon-in-chief and division chief of pediatric surgery, Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

Hasbro Children’s Hospital’s ACS verification as a Level I children’s surgery center extends through 2026.
Lifespan makes U.S. News & World Report’s 2024–2025 Best Hospitals List

PROVIDENCE – U.S. News & World Report released its 2024–2025 Best Hospitals ratings on July 16 and both The Miriam Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital were recognized in the annual rankings, with The Miriam Hospital being named the top hospital in the state, and both hospitals receiving “high performing” scores in specialty care.

“These rankings are released with the intention of helping patients decide the best places to seek medical care,” said SARAH FROST, chief of hospital operations at Lifespan. “Lifespan hospitals take great pride in caring for our patients, it’s no coincidence we are identified in this year’s rankings. We plan to expand on these accomplishments in the following rating cycles.”

The Miriam Hospital has earned the honor of top hospital in Rhode Island for 13 straight years, starting with U.S. News & World Report’s 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 10 conditions and adult specialty areas, as follows:

- Hip replacements
- Knee replacements
- Colon cancer surgery
- Heart failure
- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Kidney failure
- Prostate Cancer
- Pneumonia
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Rhode Island Hospital received a “high performing” ranking for its excellence in Geriatric care and treatment. For the 2024–2025 rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated nearly 5,000 hospitals across 15 specialties and 20 procedures and conditions. Hospitals awarded a “Best” designation excelled at factors such as clinical outcomes, level of nursing care and patient experience.

Adult Reconstruction Fellowship among first in nation to earn American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons recognition

PROVIDENCE – The Adult Reconstruction Fellowship at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University recently announced it’s among the first 50 programs in the country to receive recognition from The American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS).

The AAHKS earlier this month released a list of the first fellowship programs meeting the requirements and guidelines outlined as part of the new Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Recognition Program. Created in 2023, the recognition program aims to address the need for more oversight of adult reconstruction fellowship training programs and to ensure those programs – by meeting a defined set of standards – provide the highest quality educational and training experience.

“We are so honored for the Brown Adult Fellowship to earn the official AAHKS Fellowship Recognition designation,” said Fellowship Co-Director ERIC COHEN, MD. “We look forward to working with AAHKS to ensure a world-class hip and knee arthroplasty fellowship experience at Brown as we continue to train and mentor the next generation of arthroplasty surgeons and leaders.”

To receive AAHKS recognition, Brown’s Adult Reconstruction Fellowship program had to meet several rigorous requirements and guidelines, which include standards for program length and structure; faculty oversight; surgical volume; curriculum; research; and evaluations.

“The AAHKS recognition signifies the hard work that went into the initial foundation of this fellowship program and our continued efforts to improve fellow education and operative experience,” said Fellowship Co-Director THOMAS BARRETT, MD. “At the end of the day, it’s about the patients who put their trust and, more importantly, their lives in the hands of the fellows we train. It’s an incredible responsibility and one that we have and always will take seriously.”

Brown’s AAHKS recognition took effect July 1, 2024, and must be renewed every five years.

Over the next several years, participation in the AAHKS recognition program will become a requirement to participate in the AAHKS Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Match, as well as to receive AAHKS Fellowship Grants.
Recognition

AHA recognizes Lifespan hospitals for exceptional stroke treatment

PROVIDENCE – The American Heart Association [AHA] has once again recognized three Lifespan hospitals for their exceptional patient outcomes and commitment to providing quality patient care. For the third year in a row, Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Newport Hospital each received the prestigious Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke GOLD PLUS Quality Achievement Award. This award is given in recognition of programs who are successful in:

• Reducing barriers to prompt treatment for cardiovascular events,
• Providing coordinated patient care that results in shorter recovery times, and
• Reducing the need for hospital readmission.

All three hospitals also received AHA's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll designation. This recognition is given to hospitals that can demonstrate they met quality measures with over 90% compliance for one year. All three hospitals received this designation in 2022 and 2023 as well.

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

"According to The American Heart Association cardiovascular diseases, including heart attack, stroke, and heart failure, affect nearly half of all adults in the United States. For patients requiring hospitalization, time is of the essence,” said MELISSA HARMON, MSN, RN, ASC-BC, Manager, Comprehensive Stroke Program at Rhode Island Hospital. “Lifespan’s hospitals are dedicated to both prompt treatment and quality care. We understand this is crucial in improving patient outcomes and saving lives.”

“These awards underscore the dedication of our staff. We strive to provide exceptional care to our stroke patients each day. It is exciting that all our Lifespan stroke centers are again recognized by the AHA for the high-quality care that we provide to our patients,” said KAREN SCHAEFER, MSN, APRN, AGCNS-BC, ASC-BC, FCNS stroke program manager for The Miriam Hospital and Newport Hospital. “I want to express our continued gratitude for our staff and their accomplishments.”

Newport Hospital receives its 5th consecutive Magnet designation

NEWPORT – Newport Hospital was notified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet Recognition Program that is has attained Magnet recognition for the fifth consecutive time, joining only one percent of hospitals nationwide with five consecutive designations.

The honor, bestowed upon the hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program, is considered the gold standard for nursing excellence and provides consumers with the ultimate benchmark for measuring quality of care and patient satisfaction. Only hospitals that meet rigorous standards for high-quality nursing excellence can achieve Magnet recognition, the highest national honor for professional nursing practice.

Newport Hospital has continuously maintained Magnet recognition since 2004, one of only six hospitals in New England to accomplish two decades of nursing excellence.

“To receive a fifth consecutive Magnet recognition for nursing excellence is an amazing accomplishment and honor,” said CRISTA F. DURAND, MBA, FACHE, president of Newport Hospital. “Since 2004, nearly 20 years, Newport Hospital has held this designation, one that is awarded to only 604 hospitals in this country, fewer than 10-percent of all hospitals in the U.S. This recognition is affirmation of the hard work, dedication, and care that our team provides to our patients and this community under the outstanding leadership of our Chief Nursing Officer, ORLA BRANDOS, who emulates the Magnet philosophy every day. I offer the entire team my congratulations.”

To achieve Magnet recognition, organizations must pass a rigorous and lengthy process that demands widespread participation from leadership and staff. This process includes an electronic application, written patient care documentation, an on-site visit, and a review by the Commission on the Magnet Recognition Program. Health care organizations must reapply for Magnet recognition every four years based on adherence to Magnet concepts and demonstrated improvements in patient care and quality. This year, the hospital was further commended by receiving 12 exemplars for demonstrating exemplary nursing in nursing quality and patient satisfaction.

“It’s hard to express the pride and gratitude I feel toward our nursing staff who have once again received the highest honor in nursing excellence; validation of the care and commitment they provide daily in their work,” said Orla Brandos, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer. “We often receive grateful patient letters and comments about our nursing staff and the standard of care, but to demonstrate that through this rigorous process is challenging if it’s not part of your culture and already engrained in what you do every day. I am fortunate to work with this team and I thank them again for their dedication to our patients, our community, and one another.”
Call for art: Exhibit to showcase visual art created by medical professionals

BRISTOL – The Bristol Art Museum announces a call for art for an exhibit to be featured at the Museum, Prescribing Creativity. The exhibit will showcase a collection of visual art created by those working in the medical profession. The exhibit is open to all medical professionals who wish to submit artwork that reflects imagery related to medical experiences.

The exhibit will be on display from Sunday, September 22 to Sunday, October 20. When the exhibit concludes, artists will be invited to have their works displayed at the Warren Alpert Medical School. “Those serving in the medical profession are not often thought of as artists. However, artistic creativity is common among those in this field of work,” said PHIL GRUPPUSO, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Science at Brown University’s Alpert Medical School. “After all, it’s hard to think of two more humanistic endeavors than caring for people as a medical professional or making art. In addition, art can play a role in the healing process, whether someone is dealing with physical or psychological issues. Finally, making art provides a creative outlet that can alleviate the stress experienced by so many medical professionals. I’m thrilled that the Museum chose to provide this opportunity for those in the medical fields to showcase their creativity. I encourage and invite doctors, nurses, EMTs, and others, including students, to participate in this show.”

Artists are encouraged to submit original artworks in various mediums, including drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, photography, mixed media, quilting, quilling, fine craft, and sculpture.

Artists are invited to submit up to three pieces for the upcoming exhibit through the online registration process by Sunday, September 1, 11:59pm. The entry fees are $30 for the first entry, $40 for two entries, and $50 for three entries. All submitting artists must be able to hand-deliver their artwork on Sunday, September 15, or Monday, September 16, between 12:30 and 3:30pm.

For more information, visit http://www.bristolartmuseum.org/prescribing-creativity.html.