

## Appointments



### Jillian Roy, RN, MSN, appointed president of The Providence Center

PROVIDENCE — **JILLIAN ROY, RN, MSN**, has been appointed president of The Providence Center (TPC). She began her career there in 2010 as a case manager in TPC's Crisis Stabilization Unit. She has provided care across several different programs and levels of care at TPC and Butler Hospital and has served as Vice President of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer at TPC since 2021.

Among her many notable career accomplishments at TPC, she played an integral lead role in the application process for TPC to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). She developed many innovative community services including an early elementary-age partial hospital program, an LGBTQIA specialized program in partnership with Open Door Health, and an expansion of peer services by incorporating the Oasis Peer Recovery Center under TPC's umbrella. She led TPC's COVID-19 task force and represented TPC in system-level planning throughout the pandemic. Under her leadership, TPC achieved 2023 CARF accreditation with no clinical findings and was instrumental in helping to secure over \$3.5 million in grant/contract revenue over a five-year period.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Rhode Island. She went on to earn her associate degree in nursing from the Community College of Rhode Island, and her MSN from Southern New Hampshire University. In addition, she is currently in the process of earning her MBA (Healthcare Concentration), from Southern New Hampshire University.

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### Dr. Aurora Pryor takes helm of Brown Surgical Associates

PROVIDENCE — Brown Surgical Associates is pleased to announce a significant addition to both its executive and medical teams, naming **AURORA PRYOR, MD, MBA, FACS, FASMBS**, as the practice's new president. Additionally, Dr. Pryor takes on the role of Surgeon-in-Chief of Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals, and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the Warren

Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Pryor is a nationally and internationally known expert in minimally invasive bariatric and foregut surgery, surgical education, and medical leadership. She has produced more than 250 publications and remains actively involved in research focused on innovation in bariatric and gastroenterology surgery, and improving patient outcomes.

Dr. Pryor takes the helm from Dr. William Cioffi, who retired this summer after 30 years with Brown Surgical Associates, serving 23 of those years as president.

Dr. Pryor received an undergraduate degree in engineering and her medical degree from Duke University, where she also completed her residency and a minimally invasive surgical fellowship. Upon completing her training, Dr. Pryor joined the Duke faculty, taking on progressive leadership roles. She relocated to Stony Brook University and Medical Center in 2011, where she was appointed Professor of Surgery and served as Division Chief of General Surgery; Division Chief of Bariatric, Foregut, and Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgery; Vice Chairman of Clinical Affairs; Director of the Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center; and Program Director of the Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Fellowship Program. Dr. Pryor was most recently the Surgeon-in-Chief at Long Island Jewish Hospital, System Director for Bariatric Surgery at Northwell Health, and Professor of Surgery at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra University/Northwell.

In addition to publications, Dr. Pryor has co-edited four textbooks, given more than 300 presentations worldwide; and received several research grants. She holds patents for several surgical technologies, including the Transenterix SPIDER single port system. Her current research efforts focus on advancing laparoscopic bariatric and GI surgery techniques and outcomes, and on new technology in surgery. She has actively engaged in several FDA trials and offers her patients the latest treatment options. ❖

## Appointments

### National Academy of Medicine elects new members; among them Dr. Jennifer B. Nuzzo at Brown School of Public Health

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) 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 class of new members represents the most exceptional researchers and leaders in health and medicine, who have made significant breakthroughs, led the response to major public health challenges, and advanced health equity,” said NAM President **VICTOR J. DZAU**. “Their expertise will be necessary to supporting NAM’s work to address the pressing health and scientific challenges we face today. It is my privilege to welcome these esteemed individuals to the National Academy of Medicine.”



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 2,400, which includes nearly 200 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.

Newly elected regular members of the National Academy of Medicine and their election citations include **JENNIFER B. NUZZO, DrPH, SM**, director, Pandemic Center, Brown University School of Public Health, for co-creating the Global Health Security Index and conducting research to measure and improve national preparedness for infectious disease threats. She co-established a global COVID-19 testing data tracker and created a health systems resilience checklist for biological emergencies. ❖

### Sean Monaghan, MD, named Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Surgery at the Alpert Medical School

PROVIDENCE — Brown Surgical Associates (BSA) announced that **SEAN F. MONAGHAN, MD, FACS**, has been named Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Surgery at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Monaghan, a board-certified trauma/critical care surgeon at BSA and an associate professor at the medical school, has been conducting NIH-funded research into RNA biology and its role in sepsis. He and his colleagues hope to expand this work to



investigate sepsis and other pathogens, including E. coli and Staphylococcus aureus, after trauma, cancer, transplants, or major operations.

“When it comes to sepsis, the difference between life and death is sometimes just a matter of minutes. So, time is truly of the essence,” Dr. Monaghan said. “Through our research, we hope to find innovative ways to diagnose and detect sepsis quickly, enabling doctors to treat patients sooner.” ❖

## Recognition

### W&I's Dr. Alexandria Craft receives NIH Director's Early Independence Award

PROVIDENCE — **ALEXANDREA L. CRAFT, PhD**, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Women & Infants Hospital, and Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry & Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has received the prestigious NIH Director's Early Independence Award from the NIH Common Fund's High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program which will help support her research in perinatal health disparities.



risk and resiliency) shape the behaviors and perceptions of underrepresented, underserved, and vulnerable populations. Specifically, she has focused on understanding how adversity is experienced psychologically and physically by mothers and fathers in the prenatal period, and how adversity is transmitted to infants through parents' behaviors and stress hormones during the perinatal period. Her long-term objective is to develop and implement interventions to address perinatal health

disparities and support new parents and children with the belief that if we can engage caregivers in needed intervention early in the perinatal period, we can intervene during a critical period of child development to promote positive long-term outcomes for children and caregivers.

The NIH Common Fund supports a series of exceptionally high-impact programs that cross NIH Institutes and Centers. Common Fund programs pursue major opportunities and gaps in biomedical research that require NIH-wide collaboration to succeed. In 2024, the NIH Common Fund awarded 67 High-Risk, High-Reward Research Awards, totaling approximately \$207 million over five years, pending the availability of funds.

The Early Independence Award, established in 2011, provides an opportunity for exceptional junior scientists who have recently received their doctoral degree or completed their clinical training to bypass the traditional post-doctoral training period to launch independent research careers. This year, the NIH Common Fund issued 12 Early Independence Awards.

Dr. Craft's research focuses on understanding how social contexts (e.g., social class and race) and individual differences (e.g.,

risk and resiliency) shape the behaviors and perceptions of underrepresented, underserved, and vulnerable populations. Specifically, she has focused on understanding how adversity is experienced psychologically and physically by mothers and fathers in the prenatal period, and how adversity is transmitted to infants through parents' behaviors and stress hormones during the perinatal period. Her long-term objective is to develop and implement interventions to address perinatal health

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"This project (Grant #: DP5 OD037403-01) was inspired by my research and clinical work; seeing first-hand the challenges families face becoming NICU parents - whether that be violated parenting expectations, birth trauma, mental health struggles, or balancing work-family demands on top of NICU parenting," Dr. Craft shared. "In short, NICU parenting is hard, and I hope that through this project we can identify intervention targets to better support parents and families in the NICU."

This award will provide \$1.25 M in grant funding for Dr. Craft's research over the next five years. ❖

## Recognition

### CNE hosts its fourth annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summit

PROVIDENCE — As part of its mission to build a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system, Care New England Health System (CNE) recently hosted its fourth annual DEI Summit 2024: Access in Action.

Summit attendees were introduced to and educated on the latest strategies, research, and best practices for advancing equity in healthcare. The Summit included engaging presentations, lively panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities that advance CNE's collective knowledge on healthcare equity, social drivers of health, serving LGBTQ+ populations, trauma-informed care, and more.

"This year, I am proud to say that Care New England built on previous years' work of advancing our collective understanding of health equity. While identifying barriers is key, we must be solution-orientated with our community at the core. I am so grateful to the many local organizations who contributed to helping us advance toward a more equitable and inclusive Care New England," said **KEVIN K. MARTINS, EdD, MBA**, Vice President & Chief Diversity Officer.

This year's Leadership Award winner was **STEPHANIE CZECH, PhD**, Director of Behavioral Health, CNEMG/Kent Hospital, and the Team Excellence winner was the Academic Midwifery Department, Women & Infants Hospital (which includes **ANA SOFIA BARBER DE BRITO CNM, MSN**; **ELISABETH HOWARD, CNM, PhD**; **LINDA HUNTER, CNM, EdD**; **ELIZABETH KETTLE, CNM, MSN, MPH**; **SARAH KLEINMAN, CNM, MSN**; **JULIE KNUTSON, CNM, DNP**; **ASHLEIGH**



Leadership Award winner, **Stephanie Czech, PhD**, Director of Behavioral Health, CNEMG/Kent Hospital with **Kevin K. Martins, EdD, MBA**, Vice President & Chief Diversity Officer.



Team Excellence winner, Academic Midwifery Department, Women & Infants Hospital represented by **Elizabeth Kettle, CNM, MSN, MPH**, with **Joseph Diaz, MD, MPH, FACP**, Chief Health Equity Officer at Care New England.

**SHIFFLER, CNM, MSN**; **LINDA STEINHARDT CNM, MSN**; **CYNTHIA VOYTAS, CNM, MSN**).

This year's keynote speaker was **LARRY WARNER, DrPh**, Chief Impact and Equity Officer at United Way of Rhode Island, where he oversees the organization's grantmaking, 211 call center, research and data analytics, policy and advocacy, and senior and disability services.

The closing keynote speaker was **RAHUL VANJANI, MD**. Dr. Vanjani is an Internal Medicine Physician, Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Chief Medical Officer at the Amos House, which serves the homeless, individuals struggling with substance use disorders, and those who are living in poverty. ❖