

Appointments



Francesca L. Beaudoin, MD, appointed dean of Brown University's School of Public Health

PROVIDENCE [BROWN UNIVERSITY] — **FRANCESCA L. BEAUDOIN, MD**, has been appointed the next dean of Brown University's School of Public Health (SPH), effective June 1. Dr. Beaudoin has been serving

in the role on an interim basis since Jan. 1, 2026.

She will oversee the school's four academic departments, 13 research centers, seven master's programs, four doctoral programs and the undergraduate concentrations in public health and statistics, while driving the school's strategic planning in collaboration with its faculty.

In announcing Beaudoin's appointment in a May 19th message to the Brown community, Provost Francis J. Doyle III described Beaudoin as an exceptional scholar, a dedicated clinician and a proven academic leader who deeply embodies Brown's mission of translating world-class research into real-world impact. She was named to the role after a national search.

She will oversee ongoing efforts to grow the size of the faculty and expand a research portfolio that currently ranks among the top 10 schools of public health for federal funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Reporting directly to the provost, Dr. Beaudoin will serve as a member of the provost's Academic Priorities Committee, the Tenure, Promotions and Appointments Committee, and the President's Cabinet and President's Executive Committee, while also stewarding the SPH Board of Governors.

A faculty member at Brown since 2010, Dr. Beaudoin holds joint professorships in epidemiology at SPH and emergency medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School. Her research focuses on the intersection of pain management, the opioid epidemic and acute trauma recovery and has drawn funding from the NIH, the Department of Defense and numerous philanthropic foundations.

Dr. Beaudoin has authored more than 190 peer-reviewed articles, served as a member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee, served as a senior adviser for the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, and is a member of the board of directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island. ❖



Jinnette Dawn Abbott, MD, MScAI, named president of Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions

PROVIDENCE — The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions (SCAI) has named **JINETTE DAWN ABBOTT, MD, MScAI**, president. She is director of the Interventional Cardiology and Cardiac

Catheterization Laboratories of the Brown University Health Cardiovascular Institute.

Among a handful of women to achieve this national designation, Dr. Abbott was appointed for 2026–2027 during the SCAI 2026 Scientific Sessions & CAIC-ACCI Summit held recently in Montreal.

"Training is the foundation of everything we do in interventional cardiology, and we have an opportunity right now to strengthen that foundation for the next generation. That means supporting our fellowship programs, working closely with program directors, and ensuring that training reflects the realities of modern practice. At the same time, we need to be thoughtful about how we grow the workforce, using real data to guide decisions and ensure that we are building a sustainable future for the field," Dr. Abbott said.

Focused on advancing interventional cardiology education, physician training, and cardiovascular research nationally and internationally, Dr. Abbott has held several SCAI leadership roles impacting its education and workforce strategy. She co-led establishment of the Interventional Cardiology Match, strengthened engagement with fellowship programs nationwide, and championed initiatives supporting early-career interventional cardiologists. Chair of the SCAI Scientific Sessions, Dr. Abbott serves on the Women in Innovations (WIN) Committee and was an inaugural participant in SCAI's Emerging Leader Mentorship (ELM) program, becoming the first physician to progress from mentee to mentor to president of the organization. Dr. Abbott also serves as Deputy Editor of *Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions*. ❖

Appointments

Eric Morrow, MD, PhD, appointed founding director of the Lurie Autism Institute in Philadelphia



PROVIDENCE [BROWN UNIVERSITY]
— **ERIC MORROW, MD, PhD**, founding director of the Center for Translational Neuroscience and a nationally recognized leader in autism and neurogenetic research, has been appointed founding director of the Lurie Autism Institute, a joint initiative of the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and the Children's Hospital of

Philadelphia. He will depart Brown August 31, 2026. In his new role, Dr. Morrow will lead the Lurie Autism Institute to drive discoveries with transformative impact for people living with autism spectrum disorder.

Dr. Morrow came to Brown in 2009 from Harvard Medical School following a national search conducted through the Brown Institute for Brain Science, now the Robert J. and Nancy D. Carney Institute for Brain Science. During the next decade, he built an internationally recognized research and academic program that bridged basic science and clinical care, with interdisciplinary appointments in the Department of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry, as well as the departments of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and Neuroscience. He was appointed the Menco Family Professor of Biology in 2018.

Dr. Morrow's research has focused on understanding the genetic and biological foundations of autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders, with a career-long commitment to improving the lives of children and adults with profound autism. His work has engaged families around the world and has contributed to advances in understanding rare genetic conditions, including Christianson syndrome and GPT2 deficiency. He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals, and his contributions have been recognized nationally, including with the Presidential Early Career Award

for Scientists and Engineers during the Obama Administration.

As founding director of the Center for Translational Neuroscience, Dr. Morrow played a central role in fostering collaboration between the Carney Institute for Brain Science and The Warren Alpert Medical School. He has been deeply committed to faculty development, mentoring junior faculty through the tenure process, and supporting interdisciplinary research initiatives. He has mentored dozens of undergraduate and graduate students and received the Psychiatry Research Mentor Award for his commitment to training the next generation of scientists.

Dr. Morrow has also been deeply committed to advancing understanding and care for individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders and their families. He founded the Developmental Disorders Genetics Research Program, creating a vital bridge between molecular research on campus and patient-centered research at Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital. He was also a founding leader of the Rhode Island Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment (RI-CART), a statewide partnership funded by the Simons Foundation for Autism Research Initiative, and served as founding co-director of the Autism Initiative within the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute at Brown.

In addition to his research leadership, Dr. Morrow has been a dedicated educator and mentor. He developed and taught widely regarded courses in human genetics and genomics, founded advanced undergraduate offerings in the field, and led the Bench-to-Bedside Seminar Series within the Neuroscience Graduate Training Program.

Dr. Morrow has also been a prominent figure in national and international autism research efforts, serving as a founding member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Autism Science Foundation and contributing to major initiatives through the Simons Foundation, the Eagles Autism Foundation, the NIH Study Section on Developmental Brain Disorders, and global research collaborations. ❖

Recognition

VA Providence wins national Go Red competition

PROVIDENCE — The VA Providence Healthcare System has been named the national winner of the VA Office of Women's Health Go Red competition, recognizing the facility's outstanding efforts to promote heart health awareness, education, and outreach for Women Veterans throughout American Heart Month.

Throughout February, VA Providence coordinated an expansive Go Red campaign that brought together VA staff, community partners, and Veterans across Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. The initiative featured educational events, healthy teaching kitchen classes, Whole Health programming, outreach activities, social media engagement, and collaborations with organizations including the American Heart Association, Providence Vet Center, Cape Cod Vet Center, and Rhode Island FC.



The campaign emphasized the importance of cardiovascular health, preventive care, exercise, nutrition, and awareness of women-specific heart disease symptoms while encouraging Veterans to take an active role in their overall wellness.

"This recognition reflects the passion and dedication of our staff who continuously go above and beyond to improve the lives of Veterans," said VA Providence Director **LAWRENCE CONNELL**. "The Go Red campaign demonstrated the power of collaboration, innovation, and community engagement in advancing Women Veteran health care. I'm incredibly proud of our team for earning this national recognition."

The award highlights VA Providence's continued commitment to expanding Women Veteran services and creating impactful outreach opportunities that connect Veterans with resources designed to improve long-term health and wellness.



Kent Hospital's Emergency Department recognized with Pediatric Innovator designation

WARWICK — Kent Hospital's Emergency Department has been recognized as a Pediatric Innovator, the highest designation awarded by the Rhode Island Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program. This distinction honors emergency departments that demonstrate exceptional commitment to delivering high-quality, safe, and effective care for pediatric patients.

The Pediatric Innovator status distinguishes Kent Hospital as "Always Ready for Children," part of a state and region-wide initiative designed to help improve the quality, safety, and readiness of pediatric emergency care. The program supports emergency departments in meeting the unique needs of children during medical emergencies.

Kent Hospital's Emergency Department is always ready for every patient who comes through our doors, no matter what age," said **DAREN GIRARD, MD**, chief of emergency medicine. "Each year, thousands of pediatric patients come to Kent with high fevers, broken bones, allergic reactions, and sudden illnesses. Our team is equipped to respond with skill, speed, and compassion."

The Pediatric Recognition Program includes three levels of designation: Ready, Engaged, and Innovator. As the highest level, Pediatric Innovator is awarded to emergency departments that demonstrate advanced standards of care, a strong focus on continuous quality improvement, and ongoing pediatric-specific education and training.

"Achieving Pediatric Innovator reflects Kent Hospital's dedication to delivering exceptional care for children," said Dr. Girard. "Our physicians, nurses, and pharmacists worked together to ensure our policies, procedures, and equipment meet the standards set by the EMSC Program. This multidisciplinary effort underscores our commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in pediatric emergency services."

"It has been shown that states that have implemented pediatric recognition programs consistently report higher pediatric readiness scores and improved patient outcomes, including reductions in pediatric mortality rates," said **JERRY LARKIN, MD**, director of the Rhode Island Department of Health. "The health professionals at Kent Hospital should be congratulated for their excellence, and administrators at Kent Hospital should be congratulated for their work to develop a culture of continuous improvement in the area of pediatric emergency care." ❖

Recognition

Brown University Health hospitals receive 'A' grade for patient safety from Leapfrog

PROVIDENCE — Three hospitals within the Brown University Health system received an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit upholding the standard of patient safety in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. The three hospitals gaining this distinction in patient safety are Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Saint Anne's Hospital in Fall River, MA.

"I'm incredibly proud of the team at Rhode Island Hospital for their continued commitment to delivering high-quality care and ensuring patient safety, as reflected in our Leapfrog 'A' safety grade for Spring 2026," said **SARAH FROST**, chief of hospital operations and president of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's. "Earning 'A' safety grades alongside The Miriam Hospital and Saint Anne's Hospital underscores Brown University Health's systemwide dedication to excellence. I'm deeply grateful to our care teams for the exceptional work they do every day to keep our patients safe."

"We are thrilled and immensely proud to once again earn an 'A' safety grade from the Leapfrog Group, a powerful reflection of the dedication, expertise, and compassion our team at The Miriam Hospital brings to their work every single day," said **MARIA DUCHARME, DNP, RN**, president of The Miriam Hospital and chief quality executive at Brown University Health. "This recognition reinforces our unwavering commitment to patient safety and to delivering exceptional, 'wow' care to every patient and every member of our community."

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring. ❖



Westerly Hospital earns 'A' safety grade from Leapfrog

NEW HAVEN, CT — Bridgeport Hospital, Greenwich Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital and Westerly Hospital (RI) earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety, underscoring Yale New Haven Health's ongoing commitment to delivering the safest possible care.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade assigns letter grades ranging from "A" to "F" to general hospitals nationwide, based on evidence-based measures focused exclusively on preventable medical errors, injuries and infections.

"Earning top safety grades across our health system reflects a deep and sustained commitment to protecting our patients from harm," said **CHRISTOPHER O'CONNOR**, CEO, Yale New Haven Health. "Safety is not a program at our hospitals – it is a foundational value that guides everyday actions, from infection prevention and medication safety to consistently following stringent clinical protocols."

High-reliability care depends on thousands of decisions made correctly every day," said **DEBORAH RHODES, MD**, senior vice president and chief quality officer, Yale New Haven Health. "Our teams have hardwired patient safety into daily practice and these grades reflect their vigilance, teamwork and unwavering focus on quality."

Yale New Haven Health continues to prioritize key patient safety initiatives, including falls prevention, reduction of hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) and prevention of post-surgical complications, supported by robust data, clinician engagement and system-wide accountability. ❖

Recognition

All Brown University Health Hospitals in Rhode Island achieve 4Star CMS rating

PROVIDENCE — Brown University Health has reached a significant quality milestone: every acute care hospital in its Rhode Island system now holds a 4star rating from the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The achievement follows CMS's recent announcement elevating Rhode Island Hospital from 3 to 4 stars—an improvement that brings all of Brown Health's Rhode Island hospitals into this high level of national performance.

The CMS Star Ratings, featured on Medicare's Care Compare website, serve as one of the most visible and trusted tools for patients evaluating hospital quality. By distilling complex performance data into a simple star scale, the ratings help individuals confidently choose where to receive care.

"Achieving a 4star rating across our Rhode Island hospitals more accurately reflects our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement," said **SARAH FROST**, chief hospital officer at Brown University Health and president of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's. "Patients rely on these ratings to make informed decisions about their care, and we are proud of the highquality care our teams deliver to them every day."

"We know our communities depend on these CMS ratings to guide their healthcare choices, and we are honored that the public can use them to best understand how our teams strive to deliver consistent, highquality care every single day," said **MARIA DUCHARME, DNP, RN**, chief quality executive at Brown University Health and president of The Miriam Hospital.

CMS evaluates hospitals across a broad set of measures, with the greatest emphasis placed on mortality, safety of care, readmissions, and patient experience. Hospitals submit extensive quality data, which CMS analyzes to determine each organization's overall rating. ❖

VA hospitals earn record-high quality ratings in 2026 CMS report

WASHINGTON, DC — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that 78% of VA hospitals that received an Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating earned four or five stars in the latest annual report from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. That's the highest percentage since CMS first started rating VA facilities in 2023. The Providence VA Medical Center received a 4-star rating.

Additionally, VA accounted for nearly 15% of all 5-star rated hospitals in the 2026 report. The new report marks the fourth consecutive year that VA facilities have outperformed non-VA facilities, and it's the second year in a row that no VA hospital received a one-star rating. The percentage of VA hospitals that received an Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating and received four or five stars has grown dramatically during the Trump Administration:

- 2023, 67%
- 2024, 58%
- 2025, 77%
- 2026, 78%

Among other improvements, VA has:

- Enrolled more than 140,000 new Veterans in VA healthcare in 2026.
- Opened 35 new VA health care facilities since Jan. 20, 2025 expanding health care access for Veterans around the country.
- Reduced the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by 70% since Jan. 20, 2025.
- Completed 82,083,918 direct care appointments in FY2025, up 4.1% from FY2024.
- Offered Veterans more than 2.5 million appointments outside of normal operating hours, giving Veterans more timely and convenient options for care.
- Permanently housed 51,936 homeless Veterans across the country in FY2025, the highest total in seven years. ❖

Places

Butler Hospital announces \$1M gift for Memory and Aging Program

PROVIDENCE — Butler Hospital has received a \$1 million anonymous gift from a grateful donor in support of its Memory and Aging Program (MAP). This meaningful investment will provide new resources to advance dementia research and expand care for individuals and families affected by memory disorders.

The Memory and Aging Program is internationally recognized for its groundbreaking clinical research and leadership in diagnosing and treating Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. This philanthropic investment will support studies on disease progression, advance potential treatments, and expand services for patients and caregivers.

"This gift will allow us to deepen our

research efforts and strengthen the clinical support we provide to patients and families navigating these challenging diseases," said **EDWARD HUEY, MD**, program director.

STEPHEN SALLOWAY, MD, MS, the program's founding director and a nationally recognized leader in Alzheimer's research, said the gift comes at a pivotal moment in the field. "We have opened a new era for Alzheimer's disease, leading to early and accurate molecular diagnosis with treatments to slow the rate of cognitive decline," Dr. Salloway said. "This gift will help us test new approaches to promote brain health and new strategies for delivering drugs to the brain, leading to safer and more powerful treatments

with the goal of treating early enough to prevent Alzheimer's disease."

Butler Hospital President and COO **MARY MARRAN, MS OT, MBA**, said the gift will have a lasting impact on patients and families coping with memory disorders.

"We are deeply thankful for this extraordinary act of generosity," Marran said. "Programs like MAP provide hope and guidance to families confronting devastating illnesses. This investment will strengthen our ability to deliver compassionate care while advancing research that could change the future of dementia treatment." ❖