

Butler Hospital announces The Aronson Chair for Neurodegenerative Disorders

Dr. Joseph H. Friedman first recipient of Chair



Stanley M. Aronson, MD

Joseph H. Friedman, MD

PROVIDENCE – Butler Hospital has announced the creation of its first endowed chair, The Aronson Chair for Neurodegenerative Disorders. Named for **STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD**, The Chair honors Dr. Aronson for a career and life dedicated to the research, diagnosis, and treatment of neurological disorders.

An honorary member of the Butler Hospital medical staff since 1970 and a member of Butler's Board of Trustees and Foundation Board for more than 20 total years, Dr. Aronson has played a crucial role in some of the most important institutions in the state, including serving as the founding Dean of the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and the creation of Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island.

Dr. Aronson is considered a pioneer in his field for his contributions to understanding and treating disorders, including eradicating Tay Sachs disease and being the first to identify Lewy Body Dementia. Dr. Aronson's legacy continues to live on in the contributions he made to science and medicine and through the multiple generations of physicians that Dr. Aronson has mentored, encouraged, and inspired over decades.

"It's so fitting that Butler, an institution with a strong focus and commitment to neurology and brain sciences, honors a national leader with a storied career in the neurology field with its first endowed

chair," said **PATRICIA RECUPERO, JD, MD**, Butler Hospital's president and CEO.

The first recipient of The Aronson Chair is **JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN, MD**, chief of the Movement Disorders Program at Butler, chief of the Division of Movement Disorders in the Department of Neurology at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and adjunct professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Friedman is a nationally recognized clinician, researcher, and educator in the treatment and study of Parkinson's disease and related movement disorders. He is an active member of the Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease study groups, and participates in multicenter trials sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, Michael J. Fox Foundation, pharmaceutical companies, and single-center unfunded studies. A fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, Dr. Friedman serves on the editorial board of *Parkinsonism and Related Disorders* and is editor-in-chief of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal*, taking over the position following the retirement of Dr. Aronson.

For more information or to make a contribution to The Aronson Chair for Neurodegenerative Disorders, call the Butler Hospital Foundation at (401) 455-6237 or visit Butler.org/AronsonChairCampaign. ❖

CVI introduces implantable cardiac defibrillator to state

PROVIDENCE – The Cardiovascular Institute at Rhode Island, The Miriam and Newport hospitals is the first in the state to implant a new leadless implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD). The device, the S-ICD System by Boston Scientific, is the first subcutaneous ICD for the treatment of patients at risk for sudden cardiac arrest and is the only ICD that does not require electrical wires to be placed in the heart.

"More than a half-million people in the United States are treated each year for sudden cardiac arrest," said **MICHAEL KIM, MD**, director of the arrhythmia service at Rhode Island Hospital, where the ICD was implanted. "This new defibrillator provides patients with an alternative option to single and double-lead defibrillators, and may be safer for many patients. It is a less invasive procedure, which often means a reduced risk of complications and faster recovery. Additionally, many patients may be able to have the S-ICD implanted on an outpatient basis, allowing them to return home immediately following the procedure."

The first patient received the new ICD in late January.