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Recognition

Betty Vohr, MD, receives award for contributions to high-risk infant care

PROVIDENCE – BETTY VOHR, MD, medical director of the Neonatal Follow-Up Program in the Department of Pediatrics at Women & Infants Hospital and professor of pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School, was awarded the Stan and Mavis Graven’s Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions to Enhancing the Physical and Developmental Environment for High-Risk Infants and their Families at the 28th Annual Graven’s Conference on the Physical and Developmental Environment of the High Risk Infant, in collaboration with March of Dimes, in March in Clearwater Beach, FL.

The Graven’s Leadership Award is presented annually to an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the health and care of newborns in intensive care facilities.

Dr. Vohr has been the director of Women & Infants Hospital’s Neonatal Follow-up Clinic since 1974 and medical director of the Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Program since 1990. She has been the national coordinator of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network follow-up studies since 1990. Her primary clinical and research interests focus on improving the long-term outcomes of high-risk premature infants and infants with hearing loss.

Rosemarie Bigsby at W&I honored for contributions to neonatal care

PROVIDENCE – ROSEMARIE BIGSBY, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA, has been elected as a recipient of the National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT) for the inaugural Pioneer Award for Neonatal Therapy.

She is a clinical professor of pediatrics, psychiatry and human behavior at the Alpert Medical School and coordinator of neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) services at the Brown Center for the Study of Children at Risk/Center for Children and Families of Women & Infants Hospital.

Bigsby was honored with the award at the 5th Annual NANT Conference recently in Phoenix, AZ. The Pioneer Award was created to honor neonatal occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech-language pathologists who contribute tirelessly to establish and advance the specialized field of neonatal therapy. This inaugural presentation of the award reflects decades of largely unrecognized work by those who established the art and science of neonatal therapy.

Bigsby is a pediatric occupational therapist with a career-long interest in infant development. Her current focus is on improving outcomes for infants in the NICU, through developmental assessment, interventions and developing an interdisciplinary approach to initiating and progressing breast and bottle feeding. She received her bachelor’s of science in occupational therapy and biology at Western Michigan, her masters degree in advanced pediatric practice and occupational therapy education and her doctor of science in therapeutic studies at Boston University.

Pulmonary Hypertension Center at RIH earns Pulmonary Hypertension Association Accreditation

Only PHA-accredited pulmonary hypertension center in New England

PROVIDENCE – The Pulmonary Hypertension Center at Rhode Island Hospital is one of the nation’s first centers of its kind to be accredited by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA). For those affected by pulmonary hypertension (PH), accreditation assures them and their providers that they have access to the most advanced care available in the country.

“Because of our accreditation status, health care professionals in the community will know that the depth and breadth of our resources are available to them and their patients,” said JAMES R. KLINGER, MD, medical director of the center.

“Twenty years ago, no treatment was effective against this disease. Today, a quick and accurate diagnosis is critically important to ensure patients get access to treatment early,” added COREY E. VENTETUOLO, MD, MS, the center’s associate director.

“Health care centers across the country are undergoing the rigorous review process to receive accreditation and demonstrate that they meet and exceed national standards of excellence,” said DR. MURALI CHAKINALA, a member of PHA’s Pulmonary Hypertension Association Oversight Committee. “In addition to providing lifesaving care for patients, these specialty care centers, like the one at Rhode Island Hospital, are valuable resources for medical professionals and families of people living with pulmonary hypertension.”

To be designated as a PHA-accredited Center of Comprehensive Care (CCC), facilities must demonstrate quality and depth of resources as well as an array of therapies.
Miriam Hospital earns Magnet recognition for 5th time

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital has again attained Magnet recognition as part of the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program. The voluntary credentialing program for hospitals recognizes excellence in nursing and is the highest honor an organization can receive for professional nursing practice.

The unanimous ANCC decision to redesignate The Miriam was based on its continued adherence to rigorous national standards of nursing practice, as well as meeting specific goals for nurse certification and nurse satisfaction and engagement. The Miriam is one of only four hospitals nationwide to achieve Magnet designation for a fifth time.

“We are so proud and thrilled to receive our fifth Magnet designation,” said MARIAN DUCHARME, MS, RN, NEA-BC, senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at The Miriam. “This is a celebration and recognition of our unique culture at The Miriam and the standards of nursing excellence that are ingrained in our model of patient care.”

To achieve Magnet recognition, organizations must pass a rigorous and lengthy process that demands widespread participation from leadership and staff. The process begins with the submission of an electronic application, followed by written documentation demonstrating qualitative and quantitative evidence regarding patient care and outcomes. If scores from the written documentation fall within a range of excellence, an on-site visit will occur to thoroughly assess the applicant. After this rigorous on-site review process, the Commission on Magnet will review the completed appraisal report and vote to determine whether Magnet recognition will be granted. Currently there are 410 ANCC Magnet-recognized organizations.

Drs. He and Tseng, W&I pathologists, honored at 2015 USCAP annual meeting

PROVIDENCE – MAI (MIKE) HE, MD, PhD, medical director of the Hematology Laboratory at Women & Infants Hospital and assistant professor of perinatal pathology at the Alpert Medical School, and YUN-AN (ANN) TSENG, DO, the Stuart C. Lauchlan Fellow in Women’s Pathology at Women & Infants Hospital, were honored at the 2015 United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology [USCAP] annual meeting in March.

Dr. He won the Enid Gilbert Barness prize for his study, “Comparison of placental findings in type 1 and type 2 diabetic pregnancies.” Dr. He earned his undergraduate and medical school degrees at Shanghai Medical College of Fudan University and doctorate degree at University Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey [Rutgers University]. He completed his residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at University Hospital in Newark, NJ and completed three fellowships in postdoctoral surgical oncology research at New Jersey Medical School, pediatric pathology at Coney Island Hospital/Downstate Medical Center, and diagnostic molecular pathology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. He is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology, pediatric pathology and molecular genetic pathology.

Dr. Tseng won the Surgical Pathology Award for her poster presentation, “Endometrial Surface Epithelial Change (ESEC) in Endometrial Samplings: A Banal Appearing Histologic Marker of Underlying Endometrioid Adenocarcinoma in Postmenopausal Women.” Out of 3,100 abstracts in surgical pathology-related disciplines, Dr. Tseng’s presentation received first place in the competition for the award. Dr. Tseng earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry at Rutgers University. After completing medical school at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Tseng went on to complete a pathology residency at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY and is now nearing the end of the Stuart C. Lauchlan Fellowship in Women’s Pathology at Women & Infants. She is board certified in anatomic pathology.
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Appointments

Dr. Scott Haltzman named Medical Director of the Department of Behavioral Health at Fatima Hospital

NORTH PROVIDENCE – DR. SCOTT HALTZMAN has been named Medical Director of the Department of Behavioral Health at Fatima Hospital. Along with providing clinical leadership in his department, he will assist in the establishment, integration and implementation of clinical services across CharterCARE Health Partners. Dr. Haltzman previously served as Medical Director for NRI Community Services [now called Community Care Alliance] in Woonsocket.

Dr. Haltzman has a long history of behavioral health leadership with programs like SSTAR in Fall River, the Miriam Hospital, and the Providence Veterans Administration Medical Center. He is very familiar with the St. Joseph organization, having worked on the inpatient units intermittently from 2007–2014.

Most recently, Dr. Haltzman was the Senior Outpatient Psychiatrist at The David Lawrence Community Mental Health Center in Naples, Florida.

Dr. Haltzman received his undergraduate and medical degree from Brown University, completing the Family Practice Honors Program. He completed a residency at Yale University School of Medicine and served as chief resident, inpatient unit in Yale-New Haven Hospital’s Psychiatric Outpatient Department.

In 2003, he was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Prior to moving to Florida, Dr. Haltzman was on the faculty of the Warren Alpert Medical School. He now is an associate professor of psychiatry at Florida State University.

Dr. Haltzman has developed an international reputation for his interest in relationships and marriage. He presents to audiences across the country, and has authored four books and a number of book chapters on the topic. He has served on numerous committees and been appointed to several boards during his career.

Kent’s Lisa Gould, MD, publishes study on healing skin graft wounds

WARWICK – Kent Hospital’s LISA GOULD, MD, PhD, FACS, medical director of the Wound Recovery and Hyperbaric Medicine Center, has published a clinical research study in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons exploring new treatments in healing skin graft wounds.

Dr. Gould’s research compared the effects of noncontact, low-frequency ultrasound (MIST® Therapy) plus standard care to standard care alone, in subjects with split thickness donor sites.

The study, “A Prospective Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing the Effects of Noncontact Low Frequency Ultrasound to Standard care in Healing Split Thickness Donor Sites,” measured time to healing, pain and itching scores, and wound recurrence.

All patients who had MIST® Therapy combined with standard care were fully healed by four weeks compared to only 71 percent in standard care alone. The average healing time was 12 days for patients treated with MIST® Therapy combined with standard care, compared to 21 days for those treated with standard care alone. Fewer patients were treated for suspected infection, pain scores were reduced and significant differences in itching were observed in the MIST® Therapy group. In addition, the MIST® Therapy group remained healed with a recurrence rate of only eight percent at the six week follow up visit compared to 45 percent in the standard care group.

“Given the remarkable results from this study, MIST® Therapy should be considered for treatment of acute surgical skin graft donor sites, particularly in subjects who are at higher risk for surgical site infections or delayed healing,” Dr. Gould said.

She is a board certified plastic surgeon and is a nationally recognized researcher and educator. Dr. Gould is an affiliate professor in the Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology at the University of South Florida. Prior to her arrival at Kent, she was co-director of the University of South Florida Plastic Surgery Research Laboratory in Tampa, FL. She also served as staff surgeon at James A. Haley VA Hospital, where she was chief of plastic surgery from 2007-2010. Last spring, Dr. Gould was named president of the Wound Healing Society, a national premier scientific organization focused on wound healing.

Dr. Gould served on the executive board of the Wound Healing Society for more than ten years and chaired its Education Committee for six years. She has authored publications such as The Wound Healing Society’s Guidelines for the Treatment of Pressure Ulcers, Guidelines for the Treatment of Venous Ulcers, Guidelines for the Prevention of Pressure Ulcers, and Guidelines for the Prevention of Venous Ulcers. Dr. Gould was instrumental in creating the Basics of Wound Care Course, a regular feature at the Symposium on Advanced Wound Care, the nation’s largest wound care conference.
Appointments

Denise M. Arcand, MD, named president of medical staff at Kent

Dr. Herbert “Hub” Brennan recognized for dedicated service

WARWICK – DENISE M. ARCAND, MD, has been appointed as the 47th president of the Kent Hospital medical staff. Dr. Arcand succeeds HERBERT J. “HUB” BRENNAN, DO, who has served as medical staff president since 2013. This leadership position is filled every two years by a member of the Kent medical staff who is distinguished as a leader in the field of medicine, chosen by their medical staff peers.

Dr. Arcand is a board certified family medicine physician, who has served on the Kent Hospital medical staff since 2001. She is the lead physician at Arcand Family Medicine, in West Warwick, where she has practiced since 2001.

Dr. Arcand also currently serves as the medical director of Alpine Nursing Home, in Coventry. She received her medical degree from Laval University in Quebec, Canada, and completed a family medicine residency at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston, ME. Her special clinical interests include women’s health and geriatrics. Dr. Arcand’s father, Alfred A. Arcand, MD, also served as president of Kent’s medical staff from 1990–1992.

“On behalf of Kent Hospital, I would like to congratulate Dr. Arcand on her appointment as president of the Kent medical staff,” said Michael J. Dacey, MD, MS, FACP, president and COO at Kent Hospital. “Dr. Arcand is a well-known community physician who brings great oversight and clinical leadership to our medical staff. I would also like to express great appreciation to Dr. “Hub” Brennan for his years of outstanding leadership and dedication to the Kent Medical Staff and the hospital community. Dr. Brennan will continue to be a tremendous advocate for Kent, his patients and the community.”

Dr. Brennan is an internal medicine physician and has been a member of the Kent Hospital medical staff since 1996. Dr. Brennan is a partner in Brennan, Cronin and Peters Internal Medicine in East Greenwich, RI, and serves on a number of boards and committees focusing on health care governance and transformation. As a lifelong, avid off-road motorcyclist, he was recently appointed to the International Medical Panel of the Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) at its Annual Congress in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. Dr. Brennan is one of four U.S. representatives to the organization and the sole U.S. physician on the medical panel.

Suzanne Palinski, MD, named chief of pediatrics at Bradley

EAST PROVIDENCE – SUZANNE PALINSKI, MD, has been named chief of pediatrics for Bradley Hospital. In her new role, Dr. Palinski will oversee the pediatric care of all inpatient and partial treatment patients at Bradley Hospital.

The appointment of Dr. Palinski accompanies an increasing number of children and adolescents who are hospitalized with co-occurring medical and psychiatric illnesses. The ability to treat both simultaneously is vital to the overall wellness of young patients.

“Over the last several years we have had impressive growth in our pediatric services with an increasing ability to address the needs of children with challenging medical presentations,” said Henry Sachs, MD, chief medical officer of Bradley Hospital. “Along with our nurse practitioners on staff, we look forward to Dr. Palinski enhancing our ability to serve the unique needs of this patient population.”

Dr. Palinski will also spend a portion of her time providing pediatric care in the Adolescent Medicine Center at Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

She received her medical degree from the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed her residency in pediatrics at University of Maryland Medical Center. After one year in Jai Medical Systems in Baltimore, Dr. Palinski became a staff pediatrician at the Downtown Medical Center in New York City where she subsequently became the associate medical director, a position she held until her move to Rhode Island with her family in the fall of 2014.
Dr. Aaron B. Bloomenthal joins Department of Surgery at Roger Williams Medical Center

PROVIDENCE – DR. AARON B. BLOOMENTHAL has joined the Department of Surgery at Roger Williams Medical Center and will focus his practice in the weight loss surgery program led by Dr. Dieter Pohl. Roger Williams has been a Bariatric Surgery “Center of Excellence” since 2005.

He joins Roger Williams from Newton-Wellesley Hospital where he was a surgeon in the Center for General and Weight Loss Surgery. He was also an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Dr. Bloomenthal completed a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gastrointestinal/Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University. He was an Advanced Endoscopy Fellow in the Division of Gastroenterology at Beth Israel Hospital and an Endoscopy Fellow in the Division of Gastroenterology at University of Massachusetts Medical School.

He completed his residency in General Surgery at University of Massachusetts Medical School, where he also completed a research fellowship in the Division of Transplantation. Dr. Bloomenthal received his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery, a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons and a member of The Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract.

Appointments

Dr. Taro Minami teaches critical care medicine in Germany

PAWTUCKET – TARO MINAMI, MD, FACP, FCCP, director of pulmonary and critical care simulation and ultrasound training, as well as subspecialty coordinator of resident and medical student education at Memorial Hospital and assistant professor of medicine (clinical) at the Alpert Medical School, spent two weeks recently at the University of Tübingen, Germany, teaching critical care medicine. This was part of the exchange program between Brown University and the University of Tübingen.

Dr. Minami trained 16 medical students – nine from Germany, five from Brown, one from Italy and one from Indonesia. Sessions included lectures, simulation training, ICU rounds, hands-on procedure training at the anatomy lab using a cadaver, critical care ultrasonography, and procedures such as central venous catheter insertion.

Drs. Borkan, Kahn participate in Tar Wars®

PAWTUCKET – JEFFREY BORKAN, MD, PHD, physician-in-chief, Department of Family Medicine, and DR. MALASA KAHN, first-year family medicine resident, participated in the Tar Wars® program and spoke to 100 fifth-graders recently at the Nathaniel Greene School in Pawtucket.

Tar Wars® is a tobacco-free education program for kids from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Tar Wars® works to both educate school children about the effects of smoking and encourage their creativity in constructing anti-smoking posters. The goal is to foster prevention at an age when it can be effective. Dr. Borkan has taken part for the past 13 years as a way to foster collaboration with the Memorial Hospital’s local community.

Rhode Island presents to more schools than any other state. The Rhode Island Medical Society ran this program for the last 20 years; current sponsorship is by the Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians.

Pictured left to right, Karin Hayden (school nurse), Jeffrey Borkan, MD, PhD, physician-in-chief, Department of Family Medicine at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, four students from the Nathaniel Greene School, Pawtucket and Dr. Malasa Kahn, first-year family medicine resident.
Making kids smile at Samuels Sinclair Dental Center

PROVIDENCE – On April 10 the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center celebrated the 13th annual “Give Kids a Smile Day” (GKAS) with underserved, uninsured and underinsured children throughout Rhode Island. Children received dental care in clinics and private dental offices statewide, and 94 children received dental care at Rhode Island Hospital’s event.

“This is my first opportunity to experience the Give Kids a Smile event here at the dental center and it has been extraordinary to see the outpouring of support and hard work from those who donated their time and talents along with the staff at the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center to make this event happen,” said ELIZABETH BENZ, DMD, director of the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center at Rhode Island Hospital. “For many of these children, this special event allows them to visit a dentist for the very first time, and I am so grateful that our volunteers and sponsors make it such a fun and welcoming experience.”

As the centerpiece to National Children’s Dental Health Month, and sponsored by the Rhode Island Dental Association and the American Dental Association, GKAS was designed to provide dental care to low-income children who would not otherwise have access to care. The event also raises awareness of the importance of dental coverage for children’s health.

Children received dental screenings, oral examinations, radiographs, cleanings, fillings and educational materials at Rhode Island Hospital’s Samuels Sinclair Dental Center. The event included visits from Paws, the PawSox mascot, a group of superheroes, pet therapy dogs and the Tooth Fairy. Members of Team Hasbro, Hasbro, Inc’s employee volunteer program, brought toys and games to entertain the children while they waited to see their dentist and dental hygienist, many for the very first time. Dental supplies for the day were donated by national sponsor Henry Schein and Patterson Dental.

Amos House provided breakfast for the event, while Texas Roadhouse supplied lunch. Other refreshments were provided by East Side Marketplace, Stop & Shop and Shaw’s Supermarkets. Hasbro, Inc. also provided a toy for each child to take home.

The Samuels Sinclair Dental Center has been providing dental services to underprivileged children and individuals with special needs for over 80 years. It is the site that launched the first “Give Kids a Smile” program in Rhode Island, and annually organizes statewide events.

Peter J. Snyder, PhD, named Editor of new online, open-access Alzheimer’s and Dementia Journal

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan’s PETER J. SNYDER, PHD, is the editor-in-chief of a new online, open-access journal of the Alzheimer’s Association that will serve as an additional channel for publishing important Alzheimer’s and dementia scientific findings and commentaries. Alzheimer’s Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring (DADM) is the companion to the Alzheimer’s Association’s flagship journal Alzheimer’s & Dementia. It is published by Elsevier B.V.

As an online, open-access journal, Alzheimer’s Dementia: DADM will streamline the publishing process allowing for the research around reliable biomarkers, which are essential to identifying new clinical trials or non-drug interventions and detecting the disease earlier, to be published more quickly.

Snyder, who is Lifespan’s chief research officer and senior vice president, acknowledged the importance of having an additional venue for making key research findings public and easy to access. “Biomarkers play a critical role in advancing Alzheimer’s disease research and it’s important that researchers be able find and cite this research,” Snyder explained. “All research submitted will go through a high-quality peer review process, with the entire process designed to publish new research within a two-week window.”

Alzheimer’s Dementia: DADM will cover a range of topics focused on the early and accurate detection of individuals with memory complaints and/or asymptomatic individuals at elevated risk of various forms of memory disorders. All forms of biomarkers will be considered, ranging from gene expression and proteomic markers, to imaging, cognitive and functional markers of disease progression or treatment responses.

“Alzheimer’s Dementia: DADM will drive scientific advances by creating linkages between the discovery and validation of novel biomarkers,” said Snyder. “The journal will also report on the application of biomarkers to more sensitively and reliably diagnose disease, assess disease severity, and monitor progression both in the clinic and within the context of clinical trials.”

In addition to articles, Alzheimer’s Dementia: DADM will publish comprehensive literature reviews, occasional editorials and perspectives. All material will be available without a subscription and can be accessed through the journal’s online format: www.dadm.alzdem.com.
Obituaries

DR. LAURA B. FIXMAN died April 1, 2015, at home. She was the beloved wife of Dr. Kenath J. Shamir for 20 years. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, a devoted daughter of Marshall Fixman of Ft. Collins, CO and the late Marian [Beatman] Fixman, she had lived in Barrington for 19 years, previously residing in Providence.

Dr. Fixman was a psychiatrist with Family Associates of Warwick and Angel Street Psychiatry of Providence for many years. She was a graduate of Brandeis University, Class of ’82 and Tufts University Medical School, Class of ’88.

She was a former captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, and a member of the Rhode Island Psychiatric Society.

LAURA R. VIEHMANN, MD, 55, of Cumberland, passed from this life March 31, 2015 surrounded by family. She was the beloved wife of the late Richard A. Sheehan.

Dr. Viehmann practiced medicine at Mill River Pediatrics, Pawtucket. She served as co-ordinator for the Rhode Island Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Chair of the Physicians’ Committee for Breastfeeding in Rhode Island. She advocated for nursing mothers and was recognized by The Rhode Island Breastfeeding Coalition with the Creme de la Creme award. The Rhode Island Department of Health recognized her care for underserved children. She promoted awareness of ovarian cancers subtle symptoms.

Dr. Viehmann received her MD from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, completed her residency at Brown University, and earned a BA from Brown.

Loving and beloved mother of Patrick and Andrew Sheehan, also survived by her father, Norman Viehmann and his wife, Barbara Carlson, her siblings Douglas Viehmann and his wife, Ann Vivian, Elizabeth Viehmann and her husband, Steven Johnson, and Martha Viehmann and her husband, Richard Boyce, and 6 nephews. She was predeceased by her mother, Elaine. Also mourned by the Sheehan family, Mary, Dr. Lester and his wife, Joan, and their children, Marc and Megan Wanczyk.

She was a devoted member of First Baptist Church Attleboro. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the church or American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Breastfeeding.