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Appointments

Lifespan elects Ziya L. Gokaslan, MD; Sarah T. Dowling, JD, to Board

PROVIDENCE – The Lifespan Board of Directors recently elected two new members – **ZIYA L. GOKASLAN, MD, FACS**, and **SARAH T. "SALLY" DOWLING, JD, LL.M.** The volunteer board, which includes clinical, business and community leaders, oversees the leading health care system and largest employer in the state, guided by its mission: Delivering health with care.



PHOTOS: LIFESPAN

Dr. Gokaslan is the neurosurgeon-in-chief at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals, co-director of the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute and director of the Comprehensive Spine Center. He is also director of the Complex Spinal Surgery Fellowship at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, where he is professor and chair

of the Department of Neurosurgery. He earned his medical degree from the University of Istanbul in Turkey, then completed an internship in general surgery, a fellowship in neurotraumatology, and a residency in neurosurgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX, followed by a fellowship in clinical spinal surgery at New York University Medical Center.

Dr. Gokaslan served as a member of the faculty and clinical leadership at UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, before joining Brown and Lifespan in 2015. He is a recipient of numerous prestigious awards and an active member of many professional societies. He has authored more than 450 peer-reviewed publications, four books and numerous book chapters. His practice focuses on complex spinal reconstruction and radical surgical treatment of both primary and metastatic spinal tumors, sacral neoplasms, and spinal cord tumors, and he is regarded as one of world's foremost experts in this area. He and his wife, Ayse Gokaslan, MD, reside in Barrington and have two young adult children – Aaron, a graduate student at Brown University, and Hannah, an undergraduate at Middlebury College.



Ms. Dowling spent much of her four-decade legal career, including 21 years as partner, at Adler Pollock & Sheehan, overseeing ethics and compliance and specializing in business transactions, healthcare, government entities, banking and commercial law. She left corporate practice briefly, serving as director of policy and legal counsel to Governor Edward Di-

Prete from 1989 through 1990. She is presently the chair of the Rhode Island Judicial Nominating Commission, appointed by Governor Gina Raimondo, and a member of the Brown University Civic Leadership Council. She maintains membership in the Rhode Island, Massachusetts and American Bar Associations.

Dowling's past board roles include chairmanships of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Rhode Island Criminal Justice Oversight Committee, the Rhode Island Supreme Court Ethics Advisory Panel and other distinguished legal and governmental bodies. Further, her community involvement has included chair of the board for Trinity Repertory Company and board membership for such entities as Waterfire Providence and the Providence Foundation. She and her husband, Joseph Dowling, MD, have four grown children and reside in Providence and Narragansett.

"Lifespan is fortunate to have on its Board some of the most distinguished individuals in their respective fields, and Dr. Gokaslan and Ms. Dowling are no exception," said Lawrence Aubin, Sr., chairman of the Lifespan Board of Directors "Their commitment to governance that embodies our values is clear, and their knowledge and perspective will be invaluable to the organization."

"We welcome Dr. Gokaslan and Ms. Dowling to the Board. They both bring complementary experience and knowledge that will help to advance the important work of the Board," said Lifespan President & CEO Timothy J. Babineau, MD. "We are eager to have them share in the important work of guiding the Lifespan health system in its mission to serve the hundreds of thousands in Rhode Island and beyond who turn to us in need of care." ❖

Recognition

South County Hospital earns 5-star rating from CMS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) again ranked South County Hospital with an overall rating of 5 Stars, the highest rating possible. South County Hospital was one of only two hospitals in Rhode Island to receive a 5 Star rating. Included among the ratings are results of the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey, a national survey that asks patients about their experiences during a recent hospital stay.

Hospitals are ranked on such categories as survey of patients' experiences, timely and effective care, complications and death, unplanned hospital visits, use of medical imaging, payment and value of care.

The results of the quality of care ratings at over 4,000 Medicare-certified hospitals, including over 130 Veterans Administration (VA) medical centers, across the country can be found on the Hospital Compare website. ❖

Newport Hospital earns top score for overall quality in national CMS ratings

NEWPORT – Newport Hospital received a five-star rating from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in its latest hospital quality ranking, released in late February. Scores from one to five stars are assigned to hospitals across the country, based on their performance on patient experience, safety and quality of care measures.

The hospital is among 283 out of 3,725 hospitals nationwide to earn the top rating, and one of only two in the state.

CMS posts hospital star ratings twice annually on its Hospital Compare website. Due to a change in methodology, the last ratings were released in December of 2017. Ratings are based on more than 100 rigorously tested measures, including patient experience, the timeliness and effectiveness of care, complication rates, and other factors. The Hospital Compare website provides public access to quality measures on more than 4,000 Medicare-certified hospitals, as well as Veterans Health Administration and Military Health System hospitals. ❖

Southcoast Hospitals Group is named to Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals 2019

FALL RIVER – On March 29th, Southcoast Hospitals Group, which includes Charlton Memorial Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, and Tobey Hospital, has been named to Newsweek's inaugural list of the World's Best Hospitals 2019.

Out of the 2,743 considered hospitals in the US, only 250 earned this recognition. Southcoast Hospitals Group ranked 162.

Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals 2019, calculated in partnership with Statista Inc., recognizes the best 1000 hospitals across 11 countries: USA, Canada, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Australia, and Israel.

"Our care is world class and this national and international recognition is a testament to the incredible work our physicians, providers, nurses and staff do every day," said Keith Hovan, chief executive officer of Southcoast Health. "I am tremendously proud. This is a recognition they have earned many times over."

Newsweek's methodology was calculated in three areas:

- Recommendations from peers via survey (55%)
- Patient Experience scores (15%)
- Medical KPIs (quality scores) from a variety of public sources (30%)

The Miriam Hospital named among IBM Watson Health Top 100 Hospitals

PROVIDENCE – The Miriam Hospital has been named among the Top 100 hospitals in the nation by IBM Watson Health.

The annual report "spotlights the best-performing hospitals in the U.S. based on a balanced scorecard using publicly available data for clinical, operational, and patient satisfaction metrics."

Divided into four categories, the list grouped The Miriam, a major affiliate of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, as among the top 25 "major teaching hospitals" in the nation.

"While our top priority is to always deliver the best care possible to our patients – not to seek honors – I am very proud that The Miriam Hospital has been included on this prestigious list of top hospitals in the country. It attests to the hard work of our medical leaders and staff in the face of very challenging times in our industry," said Arthur J. Sampson, president of The Miriam Hospital. "We are constantly looking for opportunities to better meet the needs of our patients, and our staff knows that's important to us and to our board. They want to do a good job and we listen to what they say about how we can improve. The culture of care here is very robust."


Hospitals were evaluated based on a variety of performance metrics, including the following:

- (Lower rates better) Complications and infections, lengths of stay, emergency department wait times, and inpatient expenses
- (Higher rates better) Survival, patient satisfaction and profit margin

The winners outperformed peer group hospitals within all 10 clinical and operational performance benchmarks evaluated in the study: risk-adjusted inpatient mortality, risk-adjusted complications, mean healthcare-associated infection, mean 30-day risk-adjusted mortality, mean 30-day risk-adjusted readmission, severity-adjusted length of stay, mean emergency department throughput, case mix- and wage-adjusted inpatient expense per discharge, adjusted operating profit margin, and Hospital Consumer Assessments of Healthcare Provider (HCAHPS) scores.

For more information about the study, visit www.100tophospitals.com. (The list was formerly known as the Truven Health Analytics Top 100.) ❖

Obituaries

 **KENNETH GARDNER KNOWLES, MD**, 87, of Warwick Neck, died March 9, 2019. He was the husband of Sally (Loxley) Knowles. Dr. Knowles was a graduate of Moses Brown School, Brown University, and Tufts University School of Medicine.

He served on active duty in the US Navy on a destroyer and retired from the US Naval Reserve as a Lt. Commander. He then completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at RI Hospital before opening a private practice in Cranston and Pawtucket. He was affiliated with R.I. Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, and Pawtucket Memorial Hospital and retired in 1995.


Besides his wife, he is survived by daughter Cynthia K. McLaughlin of Warwick, son Robert L. Knowles and his wife Jane of North Kingstown, and four grandchildren: Elizabeth McLaughlin, William McLaughlin, Sarah Knowles, and Hannah Knowles, and his sister Joyce Williams of Virginia.

Memorial donations may be made to the Class of 1953 Endowed Scholarship Fund, Brown University, Box 1877, Providence, RI 02912. ❖



Nanian and his partner Elizabeth Billingham of Weston, MA; John Nanian and his wife Beatrice of Warwick, RI; and Paul Nanian of Rumney, NH. He also leaves three loving grandchildren, Chloe, Willem and Camilia; and one sister, Hope Meguerian of Lemont, IL. He was predeceased by his younger sister Cynthia Pierce.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, or Armenia Tree Project, 400 West Cummings Park, Suite 3900, Woburn, MA 01801 or online at www.armeniatree.org. ❖

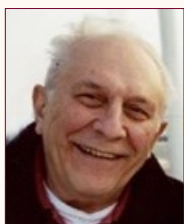
 **CATHERINE M. SHANNON, MD**, 72, of Providence and formerly of Barrington, died March 22, 2019 at Mass. General Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer.

She leaves a son Michael A. Sligar, his wife Jane R. Duket, and their daughter Annabelle D. Sligar of Providence, R.I.; two brothers, Paul V. Shannon of Worcester and Dr. Michael T. Shannon and his wife Carolyn of Andover, Mass.; and four nephews.

Dr. Shannon was the daughter of Dr. Paul V. and Margaret V. (Sullivan) Shannon, and grew up in Worcester. She graduated from the College of New Rochelle in N.Y., earned a Ph.D. in Anatomy from Tufts University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

In her accomplished academic career, Dr. Shannon taught at Case Western, Temple University, the University of Louisville, and Brown University. Dr. Shannon received her Medical Degree from the University of Louisville in 1984, followed by an internship and a residency in Radiology at St. Vincent Hospital, and a fellowship at the University of Massachusetts, all in Worcester.

Dr. Shannon was a radiologist in medical practice for more than 15 years in Rhode Island. She was affiliated with the Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, South County Hospital in Wakefield, and Kent County Hospital in South Kingstown. In 2007, she moved to Albuquerque, N.M., where she worked six years with Radiology Associates of Albuquerque until her retirement in 2013. ❖



KENNETH B. NANIAN, MD, 90, died on March 7, 2019 at Philip Hulitar Hospice Center in Providence. For 58 years he was the beloved husband of Patricia (Zartarian) Nanian.

Ken was a graduate of Cranston High School, Brown University and Tufts Medical School. After his internship in Internal Medicine and residency, he practiced Cardiology at Rhode Island Hospital for 40 years. His welcoming smile and obvious pleasure in his encounters with patients and colleagues, not to mention his skill, improved the lives of all he touched, including those he taught and mentored.

While he was dedicated to his work, he loved the time he spent with family and friends. Whether listening to music, sailing, skiing, or just sharing a joke, his enthusiasm was contagious, and he took obvious delight in the enjoyment of others.

Besides his wife Pat, he is survived by their three sons: David