

Appointments



Elizabeth Lowenhaupt, MD, CCHP, named Chair of NCCHC Board

PROVIDENCE—**ELIZABETH LOWENHAUPT, MD, CCHP**, associate director of training for the Brown Triple Board Combined Residency Training Program in Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and

the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at Rhode Island Hospital, has been appointed the 2023–2024 chair of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) Governance Board.

Dr. Lowenhaupt, recognized for her expertise in child and adolescent behavioral health, is the consulting medical and psychiatric director at the Rhode Island Training School, the state's only juvenile correctional facility, where she provides direct psychiatric assessments and treatment to incarcerated adolescents and oversees all medical, dental, and psychiatric care for detained and adjudicated youth.

She is active in community health, having developed the HOPE for Justice clinic. An acronym for Hasbro (Children's Hospital) Outpatient Psychiatric Evaluations for Justice-involved and At-Risk Youth, HOPE for Justice expands psychiatric treatment for youth involved in the juvenile legal and child welfare systems across a continuum of community-based and residential treatment settings.

She represents the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry on the Board of the National Commission for Correctional Health Care, where she also serves as the Chair of the Juvenile Health Committee.

An associate professor in the departments of psychiatry and human behavior and pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School, Dr. Lowenhaupt is focused on developing creative approaches to meet the capacity demand for more behavioral health professionals resulting from the current mental health crisis among children and adolescents. ❖



Audrey Tyrka, MD, PhD, appointed Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior

PROVIDENCE — **AUDREY TYRKA, MD, PhD**, has been appointed chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Alpert Medical School, making her the first woman to chair the department of

Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Care New England, effective January 1, 2024. In addition, she will be appointed to the Mary E. Zucker Professorship in Psychiatry and Human Behavior.

Dr. Tyrka completed the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Pennsylvania and received her MD and PhD in psychology in 1999. She completed residency training at Brown and further research training in clinical neuroscience at the Mood Disorders Research Program at Butler Hospital. She joined the Brown faculty in 2003, as a psychiatrist and NIMH K23 research career development awardee at Butler Hospital. She was the Director of the Laboratory for Clinical and Translational Neuroscience at Butler Hospital and served as the Director of Research at Butler Hospital from 2014-2021. Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior since 2015, Dr. Tyrka was most recently Vice Chair of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown and Chief Scientific Officer at Care New England. She is also affiliated faculty of the Carney Institute for Brain Science at Brown.

Dr. Tyrka is known for her groundbreaking work on early adversity and trauma in children and adults, including discoveries of key social, behavioral, and molecular mechanisms of health risk and resilience. This work involves collaborations with dozens of faculty across several departments at Brown in addition to national and international collaborations. She is the founding Co-Director of the Initiative on Stress, Trauma, and Resilience (STAR) at Brown, which includes a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant and a T32 post-doctoral research fellowship program at The Miriam Hospital.

Dr. Tyrka has also contributed to pharmacologic, behavioral, and neuromodulation treatment trials for depression and is an attending psychiatrist in the Butler Hospital Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Clinic. A dedicated and accomplished mentor and leader in research training, she is Director of the NIMH-funded R25 Research Training Program for physician scientists in psychiatry training and the Summer Research Fellowship for medical students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine.

An elected fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), Dr. Tyrka has held several national leadership roles, including as Chair of the ACNP Women's Taskforce. ❖

Appointments



Joanne Barrett, RN, BSN, named Women Veterans Program Manager at VA Providence

PROVIDENCE — The VA Providence Healthcare System announced that **JOANNE BARRETT, RN, BSN**, has been named the Women Veterans Program Manager. Barrett is a Veteran with 24-years of service in

the Rhode Island Air National Guard as a combat medic and a nurse. She has also been working at VA Providence since 2009, in various roles such as medical technician, Intensive Care Unit nurse, and Operating Room/Patient Acute Care Unit nurse.

“Joanne Barrett brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and passion to her new position,” said **LAWRENCE CONNELL**, VA Providence Healthcare System Director, “we’re extremely pleased she is in this role.”

Barrett aims to inform women Veterans about the many programs and benefits that VA Providence offers, such as:

- Women’s primary care in Providence, Middletown, New Bedford, and Hyannis, with designated women providers who offer comprehensive and gender-specific care;
- Family planning and preconception counseling, menopause care, mental health treatment, osteoporosis screening and management, and more;
- Preventive care including cancer screenings and immunizations;
- Telehealth, gender affirming care, weight management, nutrition, and wellness programs. ❖



Patrick Vivier, MD, PhD, named Dean of URI College of Health Sciences

KINGSTON – The University of Rhode Island has appointed **PATRICK VIVIER, MD, PhD**, as the next dean of the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Vivier is a member of the Tufts University School of Medicine senior leadership team and currently

serves as interim chair of the Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine Department; director of the Public Health Program; and professor of public health and community medicine, and pediatrics.

Prior to his tenure at Tufts, which began in 2022, he served on the faculty at Brown University for more than 25 years and was a pediatrician at Rhode Island’s Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

At Brown, Dr. Vivier was the founding director of the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute. He helped establish an interdisciplinary team of faculty and staff spanning the Schools of Medicine and Public Health, Hasbro Children’s Hospital, and Women & Infants Hospital that engaged in interdisciplinary research. He led the development and implementation of a strategic plan that included a focus on key childhood health issues and developed partnerships with state government agencies in support of public health initiatives.

Dr. Vivier also served as director of several Brown programs, including the interdisciplinary education programs in public health, the clinical and translational research training programs, the Master of Public Health program, and the community health clerkship. At Hasbro Children’s Hospital, he served as director of the Division of General Pediatrics and Community Health.

Dr. Vivier was a professor of pediatrics at Brown and Tufts. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Royce Family Associate Professorship in Teaching Excellence from Brown, the Healthy Housing Award from the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholar Award.

He earned a bachelor’s degree with honors in medical anthropology and a Doctor of Medicine degree from Brown, and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University. He performed his residency in pediatrics at Brown, Rhode Island Hospital, and Women & Infants Hospital; and a fellowship in health services research with a focus on primary care at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Vivier has served on several national committees, including a current role as chair of site visit teams for the Council on Education for Public Health. He is a member of the American Pediatric Society, the Society for Pediatric Research, the Academic Pediatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

His appointment follows a comprehensive and competitive national search. His tenure at URI will commence on January 16, 2024. ❖

Appointments



Mahesh V. Jayaraman, MD, named Chief of Diagnostic Imaging at Lifespan

PROVIDENCE – **MAHESH V. JAYARAMAN, MD**, director of the Neurovascular Center at Rhode Island Hospital, has been named Chief of Diagnostic Imaging at Lifespan. He will also be Chair of the Department of Diagnostic Imaging at the

Alpert Medical School and the Elfriede Collis-Frances Weeden Gibson Professor of Diagnostic Imaging.

Dr. Jayaraman is the president of the Society of Neurointerventional Surgery, a senior member of the American Society of Neuroradiology, and a fellow of the American College of Radiology. He completed the residency program in Diagnostic Radiology at Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University, where he was chief resident, and fellowships in both Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology at Stanford University.

As Lifespan's Chief of Diagnostic Imaging, he will spearhead the implementation of novel technologies aimed at improving patient care and expanding research in the areas of human factors research and population imaging, further solidifying Lifespan's commitment to advancing medical knowledge and improving healthcare outcomes.

"Dr. Jayaraman's advancements in clinical innovation have helped elevate the quality of Lifespan's diagnostic imaging services, which is essential to our mission of delivering exceptional care to patients," said Lifespan President and CEO **JOHN FERNANDEZ**. ❖

Recognition

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island earns top score in 2023–2024 Corporate Equality Index

PROVIDENCE – Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) received a top score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2023–2024 Corporate Equality Index (CEI), the nation's foremost benchmarking survey and report measuring corporate policies and practices related to LGBTQ+ workplace equality.

BCBSRI joins the ranks of 545 major U.S. businesses that earned the Equality 100 Award: Leader in LGBTQ+ Workplace Inclusion. BCBSRI is the only insurer in Rhode Island to receive the award and is the only company to attain a score of 100 for nine consecutive years.

The results of the 2023–2024 CEI showcase how U.S.-based companies are promoting LGBTQ+ friendly workplace policies in the U.S. and abroad. The first year of the CEI included 319 participants, and the 2023–2024 CEI now includes 1,384 participants; further demonstrating the tremendous trajectory of the CEI, a record-breaking 1,340 businesses have non-discrimination protections specific to gender identity, up from just 17 in 2002. These critical non-discrimination protections cover 21 million employees in the United States and around the globe.

The CEI rates companies on detailed criteria falling under four central pillars:

- Non-discrimination policies across business entities
- Equitable benefits for LGBTQ+ workers and their families
- Supporting an inclusive culture
- Corporate social responsibility

The CEI rates employers providing these crucial protections to over 20 million U.S. workers and an additional 18 million outside of the U.S. Companies rated in the CEI include Fortune magazine's 500 largest publicly traded businesses, American Lawyer magazine's top 200 revenue-grossing law firms (AmLaw 200), and hundreds of publicly and privately held mid- to large-sized businesses.

The full report is available online at www.hrc.org/cei. ❖

Places



URI College of Pharmacy wins national grant to improve access to opioid use disorder medications

KINGSTON [UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND] – The University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy will further the fight against the ongoing opioid epidemic thanks to a new \$455,000 grant from the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) to train pharmacists to prescribe

and dispense medications for opioid use disorder.

Led by Clinical Professor **JEFFREY BRATBERG, PharmD**, the College of Pharmacy will initiate two novel approaches to providing medications for opioid use disorder via community pharmacies, particularly in areas where physician prescribers are limited. First, a collaborative practice agreement developed in Rhode Island, in which a pharmacist is allowed to prescribe and treat a specific condition under the supervision and authority of a licensed physician, will be adapted and implemented in Connecticut. It will enable pharmacists in that state to be trained to initiate buprenorphine and provide maintenance care to people with opioid use disorder.

Second, a protocol for informing patients, starting treatment, and providing ongoing care will be implemented in community pharmacies in Ohio, where Drug Enforcement Administration-licensed pharmacists can prescribe controlled substances. The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association, through this funding to URI, will also conduct a state-by-state review of pharmacy regulations and develop toolkits for pharmacies in other states with the goal of expanding these new approaches to community pharmacies across the United States.

“I look forward to exploring and documenting the most effective ways to build sustainable addiction treatment models in community pharmacies,” Dr. Bratberg said. “As key access points for harm reduction services like naloxone, sterile syringes, and medication for opioid use disorder, pharmacists play an essential role in addressing the overdose crisis.”

The award is part of \$1.3 million in new grants FORE awarded as part of a mission to improve access to lifesaving opioid use disorder medications, which are key to reversing overdoses. Only about 18 percent of people with opioid use disorder report the use of lifesaving medications like buprenorphine in their recovery, despite efforts to increase the number of providers who can prescribe it.

Dr. Bratberg has a history of working to improve access to medications to treat opioid use disorder. During his time at URI, he has established an overdose education and naloxone training program for pharmacists in the first-in-nation statewide Collaborative Pharmacy Practice Agreement for naloxone, and led a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showing patients with opioid use disorder can safely receive treatment in a community pharmacy, and that they are more likely to follow up with treatment. He played a key role in the American Pharmacists Association’s policy statements expressing support for decriminalizing the personal possession or use of illicit drugs and drug paraphernalia; serves on the Rhode Island Governor’s Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force, and has led several research efforts on the subject, funded by multiple national organizations. ❖

Help your Patients Keep their Medicaid Coverage

Medicaid members will need to renew their eligibility with the State of Rhode Island to keep their health insurance.

You can help now by reminding your Medicaid patients to update their account information with their current address and phone number. Medicaid members can update their information by:

- Logging into their HealthSource RI account: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/>
- Calling HealthSource RI at 1-855-840-4774 (TTY 711)

Thank you from all of us at Neighborhood for your commitment and partnership in ensuring Rhode Island families keep their health care coverage!



 **Neighborhood Health Plan**
OF RHODE ISLAND™

www.nhpri.org 1-800-459-6019 (TTY 711)

Neighborhood members can scan the QR code to update their address through our new e-form or visit www.nhpri.org

