

Appointments



Stephanie Psaki, PhD

Global health security leaders Stephanie Psaki, PhD; Nikki Romanik, MD, join Brown School of Public Health

PROVIDENCE – **STEPHANIE PSAKI, PhD**, and **NIKKI ROMANIK, MD**, former senior White House officials with the Biden-Harris administration, have been appointed distinguished senior fellows in global health security at the Brown University School of Public Health.

Based at the School of Public Health's Washington, D.C. office, the two leaders will play pivotal roles in advancing the school's global health and biosecurity initiatives. Psaki and Romanik bring a robust track record in navigating complex global health challenges at the highest levels of government.

"We are thrilled to welcome these two distinguished leaders to our community," said Dean **ASHISH JHA**. "Their unmatched experience in global health

security and policy will enable us to deepen our impact on some of the most critical challenges in public health today. Through their leadership, our community will gain deeper insights into navigating complex health and biosecurity challenges and ensuring effective government and private sector responses to the most pressing global health challenges of our time."

As part of their time at Brown, Psaki and Romanik will engage with policymakers and leaders from around the world on global health and health security, write extensively on these topics and use their firsthand experience at the forefront of national and global health policy to help inspire the next generation of public health leaders.

Initiatives they will take on range from developing strategies to enhance biothreat detection, contributing to innovative vaccine manufacturing – including mRNA technology – while addressing gaps in sustainable financing for global health security. They will also lead discussions on how the lessons learned from COVID-19, mpox, Marburg, Ebola and other outbreaks can inform preparedness for future biological threats. They will work with scholars and practitioners across the field to shape discussions about the future of global health, including the role of the United States, and explore innovative approaches to addressing growing global health threats, such as those posed by climate change and humanitarian emergencies. ❖



Nikki Romanik, MD



Carole Billington, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, named President, Chief Nursing Officer for Saint Anne's Hospital

PROVIDENCE – **CAROLE BILLINGTON, MSN, RN, NEA-BC**, has been named president and chief nursing officer for Saint Anne's Hospital.

Billington has been with Saint Anne's Hospital for many years, most recently serving as interim president and chief nursing officer since September 2024. Her career began with Saint Anne's as a newly licensed registered nurse and she has held various nursing and administrative leadership roles throughout the years, including clinical advisor, clinical resource coordinator, patient care director of peri-anesthesia services, director of surgical services/endoscopy and cardiovascular program, administrative director of clinical operations, and chief operating officer/chief nursing officer.

"Carole's broad experience has uniquely positioned her to lead Saint Anne's into the future. She has played a pivotal role in the hospital's continued growth as a leading community hospital," said **SARAH FROST**, Chief of Hospital Operations for Brown University Health. "Under her leadership, Carole led the integration of Saint Anne's into the Brown University Health system and has expanded services and earned multiple national recognitions for patient care."

Billington holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of New Hampshire and a Master of Science in nursing from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. She is board certified in nursing administration and as a nurse executive, advanced. In addition, she is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Organization of Nurse Leaders, the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth College of Nursing and Health Sciences Advisory Board, the Bristol Community College Advisory Board, and the American Organization of Nurse Leaders. ❖



Sherri Sprague, MHA, BSN at Kent appointed to RI Board of Nursing

WARWICK — Kent Hospital Chief Nursing Officer **SHERRI SPRAGUE, MHA, BSN**, was appointed to the RI Board of Nursing. In this capacity, she is filling the Nursing Service Administrator seat. Her term goes through June 1, 2028.

The Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education is charged with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Rhode Island. The Board is composed of 15 members, each serving a term of three years. Board membership includes 11 professional nurses and two practical nurses appointed by the Director of Health and approved by the Governor and two members of the general public appointed by the Governor. ❖

Recognition



Don S. Dizon, MD, honored by ASCO

PROVIDENCE — The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), endowed by the American Cancer Society, recently announced that **DON S. DIZON, MD**, Director, Pelvic Malignancies Program and Hematology-Oncology Outpatient Clinics, Brown University Health

Cancer Institute; Director of Medical Oncology, Rhode Island Hospital has been awarded the prestigious Excellence in Equity Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion in cancer care.

The ASCO, in announcing the award, stated it highlights Dr. Dizon's unwavering commitment to promoting equity in oncology and his efforts to address disparities in cancer care. His work continues to shape the field, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of background, have access to the highest standard of care. His leadership extends across multiple roles, including director of The Pelvic Malignancies Program at Brown University Health, associate director of community outreach and engagement at Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University, chairperson of the Hope Foundation for Cancer Research, and board member of the LGBTQ Cancer Network.

"This was unexpected, but a nice acknowledgment that efforts to reach others, whether ensuring opportunities are afforded to people equally or giving voice to the challenges experienced by underserved communities, remains important. This quest for equity embodies what all Americans strive for – a better life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, afforded both fairly and justly. I am humbled and grateful to the American Society of Clinical Oncology for this award," stated Dr. Dizon. ❖

Rhode Island Hospital announces Comprehensive Stroke Center recertification

PROVIDENCE — Brown University Health's Rhode Island Hospital has received recertification from The Joint Commission (TJC) for its Comprehensive Stroke Center. Rhode Island Hospital is the only hospital in the state designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center and provides care to more than 1,700 patients with stroke or transient ischemic attack annually throughout Rhode Island and southern New England.

Comprehensive Stroke Centers demonstrate the ability to evaluate and treat the most complex stroke cases and provide comprehensive services focused on acute management, risk factor modification, and recovery.

"Comprehensive Stroke Centers are recognized as health care leaders and are responsible for setting the national agenda in highly specialized stroke care. Such centers require major clinical services," said **SARAH FROST**, President of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's, Chief of Hospital Operations. "It is an invaluable resource to all of Southern New England."

This is the ten-year anniversary of Rhode Island Hospital receiving Comprehensive Stroke Center designation, having received its initial recognition from TJC in 2014.

"Our team is proud to deliver world-class care to our patients," said **MELISSA HARMON, MSN, RN, ASC-BC**, Manager, Comprehensive Stroke Center. "We are also proud of our involvement with the community and many research programs."

"Our greatest reward is caring for our patients," said **STEPHANIE SOUZA, MSN, RN, ASC-BC**, Assistant Manager, Comprehensive Stroke Center. "But now and again, it's gratifying when the level of care we provide is recognized by a national organization. It means a lot for our staff, and we are proud of this accreditation – which we have now held for a decade." ❖