

## Appointments



### Kent Hospital President Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA, to lead Baltimore Health System

PROVIDENCE — Care New England Health System (CNE) recently announced that **PAARI GOPALAKRISHNAN, MD, MBA**, President and Chief Operating Officer of Kent Hospital, has accepted

the position of President and Chief Executive Officer at GBMC HealthCare (Greater Baltimore Medical Center) in Maryland. He will remain with Kent Hospital through mid-September to assist with transition planning as CNE launches a national search for his successor.

“While we are saddened to see Dr. Gopalakrishnan depart, we are incredibly proud of this well-earned next step in his career,” said **MICHAEL WAGNER, MD, FACP**, President and CEO of Care New England. “Over the past three years, his leadership has propelled Kent Hospital to new heights in clinical excellence, operational performance, and patient-centered care.”

During Dr. Gopalakrishnan’s tenure, Kent Hospital has earned recognition for excellence in key service lines, including Emergency Medicine, Geriatrics, and Orthopedic Surgery. He also spearheaded a major financial turnaround and led the planning of an upcoming renovation of the Emergency Department and Ambulatory Services building, set to begin this fall.

Dr. Gopalakrishnan joined Kent Hospital in 2009 as the Director of the Inpatient Medical Group, was appointed as Chief Medical Officer in 2018, and was appointed President and COO in 2022. In addition to his leadership at Kent, he has played an integral role on the executive team at Care New England, contributing to strategic initiatives across the health system.

“Serving the patients, staff, and community at Kent Hospital has been one of the greatest privileges of my career,” said Dr. Gopalakrishnan. “I’m grateful for the talented and dedicated team I’ve had the honor to work alongside, and I leave confident that Kent’s best days lie ahead.”

Care New England will share updates regarding interim leadership and the national search process in the coming weeks. ❖



### Tenny Thomas, MD, FACEP, MHL, named President and Chief Medical Officer of Newport Hospital

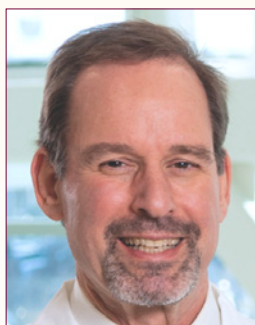
NEWPORT — **TENNY THOMAS, MD, FACEP, MHL**, has been named Newport Hospital’s president and chief medical officer (CMO), which became effective July 14, 2025.

Dr. Thomas joins Newport Hospital from Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth where he had served as chief medical officer since 2018.

“Dr. Thomas is an impressive leader and his passion for advancing healthcare quality and improving patient outcomes will be an asset to Newport Hospital and Brown University Health,” said **SARAH FROST**, Chief of Hospital Operations for Brown University Health. “I look forward to partnering with Dr. Thomas to amplify the award-winning care and services that Newport Hospital proudly provides to our community.”

In his previous roles, Dr. Thomas was instrumental in enhancing operational efficiencies, developing new service lines, and leading successful initiatives in physician wellness and telemedicine services. Dr. Thomas has served as CMO at Good Samaritan Medical Center and chief of the emergency department at Morton Hospital.

Dr. Thomas completed his medical degree at the College of Medicine, Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, and did his residency in Emergency Medicine at George Washington University Hospital. He received a master’s in health care leadership from Brown University. Dr. Thomas is an adjunct faculty member at the School of Public Health at Brown University, is board-certified in Emergency Medicine and is a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians. ❖



### Alexander Harmatz, MD, named Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology at Fatima Hospital

NORTH PROVIDENCE — **ALEXANDER HARMATZ, MD**, has been named Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, it was announced recently by **WILLIAM J. BELIVEAU, MD, FCCP**, Chairman of the Department of Medicine.

Board-certified in gastroenterology and internal medicine, Dr. Harmatz joined CharterCARE in 2018 as a member of the digestive disease center at Roger Williams Medical Center. He has been practicing for more than 35 years and specializes in the areas of hepatobiliary disease, gastroesophageal reflux, pancreatic disease, inflammatory bowel disease, colorectal cancer screening, and nutrition.

Dr. Harmatz is a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia and completed his residency at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore and fellowship at Stanford University in California. He also has a master’s degree in chemistry from Emory University. Prior to joining CharterCARE, he was an assistant professor of medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine. ❖

## Appointments



### Returning Home: University Orthopedics welcomes native Rhode Islander Nicholas Lemme, MD, to The Sports Medicine Center

EAST PROVIDENCE — University Orthopedics recently announced the addition of Rhode Island native **NICHOLAS LEMME, MD**, to its renowned Sports Medicine Center.

Dr. Lemme is fellowship-trained in both orthopedic sports medicine and orthopedic trauma, and treats

patients ages 10 and up, including recreational and competitive athletes, laborers, weekend warriors, and those seeking surgical revision or second opinions. His practice emphasizes both surgical and non-surgical treatment of musculoskeletal injuries, with a particular focus on the shoulder, knee, and elbow.

“Dr. Lemme’s dual expertise in sports medicine and orthopedic trauma makes him an outstanding addition to our team. His clinical skill, commitment to patient-centered care, and drive for excellent outcomes ensure our patients receive world-class, individualized treatment,” said Dr. Edward Akelman, President of University Orthopedics. “We are proud to welcome a surgeon of his caliber back to Rhode Island and into the UOI family.”

#### Education & Training

Before completing his orthopedic sports medicine fellowship at the internationally acclaimed Rush University Medical Center in Chicago – widely regarded as one of the top programs in the world – Dr. Lemme earned his medical degree, residency in orthopedic surgery, and a fellowship in orthopedic trauma at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

While at Rush, Dr. Lemme served as assistant team physician for the Chicago White Sox (MLB) and the Chicago Bulls (NBA). A proud Rhode Islander, he completed his undergraduate

studies at the University of Rhode Island and is also a graduate of La Salle Academy.

“Returning to Rhode Island to join University Orthopedics is incredibly meaningful to me, both personally and professionally,” said Dr. Lemme. “This community shaped my education, my values, and my passion for orthopedic care. I’m honored to be part of a team so deeply committed to clinical excellence, innovation, and patient-centered treatment – and I’m excited to give back to the place I’ve always called home.”

#### Clinical Interests

Dr. Lemme’s clinical focus includes:

- Revision ligament reconstruction, particularly in patients with failed ACL or multiligament procedures
- Joint preservation strategies such as osteotomies, cartilage restoration, and meniscal allograft transplantation
- Shoulder arthroplasty for active patients with advanced shoulder pathology

#### Research & Academic Involvement

Beyond patient care, Dr. Lemme is deeply engaged in academic research and education. He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, podium and poster presentations, and book chapters. His work spans sports medicine outcomes, joint preservation, biomechanics, and surgical technique innovation.

He currently serves on the Research Committee for the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) and is a peer reviewer for both *The American Journal of Sports Medicine* and *Sports Health*. ❖

## Appointments

### NettieRose Cooley, MBA joins Block Island Health Center as its new CEO

BLOCK ISLAND — **NETTIEROSE COOLEY, MBA**, from Warwick, recently joined the Block Island Health Center (BIHC) as its Chief Operating Officer (CEO). A news release from BIHC stated her 16 years of leadership experience at UnitedHealthcare, most recently acting as the National Senior Director of Value Based Solutions. She also carries over four years of experience in pharmaceutical sales and over 12 years working in the medical practice and hospital sectors.

According to the release, Block Island is special to NettieRose, as she spent summers on the



island as a child. In 2004, she married her husband, Bruce Cooley, at the Spring House and they have been summer residents on their boat, in Old Harbor, for over 20 years. Starting a couple of years ago, with the company of their rescue dog, Rhody, they have enjoyed spending the quiet winter months on the island as well.

"BI has always been considered home in my heart," she said. "It is with great pleasure that I am able to work here and give back to the community that makes the island the special place that it is." ❖

### Neighborhood Health Plan welcomes new chair, two board members



SMITHFIELD — Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) recently announced **ALISON CROKE, MHA**, CEO of Wood River Health Services, as the new Chair of its Board of Directors and welcomed two community leaders to its Board of Directors.

With 30 years of experience in healthcare, Croke has focused on publicly financed health care programs, including roles in program management, health policy, and strategic planning. Prior to joining Wood River Health in 2018, she served as Vice President of Medicare-Medicaid Integration at Neighborhood.

Croke succeeds Brenda Dowlatsahi, Chief Operating Officer at Tri-County Community Action Agency. "We are grateful to Brenda for her stewardship and unwavering dedication during her tenure as Board Chair," said Peter Marino, President and CEO of Neighborhood. "Her guidance and commitment to our mission have been instrumental in advancing our work to improve the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders. We look to Alison to continue to help and grow Neighborhood during these challenging times," he said.

Additionally, Neighborhood added two new members to its Board of Directors: Allison Brindle, MD, a board-certified pediatrician and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown, and Liz Catucci, President and CEO of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce. Both will help shape Neighborhood's long-term initiatives that strive to build a holistic culture of care.



#### **ALLISON BRINDLE, MD**

With over 20 years of experience practicing pediatrics, Dr. Brindle specializes in general pediatric preventative care and care for the infant through adolescence. She has a special interest in providing a medical home for children with medical complexity. Dr. Brindle is also affiliated with several area hospitals, including Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital. She is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. A member of several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, where she previously served as President of the Rhode Island Chapter, Dr. Brindle received her medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.



#### **LIZ CATUCCI**

Liz Catucci is the President and CEO of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce. Catucci is responsible for all the internal operations and advocacy efforts and is charged with carrying out the Chamber's mission. Prior to this role, she served as Director of Marketing and Business Development for PKF O'Connor Davies, a full-service, certified accounting and advisory firm. Ms. Catucci earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Providence College and earned the honor of Providence Business News' "40 under 40" in 2019. ❖

## Appointments



### Samuel M. Mencoff named Chair of the Board for Brown University Health

PROVIDENCE — Brown University Health recently announced the appointment of **SAMUEL M. MENCOFF** as Chair of the Board of Directors, effective December

9, 2025. He currently serves as a member of the Brown University Health board.

A Brown University alumnus and seasoned leader in business and philanthropy, Mencoff brings decades of experience in organizational leadership, governance, and health system oversight.

Mencoff, a 1978 graduate of Brown University, former Chancellor of the University (2016–2024) and a longtime member of the Brown Corporation whose service ended on June 30th, is widely recognized for his transformative contributions to higher education, biomedical research, and community health initiatives. His new role at Brown University Health marks a continuation of his longstanding commitment to advancing health equity and excellence in care across Rhode Island and beyond.

“Sam’s leadership and strategic vision will be instrumental as Brown University Health enters a new era of growth, innovation, and service,” said **JOHN FERNANDEZ**, President and CEO of Brown University Health. “His deep ties to Brown and his experience at the intersection of business, healthcare, and education make him uniquely qualified to guide our system well into the future.”

Mencoff is co-founder and former Co-CEO of Madison Dearborn Partners, a leading private equity firm based in Chicago, and he currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the firm. He also holds leadership positions on several national boards, including as a Commissioner of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery, Vice Chair of the Art Institute of Chicago, Director of the John Carter Brown Library, and is Lead Independent Director of Packaging Corporation of America.

Mencoff succeeds **LAWRENCE A. AUBIN, SR.**, who will be stepping down in December, from the role he has held since 2015. ♦

## Recognition

### BCBSRI announces nonprofit partners for 2025 day of service – Blue across Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE — Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) recently announced the nonprofits that will benefit from Blue across Rhode Island 2025, the insurer’s signature day of service during which hundreds of employees spend the workday volunteering at community and social service organizations across the state.

Marking the 14th anniversary of Blue across Rhode Island, this year’s theme is “1 Blue 4 RI.” The event will take place on Friday, Sept. 12 and support 14 nonprofits that applied for help with their efforts to improve Rhode Islanders’ quality of life. Blue across Rhode Island is one of the largest annual volunteer events of its kind in the state.

Participating nonprofits this year were revealed at a spirited kickoff for Blue across Rhode Island. Team leaders presented details of the 2025 volunteer opportunities to their colleagues, who are then encouraged to sign up for the project of their choice.

“Our associates look forward to the kickoff every year to learn how they can roll up their sleeves to help improve the health and well-being of their neighbors,” said BCBSRI Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility Carolyn Belisle. “This year’s theme ‘1 Blue 4 RI,’ represents our 14th year of showing up for our community-based partners, who work tirelessly year-round to better the lives of Rhode Islanders.”

BCBSRI volunteers will support a variety of community-based organizations and their projects, including ones that address food, housing, dental care, mental wellness, and community recreation.

The following are the 14 participating organizations that BCBSRI employees will support:

- Amenity Aid
- Crossroads Rhode Island
- Dorcas International
- Feed RI
- Gotta Have Sole Foundation, Inc.
- Higher Ground International
- Hope Alzheimer’s Center
- NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley
- Playworks New England
- Rhode Island Oral Health Foundation
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- The ELISHA Project
- The Village Common of RI
- YMCA of Greater Providence

Since the launch of Blue across Rhode Island in 2012, BCBSRI has supported 80 organizations across the state on more than 140 projects and associates have logged more than 40,000 volunteer hours. These projects have had an impact on the lives of more than 205,000 Rhode Islanders. ♦



## Recognition

### 2025 Worksite Health Awards honor 48 Rhode Island-based companies

WARWICK — Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce presented the 31st annual Worksite Health Awards to 48 companies at a celebration at the Crowne Plaza July 17th.

The Worksite Health Awards honor Rhode Island-based employers that demonstrate sincere commitment to maintaining a healthy workplace through policy, culture, and educational opportunities. With some companies having locations outside the state and with workforces that are hybrid or virtual, the awards help showcase employer commitment in Rhode Island and beyond, as well as best practices for improving the health and well-being of employees.

This year's awards included a special category – Inspiring Voices – that required submission of essays recounting notable workplace wellness initiatives. Winning essays included:

- **BankNewport:** On the transformative power of its Vitality Wellness Program and featuring two employees who improved chronic health issues through exercise and nutrition.
- **Highbar Physical Therapy:** On its Special Interest Groups, which foster learning, innovation and connection, and a company challenge, September of Move, that inspired employees and their families to get more active.
- **Raytheon Company–Naval Power:** On how company employees rallied to improve their readiness to respond to heart attacks, strokes and seizures following a medical event on the company's production floor in which employees rushed to provide aid to a colleague.

"At Blue Cross, we're proud to recognize – and celebrate – local businesses that are dedicated to the health and well-being



Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce at celebration held at the Crowne Plaza July 17th. [PROVIDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE]

of their employees," said **JOHN DONOHUE**, BCBSRI Vice President of Commercial Markets. "With so many companies headquartered in Rhode Island, their best practices are a model for businesses within our state and across the nation. It was inspiring to see the creative, innovative ways that employers are helping their employees improve their physical, mental, and social well-being."

**LAURIE WHITE**, President of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, said, "Now in the 31st year of the Worksite Health Awards, we remain inspired by the creativity and commitment of those Rhode Island companies that go above and beyond to make employee wellness a priority. By supporting healthy lifestyles and boosting morale, worksite wellness programs are a win-win for everyone. We are once again proud to partner with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island to recognize local businesses finding innovative and engaging ways to help their employees live better, healthier and happier lives."

Businesses were named 2025 Worksite Health Award honorees in these three categories:

#### Exemplary honorees

American Mathematical Society, BankNewport, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Brown University, Brown University Health, Bryant University, Care New England Health Services, Coastal Credit Union, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Cooley Group, Dominion Diagnostics, LLC., Gilbane,

Inc., Greenwood Credit Union, Highbar Physical Therapy, Hinckley Allen, Meeting Street, Navigant Credit Union, Ocean State Job Lot, Ortho Rhode Island, Providence College, Raytheon–Naval Power, Rhode Island Zoological Society, RI Housing, RIPIN (Rhode Island Parent Information Network), Roger Williams University Simply Wellness, South County Health, State of Rhode Island, Swarovski Optik North America, LTD, The Beacon Mutual Insurance Company, The Washington Trust Company, Toray Plastics (America), Inc., Westbay Community Action Inc.

#### Superior honorees

AIPSO, Brookwood Finishing, CME Corp., Falvey Insurance Group, Living in Fulfilling Environments (LIFE), Inc, Paul Masse Automotive Group, Rhode Island Commerce, Rhode Interlocal Risk Management Trust, Saint Elizabeth Community, Taco Comfort Solutions, Wood River Health.

#### Outstanding honorees

Blackstone Valley Community Health Center, Crossroads RI, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 51, The RISE Group, University Orthopedics.

All Rhode Island-headquartered businesses are eligible to apply for the Worksite Health Awards. BCBSRI, in partnership with the Chamber, is a proud presenting sponsor of the awards, which have recognized local businesses for creating healthy workplaces since 1995. ❖

## Recognition

### Rhode Island, Miriam, Newport hospitals recognized for exceptional stroke treatment

PROVIDENCE/NEWPORT — Three Brown University Health hospitals have been nationally recognized again for providing exceptional patient care and outcomes by The American Heart Association (AHA).

Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Newport Hospital received the prestigious Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke GOLD PLUS Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes programs that demonstrate commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

All three hospitals also received AHA's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll designation in recognition for demonstrating they met quality measures with over 90% compliance for the prior year.

Additionally, the hospitals were honored for:

- **Rhode Island Hospital** received the AHA's Target: Stroke Honor Roll Advanced Therapy and Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus designations, in addition to Advanced Therapy and AHA's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.
- **The Miriam Hospital** received AHA's Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus as well as the AHA's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll designations.
- **Newport Hospital** received AHA's Target: Stroke Honor Roll designation and AHA's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll. ❖

### South County Health earns CMS infection prevention recognition

WAKEFIELD — South County Health has been recognized as one of only 514 hospitals across the United States to achieve zero catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs), based on the most recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data.

The data, compiled in the Healthcare Associated Infections-Hospital database and collected through the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network, reflects a full year of reporting – from July 2023 through June 2024. These results underscore South County Health's dedication to infection prevention and the delivery of exceptional care across all settings.

CMS and the CDC calculate standardized infection ratios using a range of factors including hospital size, patient health status, and care location. The measures apply to all patients in acute care hospitals, whether adult, pediatric, neonatal, Medicare or non-Medicare. ❖

### Hasbro Children's announces 2024 'Brite Lites' hospital employees recognized for exemplary care

PROVIDENCE — Hasbro Children's announced its 2024 Brite Lite award winners at a recent ceremony held in the hospital's Balise Healing Garden. Recipients are Brown University Health employees nominated by Hasbro Children's patients and their families for their dedication and compassion shown to pediatric patients under their care.



The Brite Lite employee recognition program started 20-plus years ago. It celebrates five employees who have excelled in their everyday duties to make patients and families feel safe, important, and well cared for. Brite Lite winners are chosen for exemplifying “the four Cs” at Hasbro Children's: caring, communication, cooperation and competence.

The 2024 Brite Lites winners, selected from among more than 40 nominations, are:

- **LAURA CIOE**, family advocate, patient & family centered care, Hasbro Children's
- **KRISTEN GALLAGHER, RN**, 5th floor, Hasbro Children's
- **MARGARET SCHEFFLER, MD**, pediatric critical care, Hasbro Children's
- **MARY SETTE, NP**, Emergency Department, Hasbro Children's
- **MADDISON ZUBA, BSN, RN**, pediatric float pool, Hasbro Children's ❖



## Recognition

### Roger Williams celebrates 30 years of BMT services

PROVIDENCE — Close to 100 cancer survivors, family members and friends, providers and hospital staff gathered recently at Roger Williams Medical Center (RWMC) to celebrate National Cancer Survivor Month, their cancer care journey, and mark the 30th anniversary of the Blood and Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapy Program (BMT).



Sen. **Jack Reed** joined with cancer survivors, family, and staff on Saturday, June 21 in Kay Auditorium. [RWMC]

The program was highlighted by remarks from Sen. **JACK REED**, where it was a bit of a homecoming given he was on hand in 1994 to help open the BMT unit at Roger Williams.

"You know 'Hope' is the motto of our state, and for over 30 years, BMT has been bringing hope to cancer patients throughout our state," he said. "Over the last decade, we have seen incredible advancements in cancer research. Survivorship rates are improving and quality of life improving. That's why we can't let our foot off the pedal. We need to keep investing in biomedical research and clinical trials. We need to redouble our efforts, and I can think of no better place to look for inspiration than the many individuals and families here who have fought for their lives. You are all battle tested...and we need to match that strength."

Remarks were also delivered by **DR. RITESH RATHORE**, Medical Director of the Cancer Center, and **DR. TODD ROBERTS**, Director of the BMT program. "Most people know Senator Reed as a leader on the Senate Appropriations and Armed Services Committee," commented Dr. Rathore, adding, "but not everyone is familiar with his leadership in authoring major bills on healthcare and his work in supporting health care access, especially in RI. We would like to recognize him as a true champion for healthcare in RI."

He went on to say, "Today, we want to thank all our patients for trusting us to take care of them in the most difficult and trying phase of their lives. We will strive continuously to provide the best care and support and partner with you during your therapy and your recovery."

The BMT Program at Roger Williams is the only full-service program of its kind in Southern New England. ❖

### Roger Williams Sleep Center reaccredited

PROVIDENCE — The Roger Williams Medical Center Sleep Disorders Center has been officially awarded reaccreditation for a period of five years by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM).

The Sleep Center provides sleep testing as well as out-patient consultations for patients with sleep related complaints such as snoring, daytime fatigue, fragmented sleep, insomnia and sleep apnea. Sleep tests include overnight attended in-center polysomnography, home sleep apnea testing and multiple sleep latency testing. A team of highly experienced registered polysomnography technologists perform the testing and analyze the data. By successfully completing the re-accreditation process and upholding the standards of accreditation, the RWMC Sleep Disorders Center has shown its dedication to the advancement of the field.



Members of the Sleep Center: **Eymy Soto** (Medial Assistant), **Tracy Banaczuk** (Sleep Scorer), **Patrice Lawrence** (Medical Assistant), **Debra Forsythe** (Medical Secretary), **Erica Brousseau** (Nurse Practitioner, APRN), and **Zulfikar Alli** (Manager). [RWMC]

Since 1977, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) Standards for Accreditation have been the gold standard by which the medical community and the public evaluate sleep medicine facilities. Achieving AASM accreditation demonstrates a sleep medicine provider's commitment to high quality, patient-centered care through adherence to these standards. The RWMC Sleep Center has been continuously accredited since 2009.

"This is another example of our commitment to provide specialty services that follow industry best practices," said **JEFFREY LIEBMAN**, CharterCARE CEO, parent company of Roger Williams Medical Center. "This is validation once again of the exceptional clinical leadership and patient care this sleep program has provided for more than 10 years." **DR. F. DENNIS MCCOOL**, ABIM, board-certified in Sleep Medicine, is Medical Director of the Sleep Disorder Center. ❖

## Recognition

### Two URI nursing professors to be inducted as Fellows in American Academy of Nursing

KINGSTON (URI) — Two University of Rhode Island College of Nursing professors, Associate Professor **AMY D'AGATA, PhD, RN**, and Assistant Professor **ERICA LIEBERMANN, PhD, MSN**, have been selected to receive the highest recognition of accomplishment in the nursing profession, induction as Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing.

Invitation to fellowship requires nurses to demonstrate sustained exceptional contributions throughout their careers, and recognizes a nursing leader's accomplishments in the profession.

Dr. Liebermann is an adult/women's health nurse practitioner and clinician scientist with extensive international experience. Her clinical work and health services research are driven by a desire to advance the health of women and girls throughout the



College of Nursing professors Amy D'Agata (left) and Erica Liebermann (right) are the latest URI faculty members to be inducted as Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing.

world, through promoting equitable access to high quality health care. Her current research focuses on advancing progress toward cervical cancer elimination in the U.S. through innovative strategies to increase HPV vaccination rates and improve cervical cancer screening and follow-up.

Dr. D'Agata has extensive clinical experience in neonatal intensive care. Her research has evolved to examining the lifetime effects of preterm birth. She serves as the principal investigator for the RHODE Study, the longest continuously running preterm birth study in the United States.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health through an R01 grant, the study explores the impact of preterm birth on adult cardiometabolic, immune, and endocrine health, as well as epigenetic aging at the age of 35. ♦