

## Appointments



**Jill O'Brien, MD, FACP, named Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director of Hospital Medicine at Morton Hospital**

TAUNTON, MA — **JILL O'BRIEN, MD, FACP**,

joined Morton Hospital as Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Medical Director of Hospital Medicine in October. Dr. O'Brien succeeds Dr. Charles Thayer, who retired from his role as CMO but will continue to provide full-time surgical care to patients in his Morton Surgical practice in Taunton.

In her new dual role, Dr. O'Brien will assume responsibility for all quality, safety, and clinical operations at Morton Hospital while also overseeing the hospital medicine program.

Dr. O'Brien has nearly two decades of experience in both clinical and leadership positions. Most recently, she served as Vice President of Strategy, Planning, and Optimization for Brown University Health. She has also served as Senior Medical Director of Utilization Management and as a practicing hospitalist at The Miriam Hospital, where she was elected president of the medical staff. Dr. O'Brien earned her medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed her residency at Rhode Island Hospital. ❖



**Women & Infants Hospital President and COO to lead Connecticut Children's Health System**

*Care New England celebrates Shannon Sullivan's accomplishments and new career milestone*

PROVIDENCE — Care New England Health System (CNE) recently announced that **SHANNON SULLIVAN, MSW, MS**, President and Chief Operating Officer of Women & Infants Hospital (WIH), has accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer at Connecticut Children's health system in Hartford, Connecticut. She will remain with WIH through 2025 to assist with transition planning as CNE launches a national search for her successor.

"It's with very mixed emotions that we are sharing that Shannon has earned this remarkable opportunity to lead one of the nation's premier children's health systems," said **MICHAEL WAGNER, MD**, President and CEO of Care New England. "Shannon has been part of Care New England for more than 20 years, and her accomplishments and dedication as she assumed progressively more challenging roles, including leadership of WIH for the past five years, are testament to this achievement. She will bring a wealth of experience and expertise in leadership that enables clinical, operational, and philanthropic excellence, always with a focus on the highest quality patient care."

During Sullivan's tenure with Care New England, she served in a variety of roles, from Chief Operating Officer of WIH to leadership of Kent Hospital before assuming the role of President at WIH in 2020. Most recently, she has co-led CNE's enterprise-wide launch of EPIC, the gold standard in electronic health records management. Among her most significant achievements at WIH were the introduction of new and expanded surgical services and procedural areas, opening the first in-patient hospitalist unit, and the development and implementation of a system-wide women's health initiative that represents 81% market share of obstetric deliveries in the state. Sullivan also led the largest philanthropic capital campaign in CNE history, raising \$35 million to create a new 20-bed, 18,000-square-foot labor and delivery center, and she introduced several successful quality improvement initiatives that addressed important population health needs of women and children across Rhode Island.

"This has been more than a job for me. Working with my colleagues and staff across Care New England has been my vocation, my privilege, and my greatest honor," Sullivan said. "I have been blessed to work with some of the most talented, compassionate, and dedicated individuals and teams in this industry, and I am leaving here with immense pride and confidence that the next leader will enjoy the same energy and passionate commitment to caring for Rhode Islanders."

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

"Care New England and our hospitals enjoy a reputation for inspiring a new generation of leadership. We are privileged to see our experienced leaders advance their career journeys and inspire others with their passion and expertise," Dr. Wagner added. "We are looking forward to working with Shannon to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of all clinical services and hospital operations as we embark on plans to find the best possible successor." ❖

## Recognition

### Maureen G. Phipps, MD, MPH, among National Academy of Medicine's 100 new members

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) announced on October 20th the election of 90 regular members and 10 international members during its annual meeting. Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

In Rhode Island, the newly elected regular members of the National Academy of Medicine and election citations is **MAUREEN G. PHIPPS, MD, MPH**, professor emerita, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University; and chief executive officer, MGP Strategies LLC, Boothbay, Maine, for her visionary academic and executive leadership in women's health, and her transformative contributions to pressing health care challenges across state, national, and global contexts. She is widely recognized for advancing reproductive and maternal health, championing evidence-based care, and informing policy solutions through trusted leadership, thoughtful research, and strategic collaboration.

"I am deeply honored to welcome these extraordinary health and medicine leaders and researchers into the National Academy of Medicine," said NAM President **VICTOR J. DZAU**. "Their demonstrated excellence in tackling public health challenges, leading major discoveries, improving health care, advancing health policy, and addressing health equity will critically strengthen our collective ability to tackle the most pressing health challenges of our time."

New members are elected by current members through a process that recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care, and public health. A diversity of talent among NAM's membership is assured by its Articles of Organization, which stipulate that at least one-quarter of the membership is selected from



fields outside the health professions – for example, from such fields as law, engineering, social sciences, and the humanities. The newly elected members bring NAM's total membership to more than 2,500, which includes more than 200 international members.

Established originally as the Institute of Medicine in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine addresses critical issues in health, science, medicine, and related

policy and inspires positive actions across sectors. NAM works alongside the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering to provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation and conduct other activities to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine also encourage education and research, recognize outstanding contributions to knowledge, and increase public understanding of STEMM. With their election, NAM members make a commitment to volunteer their service in National Academies activities.

Dr. Phipps completed her residency training at Women and Infants Hospital and joined the Brown faculty in 2001 as an assistant professor. At Brown, she served as chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, assistant dean for teaching and research in women's health, and a professor of obstetrics and gynecology. She was also the executive chief of women's health for the Care New England health system. Over two decades at Brown and Women and Infants, Phipps spearheaded numerous initiatives in research, education, policy and program development, including directing the federally funded Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholars Program, leading the Rhode Island Task Force on Premature Births, and overseeing the Brown and Women and Infants Hospital National Center of Excellence in Women's Health. ❖

PHOTO: BROWN UNIVERSITY

## Recognition



### Eli Y. Adashi, MD, honored by the National Academy of Medicine for outstanding service

WASHINGTON, DC — At its annual meeting in October, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) honored three members for their outstanding service. The honorees included **ELI Y.**

**ADASHI, MD**, former dean of medicine and biological sciences, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University; Ruzena K. Bajcsy, professor emeritus, University of Pennsylvania; and Kenneth W. Kizer, distinguished professor emeritus, UC Davis School of Medicine, and senior scholar, Clinical Excellence Research Center, Stanford University School of Medicine.

Dr. Adashi received the Walsh McDermott Medal, which recognizes a member for distinguished service to the NAM and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine over an extended period. Throughout his career, he has been a thought leader in his primary discipline of women's health and a scientific and policy pioneer in the area of reproductive medicine in the United States and around the world.

He was elected to NAM in 1999 and chaired the maternal and child health and human development interest group for six years. His contributions include many National Academies roles, including as a member of the Board on Health Sciences Policy. In total, Dr. Adashi has been a review coordinator for 24 consensus and workshop reports and a reviewer for 10 publications. He co-chaired the Joint Committee on Reducing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality in Indonesia and served as a member on several committees for National Academies consensus reports such as the Committee on Women's Health Research and the Committee on Antiprogesterins: Assessing the Science, which proved critical to the ultimate approval of mifepristone by the FDA as a medical abortion alternative.

"These distinguished members are most deserving of this recognition for their decades of scientific leadership to improve health and medicine for all, and for their dedicated service to the NAM and National Academies," said National Academy of Medicine President **VICTOR J. DZAU**. "From advancing women's health and reproductive medicine research to seminal research in robotics and medical imaging to leading a landmark study to improve equity in the organ transplant system, it is an honor for us to recognize these individuals' tireless efforts and profound expertise." ♦

## Places

### Women & Infants introduces community mobile health clinic

PROVIDENCE — Women & Infants Hospital recently held a formal ribbon-cutting for the Community Mobile Health Clinic. The van is now on the road, serving community partners across Rhode Island to increase access to maternal health services.



The Community Mobile Health Clinic is a van outfitted to offer a variety of postpartum screenings and support, staffed by a dedicated Nurse Practitioner and Community Health Worker. The mobile unit will screen patients for postpartum depression and hypertension, provide contraceptive counseling and/or contraception as needed, and provide a variety of supportive services, such as mental health support and breastfeeding support. WIH anticipates it will provide high-quality care to postpartum patients where and when they need it.

"We know that structural barriers limit access to care and can have a negative impact on perinatal outcomes. The van allows us to accelerate progress towards improved perinatal health in Rhode Island with the simple act of removing transportation as a barrier to receiving postpartum care," said **METHIDIUS TUULI, MD, MPH, MBA**, Chair and Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Women & Infants Hospital.

The mobile unit is an extension of the Postpartum Hypertension Equity Program at Women & Infants, which started in 2022. The program provides blood pressure cuffs and training to patients with a hypertension diagnosis before discharge from the hospital. They take their blood pressure in the comfort of their own homes and send readings daily to the Nurse Practitioner for review and management. This has significantly reduced patients returning to the Emergency Department with hypertension-related complications.

The Community Mobile Health Clinic program is funded by a \$1 million grant from the CVS Health Foundation awarded to Women & Infants Hospital in 2024 as part of their commitment to women's health. ♦