

Appointments

Angela Caliendo, MD, PhD, and Methodius Tuuli, MD, MPH, MBA, named to Dean positions at AMS

PROVIDENCE [BROWN UNIVERSITY] — In a communications from Dean **MUKESH K. JAIN, MD**, it was announced that **ANGELA CALIENDO, MD, PhD**, The Warren Alpert Foundation Professor of Medicine, has been appointed to the role of Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Leadership and External Affairs within the Division of Biology and Medicine effective Oct. 1, 2026. Dr. Caliendo will partner closely with academic department chairs to advance strategic goals, support chair leadership development, and provide guidance across our clinical departments. She will oversee key academic investments, including the Innovation and Academic Assessment Fund, guide senior executive searches, and steward academic centers during leadership transitions. Additionally, Dr. Caliendo will help represent the Medical School with select state and regional partner organizations to support The Warren Alpert Medical School's initiatives and visibility.



A. Caliendo, MD, PhD

Dr. Caliendo will continue to serve as executive vice chair of the Department of Medicine and as interim director of the Legorreta Cancer Center.

METHODIUS TUULI, MD, MPH, MBA, Chace-Joukowsky Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been appointed Senior Associate Dean for Translational Science Programs effective Jan. 1, 2027. In this role, Dr. Tuuli will provide overall scientific

and strategic leadership for Advance Rhode Island Clinical and Translational Research Network (RI-CTR-N), driving its Phase III vision and "Collaborate to Innovate" mission in alignment



M. Tuuli, MD, MPH, MBA

with National Institute of General Medical Sciences CTR-N program requirements. Collaborating closely with executive committees, core leaders, institutional partners, and advisory bodies, he will oversee the center's governance, fiscal management, and programmatic performance. Dr. Tuuli will direct strategic investments across all Advance RI-CTR-N cores and lead federal reporting to the NIH, ensuring that research infrastructure, methodological training, and resources are targeted toward Rhode Island's most pressing health priorities, including chronic disease, mental health, and maternal and child health.

In addition, Dr. Tuuli will help foster collaboration between basic science departments, clinical faculty, and affiliated health systems to support translational research. He will also serve as an executive champion for clinical trials, helping advocate for streamlined processes and data-sharing opportunities throughout our biomedical ecosystem. Dr. Tuuli will foster workforce and investigator development across all career stages and chair the Honors Committee for the Division of Biology and Medicine. He will also continue in his academic leadership role as department chair and as executive chief of obstetrics and gynecology for Care New England Health System. ❖

Victor Gazivoda, MD, surgical oncologist, joins CharterCARE Medical Associates



PROVIDENCE — CharterCARE Medical Associates recently announced that **VICTOR GAZIVODA, MD**, has joined its team of specialists in Surgical Oncology. He will be based at Roger Williams Medical Center.

Board-certified in General Surgery, Dr. Gazivoda's clinical interests focus on advanced robotic and minimally invasive surgery, specifically in gastrointestinal and hepato-pancreato-biliary disease sites. His primary clinical objectives are to optimize patient recovery and oncologic

outcomes. Additionally, he has clinical expertise in the surgical management of soft tissue sarcomas, malignant cutaneous lesions, and endocrine tumors.

A graduate of Cornell University and St. George's University School of Medicine, Dr. Gazivoda completed his Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Florida. He completed his Surgical Oncology Research Fellowship at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and his General Surgery Residency at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn. He is an active member of the American College of Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncology, and Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. ❖

Appointments



Richard Charest

CharterCARE Health of Rhode Island (CHRI) appoints Richard Charest as its new CEO

PROVIDENCE — CharterCARE Health of Rhode Island (CHRI) has announced the appointment of **RICHARD CHAREST** as its new Chief Executive Officer, following the retirement of Jeffrey Liebman, effective November 1, 2026.

Liebman, who has led CharterCARE since 2018, guided the organization through significant challenges, including the bankruptcy and subsequent sale by its former owner, Prospect Medical. The CHRI Board of Directors expressed appreciation for Liebman's leadership and dedication throughout this period of transition.

Charest brings 26 years of executive healthcare leadership experience in Rhode Island, with a background spanning non-profit, for-profit and government hospitals. Most recently, he served as Rhode Island's Secretary of Health and Human Services since 2023. His experience includes leading financial and operational turnaround efforts for healthcare organizations, including Landmark Medical Center.

A Focus on Stability, Growth and Quality Care

CHRI Board Chair **BEN MINGLE** emphasized that Charest's extensive experience makes him well-positioned to lead CharterCARE through its next chapter.

"Our Board felt that Rick's experience and skill set made him uniquely qualified over other candidates to step right in and begin executing on our comprehensive strategic turnaround plan," said Mingle.

While acknowledging recent financial pressures, Mingle highlighted several positive developments across the organization, including increasing patient volumes, the recruitment of new physicians and specialists, expanded programs and services, and continued investments in equipment and facilities.

He also reinforced the Board's commitment to maintaining high-quality clinical services and preserving access to essential healthcare for Rhode Island communities.

"Our Board is acutely aware of the critical role our hospitals play in our state's health care system, and we are laser-focused on doing what is needed to preserve our mission and our community's access to quality health care," Mingle added.

Looking Ahead

As incoming CEO, Charest will focus on strengthening CharterCARE's financial stability, improving operations and advancing the organization's strategic turnaround plan.

"I look forward to tackling the challenge of leading CharterCARE Health of Rhode Island," said Charest. "We must deliver on the strategic turnaround plan to stabilize finances and strengthen operations of these essential safety-net hospitals. I commit my best efforts to CharterCARE's board, providers, and employees to make this happen."

With new leadership and a continued focus on operational improvements, CharterCARE remains committed to supporting its healthcare professionals, strengthening its hospitals and delivering quality, accessible care to the Rhode Island communities it serves. ❖



Mark Dunlop, MD, joins Brown Health Medical Group Pulmonology, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

PROVIDENCE — **MARK DUNLOP, MD**, has joined Brown Health Medical Group Pulmonology, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine. Dr. Dunlop is a pulmonary and critical care physician specializing in treating complex lung and breathing conditions, including interstitial lung

disease, pulmonary hypertension, and advanced bronchoscopy.

Dr. Dunlop completed his medical degree at New York Medical College, his internal medicine residency at Beth Israel

Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, and his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Brown University. He is board certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Dunlop's research focuses on improving care for people with serious lung and breathing problems. He has written and presented on lung disease, intensive care, and the use of advanced treatments to support patients who are critically ill. He is a member of the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Thoracic Society, and the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. ❖

Appointments



Allyson L. Hughes, MD, joins the Center for Advanced Lung Care at Brown University Health

PROVIDENCE — **ALLYSON L. HUGHES, MD**, has joined the Center for Advanced Lung Care at Brown University Health. Dr. Hughes

specializes in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, including complex sleep apnea, circadian rhythm disorders, and central hypersomnias.

Dr. Hughes earned her medical degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. She completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Tennessee/St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville and served as chief resident at Yale New Haven Health/Bridgeport Hospital. She then completed fellowship training in pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of Massachusetts, followed by a sleep medicine fellowship through Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Boston Children's Hospital/Mass General Brigham program.

Her academic work includes published research and clinical writing on pulmonary hypertension, sleep and breathing disorders, critical care, and patient access to care. She has also contributed textbook chapters and presented nationally and regionally on topics in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine.

She is an assistant professor of medicine, clinical educator, in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. ❖



Nobel Laureate Craig C. Mello, PhD, to advance RNA research at Brown University

PROVIDENCE (BROWN UNIVERSITY) — In a letter to the Division of Biology and Medicine community in October, Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences **MUKESH K. JAIN, MD**, announced that Brown alumnus and Nobel Laureate **CRAIG C. MELLO, PhD**, will be joining

the Division as a professor of molecular biology, cell biology and biochemistry and a faculty member at the Giuliani RNA Center. Dr. Mello will move his research program to the William A. and Ami Kuan Danoff Life Sciences Laboratories in the summer of 2027.

Dr. Mello earned his Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and molecular biology from Brown in 1982 and his PhD from Harvard University in 1990. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center before moving to the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, where he was most recently the Blais University Chair in Molecular Medicine and distinguished professor of RNA therapeutics and molecular medicine.

In 2006, Dr. Mello shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Andrew Z. Fire for the discovery of RNA interference (RNAi), first reported in 1998. Their work showed that double-stranded RNA can trigger potent, sequence-specific silencing of matching cellular RNAs. In effect, RNAi acts as a programmable molecular search system: a short RNA sequence guides the cell's silencing machinery to complementary RNA molecules, allowing researchers to silence virtually any gene. The discovery transformed the study of gene function and opened a new therapeutic modality in which synthetic RNAs can be designed to silence disease-causing genes. RNAi has since led to multiple approved medicines and a broad pipeline of therapies in development. It also helped establish RNA-guided control as a fundamental mechanism governing gene expression.

Dr. Mello was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator from 2000 to 2024 and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He co-founded the UMass RNA Therapeutics Institute in 2008 and helped to grow it into a world-class center for fundamental RNA biology and the development of RNA-based therapeutics. His work has been recognized with many of science's highest honors, including the Wiley Prize, the Gairdner Foundation International Award, and the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize. He received an honorary doctorate from Brown in 2007. Dr. Mello has helped found multiple biotech ventures that focus on RNA-guided treatments for a variety of genetic diseases.

Dr. Mello will continue his long-standing commitment to rigorous fundamental science and looks forward to drawing on the interdisciplinary strengths of the Danoff Laboratories and the broader Brown community to explore how organisms store, process and transmit biological information, and how those insights can be harnessed to improve human health. He is also keen to engage with undergraduate and graduate students, both in the classroom and laboratory, to inspire the next generation of curiosity-driven scientists and physicians. ❖

Appointments



Edith Antonio, MD, joins Southcoast Health Obstetrics & Gynecology

NEW BEDFORD, MA — **EDITH ANTONIO, MD**, has joined Southcoast Health Obstetrics & Gynecology, seeing patients in New Bedford. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience and Behavior from Barnard

College in New York, NY. She continued her education and obtained her Doctor of Medicine from Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Brown University/Women & Infant's Hospital of Rhode Island.

Dr. Antonio's clinical interests include fibroids, menopause, and gynecological surgery, with a particular focus on helping patients navigate their reproductive and gynecologic health with confidence and support. ❖



Edward J. Testa, MD, joins Southcoast Health Orthopedics

FALL RIVER, MA — **EDWARD J. TESTA, MD**, joins Southcoast Health Orthopedics specializing in shoulder and elbow surgery and seeing patients in Fall River. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology and his

Doctor of Medicine from Tufts University in Medford, Mass. He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital.

Dr. Testa completed advanced fellowship training in Sports Medicine and Shoulder & Elbow Surgery at OrthoCarolina in Charlotte, North Carolina, as well as additional fellowship training in Orthopedic Trauma at Brown University. He also pursued international shoulder surgery training in Switzerland, gaining further expertise in the management of complex shoulder pathology and reconstructive surgery. During his fellowship at OrthoCarolina, he served as an assistant team physician for the Carolina Panthers, Charlotte FC, and Charlotte Knights (AAA), providing experience in the care of professional and elite athletes. ❖



Chase Samsel, MD, named VP, CMO, at Bradley Hospital

EAST PROVIDENCE — Bradley Hospital has appointed Chase Samsel, MD, as its vice president and chief medical officer, bringing to the role extensive experience in child and adolescent psychiatry, clinical leadership, medical education, and the care of children and adolescents with complex medical and behavioral health needs.

Dr. Samsel also serves as a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry and human behavior at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. As vice president and chief medical officer, he will help lead Bradley Hospital's clinical programs and advance its mission of providing high-quality, evidence-based pediatric behavioral health care.

Prior to joining Bradley Hospital, Dr. Samsel held several clinical and leadership positions at Boston Children's Hospital, including medical director of the Psychiatry Consultation Service and associate training director for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship and Triple Board Residency programs. In these roles, he helped lead multidisciplinary teams, developed innovative clinical pathways, and advanced behavioral health care within pediatric medical settings.

A board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist and physician, Dr. Samsel has dedicated his career to supporting children and families through integrated, multidisciplinary care. His expertise spans pediatric consultation-liaison psychiatry, transplant psychiatry, pediatric delirium, catatonia, eating and feeding disorders, palliative care, and initiatives aimed at reducing pediatric mental health boarding.

"Throughout my career, I've been drawn to opportunities that bring behavioral health and pediatric medicine closer together for the benefit of children and families. Bradley Hospital has long been a leader in that work, and I'm excited to join an organization that is so deeply committed to improving the lives of young people. I look forward to partnering with our clinical teams to build on that legacy and continue advancing innovative, compassionate care," said Dr. Samsel.

Dr. Samsel earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University. He completed his Triple Board residency in pediatrics, adult psychiatry, and child psychiatry through The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, where he served as chief resident. He further pursued advanced training through a psychoanalysis fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis and a child psychodynamic psychotherapy fellowship at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.

An accomplished clinician, educator, and researcher, Dr. Samsel has contributed extensively to the field of pediatric behavioral health and has been recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, contributed chapters to leading medical textbooks, and presented his work nationally and internationally. His scholarly interests focus on improving care for medically complex pediatric patients and advancing best practices in child and adolescent psychiatry. ❖