

# Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | February/March 2025

Yale  
NewHaven  
**Health**  
Greenwich  
Hospital

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Karen Santucci, MD

## Medical Staff Officers

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Mark Chrostowski, MD

Assistant Chief of Staff

Erez Salik, MD

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Scott Kramer, MD

Treasurer

Paul B. Sygall, MD

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From the desk of the CMO

## Remember your DEA registration

*Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer*

Dear Medical Staff,

This month, I'd like to provide you with an important reminder.

Practitioners who prescribe controlled substances in the state of Connecticut must hold an ACTIVE Controlled Substance Registration with the state of Connecticut, an ACTIVE Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration with a CT address; and enroll in the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).

If you have not already done so, please create an account with PMP at Login – CT Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS).

If you are already registered with the PMP, then you do not need to do anything further at this time. If you need assistance regarding your PMP registration, see the contact information below for the PMP and CT CSR:

CT Controlled Substances Registration information

[Drug.control@CT.gov](mailto:Drug.control@CT.gov)

Phone: 860-713-6065

Prescription Monitoring Program

[Dcp.pmp@CT.gov](mailto:Dcp.pmp@CT.gov)

Phone: 860-713-6073

Additional Information from CT Department of Consumer Protection is available at:  
Prescription Monitoring Program

How to Register

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Karen

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## Greenwich Hospital names new president



Robert Blenderman, PA, MBA, has been named president of Greenwich Hospital and executive vice president of YNHHS effective March 3.

Blenderman, with more than two decades of clinical and administrative healthcare experience, joins Greenwich Hospital from White Plains Hospital

where as senior vice president he led initiatives to improve inpatient capacity resulting in growth as well as supported successful expansion of its ambulatory and campus footprint. Prior to White Plains, he served as chief operating officer of New York Presbyterian Queens and later, chief operating officer of New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist. In those roles, he increased volume through restructuring of service lines, improved physician and staff engagement and reduced turnover. He also opened new multi-specialty practices and increased hospital critical care beds to meet the needs of increased complexity of cases for medicine, surgery, neuroscience and cardiac care.

After earning his Bachelor of Science at St. John's University, Blenderman went on to earn his Physician Assistant's degree at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical and finally his MBA at Hofstra University. He was a practicing physician assistant for more than seven years in critical care and cardiac surgery before transitioning into administrative roles with Northwell Health where he spent nine years overseeing Neuroscience and later Cardiovascular and Thoracic services.

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## YNHHS' Orthopedics among top 100 programs

*Becker's Hospital Review* recently included the orthopedics program at Yale New Haven Health among its 100 leading orthopedic programs in the U.S. *Becker's* noted YNHHS and Yale School of Medicine form a leading academic health system with a team of 52 orthopedic YSM faculty members across nine specialized divisions that run cutting-edge clinical trials and employ the latest innovations in orthopedic technology while delivering comprehensive, compassionate care to patients with musculoskeletal conditions and injuries.

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## YNHHS launches ambulatory telehealth platform

This month, Yale New Haven Health implemented a new ambulatory telehealth platform for one-on-one video visits with patients. Epic Video Client (EVC) is designed to improve workflow and efficiency by:

- Eliminating the need for patients to download a video application to join sessions
- Conducting hardware checks to help ensure microphones and cameras are working for clinicians and patients
- Using the same interpreter services vendor used for in-person visits

EVC replaces the MyChart + Zoom for one-on-one visits; YNHHS continues to use MyChart + Zoom for group video visits.

A virtual command center provides support from 7:30 am to 5 pm, Monday - Friday, and will remain open as long as needed. For more information, visit Telehealth on the YNHHS employee intranet (under Departments and Communities) or email [telehealth@ynhh.org](mailto:telehealth@ynhh.org).

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## Castle Connolly ranks Yale New Haven Health seventh in the nation

Yale New Haven Health has been ranked as the seventh best health system in the U.S. by Castle Connolly, a healthcare research company that recognizes doctors considered among the best in their specialty.

YNHHS was also the top-ranked health system in the state of Connecticut. Yale Medicine, the clinical practice of Yale School of Medicine, was ranked third in the nation for physician practices and YNHHS' physician foundation, Northeast Medical Group (NEMG), ranked eighth. For state-wide rankings, Yale Medicine and NEMG ranked first and second respectively for physician practices.

## Medical Staff Requests for Documentation Deficiencies Process

Please see below for important details on the updated process for documentation deficiencies:

1. Medical staff must choose how they would like to be notified for documentation requests, either to their Epic In Basket or via fax. It is one or the other and not both – the default is to the Epic In Basket.
2. To change how you would like to receive documentation requests, please go to [Providerinfo.YNH.org](http://Providerinfo.YNH.org) and log in with your Epic ID and password; then log in into “Find Practitioner to Update.” Follow the prompts and you can view your contact information, as well as the section, send results from Epic EMR via either “In Basket” or fax. Please indicate the fax number as well and submit the information.
3. Health Information process for incomplete documentation is as follows:
  - a. Day 0 to 13 – if documentation has not been completed the “FIRST ALERT LETTER” is sent
  - b. Day 14 to 20 – if documentation has not been completed the “SECOND ALERT LETTER” is sent
  - c. When approaching 21 > days, always on Thursdays, a “SUSPENSION WARNING LETTER” is sent to the medical staff member along with an email to the chiefs of your department. You have until the following Monday at 8 am to complete the deficiency (ies).  
*\*\*\*Please note when you receive this “Warning,” you will need to complete all your documentation deficiencies*
  - d. FIRST SUSPENSION/ADMITTING PRIVILEGES – If by day 21, all documentation deficiencies are not completed for ALL the documentation deficiencies listed, admitting privileges are suspended.
  - e. SECOND SUSPENSION/ATTENDING PRIVILEGES – If by day 35, all documentation deficiencies are not completed for ALL the documentation deficiencies listed, attending privileges are suspended.
  - f. OR PRIVILEGES SUSPENSION – Day 7 – if the operative report has not been completed, the surgeon will not be able to schedule elective surgeries. Emergent or already scheduled OR cases will not be affected.

- g. Day 21 – If surgeon does not complete operative report by day 21, then additionally, admitting privileges will also be suspended.
- h. Day 35 – If surgeon does not complete operative report by day 35, then additionally, attending privileges will also be suspended.

**Please note:** the Health Information Management staff will reach out to medical staff members who are nearing suspension in an effort to avoid suspension. Please ensure your contact information in the Greenwich Hospital directory is correct.

### INTERACT APP

The Clinical Documentation Improvement department is a group of health system employees who are tasked with ensuring that the medical record accurately reflects the intensity of care provided and the severity of illness for your patients.

When clarification is needed, or documentation deficiencies are present, you can access Interact Queries in one of three ways:

1. By downloading the mobile app from <https://getinteract.app>. This app does not download PHI to your device, and you do not have to install any corporate control software. Username and password are the same as in Epic.
2. Through Epic. Your main toolbar includes a button called “Interact Query” or you find it under tools.
3. You can access it through the web at <https://interact.iodesoftware.com/sso/ynhhs> from any browser. Username and password are the same as Epic.

If extenuating circumstances prevent completion or you have any questions, contact the Health Information Management department at 203-688-2226. Extenuating circumstances are defined by the Medical Staff Rules and Regulations as illness and other unanticipated circumstances. All deficiencies at or over 21 days will need to be completed prior to planned absences such as vacations or attendance at conferences and will not be considered as extenuating circumstances.

**Note:** it is important that you notify the Greenwich Hospital Medical Staff Office, Patti Yacavone, at [patti.yacavone@greenwichhospital.org](mailto:patti.yacavone@greenwichhospital.org) to report a leave of absence or resignation.

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## Sim Center’s virtual reality training brings clinicians “together”

The Yale Center for Healthcare Simulation (YCHS) now has a virtual reality (VR) platform to support interprofessional simulations for physicians, nurses, technicians and medical and physician assistant students.

Because clinicians all receive similar training, VR helps promote Yale New Haven Health’s Care Signature. Other advantages include realistic training, particularly for “patient unfolding cases,” in which a patient’s condition evolves. VR offers additional resources and simulation tools to help train clinicians to meet specific Joint Commission standards and could be used to collect safety and quality data and provide training to improve safety outcomes.

With virtual reality training, clinicians can interact with “patients,” asking questions, making informed decisions and performing procedures in a controlled and safe space, and they do not have to be on site to participate.



YCHS now has a virtual reality platform

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## U.S. News & World Report voting underway

Voting in the *U.S. News and World Report* reputation ranking is currently underway for all board-certified physicians within each of the applicable specialties evaluated by *U.S. News & World Report* (i.e., Cancer, Cardiology/CT Surgery, Diabetes/Endocrinology, ENT, Gastroenterology/GI Surgery, Geriatrics, Gynecology, Nephrology, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Pulmonary, Rehabilitation, Rheumatology and Urology).

Physicians should have received a request via email from Doximity, an online networking website for physicians used to calculate the reputational portion of the hospital rankings.

As the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings are heavily weighted towards an institution’s reputation, the survey provides the opportunity for members of the medical staff to make their collective voice heard about the exceptional care provided across Yale New Haven Health.

All YNHHS hospitals and ambulatory practices are home to outstanding physicians who continually advance medicine through the safe, high quality and compassionate care provided to our patients. The reputation of the entire health system would be greatly enhanced if **Yale New Haven Hospital** is voted into the Honor Roll. One barrier to this in the past has been the reputational score, which is determined by physician vote. Members of the medical staff across the health system are urged to consider this when casting votes. Voting for the 2025 rankings will run through March. Please cast your votes.

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## Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2025: Trust Your Gut – March 20

Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine host the free, virtual Digestive Health CME series, called Trust Your Gut, on the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm. The series provides digestive health educational programming, professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers. Tune in on March 20 when the topic will be Screening for GI Neoplasms.

Yale School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. To register, visit the Yale CME portal at [yale.cloud-cme.com](http://yale.cloud-cme.com).



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## YNHHS' virtual food drive starts in March

YNHHS is holding its fifth online #GiveHealthy food drive March 1 - 31 to coincide with National Nutrition Month.

Employees and medical staff are invited to visit [ynhhs.org/givehealthy](https://ynhhs.org/givehealthy) and support one or more hunger-relief organizations in the communities YNHHS serves.

#GiveHealthy provides an online platform for hunger-relief organizations to set up “registries” listing items they need so you can choose the items you wish to purchase for a particular organization.

National Nutrition Month focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. Because the food donated through YNHHS' #GiveHealthy drive will ship from suppliers directly to hunger-relief organizations, you will be able to purchase healthy food items, including fresh produce, to improve the health of our communities.

For more information, visit YNHHS' GiveHealthy or contact Augusta Mueller, [augusta.mueller@ynhh.org](mailto:augusta.mueller@ynhh.org) or 203-688-3862.

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## Newsletter Submissions

The deadline to submit content for the March 2025 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, March 7, 2025. Please submit items for consideration to Karen Santucci, MD, at [karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org](mailto:karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org) or Myra Stanley at [myra.stanley@ynhh.org](mailto:myra.stanley@ynhh.org).

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## Coming up: Highlights from the 2024 American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting

On Friday, March 28, 7 am – 3 pm, Anthony's Oceanview, 450 Lighthouse Road, New Haven, Yale will be hosting a meeting to highlight key takeaways from the 2024 ASH Annual Meeting. Tailored specifically for hematologists, oncologists, primary care physicians, pathologists, fellows in hematology/oncology, oncology nurses, oncology social workers, and other healthcare professionals involved in blood cancer treatment, the program offers a comprehensive review of the latest research developments in hematologic malignancies from the past year, with a focus on their real-world applications in patient care.

Symposium is free of charge, but registration is required. Contact the Center for Continuing Medical Education (CME) at [cme@yale.edu](mailto:cme@yale.edu) with any questions.

Credits available: AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (6.25 hours), non-physician attendees (6.25 hours). For details on this and other Yale CME opportunities, visit [yale.cloud-cme.com](https://yale.cloud-cme.com).

# MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES (January 2025)

## Appointees



**Suja Abraham, MD**  
(Pediatrics Hospital Medicine)  
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**Usman Aleem, MD**  
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Associated Podiatrists of Greenwich  
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**Fax:** 203 688-4542

## Resignations

**Catherine Alonzo, MD** (Surgery Urology) Effective 12/31/2024  
**Farhad Bahrassa, MD** (Surgery Neurosurgery) Effective 1/1/2025  
**Karen Beckman, MD** (Pediatrics) Effective 08/24/2024  
**Rebeca Briones Andrioli, MD** (Pediatrics) Effective 12/30/2024  
**Patrick Kenney, MD** (Surgery Urology) Effective 6/1/2024  
**Sonia Krish, MD** (Medicine Neurology) Effective 12/31/2024  
**Ikuko Laccheo, MD** (Medicine Neurology) Effective 12/30/2024  
**Amit Lahav, MD** (Orthopaedics) Effective 12/30/2024  
**Nicole Lay, PA** (Orthopaedics) Effective 1/31/2025  
**Drew Mitchell, PA** (Surgery) Effective 11/25/2024  
**Marc Silver, MD** (Orthopaedics) Effective 2/20/2025  
**Max Tarica, MD** (Pediatrics Hospital Medicine) Effective 7/1/2024

## Changes to Honorary Staff

**Allen Chodock, MD** (Medicine) Effective 12/18/2024  
**Gina Gladstein, MD** (Surgery Ophthalmology) Effective 1/1/2025  
**Frederic Khoury, MD** (Surgery Plastic Surgery) Effective 12/31/2024  
**Michael Schechter, MD** (OB/GYN) Effective 1/14/2025