

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | May 2025

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Hospital

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From the desk of the CMO

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff

Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Dear Mighty Team,

I hope your spring is going well so far. I have another book recommendation for you. I recently had an opportunity to read, "*Don't Sweat the Small Stuff at Work.*" The author is Richard Carlson, PhD. It was a pretty quick and easy read, and I think there's something in it for everyone.

It is sort of a classic roadmap to managing your high-tension job. It helps you to stop worrying about the aspects of your work that are beyond your control and transform your outlook. For example, there are good tips about how to maximize your time and ease stress during corporate travel, or any type of travel, including the stress of traffic if you commute to and from work. With the tips shared, traffic will no longer be seen as the enemy. Listening to a podcast, an audiobook or perhaps calling a friend or relative to catch up and pass the time during traffic can actually save you time later.

The author also gives helpful tips about how to get over a really long day. Focus on what was good that happened rather than what didn't go very well. Even if it was a rough day, it doesn't mean that it has to be a rough night or next day or week. Life will always throw us curveballs, but it's how we respond to those curveballs that will define us.

We have all heard the expression, TGIF. The author suggests we focus on TGIT. No, that doesn't stand for thank God it's Thursday, but we're getting closer... It's thank God it's today and focus on what's good about today. After reading that I was reminded of a situation that I had when I was at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn working in the children's Emergency Department where we saw 80,000 pediatric visits a year and we were level one trauma center.

One of our nurses at triage stopped seeing patients. She seemed to be almost frozen. I went up to her and I said, "are you OK?" She responded that she was waiting. I said waiting for what and she said retirement. I said when are you retiring and her response was in 32 years!

Continued on page 2

GH neurologist receives well-deserved honor

As part of the Greenwich Hospital Nurse Appreciation Week celebration this month, several awards were given, including the Physician Partner in Care award, which recognizes a physician who promotes excellence in hospital, practice, staff and patient interaction, teaching and leadership. Several candidates were nominated this year including Drs. Mike Canter, Chris Howes, Daniel Kim, Kirsten Lawrence, Hande Omur, Alice Rusk, Nick Stroumbakis, Natalya Teslya, Pavel Teslya and Ben Tsang.

Selected this year as the GH Physician Partner in Care was Alice Rusk, MD, GH neurologist and associate professor, Neurology, at Yale School of Medicine.

“We heard from so many members of our healthcare team recognizing Dr. Rusk as the embodiment of this award. Comments included descriptors such as inspiring, respected, admired, valued, accomplished, dedicated and exceptional,” explained Karen Santucci, MD, GH chief medical officer.

In presenting the award, Dr. Santucci noted that Dr. Rusk personifies qualities like kindness, compassion and patience, and she shows grace to all she encounters. She provides exceptional care each day treating her patients, her team members and colleagues like her own family. She is generous with her time. She works tirelessly, and she is a highly sought after neurologist, specializing in the care of patients with Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s, dementia and complex headache syndromes. In addition to



Chief Medical Officer Karen Santucci, MD, (left) presented the Physician Partner in Care award as Dr. Rusk's husband and sons joined her for the special occasion.

being a consummate physician and section chief, she is an incredible wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. Dr. Rusk is a lifelong Greenwich resident, who always gives back to the community.

She has been described as “our shining and guiding light,” by her devoted team, and to this light who shines so brightly, we honor you! Congratulations Dr. Alice Rusk!

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff

Sometimes it seems like we're always waiting for something to look forward to... We can't wait to get to something and we lose track of the fact that we're actually living our lives right now and that the “something” in the future may not be guaranteed so what an important lesson for us to focus on the here and now and find something good about it.

Another thing the author focused on was complaining. We all do it, including me. If you add up the hours per week that we spend complaining, imagine how much free time we would have and how much we could get accomplished.

We might complain about the unexpected, things that get in the way – the author refers to these as our speed bumps. And if you think literally about the speed bumps that we drive over, we could either recognize them, exercise caution

and go slowly over them, or rush over them and cause some damage to our vehicle. There will always be an obstacle and there will always be speed bumps. It's how we manage them that will determine how the rest of our day goes.

The chapters in the book are short, which is really very nice if you're rushing and just want a nugget of information to help you get through the day or a lesson that you can learn to make you smile and realize maybe things aren't quite as difficult as they always appear.

Hoping you have a good day and a good rest of the month.

Sincerely,

Karen

Continued from page 1

114 Greenwich Hospital-affiliated physicians named ‘Top Docs’

A total of 870 Yale New Haven Health (YNHHS)-affiliated physicians earned a spot on *Connecticut Magazine’s* 2025 Top Doctors list – 114 of whom are affiliated with Greenwich Hospital. The list includes physicians from across the health system, as well as Northeast Medical Group and Yale Medicine and surpasses the more than 700 providers who achieved “Top Doc” status last year. The list appears in the May issue of *Connecticut Magazine*.

To compile the list, *Connecticut Magazine* partnered with Castle Connolly, a national healthcare research company. Castle Connolly’s research team thoroughly vets each physician’s professional qualifications, education, hospital and faculty appointments, research leadership, professional reputation, disciplinary history and if available, outcomes data.

Additionally, a physician’s interpersonal skills such as listening and communicating effectively, demonstrating empathy, and instilling trust and confidence, are also considered in the review process.

The online nominations process is open to all licensed physicians in America who are invited to nominate physicians in any medical specialty and in any part of the country, as well as indicate whether the nominated physicians is, in their opinion, among the best in their region in their medical specialty or among the best in the nation in their medical specialty. Once nominated, Castle Connolly’s physician-led team of researchers follow a rigorous screening process to select top doctors on both the national and regional levels.

Careful screening of doctors’ educational and professional experience is essential before final selection is made among those physicians most highly regarded by their peers. Doctors do not and cannot pay to be selected as Castle Connolly Top Doctors.

This year’s list of “Top Docs” at Greenwich Hospital includes:

Peter J. Acker, MD	Steven M. Feldman, MD	Erika Shannon Krauss, DO	Burton Rubin, MD
Sarah Andiman, MD	Steven Fern, MD	Elizabeth Z. Krowitz, MD	Alice H. Rusk, MD
Paul J. Apostolides, MD	Joseph Feuerstein, MD	Lisa Kurian, MD	Christopher Sahler, MD
Keith J. Attkiss, MD	Christopher P. Fey, MD	Melissa Lucy Larusso, DO	Erez Salik, MD
Vaishali Bansilal, MD	Caroline F. Filor, MD	Linda LaTrenta, MD	Neal J. Schamberg, MD
Jeremy Barowsky, MD	Amory J. Fiore, MD	Merlin Sung Lee, MD	Marcie B. Schneider, MD
Jonathan L. Berliner, MD	Michael J. Franco, MD	Michael Lerner, MD	Alan E. Selkin, MD
Lana Bernstein, MD	Janet E. Freedman, MD	Mark D. Litchman, MD	Paul M. Sethi, MD
Julianne R. Biroshchak, MD	Sarah Mildred Gamble, DO	Sandra Lithgow, MD	Judith Felice Shea, MD
D. Barry Boyd, MD	Leila J. Garrett, MD	Suresh Mandava, MD	Rebecca Shields, MD
Richard J. Brauer, MD	Megan Gleason, MD	Tania V. Mariani, MD	Beth J. Simon, MD
Mark H. Camel, MD	Judith C. Goldberg-	Michelle Siegel Marrinan, MD	Scott L. Simon, MD
Michael Canter, MD	Berman, MD, PhD	Agnieszka Matczuk, MD	Halina M. Snowball, MD
Matthew Cantlon, MD	Linda F. Grant, MD	Marcus Mayus, MD	Sarah Travis Stewart, MD
Eliana Cardozo, DO	R. Tim Greene, MD	Bruce McGibbon, MD	John Strugar, MD
Elise Cheng, MD	David T. Greenspun, MD	Gavin X. McLeod, MD	Scott J. Sullivan, MD
Kevin Choo, MD	Shruti Gupta, MD	Laura J. Meyer, MD	Paul M. Tomaszewski, MD
Ralph J. Cipriani, MD	Donna J. Hagberg, MD	Seth R. Miller, MD	Kiyoko Karen Tomita, MD
Michael R. Clain, MD	Jeffrey M. Heftler, MD	Francis J. Neeson, MD	Benjamin H. Tsang, MD
Richard C. Connors, MD	Christopher J. Howes, MD	Katherine Kelly Noble, MD	Jerry W. Tsong, MD
Joseph L. Conway Jr, MD	Catherine Joyce, MD	Andrew W. Pao, MD	Katherine B. Vadasdi, MD
Demetris Delos, MD	Paul E. Juan, MD	Jessica Patel, MD	Caterina Violi, MD
Alexander DeVecchio, MD	Brian F. Kavanagh, MD	Maria C. Pavlis, MD	Mark Vitale, MD
Donna Densel, MD	Melanie Kelton, MD	Athanassios Petrotos, MD	Sandra K. Wainwright, MD
Leslie A. Donovan, MD	Tamar Kessel, MD	Joshua C. Pollack, MD	Barbara A. Ward, MD
Beverly J. Drucker, MD, PhD	Neda Khaghan, MD	Jeffrey S. Puglisi, MD	David H. Wei, MD
Christopher M. Edelmann, MD	Nazanine Khairkhah, MD	Henry M. Rascoff, MD	Barry R. Witt, MD
Lauren A. Ernberg, MD	Marc S. Kowalsky, MD	Elsa M. Raskin, MD	Yi-Hao Yu, MD, PhD
		Mitchell J. Ross, MD	

GH earns an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group



Greenwich Hospital has earned an “A” Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety, achieving a top score for the Spring 2025 report. This new grade for Spring 2025 is a national recognition for GH’s commitment to patient safety.

Leapfrog assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

“This is an outstanding achievement for Greenwich Hospital,” said Karen Santucci, MD, chief medical officer. “As a high reliability organization, we strive to consistently perform safely, efficiently and with high quality.”

Greenwich Hospital earned “A” grades in the Spring and Fall of 2023, as well as Fall 2022.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade rates the safety of general hospitals in the United States. The grade is based on over 30 measures, including the number of errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the hospital’s systems to prevent them. The program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

Smilow’s cancer survivor celebration returns for first time since 2019

Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich is set to host its first Cancer Survivor Celebration since before the pandemic on Thursday, May 29. The event takes place from 5 to 7 pm at the hospital’s Carl and Dorothy Bennett Community Garden, offering a heartfelt gathering for patients, caregivers and staff. The celebration, Stride into Survivorship, will feature music, refreshments, and inspiring survivor stories, curating a vibrant atmosphere of hope and community.

This year’s event marks a significant milestone as it reunites the cancer care community after years of separation due to the pandemic.

Pelvic Floor Health Virtual CME Series 2025: next webinar – June 16

Yale New Haven Health and Yale School of Medicine host the free, virtual Pelvic Floor Health series on the third Monday of each month at 5 pm. The six-part series provides information on managing pelvic floor conditions and provides professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers.

Tune in on June 16 when presenters will share information about Pelvic Organ Prolapse.

YSM designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. To register, visit the Yale CME portal at <https://yale.cloud-cme.com>.

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2025: Trust Your Gut – June 19

Yale New Haven Health and Yale School of 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 June 19 when the topic will be *Celiac and the Teaching Kitchen*. YSM 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.

Inpatient Diabetes Care Joint Commission Advanced Disease-Specific Certification

This is the ten-year anniversary of Greenwich Hospital receiving the Joint Commission Advanced Certification for Inpatient Diabetes Management. In June 2015, Greenwich Hospital was the first hospital in Connecticut to achieve this certification. There are only about 40 institutions nationally with this advanced certification

The American Diabetes Association Standards of Practice for hospitalized patients continue to be the clinical practice guidelines used to direct the program activities and performance improvement activities. These standards support patient safety and include ensuring that a HbA1c is obtained and documented within 90 days prior to admission to support management during admission and facilitate better informed discharge planning; monitoring and treating hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia; providing diabetes self-management education to patients based on assessed needs; and providing diabetes education to all staff based on their role in patient care.

Most often, diabetes is not the primary reason for admission. As such, these patients may be located on any patient care unit. Regardless of location or reason for admission, their diabetes management and educational needs must be assessed and addressed.

In addition to YNHHS policies and guidelines for inpatient diabetes management, the Clinical Pathway, “Diabetes and Hyperglycemia” was launched in 2022 as an additional tool for providers and provides recommendations for medication regimens during admission and at discharge, insulin ordering and titration to achieve glycemic targets, patient-owned insulin pump and continuous glucose monitor use during admission, as well as additional support and guidance. The pathway provides links to order sets to support clinical care.

The GH Diabetes Core Team appreciates all the support given to patients with diabetes during hospital admissions. If you have any questions about the certification or standards, please contact Yi-Hao Yu, MD, PhD, medical director, at Yi-Hao.Yu@greenwichhospital.org.

The 2023-2025 Diabetes Metrics Greenwich Hospital reports to The Joint Commission:

- **Basal-bolus insulin ordered:** Patients with diet order for three meals per day have insulin order for basal-bolus (prandial) insulin.
- **Follow up appointment:** Patients with HbA1c $\geq 9\%$ have follow up appointment with PCP, endocrinologist or diabetes educator; documented on AVS.
- **Hypoglycemia Treatment Provided:** Hypoglycemia treatment provided is documented.
- **Diabetes Nursing Plan of Care (POC) added to patient chart:** Diabetes nursing POC added to chart based on admitting diagnosis and/or glycemic management during admission.
- **Performance Improvement Project:** Coordination of pre-meal insulin with meal tray delivery.

Have you completed your medical staff survey? Deadline is May 28

The 2025 YM-YNHHS Medical Professional Well-being Survey is underway. Physicians (Attendings, Residents, Fellows) and Advanced Practice Providers are asked to complete the survey by Wednesday, May 28. Can't find your well-being survey?

Look for the survey in your inbox via
[#2025YMYNHHSMDAPPWellBeingSurvey](#).

Check out CME opportunities

Be sure to check out Yale School of Medicine upcoming courses and CME opportunities at yale.cloud-cme.com.

Newsletter Submissions

The deadline to submit content for the June 2025 issue of Medical Staff News is Friday, May 30, 2025. Please submit items for consideration to Karen Santucci, MD, at karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org or Myra Stanley at myra.stanley@ynhh.org.

MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES (April 2025)

Appointees



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Resignations

Arthur Forni, MD (Medicine Infectious Disease)
Effective 5/30/2025
Paul Gleason, MD (Obstetrics/Gynecology) Effective 5/23/2024
Mina Islamovic, PA (Medicine Gastroenterology)
Effective 1/7/2025
Brian Kavanagh, MD (Orthopedics) Effective 3/25/2025
Randy Luciano, MD (Medicine Nephrology) Effective 3/25/2025
Stephanie Perkins, APRN (Pediatrics Neurology)
Effective 3/12/2025
Jennie Spiegel, APRN (Medicine) Effective 3/21/2025
Mitchell Stevens, MD (Pediatrics) Effective 3/3/2025

Changes to Honorary Staff

Barbara Coven, MD (Pediatrics) Active to Honorary Staff.
Effective 4/1/2025