

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | June 2021

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Greenwich
Hospital

Chief Medical Officer

Karen Santucci, MD

Medical Staff Officers

Chief of Staff

Felice R. Zwas, MD

Assistant Chief of Staff

Mark Chrostowski, MD

Secretary

Erez Salik, MD

Treasurer

Paul B. Sygall, MD

Medical Executive Committee

Chair

Christopher Howes, MD

Herbert M. Archer, MD

Patricia T. Calayag, MD

Michael S. Canter, MD

Anna Cerra, DNP, MSN, MS

Mark Chrostowski, MD

Christopher M. Davison, MD

Christopher P. Fey, MD

Steven E. Hindman, MD

Christopher Howes, MD

Neda Khaghan, MD

Diane Kelly, DNP, RN

Spike Lipschutz, MD

Romelle Maloney, MD

Bruce A. McGibbon, MD

Philip J. McWhorter, MD

Athanasios Petrotos, MD

Kisha Mitchell Richards, MD

Erez Salik, MD

Steven Schiz, MD

Paul B. Sygall, MD

Alfonso Tagliavia, MD

Sandra Wainwright, MD

Felice R. Zwas, MD

From the desk of the CMO



Introducing the concept of a Medical Staff Professionalism Committee

Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Dear Mighty Team,

It is hard to believe that it is already June. Hopefully, many of you are enjoying planning for commencement exercises, prom night, family gatherings and with any luck at all... maybe even a little rest and relaxation at some point this summer. In this issue, we wanted to share a little bit about an initiative that we are working on.

MSPC: The Medical Staff Professionalism Committee

Several months ago, we had a presentation at MEC by Dr. Alan Friedman. Recently he met (via Zoom) with GH medical leadership for a question and answer session about some of the benefits of having a Medical Staff Professionalism Committee. Even more recently, Dr. Friedman, Margaret Towers and Theresa Vander Vennet (legal counsel) met with members of Medical Staff Leadership to help keep the momentum going. Thank you for organizing this, Spike!

Committee Description

The Greenwich Hospital Medical Staff is committed to ensuring a culture of mutual respect and safety. In order to guide and support the GH medical staff toward compliance with the GH Code of Conduct and the YNHHS Standards of Professional Behavior, the GH MSPC will review reported concerns of unprofessional conduct of the GH medical staff received via:

- RL Solutions
- Human Resources
- Phone calls
- Patient concerns
- Reports to supervisors
- Letters
- Verbal or email communications

The work product and deliberations of the GH MSPC will be considered privileged and confidential medical peer review under CGS 19a-17b.

Continued on page 2

What are the objectives of the MSPC?

- Through a peer-protected, timely, fair, consistent and transparent process, focused on recommending collegial interventions that use the “lightest touch” possible to affect change, the MSPC will assess and resolve reported allegations of violations of the GH Code of Conduct or the YNHHS Standards of Professional Behavior by GH medical staff.
- To prompt automatic notification of any allegations of workplace violence, sexual harassment, discrimination and other egregious acts to GH Human Resources in order to support the involved GH employees.

What would be in scope?

GH medical staff professionalism concerns.

What would be out of scope?

Clinical practice performance concerns managed by the GH Professional Practice Evaluation Committee (PPEC) and professionalism concerns related to GH employees.

What are the potential goals for fiscal year 2021?

- Develop a workflow that will allow for reported concerns of unprofessional conduct to be referred to the GH MSPC.
- Provide committee member education and training regarding best practices for resolution of professional concerns.

Who are potential committee members?

We have just started to think about this and wanted to have you thinking about it, too.

- Oversight Committee: GH MEC (Medical Executive Committee)
- Committee Sponsor: GH CMO (Chief Medical Officer)
- Committee Chair: medical staff leader
- Members: This could be YOU! Potentially, a combination of medical staff and medical staff leaders, physician services office staff representatives and Human Resources representatives.
- Facilitator: risk manager
- Ad hoc advisers: Alan Friedman, MD and Theresa Vander Vennet, JD

Please watch for more information on the development of this important committee.

Have a great June,

Karen

Greenwich Hospital earns five-star rating from CMS

Greenwich Hospital earned a five-star hospital rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – the highest distinction offered by the federal agency. The overall star rating is based on how well a hospital performs across different areas of quality, such as treating heart attacks and pneumonia, readmission rates and safety of care.

The CMS star-rating system assigns stars based on 48 measures in five categories: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience and timely and effective care. CMS rated over 4,500 hospitals from one to five stars, with five representing the highest quality rating. Of 4,586 hospitals, only 455 hospitals, received five stars.

The ratings provide consumers with a simple way to compare hospitals’ quality and performance. Greenwich Hospital’s score was driven by strong performance in mortality – the rate of patient survival 30 days post-hospitalization for common conditions. Another measure tracked by CMS where Greenwich Hospital excelled was timely and effective care, which measures how often or how quickly hospitals provide care.

Connecticut Magazine names 170 GH physicians as Top Docs

Connecticut Magazine named 170 Greenwich Hospital physicians to its 2021 Top Doctors in America list in the June 2021 issue.

“We are fortunate to have such a large group of talented and compassionate physicians, which enables us to deliver the highest level of care,” said Diane Kelly, DNP, RN, president of Greenwich Hospital. “We greatly appreciate all that they do on behalf of our patients and the many communities we serve in Connecticut and New York.”

During the 2021 nomination period, physicians nominated colleagues and peers who are board-certified in their specialty and 10 years post medical school.

The “Top Doctors” issue features 1,560 physicians. A total of 662 YNHHS-affiliated physicians were selected for the list this year, representing more than 60 specialties and comprising 42 percent of the total list. The full list is available in the June 2021 issue of *Connecticut Magazine*.

YNHHS to implement new chaperone policy

A new system-wide policy on the use of medical chaperones aims to provide a safe, comfortable environment for patients while also ensuring a positive experience for providers.

A medical chaperone is a person who acts as a witness for a patient and a health professional during a medical examination or procedure. With the policy's rollout, medical chaperones will be required during any sensitive exam, treatment or procedure. Any physical exam of the genitalia or rectum or female breasts is considered "sensitive." These include:

- Pelvic examination
- Intravaginal physical therapy
- Examination, treatments or procedures of or involving the external genitalia (inclusive of urinary catheterization)
- Examination, treatments or procedures of the female patient's breast(s)
- Rectal examinations, treatments, or procedures

Medical chaperones will also be available during any other exam, treatment or procedure at the patient's request. Providers should inform patients that they are entitled to have a chaperone present for any physical exam.

"Medical chaperones promote an overall sense of safety and comfort for patients. In addition, their presence can help prevent misunderstandings of physician intentions while protecting the patient's dignity during sensitive exams and procedures," said Christian Pettker, MD, associate chief quality officer, YNHHS and chief of obstetrics at Yale New Haven Hospital. "Using chaperones during these examinations will help foster a safe environment and build a foundation of trust and confidence with our patients."

The medical chaperone will be a YNHHS or Yale University employee or member of the medical staff who will stand in a location where they can observe and assist as needed. While friends and family can be invited to stay at the patient's request, they will not be considered chaperones for patients over the age of 13. For patients under 13, a guardian may remain in the room and act as the chaperone. However, the patient or provider performing the exam, treatment or procedure may request a chaperone in addition to the guardian.

YNHHS providers may also request the presence of a chaperone during any exam, treatment or procedure.

If the patient declines a chaperone in this situation, the YNHHS provider may decline to perform the examination, treatment or procedure.

When using a medical chaperone, proper documentation should be completed, particularly following sensitive examinations and procedures. Providers should document all conversations and wishes of the patient, as well as any individuals who are present for each interaction. In emergency cases where a chaperone is required by the policy but is not immediately available, the provider should proceed with the exam, treatment or procedure and document the situation.

Information about implementation will be disseminated at each delivery network in the coming months. For additional details on the chaperone policy, contact Dr. Pettker or David Depukat, RN, director, Accreditation and Regulatory Affairs, YNHHS.

Advancing pediatric care at Greenwich Hospital



Anthony Porto, MD



Mary-Jo Smith, RN

Two Yale New Haven Children's Hospital (YNHCH) regional leaders were appointed to leadership roles at Greenwich Hospital in a move to provide premier care for infants and children through a new joint leadership structure for pediatric services.

In April, Anthony Porto, MD, vice chair for Ambulatory Operations, Yale Department of Pediatrics and medical director, Ambulatory Services, YNHCH, became medical director, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital at Greenwich. Additionally, Mary-Jo Smith, RN, was promoted to program director, Children's Regional Network, Greenwich Hospital.

They will oversee GH's regional children's services in addition to leading the development and implementation of the YNHCH care signature for children's services and develop a world-class model for pediatric inpatient, emergency medicine, surgical and specialty ambulatory care.

GH recognizing first anniversary of endowed positions

This month marks the first anniversary of the establishment of two Greenwich Hospital endowed positions. In 2020, Greenwich Hospital established the Mimi and Don Kirk/James R. Sabetta, MD, Chief of Infectious Disease position at Greenwich Hospital. The endowment established a permanent fund for infectious diseases and will grow the hospital's regional reputation for innovation and excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases.

Also recognizing a one-year anniversary is the Jean and David W. Wallace Medical Director Neurovascular Surgery Program at Greenwich Hospital. The gift from the Wallace Family Foundation created a permanent footprint for neuroscience-specific patient care, research and education at Greenwich Hospital.

Stay tuned for *The Thriving Clinician* education video

With medical staff well-being a top priority, YNHHS is introducing a new resource to encourage the conversations and actions that will enable clinicians to get the support they may need, particularly as it relates to their emotional well-being.

The Thriving Clinician is an educational video that candidly discusses stress, depression and potential harm and conveys that it is OK to need and ask for help, and that we must look out for each other and say something if we see someone struggling. The video features compelling vignettes based on confidential conversations with YNHHS medical professionals. This resource will be available to medical staff members, including community physicians and employees across YNHHS in the coming months.

THE WELLNESS CORNER

The Wellness Corner is new Medical Staff News feature where the Medical Staff Wellness Committee will share information about various well-being resources for Greenwich Hospital Medical Staff.

A HAVEN for Help

The Health Assistance Intervention Education Network (HAVEN) is a health assistance program serving healthcare professionals in the state of Connecticut. The program provides a safe environment for coordinating educational, rehabilitative and supportive services to healthcare professionals. Specifically, HAVEN provides confidential consultation and support to healthcare professionals facing health concerns related to alcoholism, substance abuse, behavioral or mental health issues and/or physical illness.

When there is a concern that a healthcare professional may be at risk for a potentially impairing condition, a telephone call to HAVEN begins the referral process. A healthcare professional may self-refer or be referred by a colleague, employer, family member or friend.

To make a referral, contact HAVEN at 860-828-3175 or 860-828-3192; or via email at contact@haven-ct.org. HAVEN is located in East Berlin, CT.

For more information, visit the HAVEN website at haven-ct.org.

Physician Support Line available to help

The Physician Support Line (PSL) offers free and confidential peer support for U.S.-based physicians and medical students by creating a safe space to discuss immediate life stressors with volunteer psychiatrist colleagues.

Call the PSL at 888-409-0141, 7 days a week, 8 am - midnight. For additional information, visit physiciansupportline.com.

For additional information about well-being initiatives and resources, reach out to the Greenwich Hospital Medical Wellness Committee through Spike Lipschutz, MD, vice president, Medical Services, and chief quality officer at spike.lipschutz@greenwichhospital.org or 203-863-3904.

Congratulations, Graduating Residents!

Congratulations to GH's 2021 graduating resident physicians:

Ihsan N.M. Al-Sabbagh, MD

Devesh Dalmia, MD

Jing Du, MD

Jennifer Hewlett, MD

Mustafa Khan, MD

Jianling Tao, MD

Catherine Teng, MD

A special recognition and thank you to Eleanore Black, MD, chief resident, for a conquering a year like no other!

Congratulations also to the interns completing their preliminary year of Internal Medicine on the way to non-internal medicine specialties:

Daniel Dickstein, MD (Radiation Oncology)

Collin Edwards, MD (Radiology)

Fatema Esaa, MD (Dermatology)

Conor Fowler, MD (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)

Kristin Hsieh, MD (Radiation Oncology)

Blair Jenkins, MD (Dermatology)

Patrick Kennedy, MD (Radiology)

Thank you to Drs. Charles Seelig, Ellika Mardh, Khalil Hussein and the countless number of dedicated Greenwich Hospital Medical Staff who helped provide the very sturdy foundation for these young physicians' careers in medicine. We wish them every success!

Medical Library available to fill information needs

The Greenwich Hospital Medical Library, located on the first floor of the Watson Pavilion across from Noble Auditorium, is fully staffed and available to help GH medical professionals meet their information needs. The staff's goal is to improve the medical care and research at the hospital by providing the most current resources and information, which supports patient care, clinical research and education.

In addition to the library's collection of over 1,500 books, library services include searches for health sciences literature on a variety of databases; tutorials; auto alerts on "hot topics;" acquiring external materials; providing access to thousands of electronic journals and books; and photocopying services.

The electronic collection includes UpToDate, ClinicalKey, DynaMed Plus, Access Medicine, Ovid's Medline and Natural Medicines. The print collection includes medical, nursing and allied health books, as well as books on topics including leadership, patient safety, wellness, pastoral care, and humanities in medicine. The library also includes a Consumer Health section for patients, their families, the community and staff.

Donna Belcinski, lead clinical librarian, began working at Greenwich Hospital in 2010 as the content management librarian and became the coordinator of library services in 2018. In addition to managing the library, Belcinski oversees collection development, maintains the electronic collection and assists staff with locating medical literature.

Veronica Bilenkin, Consumer Health librarian, maintains the Consumer Health book collection, coordinates monthly webinars with guest speakers and assists consumers in finding reliable health information. Fernela Julien, the library's technical services assistant, answers reference questions, oversees interlibrary loans and assists staff with article retrieval.

The Greenwich Hospital Medical Library is staffed Monday – Friday, from 7:30 am - 4 pm. Employees may access the library 24/7 using their employee ID. The library is currently closed to the public due to COVID concerns.

For more information on the Greenwich Hospital Medical Library and its services, including access to medical information databases, visit greenwichhospital.org, search medical library.

GH Surgical Physician Assistants – thank you for all that you do!

Physician Assistants (PA) in Greenwich Hospital's surgical PA program, led by Dhara Soni, PA, Paul Waters, MD, and Peggy Lennon, RN, cover several sub-specialties including General Surgery, Colorectal, Orthopedics, Neurosurgery (mostly spine), Bariatrics, Thoracic, Gynecology, Urology, Vascular, ENT and Plastics.

Each PA works three 12-hour shifts from 7 am - 7:30 pm or 7 pm - 7:30 am, providing coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.

A surgical PA's typical census ranges from 25 - 40 patients and their primary responsibilities include:

- First-assisting in OR in sub-specialties listed above
- Daily peri-operative management of surgical patients, including bedside procedures (wound care, drain/chest tubes/catheter management) and discharges
- Performing surgical consults in the Emergency Department and on inpatient units
- Assisting Gastroenterology with percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) placements

In addition to their usual responsibilities, many of our surgical physician assistants also mobilized during COVID and greatly assisted with the care of medical patients.

Current surgical physician assistants:

Dhara Soni, PA, lead

Cathleen Bickel, PA

Brianna Hearle, PA

Jaime Mobiglia, PA

Elena Novakova, PA

Tara Parmelee, PA

Georgeann Torina, PA

Mackenzie Walker, PA

Kathryn Yunkovic, PA

Additional appreciation to the eight PAs who assist on a per-diem basis.

Thank you, PAs, for all that you do!

Newsmakers



Jennifer Hewlett, MD, has been appointed chief resident for the 2021 – 2022 academic year, beginning in late June. Dr. Hewlett is known by her peers as an outstanding clinician and resident team leader, in addition to her leadership in resident wellness, performance improvement, research and patient safety. As resident representative to the Graduate Medical Education Committee and chairperson of the House Staff Safety Council, Dr. Hewlett has been instrumental in efforts to improve the program. She is a graduate of the C.E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University and is a third-year resident physician in the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Greenwich Hospital.



David Dayya, DO, PhD, was the lead author for a study published in the *Respiratory Medicine* pulmonary journal titled, "The use of oxygen hoods in patients failing on conventional high-flow oxygen delivery systems, the effects on oxygenation, mechanical ventilation and mortality rates in hypoxic patients with COVID-19. A Prospective Controlled Cohort Study." The study was published in Vol. 179, April 2021.

Save the date: June 17 – next Trust Your Gut Digestive Health session

YNHHS and Yale Medicine have launched a free, monthly virtual Digestive Health CME series called Trust Your Gut. The yearlong series, held the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm, is designed to provide world-class digestive health educational programming, professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers.

Tune in for the next session on Thursday, June 17, when the topic will be pancreatitis. The topic for the following session on July 15 will be weight loss.

Yale School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 credit per session, for a total of 12.0 AMA PRA Category 1 credits for the series. To register, visit the Yale CME portal at yale.cloud-cme.com. For questions, contact Joe Mendes, executive director, Clinical Program Development, Digestive Health, at joseph.mendes@ynhh.org.

Building Against Burnout session July 1

Mark your calendar for the next Building against Burnout (BAB) session on Thursday, July 1, from 12:15 - 1 pm, when the topic will be Clinical Informatics and Epic Tools.

These brief sessions highlight timesaving topics as we work through ways to reduce burnout. The presenters are physicians and APPs who have completed rigorous Epic training. The BAB sessions are a form of “fireproofing,” to help build resistance to the challenges and stresses of practicing medicine. CME credit is available.

To join the session via Zoom, visit zoom.us. Select “Join a Meeting” and enter:

– Webinar ID: 937 1610 3824

– Password: 649503

Attendees may call into Zoom via telephone at:
1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099 or 1-301-715-8592.

BAB sessions are recorded and posted on the Medical Staff Portal for those who are unable to attend during the live session. Direct questions to Allen Hsiao, MD, at allen.hsiao@ynhh.org.

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the July 2021 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, July 2, 2021. Please submit items for consideration to Karen Santucci, MD, at karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org or Myra Stanley, Yale New Haven Health at 203-688-1531 or myra.stanley@ynhh.org.

Medical Staff Changes (May 2021)

Appointees



Sauda Bholat, MD
(Medicine)
Greenwich IM Hospitalist Services –
Northeast Medical Group
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone: 203 863 3840
Fax: 203-863-4738



Thomas Evelyn, DO
(Orthopaedics)
Orthopaedic & Neurosurgery Specialists
6 Greenwich Office Park
Greenwich, CT 06831
Phone: 203 869 1145
Fax: 203-869 2170



Olga Grechukhina, MD
(Obstetrics & Gynecology)
Yale Medicine Maternal Fetal Medicine
at Greenwich Hospital
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone: 203 863 3674
Fax: 203-863-3467



Lisa Luehman, APRN
(Urology)
WESTMED Medical Group
1 Theall Road
Rye, NY 10580
Phone: 914 848 8800
Fax: 914-848 8801



Tinika Montgomery, MD
(Nephrology)
Yale Medicine Nephrology
260 Long Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06902
Phone: 203 785 4184
Fax: 203-785 4904



Marcelo Orias, MD
(Nephrology)
Yale Medicine Nephrology
260 Long Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06902
Phone: 203 785 4184
Fax: 203-785 4904



Ashley Sabbatini, APRN
(Cardiology)
Yale New Haven Health Heart and Vascular Center
500 West Putnam Ave.
Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone: 203 863 4210
Fax: 203-622 1872



Maia Weed, APRN
(Medicine)
Greenwich IM Hospitalist Services –
Northeast Medical Group
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone: 203 863 3840
Fax: 203-863-4738

Resignation/Non-Renewal of Privileges

Daniela Addeo, MD (Radiation Oncology)

Shaan Bhojwani, MD (Medicine)

Karen Hurd, CRNA (Anesthesiology)

Liz Luketich, PA (Orthopaedics)

Lizabeth Nolan, MD (Pediatrics)

Nancy Zaki, PA (Emergency Medicine)

Miscellaneous

Lindsay Davis, MD and **Suresh Mandava, MD** (Ophthalmology)
have a new fax number: 203 921 1290

Office Move

Catherine Alonzo, MD

Nicholas Stroumbakis, MD
(Urology)

Yale New Haven Health Greenwich Hospital Urology
260 Long Ridge Road*
Stamford, CT 06902
Phone: 877-925 3637
Fax: 203 737 8035

** This is a temporary move*