

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | June 2025

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From the desk of the CMO

GRATITUDE

Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Dear Mighty Team,

*Gratitude is a choice: I am happy because I'm grateful. I choose to be grateful.
The gratitude allows me to be happy. (Reminds me of Dr. Kisha Mitchell Richards)
~Will Arnett*

Hoping you are all having a good month. Graduations, weddings, showers, anniversaries...

Congratulations to all those celebrating major milestones and joyous occasions!

There is a lot going on at the hospital and lots to celebrate here as well, so I thought I would share a few updates and well-deserved recognitions:

- We are working to refine processes related to QGenda, and Secure Chat is coming! We will update leadership at the next MEC meeting and have materials for respective department meetings.
- We had a Joint Commission four-day mock survey followed almost immediately by a Joint Commission review for our stroke program and this week, we prepare for the diabetes review. Thank you to all who have worked so tirelessly.
- The Child and Adolescent IOP Extension Joint Commission Survey went very well.
- HoLEP: Holmium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate procedures have begun at GH. Congratulations to Drs. Bednarz and Karellas.
- Congratulations to Drs. Jessica Dodge and Kirsten Lawrence who spoke about their programs at a recent event in Noble and to Drs. Karellas, Petrylak and Oh who presented and participated in a panel discussion at the Bruce Museum this month.
- Jamie Sheehan – congratulations on your Forty Under Forty Award!
- Dr. Thanos Petrotos – congratulations on your CHA (Connecticut Healthcare Association) Healthcare Hero Award!

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

- Dr. James Farrelly was appointed associate medical director of the Trauma Program and we are so grateful for his expertise and service.
- Congratulations to Drs. Barbara Ward and William Oh who recently presented at a Survivor Celebration in the garden.
- Dr. Michael Lerner was appointed chief of ENT and he has hit the ground running.
- Thank you to Dr. Richard Brauer for his many years of countless hours and dedicated service.
- Thank you to Dr. Beverly Drucker for her many years of service in Medical Oncology.
- A big thank you to Dr. Michael Schecter who recently retired after decades of unwavering care in Ob/Gyn.
- Congratulations to Dr. Jon Zimmerman who was honored at resident graduation and to all the graduates. We wish you every success.
- Thank you to Lisa Micelli for all her hard work on the renovation of the Medical Staff Lounge. (Please thank her when you see her!)
- Thank you to Dr. Nidhi Shah for organizing a wonderful Schwartz Rounds and of course Morbidity and Mortality, thank you to Drs. Shah and Salik.
- Immense gratitude to all of our Department Quality Committee/Peer Review chairs for all their efforts.
- Thank you to Dr. Amir Garakani for his three years of service as our chair of Psychiatry.
- To Dr. Mark Vitale, congratulations on your international fame and recognition.

Extending my gratitude to you all. It is VERY likely that I missed someone, but the good news is that next month I have an opportunity to rectify that.

Hoping you all have a great month,

Karen

Greenwich Hospital launches revolutionary treatment for enlarged prostate

HoLEP is here! Greenwich Hospital has successfully performed its first Holmium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate (HoLEP) procedure, marking a major milestone in advanced urologic care for Fairfield and Westchester Counties.

HoLEP is a state-of-the-art, minimally invasive procedure that treats benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), or enlarged prostate—a condition that affects nearly 50 percent of men over age 60 and up to 90 percent over age 80. Using a high-powered holmium laser, the HoLEP technique removes excess prostate tissue causing urinary obstruction, offering a long-lasting solution with fewer complications and shorter recovery times compared to traditional surgical options.

The expansion to Greenwich was spearheaded by the Yale Medicine Urology team and its director Dan Kellner, MD, associate professor, YSM. Collectively, Dr. Kellner and his team have performed over 1,800 HoLEP procedures, making Yale Urology one of the busiest HoLEP teams in the US.

Isaac Y. Kim, MD, chief, urology, YNHHS; chair, Department of Urology, YSM, noted: “Introducing HoLEP in Greenwich is a testament to the strength of our integrated urology program. We’re proud to see this level of innovation expanding across our health system.”

With this inaugural procedure at Greenwich Hospital, the hospital becomes a go-to provider for HoLEP in Fairfield County and Westchester Counties, bringing Yale New Haven Health’s academic-level expertise closer to home.

Kudos to the OR team, Christopher Bednarz, MD, urologic surgeon and assistant professor of urology, YSM; Michael Karellas, MD, director, Western Region, Department of Urology, YNHHS, chief, urology, Greenwich Hospital and assistant professor of urology, YSM.

Check out additional CME opportunities

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

Medicine Residency Program marks 50 years of fostering healthcare leaders, celebrates graduates

The Greenwich Hospital/Yale University Internal Medicine Residency Program celebrates its 50th graduating class this month. With an average cohort of five to six residents per class, the program has played a pivotal role in the development of over 300 internists since its inception in 1975.

Simultaneously, the Yale Affiliated Hospitals Program in Internal Medicine was created as a consortium of community hospitals as academic affiliates of Yale School of Medicine (YSM), with Greenwich Hospital as one of the first in Connecticut to join. Greenwich Hospital is a level II affiliate, meaning residents can do rotations at Yale New Haven Hospital, and YSM makes a significant contribution to the curriculum.

The celebration included the annual House Staff graduation ceremony for resident physicians. The 12 honorees (five residents and seven interns) will now transition into the next stage of their medical professional journeys. Greenwich Hospital leadership was on hand to thank and congratulate the graduates.

Graduating residents:

- Miguel Mesarina, DO
- Hyun Sung Park, MD
- Lu Qu, MD
- Devyani Ramgobin-Marshall, DO
- Nikhita Shrimanker, MD

Graduating interns:

- Richard Fagbemigun, MD
- Ashley Hine, MD
- Eesha Khan, MD
- Magdalena Palac, MD
- Ariana Schanzer, MD
- Jon Suzich, MD, PhD
- Diana Zarowin, MD

In addition, several awardees were honored at the ceremony:

- Xiaofeng “Sofia” Zhang, MD: Dr. Nelson A. Bonheim Research in Medicine Award
- Miguel Mesarina, DO, and Nikhita Shrimanker, MD: Resident Teacher Award
- Hyun Sung Park, MD: Dr. Henry E. Markley Humanitarian in Medicine Award
- Devyani Ramgobin-Marshall, DO: Quality and Safety Award
- Jonathan Zimmerman, MD: Golden Apple Teaching Award
- Rachele Paganini, RN: Nursing-Resident Partner in Care Award
- Allyson Wenner, MD: Resident Physician Patient Experience Award



Graduating residents and interns flanked by Drs. Seelig and Zimmerman (l-r).

Health AI Championship winners announced

Last month, Yale New Haven Health's Center for Health Care Innovation hosted the first Health AI Championship, a competition designed to showcase groundbreaking applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in health care.

Innovators from health systems and hospitals across Connecticut were invited to develop AI-driven solutions that address critical challenges in patient care and healthcare operations.

The event fostered collaboration and paved the way for real-world applications that can significantly improve patient outcomes and streamline healthcare operations. The championship was guided by an advisory group of clinical and operational leaders from YNHHS, Hartford HealthCare, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Nuvance Health, UConn Health and Gaylord Specialty Healthcare.

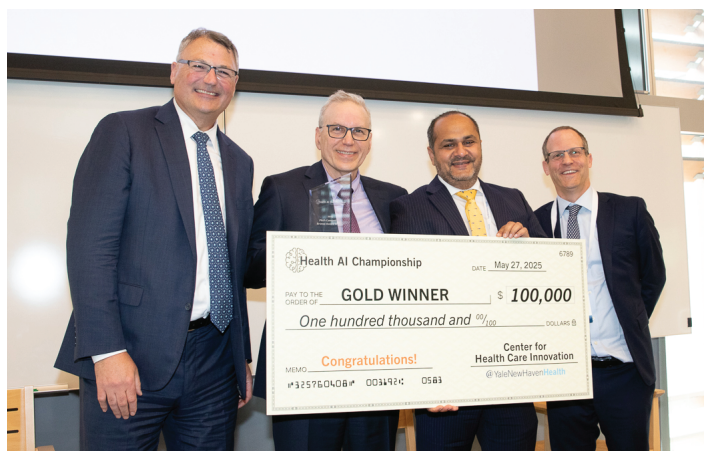
An independent panel of judges comprised of strategic investors and industry experts selected the winning projects:

First prize:

- Deep Machine Learning Model for Prediction of Death in Organ Donation after Circulatory Death (Ramesh Batra, MBBS, Smita Krishnaswamy, PhD).
Home institution: Yale University

Second prize:

- Insight-AI (Rohan Khera, MD, Philip Kroon, MD, Evan Oikonomou, MD).
Home institution: Yale University
- Polaris (Richa Sharma, MD, Kevin Sheth, MD, -Ho-Joon Lee, PhD).
Home institution: Yale University



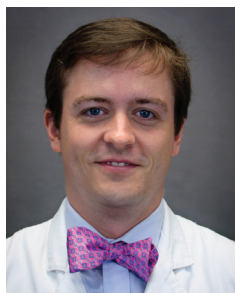
Health AI Championship first-prize winner (third from left) Ramesh Batra, MBBS, surgical director, Yale New Haven Transplantation Center Liver Transplant Program, joined by (l-r): Christopher O'Connor, YNHHS CEO; Lee Schwamm, MD, YNHHS chief digital health officer; and Adam Landman, MD, chief information officer, Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Third prize:

- Use of AI, Computer Simulation & Mathematical Optimization for Optimizing ED Resource Allocation (Tze Chiam, PhD, Ahmed Gailan Qasem, Sarah Visker, RN, John Brancato, MD).
Home institution: Connecticut Children's Hospital
- Detection and Localization of Subdural Hematoma with Subsequent Recurrence Prediction using AI (Tapan Mehta, MD, Bernard Burman, Rohan Kumar, Vasiliki Stoumpou, Dimitris Bertsimas, PhD).
Home institution: Hartford Healthcare
- AI-Enabled Multi-Class Diagnosis of Ejection Fraction from Electrocardiograms (Steven Zweibel, MD, Catherine Ning, Dimitri Bertsimas, PhD).
Home institution: Hartford Healthcare

(See the [news release](#) for more details on the winning projects)

James Farrelly, MD, appointed associate medical director, Trauma Service



James Farrelly, MD, has been named associate medical director for the Trauma Service at Greenwich Hospital. He will work with the team to support and expand the Surgical Physician Assistant/Advanced Practice Provider Program at Greenwich.

A sincere thank you to Dr. Farrelly, Thanos Petrotos, MD, Ann Cook, Dhara Soni and all who have worked to establish Greenwich Hospital as a Level III Trauma Center. Congratulations to Dr. Farrelly on this new hospital leadership role!

Know Your Numbers Plus 2025 underway

The annual Know Your Numbers Plus wellness rewards program is currently underway. The program gives YNHHS employees, including employed physicians, the opportunity to earn up to \$500 credit toward the cost of their 2026 YNHHS medical premium – and be healthier at the same time.

Completion of a basic health screening, the core of the program, earns \$300 in credit. These biometric screenings may be scheduled at onsite locations, including at Greenwich Hospital, and provide the following data:

- Total cholesterol, HDL (good cholesterol),
- LDL (bad cholesterol), triglycerides and blood glucose
- Blood pressure
- Height, weight and body mass index (BMI)
- Waist and hip measurements

Employees can earn up to \$200 in additional credit (towards the maximum \$500 credit) by completing other Personal Choice Activities. All program details are outlined on the [THRIVE](#) intranet site or through HRConnect, under Health and Wellness, Quick links. All Know Your Numbers Plus elements must be completed by Aug. 22, 2025.

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2025: Trust Your Gut – July 17

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 July 17 when the topic will be LGBTQ & Gastroenterology Care. On Aug. 21, the presentation will focus on AI in GI.

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.

Hospital hosts first in-person Cancer Survivorship Celebration since 2019



Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich hosted its first in-person Cancer Survivorship celebration since 2019, bringing together patients, healthcare providers and community members to honor survivors' strength and resilience. GH Medical Staff attending the celebration included (l-r): Karen Santucci, MD, CMO, Greenwich Hospital, and professor of Pediatrics and of Emergency Medicine, YSM; Alyssa Gillego, MD, breast surgeon, Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich, and assistant professor of Surgery, YSM; William Oh, MD, director, Precision Medicine, Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, and service line medical director, Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich; M. Sung Lee, MD, chief, Medical Oncology, Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich, and assistant professor Medicine, YSM; Kristina Capretti, RN, DNP, patient services director, Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich; Barbara Ward, MD, chair of Surgery, Greenwich Hospital, medical director, Breast Center, Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich, and associate professor, YSM.

Newsletter Submissions

The deadline to submit content for the July/August 2025 issue of Medical Staff News is Thursday, July 3, 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 (May 2025)

Appointees



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Resignations

Alexandra Conway, PhD (Psychiatry-Psychology)
effective 4/18/2025

Beverly Drucker, MD (Hematology-Oncology) effective 4/30/2025

Arthur Forni, MD (Medicine-Infectious Disease) effective 6/1/2025

Margan Prust, MD (Medicine-Neurology) effective 4/21/2025