

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | July/August 2025

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From the desk of the CMO

Many thanks for another successful Youth Access Program

Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Dear Mighty Team,

Recently, Greenwich Hospital welcomed local high school students for the third annual Youth Access Healthcare Explorers program. This five-day innovative introduction to healthcare careers features teaching sessions and hands-on activities with staff and students.

During this year's session, we were not only able to provide a week of unforgettable teaching moments including hands-only CPR, the Heimlich maneuver and administration of naloxone for an opiate overdose, but we also held two sessions in our simulation lab and coordinated panel discussions, career advice, and a session on dermatology. We also had several special guests present during the week, including child life specialist Julie Rosenblum, plus a wonderful visit to our hyperbaric wound therapy unit.

Between 60 and 70 members of our healthcare team selflessly gave their time and energy to work with the students. A special thank you to Drs. Christopher Davison and Michael Franco, Kathy Carley Spanier, RN, and Ellen Stacom, RN. We also had two wonderful EMTs, Aine Cleary and Bobbi Roca, who facilitated a session and special guest EMT Jeremiah Brown talked about the importance and process of organ donation. Importantly, without the planning and expertise of Kathy Massi and Stacey Green from Volunteer Services, this year's program would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank our administration for allowing us the time to implement this program and extend a special thanks to Dr. Felice Zwas and her family for sponsoring the Youth Access program for the second time, giving the students the opportunity to participate in this learning experience and to each receive a scholarship.

It was a wonderful week and we are already planning for next year. Again, thank you to all our medical staff members who participated – there is no way we could have done this without you and the students. Stacey and I are forever grateful!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and looking forward to greeting you again in about a month.

My very best,
Karen

Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich gets the go-ahead

Greenwich's Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the construction of the Smilow Cancer Hospital inside the walls of Greenwich Hospital.

As an extension of Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, the new Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich will expand offerings for those seeking care at Greenwich and eliminate the need to travel longer distances for treatments that Greenwich does not currently offer. Importantly, this approval will allow GH to bring additional dedicated disease teams to the hospital, complementing Greenwich and Yale New Haven Health's existing team of nationally recognized specialists.

Once completed, patients seeking oncology care in Greenwich will have access to state-of-the-art cancer care – including the most advanced technology in radiation oncology suites and novel therapies in patient-centered infusion spaces – in a setting defined by Greenwich Hospital's signature focus on exceptional patient care. The new offerings will build on Greenwich Hospital's existing cancer resources, including imaging, surgery, private oncology rooms and women's cancer services – ultimately providing cohesive care and wraparound healthcare in one central setting.

"Cancer care is currently undergoing rapid and epic transformation at multiple levels throughout the continuum, from prevention and screening to diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and also palliative and end-of-life care," said William K. Oh, MD, service line medical director of Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich and director of Precision Medicine for Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital. "These improvements have focused on bettering the outcomes and experience of patients diagnosed with cancer. What was impossible just five years ago is now possible because of these advancements and thanks to the Commission's decision, we will now be able to offer more multidisciplinary teams with disease-specific experts and serve the patients of this community with the highest level of cancer care."

GH Breast Center and Cancer Program achieve prestigious national accreditation

Greenwich Hospital and Smilow Cancer Hospital proudly announce that the Greenwich Hospital Breast Center has received reaccreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons.

In addition, Smilow Cancer Hospital at Greenwich has achieved renewal of its accreditation as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program by the Commission on Cancer (CoC), also a quality program of the American College of Surgeons.

These achievements reflect Greenwich Hospital's continued commitment to providing the highest standard of care for patients with breast disease and all forms of cancer.

Greenwich Hospital nationally recognized for excellence in Stroke care

Greenwich Hospital, along with each of the YNHHS hospitals, has been nationally recognized by the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke program for outstanding commitment to high-quality stroke care.

Greenwich Hospital recognitions included Stroke Gold Plus with Target: Stroke Honor Roll with Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor. The hospital earned top honors for dedication to following the latest evidence-based treatment guidelines and improving outcomes for stroke patients.

The American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke awards recognize hospitals that demonstrate a commitment to providing the most appropriate stroke treatment in line with nationally recognized, research-based guidelines. These efforts ultimately lead to more lives being saved and reduced long-term disability for patients.

GH Physician selected as a CHA Healthcare Hero



Yale New Haven Health is proud to announce that four employees, including GH's own Athanassios Petrotos, MD, medical director, Trauma, and assistant professor, Surgery at Yale School of Medicine, were honored with the 2025 Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) Healthcare Heroes Award.

The 2025 CHA Healthcare Heroes Award celebrates and recognizes the invaluable contributions of exceptional healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large.

As a surgeon, Dr. Petrotos is seen as a mentor to the younger surgeons. His constant thirst for knowledge and collaboration is what makes him a valuable resource as an assistant clinical professor. He pays immense attention to order, process and structure and is a role model for all those who know him.

At a GH community event celebrating its Level III Trauma Center status last year, Dr. Petrotos was on site, manning an information table and showing members of the community how to properly apply a tourniquet. He did this for three hours in nearly 100-degree weather after administering dozens of free hernia screenings for the members of the community at the hospital the day before.

More recently, Dr. Petrotos performed a challenging procedure on a critically injured patient and he credited the entire team for their efforts.

Even when he is not on call, Dr. Petrotos consistently checks in on his patients. One of his patients recently underwent a CT scan when Dr. Petrotos was not on site. Even with a prior engagement, Dr. Petrotos knew the results of the scan before anyone and called the doctor who was treating the patient to discuss action plans.

He is described by his colleagues as not self-promoting, but rather always elevating those around him, and is the epitome of a true servant leader and role model.

Other YNHHS healthcare heroes honored this year were Cassandra Mitchell, Bridgeport Hospital; Ilia Chavez, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital; and Shannon Dingus – Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven Hospital. Congratulations!

GH Medical Oncology expert interviewed on CNN

Daniel P. Petrylak, MD, Medical Oncology, GH and Smilow Cancer Hospital and professor of Medicine and Urology at Yale School of Medicine, is a national leader on clinical trials for men with prostate and bladder cancer as well as in the research and development of new drugs and treatments to fight prostate, bladder, kidney and testicular cancer.

Dr. Petrylak appeared on CNN recently to offer insight into prostate cancer diagnoses and treatment as it relates to President Joe Biden's recent diagnosis (*Dr. Petrylak is not directly involved in the care for President Biden.*)

See the interview here: [Doctors detail severity of Biden's cancer diagnosis.](#)

GH physician presents on Dupuytren Disease

Orthopedic surgeon Mark Vitale, MD, presented this spring at the International Conference on Dupuytren Disease and Related Diseases in Brussels, Belgium.

In a session on Minimal Invasive Treatment of Dupuytren Contracture, Dr. Vitale, who specializes in treating this condition, presented on two topics:

- Comparison of contracture recurrence after fasciectomy, needle aponeurotomy or collagenase Clostridium histolyticum: A systematic review of prospective data with minimum two-year follow-up; and
- Collagenase Clostridium histolyticum is an effective treatment of contracture recurrence after surgery: A retrospective multicenter series.

In discussing the conference, Dr. Vitale explained, "I have really enjoyed developing this part of my practice as it is a chronic fibroproliferative disease that currently has no permanent cure but can be treated with a variety of methods including radiation therapy, collagenase injection, and surgery."

Compliance Corner

The Compliance Corner will periodically provide information related to compliance-related processes and information.

CMS Open Payments CY 2024 Data Now Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the **2024 Open Payments data** on **June 30, 2025**. This information includes reported financial relationships between physicians and Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) and applicable manufacturers of drugs, medical devices, and biologicals.

As a reminder, **this data is publicly available** – viewable by patients, regulators, and institutions – and transparency is key to maintaining trust and compliance.

What you need to do:

1. **Access Your Data** via this link:
<https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/>.
2. **Review and verify** the accuracy of any reported financial interactions.
3. **Update your YNHHS Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosure form, if needed. Contact ConflictofInterest@ynhh.org for assistance.**

The **Office of Privacy and Corporate Compliance (OPCC)** will be comparing COI forms to the CMS Open Payments database. Discrepancies may require clarification or correction.

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2025: Trust Your Gut – Aug. 21

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 Aug. 21, when 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.

Epic users: Check out the ServiceNow Help Desk button

Designed for non-urgent Epic issues, the ServiceNow Help Desk button helps clinicians submit incident tickets to the Service Desk in just a few clicks, providing a self-service option for non-urgent Epic issues.

Benefits:

- Submit non-urgent incident tickets in Epic, in real time. No need to make a Help Desk phone call.
- ServiceNow automatically fills in data from the patient record and your workstation.

The ServiceNow Help Desk button is located:

- Under the Epic button in the upper left
- In the patient's Storyboard

Know Your Numbers Plus Aug. 22 deadline approaching

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.

Completion of a basic health screening, the core of the program, earns \$300 in credit. Employees can earn up to \$200 in additional credit by completing other Personal Choice Activities.

All program details are outlined on the THRIVE intranet site or through HRConnect. All Know Your Numbers Plus elements must be completed and documented by Aug. 22, 2025.

Check out additional CME opportunities

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

Epic Secure Chat to replace Mobile Heartbeat

On Sept. 9, Yale New Haven Health is scheduled to replace the Mobile Heartbeat application with Epic's Secure Chat.

Secure Chat, which will be pushed out to existing phones, offers a seamless, efficient clinical communication solution which includes calling, individual/group messaging, broadcast messages and alerts.

To prepare, visit the **Epic Secure Chat website** at <https://epic.ynhh.org/securechat> for frequently asked questions, a video on Secure Chat features and more information on the transition.

Learn more by tuning into an upcoming webinar demonstrating the features of Epic Secure Chat:

Aug. 13 - 11 am

Aug. 20 - 7:30 am

Aug. 21 - Noon

Aug. 26 - 11 am

Aug. 27 - 5 pm

Sept. 3 - 7:30 am

Sept. 4 – Noon

[Join live Secure Chat webinar here](#)

Meeting ID: 291 207 093 030 8

Passcode: 5tx2AR3u

Dial in: 1-800-937-6825

Conference ID: 940 557 737#

Additionally, there are two **Physician/Provider Focused** Secure Chat webinars:

Sept. 3, Noon

Sept. 4, 12:15 pm

Find info and link for [Physician/Provider Secure Chat webinars here](#).

Newsletter Submissions

The deadline to submit content for the September 2025 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, Aug. 22, 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 (June 2025)

Appointees



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Resignations

Russell Cavallo, MD (Orthopedics) Effective 09/30/2025

John Colberg, MD (Surgery Urology) Effective 06/30/2025

Tao Du, MD (Medicine) Effective 6/6/2025

Lauren Ernberg, MD (Radiology) Effective 07/01/2025

Jarrett Feldman, MD (Medicine Heme/Onc) Effective 06/06/2025

Kelley Matt, CRNA (Anesthesiology) Effective 05/28/2025

Genevieve Maquilan, MD (Radiation Oncology)
Effective 06/27/2025

Nancy Ringel, MD (Obstetrics/Gynecology Urogynecology)
Effective 06/27/2025

Michael Sider, MD (Pediatrics Hospital Medicine)
Effective 06/30/2025

Chizoro Taylor, PA (Surgery Neurology) Effective 07/20/2025