

# Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | September 2021

Yale  
NewHaven  
Health  
Greenwich  
Hospital

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Karen Santucci, MD

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Assistant Chief of Staff

Mark Chrostowski, MD

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Erez Salik, MD

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From the desk of the CMO

## Weathering the storms and moving forward

*Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer*

Dear Mighty Team:

To say that you have weathered many storms would be an understatement.



COVID, cyber threats, mass vaccination, Henri and then Ida...and through it all you have cared for your patients, your parents, your families, your colleagues and your neighbors. You created the illusion of complete stability, calm and cheerfulness when celebrating landmark events like graduations, anniversaries and birthdays and even somewhat bittersweet moments like that first day of kindergarten or that drop off at college, holding back tears and trying to be strong. For many this past year, there have been unanticipated hardships, yet through it all, you have done it all.

My secret hope for you, as we progress through these last few days of summer, is that you take a moment to recognize all of your accomplishments, know how very much you are appreciated, and smile when you realize that you have made such a great difference in the lives of so many.

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*

*– Martin Luther King Jr.*

I think you are answering the question,

Karen

## Mandatory COVID vaccination deadline Sept. 30

Yale New Haven Health announced this summer that all members of its workforce (including medical staff, employees, volunteers, students, contractors and traveling staff) are required to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The requirement aligns with the Connecticut Hospital Association's statewide policy endorsing mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for hospital and health system clinical staff and employees. Failure to comply with YNHHS' vaccine mandate may result in disciplinary action.

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Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021 is the final day to receive Dose 2 of Pfizer or Moderna or the one-dose vaccine (J&J/Janssen) or to submit documentation of vaccination outside of a YNHHS-affiliated vaccination clinic. Monday, Oct. 18, 2021 is the date of termination for non-compliance. For assistance with scheduling an on-site COVID vaccination, call Occupational Health through the Employee Resource Center at 844-543-2147 (Option 2).

## THE WELLNESS CORNER

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

### **The Power of Doing Nothing (in Nature)**

Einstein's greatest epiphanies were all done while taking time away from daily structure and responsibilities to be in nature. From staring at the stars, to sailing, and long walks in nature, these were all the activities leading to brilliant discoveries. In a world full of distractions, where it is easy to be available via phone or email 24/7, taking time to disconnect and be in nature has never been more important for physical and mental health. Research shows that spending time in nature can reduce blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension and the production of stress hormones. Spending time in nature can also improve immune function – something we all value these days.

How do you realistically spend more time in nature with a busy schedule? See some tips below to get started:

1. *Get outside early in the morning.* Even just 10 minutes for a short walk or quiet time alone.
2. *Figure out what you love about nature.* Is it the flowers growing and gardening? Is it finding time to be quiet and reflect? Is it the feeling of calm you

may get when reading a book outside? Is it the endorphins you get from sweating after a bike ride or run? Find what you love about nature and turn that into a consistent hobby.

3. *Make it a priority and habit.* Research shows it is easier to make something a habit when you couple it with an activity you already regularly do. Make it a priority to be in nature when you eat lunch or dinner, take a break from watching TV with 5 minutes sitting outside looking at the stars between episodes or put your phone on silent mode to be more present when walking the dog.
4. *Experience nature with a friend, colleague or family member.* Setting health goals like spending more time in nature is always easier when you have someone to enjoy it with and to help you stay accountable.

In addition to benefiting your physical health, spending time outdoors may lead to epiphanies in your own life and mental health.

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## American Heart Association honors GH Stroke Program

The American Heart Association (AHA) recognized Greenwich Hospital for its 2020 Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke measures performance. GH received the Gold Plus Achievement award, which recognizes two or more consecutive calendar years of 85 percent or higher adherence on all achievement measures and 75 percent or higher adherence with additional select quality measures in stroke.

In addition, GH received the Stroke Elite award for performance of 75 percent or higher in Time to IV Thrombolytic Therapy in 60 minutes or less; and the Diabetes Honor Roll award for achievement of 90 percent or greater compliance on the Overall Diabetes Cardiovascular Initiative Composite Score, which is comprised of nine individual measures.

Congratulations and thanks to all who contribute to the GH Stroke program!

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## More than 120 members of the GH Medical Staff celebrate milestones years of service

Please be advised that the annual Medical Staff Recognition Brunch, originally scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 10, has been canceled.

Although the in-person event will not occur this year, Greenwich Hospital extends congratulations to physicians and dentists who reached 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of service during 2020 and 2021:

### 50 Years

Joel Rein, MD

### 45 Years

John Tamerin, MD

### 40 Years

Steven Glasser, MD

Edward Jacobson, MD

Jeffrey Weinberger, MD

### 35 Years

Richard Brauer, MD

D. Barry Boyd, MD

J. Allen Britvan, MD

Mark Camel, MD

Alison Cass, MD

David Evans, MD

Charles Gardner, MD

Laurence Kirwan, MD

Steven Schiz, MD

### 30 Years

William Brown, MD

Michael Clain, MD

Terry Cochran, MD

Brian Kavanagh, MD

Elizabeth Krowitz, MD

Ronald Levine, MD

Francis Neeson, MD

Burton Rubin, MD

Stylianos Theofanidis, MD

### 25 Years

Sandra Ang, MD

Dzwinka Carroll, MD

Lauren Carton, MD

Gail Fennell, MD

Gaetane Francis, MD

Stephen Jones, MD

James Morris, MD

William Potter, MD

Alice Rusk, MD

Charles Seelig, MD

Nicholas Stroumbakis, MD

Cassandra Tribble, MD

### 20 Years

Keith Attkiss, MD

David Berkun, MD

Stephen Carolan, MD

Patricia Close, MD

Ranjan Dasgupta, MD

Maria De La Morena, MD

Servando de los Angeles, MD

Donna Densel, MD

Bruno DiCosmo, MD

James Doyle, MD

Stuart Feldman, MD

Wilmore Finerman, MD

Vanessa Grano, MD

Herbert Gretz, MD

Neda Khaghan, MD

M. Sung Lee, MD

Modestus Lee, MD

Mitchell Lester, MD

Jay Levat, MD

John Migotsky, MD

Fredric Newman, MD

Joyce Pere, MD

Donna Phanumas, MD

Linda Reid, MD

Ronald Reiss, MD

Hossein Sadeghi, MD

Mark Schoenfeld, MD

Alan Schrager, MD

Nahid Shirazy-Majd, MD

Jill Silverman, PhD

Scott Sullivan, MD

Paul Sygall, MD

Joseph Tartaglia, MD

Barbara Ward, MD

Carla Williams, MD

### 15 Years

Karen Beckman, MD

Bryan Blair, MD

Judd Boczeko, MD

Francisco Brea, MD

Joseph Brennan, MD

Michael Canter, MD

Russell Cavallo, MD

Caleb Charny, MD

### 15 Years (*continued*)

Michael Cleman, MD

Erik Cohen, MD

Jeptha Curtis, MD

David Cziner, MD

Gerald Davis, MD

Tania Dempsey, MD

Stacey Donegan, MD

Beverly Drucker, MD

Lori Dyer, MD

Francis Ennis, MD

Caroline Filor, MD

Adora Fou, MD

Andrew Francella, MD

Janet Freedman, MD

Glenn Gandelman, MD

Peter Gardner, MD

Frank Giordano, MD

Jeffrey Heftler, MD

Christopher Howes, MD

Barry Kanner, MD

F. Frederic Khoury, MD

Anthony Korosi, MD

Evan Krakovitz, MD

Aymeric Louit, MD

Marianne Monahan, MD

Thomas Naparst, MD

Young-Don Oh, MD

David Passaretti, MD

Athanassios Petrotos, MD

George Piccorelli, MD

Henry Rascoff, MD

Elsa Raskin, MD

Michael Remetz, MD

Karen Rummel, DO

John Setaro, MD

Michael Silver, MD

Scott Simon, MD

Michael Suzman, MD

Thomas Wilson, DDS, MD

Emanuel Wurm, DO

Jonathan Wynn, MD

Anastasia Zarakiotis, DDS

Paul Zelkovic, MD

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## Hospitalists honored for excellence

Congratulations to Greenwich Hospital's hospitalist team who was honored with the 2021 Doctors of Distinction Team Award from *Westchester/Fairfield County Business Journal*. In addition to responding to patients' medical needs, GH hospitalists also took on an additional role last year when they were asked to serve as academic faculty for the Internal Medicine residency program.

Greenwich Hospital Hospitalists:

Herbert Archer, MD, PhD  
Sauda Bholat, MD  
Tracy-Ann Clarke-Leconte, MD  
Wendy Cleare, MD, PhD  
Ryan Dadasovich, MD  
Jing Du, MD, PhD  
Tao Du, MD, PhD  
Joseph Feuerstein, MD  
Taimur Habib, MD  
Catherine Joyce, MD  
Tro Kalayjian, DO  
Chineye Kalu, APRN  
Mary Kane-Brock, MD  
Michael Liu, MD  
Peter Liu, MD

Matthew Lubin, MD  
Beitris McKeon, PA  
Irem Nasir, MD  
Qaayam Pabani, MD  
James Pallett, MD  
Tara Parmelee, PA  
Valeria Pazo, MD  
Ernest Retland, MD  
Muhammad Shah, MD  
Nidhi Shah, MD  
Omair Sheikh, DO  
Steven Smith, MD  
Miriam Sussman, PA  
Natalya Teslya, MD  
Pavel Teslya, MD

Unnikrishnan Thampy, MD  
Alison Thompson, MD, MBA  
Morana Vojnic, MD  
Jill Waldman, MD  
Maia Weed, APRN  
Litchia Weber, MD  
William Weber, MD  
Kathryn Yunkovic, PA

Patricia Calayag, MD, director of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was also recognized as a Doctor of Distinction and named Health Executive of the Year! Congratulations!

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## YNHHS wins American Hospital Association's prestigious Quest for Quality Prize

Yale New Haven Health recently won the American Hospital Association's 2021 Quest for Quality Prize for healthcare leadership and innovation in improving quality and advancing health in communities.

A multi-disciplinary committee of healthcare quality and patient safety experts chose YNHHS for its exemplary achievements, including addressing social determinants of health, using data to drive quality improvements, and engaging employees in quality improvement work. YNHHS was recognized earlier this summer at the virtual AHA 2021 Leadership Summit.

YNHHS is a leader in using data to drive quality improvement, for example, employing a system-wide approach to addressing the opioid crisis that led to a 25 percent decrease in intravenous opioid administration and a 20 percent decrease in opioid prescriptions at discharge.

During COVID, the health system used data to identify by zip code where to deploy staff and allocate vaccines,

particularly in communities hit hard by the pandemic. In addition, within days of Connecticut's first COVID-19 diagnosis, YNHHS developed a call center so people could quickly get answers to a range of questions. YNHHS also supported patients at home, providing pulse oximeters so people in the community could self-monitor their oxygen levels and contact their healthcare provider if necessary.

Yale New Haven Health continues to be involved in numerous efforts to address social determinants of health and to promote its healthcare professionals' well-being, through programs to support emotional health and stress relief, especially during the pandemic.

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## Taking unsigned medical orders to task

Health Information Management (HIM) needs your help to be compliant with the bylaws for medical record completion, which includes documentation (discharge summary) *and* orders. Across the health system, the average rate of delinquent documentation including orders is 8 percent. Work has been done to decrease the number of orders that require co-signature. Beginning in September 2021, YNHHS HIM will follow the same process for

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unsigned orders currently used at Greenwich Hospital, including outreach communications, and if orders are not signed, privileges will be suspended. Remember to sign your orders.

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## **New wayfinding app uses GPS to escort hospital patients, visitors to the right place**

Hospitals and outpatient medical centers can be confusing mazes of hallways, offices and tunnels for patients, visitors and staff to navigate.

Studies show that even with internal signage, patients may miss appointments or waste time asking for directions, leading to stress and dissatisfaction. That's why Yale New Haven Health is launching a free wayfinding app, *Yale New Haven Go*, to help patients and visitors get to their destinations at locations across the health system using their smartphones and devices.

*Yale New Haven Go* is now available at Greenwich Hospital and throughout the health system, including at YNHHS emergency departments, walk-in/urgent care centers and Northeast Medical Group centers. Users can download the *Yale New Haven Go* app from the App Store or Google Play or scan a QR code located at each destination. The GPS guides people, step-by-step, to patient rooms, offices, cafeteria/vending machines, restrooms, patient registration, imaging and lab locations, gift shops, ATMs and more.

The app, created by robotic mapping company Gozio Health, also provides quick access to web-based features such as physician locator, COVID-19 vaccine information, bill payment, price estimator and on-demand video visits.

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## **Save the date: Oct. 21 – 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, Oct. 21, when the topic will be H-Pylori.

Yale School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits 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.cloudcme.com](http://yale.cloudcme.com). For questions, contact Joe Mendes, executive director, Clinical Program Development, Digestive Health, at [joseph.mendes@ynhh.org](mailto:joseph.mendes@ynhh.org).

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## **Save the date: Building Against Burnout session Oct. 7**

Mark your calendar for the next Building Against Burnout (BAB) session on Thursday, Oct. 7, from 12:15 to 1 pm, when the discussion will include a Care Signature Pathways update.

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](https://zoom.us). Select “Join a Meeting” and enter passcode 649503.

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](mailto:allen.hsiao@ynhh.org).

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## **Newsletter Submissions**

Deadline for submission of content for the October 2021 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021. Please submit items for consideration to Karen Santucci, MD, at [karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org](mailto:karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org) or Myra Stanley, YNHHS at 203-688-1531 or [myra.stanley@ynhh.org](mailto:myra.stanley@ynhh.org).

## Medical Staff Changes (August 2021)

There are no medical staff changes, the Quality & Safety Committee did not meet during the month of August.

### Office Move

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(Psychiatry)

Integrative Medicine & Psychotherapy of Greenwich

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