

# Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | October 2023

Yale  
NewHaven  
**Health**  
Greenwich  
**Hospital**

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From the desk of the CMO

## The power in Palliative Care

*Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer*

Dear Mighty Team,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

I recently had the opportunity to read *Living Well with a Serious Illness, A Guide to Palliative Care for Mind, Body and Spirit*. The book has a special meaning as it was written by Robin Bennett Kanarek who many of us know. Robin has been a long-time friend of Greenwich Hospital and she and her family have touched us all whether it be through spiritual encounters on the floors or spiritual encounters in our garden, gifted by her family.

Her book is dedicated to her son David Bennett Kanarek, who passed away in 2000 in his early teens after his leukemia relapsed. Robin writes, “In the body of this boy lived a man whose courage, kindness, and sense of humor will always inspire us. This book is for you.”

David is inspiring us and educating us even today. Robin’s book empowers us to think about Palliative Care by understanding what it is and what it isn’t. Palliative Care is specialized medical care for people living with serious illness. It focuses on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of serious illness. Its goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. Imagine thinking that every single day matters and that every single day of life is actually a gift that offers the potential for joy... The ah hah moment for me was that this perspective on the human experience is the true meaning of health care. The chapters in Robin’s book flow beautifully from one to the next, busting myths, breaking down barriers and honestly helping so many to look at serious illness through a different lens and look upon death as a continuum of life – a part to be embraced. She shares pearls of wisdom on how to cope with serious illness, what to ask for, how to decide what you want and in advance what is important for you and your family. She even helps us facilitate the creation of an action plan for when the end is near. Robin eloquently shares how care of the body is so important, but we must not forget about care for the spirit; that matters too.

We thought so highly of this book that Rabbi Newman and Roni Lang had the wisdom to highlight its messages in our October Schwartz Rounds on Oct. 10 with more than 60 people in attendance in the Noble Conference Room. There were tears, there was laughter and there was transformation!

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If you have a few moments to read this book you won't be sorry.

Physician Amy Berman says, "perhaps the most troubling issue palliative care faces is the public misperception that palliative care means giving up. This could not be further from the truth." Rather, palliative care, which includes the steps outlined in Chapter Six of the book, is a realized gateway to self-empowerment. Robin explains, "one that allows people to get down to the business of not simply existing but really living."

To Robin and Joe Kanarek, we thank you...

To David Bennett Kanarek, we honor you and we thank you for inspiring us!

Have a good month everyone,

Karen

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## CFO Gene Colucci retires



We honor Greenwich Hospital friend Gene Colucci, chief financial officer, who retired on Oct. 17 after 34 years of exceptional leadership. Gene served as senior vice president and chief financial officer at Greenwich and Bridgeport hospitals.

"Gene provided over 34 years of unwavering service, working tirelessly, and what appeared to be almost effortlessly, supporting facility plans, projects and new ventures," noted Karen Santucci, MD, chief medical officer. "He is the consummate CFO, gardener and family man. We owe him a debt of gratitude and will miss him dearly," she added.

Wishing Gene and his family every happiness  
– congratulations!

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## In the News\*

### First Robotic-Assisted Joint Replacement Performed at Greenwich Hospital

The first total knee replacement surgeries using robotic assistance recently took place at Greenwich Hospital, heralding a new era in personalized orthopedic care at the institution.

"The introduction of robotics in orthopedic surgery will ultimately benefit the quality of life of our patients by promoting early recovery and enhancing the functionality and longevity of the knee replacement," said Thomas Hickernell, MD, a GH orthopedic surgeon and assistant professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Yale School of Medicine, who was among the first to use this technology in August. "By providing the surgeon with an extra level of data during procedures, robotics has the potential to address many unanswered questions in orthopedics moving forward, and to start delivering improved patient outcomes now."

Added Francis Ennis, MD, with Orthopaedic & Neurosurgery Specialists (ONS), "This milestone highlights the rapidly changing field of orthopedic surgery, specifically robotic-assisted technology, which allows greater precision and improved patient outcomes. I'm excited about the potential this technology holds for the future of knee replacement surgery and look forward to the positive impact it will have on patients' lives."

While robotic-assisted surgery is not new, its increased use will lead to more personalized care because the robot helps surgeons navigate the unique anatomical features of the patient's knee joint. The robot's precision reduces errors, optimizes alignment and positioning of the prosthetic components, and helps to preserve healthy tissue for quicker recovery and reduced postoperative pain.

*\*Article appeared in The Greenwich Free Press, September 2023*

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## Register for the annual ONS Foundation conference on Nov. 18

All are invited to the 15th Annual ONSF Medical Education Conference "Advances in Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Medical Care." The free, one-day conference, to be held in Greenwich Hospital's Noble Conference Center on Saturday, Nov. 18, is designed to further enhance the education of medical professionals and is fully accredited.

Registration required at [www.onsf.org](http://www.onsf.org).

ONSF develops, validates, and disseminates advances in orthopedic and neurosurgery, clinical research, treatment of musculoskeletal disorders, rehabilitation protocols, and injury prevention to improve patient care on a broad scale.

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## New mentorship and community practice and outreach program kicks off with sunset cruise

Thanks to a generous donation from benefactor Scott Frantz, the Internal Medicine residency program has developed the Longitudinal Mentorship and Community Practice and Outreach Program. The donation was made in honor of James Brunetti, MD, for his devotion and commitment to graduate medical education. The new program is overseen by Drs. Brunetti, Ellika Mardh and Nathan Heller, and Stephanie Barnes, medical education coordinator.

For Graduate Medical Education (GME) to be socially accountable, graduates need experience in working collaboratively with communities, governments, health systems and the public to address health disparities and contribute to better meeting community needs.

The mission of this program is to align with Yale New Haven Health's commitment to significantly enhance the patient experience, the quality of care we deliver, our workforce and the communities we serve.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Develop mentorship relationships between medical staff and learners in graduate medical education, thereby enhancing resident and medical staff wellness through engagement.
- Inspire graduate medical education learners to consider community practice careers.
- Set a foundation for learners to develop an understanding of the community they serve and inspire lifelong habits of community outreach.
- To allow our learners to be future agents of change.

The program is designed to have medical staff each pair up with a second or third year resident to create mentorship relationships between residents and physicians practicing in the community. The mentor/mentee will meet in the attending's office at least quarterly to discuss topics such as running an office, achieving work/life balance and living and working in the local community. The attending physician and resident will jointly present a topic in different venues to colleagues, friends and the community.

Current program participants include medical staff members: Drs. James Brunetti, Alan Selkin, Maria Pavlis, Kunal Desai, Michael Canter, Jan Zislis and Michael Franco. House staff participants are Drs. Ryan Kelly, Matthew Pearl, Paras Patel, Hyun Park, Nikhita Shrimanker and Miguel Messarina.

The program kicked off with a special sunset cruise on Long Island Sound hosted by program donor Scott Frantz.



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## Adult Outpatient and Pediatric Center to move to new facility

The GH Outpatient Center and the Pediatric Clinic will move to a new location in November. All adult outpatient care, currently on the second floor of the main hospital, as well as the Pediatric Clinic, currently at 500 West Putnam, will move to a new facility at 75 Holly Hill Lane (behind 500 West Putnam). The new space greatly expands capacity allowing staff to meet more patients needs with 15 exam rooms for adults and five for pediatric patients.

This move is part of an on-going effort to move services that can exist outside of the hospital to offsite locations allowing more space for private inpatient rooms and other projects.



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## News from the GH Medical Staff DEI Council

### MLK Jr. Community Service Award program for area students underway

*Submitted by Spike Lipschutz, MD, member, Medical Staff DEI Council*

The Greenwich Hospital Medical Staff Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council recently launched the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award program. The council can continue this initiative thanks to the financial and spiritual support from the medical staff.

The award criteria this year are the same as the inaugural year – each applicant must have 30 hours of community service; two letters of reference from high school staff and one from a service organization at which the student volunteers; and a 300-word essay by the student, referencing information about Dr. King’s journey or values and how they influenced the student’s personal values. The program is open to all students in area public high schools: Greenwich High School; Stamford High School, as well as Westhill High School and the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering, also in Stamford; Port Chester (NY) High School; Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook, NY; and Rye (NY) High School.

Winning students receive a \$1,000 monetary award to spend at their discretion. The deadline for all materials to be submitted is Feb. 29, 2024.

Three area high school students from the inaugural program were recognized recently and members of the council presented their awards and recognized their achievements at their respective schools. The winning students have been invited to the November medical staff meeting to present their essays. Since the council is rolling out the program early in the school year, the council is hopeful for large participation this year.

The GH Medical Staff DE&I Council continues other activities as well, including the Leadership Development program and the Speakers Series which will kick off in January. New members are always welcome.

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## Matthew Bizzarro, MD, named CMO, YNHCH



Matthew Bizzarro, MD, has been named chief medical officer (CMO) at Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Bizzarro is also a professor of Pediatrics and the vice chair of Clinical Affairs for Pediatrics. He received his MD from Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School before completing residency

at New York University School of Medicine prior to coming to Yale School of Medicine as a postdoctoral fellow in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

As CMO at YNHCH, Dr. Bizzarro will play a pivotal role in shaping the strategic direction of the hospital’s clinical services, ensuring the highest standards of patient care, safety and clinical excellence. He will collaborate closely with the executive leadership team, department heads, and medical staff to drive innovation, advance research, and deliver outstanding healthcare outcomes for patients of the Children’s Hospital and Health System.

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## YNHHS acquires PhysicianOne

YNHHS CEO and President Chris O’Connor announced this month that Yale New Haven Health has fully acquired PhysicianOne Urgent Care and all of its locations, adding that it is an important component of the system’s growth strategy and commitment to expand access to high-quality services across the region.

For the past six years, the Health System has had a close clinical affiliation with PhysicianOne. During this time, YNHHS has helped provide their patients with access to our high-quality primary care clinicians and specialists. This type of continuity of care is essential to the health and wellbeing of our patients and the community.

PhysicianOne’s 26 locations across Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts will be integrated into the Health System as a wholly owned subsidiary of YNHHS, along with their clinicians and employees. Urgent care is an important part of the care continuum, and this acquisition bolsters the comprehensive range of health services that we offer, including our existing urgent care centers in Fairfield and Milford, NEMG walk-ins across Connecticut, and orthopedic walk-in centers in North Haven and Stamford.

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## Onsite flu vaccinations now available

Employee flu vaccinations are now available onsite at various YNHHS locations. Employee physicians and non-employed Licensed Independent Practitioners are reminded that receiving an annual flu vaccination, or having an approved medical or religious exemption, is a condition of employment. This year's deadline for vaccination or approved exemption is **Dec. 1, 2023**.

Employed physicians should schedule their flu shot by signing into Infor and selecting "Get Your Flu Vaccine" under the Employee Health section on the Infor landing page.

Non-employed Licensed Independent Practitioners, as well as volunteers, students, travelers and vendors, and may schedule an appointment through [ynhhs.org/GetVaccinated](https://ynhhs.org/GetVaccinated), or by visiting <https://fluvaccination.ynhh.org/>.

In addition to onsite locations, employees may choose to get vaccinated at their primary care physician's office or at a participating retail pharmacy. Those who are enrolled in the YNHHS Medical Plan will have their copay automatically waived if they get vaccinated after Sept. 1, 2023, at a retail pharmacy in the CVS Caremark vaccination network, such as CVS, Walgreens or Stop & Shop. Those who get vaccinated at a CVS MinuteClinic must present their Cigna card to have their copay waived.

If you receive your vaccination at your PCP or a participating pharmacy, you will need to upload your proof of vaccination on Employee Self Service.

*All related forms and instructions may be accessed from Infor by going to the Employee Health section, click on Flu Validation/Exemption (which brings you to Employee Self Service), then use the left-hand menu to access and/or download all forms.*

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## Save the date – Medical Staff Reception Nov. 21

All members of the medical staff are invited to meet our newest physicians at the annual Medical Staff Cocktail Reception on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 7 - 9 pm in the Greenwich Hospital's Noble Auditorium. For more information, contact Lisa Miceli at [lisa.miceli@greenwichhospital.org](mailto:lisa.miceli@greenwichhospital.org).

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## Next Trust Your Gut Digestive Health session – Nov. 16

YNHHS and Yale Medicine host 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.

Join Amit Khanna, MD, and Ira Leeds, MD, on Nov. 16 at 5 pm when they will discuss the Management of Intestinal Obstruction. Click here to register or visit the Yale CME portal at [yale.cloud-cme.com](http://yale.cloud-cme.com).

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. 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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## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the November 2023 issue of Medical Staff News is Friday, Oct. 27, 2023. Please submit items for consideration to Karen Santucci, MD, at [karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org](mailto:karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org) or Myra Stanley, at [myra.stanley@ynhh.org](mailto:myra.stanley@ynhh.org).

## MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES (September 2023)

### Appointees



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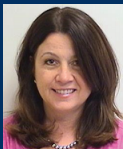
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## MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES (September 2023) *Continued from page 6*



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### Change in Status

**Gary Kalan, MD** (Anesthesiology) was granted a change from Active to Honorary Staff

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## **MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES (September 2023)** *Continued from page 7*

### **Resignations/Non-Renewal of Privileges**

**Brenon Abernathie, MD** (Surgery Plastics)

**Peter Acker, MD** (Pediatrics)

**Anthony Alleva, MD** (Medicine)

**Linda Arnold, MD** (Pediatrics Emergency Medicine)

**James Dodington, MD** (Pediatrics Emergency Medicine)

**Gregory Farenga, PA** (Orthopaedics)

**Andrea Lee, PA** (Medicine)

**Kathryn McVicar, MD** (Pediatrics Neurology)

**Gerald Portman, MD** (Surgery Urology)

**James Sabetta, MD** (Medicine Infectious Disease)

**Monisha Sachdev, MD** (Pediatrics Emergency Medicine)

**Rafael Sanchez, MD** (Orthopaedics Fellow)

**Alexander Strassman, DO** (Orthopaedics Fellow)

**Sharon Stroll, DO** (Medicine Neurology)

**Prisca Takundwa, MD** (Pediatrics)