

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | November 2022

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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

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Christopher Howes, MD

Diane Kelly, DNP, RN

Neda Khaghan, MD

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From the desk of the CMO

November Updates

Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Hoping you are all well.

I would like to share with you several Greenwich Hospital updates:

- The Employee Service Award Dinner was Nov. 9. Congratulations to our two Marian Nowak Award honorees, Gene Colucci and Diane Saul, for 2022 and 2021 respectively, as well as to all those recognized for their many years of service!
- Members of the GH Medical Staff attended the Crystal Ball on Nov. 12. This was an outstanding event highlighting the work of the Fairfield County Chapter of The Links, Inc., an organization dedicated to addressing the underserved communities in Fairfield County. We were honored to join Drs. Romelle Maloney and Cassandra Tribble, and Board Member Sheryl Battles. I am thinking we should have a section in our *Medical Staff News* soon dedicated to The Links, Inc., which is one of our nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations (established 1946). It is committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African-Americans and other persons of African ancestry.
- Medical Staff elections were held on Nov. 15. New Medical Staff Officers as of Jan. 1, 2023:
 - Chief of Staff – Mark Chrostowski, MD
 - Assistant Chief of Staff – Erez Salik, MD
 - Secretary – Scott Kramer, MD
 - Treasurer – Paul B. Sygall, MD
- New Physicians Reception was Nov. 15 – Welcome to Greenwich Hospital!
- We recognized Gail Wallace for her pending retirement this month. Gail officially retires on Dec. 16. Wishing you the very best, Gail!
- **Restructuring Risk Management, PPEC and Department Quality Committees (Peer Review):** Triggers and Pediatrics (possibly forming a “DQC” and now representation on PPEC).
- **DQC (Department Quality Committee)** survey completed by Dr. Nidhi Shah and Theresa Conciatori. Dr. Shah presented at the Nov. 10 MEC (shared an understanding of what leadership does now for Departmental Peer Review and Quality).

- **DNOR (Delivery Network Operating Report)**
Update: Clinical Pathways – over 350 pathways are now available.
- **OPPE/FPPE (follow-up):** Theresa Zinck-Lederer, executive director Medical Staff Services, has offered to speak the MEC meeting in December or January on both topics.
- **Clinical Observer (follow up):** Since our last MEC, we have engaged with Stacey Green who updated us on advances in Volunteer Services/the Auxiliary. Stacey and I worked on developing a program for students in the summer that would provide a structure for students to get exposure to the hospital and get some hands-on experience. The proposal is under review. It would be a Greenwich Hospital/YNHHS program complying with the specifics of the Clinical Observer Policy reviewed last month.
- **Respiratory Viruses:** This winter promises to be a difficult one between COVID, Influenza and RSV. Yale New Haven Children's Hospital has had to convert units to Pediatric specific units to accommodate the increase in RSV admissions: children are admitted with respiratory distress and hypoxia and the most at risk are infants less than 6 months (and adults over 65 years old, also). Please get your flu vaccine (mandatory by Dec. 1). Influenza A is already among us.
- **Consults:** A concern was brought to the attention of medical staff leadership related to a specialist on call not receiving consults while he/she was on call (but rather another physician in the same specialty was called). An in-depth review was performed during the time frame in question and was reported out in the November Department of Medicine Peer Review Chair's Report. This concern could not be substantiated.
- **Handoffs/Doing Physical Exams/Time Outs/ Compliance/Corporate Objectives:** We continue to identify opportunities for improvement related to appropriate and thoughtful handoffs and time outs. Especially concerning appears to be a trend in less-than-optimal physical exams and appropriate documentation, particularly when there is a change in status in a patient. PPEC will be following this and providing timely feedback to support our medical staff and our patients.
- **PPEC (Professional Practice Evaluation Committee)/Surgical Governance Committee:** Dr. Nidhi Shah presented an overview of the refresh and progress of our new Greenwich Hospital PPEC.
- **SERC (Significant Event Review Committee for Greenwich Hospital):** Dr. Kirsten Lawrence presented an update at a System Quality and Safety Meeting
- **Practitioner Concerns:** The October edition of *Medical Staff News* provided an update and summary on HAVEN (Health Assistance InterVention Education Network).
- **Infusions at Long Ridge/Informed Consent:** During a mock survey, we were cited for not having proof of informed consents for infusions (biologics) at Long Ridge. We obtained a list of the infusions (thank you Jim Duffy) and met with Kathleen Cody and Jessie Riemer from Accreditation/Licensure and Regulatory to develop the SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Response/Recommendation) below.

Greenwich Hospital Consent for Infusion SBAR 11/7/22

S: Some of our patients may be receiving continuous infusions (biologics) without evidence of a Consent for the Infusion being documented in the medical record.

B: It is a Joint Commission Requirement that patients receiving an infusion be appropriately consented.

A: After review of our Consent for Procedures and Treatment Policy and the Joint Commission recommendation we found an opportunity for improvement to obtain consent for all infusions outlined in the Greenwich Hospital Medical Staff Policy: Surgery and Other Procedures Requiring Informed Consent both at the main campus for Greenwich Hospital and at our outpatient sites (Holly Hill, Bendheim, West Putnam and Long Ridge)

Serious Safety Event/DPH Reportable/Medical Staff Professionalism Trends

- **AMAH (Airway Management After Hours)**
Initiative: The Respiratory Therapy team (led by Gabby Sandaire) will once again have the opportunity to train in the OR and refresh their intubation technique (thank you to RT, Anesthesia and the OR team).
- **TART (Threatened Airway Response Team):** We are working to make sure we have appropriate responses and resources available.

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R: The expectation is for our providers (Responsible Practitioner in the attached policy) to obtain Informed Consent for all continuous infusions and have it documented in the medical record. The Consent will be considered active for one year and after that time the process will need to be repeated if the infusion is to be continued. If there is a change in treatment, a new consent must be obtained.

President's Report: Town Hall meetings have begun. They are initially focusing on the Employee Engagement Survey results and the areas on which hospital leadership should focus efforts. Employee/Staff Safety rose to the TOP!

Sincerely,

Karen

GH Awarded 'A' Hospital Safety Grade from Leapfrog Group

Greenwich Hospital received an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national distinction that celebrates GH's achievements in protecting hospital patients from preventable harm and errors.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization with a 10-year history of assigning letter grades to general hospitals throughout the United States, based on a hospital's ability to prevent medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and harm to patients.

Greenwich Hospital's rating improved to an A rating for this fall compared to a "C" in the spring earlier this year.

Congratulations Greenwich Hospital! To see GH's full grade details, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

Epic Upgrade

ITS announced that the next Epic upgrade will be live on Sunday, Dec. 4. Please take advantage of various resources to best prepare for the changes. The Epic Training Portal is located at epic.ynhh.org where you can navigate to the Epic Upgrade page to learn more about key changes and access the full upgrade slides for all users. You may navigate directly to the Epic Upgrade page or <https://epic.ynhh.org/pages/upgrade.aspx>.

GH Board welcomes new members

The Greenwich Hospital Board of Trustees recently elected five new members at its annual meeting this fall. New Board members are Nancy Brown, MD, dean, Yale School of Medicine; Robert F. Carangelo, partner, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP; Leslie Dahl, former managing director, Lone Pine Capita LLC; Carlos M. Hernandez, executive chair of investment and corporate banking, JP Morgan Chase; and Pam Sutton-Wallace, chief operating officer, Yale New Haven Health.

Congratulations Dr. Santucci!

The YWCA Greenwich named Chief Medical Officer Karen Santucci, MD, as one of their 2022 Women Who Inspire honorees. The award, presented earlier this month, celebrates women who have made an impact through professional and philanthropic achievements and serve as role models in the community.



Smilow Shares with Primary Care: Anemia – Dec. 6

Tune in for the upcoming *Smilow Shares with Primary Care: Anemia* webinar on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 5 pm. The event will include presentations by Robert Bona, MD; Frank Ciminiello, MD; Anna Kress, MD; and Kelsey Martin, MD.

Smilow Shares with Primary Care is a monthly educational series for physicians, patients and the Greenwich community presented via Zoom. Presentations are subject-focused and hosted by experts from Smilow Care Centers around the state as well as from Greenwich Hospital. CME credits are available.

No registration necessary. Tune on via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3QZgkzv>. With questions, contact Heather Studwell at 475-240-8328 or heatherleigh.studwell@greenwichhospital.org.

News from the GH Medical Staff DEI Council

*Submitted by Cassandra Tribble, MD, co-chair,
Medical Staff DEI Council*

The importance of dreaming big – introducing the Martin Luther King Jr., Scholarship

It is with a great sense of pride and purpose that as a member of our Medical Staff Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council (DEI-MS) at Greenwich Hospital, I can participate in the development and initiative of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Awards at Greenwich Hospital. These awards have been presented at Yale New Haven Hospital to high school students for many years. Spike Lipschutz, MD, brought it to our attention, and we immediately wished to bring these awards to our community. Also, I felt personally obliged to bring the MLK Jr. awards to fruition in our community appreciating the potential impact on many levels.

Allow me to share that I was one of the first recipients of the Rosa Parks Scholarship as a graduating high school student in my hometown. My mother gave me an article from the *Detroit News* announcing this \$2,500 scholarship. I had to write an essay stating what Rosa Parks and her Civil Rights cause had meant to me – the deadline was the following day! I recall how I stayed up that night, pondering and expressing what she stood for and how I had profound appreciation for her as a woman and civil rights activist. It was that evening, when I realized that I had the ability to create my own opportunities. Opportunities evolved as I actively shared my goals and dreams not knowing who was listening, would help, and support me.

This scholarship changed the trajectory of my life. I was originally going to attend the more affordable in-town state university, but my hope and desire was to participate in the BS-MD program at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Knowing my true goal, my mother gave me \$100 and a one-way bus ticket to Washington, D.C., and I arrived on the last day for class registration. I learned of winning the Rosa Parks scholarship after a couple of weeks at Howard University. It financed my first semester and I was able to secure academic scholarships thereafter.

The importance of knowing and appreciating the sacrifices of those who came before you cannot be over emphasized. My concern is that Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will become just another day to extend a long weekend for

personal enjoyment without appreciating what it truly represents and what it took to make it a holiday.

Again, I can extrapolate from personal experiences what a huge effort it was to make King's birthday a holiday. As a teenager, I recall attending a Stevie Wonder concert and the final song was "Happy Birthday." Everyone continued to sing that song with our lighters flickering as we walked to our cars. That was an impactful and powerful moment, and the words of that song remain meaningful.

If you dream does not seem insurmountable, and you think you can achieve it alone, then you are not dreaming big enough! Martin Luther King Jr. exemplifies what it means to dream big, to sacrifice for one's dream, and to gather masses of people in pursuit of a shared truth and vision. How do we continue to shine light on and keep the dream of MLK Jr. alive?

Giving local high school students the opportunity to win a monetary award for their community service and reflecting on what MLK Jr. means to them is a purposeful way to give back. The more applicants for the awards, the more alive the MLK Jr. dream will persist within young people. We hope to present \$1,000 scholarships to public high school students in Greenwich and Stamford, CT and Port Chester, New York. (More information on the scholarship program to be announced.)

Save the date: Dec. 15 – next Trust Your Gut Digestive Health session

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.

Tune in for the next session on Thursday, Dec. 15 for a presentation on *Intestinal Stomas: A Primer for PCPs*.

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.cloud-cme.com. For questions, contact Joe Mendes, executive director, Clinical Program Development, Digestive Health at joseph.mendes@ynhh.org.

YNHHS' virtual food drive underway

Food insecurity has always been a problem for people in our communities, but the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising inflation have meant that even fewer people can afford enough food to feed themselves and their families.

In response, YNHHS will hold its third online food drive, at <https://ynhhs.org/givehealthy>, through Jan. 14, 2023. Medical staff, employees and departments are invited to support hunger-relief organizations in the communities YNHHS serves.

The drive is being conducted through #GiveHealthy, an organization that provides an online platform for hunger-relief organizations to set up "registries" listing items they need. Because the food will ship from suppliers directly to hunger-relief organizations, you will be able to purchase healthy food items, including fresh produce. Over 41,700 pounds of food were donated during the health system's first two drives.

For more information, visit YNHHS' GiveHealthy site, or contact Augusta Mueller, augusta.mueller@ynhh.org or 203-688-3862.

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the December 2022 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Monday, Nov. 28, 2022. Please submit items for consideration to Karen Santucci, MD, at karen.santucci@greenwichhospital.org or Myra Stanley, YNHHS at 203-688-1531 or myra.stanley@ynhh.org.

Next Building Against Burnout webinars Dec. 1 and 8

Join us for the Building against Burnout a webinar series highlighting timesaving topics in Epic. Tune in for two sessions in December that will highlight upgrades in Epic. On Thursday, Dec. 1 at 12:15 pm, the topic will be *It's that time again! What you need to know for the next upgrade* (coming on Dec. 4); and the following week on Thursday, Dec. 8, for *Upgrade Highlights* also at 12:15 pm.

The session is led by trained, certified physicians and APPs. There will be an opportunity for questions after the session. CME credits are available. The webinar will be recorded and hosted on the Medical Staff Portal (ynhhconnect.org) for those who cannot attend. CME will be available. With questions, contact allen.hsiao@ynhh.org.

Join via Zoom at
<https://ynhh.zoom.us/j/99989327872?pwd=RFF4UHo4T0dlNGdzZURSTUp4YXppUT09>
Passcode: 180124

MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES (October 2022)

Appointees



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Change in Status

Anate Brauer, MD (Obstetrics & Gynecology) was granted a change in status from Active to Courtesy Medical Staff

Jerome Brodlie, PhD (Psychology) was granted a change in status from Active to Honorary Medical Staff

Peter Liebert, MD (Surgery) was granted a change in status from Active to Honorary Medical Staff

Spike Lipschutz, MD (Medicine) was granted a change in status from Active to Honorary Medical Staff

Resignations/Non-Renewal of Privileges

Ernest Retland, MD
(Medicine)

Office Move

William Weber, MD
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