

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | December 2021

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Hospital

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Amir Garakani, MD

Steven E. Hindman, MD

Christopher Howes, MD

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Diane Kelly, DNP, RN

Spike Lipschutz, MD

Romelle Maloney, MD

Bruce A. McGibbon, MD

Elizabeth Molinelli, MD

Athanasios Petrotos, MD

Kisha Mitchell Richards, MD

Erez Salik, MD

Steven Schiz, MD

Paul B. Sygall, MD

Alfonso Tagliavia, MD

Sandra Wainwright, MD

Barbara Ward, MD

Felice R. Zwas, MD



From the desk of the CMO

Happy Holidays to all!

Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer

It's a couple of weeks before Christmas and we've spent a lot of time in the **house**,

Haven't seen much of our children or even a **spouse**!

All our PPE is hung by the nurses' station with **care**,

In hopes that the variant, Omicron, won't find its way **here**.

Our patients are nestled all snug in their **beds**,

While visions of mask-free holidays dance in our **heads**.

Anna Cerra with her Magnet and Kisha Mitchell Richards with a Covid testing **tent**,
Spike said stop in his office anytime to promote wellness...or just to **vent**.

When down in the ED near Richard Connors, there arose such a **clatter**,
Chris Davison ran from his office with Gavin McLeod to see what was the **matter**!

Thanos Petrotos, Paul Waters and Akli Zetchi went to the ED in a **flash**!
Neda Khaghan and Lisa Henderson tore open the curtain and saw such a **gash**!

They notified Al Tagliavia and David Greenspun that to the OR they must **go**,
And Dhara Soni and Paul Sygall were awaiting, and interestingly said, "Bring it on **bro**!"

When, what to Alice Rusk's, Cathy Alonzo's, Bruce McGibbon's and Amir Garakani's
wondering eyes would **appear**?
But, Felice Zwas, Chris Howes and Mark Chrostowski who collegially said, "do you need
any help over **here**?"

Then out of nowhere came Chris Fey, Linda Grant, Steve Hindman, Marianne Monahan
and Erez Salik so lively and **quick**,
And then, Sung Lee, Steve Schiz, Suresh Mondava, Paul Apostolides, Tom Pellechi and Patti
Yacavone who said, "this patient must be **sick**!"

Gail Wallace, Patti Stegmann and Mary Lou Romano said, "we're not physicians but even
we recognize he's in **trouble**!"

Ellika Mardh, Khalil Hussein and Chuck Seelig mobilized house staff on the **double**!

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Diane Kelly, Di O'Marra, Jessica Lake and Marc Kosak said, "did you notify **Santucci**?"

The team said "No, not yet – she's in a budget meeting with Gene **Colucci**!"

From the ED to the OR, to the PACU, to the ICU, to the mall with Aime **Ball**???

For God's sake it's almost Christmas we've been so busy... maybe Amazon we can **call**?

Herb Archer, Alex DelVecchio, Richard Brauer and Mike Franco offered all of their **assistance**,

And because folks were so tired and listened to Judith Goldberg-Berman, they put up absolutely no **resistance**!

Then, from the patient's room, Shruti Gupta saw an unmistakable glow like nothing we had ever **known**, Rabbi Newman's and Morgan Bain's eyes opened wide and they let out an audible **moan**.

Drs. Lawrence, Sharma and Molinelli said, "You guys did a hell of a job and fought such an honorable **fight**!"

Sandra Wainwright, Steve Hindman and Barbara Ward evaluated him and said, "he is stable and resting comfortably now!"

Happy Holidays to all and to all a good night!

God Bless You,

Karen

Save the date: final Trust Your Gut Digestive Health session Dec. 16

YNHHS and Yale Medicine's free, monthly virtual Digestive Health CME series, Trust Your Gut, will host the final session of the yearlong series on Dec. 16. The series was designed to provide world-class digestive health educational programming, professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers.

Tune in on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 5 pm, when the topic will be hernias. 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, email cme@yale.edu. For questions, contact Joe Mendes, executive director, Clinical Program Development, Digestive Health, at joseph.mendes@ynhh.org.

GH physicians among Westchester County's "Top Doctors"

Twenty-two physicians affiliated with Greenwich Hospital were selected for Westchester Magazine's 2021 Top Doctors in Westchester County list. "We are fortunate to have talented and compassionate physicians who deliver the highest level of care to residents of Westchester County and beyond," said Diane Kelly, DNP, RN, president. "Fifty-three percent of our inpatients come from New York and many use our outpatient facility in Rye Brook, NY."

The full list of 862 physicians can be found in the November 2021 issue of Westchester Magazine.

Congratulations to the GH physicians recognized:

David Amstel, MD – Cardiovascular Disease

Diana Arevalo, MD – Internal Medicine

Judd Boczko, MD – Urology

Barbara Coven, MD – Pediatrics

Ranjan DasGupta, MD – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Tania Dempsey, MD – Internal Medicine

Gail Fennell, MD – Internal Medicine

Jonathan Finegold, MD – Gastroenterology

Amanda Ganem, MD – Cardiovascular Disease

Diana Goldenberg, MD – Rheumatology

Vanessa Grano, MD – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Alexis Jackman, MD – Otolaryngology

Jennifer Johnson, MD – Family Medicine

Martin Keltz, MD – Reproductive Endocrinology

Natasha Khosla, MD – Pediatrics

Evan Krakovitz, MD – Colon and Rectal Surgery

Aleksandr Levchenko, DO – Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Janel L'Ofcial, MD – Family Medicine

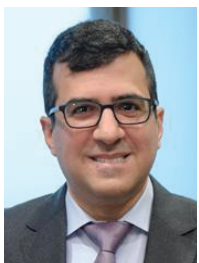
Daniel Lorch, MD – Cardiovascular Disease

Franklin Loria, MD – Internal Medicine

Alan Schrager, MD – Urology

Seema Sharma, MD – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Amir Garakani, MD, named chair for Psychiatry and Behavioral Health



Greenwich Hospital has appointed Yale Medicine physician Amir Garakani, MD, as chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health as the hospital seeks to expand its mental health services to help meet growing demand within the communities it serves.

Board-certified in psychiatry, forensic psychiatry and addiction medicine, Dr. Garakani's experience spans both research and clinical. Prior to joining Greenwich Hospital last spring, Dr. Garakani was director of Education and an attending staff psychiatrist in the Transitional Living Program at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, CT.

Following medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, Dr. Garakani completed a psychiatry residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York and a research fellowship at its Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program. He also completed a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at New York University Medical Center and participated in National Institute of Mental Health-funded research.

In partnership with Yale Psychiatry, GH's behavioral health team of psychiatrists and psychologists evaluate and treat individuals who experience depression, anxiety and other psychological and psychiatric conditions.

News from the GH Medical Staff DEI Council

Following is a note from the Outpatient Center at Greenwich Hospital

The holiday season is a good time to pause, reflect and show appreciation. The staff at the Outpatient Center of Greenwich Hospital would like to take a moment to express immense gratitude to all GH Medical Staff who generously provide care for our diverse patient population - you are making a huge difference in our patients' lives.

In 1914 Commodore Elias C. Benedict, a Greenwich resident, offered financing to erect a hospital building on Perryridge Road. His words are powerful:

"When I promised to contribute to this building, there were many of my friends who desired to have it called the Benedict Hospital. I protested at once, and still do so. This is not my hospital, nor any other person's hospital. It is everybody's hospital, particularly the poor, who must not hesitate at any future time to claim its services." – Commodore Benedict

The Outpatient Center at Greenwich Hospital serves the primary, fundamental mission of providing care to the underserved in the Greenwich community. In addition, the Outpatient Center also functions as the principal vehicle to train medical residents in providing primary care and coordinating health services for the community's most economically disadvantaged patients. For many patients, the Outpatient Center is the only way to get access to high-quality healthcare services.

The Outpatient Center services more than 7,300 patient visits a year. About 50 percent of the center's patients use Medicaid, 25 percent are uninsured and 15 percent use Medicare. About half of the center's patients are Hispanic and approximately 12 percent each are African-American and Asian-American. Patients have expressed appreciation for the care they received through the Press Ganey surveys.

Primary Care is provided by our Internal Medicine House staff, under the supervision of our five full-time faculty – Drs. Mardh, Seelig, Phanumas, Hussein and Hewlett who also supervise Yale medical students. Our patients have access to ancillary services from nutrition to physical therapy. Our team also offers patient education and community outreach and participates in Yale-sponsored research. In addition, the center provides more than 20 specialty services, from Allergy to Vascular Surgery.

The Outpatient Center is extremely grateful to all Medical Staff who give their time and take extraordinary care of patients and the underserved in our community.

Please reach out to Ellika Mardh, MD, medical director, Outpatient Center, at ellika.mardh@greenwichhospital.org with any questions or suggestions.

Philip McWhorter, MD, longtime chief of surgery, retires



Philip J. McWhorter, MD, who began his career at Greenwich Hospital in 1977, retired at the end of November after more than four decades as a surgeon, leader and mentor.

Dr. McWhorter began his 44-year medical career in July 1977 as an attending surgeon, became chief of surgery in the 1990s and remained in that role until his retirement. Throughout his career, he served on nearly every medical and administrative committee, including appointments as the chief of the medical staff and on the hospital's Board of Trustees.

Dr. McWhorter graduated from Cornell University Medical College in 1973 and completed his surgical residency and fellowship at New York Hospital and Memorial-Sloan Kettering. In 2019, Dr. McWhorter received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Doctors of Distinction ceremony for his devotion to

providing quality patient care and mentoring the next generation of surgeons, including his son, Peter McWhorter, MD, a colorectal surgeon at Greenwich Hospital.

McWhorter lives in Greenwich with his wife of 55 years and the couple has three children and six grandchildren.

THE WELLNESS CORNER

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

Three actions that may improve your wellbeing

Healthcare providers are facing extremely challenging times. While we cannot change our healthcare system overnight, there are some actions we can take that are likely to make a difference in our own and others' wellbeing and professional fulfillment.

Write down the good things that happen each day.

Good evidence supports simply writing down three things (if you can think of only two, that is great also) for which you are grateful that happened in your day. Before you poo-poo this suggestion, there is lots of published information on this action. If three things is too overwhelming, try committing to doing it two or three times a week.

Send a note of gratitude to someone you really appreciate or someone that is meaningful in your work or personal life. You might be surprised at how good you feel when you put the reasons you are grateful into words. It will definitely have a positive impact on those receiving the message, so it can work in both directions.

Take a Break. Yes, it is possible to give yourself a break in your incredibly busy day. If it's only to take time out to think of a family member you miss or who makes you smile, or a place (vacation spot, cabin retreat) that you know slows you down, allow your imagination to get you there. If you feel like you do not have the time, make the time.

Look for more wellness tips in the next Wellness Corner.

Medical staff members celebrating milestones invited to pick up certificates

As previously announced, the in-person medical staff recognition brunch honoring milestone years of service was canceled due to concerns related to COVID-19. Medical staff members who reached 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 50 years of service during 2020 or 2021 should pick up their certificate and gift in the Mianus Conference Room between Monday, Dec. 20 and Thursday, Dec. 23, from 8 am to 4 pm. The Mianus Conference Room is located on the ground floor of the Watson Pavilion, Room G-1100, down the corridor from the Physician Lounge.

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the January 2021 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021. 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.

Medical Staff Changes (November 2021)

Appointees



Heather Collette, MD
(Pediatrics)
Greenwich Hospital – Pediatric Hospitalists
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
Mobile Heartbeat: 952 200 9418



David DiCaprio, DO
(Gastroenterology)
WESTMED Medical Group
Ridge Hill – 73 Market St.
Yonkers, NY 10710
Phone: 914 831 6820
Fax: 914 831 6821



Jonathan Fuchs, MD
(Pediatric Gastroenterology)
Pediatric Specialty Center
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Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone: 877-925 3637
Fax: 203-622-6989



Larisa Gillern, PA
(Surgery)
Greenwich Hospital
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
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Fax: 203-863-3544



Shkala Karzai, MD
(Surgery)
Westmed Medical Group
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Rye, NY 10580
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Fax: 914-848-8965



Sundes Kazmir, MD
(Pediatrics)
Greenwich Hospital – Pediatric Hospitalists
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Mobile Heartbeat: 203 361-8182



Angela Kelly, PA
(Orthopedics)
Orthopaedic & Neurosurgery Specialists
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Greenwich, CT 06831
Phone: 203 869 1145
Fax: 203 869 2170



Robert Koch, MD
(Plastic Surgery)
Brain and Spine Surgeons of New York
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Craig Mochson, MD
(Emergency Medicine)
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Neil Panchal, DO
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Melissa Posner, MD
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Praveen Reddy, MD
(Medicine)
Greenwich IM Hospitalist Services –
Northeast Medical Group
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Greenwich, CT 06830
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Alyssa Schunk, DO
(Pediatrics)
Sound Beach Pediatrics
2001 West Main St.
Stamford, CT 06902
Phone: 203-363-0123
Fax: 475-619 9855



David Vermette, MD
(Pediatrics)
Greenwich Hospital – Pediatric Hospitalists
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
Mobile Heartbeat: 203-584-5743

Resignation/Non-Renewal of Privileges

Joseph Bauer, MD Podiatry

Kathleen Fogarty, MD Pediatrics

Brittany Katz, APRN – Medicine

Jay Levat, MD – Medicine

Steven Millmond, MD Radiology

Steven AR Murphy, MD – Medicine

Joseph Sproviero, MD – Allergy & Immunology

Change in Status

Loretta Cody, MD (Pediatrics) was granted a change of status from Active to Honorary Medical Staff