

# Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Greenwich Hospital | December 2022

Yale  
NewHaven  
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

## Medical Executive Committee

Chair

Christopher Howes, MD

Herbert M. Archer, MD

Michael S. Canter, MD

Anna Cerra, DNP, MSN, MS

Mark Chrostowski, MD

Christopher M. Davison, MD

Amir Garakani, MD

Christopher Howes, MD

Diane Kelly, DNP, RN

Neda Khaghan, MD

Marc Kosak

Romelle Maloney, MD

Bruce A. McGibbon, MD

Elizabeth Molinelli, MD

Kisha Mitchell Richards, MD

Erez Salik, MD

Steven Schiz, MD

Paul B. Sygall, MD

Alfonso Tagliavia, MD

Cassandra Tribble, MD

Mark A. Vitale, MD

Sandra Wainwright, MD

Barbara Ward, MD

Felice R. Zwas, MD



From the desk of the CMO

## What color is the blood of a horseshoe crab?

*Karen Santucci, MD, Chief Medical Officer*

Dear Mighty Team,

I was recently in a conversation with an older couple who had retired several years earlier. As lifelong learners, they shared how they were really enjoying lectures at the aquarium near their residence in Florida. With great enthusiasm, they asked me if I knew the color of a horseshoe crab's blood. I figured it likely was not red and said I didn't know the answer. With what seemed like sheer delight, they squealed that it is bright blue! Then they further stressed me out by asking if I knew why it is blue. I thought maybe it could be something related to methemoglobinemia. Well, no... It is apparently because the horseshoe crab's blood contains copper. By the way, the copper-based respiratory pigment is hemocyanin. Not only that, but there is something very remarkable about this blue blood. It contains important immune cells that are exceptionally sensitive to toxic bacteria. When these cells encounter invading bacteria they clot around it and protect the rest of the horseshoe crab's body from toxins. This is LAL (Limulus Amebocyte Lysate) which is copper-based. The retired couple did not tell me this part...I had to look it up because I am a bit obsessive compulsive and needed to know! The LAL is extracted and freeze dried into a powder that can be used to detect bacterial toxins. The use of LAL in horseshoe crab blood was first discovered by medical researcher Frederick Bang, MD.

It turns out that horseshoe crab blue blood sells for \$60,000 a gallon and folks draw about a third of the crab's circulating blood from the body and then return the crab back to the sea and as far as we know these anemic critters do pretty well. How is it possible that all these years I knew nothing about this!?

Listen to this! This blue blood has an immense impact on the medical field and has even played a part in the COVID-19 vaccination efforts. The blood is used to ensure medical equipment and other tools are in fact sterile. I found out that the blue blood is used to check the safety of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, prosthetics and other tools used in the medical field. The blood was even used to help create the COVID-19 vaccine made available in 2021. Horseshoe crabs are playing a big role in guaranteeing that millions of lives are saved through vaccination.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

Okay, so how do we tie this into our *Medical Staff News* and a 2022 Holiday Message? Well, literally “blue blood” means aristocrat, which comes from the Greek word *aristokratia* (how about that Thanos!) which itself comes from the root words “*aristos*” meaning *best* and “*kratos*” meaning *rule*. So to our Greenwich Hospital blue bloods... you are the best! For all that you do, for all of your efforts, for all your acts of kindness and heroism each and every day, may you and your loved ones have the most wonderful holiday season and wishing you the very best for 2023!

So sincerely,

Karen

---

## New test, Care Signature Pathways yield “monumental change” in heart attack diagnosis

YNHHS has launched a new test, called “high-sensitivity troponin assay,” along with Care Signature Pathways that help clinicians more accurately and quickly rule out heart attacks.

Check out a **video** on how YNHHS launched the test across the health system.

The troponin protein in the heart muscles doesn’t show up in the blood unless those muscles are damaged, as with a heart attack. YNHHS hospitals previously used a conventional troponin assay that could take up to 12 hours to show heart muscle damage. Patients would stay in the Emergency Department or be admitted to an inpatient unit while awaiting results. They might also undergo additional diagnostic procedures, such as electrocardiograms or stress tests.

The new high-sensitivity troponin assay is conducted shortly after a patient’s ED arrival, then at one hour and three hours.

If there’s no evidence of heart muscle damage, patients can be sent home. If results indicate a heart attack, they can receive the treatments they need quickly.

YNHHS has developed more than 350 Care Signature Pathways for different clinical conditions. These pathways act as a kind of GPS, recommending steps clinicians can take to diagnose, treat and monitor patients.

Stay tuned for future communications about how Care Signature Pathways are transforming care at YNHHS.

---

## New technology tool launched to improve quality of queries to clinicians

YNHHS’ clinical documentation improvement (CDI) program works with you to ensure that our documentation reflects the complexity and quality of care being provided. The CDI program, in close collaboration with Quality, Care Signature, and ITS, has identified a new technology tool, called *Iodine Interact*, to enhance the quality of queries being sent to clinicians, and make it easier for clinicians to respond to these queries.

Iodine Interact was originally developed as part of Johns Hopkins’ Joy in Medicine program and is geared to making it as easy as possible for busy clinicians to answer queries through Epic, on a smartphone or via a web-based tool.

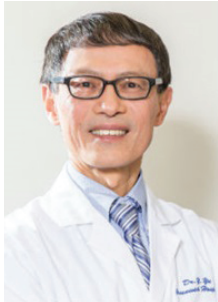
Starting this month, the way you receive clinical documentation queries will change slightly. In summary:

- You may continue to answer queries through Epic, but queries will be visible via the Interact button on the Epic toolbar. You will no longer have to answer queries through the crowded Epic Inbasket.
- The Interact app will be pushed out to YNHHS-managed devices, and those with personal devices will be able to download the Interact app and log-in using your regular Epic login. Our CDI teams will provide logistical support when they send you a query after the new workflow system goes live.
- You will have an option to answer queries securely on the web, using your Epic login.

The CDI team will support you in this transition when they send you queries and will be sharing additional details at group, departmental and section meetings. This is intended to be a supportive, phased process that is easy to learn and reduces clinician burden.

See the System Transformation Update email (dated Nov. 29, 2022) from Thomas Balczak, MD, YNHHS chief clinical officer, for more information and a list of frequently asked questions. Specific questions may be directed to Leif Laframboise at [leif.laframboise@ynhh.org](mailto:leif.laframboise@ynhh.org).

## Newsmaker



### Yi-Hao Yu, MD, section head of Endocrinology

Yi-Hao Yu, MD, has been named section head of Endocrinology. Dr. Yu has been a member of the medical staff since 2011. Dr. Yu replaces Judith Goldberg-Berman, MD, in this role. Dr. Goldberg-Berman will continue to be a referring staff member of the GH section of Endocrinology.

## First cohort of new Leadership Development program begins next month

Register now!

YaleNewHavenHealth  
Greenwich Hospital

The Medical Staff Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council, in partnership with the YNHHS Institute for Excellence, announces the

### Medical Staff DEI Leadership Development Program



This one-year program for medical staff members is designed to develop leadership skills that will build trust among patients and colleagues and strengthen collaboration in order to enhance a culture of diversity and inclusion.

Course objectives	Program structure/requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To reaffirm a commitment to bring one's best self to work and to the disciplines of self-care</li><li>- Understand how to create psychological safety for patients and colleagues</li><li>- Improve communication skills and learn to be an "interrupter" who advocates for patients about culturally sensitive issues</li><li>- Learn fundamentals of effective leadership to increase impact and influence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Approximately four hours of pre-course work via LinkedIn Learning (subscription provided). Pre-course work begins Jan. 2023.</li><li>- Quarterly 90-minute virtual learning sessions focusing on how best to improve experiences for diverse patients and team members, scheduled for March 14, June 13, Sept. 12, 2023; 6:30 - 8 pm.</li><li>- Ten hours of Crucial Conversations training, scheduled for Oct. 10, 17, 24 and Nov. 4, 2023; 6:30 - 9 pm.</li></ul>

Registration is on a rolling basis.  
To register, contact [ellika.mardh@greenwichhospital.org](mailto:ellika.mardh@greenwichhospital.org) or [juliet.mush@greenwichhospital.org](mailto:juliet.mush@greenwichhospital.org).

## There is still time to donate to YNHHS' virtual food drive

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

The drive is 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](mailto:augusta.mueller@ynhh.org) or 203-688-3862.

## Save the date: Jan. 19 – 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, Jan. 19 (topic to be announced).

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](http://yale.cloud-cme.com). For questions, contact Joe Mendes, executive director, Clinical Program Development, Digestive Health at [joseph.mendes@ynhh.org](mailto:joseph.mendes@ynhh.org).

---

## Smilow Shares with Primary Care: Anemia – Feb. 7

Tune in for the next Smilow Shares with Primary Care: Gastrointestinal Cancers webinar on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 5 pm. The event will include presentations by Beth Allard, MD; Amit Khanna, MD; Pamela Kunz, MD; Justin Persico, MD; and Scott Thornton, 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](mailto:heatherleigh.studwell@greenwichhospital.org).

---

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the January 2022 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Wednesday, December 28, 2022. 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 (November 2022)

### Appointees



**Carlos Davila MD**  
(Cardiology)  
Yale New Haven Health Heart & Vascular Center  
500 West Putnam Ave.  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
**Phone:** 203-863-4210  
**Fax:** 203-622-1872



**Kristina Feldman DO**  
(Obstetrics & Gynecology)  
Westmed Medical Group – Maternal Fetal Medicine  
1 Theall Road  
Rye, NY 10580  
**Phone:** 914-848-8040  
**Fax:** 914-848-8801



**Maryam Gondal MD**  
(Nephrology)  
Yale Nephrology  
330 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520  
**Phone:** 203-785-4184  
**Fax:** 203-785-7068



**Thomas Hickernell MD**  
(Orthopedics)  
Yale Orthopaedics  
260 Long Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06902  
**Phone:** 877-925-3637  
**Fax:** 203-310-0539



**Sara Richer MD**  
(Otolaryngology)  
Northeast Medical Group Otolaryngology  
260 Long Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06902  
**Phone:** 203-459-2666  
**Fax:** 203-459-8555



**Ellyn Shander MD**  
(Psychiatry)  
1933 Long Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06903  
**Phone:** 203-561-0414  
**Fax:** 203-329-8011



**Prisca Takundwa MD**  
(Pediatrics)  
Greenwich Hospital – Emergency Department  
5 Perryridge Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
**Phone:** 203-863-3637  
**Fax:** 203-863-4274

### Resignations/Non-Renewal of Privileges

**Elaine Fajardo, MD** (Medicine)  
**Samuel Hahn, MD** (Medicine)  
**Shkala Karzai, MD** (Surgery)  
**Laura London, PA** (Surgery)  
**Mayadha Rasheed, DO** (Pediatrics)

### Office Move

**John Migotsky, MD**  
(Obstetrics & Gynecology)  
Rosh Maternal & Fetal Medicine  
343 E 33rd St.  
New York, NY 10016  
**Phone:** 212-725-0123  
**Fax:** 212-249-3916

### Miscellaneous

**William Weber, MD** (Sleep Medicine) has a new phone number  
203-357-9316

### In Memoriam

**Peter Maher, MD** (Cardiology) a member of the  
Honorary Medical Staff, passed away in October