From the desk of the CMO

Rene Theophile Hyacinthe Laennec (1781-1826) – remember the name

Spike Lipschutz, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Harold Farmer, a colorful community practicing physician, stated boldly to our group of four medical students, “Here’s a name you will never forget – Rene Theophile Hyacinthe Laennec.” And to this day, 54 years later, I still remember Laennec’s full name, as do my wife and children, so many times have they heard me say it when citing memorable teaching moments. I never forgot it because of Dr. Farmer’s forceful teaching, and I’m sure because of my vulnerable state of not knowing how much I was supposed to learn and master, so better remember it all.

Laennec perfected the art of physical examination of the chest and introduced many clinical terms still used today. That day, our group of four was learning physical diagnosis from Dr. Farmer at a patient’s bedside on Ward B, an open ward of 32 patients. Until a few weeks ago, I always thought of Laennec’s name attached to cirrhosis. Then, I read about his being the inventor of the stethoscope in the book, The Age of Insight, and a few days later stumbled across an article in the American Journal of Surgery from 2016, that I had set aside to read but clearly never got to, as my wife often reminds me when eyeing my piles of journals which I had well intended to read. The article was “The Bicentennial of the Stethoscope: 1816-2016.”

Laennec’s stethoscope presented an opportunity not just to diagnose or connect anatomy with physiologic sounds, but to maintain the intimacy of the doctor and patient, a tool that symbolizes our profession and also connects us at the bedside and in our offices. Our tools have multiplied. Our understandings of how our patients manifest disease have broadened. Our ability to cure and to heal have progressed beyond expectation or prediction. Yet we are still learning – not just clinically, but also how to adapt to models of care that meet consumers’ wishes of where, when and how they receive care.

The science of medicine guarantees that change will always be part of our profession. We have to be willing and able to learn, from Laennec’s rolled cylinder – “could thereby perceive the action of the heart in a manner much more clear and distinct than I had ever been able to do by the immediate application of the ear,” to the toilet paper roll we kidded about as med students, to sophisticated cardiac ultrasound that helps us evaluate and make sense of the sounds of the heart.

More than 150 years after its crude beginnings, our group of four was learning the use of a tool that has changed very little over time. More importantly, we also learned to
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leave that tool in our white jacket pocket, along with the reflex hammer, the tuning fork, and the little flashlight, representing at the time almost the full content in our revered black bag. Observe, question, take a meaningful history, learn your patient’s story personally as well as clinically. None of these requires a tool, just our desire to gather as much information as possible. Then we use the tools, mix them with our patient’s shared information, and shake with our knowledge, to tackle the clinical challenge. We will continue to learn. It may be from advances on the horizon or discoveries and innovations beyond our imagination. It will always be from and with our patients. Enjoy those special times and your special relationships with them.

On another note, recognizing members of our medical staff is one of the joys I relish. In this issue, read about Dr. Daniel Petrylak’s recently FDA-approved medication that may have profound positive impacts for patients with bladder cancer. Read about our senior residents fellowship matches for 2020. I will also take this opportunity to recognize our ED physicians, 12 of whom achieved 98 or 99 percent in their individual patient experience scores, a testament to their skill as clinicians and their bedside Laennec care of their patients.

Happy New Year.

Y Access at Greenwich Hospital

With a continued focus on patient experience and provider engagement, the Y Access Transfer Center, already in place at Yale New Haven, Bridgeport, Lawrence + Memorial and Westerly hospitals, is now at Greenwich Hospital.

Y Access works with Bed Management to coordinate transfers and direct admissions for referring physicians. One phone call to our 24/7 transfer center connects a referring provider to experienced paramedic facilitators who triage the call to the appropriate accepting attending physician. A central bed management team coordinates to which inpatient unit the patient will be assigned.

Y Access supports direct admissions via attending physician referral from a patient’s home, clinic or doctor’s office to inpatient units at Greenwich Hospital, as well as transfers from external locations, such as hospitals and freestanding emergency departments. For inter-facility transfers, Y Access may coordinate patient transportation based on the level of care required and resources available, including activation of our Adult Critical Care Team, Pediatric Transport Team and SkyHealth, Yale New Haven Health’s emergency helicopter, when necessary.

To support Y Access transfers to Greenwich Hospital, a clinical bed manager will be on-site during peak hours, although bed assignment will occur at a central location. Y Access and Central Bed Management went live in December.

U.S. News & World Report voting begins in February

All board-certified physicians within each of the applicable specialties evaluated by U.S. News & World Report (i.e., Cancer, Cardiology/CT Surgery, Diabetes/Endocrinology, ENT, Gastroenterology/GI Surgery, Geriatrics, Gynecology, Nephrology, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Pulmonary, Rehabilitation, Rheumatology and Urology) will soon receive a request to vote in the U.S. News reputation ranking.

The request will come via email from Doximity, an online networking website for physicians used to calculate the reputational portion of the hospital rankings. Registered users may also receive a prompt when logging into the site. As the U.S. News & World Report rankings are heavily weighted towards an institution’s reputation, the survey provides the opportunity for members of the medical staff to make their collective voice heard about the exceptional care provided across Yale New Haven Health.

All YNHHS hospitals and ambulatory practices are home to outstanding physicians who continually advance medicine through the safe, high quality and compassionate care provided to our patients. The reputation of the entire health system would be greatly enhanced if Yale New Haven Hospital is voted into the Honor Roll. One barrier to this in the past has been the reputational score, which is determined by physician vote. Members of the medical staff across Yale New Haven Health are urged to consider this when casting votes during the upcoming voting period. Doximity reports that voting for the 2020 rankings will open in February.
Enfortumab Vedotin approved by FDA*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted accelerated approval to the drug enfortumab vedotin (EV) to treat adult patients with advanced urothelial or bladder cancer. The approval is the direct result of a multi-institutional clinical trial led by Yale Cancer Center (YCC) and Smilow Cancer Hospital researchers demonstrating EV as an effective treatment for this deadly disease.

“This is very exciting progress as we haven’t had another therapy option for patients (whose) urothelial or bladder cancer has progressed after chemotherapy or immunotherapy. To my knowledge, this is most active single drug in urothelial cancer,” said Daniel P. Petrylak, MD, professor of medicine (medical oncology) and urology and co-director of the Cancer Signaling Research Program at YCC.

Dr. Petrylak was the senior investigator of a phase II clinical trial that studied the efficacy of the EV for patients. “It’s gratifying to know Yale spearheaded the research effort to get this life-saving therapy to patients.”

In addition, Dr. Petrylak is leading a Phase III, randomized, open-label, multi-center, global study to determine the efficacy and safety of Durvalumab in combination with Gemcitabine and Cisplatin for neoadjuvant treatment followed by Durvalumab alone for adjuvant treatment in patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer.

*Information from Urology at Yale, January 2020 edition

Reminder: CME made easy and accessible

In collaboration with the Yale School of Medicine, free Category 1 CME credits are available for members of the medical staff. All members of the medical staff have free access to:

- Category 1 CME credit for all Yale CME online courses, including CT Mandates modules to help you fulfill the state-mandated requirements
- On demand access to your CME transcript – a list of all credits awarded to you by Yale CME
- Access to courses continually being added to enhance Yale CME’s on-line, with Grand Rounds such as Internal Medicine, Surgery, Cardiology, and other offerings
- CME programs and courses that are specifically aimed at meeting your educational needs
- Free access to targeted live courses – please call the Yale Office of CME when you have an interest in attending and they will assist with the registration process

If you have not done so, please create your Yale CME Profile by going to CloudCME at https://yale.cloudcme.com/aph.aspx. If you have any questions, please contact Yale CME at cme@yale.edu or 203-785-4578.

YNHHS launches video healthcare visit service

Yale New Haven Health launched the new Video Care OnDemand service this month. This service offers one-on-one video visits with a clinician for common illnesses and injuries such as:

- Allergies
- Back pain (new onset)
- Colds
- Earaches
- Headaches
- Influenza
- Low-grade fevers
- Mild/moderate asthma
- Minor eye irritations
- Minor rashes
- Sore throats
- Sprains and strains

Anyone may access Video Care OnDemand, via MyChart or ynhhs.org/ondemand. The new Video Care OnDemand offers a special, lower rate to benefits-eligible Yale New Haven Health employees and their covered adult dependents. (Pediatric services currently are not available.) The service provides an alternative to using emergency departments or urgent care centers for common, non-life threatening conditions. Video Care OnDemand covers all of Connecticut and is available weekdays (except holidays), 7 am – 7 pm.
Senior residents awarded fellowships

The following PGY3 residents have been matched into fellowships for the 2020 academic year:

**Mingjun Song, MD** – Indiana University, Gastroenterology

**Thomas Fandel, MD** – University of California, San Francisco, Endocrinology

**Waleed Malik, MD** – Yale University, Infectious Diseases

**Shirui Chen, MD** – Eastern Virginia Medical School, Nephrology/Critical Care

**Essam Nagori, MD** – Arrowhead Regional Medical Center/ California University of Science and Medicine, Pulmonary/ Critical Care

In addition, **Eleanore Black, MD**, will transition into her role as fourth year chief resident beginning April 1.

Congratulations!

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Check yourself!

Remember STAR to help your brain catch up with what your hands are getting ready to do.

**Stop** – Pause for 1-2 seconds to focus on the task at hand.

**Think** – Consider the action you’re about to take.

**Act** – Concentrate and carry out the task.

**Review** – Check to make sure the task was done correctly and you got the correct result.

STAR reduces your chances of making an unintended mental slip or lapse by more than 10 times.

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CHAMP for safety

High reliability organizations operate successfully in high-risk industries. For hospitals, CHAMP is a mnemonic used to help eliminate instances of preventable patient harm.

**C** – Communicate clearly

**H** – Handoff effectively

**A** – Attention to detail

**M** – Mentor each other

**P** – Practice and accept a questioning attitude

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Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission for the February 2020 issue of Medical Staff News is Friday, Jan. 31. Please submit items for consideration to Spike Lipschutz, MD, at 203-863-3904 or spike.lipschutz@greenwichhospital.org or Myra Stanley, Yale New Haven Health, at 203-688-1531 or myra.stanley@ynhh.org.
Medical Staff Changes (December 2019)

Appointees

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Change in Status
Ameet Goyal, MD (Ophthalmology) was granted a leave of absence from the medical staff.

Resignation/Non-Renewal of Privileges
Jennifer Provataris, MD (Emergency Medicine)
Nicholas Stroumbakis, PA (Surgery)

Office Move
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