From the desk of the CMO

Did you get the message?

*Spike Lipschutz, MD, Chief Medical Officer*

The year’s first CMO message is an exciting one – the result of the work of our Wellness Committee. I am pleased to announce that we start our Physician Wellness speaker series with Dr. Michael F. Myers, professor of Clinical Psychiatry at SUNY Downstate Medical Center on Tuesday, March 31, 6 pm in the Noble Conference Center. The first session, *Toward Preventing Physician Depression and Suicide: Caring for Ourselves and Each Other*, will be a great presentation about caring for ourselves and our colleagues in the wake of the depression and suicide rates of physicians.

We have so much information flowing every which way, every day, connected with our professional work and personal lives. We send many emails to our medical staff about drug shortages, new protocols, and changes to our EMR, infectious diseases (Ebola, SARS, and now coronavirus), medical staff meetings and breakfasts. Some of these communications are more relevant for some of our medical staff than others, e.g., whether you’re providing direct care in the hospital or only in the ambulatory world. It becomes almost too much.

Good news: In the very near future, hopefully within a month or two, our YNHHS MD Portal will launch. This one-stop shopping will include and cover a host of opportunities, including being a repository for all medical staff email communications, CME opportunities, archived presentations on physician wellness and more. The MD Portal will have systemwide information of interest or importance to all medical staffs, as well as a separate portal connection for information unique to Greenwich Hospital like our Medical Staff News and specific activities and information. Once the MD Portal is up and available, I’ll be seeking your input for additional content and feedback on how useful and friendly the portal is from your perspectives.

Let’s continue with this month’s newsletter, which I hope you read “cover to cover.” Stories include news of a “first of its kind” gift; the third in our series of medical staff interviews/profiles; an update on the coronavirus pan (epi) demic; how you can make a difference in our Yale New Haven Hospital’s reputation by voting in the *U.S. News & World Report* survey; a new Voice Center in town; a short piece on our retiring, mild-mannered, super respected Dr. Dick Danehower, and more.

As always, thank you for all you do within our great profession.
Named endowment gift honors James R. Sabetta, MD

Greenwich Hospital has received a first-of-its-kind gift to establish an endowment to honor James R. Sabetta, MD, chief of Infectious Diseases. The $5 million gift from former Board of Trustees chairman, Don Kirk, and his wife Mimi, will create a permanent fund for an infectious diseases position and will help to advance the education of physicians, medical students and key staff in the field.

“I am humbled by your gift to the hospital,” said Dr. Sabetta, who also serves as chief of staff and a Board of Trustees member.

“This is a groundbreaking investment as it recognizes the extraordinary talent of one of our revered physicians while ensuring the future of infectious disease services in Dr. Sabetta’s honor in perpetuity. Mimi and Don are leading the way in support of our endowment with a gift that combines outright funding with a legacy gift. We are thrilled to welcome them into our Elias C. Benedict Legacy Society,” said Norman Roth, president and CEO.

“Greenwich Hospital is a treasure in our community and this investment is an opportunity for us to show our gratitude for the many dedicated professionals who take care of patients every day. Dr. Sabetta deserves this special recognition to honor him today and for years to come,” said the Kirks, who are both longtime volunteers at the hospital.

Greenwich Hospital Medical Staff profile: Joseph Flynn, MD

By Dana Marnane, vice president, Public Relations

Joseph Flynn, MD, director of Psychiatry, kindly agreed to be the next interviewee for Medical Staff News and brings a new perspective along with the new year. The first two physicians featured were long-time Greenwich Hospital staff members and had always been in the field of medicine. Joe is neither.

I knew that Joe was fairly new to Greenwich Hospital, having come here in 2016. What I would never have guessed is that he started his career as a CPA. After graduating with a dual degree in accounting and economics, he became a CPA at one of the big New York City firms. After seven years, he found himself at a smaller firm in Mt. Kisco and at a crossroads. They asked him to relocate to California. A big decision for a life-long East Coast resident and not fully certain that this was his true career path – he had to do some serious thinking.

Lucky for us, and our patients, Joe followed his heart. While Joe really enjoyed his chosen field, he wasn’t satisfied. His father had often been ill and he started thinking about how much he respected the many physicians who cared for him. And though the thought of quitting his job to start all over was hugely daunting, he did it, entering a post-baccalaureate program at Columbia University, then on to Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He then trained at Yale in Psychiatry giving him insight into the health system.

While at Columbia and Rutgers, his true calling unfolded. He met the woman who would become his wife, Lucy, then a medical student, now also a psychiatrist, at Columbia. And then while studying and working full-time as a researcher with neurologists and psychologists at Rutgers, he realized that he wanted to work in the field of the brain. What he discovered to be the most rewarding part of his job is the great privilege that comes with patient care. Strangers came to him and shared secrets that they hadn’t entrusted to anyone. Joe was humbled and honored by their complete faith and trust in him and has never lost the wonder of being able to help them.

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When I asked him, “Why Greenwich Hospital,” he said, “I really don’t like hospitals.” (Ouch.) But when he walked through our doors for the first time, he encountered a very warm and welcoming environment – so different than other hospitals he’d experienced. He also knew from Lucy how much she enjoyed working at Greenwich.

He and Lucy live in Greenwich and have two dogs that they adore – Susie and Coco. Joe is a lifelong Yankees fan. Lucy is indifferent about the sport unless she’s mad at Joe – then she’s a rabid Red Sox fan. In their spare time, they both love to be outdoors. Joe is a runner and has competed in two New York City marathons! He is getting back into a running rhythm with a goal of completing another marathon.

My last question to Joe was – where do you see yourself in the future and he simply said, “It doesn’t get much better than this!”

Medical Staff Recognition Brunch

On April 26, Greenwich Hospital will honor 60 physicians reaching 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service at the 11th annual Medical Staff Recognition Brunch. In appreciation of their years of service, each honoree, along with a guest, is invited to an intimate brunch. Below is the list of this year’s honorees. If you see them, please, congratulate them!

35 Years (1985)
Richard Brauer, MD
David Evans, MD
Jayne Pincus, MD

30 Years (1990)
Terry Cochran, MD
Brian Kavanagh, MD
Ronald Levine, MD

25 Years (1995)
Sandra Ang, MD
Gail Fennell, MD
Gaetane Francis, MD
Stephen Jones, MD
William Potter, MD
Charles Seelig, MD

20 Years (2000)
Keith Attkiss, MD
Stephen Carolan, MD
Silvio Ceccarelli, MD
Patricia Close, MD
Ranjan Dasgupta, MD
Servando de los Angeles, MD
Eric Diamond, MD
Stuart Feldman, MD
Vanessa Grano, MD
Herbert Gretz, MD
Modestus Lee, MD
Mitchell Lester, MD
Donna Phanumas, MD
Gary Rothbart, MD
Mark Schoenfeld, MD
Paul Sygall, MD
Barbara Ward, MD
Gail Weiner, MD

15 Years (2005)
Bryan Blair, MD
Joseph Brennan, MD
Henry Cabin, MD
Michael Canter, MD
Caleb Charny, MD
Michael Cleman, MD
Jeptha Curtis, MD
Gerald Davis, MD
Beverly Drucker, MD
Francis Ennis, MD
Andrew Francella, MD
Janet Freedman, MD
Frank Giordano, MD
Jeffrey Heftler, MD
Christopher Howes, MD
F Frederic Khoury, MD
Anthony Korosi, MD
Evan Krakovitz, MD
Marianne Monahan, MD
Thomas Naparst, MD
Young-Don Oh, MD
David Passaretti, MD
Athanassios Petrootos, MD
George Piccorelli, MD
Henry Rascof, MD
Michael Remetz, MD
John Setaro, MD
Scott Simon, MD
Emanuel Wurm, DO
Paul Zelkovic, MD

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Department directors and section heads of the honorees’ specialty are also invited to attend this year’s celebration. If your name or the name of a colleague was omitted in error, please contact Patti Yacavone at 203-863-3912 or patti.yacavone@greenwichhospital.org.

**YNHHS educates public about the coronavirus**

News of the coronavirus, called the 2019 Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19, has prompted concern about risk of transmission in the United States. Although influenza viruses and coronaviruses have similar symptoms, the risk of catching the flu in the U.S. remains far greater.

The COVID-19 is associated with mild-to-severe respiratory illness with fever and cough. Healthcare associated spread of COVID-19 has been identified. Medical staff have been advised that patients who may be at risk for COVID-19 infection must be identified upon presentation to allow rapid isolation and use of proper personal protective equipment.

1. All patients presenting for care at any location must be screened to determine:
   a. If the patient has a fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory tract illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) AND has traveled within China during the 14 days before the onset of their respiratory illness.
   b. If the patient has a fever or signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory tract illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) AND has had close contact to another person with confirmed COVID-19 infection within 14 days of onset of their respiratory illness.

2. In Emergency Department triage and Ambulatory care registration locations, the Epic Travel Screen must be used.

3. YNHHS Information Technology Services is updating the Epic Travel Screen and further enhancements are expected.

Yale New Haven Health has taken steps to remind the public that the health system’s walk-in/urgent care centers offer convenient, professional medical attention for non-life threatening conditions including the flu and common cold and that the Video Care OnDemand service provides video access to clinicians for minor medical concerns.

In addition, Rick Martinello, MD, YNHHS medical director, Infection Prevention has provided general overview information via video, accessible to the general public at www.ynhhs.org. Medical staff and employees may find the most up-to-date information, documents and resources in the COVID-19 Toolkit, on the intranet Infection Prevention departmental site at http://dept.ynhh.org/infectionprevention as well as on the CDC website at www.CDC.gov.

**U.S. News & World Report voting now underway**

*U.S. News & World Report*, working with Doximity, has opened voting for the news magazine’s annual “Best Hospitals” issue. All board-certified physicians within each of the applicable specialties surveyed (i.e., Cancer, Cardiology/CT Surgery, Diabetes/Endocrinology, ENT, Gastroenterology/GI Surgery, Geriatrics, Gynecology, Nephrology, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Pulmonology, Rehabilitation, Rheumatology and Urology) should have received a request to vote in the *U.S. News* reputation ranking either via email or as a prompt when logging in to Doximity.

Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard about the exceptional care that is provided across Yale New Haven Health. Our system hospitals and ambulatory practices are home to exceptional physicians who continually advance medicine through safe, high quality and compassionate care provided to our patients. We believe that the reputation of the entire health system would be greatly enhanced if Yale New Haven Hospital is voted onto the Honor Roll. One barrier to this historically has been the reputational score which is determined by your vote. We would urge you to consider this as you cast your vote during the voting period. Thank you for your participation.

**Allergy module changes implemented in Epic**

In late January, two important changes were added in the Epic allergy module which requires users to be more specific about allergy documentation.

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In the past, the reaction documentation for a patient’s allergy or intolerance was not a required field in Epic. Using “other” and “unknown” options for allergen documentation, when the actual offending agent is a choice in Epic, limits the ability to use clinical decision support tools to enhance patient safety and therefore puts patients at risk.

Epic users should limit the use of “other” and “unknown” allergen fields and document the allergic reaction description for every allergen entered.

“Reactions” is now a mandatory field when entering a new allergy, or editing an existing allergy. The “comments” field will also be mandatory when entering a reaction of “other.” Users entering allergen documentation of “other” or “unknown allergen-immunotherapy adverse reaction” will encounter a high-risk advisory message. The user should select from the specific allergens available in Epic.

Pharmacy and Food and Nutrition staff will continue to monitor when ‘other’ is selected to determine if there are items that should be added as selections to improve the user interface.

Yale Voice Center at Greenwich Hospital first in Fairfield County to offer specialty care

The Yale Voice Center at Greenwich Hospital opened recently at 55 Holly Hill Lane, providing specialty care and performing advanced procedures for professional, occupational and performing voice users.

The practice is led by Michael Lerner, MD, laryngologist and ear, nose and throat physician with additional training to treat conditions of the larynx or voice box. The team includes speech language pathologists specializing in voice and swallow therapies.

Dr. Lerner also uniquely uses Botox to treat a wide variety of conditions including voice spasms and tremors, migraines and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorder. In addition, Dr. Lerner’s specialized training enables him to treat patients experiencing hoarseness or other problems due to the overuse or misuse of the vocal cords, such as teachers, singers, clergy, lecturers, executives, lawyers, soccer coaches and many others.

Retired Greenwich Hospital physician

Richard Danehower, MD was appointed to the medical staff in Rheumatology and Internal Medicine 1972 and served as Rheumatology Section Head until retirement January 1, 2020.

“Such changes I’ve seen! Mostly good: better diagnostic tools, better medical and surgical remedies. Retirement will be a whole new chapter, yet to be written. Biking, squash, travel for sure. Hopefully some area of new ‘purpose’ may appear. Moving to the Berkshires near family is tempting. I surely have loved being in Medicine!”

Save the Date

- Join us to for the National Doctors’ Day 2020 celebratory breakfast – Monday, March 30, from 6:30 – 11:30 am in the Doctors’ Lounge (Room G-1200).

- Physician Wellness speaker series, Toward Preventing Physician Depression and Suicide: Caring for Ourselves and Each Other, Tuesday, March 31, 6 pm in the Noble Conference Center with guest speaker Michael F. Myers, MD, professor of Clinical Psychiatry at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

- The 11th annual Medical Staff Recognition Brunch will be held on Sunday, April 26 from 11:30 am – 2 pm at the Garden Cafe. Physicians with 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service will be honored. For questions, contact Patti Yacavone at 203-863-3912 or patti.yacavone@greenwichhospital.org.

Benefit for Greenwich Hospital

The Benefit for Greenwich Hospital, the hospital’s annual major fundraiser, will be held on Friday, May 15 at Greenwich Country Club to support Neuroscience, Pediatrics and Women’s Health. Along with chairman of the Board of Trustees, Arthur Martinez, and his wife Elizabeth, the evening will honor James A. Brunetti, DO, Internal Medicine, for his long history with the hospital (where he began his career as chief resident) and for his dedication to thousands of patients over the years. For tickets and information about the Benefit for Greenwich Hospital, visit giving.greenhosp.org/benefit-2020 or contact events@greenwichhospital.org, 203-863-3865.
YNHHS contracts with travel-management company

Employees and physicians who travel for work-related events or activities must now make arrangements through UNIGLOBE Travel Designers as part of Yale New Haven Health’s new centralized and standardized travel management plan.

Previously, departments and employees used a variety of resources, including different travel agencies and online sites, to book travel to conferences and for other work-related activities. Using one travel management company will make booking travel more efficient and help the health system track and reduce travel costs.

UNIGLOBE provides comprehensive services for domestic and international travel, offers emergency support and is a certified diverse supplier.

For information about the travel policy or making travel arrangements, visit the “Travel” page on the employee intranet, http://dept.ynhh.org/travel (under “Resources” in the top navigation bar).

Updating your physician profile on greenwichhospital.org

One of the most visited sections of the Yale New Haven Health hospital websites are the physician profile pages. Please ensure your online information is current and accurate so that potential patients can find you. Visit ynhh.org and select ‘Find a Doctor,’ then type in your name. If you need changes or updates to your profile, click on the ‘Request an edit’ link near the bottom of the page, make any needed updates, or upload a photo. Once you submit your changes, the YNHHS Physician and Services Referral Center will review the edits and update your profile page. You can also reach out to the team via email at psrc@ynhh.org.

Newsmakers

Kevin Billingsley, MD, has been named chief medical officer, Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center. In this role, Dr. Billingsley will oversee clinical cancer care across Smilow, YCC and the Smilow Cancer Care Centers, as well as clinical program development for cancer services throughout Yale New Haven Health.

LeeAnn Miller, PharmD, has been named vice president and chief pharmacy officer, Yale New Haven Health Corporate Pharmacy Services. She joined YNHH in 1998 as a clinical pharmacist in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit and has held various leadership positions, serving most recently as executive director and associate chief pharmacy officer of YNHHS Corporate Pharmacy Services.

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 online, 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.

Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission for the March 2020 issue of Medical Staff News is Monday, March 2. 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 (January 2020)

Appointees

Sonya Abdel Razeq, MD  
(Obstetrics/Gynecology)  
Yale Maternal Fetal Medicine at Greenwich Hospital  
5 Perryridge Road  
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Phone: 203-863-3674  
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Angela Craft, APRN  
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Greenwich Hospital – NICU  
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Brenda Dixon, APRN  
(Obstetrics/Gynecology)  
Greenwich Hospital  Outpatient Department  
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Heather Sue Lipkind, MD  
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Sarah Shipley, DPM  
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Northeast Medical Group Podiatry  
55 Holly Hill Lane  
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Fax: 203-863-4479

Moeun Son, MD  
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Fax: 203-863-3467

Kara Ventura, APRN  
(Gastroenterology)  
Yale New Haven Transplant Center  
260 Long Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06902  
Phone: 203-785-2565  
Fax: 203-785-7162

Change in Status

Richard Danehower, MD (Rheumatology) was granted a change in status to Honorary Medical Staff.

Resignation/Non-Renewal of Privileges

Lee Goldstein, MD (Surgery)  
Patrick Kenney, MD (Urology)  
Bruce Sherling, MD (Pulmonology)

Office Move

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

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.

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