

Fall 2015

Advancing Medicine.

Touching Lives.

For friends and supporters of Rhode Island Hospital



**Celebrating an Orthopedic Legend:
Dr. Michael G. Ehrlich**

A Message

from the President



Margaret M. Van Bree

Margaret M. Van Bree, MHA, DrPH
President
Rhode Island Hospital and
Hasbro Children's Hospital

It has been eight months since I joined Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital as President. I am continuously impressed by the outstanding talent and leadership I work with every day, and couldn't be more pleased by the high quality scores we consistently achieve on national outcome measures as a top performing institution. This speaks to our commitment to attracting and maintaining the best and brightest care teams, our investment in research and education, and an unwavering focus on patient-focused medical care.

In this issue of *Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives.* we celebrate the career of Dr. Michael G. Ehrlich, who built an unparalleled orthopedics, research and teaching enterprise during his 25 years at Rhode Island Hospital. We also introduce new department leadership: Pediatrician-in-Chief, Dr. Phyllis Dennery and Chief of Neurosurgery, Dr. Ziya Gokaslan. Among the top in their respective fields nationally, each brings an energy and expertise that is shaping their departments in exciting, innovative ways.

In these pages are stories that inspire and showcase what happens when a hospital joins forces with the generosity of a caring donor community. We are proud to share our Honor Roll of supporters who make such a difference every day for the patients entrusted to our care. Thank you so much for helping to keep our hospital strong. Because of you, we are truly advancing medicine and touching lives.

A Message

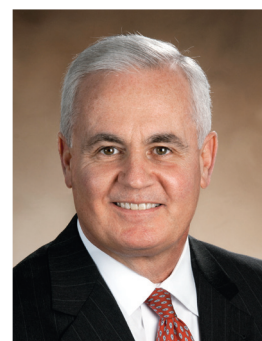
from the Chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees

In this issue of *Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives.* we're pleased to share stories that showcase the dynamic environment of positive change and progress taking place at Rhode Island Hospital.

And while change is exciting, we never forget for a moment that our forward momentum is fueled by the generous support of our donor community. It is your friendship and partnership that allows us to provide unparalleled care and inspires the innovation that is the hallmark of any truly great hospital. You'll see this is a common thread that runs through all the stories in this issue, many of which are made possible because of philanthropy. Our annual Honor Roll also pays tribute to the individuals, companies and foundations which make our work possible.

I am also honored to welcome a talented group of new members to our already impressive Foundation Board of Trustees. As ambassadors committed to helping us build philanthropic support for Rhode Island Hospital, Arthur A. Bert, MD, Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Robert J. Manning, Marc A. Paulhus and Douglas E. Scala represent true leaders of our community. Their involvement is a great testament to Rhode Island Hospital and we are grateful for their time and dedication.

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Trustees, thank you for your continued support. Your generosity is critical in allowing the hospital to provide the best patient care possible.



Roger N. Begin

Roger N. Begin, Chairman
Foundation Board of Trustees
Rhode Island Hospital
and Hasbro Children's Hospital



Dr. Ehrlich and Braylon O'Neill

The History of an Orthopedic Legend: Dr. Michael G. Ehrlich

Michael G. Ehrlich, MD, thrives on a good challenge. In fact, it's how he came to be a doctor. A history major at Dartmouth College, he took a biology class and was challenged to be as smart as the pre-med students sitting beside him.

The next thing he knew, he had completed all the pre-med classes himself and was applying to Columbia University's medical school. The rest is history—the history of a remarkable orthopedic surgeon who has dedicated his life to his work, and in doing so has improved the lives of so many.

One of the most sought after orthopedic surgeons in the United States, Dr. Ehrlich came to Rhode Island Hospital

as Surgeon-in-Chief of the Department of Orthopedics in 1990. Leaving Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital after 18 years, he saw a challenge in the rare opportunity to build a clinical program, shape an academic department and continue his research at Rhode Island Hospital and Brown University.

“I always knew I wanted to create a great department. I wouldn't work so many hours a day if I didn't have the desire to make this one of the very best departments. I knew I wanted to build my own program and dedicate my life to it.”

— Dr. Michael G. Ehrlich

When he retires after 25 years as the Vincent Zecchino Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at the end of 2015, Dr. Ehrlich will leave a global powerhouse for orthopedics that has grown to more than 50 physicians; an academic program so sought after it receives 400 to 600 applications every year for its six residencies; and a research enterprise that is one of the top three in the nation.

“I always knew I wanted to create a great department,” says Dr. Ehrlich. “I wouldn't work so many hours a day if I didn't have the desire to make this one of the very best

departments. I knew I wanted to build my own program and dedicate my life to it.”

Driven from a young age to excel, he was the youngest in his college and medical school classes. It is that inner drive that translated to an unparalleled work ethic and dedication to his patients, students and research.

“Mike is indefatigable. He has this style where he goes to work and meets with residents at 6:00 am and schedules meetings at 5:00 pm and stays some nights until 9:00,” says orthopedic surgeon and colleague Edward Akelman, MD. “He just has this inner core energy and sense of purpose. It’s hard to find people like that.”

For a long time, he traveled 120 miles each day from his home in Concord, Massachusetts, where he and his wife Nancy live and raised their two sons, Timothy and Christopher. Despite the commute, he was almost always the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave at night. The only way he could do it, he points out, was with Nancy by his side. Of their union, he simply says, “*Nancy is my glue.*”

A clinician and healer.

Dr. Ehrlich was a pioneer in the field, specializing in pediatric orthopedics before it became a recognized specialty in the early 1970s. The treatment of cerebral palsy, spina bifida and clubfoot were Dr. Ehrlich’s focus and his work, transferring muscles and tendons to restore normal movement to a non-functioning limb, helped many

children walk for the first time.

Dr. Ehrlich’s expertise in handling difficult diagnostic and therapeutic problems, combined with his instant rapport with children, has drawn patients from across the country and around the world. “I was like the family doctor. I think some parents would come to see me every few months just for reassurance,” he says with a smile. “My patients sort of own a part of me and I sort of own a part of them.”

Kelli O’Neill, mother of six-year-old Braylon, a patient of Dr. Ehrlich says, “When we got the letter announcing

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— Kelli O’Neill, Braylon’s mom

Dr. Ehrlich’s retirement we cried. I felt a huge loss. We’re going to lose this brilliant man but we were able to get him for the most important part of Braylon’s journey.” (See page 6 for Braylon’s story.)

Highly respected among his colleagues as well, he was hands down

the unanimous choice to receive the President’s Pursuit of Excellence Lifetime Champion Award at the President’s Pursuit of Excellence Dinner this coming November.

“Mike Ehrlich’s intellect and talents are a rare find. He is the epitome of a leader and a true visionary who has put himself wholeheartedly into caring for his patients and their families, teaching his students and colleagues, and bettering the Lifespan system. Rhode Island Hospital will forever be in his debt,” says Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital President, Margaret M. Van Bree, MHA, DrPh.





A teacher and mentor.

Over the years, Dr. Ehrlich has taught and inspired countless residents, many of whom have become significant academic leaders. One of them is Christopher W. DiGiovanni, MD, Visiting Professor and Chief of the Division of Foot & Ankle Surgery in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School.

“Dr. Ehrlich is the most gifted, dedicated, and caring mentor I’ve ever come across in the field of orthopedics. His legendary work ethic was always complemented by a remarkable level of insight and humor which together commanded a great level of respect and influence as he inspired those fortunate enough to be around him,” says Dr. DiGiovanni, who also credits Dr. Ehrlich as the reason he stayed at Brown University for many years after his residency.

Always leading and teaching by example, Dr. Ehrlich expected the very best from his residents and fellows, but did so with trust and friendship. “I wanted to be a friend of the students and make it a great teaching experience; to be someone who would make science and humanism a major part of the curriculum so students would be creative and learn to interact with patients,” he explains.

His style clearly had an effect. “He convinced a far greater number of residents to pursue academia than otherwise would have,” Dr. DiGiovanni points out. In fact, 250 percent more graduating orthopedic residents from Brown University go on to academic careers than the average at other orthopedic residency programs in the country.

“Dr. Ehrlich exemplified the meaning of leadership. For decades, I watched him sacrifice himself for the benefit

of others, demonstrating time and time again how exceptionally fulfilling it can be to care for someone else, and contribute to the growth of young physicians. He is a rare individual whose teachings will continue to benefit so many for years to come,” continues Dr. DiGiovanni.

A scientist and scholar.

When not with patients or students, Dr. Ehrlich’s self-proclaimed insatiable curiosity led his research interests to focus on arthritis and the biology of cartilage. In 1977, he was the first scientist to identify the human articular cartilage collagenase, one of the enzymes that destroys the joint’s surface and is a major factor in joint osteoarthritis. He has won numerous awards for his research, including the



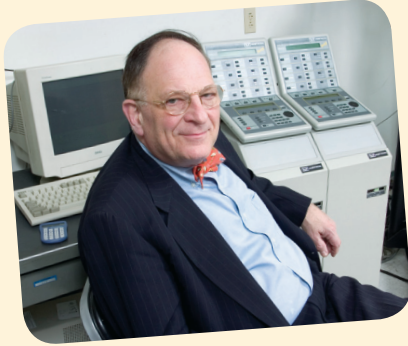
Huene Award for his lifetime contributions to pediatric orthopedic research and the Kappa Delta Award, the highest award given by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

For Dr. Ehrlich, research is about understanding how things work and making them better. Frustrated by those quick to adopt new procedures or products without understanding how they work, Dr. Ehrlich says, “I try to teach my students to be doctors of the mind and not just accept things they don’t understand.”

Scientists in Dr. Ehrlich’s research labs at Rhode Island Hospital are working hard to further unravel the mysteries of orthopedic diseases and evaluate new methods of treatment for orthopedic injuries and illnesses. It is these scientists, including the top cartilage researcher in the country, Qian Chen, PhD, the top ligament researcher in North America, Braden C. Fleming, PhD, and J.J. Trey Crisco, PhD, the head of orthopedic bioengineering at Rhode Island Hospital, who Dr. Ehrlich believes will change the course of orthopedic disease.

A leader.

Taking little credit for his countless personal accomplishments, Dr. Ehrlich says he's trying to convince himself he's done "something worthwhile." After a few moments of reflection when asked what he is most proud of in his notable career, he says



there is no one thing that he is most proud of, but he is "proud of the role I played in facilitating the success of the people around me. All the senior investigators in our lab have been funded. We have some of the country's top orthopedic researchers and lead the country in a certain type of body motion study. That really gets me."

Donor Ellen Collis says, "My late husband Charles and I have been friends with Nancy and Mike for about 25 years. We decided to support Dr. Ehrlich's cutting edge research by funding the Molecular Biology Laboratory, having admired the keenness, enthusiasm, and tenacity he invests in his work to move medicine and patient care to a new level. His brilliance and the high standards he sets for himself are the secret to his enormous achievements."

Dr. Ehrlich's decades of dedication to the field of orthopedic surgery has changed the lives of thousands and made an impact the world over. We could not be more grateful for his contributions or proud of his accomplishments. We are so humbled that Dr. Ehrlich chose Rhode Island Hospital as his medical home for his life's work.

Meet Braylon

Dr. Ehrlich remembers Braylon O'Neill's first visit to his office nearly six years ago. "I told his parents 'I may not be able to grow a leg for him, but I can promise you that Braylon will stand at 9 months and he'll walk around a year. And someday, he will run and play sports like most kids.'"

Kelli and Michael O'Neill brought Braylon to Dr. Ehrlich after seeing multiple specialists in Boston and New York. Their son was born with a genetic birth defect where the tibia and fibula bones in both of his lower legs were missing. Braylon's right knee was bending at 80 degrees but his left knee was formed of non-functioning cartilage and there was no bone. Dr. Ehrlich recommended keeping Braylon's left knee which other doctors had suggested removing. The baby also had tiny little feet that grew out from below his knees. At an appropriate point in Braylon's growth, his non-functioning feet would need to be amputated so that his prosthetics would have an optimal fit. This took place when he was three years of age.

Braylon was fitted for his first pair of prosthetics when he was 10 months old. At 11 months, he began walking on his prosthetics with the aid of a walker. By 16 months Braylon was walking on his own.

"As a parent you have these visions of what your child is going to be like. You want your child to live a full life. Dr. Ehrlich was an integral piece of making that vision possible for Braylon," says Kelli.



Today, Braylon is a happy six-year-old full of life and boundless energy who loves playing soccer and baseball and helping his mom with his baby sister Zoey. His parents are so grateful to Dr. Ehrlich for all he's done to make all of that possible.

"It's an honor to have Dr. Ehrlich's torch passed to me to care for many of his patients, including Braylon. He leaves big shoes to fill, but I learned from the best," says pediatric orthopedic surgeon Craig Eberson, MD, who is also a former student of Dr. Ehrlich's.

Rhode Island Hospital Welcomes New Pediatric and Neurosurgery Leadership

Phyllis A. Dennery, MD, Pediatrician-in-Chief



In April, Phyllis A. Dennery, MD, joined Hasbro Children's Hospital as Pediatrician-in-Chief and Medical Director. She also serves as the Sylvia Kay Hassenfeld Chair of Pediatrics at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

In her role as Pediatrician-in-Chief and Medical Director she oversees all pediatric clinical programs, such as centers and clinics for pediatric imaging, hematology/oncology, asthma and allergies, neurodevelopment and cardiology.

"I envision Hasbro Children's Hospital becoming a premier hospital that sets an example of what can be done for children's health. Because we're the only children's hospital in the Southern New England region, there are many opportunities to build a program that can be emulated by others to better understand children's health outcomes and to improve on health maintenance and prevention," explains Dr. Dennery.

Dr. Dennery's research focuses on oxidative stress in newborn lungs as well as circadian biology and how the daily variations in our genes help regulate metabolism in the lungs to protect against injury and promote repair. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Health for 24 consecutive years.

Prior to joining Lifespan, Dr. Dennery served as the Chief of the Division of Neonatology and Newborn Services at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania.

Ziya Gokaslan, MD, Chief of Neurosurgery

On July 1, Rhode Island Hospital welcomed Ziya Gokaslan, MD, FACS, as its new Chief of Neurosurgery, and the Neurosurgery Chair at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Considered one of the nation's top neurosurgeons, Dr. Gokaslan came to Rhode Island from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

As Chief of Neurosurgery, Dr. Gokaslan leads all clinical, research and teaching efforts in neurosurgery for Rhode Island Hospital, and the entire Lifespan system. He also serves as Clinical Director of the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute and Director of the Comprehensive Spine Center.

"At Rhode Island Hospital, there is tremendous opportunity for us to be on the cutting-edge of neuroscience and neurosurgery with the research and discoveries happening at the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute and Brown," says Gokaslan. "The field has evolved to where I think the possibilities are endless."

Throughout his career, Dr. Gokaslan's work has led to significant improvement of survival in patients with various neoplastic diseases—conditions in which cells divide excessively, leading to abnormal tissue growth known as neoplasms. "Technology has evolved substantially, as have our surgical approaches—a lot of the conditions that were not treated before can now be addressed very effectively," adds Dr. Gokaslan.

In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Gokaslan is a prolific researcher. At John Hopkins Hospital and John Hopkins University, he was instrumental in establishing five specialized laboratories; labs that focused on neurosurgical oncology, the biology of spinal fusion, spinal biomechanics, surgical robotics, and surgical outcomes. Dr. Gokaslan is hoping to replicate many of these efforts in Rhode Island.





The Dawson Family

Grateful for Life-Saving Care, Dawsons Make Gift to Establish Nursing Education Fund

It was July 23, 2014 and the sun shined brightly over Jamestown Golf Course. Howard “Pat” Dawson, RADM, USN (Ret.) had just finished nine holes with family when he returned to his car; his playing partners returning the cart they had used. As Pat opened the driver’s door, he collapsed.

Struggling, but able to get to his feet and into the car, Pat waited for his brother-in-law and niece to return. With an existing aortic aneurysm that’s been monitored for two years at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, near his year-round home in Arlington, Virginia, Pat feared the worst: an aortic dissection.

Acting swiftly, his brother-in-law drove to the fire station where rescue personnel got them to Newport Hospital’s Emergency Department. Because Pat’s condition was dire and every second mattered, the Newport Hospital physician made a lifesaving decision: they stabilized Pat for the ambulance ride to Rhode Island Hospital where the cardiac surgical team was at the ready to save his life.

“I don’t remember much about the ride to Providence; I was in pretty serious pain,” says Pat, who was living at his summer home in Newport at the time. “I wasn’t able to take any pain medication because my blood pressure was falling—that’s how bad I was.”

An aortic dissection is a serious condition in which the inner layer of the aorta—the large blood vessel branching off the heart—tears, causing the inner and middle layers of the aorta to separate. If the rupture extends through the outside aortic wall, an aortic dissection is often fatal. But when detected and treated promptly, the chance of survival improves greatly.

Once at Rhode Island Hospital, Afshin Ehsan, MD, a cardiothoracic surgeon and Director of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at the Cardiovascular Institute, confirmed that Pat’s ascending aorta had dissected. During a five-hour surgery, which included three hours on a heart-lung bypass machine, Dr. Ehsan replaced Pat’s torn aorta with a Hemashield graft, while saving his aortic valve in the process. After the procedure, Pat was brought to the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit (CICU) and thus began his recovery, with his wife Ellen by his side.

In the CICU, Ellen was met by Kia Degaitas-Tardf, RN who came in to care for Pat on her previously scheduled day off. With Kia, and Cheryl Dauray, RN, Ellen instantly felt reassured thanks to their expertise and knowledge.

A few days later, Pat's care team cleared him for rehabilitation, getting him out of bed and starting short walks in the hallway. He was immediately struck by the compassion of physical therapist Tina Calise, nurse practitioner Roxann Pereira and Heather Foley, RN, who not only answered every question he and Ellen had, but were "superb" in motivating him during the ups and downs that often accompany recovery.

"Every single provider—nurses, physician assistants and therapists—that worked with Pat was absolutely exceptional in their care," says Ellen.

"Every single provider—nurses, physician assistants and therapists—that worked with Pat was absolutely exceptional in their care."

—Ellen Dawson

Back at home in Newport after a 16-day hospitalization, Pat continued his cardiac rehab with daily walks, adding one minute each day as prescribed by his physical therapist. By early September, he and Ellen were taking hourly walks every day and Dr. Ehsan cleared Pat to travel back to Virginia.

"Dr. Ehsan is a fabulous surgeon, but equally as important, he has a wonderful bedside manner," says Pat. "He spent as much time with us as we needed him to, explaining the damage, his repair, and what lay ahead for me in recovery.

Dr. Ehsan and his team were always available; it was unlike anything I've ever experienced—I know from my Navy experience that great teams require superb leadership and there's no doubt his leadership is felt throughout the unit."

A Strong Interest in Nursing Care

Throughout Pat's stay at our hospital, the grateful couple was impressed by the caliber of our nursing team. Ellen M. Dawson, PhD, RN, ANP is a 1971 graduate of the Newport Hospital School of Nursing and recently retired after 43 years as a nurse and understands firsthand the importance of continuing education for nurses. Thankful for the exceptional care they received at Rhode Island Hospital, Pat and Ellen wanted to do something in return. A generous \$50,000 gift established The Dawson Cardiac Nursing Education Fund.

The Fund provides 12 hours a week of educational programming tailored to novice, intermediate and advanced level cardiac nurses. Additionally, a nurse educator will identify department service learning and clinical need opportunities for further skill advancement.

"There is no doubt that Dr. Ehsan and his team saved my life," says Pat. "The exceptional nursing and rehabilitation team led by Donna Haze, RN, CCRN, gave me my life back. As frightening as this ordeal was, I know I received

the best medical, nursing and rehab care available—I couldn't have been in a better place or in better hands. It was our pleasure to make this gift to express our sincere gratitude; those who cared for me will always be in my thoughts and prayers."



Donor Generosity Funds Advanced Interventional Structural Heart Disease Fellowship

After eight years in medical school at prestigious schools in Boston and California, Anu Abraham, MD, came to Rhode Island Hospital last fall to learn something new.

As the first fellow in Rhode Island Hospital's Advanced Interventional Structural Heart Disease fellowship, she has been charting new territory: cardiac medicine that uses techniques developed in the catheterization laboratory to treat structural and congenital heart disease, primarily in adults. Until recently, catheterization procedures were used to treat acquired cardiac conditions such as coronary artery disease but could not address structural conditions.

Dr. Abraham, who has also completed fellowships in cardiology and interventional cardiology, is interested in endovascular procedures such as replacing a malformed or malfunctioning heart valve through catheterization rather than open-heart surgery.

Trained by Paul C. Gordon, MD, Interventional Cardiologist at the Cardiovascular Institute, and Barry Sharaf, MD, Interventional Cardiologist and Director of the Angiographic Core Laboratory at Rhode Island Hospital, she learned from talented physicians and surgeons who have successfully performed these pioneering procedures.

One of the key procedures Dr. Abraham learned was the transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), which is performed in a catheterization lab within an operating room. The cardiologist replaces a valve by attaching the new valve to a balloon that is inserted through the arteries in the leg by a small incision. As the balloon expands, the valve expands, crushing the old valve and replacing it with the new one.

"I hadn't done the TAVR procedure before. It was great to learn from people who have that experience. I've been able to gain a new skill set that is going to be offered at more and more hospitals as the technology advances," Dr. Abraham says.

"Another exciting aspect of this dedicated fellowship is that I get to see the patients for the 30-day follow up post procedure and see firsthand how they have improved," Dr. Abraham says. "You're also seeing patients in the clinic and are involved in decision making. People actually seek and respect your advice."

Dawn Abbott, MD, Director of the Interventional and Structural Heart Disease Fellowship Programs and Associate Professor of Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, notes, "This field is evolving and we are

right at the forefront. Being able to train the next generation through an advanced specialty fellowship like this strengthens our program significantly."

She says this wouldn't be possible without philanthropic support. "There is no funding available for these advanced specialty fellowships so the only way to have them is to have private donors step forward to support this training."



Top row L-R: Interventional cardiologists Dr. Barry Sharaf, Dr. Edward Thomas, Dr. Douglas Burt, Dr. Dawn Abbott, Dr. Paul Gordon, Bottom row L-R: Dr. Anu Abraham, Dr. Omar Hyder, Dr. Sameh Sayfo, Dr. Ammar Habib

Fortunately, John and Letitia Carter, generous philanthropists in Rhode Island, recognize the importance of investing in advanced cardiac training.

"This fellowship would not be possible without their foresight and commitment. We are very grateful for their generosity and continued involvement," Dr. Abbott says.

Based on the success of last year, the Carters have already committed additional funding to the program and selection of the next fellow is in process.

Delta Dental of Rhode Island has donated a remarkable \$350,000 to the Rhode Island Hospital Samuels Sinclair Dental Center to enhance facilities and advance its residency program.



Dental Residency Program Bolstered by \$350,000 Gift from Delta Dental of Rhode Island

As a result, more Rhode Islanders who turn to the Center for their oral health care will be able to access high quality, vital dental services. In addition, the residency program and other training and outreach programs enhanced by this gift will benefit patients treated in dental practices throughout the state.

Currently, the Center provides about 15,000 patient visits annually to individuals from some of our state's most underserved communities. The Center is the dental home for about 11,000 patients — most of them children — who simply would not get essential dental care otherwise.

"This gift is significant for our Center because it will allow us to resume our residency program and help renovate our facilities with new equipment and technologies. This essential enhancement will allow us to bring on two residents and to provide about 4,000 more patient visits annually," says Dr. Elizabeth Benz, Director of the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center and Director of the General (Dental) Practice Residency Program.

As a 2012 graduate of the Joseph S. Sinclair General Practice Residency at Samuels Sinclair Dental Center, Dr. Benz understands the impact the Center has on the lives of the patients they serve. Their reach extends beyond the Center's doors too. Medical students from The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and dental hygiene and dental assistant students from the Community College of Rhode Island rotate through the facility as part of their education. Like Dr. Benz, many of those trained by the dedicated professionals at the Center ultimately choose to stay in the Ocean State to care for Rhode Islanders.

"This latest gift by our partners at Delta Dental of Rhode Island is an investment in the future health of all Rhode Islanders," says Dr. Benz. "By helping us train the next generation of dentists and educate current health care professionals on issues and advancements related to oral health and its impact on overall health, Delta Dental is making a lasting gift that benefits Rhode Islanders today and for years to come."

As the state's major dental insurer, Delta Dental is committed to the education of individuals, families, health professionals and medical students, especially as it relates to the connection between oral health and overall health.

"Our long-standing collaboration with the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center is an important focus for us. The Center delivers extraordinary care and treatment to our state's most vulnerable citizens," notes Joseph A. Nagle,

President and CEO of Delta Dental of Rhode Island. "We know that extending our partnership by investing in technology and modernization upgrades will enhance the Center's capacity for care and help reinvigorate its residency program. We are also excited to work together to explore ways to assist with coordinating care among Rhode Island's most



Dr. Elizabeth Benz with patient

at-risk patients to improve both oral and overall health." Thanks to the support from Delta Dental of Rhode Island, the Center will begin its facility improvements in the coming months and has already initiated the recruitment process for two residents slated to start in June 2016. The gift will also fund necessary equipment and technology upgrades and acquisitions.

Rhode Island Hospital Welcomes New Members to Foundation Board of Trustees

Throughout Rhode Island Hospital's 150-year history, it is the unwavering support of the community that has helped to build a foundation of providing exceptional health care to our community. Established to help define the hospital's strategic vision and address opportunities and challenges within the realm of healthcare, the Foundation Board of Trustees consists of community leaders who generously donate their time in service. As ambassadors that advocate for the hospital within the community, members of the Foundation Board of Trustees are also instrumental in supporting fundraising efforts and building philanthropic support for today and for the future.

It is with deep appreciation that we announce the appointment of five new individuals to the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees:

Arthur A. Bert, MD Elizabeth Burke Bryant Robert J. Manning
Marc A. Paulhus Douglas E. Scala

We proudly welcome them as they join their esteemed members of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees:

Chair, Roger N. Begin	Edward O. Handy, III
Treasurer, Ellen A. Collis	Dolph L. Johnson
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— Meet Arthur Bert, MD —



Sitting in his office, Arthur Bert, MD, can't help but think about his life's journey. Born to Italian immigrants of modest means, Dr. Bert knew the sacrifices his parents made to ensure he and his three siblings were well-educated. There was a particular piece of wisdom imparted by his

mother and father that became this guiding light.

"My parents taught us that in life, you'll be measured by what you do for others and the legacy you leave behind,"

says Dr. Bert, Anesthesiologist-in-Chief and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at Rhode Island Hospital. "I want others to realize their dreams, just as I have."

Next May, Dr. Bert will celebrate 30 years at Rhode Island Hospital. During this time, he has served as Director of Cardiac Anesthesia, and was Director of Pediatric Cardiac Anesthesia at Hasbro Children's Hospital. Recently, Dr. Bert was appointed to the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees.

"As a physician, community leader, and philanthropist, Arthur brings a wonderful combination of skill and dedication to our Board and the tasks at hand," says Roger Begin, Chairman of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation

Board of Trustees. “His vision for the future of healthcare in our region is firmly rooted in Rhode Island Hospital remaining at the forefront of medicine; he truly understands what it takes for us to achieve our goals.”

“Philanthropy is critically important to our hospital, whether to buy special equipment, advance programs or start new medical initiatives,” says Dr. Bert. “Great institutions—and Rhode Island Hospital is a great institution—have strong philanthropic support, and I want to be a part of further strengthening that for years to come.”

Having spent nearly his entire professional career at Rhode Island Hospital, Dr. Bert is proud to call our hospital his medical home.

“Healthcare is an important philanthropic focus for my wife and I. As we look to the next chapter of our lives, we want to give back to help ensure the hospital is always there for those who need it.”

—Arthur Bert, MD

“I’ve been fortunate to enjoy a successful career and want to do everything I can to support a hospital that’s been so good to me,” says Dr. Bert. “Healthcare is an important philanthropic focus for my wife and I. As we look to the next chapter of our lives, we want to give back to help ensure the hospital is always there for those who need it.”

A Grateful Patient Helps Support the Future of the Comprehensive Cancer Center



Michael Grossi's nurses Rachel Kenyon, RN and Amy Tourangeau, RN

of his estate. His gift will be in honor of Dr. Butera and all the wonderful caregivers who have helped him with his treatments. It will also ensure that the Center has the vital resources necessary to be at the forefront of cancer therapies and treatments in the future.

To learn more about planned giving opportunities at Rhode Island Hospital, please contact Noreen M. Mitchell at 401-444-6311 or email PGInfo@lifespan.org.

Michael W. Grossi knows firsthand how important integrated cancer treatments and clinical trials are in the fight against cancer. Michael, a successful businessman and adjunct professor at Johnson & Wales, respects and admires the excellent, compassionate and empathetic care he has received from all of the staff at the Comprehensive Cancer Center. The physicians, nurses and technicians work in tandem to help the patients succeed, to lift their spirits and stay positive and focused on recovery. Michael credits Rhode Island Hospital with saving his life twice, once in the emergency department when he suffered a heart attack at the young age of 26 and again recently in his battle against leukemia. Michael, who recently lost his beloved wife Diane to cancer, contrasts the care he received at the Comprehensive Cancer Center with the care she received elsewhere. “Dr. James Butera has been more than a physician, he has become my friend,” says Michael.

Michael feels strongly the need to give back to the hospital for the wonderful care he has received, and has made the Comprehensive Cancer Center the beneficiary of a portion



Michael Grossi

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