

Spring 2016

Advancing Medicine.

Touching Lives.

For friends and supporters of Rhode Island Hospital

Pioneering the Gold Standard in Neurosciences

Image: Two nerve cell processes exchanging information

A Message

from the President



Margaret M. Van Bree

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

Every day, our teams of dedicated healthcare professionals deliver the utmost in compassionate care to each patient who steps through our doors, all the while using the most sophisticated medical advances available.

In this issue of *Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives.*, our feature story highlights The Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute (NPNI) and the impact its extraordinary care and research are having on patients suffering from disorders of the nervous system. Created with a \$15 million gift from the Fredrick Henry Prince 1932 Trust generously given to Rhode Island Hospital by Elizabeth JM Prince and her children, Guillaume de Ramel, Regis de Ramel and Diana Oehrli, NPNI is truly doing leading edge, life-changing work. We're proud to share our innovative approach to deep brain stimulation for patients with movement disorders, as well as our efforts to diagnose and treat patients with multiple sclerosis, psychiatric and neuropsychiatric illnesses.

So much of what takes place at our hospital is made possible thanks to the generosity of our community—individuals, businesses and foundations who understand how crucial Rhode Island Hospital is to our collective health. You'll meet some of them within these pages. When there is a need—whether to improve patient care and outcomes, fuel research to find cures, or help train the next generation of practitioners—it is caring people just like you who stand shoulder to shoulder with Rhode Island Hospital to help us deliver the very best care to everyone who needs us. Thank you for being part of our hospital family.

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Pioneering the Gold Standard in Neurosciences

Since its inception in 2010, the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute (NPNI) at Rhode Island Hospital has brought together the state's leading experts in neurology, neurosurgery and psychiatry to focus on one of the greatest mysteries of science—the brain.

By uniting Rhode Island's best minds in brain science, NPNI seeks to improve health and extend life for patients with Alzheimer's disease, autism, traumatic brain injury and other diseases and

disorders of the nervous system, like multiple sclerosis and movement disorders, including Parkinson's disease and tremor. As part of Rhode

Island Hospital's commitment to comprehensive, multi-disciplinary care, the Movement Disorders Program and the Multiple Sclerosis Center are just two programs offering patients state-of-the-art care and treatment options.

Movement disorders affect more than 40 million people in the United States. The most common are tremor and Parkinson's disease.

To combat these often debilitating illnesses, the movement disorder team at Rhode Island Hospital,

“Similar to the way pacemakers are used to pace the heart, we can pace the brain using deep brain stimulation. By correcting some of the brain's irregular frequencies, we can improve the symptoms of movement disorders.”

— Dr. Umer Akbar



L-R: Director of MS Center Dr. Syed Rizvi, Chief of Neurosurgery Dr. Ziya Gokaslan, Chief of Neurology Dr. Karen Furie, Director of the Movement Disorders Clinic Dr. Umer Akbar, Neurosurgeon Dr. Wael Asaad

led by Umer Akbar, MD, offers cutting-edge treatment options, such as the state's only deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery program.

"Similar to the way pacemakers are used to pace the heart, we can pace the brain using deep brain stimulation. By correcting some of the brain's irregular frequencies, we can improve the symptoms of movement disorders," explains Dr. Akbar.

During a three-to four-hour surgery while the patient remains awake, neurosurgeon Wael Asaad, MD, PhD, places a wire in the brain, which is later connected to a battery pack implanted in the chest wall. Once situated, Dr. Akbar analyzes brain activity and performs testing to ensure the placement will create maximum effect. After surgery, the patient leaves the hospital with minimal change in his or her tremor. A few weeks later, the patient returns to the clinic and the battery is programmed to alleviate the symptoms.

Fifty-nine-year-old Charles Collins recently had the surgery. "The doctors said the surgery would bring me back about three years, but I feel as good as I did at least five years ago," says Charles. Suffering

from Parkinson's disease for 10 years, his symptoms kept getting worse, to the point he couldn't tie his shoes or put on pants or a jacket. Now he can do all of those things. "The mobility I have now is incredible. Everyone notices."

Charles is now hoping to get back to work and make up for lost time with his grandchildren, his greatest joy. "My life has changed for the better for sure; the left side of my body in particular. The day I went to the clinic for my follow-up appointment, I had a tremor, and I left the office without one. I feel a big difference. I used to take so many medications; now I'm taking a lot less and feeling a lot better."

Dr. Akbar tells patients they can expect to have a 50-60 percent reduction in tremors after DBS, and for patients like Charles, that makes a world of difference to his quality of life. "I feel like a super bionic man. It's amazing what it's done," he explains. "I have the doctors to thank for that. I was so gloomy before but now I'm just so happy; it makes me teary to think about it."

What makes Rhode Island Hospital's DBS program unique is two-fold. To start, they have

implemented a one-day, fast track DBS clinic. This novel approach to comprehensive patient care—especially in light of the fact that most patients have mobility issues—brings the team of specialists to one convenient location for a single-day visit. “Normally it can take patients months to complete the multiple appointments required—neurology, neurosurgery, neuropsychology, psychiatry, physical therapy, speech evaluation and swallow assessment—just to determine if they qualify for DBS,” explains Dr. Akbar. “Following the clinic, the patient is notified within a few days whether or not he or she is a candidate for surgery and, if so, the surgery can usually be scheduled within eight weeks.”

The surgery itself is also unique. Instead of the more standard bulky metallic “frame” that is affixed to the patient’s head in order to locate the correct target in the brain, Dr. Asaad uses a new technology not yet routinely found at most institutions offering DBS. The technique utilizes a lightweight, 3D-printed platform customized to fit the exact reference points for each patient, allowing Dr. Asaad to precisely locate the targets in the brain. This approach is also more comfortable for the patient during surgery.

Additionally, the team uses an intraoperative CT scan to localize the wire placement during the surgery, which allows for a higher degree of accuracy.

“The combination of anatomical planning, interaction with the patient, and the intraoperative CT scan allows us to get the correct spot in the safest, most accurate and

comfortable way possible for the patient. It is the gold standard in DBS surgery,” says Dr. Asaad.

Rhode Island Hospital’s involvement in DBS research is another example of its continual pursuit of excellence. In addition to participating in a trial using DBS for Alzheimer’s disease, scientists, including Dr. Asaad, are at the cusp of testing on patients new DBS patterns they’ve developed that would further improve functioning for those with essential tremor and Parkinson’s disease. “Some of the world’s best neuro-engineering talent is at Brown University. With our access to them, we can do things in ways that few institutions can, giving us abilities most hospitals don’t have,” remarks Dr. Asaad.



Dr. Umer Akbar programs Charles Collins' stimulator during an office visit

The Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute

NPNI brings together physicians and scientists from Rhode Island Hospital and its Hasbro Children’s Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, Bradley Hospital, Brown University, the Brown Institute for Brain Science, Butler Hospital, and the Providence VA Medical Center. The institute is dedicated to advancing the neurosciences and reducing human suffering from disorders of the nervous system through world-class research, outstanding clinical care and advanced education. To learn more, visit www.NPNIRI.org.

The Multiple Sclerosis Center

Another resource unique to Rhode Island is the Multiple Sclerosis Center, dedicated entirely to the diagnosis, treatment and research of this chronic and potentially disabling neurological disease. Located in the newly-renovated Rhode Island Hospital out-patient clinic in the APC Building, and directed by neurologist Syed Rizvi, MD, the center offers patients comprehensive care with onsite infusions and physical therapy.

After waking up one morning unable to walk when she was only 18 years old, Dominique Pryor was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and thought her life was over. Then a college freshman, Dominique's biggest challenge went from school work to being able to get up and take a shower each day. After years of numerous hospitalizations and trying different medications, Dominique came to see Dr. Rizvi at the MS Center where she began Tysabri, an infusion therapy that has changed her life. "My quality of life is so much better. I still suffer from fatigue, but now I'm able to work, where before I couldn't." She has greatly benefited from this treatment and remains completely stable with no evidence of disease progression.

"At the MS Center, we have medication options that can change the course of the disease and potentially prevent disability for patients," explains Dr. Rizvi. "We are also part of many clinical drug trials for patients with more progressive forms of MS that don't respond to the approved treatments currently available."



Dominique Pryor

"I'm so appreciative of the care I receive at the MS Center. It's life-changing to be feeling so much better..."

— Dominique Pryor

But it's not just about the medication. "We care for the whole person, customizing care to each patient and their individual needs," says Dr. Rizvi of his team, which includes MS specialist Jonathan Cahill, MD, an MS fellow, infusion nurses, and

research coordinators. For Dominique, that means getting assistance with making accommodations for work and school; for others it can include access to Reiki therapy, specialists in neuro-ophthalmology, urology, and psychiatry,

as well as physical and speech therapies, all located at Rhode Island Hospital to help manage the many symptoms and side effects of MS.

"I'm so appreciative of the care I receive at the MS Center. It's life-changing to be feeling so much better; to be able to walk my dog and even travel," says Dominique.

Donor Invests in a Winner – Neurosciences

Paul Salem has made a living investing in world-class talent and backing winners. So when the Providence Equity co-founder and senior managing director and his wife, Navyn, founder of the non-profit Edesia, say they believe Rhode Island Hospital and its Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute (NPNI) have the talent to make the Ocean State “THE” epicenter of neuroscience discovery and care, people take notice. In fact, they’re so confident in their vision that The Salem Foundation has made a \$1 million gift to the hospital’s neurosciences program.

“I’m a big believer that you need to be at the top of your field and if you want to be great, you have to be number one,” says Paul. “When you look at the talent that’s been recruited to Rhode Island and the leadership behind the Institute, I think we have the makings for great things.”

Some of the talent Paul is referring to is internationally-renowned neurosurgeon, Ziya Gokaslan, MD, FACS, recruited last year from John Hopkins University School of Medicine to be Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at both Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital, clinical director of NPNI, and chair of neurosurgery at The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. And the leadership team the Salems believe strongly in is

led by Rhode Island Hospital President Margaret M. Van Bree, MHA, DrPH and Lifespan President and Chief Executive Officer Timothy J. Babineau, MD.

Confident Rhode Island’s competitive advantage lies within the broad teams the state has assembled around neurosciences, The Salem Foundation has made a similar gift to support neurosciences at Brown University, saying, “When you put it all together, we could have something really special.”

Personally, Navyn and Paul are no strangers to diseases of the brain. Paul’s mother suffers from Alzheimer’s and they have friends with ALS. They hope one day there will be a cure for both. “The brain is one of the final frontiers in medicine and we need to find cures. Think of autism, ALS, Alzheimer’s—they’re where cancer was 30-40 years ago,” says Paul. “Today, we have these terrible,

debilitating brain diseases and I think years from now, we’ll say ‘Look at the progress we have made.’ It just takes time and money.”

“We’re very grateful to The Salem Foundation for their visionary thinking and generosity. With dedicated philanthropists like Navyn and Paul by our side, we’ll move another step closer to solving the mysteries of the brain,” says Dr. Gokaslan.

As Paul sums it up, “I think we have a winner here.”



Paul and Navyn Salem

50 Years of Saving Sight

Supporting Technology and Research Will Make a Clear Difference for Ophthalmology Patients

Anyone who has ever used a digital camera knows how much the advancements in technology impact the final picture. And, how rapidly that technology evolves. Today, our cell phone cameras can take better pictures than the most advanced digital camera could just a few years ago.

The same concept is true for diagnostic imaging equipment. For eye surgeons, and the patients whose vision they help preserve, access to the latest technology is essential.

“When you are dealing with someone’s vision, you need to be able to diagnose someone early and follow closely,” said Michael E. Migliori, MD, FACS, Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at Rhode Island Hospital and Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Warren Albert Medical School at Brown University. “There

is no replacement when you lose your vision.”

That is the driving force behind the current effort to raise support for the Ophthalmology Equipment Fund at Rhode Island Hospital. As the Ophthalmology program commemorates the 50th anniversary of its residency program this year, it is reaching out to the community for support.

The goal is to raise up to \$500,000 to upgrade its existing equipment (some of which has already been retrofitted over the years), add a new exam room to meet increasing patient demand, and to outfit one exam room with fully-adjustable equipment to accommodate the needs of patients with disabilities. The accessible room would include a specialized chair that can easily be moved to make room for a wheelchair and a slit lamp that adjusts in height to ensure proper alignment and angle for the doctor



Dr. Michael E. Migliori with residents

to examine the patient's eyes. The slit lamp is the clinic's most important piece of equipment used with every patient.

"We serve everybody—patients who are referred to us through the Emergency Department, employees, the uninsured and the indigent. We have an extremely busy ED, so we see lots of traumatic eye injuries. We are also the safety net for patients who wouldn't get eye care otherwise," says Dr. Migliori. "By treating patients with diabetes, glaucoma, macular degeneration and other eye diseases in the clinic setting, we can provide appropriate care and monitoring for all who need us."

The Rhode Island Hospital Ophthalmology Clinic provides the full range of eye care—from routine exams to subspecialty medical and surgical treatments. Residents train here in the latest medical and surgical eye care. Each year, residents assist in approximately 8,000 patient visits a year. This includes more than 800 visits with pediatric patients who have vision problems resulting from injuries or disease that could result in childhood blindness.

Five decades ago, the clinic started with just one basic exam room on the main hospital campus. Now, it is located in Coro West and has expanded to six rooms. The residency program has also evolved from one resident a year to three, and now nine residents train in the latest techniques and on the latest technology each year. In addition to treating patients, the faculty physicians and residents also conduct research to advance the field and enhance patient care.

Arthur Geltzer, MD, Ophthalmic Surgeon and Clinical Associate Professor at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University, has been treating patients and training residents here since 1970. One of the pioneers in laser surgery techniques and fluorescein angiography,

a procedure that allows the doctor to see the blood vessels in the back of the eye by injecting a fluorescent dye into the bloodstream, Dr. Geltzer has seen firsthand the value of research and advanced technology to patients.

That is the reason he has established a planned gift to benefit the ophthalmology clinic and residency program. "What has occurred in these 45 years is remarkable. It has truly been a revolution in diagnostic techniques and we need the funds to keep up and continue

to advance this area," Dr. Geltzer said. "In making this planned gift, I wanted to be sure that the work I started would continue and the department can successfully enter the next phase of technology and continue training future generations."

Says Dr. Migliori, "The only thing people fear more than death is losing vision. It is an honor, but also an awesome responsibility, to be asked to preserve their vision. We need the right equipment to do it."

To date, the Ophthalmology Equipment Fund at Rhode Island Hospital has also secured grants totaling \$106,000. These grants include \$14,000 from the Everett F. Boyden Trust, \$42,000 from the Edward J. & Virginia M. Routhier Foundation, and \$50,000 from the Rhode Island Foundation Program for the Blind.



Arthur Geltzer, MD

Sidney R. Baer, Jr. Foundation Supports Psychosomatic Fellowship

Sidney R. Baer, Jr. was asked to leave Yale in his freshman year after suffering a psychotic break. It was the 1940s and this young member of the family that founded the Stix Baer & Fuller department store chain was viewed as a failure. No one looked at him as someone suffering from mental illness.

Throughout his life, Sidney struggled, all the while knowing he could have finished college if given the chance.

During periods of improved functioning, he was a successful businessman and consultant. Despite his illness, formally diagnosed as schizophrenia just four years before his passing, Sidney was always generous with his wealth, seeking to help alleviate the suffering of others afflicted with mental illness.

In 1999, with advice from his lawyer and long-time friend George Handran, Sidney established the Sidney R. Baer, Jr. Foundation for the benefit of mental health research and care. Upon his death in 2002, he left the balance of his estate to the Foundation to further the education, research, and treatment of schizophrenia.

"I told Sidney that in this way he could help people like himself with programs and support that he never had the benefit of," explains George, now co-trustee of the Foundation.

With their recent support of Rhode Island Hospital, the Foundation is making an important impact that would have made Sidney proud. Thanks to their generosity, a fellowship in Psychosomatic Medicine (PM) has been established. A subspecialty of psychiatry, PM focuses on the diagnosis, treatment and intersection of psychiatric disorders and medical-surgical-neurological illness.

Each circumstance is different and how patients are affected varies widely. Take for instance, patients with cancer. One patient may be psychologically burdened by their terminal cancer diagnosis, another could have a manic response from steroids given as part of the cancer treatment, a third might become psychotic due to a tumor located in a behaviorally relevant part of the brain, and a fourth may become delirious due to metabolic complications related to their cancer and its treatment. The common denominator in all four examples

of co-morbid psychiatric conditions: a cancer diagnosis.

Conversely, the brain can affect the body. Patients with severe mental illness (SMI), like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, often develop co-morbid medical conditions.

"Patients with SMI diagnoses develop conditions like hypertension, COPD, high cholesterol and heart disease as they get older, and they die early because they are unable to manage their illness optimally," explains Colin J. Harrington, MD, Director of Adult





Dr. Colin J. Harrington with patient

Consultation Psychiatry and Neuropsychiatry Education at Rhode Island Hospital. “In addition, there is mounting evidence that there may be shared biological mechanisms driving certain medical and psychiatric diseases—evidence unchanged for 30 years that shows patients with severe mental illness have a life expectancy 15 to 20 years shorter than people without SMI.”

Dr. Harrington also explains that as the diagnosis, treatment, and management of psychiatric patients shifts back to the general medical hospital setting—and as the co-morbidity between psychiatric and medical disease and the occurrence of secondary neuropsychiatric syndromes is increasingly recognized—having expert PM consultation services becomes even more important. To that end, Rhode Island Hospital has integrated PM psychiatrists into a number of outpatient clinics throughout the

Lifespan system in addition to its hospital and inpatient based PM psychiatrists.

The two year, \$80,000-per-year fellowship grant from the Sidney R. Baer Jr. Foundation, along with support from the RIH Departments of Psychiatry and Oncology, and the Brown University Alpert Medical School Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, aims to develop curriculum, increase consultation to med-psych patients,

improve connections with community mental health services, and more.

“This fellowship is something that would have compelled Sidney to help if he were still alive—he knew

“This fellowship is something that would have compelled Sidney to help if he were still alive...”

— George Handran

firsthand how devastating the effects of mental illness were on their own; never mind when coupled with a medical illness,” says George. “Any opportunity to train physicians to recognize the symptoms and not rush to a diagnosis is something he would be proud to support.”

The Champlin Foundations Give \$500,000 for Powerful, Reliable PET CT Scanner

You're early for your appointment. One thing's on your mind: Is my chemotherapy drug working? Then the imaging technician tells you, "I'm sorry. The scanner's malfunctioning, and we'll have to reschedule."

You're in a sudden tailspin and have to endure the agony of more questions and more waiting.

"There's a domino effect when you have unreliability," says John Cronan, MD, Chief of Radiology at Rhode Island Hospital. "And, unfortunately, this has occasionally happened with our existing PET CT scanner, installed in 2007. With nearly 10-year-old electronics and software, you can't expect it to work perfectly day-to-day. Digital scanners become quickly outmoded and typically last seven years.

We knew we needed to invest in new equipment."

Thanks to a \$500,000 grant from The Champlin Foundations, Rhode Island Hospital has purchased a Siemens Biograph mCT Flow PET CT scanner (PET: positron emission tomography; CT: computed tomography). The new scanner produces more precise imaging, and potential cancer "hot spots" are detected more quickly and at smaller sizes than in the past. Doctors can begin treatment sooner, leading to more cost-effective care and better patient outcomes. The scanner's speed also translates to quicker appointments and the ability to care for more patients, Dr. Cronan says.

"We are proud of our longstanding partnership with Rhode Island Hospital and of helping to provide this advanced diagnostic imaging equipment to the people of Rhode Island," says Keith Lang, Executive Director of The Champlin Foundations. "The new scanner's greater accuracy over older systems will make an enormous difference in diagnosing and treating some of today's most devastating diseases."

In addition, the new scanner is optimal for

performing safer, more effective scans on bariatric patients. These patients' excessive soft tissue can present a barrier to effective imaging, thus requiring higher doses of radiation. The processing power of the new scanner will make better imaging of bariatric patients possible with lower radiation doses.

While roughly 75 percent of the equipment's time will be devoted to cancer screenings, with the balance going to research projects, the new scanner will also enable Rhode Island Hospital's neurologists and imaging specialists to perform confirmatory diagnoses for Alzheimer's disease and to assess its progression in the brain.

According to Dr. Cronan, "The PET CT scanner provides an objective measurement, a ruler, for the physician and the patient. If we know a drug for cancer or Alzheimer's disease is not working, we can stop it immediately. We now have a tool for judging the effectiveness of a drug that no one has had before."



Patient undergoing PET CT scan

Community Champions Honored at Annual President's Pursuit of Excellence Dinner



This past November, against an illuminated backdrop of five words that served as the overarching theme of the night—Integrity, Compassion, Commitment, Excellence and Dedication—Margaret M. Van Bree, MHA, DrPH, President of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital, welcomed more than 600 guests to the annual President's Pursuit of Excellence Dinner at the Rhode Island Convention Center.

"Delivering health with care is so much more than our hospital's tagline, it is the embodiment of who we are as an institution and how we go about our work every day," said Dr. Van Bree.

Keeping the focus on the compassionate people who work at Rhode Island Hospital and care for some of the most vulnerable in our community, Dr. Van Bree introduced Juliana Zapata, who shared the emotional story of how the See, Test, Treat program at Rhode Island Hospital saved her mother Maria's life.

The evening continued with Dr. Van Bree recognizing the 2015 Champions: Washington Trust,

accepted by Edward "Ned" O. Handy (above left) as Corporate Champion; Michael G. Ehrlich, MD (center with Dr. Van Bree) for Lifetime Achievement; and The Honorable and Mrs. Bruce M. Selya (right) as Individual Champions.

"Each of our honorees defines the true meaning of a champion—passionate advocates who promote, uphold and support that which is meaningful to them individually and for our community as a whole," said Dr. Van Bree. "We are so fortunate that Rhode Island Hospital is a cause each has tirelessly championed and we, as an institution and community, are better because of their collective commitment."

The 2015 President's Pursuit of Excellence Dinner was co-chaired by Roger N. Begin, Chairman of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees; Dr. Arthur A. Bert; Marc A. Paulhus; and Latha Sivaprasad, MD, FACP, FHM. The event was generously supported by title sponsors University Orthopedics and the Rhode Island Hospital Guild.

To learn more about the event and view honoree videos, visit giving.lifespan.org/PPOE-2015-Videos.



Behind the Scenes: An Introduction to Members of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees

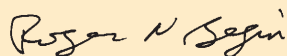
Among the many things at Rhode Island Hospital that provide me with a great sense of pride is the way our community leaders come together and give so freely of themselves in service to the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees.

It would be an understatement to simply say that healthcare can be a challenging realm. Yet, it is the ability of this group to look through a collaborative lens to advance our hospital's philanthropic vision and build support for the future that helps us remain on the cutting edge of medicine, research, and education.

Rhode Island Hospital is among the most important resources in our state—an institution that touches countless patients' lives during their most vulnerable moments. And it is the work of this group that helps to make so much of it possible.

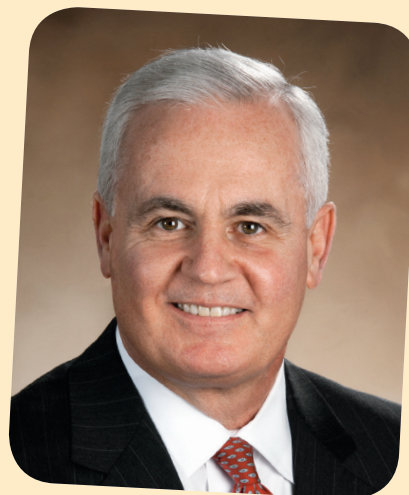
I am honored to chair a group of such amazing individuals, and it is my pleasure to introduce you to two of our members: Marc Paulhus and Elizabeth Perik.

With sincere appreciation,



Roger N. Begin

Chair, Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees



Meet Marc Paulhus



While Marc Paulhus' financial career has, at times, taken him outside the Ocean State, no place could ever replace home for the native Rhode Islander. In 2014, when the long-time Citizens Bank executive returned after being named its Rhode Island President, Marc also added another title to his resume: Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees member.

"I consider it a privilege to serve on this board and be an advocate for our state's leading healthcare provider," says Marc. "The quality of care that takes place at Rhode Island Hospital is just incredible."

Twelve years ago, Marc saw that care up close after his father had a massive heart attack. Requiring a specialist because he suffers from situs inversus—a rare condition in which the heart and other organs are reversed

continued

from their normal positions, Marc's father was treated at Rhode Island Hospital.

"Before the procedure to implant a defibrillator, the cardiologist explained everything in such a way that both my father and I could understand it, and that gave us great comfort," he recalls. "It's that level of care that really distinguishes Rhode Island Hospital."

Professionally, Marc is proud to lead an organization that makes active community engagement one of its top priorities. Across each of the core issues Citizens focuses on—fighting hunger, providing shelter, and assistance for veterans—he sees healthcare intersecting at the heart of all three.

"Rhode Island Hospital is home not only to some of the best doctors in the world, but also some of the most impressive advancements in medicine today," says Marc. "This hospital is squarely at the center of our most important community resources."

Meet Elizabeth Perik

Ask Elizabeth "Liz" Perik what makes Rhode Island Hospital great and the dedicated advocate and supporter couldn't be happier to answer. In fact, she may find it difficult to pinpoint just one thing, and that in itself provides her with a great sense of pride.

"People do not need to go to Boston or New York to get great care—the best care can be found right here at Rhode Island Hospital," says Liz.

Liz and her family have long held close connections to the hospital. It's been more than ten years since Liz first began serving in a leadership role for our hospitals, giving freely of herself as a member of the Rhode Island Hospital Board of Governors, the Hasbro Children's Hospital Advisory Council, and the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees.

Over this decade-plus, she has seen first-hand the results of our never-ending pursuit of delivering health with care.

"This is a hospital that attracts and recruits some of the world's top physicians while pioneering some of the most innovative breakthroughs in medicine today," she says. "Combined with its dedication to education and strong relationship with Brown, the future of Rhode Island Hospital is full of limitless possibilities."

Liz is quick to recognize the important roles that community support and philanthropy play in our life-saving abilities. She also gratefully acknowledges how fortunate the hospital and health system are to be guided by the leadership of President Margaret M. Van Bree, MHA, DrPH, and Lifespan President and CEO, Timothy J. Babineau, MD.

"Leadership has elevated Rhode Island Hospital to a whole new level; I have tremendous confidence in their vision for the future and how the hospital will serve our community," says Liz. "I would recommend anyone be cared for here—I know I wouldn't go elsewhere."





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Ensuring a Future through Planned Giving



At the age of 27, Dennis Stark's second banking job not only brought this Midwesterner to Rhode Island for a position at Old Stone Bank, it also introduced him to the importance of volunteerism and giving back. "The bank president encouraged young officers to get out and become involved in the community," explains Dennis. Since that time, not only has Dennis enjoyed successful careers in banking and higher education, his community involvement has practically become a second job.

Over the years, Dennis has served on countless organization boards, from United Way, the YMCA and International House, to Planned Parenthood, his Episcopal Church, the Rhode Island Historical Society, and the Preservation Societies of Providence and Pawtucket, to name just a few. Recently, he found himself serving on 17 boards at one time.

"I've been blessed with a desire to serve. My parents were very active in the church, and they were the examples I wanted to follow," says Dennis.

But Dennis' interest in supporting Rhode Island Hospital doesn't stem from any previous service on a hospital board; it comes from a childhood hospital experience in Illinois that left an impression so profound he carried it to the Ocean State.

"They don't know when I had the virus, but sometime before I was 11 years old, I had polio," explains Dennis. "After that, I was experiencing what's now known as post-polio syndrome and was hospitalized on two occasions for nearly four months each time."

It was during these long hospital stays that Dennis was introduced to his "number one hobby" – stamp collecting. "It all started in the hospital with a gift of 1,000 stamps and an album from a volunteer. Now I have eighteen albums, over 30,000 stamps, and a warm spot for hospitals because of it."

It was this fondness for hospitals that prompted Dennis to include Rhode Island Hospital in his estate planning. "It's the largest hospital in the state and the teaching hospital for Brown University—I know the money will be used well," he says. "For me, I feel strongly that not having children, I have a special responsibility to think about how my estate can help the community into the future."

By committing to a planned gift today, Dennis is putting his personal philosophy of giving into practice, knowing it will ensure an impact on many lives for years to come.

"... I have a special responsibility to think about how my estate can help the community into the future."

– Dennis Stark

Please continue to Advance Medicine and Touch Lives
at Rhode Island Hospital through your generosity.

We invite you to learn more by visiting
giving.lifespan.org/RIH-Foundation.

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