

Fall 2016

Advancing Medicine.

Touching Lives.

For friends and supporters of Rhode Island Hospital



Genomics & Targeted Therapy
Advances Give
Cancer Patients Hope

Full story on page 3

A Message

from the President



Margaret M. Van Bree

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

Welcome to your fall issue of *Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives*. In these pages you'll learn about new approaches in personalized medicine being utilized by the Comprehensive Cancer Center to treat patients, and will meet Bob, whose hope and health have been restored thanks to an innovative immunotherapy treatment for his biliary cancer. You'll also learn about our recently forged partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute that will enhance our capabilities in the realm of genomics and targeted therapies.

Also included is a spotlight on a painful reality of life as we know it today. As the country engages in dialogue about the growing opioid crisis, Rhode Island Hospital is actively seeking ways to make an impact today. We have engaged with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in the establishment of an Addiction Medicine Fellowship program aimed at training physicians in this much needed subspecialty.

Finally, I'm proud to introduce you to Dr. Edward Akelman and the endowed Hand Scholar Surgery Fund that was created in his honor; share the backgrounds of two of our esteemed Foundation Board members, Anthony Calandrelli and Elizabeth "Beth" Huber; and present our 2015 Honor Roll of donors.

Thank you for being part of the Rhode Island Hospital family and taking your place on our Honor Roll. So much of what we do here at Rhode Island Hospital is made possible, in large part, through the generous support of caring people like you. As always, I am so grateful you are by our side.

I hope to see you at the *President's Pursuit of Excellence Dinner* on November 15!

Rhode Island Hospital Leadership

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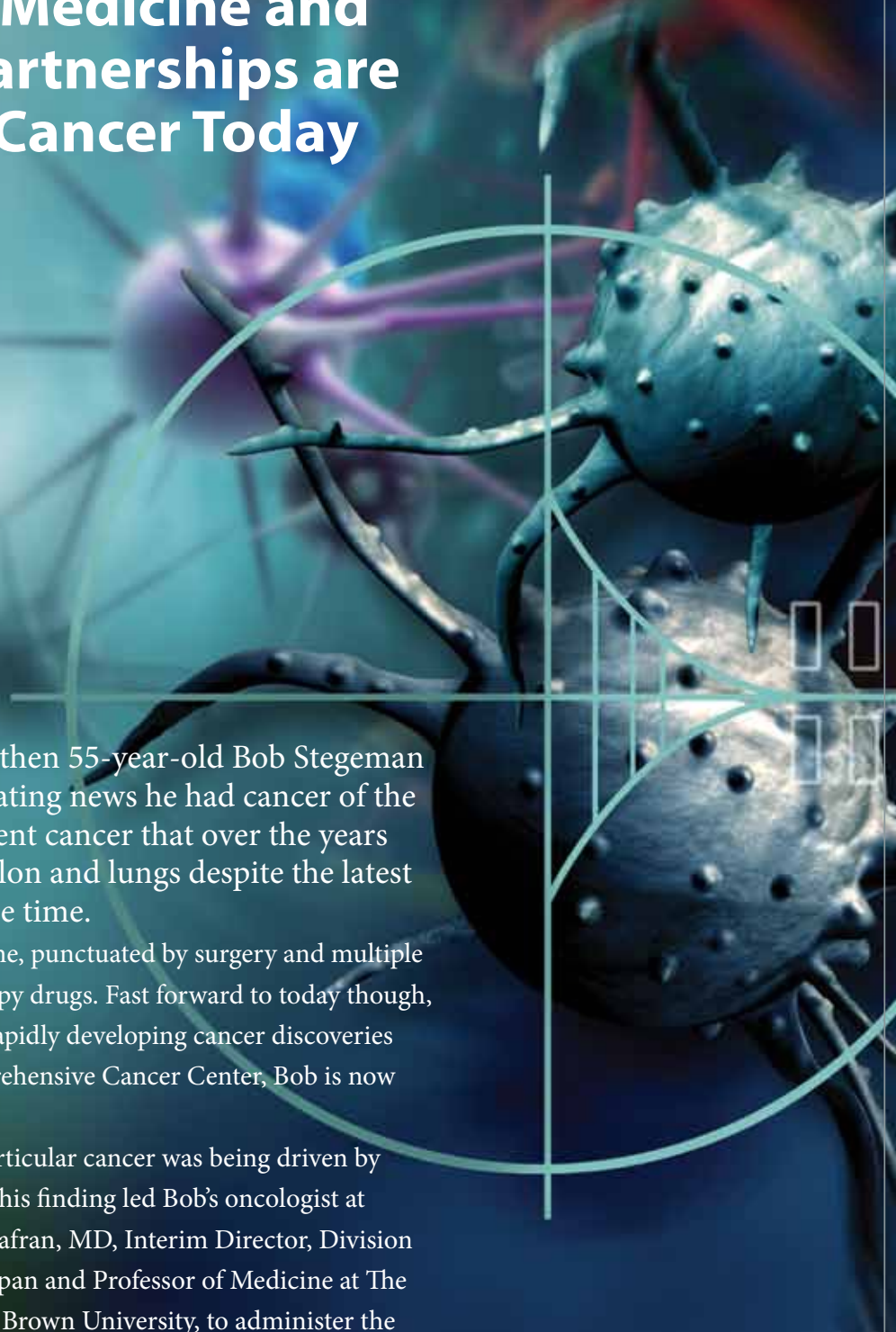
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and Rhode Island Hospital Board of Trustees

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Chairman, Rhode Island Hospital Foundation
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Zeroing in on the Target

Precision Medicine and Unique Partnerships are Defining Cancer Today



Seven years ago, the then 55-year-old Bob Stegeman received the devastating news he had cancer of the biliary duct, a virulent cancer that over the years metastasized to his liver, colon and lungs despite the latest in treatment protocols at the time.

Bob's journey was a grueling one, punctuated by surgery and multiple rounds of traditional chemotherapy drugs. Fast forward to today though, and thanks to the availability of rapidly developing cancer discoveries at Rhode Island Hospital's Comprehensive Cancer Center, Bob is now feeling better than ever.

Genetic testing revealed his particular cancer was being driven by nearly a dozen abnormal genes. This finding led Bob's oncologist at Rhode Island Hospital, Howard Safran, MD, Interim Director, Division of Hematology/Oncology at Lifespan and Professor of Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, to administer the immunotherapy drug, nivolumab (Opdivo), believing it would cause his body to produce an immune response against the cancer—which it did. Since starting immunotherapy in January 2016, Bob and his family have hope that his cancer can be controlled.

"I feel so much better on the immunotherapy than I did on the various chemotherapies I've tried. I have some permanent neuropathy from the earlier chemo drugs that make working with my hands a challenge, but it doesn't stop me," Bob says. "I have a lot to live for, including my 10-month-old granddaughter!"

Different from traditional chemotherapies that act against actively dividing cells, including healthy ones, immunotherapy harnesses the power of the body's own immune system to fight the cancer. "Some patients with very advanced cancers are having promising results," says Dr. Safran. "Research is being done to see how to make cancers more immunogenic so that these drugs can help an even greater number of patients."

"We never could have imagined we'd be where we are today—with Bob still with us seven years after his diagnosis and feeling so good," says Ellen, his wife of 31 years. "There were times we weren't sure he'd live to see our two daughters graduate from college. Then we thought he might not survive to walk our oldest, Erin, down the aisle at her wedding, but he did. And now he's a very proud grandfather. We are so grateful for this immunotherapy and the care he's receiving at Rhode Island Hospital."

Immunotherapies, as well as other targeted therapies (which attack specific abnormal genes in cancer cells), are what physicians and researchers believe to be the future of cancer treatment. These therapies are a cornerstone of personalized medicine, which uses information about a patient's own genes and proteins to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease. It is for this reason that now, more than ever before, cancer care and research are relying on partnerships and access to a large patient base to further discoveries.

The Power of Partnerships

As part of The Comprehensive Cancer Center's goal to create a high-quality, patient-centered and research-focused program, Lifespan is joining forces with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) to create a unique, exclusive partnership that will advance cancer care for patients with an eye toward becoming a leading model for cancer partnerships across the country. This relationship builds

on Lifespan's existing strengths in cancer research, treatment and patient care and will provide our patients with enhanced access to the most current clinical trials available. The goal is to offer our patients advanced opportunities for treatment while allowing them to do so as close to home as possible. When there is something that we are not able to offer in Rhode Island, there will be a seamless system for our patients to go to DFCI—with both institutions using the same electronic medical records system.

"We don't yet know where the horizon is for patients like Bob on



Bob with 10-month-old granddaughter Scarlett

immunotherapy. The number of therapies coming down the pipeline is overwhelming,” explains David E. Wazer, MD, Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center. “A big part of our initiative with DFCI is coordinating strategies around genomics and personalized medicine. That really is the future—to be able to identify for each specific patient which drug is likely to be most effective in their circumstance. It requires large numbers of patients and very sophisticated data systems and participating in a robust network of institutions.”

For Bob and other patients like him, access to new therapies is a matter of life and death. “We knew we were running out of options for Bob when Dr. Safran tried immunotherapy. We are so thankful each and every day this is working!” says Ellen.



Seah Lim, MD, PhD, Director of Hematology, Professor of Medicine

David E. Wazer, MD, Appointed Director of Comprehensive Cancer Center



In April of this year, David E. Wazer, MD, was appointed Director of the Lifespan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Wazer had served as the Center's interim director since November 2014 and has been at the helm of leading the creation of Lifespan's cancer center

roadmap as well as helping formulate the system's new partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Wazer serves as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He continues to serve as radiation oncologist-in-chief at Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Newport Hospital.

Dr. Wazer is an internationally recognized expert in the application of new technology in the field of radiation oncology. He earned his medical degree (with honors) from the New York University School of Medicine; he did his residency in internal

medicine at Brown University, and his residency in radiation oncology at Tufts University. He has also held a number of faculty and research positions at Tufts, Brown, and MIT.

“We are truly fortunate to have someone of Dr. Wazer's caliber and capabilities helping to lead our Center, especially at this time of unprecedented medical advances and change,” comments Lifespan President and CEO, Timothy J. Babineau, MD.

Dr. Wazer is renowned across the globe for his clinical and research expertise, demonstrating extraordinary leadership skills and a deep commitment to elevating the cancer services provided by Lifespan to “best-in-class.”

“I have always been impressed at the potential that exists at Lifespan related to the cancer program,” explains Dr. Wazer. “What I am most impressed with is leadership's vision and commitment to taking the cancer program to the next level. I believe we have all the elements to be a nationally prominent player in cancer care and research. I look forward to expanding our collaborative partnership with Brown in cancer research.”

Edward Akelman, MD, Leads Orthopedics at Rhode Island Hospital

In May 2016, Edward Akelman, MD, was appointed the new Chief of the Department of Orthopedics at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. He also now serves as Chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and the Vincent Zecchino, MD Professor of Orthopedics. He replaces the celebrated Michael G. Ehrlich, MD, who is now serving as Director of Orthopedic Research.

After an exhaustive national search, Dr. Akelman, who joined Rhode Island Hospital and Brown in 1985 and has served as the chief of hand, upper extremity and microvascular surgery for the last 30 years, stood out as the right leader and physician to help build upon this nationally renowned program. Dr. Akelman, the Edward Akelman, MD Scholar In Hand Surgery, additionally leads the Lifespan and Brown University hand, upper extremity and microvascular surgery Fellowship program.

Hand Surgery Scholar Fund Endowed

In recognition of Dr. Akelman's career, Rhode Island Hospital established an endowed Hand Scholar Surgery Fund, to which grateful patients, former residents and fellows, and generous friends of the department provide funding. The Fund provides, in perpetuity, support for the academic mission of the Division of Hand, Upper Extremity and Microvascular Surgery in the Department of Orthopedics at Rhode Island Hospital.



L-R: Edward Akelman, MD; Michael Ehrlich, MD

“Excellence in teaching is Ed’s standard. We’re confident that the physicians who are fortunate enough to learn from him will be exceptional practitioners. What a gift it is to those able to study with such an extraordinary teacher.”

– Lynne Akelman Redgrave

While Dr. Akelman’s accomplishments are many and significant, it’s his warmth and compassion that are exceptional. He fully engages with each and every patient to ensure he is providing care for the “whole person.” He trains future generations of caregivers to listen closely and engage the patient as an equal partner with an eye toward providing the best care possible for each patient. As a recent fellow remarked, “You simply cannot gain this rich experience from a textbook or from many other residency/fellowship programs. Dr. Akelman is the best teacher one could hope for, and I will be a better physician and surgeon because of him.”

For Lynne Akelman Redgrave and her husband Martyn Redgrave, the decision to support the Hand Scholar Surgery Fund with a major gift to honor

Dr. Akelman’s lifetime of work was an easy one: “Our family foundation typically supports organizations that have great leadership, a focus on education, and demonstrated impact in the community they serve. Aside from Ed being my brother, and Martyn’s college friend, the Edward Akelman, MD, Hand Surgery Scholar Endowment meets all of these criteria. We could not be more proud of Ed’s amazing career and all he has done for his profession,” explains Lynne.

The endowment not only secures the legacy of a great clinician and mentor, it also will allow Dr. Akelman to further develop and enhance physician education and training techniques on a local and national level.

“Excellence in teaching is Ed’s standard. We’re confident that the physicians

who are fortunate enough to learn from him will be exceptional practitioners. What a gift it is to those able to study with such an extraordinary teacher,” concludes Lynne.



Dr. Edward Akelman with patient

Addiction Medicine Fellowship Aims to Combat Opioid Crisis



Almost daily, news headlines shine a spotlight on the opioid misuse epidemic that has become rampant throughout the United States, including the Ocean State. It's an urgent public health crisis that has already destroyed so many.

The story by now is a common one. Someone predisposed to addiction (whether they know it or not) gets into a car accident or is seriously injured in some way. A well-intentioned physician prescribes an opioid for pain. Before they know it, they are addicted—the number of unintentional overdose deaths from prescription pain relievers having quadrupled in the U.S. since 1999. When stricter rules for prescription refills were put in place, some ultimately turned to the streets for their fix. Addiction knows no social or economic boundaries. It's truly an equal opportunity destroyer.

With little question of the need for more physicians to be trained in the specialty of addiction medicine, Rhode Island Hospital and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University have teamed up to do just that with the David C. Lewis, MD Fellowship in Addiction

Medicine—one of just 40 recognized addiction medicine fellowships in the country.

The fellowship at Rhode Island Hospital is named for Dr. David C. Lewis, a national leader in addiction medicine for more than 40 years and Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Community Health and the Donald G. Miller Distinguished Professor of Alcohol and Addiction Studies at Brown University. In 1982, Dr. Lewis was instrumental in establishing the Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies as part of the Division of Biology and Medicine.

“Addiction—whether to opioids, alcohol, or other drugs—deserves equal standing as a medical and public health problem with other areas of medicine,” says Dr. Lewis. “But to get routine care for addiction into the primary care setting, you have to develop a specialty to support it and solve the medical education piece and that’s what this fellowship is looking to accomplish.”

Laura Levine, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and Clinical Assistant Professor of Medical Science at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, is the director of the fellowship. She works hand-in-hand

with Susan Ramsey, PhD, Senior Research Scientist at Rhode Island Hospital and Associate Professor (Research) in the Departments of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, who serves as director of research for the fellowship. The fellowship is overseen by the Division of General Internal Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital, directed by Angela Caliendo, MD, PhD.

“The changes we see in opioid use have necessitated a different approach to treatment,” says Dr. Ramsey. “We have to move away from thinking this is something the patient can control on their own.”

When addiction patients present with a multitude of medical and psychiatric issues, physicians are not consistently trained to address the underlying addiction, further complicating treatment. But through this prestigious fellowship, physicians will receive the highest level of education and training, allowing them to bring the specialty of addiction medicine to providers in the primary care setting.

The fellowship’s creation was the brainchild of former Brown University professor and researcher, Peter D. Friedmann, MD, MPH and Amanda Wilson, MD, founder of CleanSlate Addiction Treatment Centers. CleanSlate specializes in medication-assisted treatment for addictions to opioids, alcohol, and other substances using an outpatient program at its 16 physician office practices throughout Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Indiana. Not only does CleanSlate support the fellowship with a generous annual gift of \$60,000 to Rhode Island Hospital, they participate in the fellows’ ongoing education and in the continued development of the program.

“Addiction has been branded an issue of willpower, but in reality, it’s a chronic disease just like asthma or diabetes,” says Dr. Wilson, who also serves as CleanSlate’s Chairwoman of the Board. “Opioid disease creates changes to the brain’s chemistry that can be seen on MRIs, and we know patients benefit from medications that re-stabilize that imbalance—but there’s a huge need for more addiction medicine specialists.”

While still in its infancy, the fellowship includes a robust academic component in which the fellows themselves develop educational materials and learn to train future specialists. Looking ahead, a primary goal of the fellowship is to have a fellow able to consult with patients who present in the hospital, getting them started on treatment immediately and linking them with outpatient care for follow-up.

Adds Dr. Levine, who also works in a VA methadone clinic, “Through addiction medicine, I see people getting their lives back, literally in front of my eyes. They are mending relationships, starting families and going back to school. These things wouldn’t be possible if they continued to struggle with addiction. This is an area where we can make an incredible difference by training the next generation of specialists.”

“Addiction – whether to opioids, alcohol, or other drugs – deserves equal standing as a medical and public health problem with other areas of medicine.”

– David C. Lewis, MD



Laura Levine, MD



David C. Lewis, MD



Susan Ramsey, PhD



Amanda Wilson, MD

A Message from the Chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees

To be a member of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees is to care about the health and well-being of our community and to make a commitment to the future of healthcare in our state. I am honored to chair a group of such dedicated individuals who understand the importance of Rhode Island Hospital to southern New England and voluntarily take time out of their busy lives to support its philanthropic mission.

At Rhode Island Hospital, patient care spans the spectrum from pre-natal through geriatric; from physical to mental health, and our caring extends beyond the walls of the hospital into the community. The members of the Foundation Board bring together their collective abilities to ensure our hospital remains at the forefront of patient care, innovation, research and education. I am proud to introduce you to two members who are doing just that: Anthony Calandrelli and Elizabeth Huber.



Roger N. Begin

Roger N. Begin, Chairman
Rhode Island Hospital Foundation
Board of Trustees

Meet Anthony Calandrelli



Anthony Calandrelli's affinity for Rhode Island Hospital truly took root when we cared for his parents late in their lives.

Never forgetting the superb way his family was treated—doctors taking extra time to answer every question, nurses going the extra mile to ensure his parents were comfortable—Anthony wanted to give back. He became a supporter of our President's Pursuit of Excellence Dinner and in 2015, served on the event's executive committee.

Recently, Anthony further deepened his commitment to Rhode Island Hospital by joining our Foundation Board of Trustees at the invitation of Roger Begin.

"I've seen up close just how great a hospital we have here," says Anthony, who is president and owner of American Ring Company, Inc., a family-owned business for three generations. "Rhode Island Hospital was built on a foundation of community support and it's our collective responsibility to keep that going for future generations."

Anthony is eager to lend his business expertise to the Foundation Board as he embraces his role as a hospital advocate in the community. Among the many attributes of the hospital he believes the community should be proud of, the sheer number of lives that are saved and our position as the only Level 1 trauma center in southeastern New England top the list.

"Rhode Island Hospital is a community of people who go above and beyond to ensure our health; we are fortunate to have a hospital of this caliber right in our backyard," he explains. "The doctors and nurses are amazing—it takes a special type of person to do this work and I give them all the praise in the world."

Meet Elizabeth “Beth” Huber

Passionate about ensuring people have access to the physical and mental health services they need, Beth Huber became involved with our President’s Pursuit of Excellence Dinner two years ago to help raise funds for patient care. With a desire to take her engagement to the next level, Beth didn’t think twice before accepting an invitation to join the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees.

“Accessing care, especially for mental health, can be difficult—I want to help people understand what’s available to them and how to navigate the system,” says Beth. “Rhode Island Hospital provides extraordinary care and is a center of excellence. It’s also a hospital that’s just as invested in its patients’ families as they are in the patients themselves, and that’s pretty rare.”

Beth and her family experienced this firsthand when her father was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s in his early 60s. Our clinicians and social service professionals compassionately guided Beth’s family through a myriad of care, crafting a customized treatment plan that allowed her dad to remain home with her mom for many years, helping to ensure a better quality of life for the remainder of his life.

Since joining the Foundation Board, Beth has enjoyed learning more about the many areas of innovation and excellence in our hospital, such as the division of minimally-invasive surgery that has attracted some of the best and brightest minds in healthcare to Rhode Island.

“People used to think it was Boston that attracted the top doctors, but nowadays they are also coming to Rhode Island and I think that speaks volumes,” says Beth. “Because of how small the state is, and how closely connected our communities are, doctors can come here and make a big impact. I can’t stress how fortunate we are to have this type of talent in our state.”



With Our Gratitude to the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees

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Philanthropy is essential to sustaining every successful academic medical center. It is because of the generosity and kindness of its supporters that Rhode Island Hospital continues to thrive and grow while meeting the needs of our community since 1863.

The 1863 Society celebrates donors who have made an annual commitment of \$250 or more to our hospital's Fund for Excellence, supporting our areas of greatest need and lifesaving work while investing in the future of medicine, research and medical education across southeastern New England.

With your generosity, we can continue to provide the most advanced and superb care right here in Rhode Island. Through our unyielding pursuit of excellence in service, education, research, technology and information, we will continue to be recognized regionally and nationally for the clinical expertise delivered through our centers of excellence.

To learn more about The 1863 Society, including giving levels and benefits, please visit Giving.lifespan.org/1863-Society.

Research Takes Center Stage at Annual Governors Luncheon

On Thursday, May 12, Roger N. Begin, Chairman of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, and Margaret M. Van Bree, MHA, DrPH, President of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital, welcomed fellow hospital leadership, physicians, board members and donors to the Gerry House for the hospital's annual Governor's Luncheon. Serving as an opportunity to thank the Board of Governors for their dedicated service and highlight Rhode Island Hospital's comprehensive research program, the afternoon event also featured the appointment of four new Governors: Karen Furie, MD, Chief of Neurology; Edward Medeiros; Brian S. Snowden;

and Anthony J. Thomas, Jr.

Following the nomination of the new Governors, Peter J. Snyder, PhD, Lifespan's Chief Research Officer, gave an overview of Lifespan and Rhode Island Hospital's comprehensive research programs before introducing Rhode Island Hospital



New Governor Anthony J. Thomas, Jr.

researchers who delivered remarks on their respective fields. Jennifer F. Friedman, MD, Director of Clinical Studies for Pediatric Ambulatory Medicine, spoke on global health initiatives established in Rhode Island and exported throughout the world, while J.J.

Trey Crisco, PhD, Director of the Bioengineering Laboratory, Department of Orthopedics, discussed concussions and therapeutic toys.

2015 Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Honor Roll

We are proud to honor our generous supporters whose philanthropy in 2015 has helped us provide the highest quality care to the people of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. This list reflects cumulative gifts and pledges of \$250 or more in calendar year 2015. Thank you!

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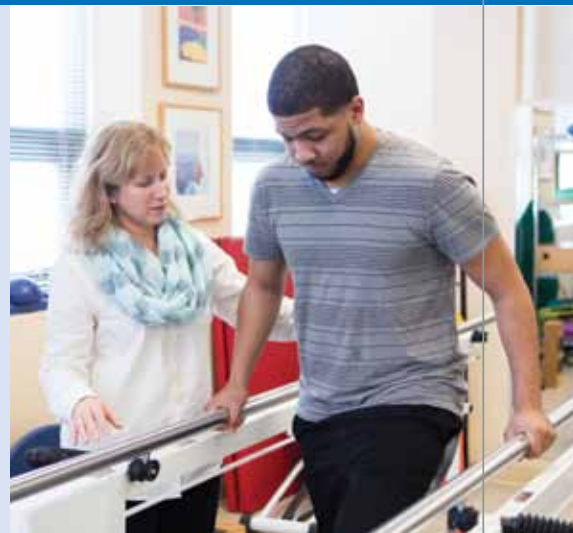
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