

Advancing Medicine. *Touching Lives.*

RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL • 2021



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Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®



If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we're better when we work together.

At Rhode Island Hospital, "together" means being a part of the state's largest academic health system and collaborating with world-class clinicians, researchers, and educators to ensure our patients have access to the very best care. Right here in Rhode Island.

Together also means partnering with an incredible donor family—people like you—whose generosity knows no bounds and enables us to advance our mission of *Delivering health with care*.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

COVER: MRI Imaging Clinical Specialist Daniel Arcuri views 3D Brain MRI Tractogram

ABOVE: Subhashini Ayloo, MD, MPH, FACS, Chief of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery, Rhode Island Hospital



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Saul N. Weingart, MD

Saul N. Weingart, MD

President
Rhode Island Hospital and
Hasbro Children's Hospital

In February, I had the honor and privilege to begin my new role as president of Rhode Island and Hasbro Children's hospitals. The months since have been a period of great discovery for me, and I have learned so much about the quality and caliber of our dedicated, gifted staff—who have been nothing short of heroic in *Delivering health with care* throughout the pandemic—as well as our extraordinary donor family, whose generosity supports the lifesaving work we do.

The longstanding relationship our hospitals maintain with the community we serve is symbiotic in many ways, and our commitment to each other is truly special and unique. In this issue of *Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives.* we share articles that celebrate this bond and highlight the kinds of patient success stories that are possible when a world-class academic health system with a rich tradition of excellence is supported by people, like you, who inspire us to be our best. It is one of the reasons we are so proud to also feature our Honor Roll of Supporters within these same pages and recognize those who make a meaningful difference every day for the patients and families entrusted in our care.

As you read through the magazine, please know how grateful we are to have you by our side and how deeply we appreciate your unwavering support. Happy reading!

THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

Gratitude comes in many forms, but one thing that is consistent is its positive power: to heal, to connect, to thank, to inspire. For Tom Bovis and his wife, Lauren Lynch, expressing their gratitude for the lifesaving care Tom received in 2019 is helping them do all those things. Tom suffered a life-threatening pulmonary embolism following surgery for a broken femur. Thanks to the advanced life support and the care of his medical team, Tom not only survived, but he has made a complete recovery. Sharing his story for the Day of Giving and giving back to support the hospital and people that saved his life are just a few things Tom and Lauren are doing to show their gratitude. "People need to know about the incredible care and staff behind the walls at Rhode Island Hospital—they're amazing," says Lauren.

Practice gratitude today by honoring a caregiver or sharing your story.

To learn more contact Ryan Whalen at 401-444-6311.



Lauren Lynch, Tom Bovis, and family

"We are just so grateful. Not only did they save my life, but they also saved my family! I can't thank them enough."

—Tom Bovis, patient

\$1M GIFT BENEFITS NEUROLOGY



Cristina Watkins, MSN, NP; Mahesh V. Jayaraman, MD and Kristen Czekanski, NP

When you combine the vision and purpose of forward-thinking health care professionals with the incredible generosity of caring philanthropists, the results can be powerful.

The recently created Helen D. Buchanan Family Fellowship—an experiential learning opportunity for advanced practice providers (APP) in the neurosciences field—is a shining example of that partnership in action.

'How do we create awareness?'

Cristina Watkins is a nurse practitioner at Rhode Island Hospital with a not-so-common clinical subspecialty in neurology. "I think I was the only one of my graduating class of NPs who went into neurology," she says, adding with a laugh, "I think some people think it's scary."

Over the last five years, Cristina has been a member of the hospital's neurovascular team and knows firsthand how critically important the contributions of APPs have been, particularly in the delivery of stroke and neurocritical care.

"Quality patient care, education and research have always been important to our family ... for us, supporting the establishment of the fellowship is something we strongly believe in."

—Stephen Watkins

"Advanced practice providers play a vital role in the care of neuroscience patients throughout the Lifespan system," she explains. "Whether it's facilitating care from the minute a patient enters the ED or neurocritical care unit, working in an outpatient clinical setting or interventional suite, or seeing patients on the hospital floor—APPs help to transcend silos and get patients the complex, coordinated care they need as fast as possible."

But unfortunately, there is a critical shortage of highly trained APPs in this field . . . and Cristina wanted to do something about it. "I remember thinking, 'How do we create awareness about what APPs do in the neurosciences?'" she recalls.

Putting the pieces together

While she had definite ideas that a fellowship could be the answer and insight as to what the components of the curricula should be, Cristina first reached out to Mahesh V. Jayaraman, MD, director of Rhode Island Hospital's Neurovascular Center, to discuss the possibility in earnest.

CARE AT RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

"We just sat down in the Au Bon Pain at the hospital and started talking," Dr. Jayaraman remembers, "and from these conversations, the fellowship idea began to take shape."

Soon, a comprehensive framework of the fellowship was developed, which included why it was needed, how it would be set up, and what its intended goals would be.

In a nutshell, the fellowship would cover a broad spectrum of neurosurgery and neurology experiences as well as specialized training in several core areas, with rotations in: inpatient stroke service; inpatient general neurology; neurosurgery; neuro critical care unit; neurointerventional radiology; and outpatient neurology and neurosurgery. Through this varied experience, the fellow would be introduced to the world-renowned physicians and cutting-edge tools and facilities at Rhode Island Hospital.

"Having a dedicated APP fellowship program in the neurosciences would not only further enhance Rhode Island Hospital's reputation as a national leader in this field, but it would also help us attract qualified applicants from around the country," Dr. Jayaraman says.

Funding is a family affair

Once all the details were ironed out, financial resources were still needed to make the fellowship a reality—and Cristina reached out to her family.

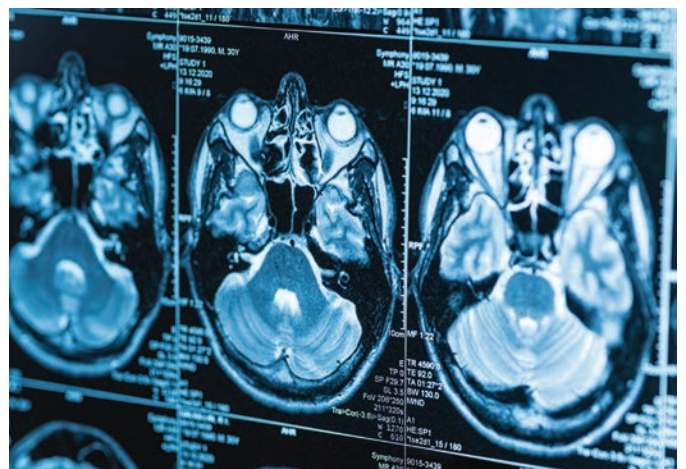
Her in-laws, Stephen and Katherine Watkins, are generous and active philanthropists who are always looking for worthwhile causes to support. They are also passionate champions for education and have a long and close family history with Rhode Island Hospital. Stephen's grandfather, Murray S. Danforth, was a well-respected orthopedic surgeon who was instrumental in creating the Orthopedics Department at Rhode

Island Hospital. In 1957, Stephen's grandmother, Helen Metcalf Danforth, established the Murray S. Danforth Orthopaedic Fund for resident training and research as a living memorial to her husband.

"Quality patient care, education, and research have always been important to our family," Stephen Watkins explains, "and Cristina's passionate advocacy for the complex neuroscience patient population Rhode Island Hospital cares for was inspiring. So, for us, supporting the establishment of the fellowship is something we strongly believe in."

The Watkins' \$1 million gift will be used to cover program start-up costs, the fellow's salary and benefits and provide seed funding for a perpetual endowment for the fellowship, which was named after Stephen's mother. Kristen Czekanski, NP, is the inaugural recipient.

"Investments in programs that educate providers bring about a sort of economy of scale when it comes to delivering care," Dr. Jayaraman adds, "because you're not just benefiting one patient, you're benefitting every patient that the provider is going to care for in his or her lifetime. So, we are very grateful to the Watkins family for their extraordinary gift. It will expand our neuro care capabilities in very real and tangible ways and help us save lives."



FINDING A ONE-IN-A-MILLION DOC



Lilly, Thomas and Chris Kuhn

When he's not on the go with his wife, Celine, or their college-age children, Thomas and Lilly, Chris Kuhn can be found cycling, skiing, or tackling home projects. From the outside, the 54-year-old interventional radiologist from Maine looks like the picture of health. But, in truth, he's been living with a rare form of cancer since 2004, when a scan of his back revealed a large tumor. At the time, he sought options from several of the nation's top hospitals; none could offer him an accurate diagnosis or hopeful treatment strategy. "It was a pretty grim time," he recalls. "I felt like I had one foot in the grave."

Then, he found Ziya Gokaslan, MD, FACS.

Today, Dr. Gokaslan is Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at Rhode Island Hospital and Co-Director of the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute. He is also in charge of the Norman Prince Spine Institute. But 17 years ago, he was practicing at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Maryland. By chance, a friend of Chris saw Dr. Gokaslan present at

a conference and was so impressed that he suggested he visit him.

"Z was the first one to say, 'Yeah, that's chordoma and I know what to do,'" Chris remembers. A chordoma is an exceedingly rare tumor that can occur anywhere along the spine. Only one in a million people will get a chordoma. Luckily, Chris met a one-in-a-million doctor.

Dr. Gokaslan is a world-renowned expert in complex spinal reconstruction and radical surgical treatment of tumors. He performed a complicated, risky surgery on Chris that involved removing the bones that cover his spinal cord as well as the nerves that come out of it; completely removing the chordoma; and stabilizing then reconstructing everything back to its intended function. "He saved my life," Chris says.

Over the years, the pair stayed in contact. And last summer, when a scan revealed Chris had a T12 burst fracture in his spine above his original surgical site, he once again relied on Dr. Gokaslan, who was now closer, at Rhode Island Hospital.

"When I saw Chris' images, I became very concerned," Dr. Gokaslan says. "I didn't want it to progress to the point where he was paralyzed." This surgery, too, involved the large-scale reconstruction and realignment of the supportive areas of Chris' spine and back. The operation was a success, and two weeks later Chris was back riding his bike.

"I'm the luckiest guy in the world," Chris says, "and I'm eternally grateful for the care I received from Dr. Gokaslan and the amazing team at Rhode Island Hospital." Dr. Gokaslan says philanthropy plays a key role in realizing such positive outcomes. "The generosity of the Prince family, whose investments in the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute fund our transformative research and advanced clinical care programs, is what makes success stories like Chris' possible."

DRIVING CHANGE IN HOW ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS DIAGNOSED

Director shares insights on treatment, research, and the center's goals



Dr. Chuang-Kuo

Dr. Chuang-Kuo “John” Wu is a neurology clinician and researcher who has held prestigious appointments throughout the country. In September 2020, he was recruited to return to Rhode Island Hospital to serve as Director of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Memory Disorders Center.

You returned to Rhode Island to lead the Alzheimer’s Disease and Memory Disorders Center, what is your history in the field and what attracted you to come back to the Ocean State?

My time working in Rhode Island Hospital’s neurology department alongside renowned researcher Dr. Brian Ott was incredibly rewarding. I am particularly proud of the services we expanded and the many National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research and clinical trials we worked on. In 2007, I was recruited to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, and later to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to head its neurology residency

program. My specialties and research interests center on slowing the progression of Alzheimer’s disease and various types of dementia. Coming back here was an easy decision—it allows me to continue Dr. Ott’s legacy following his retirement. Rhode Island is a unique place to study Alzheimer’s disease. Its population and aging demographic represents a model system that reflects a cross-section of the entire country.

What are some of the promising treatment and research efforts on the horizon?

I consider there to be three significant areas of breakthroughs in recent years. The first is better diagnostic tools to try and pinpoint the onset of Alzheimer’s, such as PET scan for the brain, which is something we have tremendous expertise in. We also have a better understanding of amyloid protein deposits and their response to treatment. This is especially promising because it could slow—or even stop—the progression of the disease. And, there is new research on changes with patients’ TAU protein. We know loss of memory and brain function is linked to cell damage caused by these changes, so better understanding TAU protein could lead to new treatments.

Where do you hope to bring the program in the future?

Our center is nationally recognized and home to robust clinical trials and research programs, and I have no doubt we can take it even higher. It is vital that we continue to expand, not only our services, but our physical space, as we hope to bring in patients at earlier stages for treatment and research. If we diagnose earlier, patients can live longer and with better quality of life. That means we will also need more neurologists and dementia specialists. And education is crucial, both in terms of counseling caregivers for each stage of a loved one’s disease, and also teaching the next generation of clinicians. There is a lot of work to be done, but we’re ready for it.



Day OF Giving

HONORING OUR HEALTH CARE HEROES

10 WJAR



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DAY OF GIVING CELEBRATES AND SUPPORTS 'RHODE ISLAND'S HOSPITAL'

On March 25, 2021, Rhode Island Hospital held its inaugural Day of Giving telethon. The event, which was hosted in partnership with WJAR NBC-10, raised more than \$401,000 in support of the hospital's lifesaving work.

During the daylong program, Rhode Island Hospital's commitment to patient-centered care and its responsiveness to the ongoing pandemic were showcased, while its own health care heroes were honored for giving so much of themselves on behalf of others.

As viewers across the region tuned in, they heard from grateful patients and hospital staff, who shared powerful stories of courage and hope in the face of such life-threatening health issues as stroke, cancer, burns, organ transplants, addiction, and pulmonary embolisms. Segments on Rhode Island Hospital's special relationship to the community were also featured. In addition to providing world-class medical and mental health care, Rhode Island Hospital has a long history of helping to connect patients with community-based services, including food, housing, job training, child care and other vital necessities—demonstrating that hospital employees don't just care for people, they care about them, too.

"I'm not sure there's another organization in the country that has the same commitment to the individuals in the community they serve," says Saul Weingart, MD, President of Rhode Island Hospital. "We are not just Rhode Island Hospital, we are Rhode Island's hospital. We are here to serve the people of the state and we're here 24/7/365."

Watch ED nurse Adam Rojek talk about what it means



to care for patients during COVID-19, and the other Day of Giving segments at giving.lifespan.org/RIH/day-of-giving-videos or scan QR code.



Adam Rojek, RN

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RAISING FUNDS FOR CANCER CARE THROUGH FITNESS



Denise Chakoian

As the owner of Providence's CORE Cycle. Fitness. Lagree. studio, Denise Chakoian spends her days inspiring clients to reach their health and fitness goals. But what inspires her? The lifesaving treatment and compassionate care provided by the Lifespan Cancer Institute (LCI) at Rhode Island Hospital.

Denise is dedicated to using her boutique fitness studio as a platform to raise funds for Rhode Island and Hasbro Children's hospitals. She regularly hosts classes that directly benefit cancer treatment and research, including LCI. Over the years, her efforts have generated at least \$50,000 for the hospitals. For Denise, who was recently appointed to the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, this work is deeply personal.

She was diagnosed with stage three Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2018 at age 46. "My fitness level was so high that I didn't notice the symptoms right away," Denise says. "I felt tired, but I thought it was just from running around and working a lot."

After an initial CAT scan suggested it could be cancer, she sought treatment from LCI's James Butera, MD, and underwent six months of chemotherapy. With the cancer now in remission, she continues to see Dr. Butera for follow-up care.

Denise is grateful for the excellent treatment she continues to receive at the cancer institute and hopes to bring the patient perspective to her new role on the Board of Trustees. "I was honored to be asked," she says. "I want to make a difference and one way to do it might be to share my experience as someone who continues to get services at Lifespan Cancer Institute."

And she plans to continue her work blending fitness with philanthropy. Last year, Denise was required to close her in-person fitness studio for several months due to state COVID-19 safety guidelines. But that challenge didn't halt her fundraising efforts—it only increased them. In April 2020, Denise hosted a web-based class to raise money to help the hospital acquire tablets for Intensive Care Unit and end-of-life patients to communicate with loved ones. She also bought catered lunches for the hospital's first responders at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"At that point, people had been working long hours and they just wanted a good meal, and that's what they got," she says. Denise also recently established the Chakoian Lymphoma Fund, which supports patient services, clinical trials, and other needs. She started it after unexpectedly receiving a \$500 gift intended to help pay her fitness studio's bills after its revenue fell during the pandemic. "As kind as that was, I just couldn't use it for bills," she says. "I wanted to do something meaningful with it, so I sent it to Rhode Island Hospital."

THE TAPINOS LAB DEVELOPS CUTTING-EDGE METHODS FOR TREATING BRAIN CANCER

Nikos Tapinos, MD, PhD, has spent more than 10 years investigating treatments for glioblastoma—often referred to as one of the deadliest cancers. And he is hopeful his persistence is getting him closer to promising new treatment options.

Bolstered by a recent \$400,000 gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, The Tapinos Laboratory of Cancer Epigenetics and Plasticity at Rhode Island Hospital is making progress on three research projects with the potential to transform outcomes for patients with this highly aggressive form of brain cancer.

“..These projects represent a new way of thinking about targeting cancer.”

—Dr. Nikos Tapinos

“It’s an exciting time in the lab right now because these projects represent a new way of thinking about targeting cancer,” said Dr. Tapinos, Director of Molecular Neuroscience and Neuro-Oncology Research at Rhode Island Hospital. “Basically, we’re trying to tame the tumor.”

All three of the potential therapies target RNA-based mechanisms to take away or slow down the adaptability of the glioblastoma cell. Its extraordinary adaptability is what makes glioblastoma an especially aggressive and recurrent form of cancer.

The researchers at the Tapinos Lab have promising data that their therapies can make the cells “stagnant,” meaning they are unable to adapt and therefore become more treatable with chemotherapy or immunotherapy.

One possible upcoming clinical trial involves the repurposing of a pharmaceutical currently approved by the FDA for the treatment of a different neurological disorder. Dr. Tapinos also has preliminary evidence that his work may be applicable to other forms of cancer, including pediatric pontine glioma and triple-negative breast cancer.

“What’s so exciting is that the basic biology behind these fundamental processes of the cancer cells is similar to mechanisms that help shape the brain in the uterus during development,” Dr. Tapinos said.

“Catalyst funding” gifts such as this one allow Dr. Tapinos and his team of researchers to conduct innovative preparatory work in the lab, including complex RNA sequencing projects, to prepare for larger projects such as clinical trials.



Nikos Tapinos, MD, PhD

90 YEARS OF SMILES

Samuels Sinclair Dental Center continues important work



Dr. Eileen Danaher helps Caleb at recent visit

The first time Amy Barclay took her son, Caleb, to the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center on the campus of Rhode Island Hospital, the then eight-year-old wouldn't get out of the car.

Caleb was diagnosed with profound autism spectrum disorder at the age of three and struggled particularly with sensory integration dysfunction—an inability to manage the information coming in through his senses.

"I knew it would be a challenge to even get him into the chair, never mind have a dentist touch his teeth," Amy says.

"We used Caleb's favorite treats as behavior rewards and he cracked a tooth on a lollipop," she recalls. "I couldn't find anyone willing to see him. And then I found Samuels and got in on a last-minute cancellation."

It's been 90 years since the dental center first opened its doors with a mission to ensure quality dental care for

children whose parents could not afford it. In addition to its pediatric dentistry, the center is the primary dental provider for patients of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is one of the first of its kind in the country to deliver comprehensive, multi-disciplinary dental care within a hospital setting.

"The dentist office was never my favorite place, so I absolutely relate to our patients," says Elizabeth Benz, DMD, director of the center. "This is a very special place where we can make a real difference. It's all about building relationships with our patients so we can tailor treatment to their individual needs and alleviate fears in a friendly, fun way."

After meeting George DuPont, DDS, in the dental center's parking lot, Caleb felt comfortable going inside for an examination. Along with the cracked tooth, Caleb had a number of cavities, needed an extraction, and multiple root canals and caps. Because of the extent of the dental

work Caleb required, it was done in a Rhode Island Hospital operating room and under general anesthesia.

In the years that followed, Amy would make the drive from Jamestown to Providence so she and Caleb could enjoy lunch outside the center and grow his comfort level. And on days Caleb had an appointment, he'd get to choose a Matchbox car to take home if he sat in George's chair.

"The change was incredible," says Amy. "It became more a social event than a trip to the dentist."

Fast forward to present day, when Caleb turned 25 and marked more than 17 years as a patient at Samuels Sinclair. Seven years ago, he transitioned from "Dr. George" to Eileen Danaher, DMD, who has continued working with Caleb to further desensitize his fears and anxiety. She lets him touch the instruments and push buttons. And she involves him in his own care—such as asking whether to start on the top or bottom during a cleaning—which is a "very" big deal for Caleb.

"I couldn't envision being anywhere else. To be able to serve our community the way we do—this place is just amazing," Dr. Danaher says. "Our patients are the greatest people in the entire world and I feel fortunate that I get to treat them."

Since day one of the center's rich history, philanthropy has been vital to both its growth and evolution into a state-of-the-art facility. Through the Joseph S. and Rosalyn K. Sinclair Foundation, Rosalyn continues her founding family's legacy of generosity, helping to reinvigorate the residency program, fund new operatories, and bring in the latest technologies. Additional community support, from longtime partners like Delta Dental of Rhode Island, has allowed for widespread facility enhancements.

Today, the center features the latest X-ray units, a specialized milling machine to furnish crown and bridge units in-house, a cutting-edge tissue laser that enables

dentists to perform procedures anesthesia- and pain-free, and a completely renovated waiting area. All of which is vital to the nearly 20,000 patient visits that happen annually.

"I can't overstate what the dental center and its staff—every single person there—mean to us," says Amy. "I'm so grateful to be able to bring Caleb to a place where the people care about him as much as they do. The dental center is an absolute treasure for children and families in our state."

"It's all about building relationships with our patients so we can tailor treatment to their individual needs and alleviate fears in a friendly, fun way."

—Elizabeth Benz, DMD



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Q&A WITH DR. TIMOTHY J. BABINEAU



Dr. Timothy J. Babineau

Timothy J. Babineau, MD, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Lifespan. Prior to his current role, he previously led Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital.

Where do you see philanthropy impacting care at both the affiliate hospital and system level?

At our hospitals, donations make it possible to offer extra programs and supports for our patients across cancer care, neuroscience, pediatrics, and more. System-wide, philanthropy provides funding for resources and technologies that support innovative clinical care and groundbreaking research. In both cases, contributions go towards better treatment, care and outcomes for patients and their families.

What does Lifespan's merger with Coastal Medical mean for the delivery of care locally?

Lifespan's mission of *Delivering health with care* includes making care accessible for all patients who wish to be cared for within our system. And our merger with Coastal Medical is another major step to increase that access to care by bringing a highly regarded physician organization into the Lifespan system. As has become evident the last several years, primary care is the bedrock of health care. Bringing together Lifespan's vast expertise in specialty care with Coastal's primary care expertise will provide enormous benefit to patients by fostering seamless coordinated treatment for both inpatients and outpatients. We are incredibly excited about this new partnership that will catalyze care transformation in our state and region and serve as a national model.

What is your vision for Lifespan and its hospitals in a post-COVID world?

COVID forced many systems and institutions to pivot and adapt quickly to rapid change and uncertainty. We became more nimble in response, with an example being the incorporation of telehealth and realizing its efficacy in our ability to provide even greater access to care to our community, and I hope that we will continue to innovate and collaborate in the health care space. The pandemic made clear just how important a well-oiled health system is to Rhode Island, and it's imperative that we use the current momentum and support for clinical and academic medicine to the benefit of everyone in this state. And I'm confident that Lifespan and its hospitals are well-positioned to lead this as an attractive destination for the world's top physicians, scientists, and health care workers.



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.

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

NEW CLINIC SERVES CANCER SURVIVORS

Consultative program connects patients with testing, specialists, and resources

Several years after successfully completing breast cancer treatment that included a bilateral mastectomy, radiation, and chemotherapy, Beth Gabriel was feeling good—but not her best. So, her oncologist recently referred her to the Lifespan Cancer Institute’s new Oncology, Wellness, Lifestyle, and Survivorship (OWLS) Clinic.

Directed by Christine Duffy, MD, MPH, OWLS is a consultative clinic for those who have or have had breast or gynecologic cancers and are now at any stage of their treatment trajectory. This population includes individuals whose cancer is now in remission and long-term survivors with metastatic disease.

After an office visit or telehealth appointment with the patient, Dr. Duffy meets with the clinic’s team of more than a dozen specialists—including a nutritionist, psychiatrist, cardiologist, and endocrinologist—to discuss his or her concerns and create a “living care plan.” It focuses on quality of life and wellness; addresses the unique health issues and sequela of treatment; and coordinates care with the patient’s primary care physician and oncologist.

“We wanted to use a definition of survivorship that was broad and inclusive,” Dr. Duffy says. “People who have metastatic disease are living longer, which is wonderful, but that means they are potentially experiencing side effects they may need help managing.”

Those who have become cancer-free following treatment may also need support dealing with various long-term side effects of treatment and medications, including neuropathy, weight gain, and anxiety. Such was the case for Beth, 60, of Warwick, who was

experiencing sexual health issues and extreme fatigue despite being cancer-free.

“The idea behind the clinic is to address survivorship at any point and also help make connections to providers to give survivors additional evaluation when needed,” Dr. Duffy says. “If they go to their oncologist, they might be unsure where to refer a patient, or send them back to their PCP. The patients’ PCPs might not have detailed knowledge of the survivorship issues the patient is experiencing, nor where to send a patient who needs a specialist with comfort and expertise treating cancer survivors.”

Beth’s individualized plan included bloodwork; an echocardiogram, which ruled out a heart problem; and a referral to an oncology sexual health specialist. She’s now working with the specialist to resolve some sexual health-related issues, which are a side effect of one of her medications. “Visiting the clinic was so helpful,” Beth says. “When you’re on the other side of cancer treatment, you want to do everything you can to feel great.”



Beth Gabriel

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR



Robert K. Vincent

Robert K. Vincent

Chair,
Rhode Island Hospital Foundation
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For as long as I've been involved with Rhode Island Hospital, I have never been more grateful for this world-class institution and all who support it as I am right now.

In the face of a global pandemic, we not only continued to do what we do best—*Delivering health with care*—but also drive innovation across the health care space. Each step of the way, philanthropy was a difference maker.

A \$1 million transformational gift established the Helen D. Buchanan Family Fellowship in Neuroscience to support highly specialized training in the areas of neurocritical care, inpatient stroke, and neurosurgery. And, the new Norman Prince Spine Institute has effectively expanded state-of-the-art surgical care and alternative treatments for patients with spinal disorders locally, nationally, and internationally.

Through a most difficult time, we both reached the light at the end of the tunnel and further built the foundation of a bright future for clinical and academic medicine in Rhode Island.

It takes a special institution to achieve the excellence we have here, and it takes a special community to propel that excellence. For all that you do for our hospital, our patients and their families, thank you.

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ANNE C. PAPPAS CENTER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



In the early 1990s, when Barbara Schepps, MD, first envisioned a breast imaging center at Rhode Island Hospital, “mammogram” was not quite the household word it is today.

“At the time, few insurers paid for screening mammograms—mammograms for asymptomatic women. Those and the uninsured or underinsured patients, with or without symptoms, often fell through the gaps,” says Dr. Schepps, who didn’t let that deter her. She persuaded hospital leaders to offer mammograms for \$50. An ad campaign encouraged hundreds of women to get screened for cancer. That was the start of what, in 1995, would become the Anne C. Pappas Center for Breast Imaging, which was directed by Dr. Schepps until she retired in 2008. In honor of its 25th anniversary, Dr. Schepps recently made a \$25,000 donation to the center.

Its namesake was the sister of Sandy Stamoulis, MBA, RN, then Rhode Island Hospital’s Chief of Nursing. Anne died of breast cancer at age 40, and her family made the foundational gift that helped launch the center.

Today, the Pappas Center is an inviting space with state-of-the-art equipment, and it is staffed by experts in breast imaging who see more than 25,000 patients per year. The center provides the full range of breast imaging examinations, including mammography with digital breast tomosynthesis (3D mammography), breast ultrasound, breast MRI, and breast biopsy.

Members of the Pappas Center clinical team are nationally recognized leaders in research and education on the next chapter of breast health care, investigating new advances in imaging and treatment.

According to Martha Mainiero, MD, the center’s medical director since 2008, “We are an integral part of the breast health team. Our dedicated nurse navigator works closely with the other nurse navigators as well as surgeons and treatment teams across the Lifespan Cancer Institute.”

However, the Anne C. Pappas Center for Breast Imaging isn’t just a clinic that diagnoses disease.

Says Dr. Mainiero, “We often reassure women that nothing is wrong. People are just as thankful that you put everything to rest. We’ve been around long enough that we have mother-daughter combinations. Sisters, whole families, come to us. It’s incredibly rewarding.”

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