

Advancing Medicine. *Touching Lives.*

RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL • 2023



Rhode Island Hospital
Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®



As part of Lifespan, the state's largest academic health system, Rhode Island Hospital is deeply committed to the triple aim of maintaining excellence in clinical care, education, and research. We keep our patients at the heart of everything we do, as part of our overarching mission of *Delivering health with care*.

Your extraordinary support helps to bolster and advance this important work and allows us to touch more lives and realize better outcomes. For that, I am forever grateful.

I'm also grateful for the dedication and service of my dear friend, John Cronan, MD, Lifespan's Radiologist-in-Chief, who is retiring after a long, stellar career. You can read more about John's work and impact on page 12.

With appreciation,

Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.



Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.
Chairman, Lifespan Board of Directors
Chairman, Rhode Island Hospital
Board of Trustees



Robert K. Vincent

Chair, Rhode Island Hospital
Foundation Board of Trustees

Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives. isn't just the name of a Rhode Island Hospital publication. It's what we do here. Day in and day out, our devoted, compassionate team of doctors, nurses, and support staff collaborates with world-class researchers and educators to ensure our patients have access to the very best care. Right here in Rhode Island.

Our people are committed to the mission of *Delivering health with care*—always putting patients at the heart of everything they do and always striving to achieve optimal outcomes. It's challenging and rewarding work, for sure. But we don't do it alone. The Rhode Island Hospital team has a team of supporters behind it, inspiring us to be our best. In fact, it's the extraordinary generosity of our donor family—caring individuals, like you, as well as partnering organizations—that makes our lifesaving work possible. So, thank you.

As you read through this latest issue of our magazine, please know how appreciative we are to have you by our side and how deeply we cherish your support. The grateful patient stories, groundbreaking research, program milestones, and world-class medicine highlighted in these pages are all testament to your giving spirit in action. Happy reading!

With warmest regards,

Robert K. Vincent

CARE OF 'ANGELS' SAVES ELEANOR'S LIFE

One morning in 2019, Eleanor Langham tripped and fell in her apartment, hitting her head on a coffee table. Unbeknownst to her at the time, that painful accident would be the beginning of a long, trying journey. About a month after her fall, Eleanor started getting headaches, tinnitus, and a numbness in her face. For the next year, she consulted with various doctors about her concerns. But nothing helped. Until, that is, she came to Lifespan.

A work colleague familiar with her woes suggested Eleanor go to the emergency room at Newport Hospital. There, diagnostic imaging revealed a lemon-sized mass in the middle of her brain. She had a large central neurocytoma, which staff would later inform Eleanor may have been growing for 15 years.



Eleanor Langham

That same day, Eleanor, then just 30 years old, was transferred to the Neuro Critical Care Unit at Rhode Island Hospital and prepared to undergo a craniotomy. The complicated surgery, which involved temporarily removing part of Eleanor's skull and extracting the tumor, was successfully performed a week later. "The team at Rhode Island Hospital saved my memory, my cognitive functions, and most importantly, my life," Eleanor explains. After transferring back to Newport Hospital's Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center for a 10-day stay, Eleanor was discharged. Her road to recovery now complete, Eleanor receives annual scans to ensure the tumor has not returned and is eternally grateful for the care she received. "Every person in my Lifespan journey was an absolute angel," she concludes.



RENOVATIONS PLANNED FOR RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL LOBBY

Renovating the lobby at Rhode Island Hospital has been a dream for quite some time. Fortunately, it's about to become reality—thanks to some generous, future-thinking philanthropists.

John and Tricia Ferreira were the first to raise their hands in support of this transformational project, pledging an incredible \$2.5 million leadership gift to help ensure that the hospital's new entrance reflects the high quality of services provided within. "This is our opportunity to give back to Rhode Island Hospital for being there 24/7 for our family and our community," explains John, whose support of the hospital dates back almost four decades.

A friendly connection

John Ferreira and Lawrence A. Aubin Sr., Chairman of the Lifespan Board of Directors and Rhode Island Hospital's Board of Trustees, were business associates beginning in the 1980s. Their successful working relationship blossomed into a lifelong friendship and mutual love of their favorite hospitals.

"I've known Larry forever," John says. "He was one of the area's biggest commercial building contractors when we met, and I was doing lots of construction and site work with my companies. It was through my connection with Larry and seeing his dedication to Hasbro Children's and Rhode Island hospitals that got me interested and excited about also supporting them in any way I could."

John adds that when you have hospitals of this caliber close to you, you should feel compelled to support them if you have the means to do so.

"A hospital is something that nobody really thinks about . . . until they or someone they love needs it," he says. "So, if our gift can help enhance the care at Rhode Island Hospital and boost the morale of the people who work there, Tricia and I are proud and more than happy to help. We made this donation for our present and future families, but also for our friends' families and families that we don't know. Because health is what's most important in life."



John, Jennelle, and Tricia Ferreira

Why it matters

At Rhode Island Hospital, providing excellent care is at the heart of the hospital's mission. That care experience often begins in the lobby, when a patient first walks in.

In the past, hospital lobbies were considered little more than a drop-off spot or place to check-in, wait to receive care, or pass through to visit a loved one. However, the science behind evidence-based hospital design has evolved significantly in recent years.

Thoughtful design enhances experience, supports recruitment

Today, there is a greater understanding of the positive impact thoughtful lobby design can have on important health care elements, including patient comfort and satisfaction, stress and anxiety, privacy, wayfinding and navigation, and technology enablement.

In fact, a growing number of studies are finding that lobby aesthetics support community engagement and improve health and well-being. Things like nature-inspired art, warm wood tones, and calming lights enhance the healing environment, and amenities such as cafés and retail shops make the space more inviting and welcoming.

Moreover, Rhode Island Hospital is the primary teaching hospital for The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. As part of a world-class academic medical center, its facilities should be reflective of the position and importance the hospital and health system hold in our state and surrounding communities. Renovating the lobby not only conveys that message, but also supports the hospital's recruitment efforts of the best and brightest—because first impressions are lasting impressions.

The lobby project, which will take just under a year to complete, is scheduled to break ground in the fall of 2023.

To support this important work or to find out more, please call (401) 444-6500.



THANK YOU!

In addition to the Ferreriras, several other supporters have also generously pledged \$250,000 or more to help advance the project:

- **Eduarda and Anthony Calandrelli**
- **Sandy and Andy Delli Carpini**
- **Carol and Tom Depetrillo**
- **Virginia and Tony Thomas**

SPENDING THE SUMMER PREPARING FOR THEIR FUTURE

For most rising high school juniors, this past summer was spent hanging out with friends, the occasional trip to the beach, and their first part-time job . . . all ways you'd expect 16-year-olds to spend their vacation.

But for teenager Rexella Bishop, her summer was anything but typical—and she wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

"Ever since I was small, I knew I wanted to be in the medical field," says the Central High School student. "So, this program has been a great opportunity, especially for kids of color. A lot of us want to go into medicine, but it's hard to have that background. This program gives us the chance."

Rexella is one of the 20 public high school students of color selected for the inaugural cohort of the Future Gen Cancer Scholars program of the Lifespan Cancer Institute. The innovative mentoring program targets youth from the core communities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence and aims to address the lack of physicians of color in a state with strong populations of Black and Hispanic residents.

It was developed by Howard Safran, MD, Chief of Hematology/Oncology for the Lifespan Cancer Institute, and made possible by a transformational \$10 million grant awarded by the Papitto Opportunity Connection.

"This is a program with the power to change not only the lives of young people in our community, but also the face of cancer care in Rhode Island," says Dr. Safran.

A two-year program across successive summers that participating scholars complete leading into their senior year in high school, Future Gen allows them to shadow top cancer doctors and scientists at Rhode Island,



Rexella Bishop

Photo credit: G. Wayne Miller/Ocean State Stories

The Miriam, and Hasbro Children's hospitals. The students also have access to state-of-the-art laboratories at the Lifespan Cancer Institute and the Cancer Center at Brown University.

Students in the first group of Future Gen scholars were nominated by their high schools and chosen through an application process. Together, they attend 360 High School, Central, Central Falls, Classical, William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical, Juanita Sanchez, Mt. Pleasant, and Charles E. Shea.

After receiving their stethoscopes and white coats—embroidered with their name and the school they attend—scholars began the program in earnest on July 17. Each Monday, they spent a few hours in a classroom setting, focused on a specific theme and hearing from physician and research guest speakers. Topics ranged from cancer prevention and development to diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.

Outside the tabletop learning, presentations, and lively discussions that followed, students gained real world and real-time exposure to a career in medicine.

They spent time in hospitals' MRI, CT, and pathology areas; joined oncologists at the bedside when they discussed care and treatment options with patients; viewed and identified cancer cells beneath high-powered microscopes; and engaged in specialized sessions on things such as unconscious bias and managing difficult conversations.

Students also benefited from time spent with Lifespan's workforce development team each Wednesday. There, they took part in work readiness workshops covering professional and resume writing, interviewing, and more.

"The scholars are who made this program such a huge success in its first year—from day one, they came ready to learn and did so with incredible drive and enthusiasm," explains Thomas A. Ollila, MD, a Lifespan hematologist-oncologist who was among the program's principal physicians. "The exposure they've already received is invaluable and their participation will look great on a college application and resume. If you are in this program, you're a top-notch student."

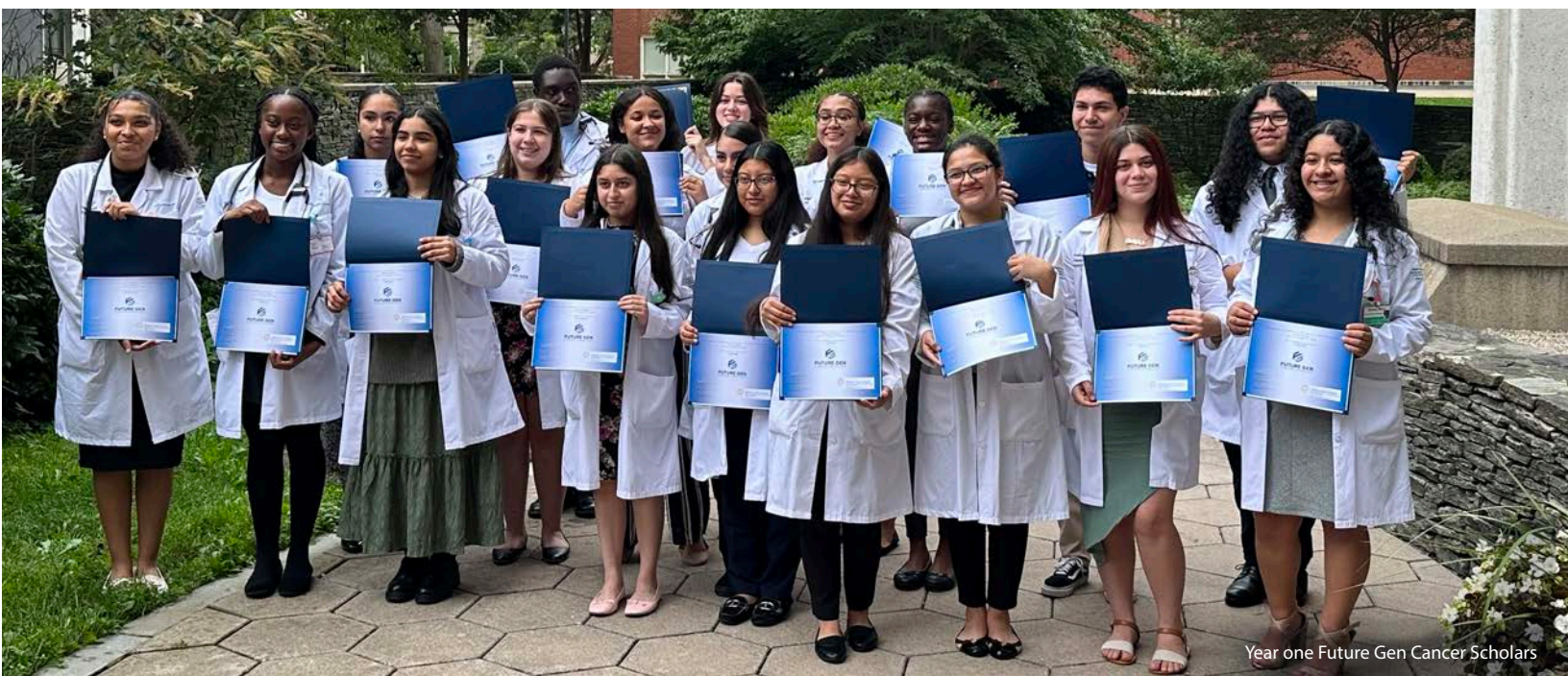
"This is a program with the power to change not only the lives of young people in our community, but also the face of cancer care in Rhode Island."

—Dr. Howard Safran

John Tarantino, President of the Papitto Opportunity Connection, adds, "I am in awe of these young people, and our hope is this unique experience encourages them to pursue a career in medicine and to do so here in Rhode Island. Having more doctors look like the patients they care for and who understand diverse cultures better will ultimately improve and save more lives."

Back to Rexella Bishop, whose most memorable moment this summer was joining Dr. Ollila for a bone marrow biopsy typically reserved for a pre-med student. The Providence teen is already looking ahead.

"I can't wait until next summer to get back into the program for year two and learn even more," she says with a broad smile.



Year one Future Gen Cancer Scholars

ADVANCED SPINAL SURGERY GETS YOUNG MAN BACK TO LIVING LIFE



“Michel’s is the most miraculous recovery ... To achieve an outcome like that you need a great team, and what we have here is among the best in the world.”

—Ziya Gokaslan, MD

Michel (center) and his family celebrate progress in his recovery

It was a jump similar to the hundreds Michel Kuri ÓFarrill had under his belt from his years as a professional skydiver. But on this April morning in 2021, the now 25-year-old from Mexico would find himself fighting for his life.

Roughly 40 miles outside Mexico City and with his sister on the ground among those accompanying him, Michel leapt from a plane as he had done so many times before. As he descended toward the desired height at which he would deploy his parachute, Michel had an equipment malfunction. Seconds later, he slammed into the ground.

In what became a frenetic scene, Michel’s sister, Ana—coincidentally, a certified paramedic—stabilized him as best she could as they awaited emergency response. Two hours later, Michel was at a hospital in Mexico City.

“The doctors in Mexico did the best they could,” says his mother, Ana Paula ÓFarrill. “But we knew he required a much higher level of care—we needed a specialized spine expert, and we needed to find them fast.”

During a race-against-the-clock search, a leading neurosurgeon in Texas referred the family to the only doctor he felt could help them: Ziya Gokaslan, MD, an internationally recognized spinal surgeon. The only problem? Ziya was in another country, more than 2,700 miles away in Rhode Island, where he is the Chief of Neurosurgery at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals, and Clinical Director of the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute.

Knowing it offered Michel his best chance to receive the care that could save his life, arrangements were made to medically evacuate him to Providence.

Physicians in Mexico and at Rhode Island Hospital carefully coordinated Michel's transport as he lay in a critical state.

Michel would arrive at Rhode Island Hospital by helicopter, landing on the rooftop helipad to a waiting Dr. Gokaslan and a robust team of medical personnel. Dr. Gokaslan had already reviewed preliminary imaging of Michel showing seven fractured vertebrae and a pelvis broken on its left side.

But additional assessment in Rhode Island revealed the full severity of the damage to Michel's body. Along with his vertebrae and pelvis, he was facing a broken right wrist and left femur, urethral injuries, a paralyzed left foot, and the most concerning of all: a fractured sacrum.

The sacrum is the triangular bone just below the lumbar vertebrae that forms the base of the spine and the center of the pelvis. It is responsible for supporting the entire weight of the body. Dr. Gokaslan is world renowned for his radical surgical treatment of the sacral bone and for complex spinal reconstruction.

"From a functional perspective, Michel's bladder and bowel were impaired and there was concern he would never walk again," says Dr. Gokaslan, "but the most threatening injury was this shattered sacrum."

Dr. Gokaslan and team performed a series of surgical procedures over the next three weeks, to reconstruct Michel's sacrum and lumbosacral junction, also known as L5-S1; repair his vertebrae; set his broken femur and pelvis, and more.

The procedures could not have gone better, and by mid-May, Michel was far enough along with his post-surgery recovery to begin rehab. Without hesitation, his family opted to stay in Rhode Island with Michel receiving services at Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center at Newport Hospital, a partner Lifespan program.



Sharonda E. Keith, PA-C, Michel, and Ziya Gokaslan, MD

"Even though we could have essentially gone anywhere in the world, it was never a question if we would stay—not after the level of care, skill, and compassion Dr. Gokaslan and everyone showed our family," says Michel Kuri, Michel's father. "We wanted to be close to the team that saved Michel's life."

After a month of intensive physical therapy and rehabilitation services, Michel returned to Mexico in June 2021 to continue his recovery. His case is especially memorable for Dr. Gokaslan, in part due to the breadth of the care teams across the system who played a vital role, including trauma, emergency and critical care, neurology, neurosurgery, urology, and rehab.

Nearly one year to the day of his accident, Michel returned to skydiving, marking a complete recovery from the unthinkable.

"Michel's is the most miraculous recovery I have ever seen in my life," says Dr. Gokaslan. "To achieve an outcome like that you need a great team, and what we have here is among the best in the world."

WITH BREAST CANCER, EARLY DETECTION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE



Breast Cancer Center of the Lifespan Cancer Institute. Michelle's familiarity with Dr. Graves and her mother's outcome made for an easy decision.

"It never crossed my mind to go anywhere else," Michelle says. "This place took great care of my mom."

Within two weeks of her diagnosis Michelle began chemotherapy to shrink the aggressive cancer before surgery could be performed. Five months later, a multi-hour surgical procedure successfully removed the cancer from Michelle's breast. More than a year later, Michelle remains cancer-free and receives special immunotherapy to lessen the chance her cancer returns.

"I know I was fortunate the cancer was caught when it was," says Michelle. "It's impossible to overstate the importance of regular mammograms, even if you're feeling on top of the world."



Michelle Rei

For Michelle Rei, 43, it was never a matter of *if* she'd be diagnosed with breast cancer, but a question of when.

"My grandmother, an aunt and a cousin suffered from the disease," says Michelle, "and my mom is a survivor."

Considering her family's history of breast cancer, Michelle was avid with her self-checks and never missed her annual mammogram at the Pappas Center for Breast Imaging at Rhode Island Hospital. But in March 2022, after years of clean scans, there was the sudden appearance of a lump. A biopsy confirmed triple-negative breast cancer.

"I wasn't surprised by my diagnosis, really. I just wanted to know what came next and when treatment could begin," she recalls.

As fate would have it, one of the physicians on Michelle's care team had treated her mother two decades earlier, Theresa Graves, MD, Director of the

To help ensure ease of access to potentially lifesaving screenings, Lifespan this past year opened a new medical imaging center on West River Street in Providence. The center offers a full range of breast imaging screenings as well as diagnostic examinations and procedures without patients needing to be seen on the bustling hospital campus.

"What we do out in the community is equally as important to what we do within our hospital's walls," says Dr. Graves. "This is all about bringing our expertise directly where it is needed and supporting our patients where they are. Especially with breast cancer, early detection is key."

Q&A WITH LIFESPAN'S PRESIDENT AND CEO JOHN FERNANDEZ

Since he stepped into his new role as Lifespan President and CEO back in January, John Fernandez has been hard at work, shaping a new vision for the future of Lifespan.

He recently sat down to discuss his priorities and what he wants donors and the community to know.

What are your main areas of focus at Lifespan?

We continue to work on improving our financial, operational, and quality performance. This includes focusing on what I like to call the “WOW” patient experience, expanding services, increasing access for patients, making sure we have an engaged workforce and a safe environment in which to deliver care. Working together, with employees, the community, and our generous donors, I know we can leverage the tremendous talent, intellect, generosity, and kindness I see around me to realize Lifespan’s most ambitious goals and plans.



John Fernandez

Will Rhode Island Hospital be getting a new president?

Yes, Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s will be getting a new president. We created a new position: Chief of Hospital Operations/President of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children’s Hospital. The person in that role will oversee the presidents of The Miriam, Newport, and Bradley/Gateway, and the vice president of quality and safety. This is a key position for not only Rhode Island Hospital, but for the whole Lifespan system. There will be more to come on the search for this new executive in the coming weeks and months.

How do you see philanthropy supporting and driving Lifespan’s mission of *Delivering health with care*?

Philanthropy is critical to driving Lifespan’s mission into the future. At all locations, but especially at Rhode Island Hospital, it helps cover the costs for providing millions of dollars of care each year for those individuals who are unable to pay, as well as strengthening the organization and helping us become a destination for health care services, not only locally, but nationally. While all philanthropy is important, strategic philanthropic investments in priority areas are what will help get us to the next level. Continuing to build a culture of philanthropy and physician partnerships are key, as well as fostering gratitude from patients and family members after receiving care. I’m confident we are just at the beginning of realizing the potential of philanthropy for the benefit of our patients and the community.

REVERED PHYSICIAN LEADER CALLS IT A CAREER



John J. Cronan, MD

The end of 2023 will mark the end of an era at Rhode Island Hospital, as John J. Cronan, MD, Lifespan’s Radiologist-in-Chief, will retire on December 31, closing an illustrious career that spanned more than 40 years and touched thousands of lives. Here’s a glimpse into that career and the indelible impression Dr. Cronan has made on his colleagues and the community he served.

‘What did I get myself into?’

Following formal education and training at Yale University-affiliated institutions and Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Cronan joined Rhode Island Hospital in 1982—and remembers, vividly, his first week on the job.

“I started on July 1 and the holiday weekend was coming up,” he recalls. “I was in the middle of an angioplasty on my second day and a colleague popped in to say, ‘You all set?’ . . . ‘For what?’ I asked. ‘You’re on call this weekend’ he says. I was a young radiologist who didn’t know much about the facility and hadn’t done many of the exams they were doing. So, it was baptism by fire.”

At the time, Dr. Cronan jokingly remembers thinking, “What did I get myself into?” But it was precisely moments like that—times that challenged him, taught him to think on his feet, and to be a creative solution seeker—which would shape his life in medicine and enable him to seize opportunities and realize possibilities others could not see.

Vision, tenacity, and a knack for bringing out the best in people

“The Department of Radiology, as we know it today, simply didn’t exist when Dr. Cronan arrived—he built it,” explains Martha Mainiero, MD, Radiologist and Medical Director of the Anne C. Pappas Center for Breast Imaging at Rhode Island Hospital. “It was a community department, not an academic one, with limited staff. The research capabilities, residency program, and subspecialty expertise we have now were all established under his leadership and because of his vision.”

Dr. Mainiero, a self-described mentee of Dr. Cronan, adds that Dr. Cronan’s quiet tenacity is a driving factor of his success. “When he sets his mind to it, he doesn’t take ‘no’ for an answer and he brings everyone along with him,” she says. “We’ve all benefited from him having higher expectations for us than we had for ourselves.”

A long list of accomplishments

Dr. Cronan’s career achievements are numerous, including establishing The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University’s Department of Diagnostic Imaging in 1995 and serving as its inaugural chair. As Director of Rhode Island Hospital’s Radiology Residency Training Program, Dr. Cronan tripled its size and expanded its stature. In 2007, it was recognized as the number one ranked program in the nation by the American Board of Radiology.

He also led the creation of the pediatric imaging center at Hasbro Children’s Hospital and ensured that Rhode Island Hospital was the first in New England to install a state-of-the-art MRI system in the emergency department, enabling faster, more informed treatment decisions.

With over 150 publications, Dr. Cronan is a nationally recognized author, as well. Most notably, his 1987 seminal article on the novel use of venous ultrasound for the treatment of deep vein thrombosis made *Radiology* journal’s 100 most influential papers of the century.

Build it and they will come

Dr. Cronan started at Rhode Island Hospital during a burgeoning time in medicine. Ultrasound, computerized tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging were all introduced within his first 15 years on the job. Always future-looking, Dr. Cronan made it a point to champion the acquisition and implementation of these new tools in an effort to grow the department and enhance patient care and outcomes.

Today, more than 400,000 images a year are taken and interpreted at Rhode Island Hospital, and they are far more detailed and sophisticated than those of the past. By comparison, 35,000 images were processed annually at Rhode Island Hospital in the 1950s, which were almost exclusively chest X-rays and bone films.

Recognition and reflection

In recognition of all he’s done, Lifespan President and CEO John Fernandez says, “We have been so fortunate to have a physician leader of Dr. Cronan’s stature and accomplishment at the helm of Lifespan’s medical imaging services. We thank him for his many contributions and his long and valuable service to our patients, colleagues, and community.”

For his part, the man himself reflects on his career in more humble terms, which suits his nature: “It’s sometimes hard to get things done, but if you go with your gut and go with enthusiasm—and you are persistent and stay focused—you get to accomplish a fair amount.”

“The Department of Radiology, as we know it today, simply didn’t exist when Dr. Cronan arrived—he built it.”

—Martha Mainiero, MD

GRATEFUL PATIENT SHARES HIS LIFESAVING STORY



“Everyone I encountered at Rhode Island Hospital had a positive, professional attitude. I felt so fortunate to be there.”

—Bob Gould

It was late July of 2021, and Bob Gould wasn't feeling well. He thought he caught a cold from his granddaughter during a family get-together and that maybe it turned into bronchitis; he felt overly fatigued and had pain in his larynx and lungs when he exerted himself.

Just to be on the safe side, he took several COVID tests over the next few weeks, which were all negative. The discomfort persisted on and off for weeks, but Bob, an avid cyclist and walker, felt well enough to continue his regular exercise regimen for the most part. So, he decided to wait for his scheduled annual check-up in October to discuss the matter with his primary care doctor.

At the appointment, a stress test was ordered, which Bob failed. He had two blocked coronary arteries and would need to have them surgically repaired without delay. The next day, doctors attempted a stent procedure on Bob, which they could not complete because his arteries were totally occluded.



His care team determined that coronary artery bypass grafting was Bob's best option. The delicate and complicated surgery involved taking healthy blood vessels from another part of Bob's body and connecting them below the blocked arteries to create a new path for blood to flow adequately to his heart.

The operation was a success.

After a six-day inpatient stay, and extensive cardiac rehabilitation services, also provided by Rhode Island Hospital, Bob fully recovered and is back to enjoying long walks and bike rides, and he's even taken up Qigong.

Now 70, a grateful Bob reflects, “From the doctors, nurses, and support staff to housekeeping, food and nutrition services, interns . . . everyone I encountered at Rhode Island Hospital had a positive, professional attitude. I felt so fortunate to be there.”

Tell us about your story of gratitude, or make a gift in recognition of the care you received.

Learn more at giving.lifespan.org/RIH/gratitude.

RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS ‘STREET MEDICINE’ PROGRAM

Thanks to a \$136,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, a group of Rhode Island Hospital doctors have been able to deliver lifesaving health care to our local unsheltered population—wherever these patients are located.

“The grant has allowed us to start building a formal street medicine program in Rhode Island,” explains Rebecca Karb, MD, Medical Director of Lifespan’s Community Health Worker Program and Community Outreach, as well as Co-Director of the Stroke Centers at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam. “Street medicine is the practice of bringing health care services out of clinics and hospitals and directly to the unsheltered homeless out in the community where they are, such as streets, parks, tent encampments, or under bridges.”



Dr. Karb, who began seeking out the unsheltered for testing and treatment during COVID, says the need for street medicine is “enormous and growing” and that she and her team of nearly 20 physicians are collaborating with outreach workers and mentors from House of Hope and Weber Renew on this important initiative. The two well-respected nonprofits are embedded in these communities and are helping Rhode Island Hospital staff identify where the unsheltered are and helping them build the trust necessary to establish solid caregiver-patient relationships.

To date, the program’s coverage area has been mostly Providence and Pawtucket, but they have administered care in Cranston and Warwick as well. The Rhode Island Foundation money is being used for supplies, equipment, training, and stipends for outreach workers and program doctors. “This is important work, and we shouldn’t just rely on volunteers to do it all,” Dr. Karb says. “By investing in the people who do this work, we can ensure that consistent, high-quality, longitudinal care is delivered to this marginalized and under-resourced population.”

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Planned giving provides donors, like you, with a meaningful opportunity to leave a lasting legacy by supporting Rhode Island Hospital and positively impacting the future of patient care for generations to come.

This type of philanthropy—whether you designate Rhode Island Hospital as a beneficiary of your estate, retirement account, donor advised fund, or life insurance policy—enables the hospital to remain focused, in the long term, on its unyielding pursuit of excellence in the delivery of health care, pioneering research, medical education, and technology.

For more information about planned giving and how it helps advance Rhode Island Hospital’s lifesaving work, **visit us at lifespan.org/RIHLegacy or contact Chris Josephson, Manager of Annual and Planned Giving, at 401-444-6412 or email chris.josephson@lifespan.org.**



BACK TO THE FUTURE

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PIONEERING ORTHOPEDIST MURRAY SNELL DANFORTH, MD



Murray Snell Danforth, MD

Since its founding in 1863, Rhode Island Hospital has been fortunate to have legendary doers and thinkers on its staff—practitioners who became historical in stature because their work was ahead of its time. Pioneering orthopedist Murray Snell Danforth, MD, sits high on this select list of visionary caregivers.

In the beginning

Dr. Danforth was born in La Grange, Maine, on May 16, 1879, and educated in that city's public schools. From there, he went on to graduate from Bowdoin College and Johns Hopkins University, excelling academically at both institutions.

After an internship at Rhode Island Hospital and post-graduate work at Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Danforth began practicing general medicine in Providence, Rhode Island. A few years later, he developed an interest in orthopedics and his desire to both specialize within this discipline and revolutionize its delivery was born.

Fortunately, he had perhaps the best mentor in the field to learn from and advance his understanding: Sir Robert Jones, a major figure in the establishment of orthopedic surgery as a modern specialty in the United Kingdom, and someone whose innovative treatments and rehabilitation of soldiers saved many lives during World War I.

Before the war started, Dr. Danforth studied under Sir Robert Jones at various British orthopedic hospitals, learning about and treating peripheral nerve injuries as well as performing tendon transfers and other increasingly complex procedures. After the U.S. entered the war, Dr. Danforth answered the call, earning ranks of Captain, then Major, before retiring as a Lt. Colonel. In 1919, he also became Chief of Orthopedic Service at Walter Reed. Years later, Dr. Danforth would return to Providence and open a private practice dedicated to orthopedics. But eventually, all roads led him to Rhode Island Hospital.

Game-changing care

In 1931, Dr. Danforth started the Orthopedic Fracture Service at Rhode Island Hospital, which provided physician consultations, surgical/nonsurgical procedures,

X-rays, and rehabilitation services for most bone- and joint-related issues. Today, the service remains one of the four oldest and continuously functioning approved fracture residencies in the country. Under his leadership, the program gradually replaced general surgeons with orthopedic specialists and implemented and deployed a number of practices that we now accept as standards; for example, continuity of supervision by one physician and documented long-term follow-up observation with residents.

Dr. Danforth also made valuable contributions to medical literature, publishing many influential papers, including 1934's seminal work "The Treatment of Legg Perthe's Disease without Weight-Bearing." Legg Perthe's is a rare condition in which the head of the thighbone (femoral head) temporarily loses blood supply causing it to collapse and the area to become inflamed. Dr. Danforth's findings were the basis of treatment for this disease for many years.

Aside from his clinical skills, Dr. Danforth had a remarkable personality and knack for interacting with those he treated. He spoke fluent Italian and comforted many immigrant patients; he would often come in at night, 9 or 10 p.m., to change a dressing, and would personally change the casts of polio patients.

Today, health care providers are still learning from Dr. Danforth and are grateful for his trailblazing work. "He set the standard for excellence in orthopedics when he started the Rhode Island Hospital fracture service," explains Edward Akelman, MD, President of University Orthopedics, Inc., and Chairman of the Orthopedic Departments

at Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. "Dr. Danforth was a superb teacher, a splendid anatomist, and a skilled physician and surgeon. I am honored that our departments continue his tradition of excellence."

A family affair

Of course, continuing Dr. Danforth's tradition is still largely powered by his family's generous and unwavering support of Rhode Island Hospital. In 1957, his wife, Helen Pierce Metcalf Danforth, established the Murray S. Danforth Fracture and Orthopedic Fund for Teaching and Research at Rhode Island Hospital. This living memorial to her husband, who passed in 1943, has provided substantial benefits for resident staff and is highlighted by the annual Danforth Oration, presented each year by a distinguished orthopedic surgeon.

These days, the good doctor's ancestors—members of the Danforth, Watkins, and Chaffee families—have

all continued to honor his legacy through their amazing philanthropic support.

Stephen Watkins, Dr. Danforth's grandson, explains why. "Compassionate, high-quality patient care, lifelong learning and education, and next-generation research were all priorities for

my grandfather," he explains. "So, championing the continuance of his inspired work is something each member of our family strongly believes in. We are more than happy to support Rhode Island Hospital and the lifesaving work they do for the patients and families they serve."



Murray Snell Danforth, MD, back row (center) with fellow residents



Day OF Giving

10 WJAR



Rhode Island Hospital
Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®

DAY OF GIVING RAISES \$370,000

On Thursday, March 23, Rhode Island Hospital held its third annual Day of Giving telethon in partnership with NBC 10 WJAR. The event highlighted the world-renowned physicians and specialists of the Lifespan Cancer Institute at Rhode Island Hospital, and their commitment to delivering the future of cancer care close to home.

Throughout the day, viewers across the region tuned in to hear from grateful patients and hospital staff, who shared powerful stories of courage and hope in the face of life-threatening cancer diagnoses.

Thanks to sponsorships and the generosity of dollar-for-dollar, matching-gift-challenge donors, a total of \$370,000 was raised. The money will support program improvements that directly benefit patients and their families and will help enhance Rhode Island Hospital's already exceptional patient experience as well as advance its leading-edge research and medical education capabilities.

Of the total, more than \$100,000 raised during the day went to The Malloy Strong Fund at Rhode Island Hospital, which is named in honor of Providence Police Sergeant Ed Malloy, who lost his courageous battle with cancer in 2019. Despite a devastating cancer diagnosis, Ed never quit fighting, and found the strength to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Lifespan Cancer Institute through an annual 5K charity race. The patient assistance fund that now bears his name provides support for those undergoing cancer treatment including financial, physical, and emotional assistance.

Rhode Island Hospital extends its gratitude and appreciation to everyone who helped make the 2023 Day of Giving possible, including their generous sponsors and entire donor community.

To learn more about the amazing event and relive the inspirational stories shared as part of the Day of Giving, please visit:

<https://giving.lifespan.org/RIH/day-of-giving>.

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INAUGURAL MALLOY STRONG GOLF INVITATIONAL RAISES \$85,000

With a robust field of 132 golfers and some great weather, Rhode Island Hospital enjoyed its annual golf tournament on June 19, 2023, at the beautiful Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown. The day was full of excitement and raised \$85,000 in support of the Lifespan Cancer Institute at Rhode Island Hospital.

This year, the tournament was renamed the Malloy Strong Golf Invitational in honor of Providence Police Sergeant Ed Malloy. Ed lost his courageous battle with cancer in 2019, but not before raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Lifespan Cancer Institute through an annual 5K charity run. The newly established fund that memorializes his contributions provides financial, physical, and emotional assistance to patients undergoing oncology treatments.

Tournament co-chairs, Julie Abilheria, VP, Lifespan Cancer Institute, and Nick Rodrigues,

Rhode Island Hospital Foundation Board Member, did a fantastic job in helping to make this year's event a roaring success. The tireless work of event volunteers—combined with the generosity of corporate and individual donors and sponsors, and the support of Lifespan executive leaders—helped to ensure that the day on the links went off without a hitch.

A special note of thanks and appreciation also goes out to the Malloy Family and Ellie Malloy for her sincere remarks at the dinner reception, and the Hansen Family, as this year's tournament was dedicated in honor of the late Jacob Hansen, who lost his fight against cancer in 2014.

One day, hopefully, events like this will be obsolete because the advances in medicine, science, and technology will have led to cures or quantum improvements in cancer management, the likes of which we cannot even imagine now. But until that day, it's more than comforting to know that The Malloy Strong Fund and so many dedicated supporters are continuing to fight the good fight and showing up to tee off for a great cause.

Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives., a publication of Rhode Island Hospital, is published for our friends and supporters.

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We invite you to learn more by contacting the Development Office at 401-444-6311 or visit lifespan.org/rih-giving.