

# carenews

together we are transforming the future of health care

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“We have been focused on building a strong health care system that would be well positioned for the future.”

Good day!

Last week we had several media inquiries about our strategic partnership discussions with other provider organizations. Sometimes there is an inevitable “gotcha” element when a reporter poses questions, but I would say there is a single truth underlying all our responses. If you are not considering possible ways of strengthening your organization in this environment, you are just not doing your job. It’s actually not a gotcha situation at all. It is a very good news scenario here at Care New England.

Since I arrived in 2011, we have been focused on building a strong health care system that would be well positioned for the future. We have embraced the national Triple Aim agenda—improving the health of the population, enhancing the patient care experience, reducing the overall cost of care—and we have begun the transition from the old fee-for-service world into population health management.

In moving toward this new system of care, we have implemented a series of strategic initiatives, including enhancing integration across the Care New England organizations, making the right investments in new technology and clinical programs, focusing on quality and value, putting primary care at the center of care delivery, and working toward providing the right services at the right times within the new care delivery and payment arena. To achieve all of these goals without costly duplication of service, we have made strategic affiliations and partnerships a critical underpinning of our approach.

Indeed, over the last several years, we have engaged in discussions with virtually all in the provider and payer community in the region. We have gone ahead and announced new agreements with such organizations as Memorial Hospital, The Providence Center, Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island, among others. In addition, along with key physician partners,

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## In this issue:



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we have created our own Accountable Care Organization that will serve as a vehicle for care delivery in the population health environment.

And, yes, we will continue to explore ways to strengthen our organizations and improve our ability to care for the people in our community. We have no specifics to share at this point, but suffice it to say that we operate out of a position of strength and success. We are not in financial distress, we are not for sale, we are not looking to cede control of our system, our hospitals or our agencies. We are a strong organization—with a strong future ahead.

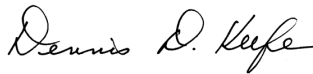
If there are new developments to share, we will, of course, follow our customary course of letting you know in advance of any public announcements. In the meantime, please let us know if you have questions—and please share any feedback you may be hearing in the community.

On another front, please take the time to consider your part in the Providence Heart Walk for the Southern New England Heart Association which will take place on June 7 for the first time ever at Station Park in Providence, RI. The American Heart Association's signature fundraising event, the Heart Walk features a three-mile walk route and free health screenings, cardiovascular advice from experts, entertainment, giveaways, a kids' zone, and heart-healthy snacks. We are well on our way to having a terrific showing with more than 400 walkers already signed on.

As we celebrated Care New England receiving state approval to move forward with a coronary angioplasty program at Kent Hospital last week, we know we will be making this community more heart healthy. Let's all do something for improved heart health. Join a walk team, form a team or donate to a walker or Heart Walk team in your hospital! It's simple, visit <http://ProvidenceHeartWalk.org> and click "Get Started"! Don't forget, you can invite your friends and family to walk with you too! If you have any trouble, contact Heart Walk Director Amanda Komorek at (401) 228-2325 or [Amanda.Komorek@heart.org](mailto:Amanda.Komorek@heart.org).

Have a great week ahead!

Sincerely,



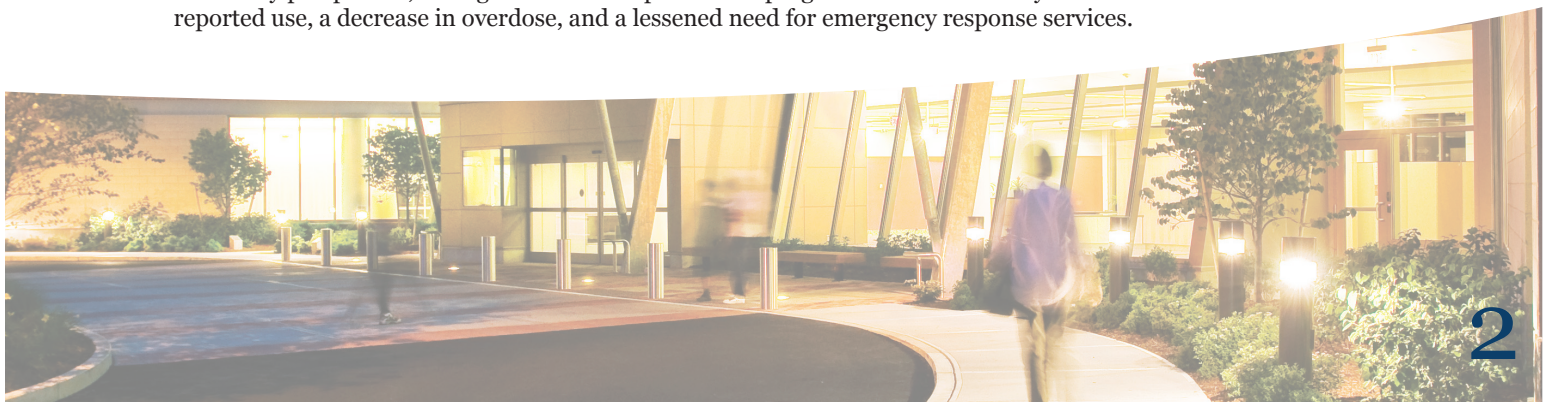
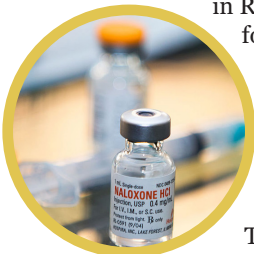
Dennis D. Keefe  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## Butler and CNE address the dangers of overdose head on

Overdose is among the top five leading causes of death in Rhode Island. As a leader in substance abuse treatment in Rhode Island, Butler Hospital is addressing this epidemic in many ways, including advocating for and providing Narcan—an injectable that reverses overdose due to opioids, such as heroin or prescription opioids—to patients at risk of overdose. In a recent presentation to the Butler Hospital Foundation Board, Drs. Kevin Bail and Andrea Kretzschmar talked about how Butler led the state in adopting the practice of providing at-risk patients with Narcan. In 2013 Butler began providing at-risk patients in the Partial Hospital Program with kits, and in 2014, they were the first in the state to provide at-risk inpatients with Narcan kits upon discharge.

The Narcan program at Butler also paved the way for its adoptions across the CNE system, with kits being distributed to at-risk patients in the emergency departments at Kent and Memorial hospitals. The doctors cited data that supported the effectiveness of the Narcan program from both a cost and safety perspective, noting that overdose prevention programs have historically shown a reduction in self-reported use, a decrease in overdose, and a lessened need for emergency response services.





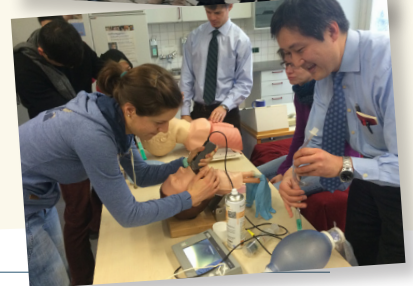
## Memorial physician invited to teach critical care medicine in Germany

Taro Minami, MD, FACP, FCCP, director of pulmonary and critical care simulation and ultrasound training, as well as subspecialty coordinator of resident and medical student education at Memorial Hospital and assistant professor of medicine (clinical) at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, spent two weeks recently at the University of Tübingen, Germany, teaching critical care medicine. This was part of the exchange program between Brown University and the University of Tübingen.

Minami trained 16 medical students—nine from Germany, five from Brown, one from Italy and one from Indonesia. Sessions included lectures, simulation training, ICU rounds, hands-on procedure training at the anatomy lab using a cadaver, critical care ultrasonography, and procedures such as central venous catheter insertion.

*top, Dr. Taro Minami, pictured sixth from the left, with some of his students in Germany.*

*bottom, Dr. Taro Minami, pictured right, teaching a class at the University of Tübingen, Germany.*



## Nigerian doctor serves mini fellowship at Women & Infants

Olusegun Isaac Alatise, MD, of Abafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria spent a 10-day mini fellowship in breast cancer at the Breast Health Center at Women & Infants Hospital in early March. Dr. Alatise earned the prestigious fellowship through the National Consortium of Breast Centers' (NCBC) International Liaison Committee. While at Women & Infants, he worked beside the genetics counselors, scrubbed in on surgery, and attended a session of the Breast Tumor Board.



The purpose of the mini fellowship is to promote awareness among NCBC members of breast care challenges in underserved countries and to share members' expertise. Jennifer Gass, MD, co-director of the Breast Health Center and surgeon-in-chief at Women & Infants, served as Dr. Alatise's contact.

## Ob evaluation unit marks anniversary

Exactly one year ago, Women & Infants celebrated the opening of the new Obstetric Evaluation Unit in the Division of Emergency Obstetrics and Gynecology. This new, state-of-the-art, seven-bed unit, an expansion to the current Emergency Department, now serves as a dedicated space to provide high quality, efficient care to obstetric patients. In addition, the Obstetric Evaluation Unit fosters a more integrated model of care between the Emergency Department and the hospital's Labor, Delivery and Recovery Unit.



Since the opening of the Obstetric Evaluation Unit last year, Women & Infants cared for approximately 28,000 patients in the Emergency Department, with an average daily census of 75 patients. Of those patients, 70 percent were obstetric patients.

There has been some wonderful progress on key quality indicators in the Emergency Department, too:

- The number of patients who left without being seen dropped from one percent to less than one percent.
- The length of stay was reduced from 185 minutes to 165 minutes.

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- Our time to provider decreased from 51 minutes to 31 minutes.
- Our overall patient satisfaction in the Emergency Department increased from 16 percent to 70 percent.

Women & Infants' Division of Emergency Obstetrics and Gynecology is the *only* Emergency Department in the nation specializing exclusively in the care of women with acute obstetric and/or gynecologic issues. The team is at the forefront of establishing treatment guidelines and clinical care protocols related to women's health issues in an emergency department setting.

### Kent names Dr. Arcand, MD, medical staff president, honors Dr. Brennan

Denise M. Arcand, MD, of West Warwick, has been appointed as the 47<sup>th</sup> president of the Kent Hospital medical staff. Arcand succeeds Herbert J. "Hub" Brennan, DO, of East Greenwich, who served as medical staff president since 2013. This leadership position is filled every two years by a member of the Kent medical staff who is distinguished as a leader in the field of medicine, chosen by their medical staff peers.



Dr. Arcand is a board-certified family medicine physician who has served on the Kent Hospital medical staff since 2001. She is the lead physician at Arcand Family Medicine in West Warwick, where she has practiced since 2001. Dr. Arcand also currently serves as the medical director of Alpine Nursing Home in Coventry. She received her medical degree from Laval University in Quebec, Canada, and completed a family medicine residency at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston, ME. Her special clinical interests include women's health and geriatrics. Dr. Arcand's father, Alfred A. Arcand, MD, also served as president of Kent's medical staff from 1990-1992.

"On behalf of Kent Hospital, I would like to congratulate Dr. Arcand on her appointment as president of the Kent medical staff," said Michael J. Dacey, MD, MS, FACP, president and COO at Kent Hospital. "Dr. Arcand is a well-known community physician who brings great oversight and clinical leadership to our medical staff. I would also like to express great appreciation to Dr. "Hub" Brennan for his years of outstanding leadership and dedication to the Kent medical staff and the hospital community. Dr. Brennan will continue to be a tremendous advocate for Kent, his patients and the community."



Dr. Brennan is an internal medicine physician and has been a member of the Kent Hospital medical staff since 1996. Dr. Brennan is a partner in Brennan, Cronin and Peters Internal Medicine in East Greenwich, and serves on a number of boards and committees focusing on health care governance and transformation. As a lifelong, avid off-road motorcyclist, he was recently appointed to the International Medical Panel of the *Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM)* at its Annual Congress in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. Dr. Brennan is one of four U.S. representatives to the organization and the sole U.S. physician on the medical panel.

### VNA of Care New England to hold spring memorial service

The VNA of Care New England Hospice Care Program will hold its annual spring hospice memorial at the Warwick Country Club, 394 Narragansett Bay Avenue, Warwick, at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, May 12, 2015. This celebration of life will include candlelight, music, and a sharing of memories through photographs and stories for individuals who have lost loved ones.

Photos of a loved one(s) are encouraged to be submitted for the slide show of the evening, even if you are unable to attend the event. Photos, along with the name of the individual(s) pictured, may be sent electronically to [cacarpenter@vnacarenewengland.org](mailto:cacarpenter@vnacarenewengland.org), mailed to Chris Carpenter, director of Hospice and



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Palliative Care, 51 Health Lane, Warwick, or dropped off at the VNA office, located at the same address, prior to April 20. Hard copy photos will be returned after the remembrance.

Please RSVP by April 30 by calling (401) 921-7626 or by emailing [sgreen@vnacarenewengland.org](mailto:sgreen@vnacarenewengland.org). Music will be provided by the Ocean State Women's Choir, and the granddaughter of a former patient. Refreshments will be served following the service.



CARE NEW ENGLAND  
EMPLOYEE WELLNESS BENEFIT

## Wellness-Flex for Life

The Flex for Life March Madness Exercise Challenge is over and we are pleased to announce the final standings. Congratulations to the Butler Bears for finishing in first place! Also, 10 participants were randomly chosen to win a \$100 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods.

We hope you join us for our upcoming **Spring into Action Exercise Challenge** starting May 18. Registration emails will be sent on May 4. 



# Care New England

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
of Rhode Island