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“Impressive results seem to be synonymous with so much of what we do.”

Good day!

First of all, thank you to all of you who turned out for the Providence Heart Walk yesterday! It was a phenomenal turnout with more than 700 Care New England walkers doing us proud. As this year's walk chairman, I am so honored to report that we raised more than \$650K for better heart health for this community. This is a record setting response. Thanks so much to you and your teams of co-workers, family and friends who helped contribute to this magnificent result!

Impressive results seem to be synonymous with so much of what we do.

Consider this: There are critical windows of development and reproductive life that, if disturbed, could impact a person's health or disease throughout life. Something you've never thought about? Well, fortunately for medical science, there are profound thinkers right here at Care New England pondering that very issue.

I am pleased to elaborate on an announcement we made last week that Women & Infants' Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) for Perinatal Biology has been awarded nearly \$5 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support an Institutional Development Award (IDeA). Under the leadership of James F. Padbury, MD, pediatrician-in-chief and chief of Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital and the William and Mary Oh—William and Elsa Zopfi Professor of Pediatrics for Perinatal Research at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Surendra Sharma, MBBS, PhD, research scientist at Women & Infants and professor of pediatrics at Alpert Medical School, the COBRE team will continue its research in perinatal biology, including scientific inquiries into fetal and newborn development, placental biology, and reproductive diseases such as preterm birth and preeclampsia (pregnancy induced hypertension).



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This news is exciting on many different levels. On the most obvious level, outside research funding of this magnitude goes a long way in enabling our researchers to continue their groundbreaking studies. Further, support from such a prestigious source as NIH not only enhances our reputation on the national playing field, but underscores the value of the research initiatives happening right here at a time when federal support for medical research has become even more competitive. But, most importantly, these studies hold vast public health potentials.

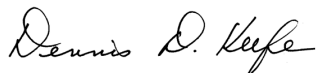
For decades, researchers and clinicians across the globe have been trying to crack the code on what causes a woman to go into labor prematurely. We all know that a baby is intended to remain in the womb for as close to 40 weeks as possible, and when a woman goes into labor too soon, she and her baby are at risk. Dr. Sharma and his colleagues are working to develop a diagnostic test that will enable them to confirm that preeclampsia can be identified much earlier in pregnancy, thus leading to new and better treatments—and healthier mothers and babies!

But interestingly, through this work, Dr. Sharma's laboratory has also identified intriguing insights into the pregnancy disorder of preeclampsia. What they found is that the protein that misfolds in preeclampsia is also disturbed in some cases of Alzheimer's disease. Our scientists are now exploring whether preeclampsia may be a risk factor for later development of Alzheimer's disease!

This is incredible work—and it's happening right here! I congratulate Drs. Padbury and Sharma and all of their colleagues involved in this important research. I applaud each of you and all of the other researchers across Care New England who are committed to finding answers to questions that some of us have never even thought to ask!

Think big—and have a great week ahead!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



CNE Cultural Diversity Celebration Week

The second annual Care New England Cultural Diversity Celebration is being held on Wednesday, June 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Butler Hospital on the lawn outside the Sawyer Building. In recognition and celebration of the diverse populations we all serve, CNE has put together this event to raise consciousness and promote learning about cultural diversity. The celebration will feature displays highlighting system initiatives and resources as well as programs and resources from our local community. The event will also include a celebration of the foods, arts and music from various cultures, including local ethnic food truck vendors, and Latino Public Radio. This June 10 event is part of a week-long celebration of cultural diversity across the system that also includes an educational lecture titled "Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts!" being held on Thursday, June 11 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Sayles Conference Room at Memorial Hospital, and from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Doctors' Auditorium at Kent Hospital. Registration is not required for this hour-long workshop presented by Karan Dutton, director of Human Resources for Sodexo, which will explore stereotypes and biases in the workplace. Please contact your Human Resources Department with any questions regarding the Cultural Diversity Celebration Week events.



Kent receives NICHE designation, CNE moves to forefront of elder care

Kent Hospital announced it has received distinction as a NICHE Hospital (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) designating its commitment to elder care excellence as determined by thorough review and evaluation by an independent and international review panel focused on improving elder care.

Through Kent's participation in the NICHE program—a leading elder care nursing program—the hospital is able to offer evidence-based, interdisciplinary approaches that promote better outcomes, positive experiences, and improved care for older adults. This leads to greater satisfaction rates for patients, their families and staff.



NICHE is an international program designed to help improve the care of older adults. The vision of NICHE is for all patients 65 and over to be given sensitive and exemplary care. The mission of NICHE is to provide principles and tools to stimulate a change in the culture of health care facilities to achieve patient-centered care for older adults. NICHE, based at NYU College of Nursing, has more than 550 hospitals and health care organizations from the U.S., Canada, Bermuda and Singapore in the network.

For more information please visit <http://nicheprogram.org>.

Memorial's Dr. Magee leads 'Sex Ed by Brown Med' program

Susanna Magee, MD, MPH, director of Maternal Child Health at Memorial Hospital, is leading a group of 41 first and second-year medical students who are hoping to lower teen pregnancy rates in Central Falls.

Across Rhode Island, approximately one girl in 100 will give birth while she is between the ages of 15 and 19. But in Central Falls, that rate is quadruple the state average.



Naomi Adjei MD'17 is working with four other Alpert Medical School students to create a better sex ed program for the city's middle schoolers. Sex Ed by Brown Med, which debuted in the 2014-2015 school year, is a collaboration between Alpert Medical School, the Rhode Island Department of Education and the Board of the Central Falls School District. Teams of medical students, after a comprehensive training program, taught sex ed classes to 168 seventh- and eighth-graders at Calcutt Middle School in Central Falls.

The idea for Sex Ed by Brown Med was conceived in 2013 after Adjei listened to a speech on teenage pregnancy by Dr. Magee, who encouraged students to get into the community and start working for change, and they did just that. With Dr. Magee serving as faculty advisor, the students designed a comprehensive sexual education curriculum using web-based, validated education modules. Topics include reproductive system anatomy, sexually transmitted infection, teenage pregnancy and parenthood, sexual decision-making, abstinence, contraception, sexual violence and gender identity.

Preliminary surveys show increased knowledge among the seventh graders and that teachers loved the program. Sex Ed by Brown Med hopes to show that the program not only increases students' knowledge, but also contributes to a decreased teen pregnancy rate in Central Falls. For more information, visit <http://www.brownmedicinemagazine.org/blog/sex-ed-by-brown-med>.



Blackstone Health Nutrition Program hosts volunteer luncheon

Blackstone Health, Inc., an affiliate of VNA of Care New England, held a luncheon on June 4 to honor volunteers of its nutrition program. The event recognized more than 120 volunteers and took place at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, Cranston.

The Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs (DEA), the agency that administers the nutrition program with federal Older Americans Act dollars, offers a dining program that serves seniors and adults with disabilities at 67 meal sites across Rhode Island, 17 of which are run by Blackstone Health. The Senior Nutrition Program meal sites are known statewide as the Cafés.

Volunteers recognized include seniors who belong to the nutrition program and assist with meal servings. The Cafés welcome all diners 60 years of age and over, regardless of ability or income. Those under 60 years of age with a disability are also welcome.

Blackstone Health, Inc. is comprised of its congregate nutrition program and an adult senior day care center, New Horizons, which offers medical assistance and support services to frail elders and disabled adults.



Breast Health Center at Kent hosts fifth annual health fair

The Breast Health Center at Kent celebrated breast cancer survivorship by hosting its fifth annual health fair on Friday, May 29, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI.

More than 200 people attended the beach-themed event, which featured presentations by Cornelius "Skip" Granai III, MD, FACOG, FACS, director of the Program in Women's Oncology, Women & Infants Hospital; Candace Dyer, MD, general surgeon, medical director, Breast Health Center at Kent; Lauren Talbert, RD, CSO, LDN, board certified specialist in oncology nutrition, Women & Infants Hospital; Rebecca Stocker, DPT, CLT, physical therapist and lymphedema therapist, Women & Infants Hospital; and Ellen Healy, MA, LMHC, licensed mental health counselor, Kent Hospital.



Congratulations to the entire Breast Health Center team on another successful event!

Memorial physicians present Spanish wellness lectures

Physicians from Memorial Hospital continue the lecture series in Spanish at Progreso Latino, Inc. a Central Falls-based organization that is working to empower Rhode Island's Latino and immigrant communities to achieve greater self-sufficiency and socioeconomic progress. The wellness series, which is free, offers the expertise of physicians and other health care professionals from Memorial Hospital. There will be free blood pressure screenings.



The next event will be held Thursday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the subject of thyroid diseases, and will be presented by Alfredo Cordova, MD, at Progreso Latino, 626 Broad Street in Central Falls.

Advance registration for each lecture is recommended. For more information or to register, call (401) 728-5920. [one](#)

