

# carenews

together we are transforming the future of health care

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## In this issue:



Good day!

I am very pleased to report that, after conducting an extensive request for proposals process, Care New England has selected Southcoast Health System, Inc. as our proposed strategic partner. Our two organizations have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to engage in exclusive discussions and to work toward the goal of forming a new non-profit parent organization that would oversee both systems.

Keith A. Hovan, President and CEO of Southcoast, and I will be making this announcement today through a joint news release.

As many of you know, Southcoast is the premier provider of health care services in southeastern Massachusetts. It includes four hospitals (Charlton in Fall River, St. Luke's in New Bedford, Tobey in Wareham and Southcoast Behavioral Health in Dartmouth), 50 ambulatory sites, 600+ physicians and advanced care clinicians, and the Southcoast Health ACO.

Consider the exciting possibilities.

If our two health systems come together, our new organization would become one of the region’s largest non-profit health care systems dedicated to the advancement of population health, the delivery of community-based care, and a commitment to academic medicine. It would encompass eight hospitals, an expansive network of ambulatory sites, two established Accountable Care Organizations, more than 1,700 aligned physicians, a continuation of the academic relationship Care New England currently enjoys and the educational relationship Southcoast currently enjoys with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and the responsible stewardship of charitable assets. Perhaps as importantly, we would be joining together with a team



**SOUTHCOAST**  
HEALTH SYSTEM

[www.southcoast.org](http://www.southcoast.org)

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whose mission, vision, values and culture strongly align with our own, and who share a great interest in partnering with us in a collegial and synergistic manner.

This very positive outcome is the result of a comprehensive and deliberative process undertaken by the Care New England Board of Directors to assess the need for a strategic partner and enlist proposals from a number of organizations. That confidential process concluded favorably this month after the Board and senior leaders evaluated potential partners against defined criteria and considerations which included clinical program quality, population health management, physician enterprise, academic focus, governance and corporate infrastructure, capital commitment, community benefit, and mission alignment.

"In most every respect," commented George W. Shuster, chairman of the CNE Board, in today's news release, "Southcoast represents the best possible choice in enabling us to move forward strengthening quality, transitioning to population health, improving the value proposition, finding the right structural and cultural fit for both organizations, and maintaining our valued relationships with key academic, provider and organizational partners. We believe this partnership will truly be a win for our community."

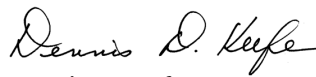
What will happen next is our work on due diligence and the development of a definitive agreement. We hope, following this phase, we will agree to partnership terms and move forward with the needed state and federal regulatory process approvals.

This is a great chapter in the annals of Care New England. We will keep you posted on our progress, and we will advise on ways you may help us through the process.

If you have questions about this development, please do not hesitate to let me know or to ask your supervisor.

As always, please accept my thanks for all that you do every day in distinguishing our Care New England organizations.

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## Dr. Brenna L. Hughes invited to serve on Immunization Expert Work Group of ACOG

Brenna L. Hughes, MD, chief of the Women's Infectious Diseases Consultative Service at Women & Infants and an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has accepted an invitation to become a member of the Immunization Expert Work Group of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). The Immunization Expert Work Group serves as an advisory group of ACOG's Committee on Obstetric Practice, Committee on Gynecologic Practice, and Committee on Adolescent Health Care.



The ACOG Immunization Expert Work Group was formed in 2010 following an ACOG immunization task force and the H1N1 pandemic to develop and deliver accurate immunization education and resources, and continues to demonstrate ACOG's commitment to increasing immunization rates. The Work Group is made up of immunization and infectious disease experts who regularly report on their activities and are able to relay ACOG guidelines and opinions.

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Dr. Hughes and her Work Group members will be asked to develop and review documents such as committee opinions, patient and provider fact sheets, physician scripts, letters, and other patient and provider immunization materials.

“Dr. Hughes is recognized as an expert in reproductive infectious disease. As a member of this Work Group, the work she’ll be doing is necessary to ensure that patients and providers have the most up-to-date information to improve access and have the most accurate opinions and initiatives when it comes to immunizations nationwide,” said Maureen G. Phipps, MD, MPH, chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Women & Infants, executive chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Care New England Health System, chair and Chace-Joukowsky Professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and assistant dean for teaching and research in women’s health at the Alpert Medical School.

Dr. Hughes’ first meeting with the Work Group will be this spring.

## Memorial doctor recognized with the Family Medicine Education Consortium Leadership Award

Melissa Nothnagle, MD, MSc, family medicine residency director, associate professor of Family Medicine, Memorial Hospital/The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, was awarded the Family Medicine Mid-Career Faculty Achievement Award from the Family Medicine Education Consortium. The group is a family medicine organization that serves the northeast region of the United States and supports collaborative educational and clinical initiatives in primary care, education, policy and advocacy. Dr. Nothnagle received the award at their recent annual conference.



Jeffrey Borkan, MD, PhD, professor and chair of Family Medicine, Memorial Hospital/The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, stated in his nomination letter, “Dr. Nothnagle has made significant clinical, teaching, intellectual, and advocacy contributions to the field of Family Medicine, particularly in the areas of medical education scholarship and comprehensive reproductive health training.”

Dr. Nothnagle has been on the family medicine faculty for 13 years, after completing her residency training at Memorial.

## Dr. Salisbury publishes on study related to depression medication and pregnancy

Amy Salisbury, PhD, a research scientist at Women & Infants Hospital’s Brown Center for the Study of Children at Risk and an associate professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, was published for her study “Effects of Maternal Depression on the Neurobehavior of Infants,” in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.



Pregnant women who were diagnosed with depression were involved in the study. Researchers evaluated the effects of prenatal use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and benzodiazepines, as well as no drug treatment, on newborns. Dr. Salisbury and her team found adverse effects in infants of women taking SSRI antidepressants during pregnancy beyond the first seven to 10 days postpartum and that the use of benzodiazepines in conjunction with SSRIs was associated with more significant problems in infant neurological functioning than SSRI use alone.

“Infants in the SSRI and SSRI plus benzodiazepine groups had lower motor scores and more central nervous system stress signs across the first postnatal month as well as lower self-regulation. Infants in the depression group had low arousal through the newborn period,” explained Dr. Salisbury.

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“Women who need treatment should continue to receive it. The recommendations are actually to not stop taking the medications just to prevent neurobehavioral problems for the baby at birth as we did not find evidence that it prevents these signs. The one caution was in using a benzodiazepine to treat women as the effects were more pronounced and longer lasting.”

However, Dr. Salisbury notes that women who need that medication combination may be at higher risk from their symptoms showing that the need for treatment may outweigh the potential problems for the baby.

## Care New England honors veterans

On Tuesday, November 10, Care New England held its annual tribute Honoring Our Heroes, at Kent Hospital. The event held in proximity to Veterans Day, November 11, offered a time to gather and honor all U.S. Veterans, including Care New England employees who have and currently serve the United States.

Special thanks to the following participants:

- The Army ROTC Patriot Battalion at Providence College
- Lieutenant General (Retired) Reginald A. Centracchio.
- Colonel Susan Luz, RN, Author: *The Nightingale of Mosul: A Nurse's Journey of Service, Struggle and War*
- The Reggie Centracchio Quintet

This ceremony ended with Kent Hospital's own Paul E. Barber Sr., MD, who was honored for his service to our country and community.

*Shown here are Paul E. Barber, Sr., MD; Sandra Coletta, Executive Vice President and COO Care New England and Lieutenant General (Retired) Reginald A. Centracchio.*



## Women & Infants plans cancer survivors tea

At Women & Infants Hospital, the staff with the Program in Women's Oncology put special emphasis on survivorship and helping women enjoy quality of life while they battle cancer and even later after their treatment ends.

With this in mind, the Program's Oncology Patient and Family Advisory Council will sponsor a Cancer Survivors Tea on Sunday, November 22, from 10 a.m. to noon, at its headquarters, 668 Eddy St., Providence.

The focus of the tea is “Coping with the Holidays: How to be Physically and Emotionally Well.” With tea and treats, the free event will include presentations by nutrition and social services staff that offer tips and techniques to minimize stress and unhealthy habits while maximizing enjoyment of the season.

The tea is open to all patients, family members and friends. To sign up, survivors can call Lauren Talbert, RD, CSO, LDN, at (401) 274-1122, ext. 48753, or email her at [ltalbert@wihri.org](mailto:ltalbert@wihri.org).



## VNA of Care New England to hold Circle of Love & Light and Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony November 30

The Hospice Care program of VNA of Care New England and The Honorable Scott Avedisian, Mayor of the City of Warwick, will once again host The Circle of Love & Light and Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 6 p.m.



The event will be held at Warwick City Hall, 3275 Post Road in Warwick, on the second floor in the council chambers. The evening will feature an opportunity to honor lost loved ones through reflection, song, candlelight and remembrance. Claire Bartlett, wife of the late David Bartlett, and mother of the late David Bartlett Jr., will speak about what hospice care meant to her and her family when both her husband and son were on hospice together. Music will be provided by The Ocean State Women's Choir.

Guests are asked to park in the rear of the building. For those requiring assistance, the handicapped accessible entrance and elevator are located on the side of the building. There will be a reception featuring light refreshments immediately following the program.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Susan Green at (401) 921-7626.

### What are you thankful for?

Next week the tradition of showcasing expressions of gratitude from the Care New England family will be featured in the November 23 issue of *carenews*. If you would like to submit an entry and let us know what you are thankful for, please email May Kernan at [mkernan@carene.org](mailto:mkernan@carene.org). 