

carenews

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“The VNA of Care New England and the people who make it what it is have consistently exceeded my expectations in terms of quality, compassion, innovation and dedication, and I am confident this will continue.”

Good day!

This Friday, January 29, Nancy Roberts will transition out of her role as president of the VNA of Care New England and begin the next great chapter of her life. Nancy will leave an indelible mark on our organizations and our community for her staunch advocacy of the nursing profession and her pioneering role as an innovator in home health delivery and care management.

Nancy has enjoyed a distinguished career with us. She joined the VNA in 1982 as a visiting nurse, went on to receive her master's in nursing from the University of Rhode Island, and progressed through the VNA ranks. While it was still a small stand-alone agency operating as the Kent County VNA, Nancy successfully negotiated an affiliation agreement between the agency and Care New England, thus spearheading the formation of the VNA of Care New England. She was named president of the organization in 1996, and she guided the growth of the VNA from a \$5M agency to a \$22M entity within our system.

Through the years, Nancy has helped the VNA weather the changing times. She has nurtured the VNA flu crew, Health Touch, our hospice program, and the ongoing operations of the highly respected home health service. She had to close programs and stem the tide of losses the VNA experienced. She helped usher in new programs like our palliative care program and the Conversation Project which have improved our capabilities dealing with end-of-life issues. In all, whether the times brought great achievement or difficult change, Nancy maintained an unwavering focus of care both for her patients and her VNA team.

Well beyond the walls of our organization, Nancy's passion for home health and the nursing profession was seen through her leadership of the Visiting Nurse Association of America, and her service as a consultant to the Rhode Island Department of Health spurred the development of a statewide Maternal Child Health and Family Support

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home-visiting program. In 2012, she was recognized among an elite group of recipients nationally as an Innovation Advisor by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for her work in advancing new models of regional health care coordination. This honor led to her being selected to participate in the inaugural group of the Practice Change Leaders Program in 2013 which created a network of specialists dedicated to influencing health care delivery and improving the health of older adults. Most recently, Nancy was appointed as a senior leader to the Hartford Foundation-funded Practice Change Leaders Program.” In this capacity she will serve as advisor and mentor to individuals in the Program.

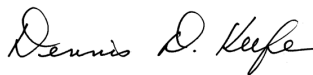
The sum impact of her career here is perhaps best expressed in her own words. To quote Nancy, “The VNA of Care New England and the people who make it what it is have consistently exceeded my expectations in terms of quality, compassion, innovation and dedication, and I am confident this will continue. The contribution of home health care and hospice to our communities is immeasurable, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to be a part of it for so long.”

Thank you, Nancy, for your excellence and your many years of hard work. Please accept our deep gratitude for your many contributions to Care New England and to our community!

I also want to thank all of you who have participated in our Town Hall meetings over the last two weeks. Our leadership found these sessions to be not only a great way to convey information, but to listen to you. We appreciate your candor and your understanding, and we look forward to continuing to hold more meetings like this in the future.

Have a great week ahead.

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



Accelerating Alzheimer's treatment by 2025

It was announced last week that Butler Hospital is one of six key institutions supporting the efforts of a new partnership between the Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation and the Brain Health Registry at the University of California at San Francisco to grow its global registry of potential Alzheimer's clinical trial candidates. “This is not only an exciting advancement, but an essential endeavor if we hope to achieve the national goal of finding a treatment for Alzheimer's by 2025,” said Stephen Salloway, MD, MS, director of the Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital, and professor of neurology and psychiatry at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Currently enrolling participants in 11 Alzheimer's research studies at Butler Hospital, Dr. Salloway knows firsthand the benefits a robust database could provide both in the form of cost-savings and in accelerating the timelines of the recruitment phase of research. Through the new partnership initiative, Global Alzheimer's Platform aims to add tens of thousands of new registry members by the third quarter of 2016, and learn how to most effectively grow membership as its global registry expands. The launch includes support from major medical institutions across the country, and a national public service announcement (PSA) campaign featuring TV stars Linda Gray and Samantha Harris and renowned author B. Smith. For more information, please visit <http://brainhealthregistry.org> and help spread the word using #BeatAlzheimers.



Report from the CNE Academic Council



A significant achievement for researchers at Care New England and Lifespan was reached recently with the launch of REDCap, a cloud-based application that allows easy access to multiple data sources and fosters collaboration amongst researchers at multiple institutions. It will enable researchers to create and design projects by building and managing online surveys and databases. It also provides automated export procedures for seamless data downloads to Excel and common statistical packages (SPSS, SAS, Stata, R), as well as a built-in project calendar, a scheduling module, ad hoc reporting tools, and other advanced features.

“*RI-RED* provides immediate and immeasurable benefits to researchers at both institutions with easy access to a robust, secure, and open source platform that allows information to be shared seamlessly,” said Maureen Phipps, MD, chair of the CNE Academic Council, executive chief of obstetrics and gynecology for Care New England, and Chace-Joukowsky Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. “There is nothing more important to the health of our communities than to support the collaborative efforts of our researchers, and we are thrilled to see this move forward.” Dr. Phipps was executive sponsor of the project along with Dr. James Padbury, pediatrician-in-chief and chief of Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine at Women & Infants.

Care New England and Lifespan both currently have installations of REDCap within a newly built virtual domain named *RI-RED*. This virtual domain is jointly administered and funded by CNE and Lifespan and was developed with the help of OSHEAN (Ocean State Higher Education Economic Development and Administrative Network) and NaviSite. *RI-RED* is hosted within the NaviSite data center in Andover, MA, and was designed to allow for easy expansion as demands upon the environment grow.

REDCap is ideal for multi-site data collection. For example, researchers from Brown University, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of Alabama are already collaborating with Care New England researchers by contributing data to Care New England’s REDCap installation. Further, the *RI-RED* virtual private cloud environment offers the ability to quickly expand to host new REDCap installations from other RI institutions as well as the flexibility to develop and test other computational offerings to the Rhode Island research community.

CNE is expected to have more than 200 users and 50 projects in the system before the end of FY17.

For more information or to gain access to *RI-Red*, contact Anthony De Luca, CNE IS academics and research specialist, at (401) 455-6505, or adeluca@carene.org.

Zika virus risks summarized by W&I chief of women’s infectious disease

In the wake of the possible outbreak of the Zika virus in Central and South America, pregnant women have been asked to exercise caution when traveling to exotic locations, or preferably, postponing these trips entirely. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) released interim guidelines last week for pregnant women during the current Zika virus outbreak. In a news release issued last week, Dr. Brenna Hughes, chief of the Women’s Infectious Disease Consultative Service at Women & Infants (<http://bit.ly/1jVWGBJ>) and an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, offers this summary of what pregnant women need to know. She pointed out that currently very little is known about the risk of Zika virus in pregnancy, so these recommendations are likely to change and represent a cautious approach given the lack of knowledge.



Pregnant Women

1. **Zika virus is a mosquito-borne virus.** Pregnant women in any trimester can be infected with Zika virus. Pregnant women should avoid travel to countries where the CDC advisory applies. If pregnant women travel to an area where there is known virus transmission, she should follow steps to avoid mosquito bites.

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2. **There is no commercial vaccine or antiviral treatment to prevent Zika virus.** Because there is no vaccine or medications available to prevent the virus, the CDC recommends that all pregnant women consider postponing travel to areas where the transmission is ongoing. Common destinations where one should practice enhanced precautions include: Central America, South America, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Caribbean, Burma, Arabian Peninsula, Nigeria, Ukraine, Laos, Madagascar, and Guinea. This list is likely to change as we learn more about the virus. Visit the CDC website for updates at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.
3. **The mosquitos that spread the virus bite both indoors and outdoors, mostly during the daytime.** This mosquito is unusual because of its daytime activity, not just at dusk and dawn. Keep yourself protected from bites by:
 - a. Wearing long sleeve shirts and pants.
 - b. Applying insect repellent. Insect repellents, when used as directed on the product label, are safe for pregnant women to use.
 - c. Staying in screened-in or air-conditioned rooms.
4. **What are the symptoms?** If you are a pregnant woman with recent (within two weeks) history of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission and have two or more of the following symptoms, call your obstetric provider:
 - a. Acute onset of fever.
 - b. Maculopapular rash – flat, red area on the skin that is covered with small bumps.
 - c. Arthralgia – pain in one or more of your joints.
 - d. Pink eye.

What will the Zika virus test reveal? Some women may require laboratory evaluation or fetal ultrasound during their pregnancies. In women suspected of having Zika virus infection during pregnancy, a recommended next step is referral to a maternal-fetal medicine specialist.

Kent hosts talk on phantom pain research study

Faddi Saleh, MD, a post-doctoral fellow at the Neuromodulation Center at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, and Camilla Bonnin (PhD student) will give an overview of a research study which is investigating whether a type of non-invasive brain stimulation called transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) combined with mirror therapy (MT) can change a person's pain perception.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 4:15 to 6 p.m., at Kent Hospital Outpatient Rehab, 1351 South County Trail, Building 2, Suite 200, East Greenwich, RI.

All amputees, their families and health care professionals are welcome to attend. For more information visit <http://NewEnglandAmputeeAssociation.com>.



Jane Aucoin, RN, receives DAISY Award at Memorial

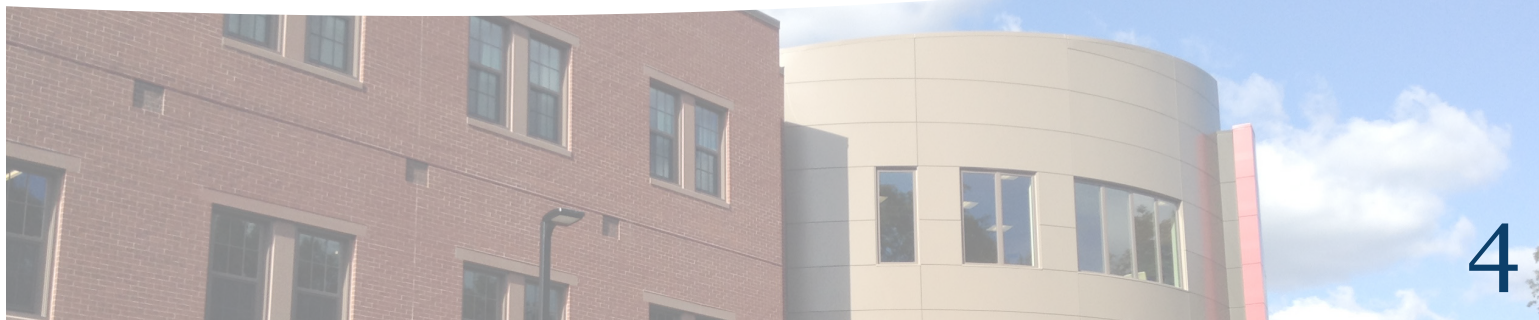
Congratulations to Jane Aucoin, RN, who works on Hodgson 5 at Memorial Hospital and was presented with this month's DAISY Award. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the above and beyond efforts performed by nurses every day.

Aucoin, the third recipient of the DAISY award at Memorial, has been a nurse at Memorial for 37 years. Patients and fellow staff members reported that she embodies the outstanding qualities of an extraordinary DAISY nurse. "Jane is a compassionate and caring nurse who always makes it a point to give the best of care to her patients. She is never too busy to help other staff and is always willing to work extra hours if needed," said a fellow staff member.


Anyone can nominate an extraordinary nurse by submitting an application online or in person. Completed forms can be placed in a nomination box located at the Information Desk in the main lobby and in the nursing office in the Sayles Building, second floor. An electronic version is available on the hospital website at <http://mhri.org/daisy-award>.



Pictured from left to right are: Eileen Dobbins, SVP patient care services/CNO; Jane Aucoin, RN, the DAISY Award honoree; Elaine Joyal, patient care director; and Marla Goulart, RN, nurse manager, Hodgson 5.



Care New England is #DSTRONG!

Care New England demonstrated its support for Dorian, the seven-year-old Westerly boy with a terminal diagnosis, whose last wish is to be famous. He's already well on his way, with photos pouring in from all over the world showing their support for Dorian, but we want to make sure he feels the love from his own back yard. In a few hours' time, more than 150 pictures were submitted to Care New England Marketing. Here's a sampling. 



Care New England

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of Rhode Island