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“Among many comments and explanations in the discussions about the research, Dr. Salloway has said time and again that this development is the biggest news in the 25 years he’s worked in this field.”

Good day!

With each patient interaction—whether it’s giving a clean bill of health at a primary care annual physical visit; letting a family know a new member will be joining them within the year; confirming for a young athlete that she’ll return to the field with her dreams of a state championship intact after orthopedic surgery; or letting someone know timely treatment for a stroke will allow a spouse to continue living a full life—we have the opportunity to connect to our purpose every day. Recently, the [Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital](#) has received an abundance of reminders of their purpose with a wave of inquiries from the community requesting the opportunity to participate in our Alzheimer’s research.

The uptick in call volume started on Monday, August 29 after *The Providence Sunday Journal* ran a cover story profiling Dr. Stephen Salloway and his team’s work. The article, [In war on Alzheimer’s, R.I.’s Butler Hospital is leading the charge](#), drove more than 600 visitors to our website the day it ran. If you missed the story, I highly recommend reading it. The five months of preparation that went into the piece by staff writer G. Wayne Miller is evident by the long list of resources. This encompasses an [84-page report from Alzheimer’s Association](#) on facts and figures on a disease that’s expected to affect 27,500 people in Rhode Island by 2025, details on the variety of studies underway at Butler, study participant profiles, visits to Rhode Island Hospital to observe a [PET scan of the brain](#) which provides neurologists sufficiently detailed images to better support findings in research, and a video interview with Dr. Salloway explaining the importance of research to prevent the spread of Alzheimer’s. As of early last week, that story alone resulted in more than 250 phone calls plus 200 direct links from [projo.com](#) (which likely had views well into the thousands, not to mention the 250,000 readers of the printed Sunday paper) to Butler’s website.

Quickly on the heels of the local story, *Nature*, a British interdisciplinary scientific journal with an online readership of about three million unique readers per month and a weekly circulation of around 53,000, published a research paper in the [September 1 edition](#) on a study showing promising results on a Biogen-developed drug called aducanumab.

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## In this issue:



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Dr. Salloway, as the lead clinical investigator, was one of several authors on a paper which outlined the efficacy of this novel therapy for Alzheimer's. The study results showed that, in patients with Alzheimer's, this new drug was successful in reducing the amount of amyloid plaque in the brain and slowing cognitive decline, two major markers of the disease's progression. Among many comments and explanations in the discussions about the research, Dr. Salloway has said time and again that this development is the biggest news in the 25 years he's worked in this field.

In association with the *Nature* study release, Dr. Salloway was interviewed by reporters from around the world at a press conference hosted at Biogen, creating mentions in the such publications as [Time](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Toronto Star](#) in Canada, and [W Radio](#). The story also generated coverage in [The Providence Journal](#), [ABC Channel 6](#), and [NBC Channel 10](#) as well as many broadcast stations around the country. This created another peak in web traffic with a high of 400 visits the day the story broke and another 200 plus phone calls with people wanting to know how to sign up for the Alzheimer's research underway at Butler.

While all of this speaks to the importance of Alzheimer's prevention and treatment—and a well-deserved boost in visibility for Dr. Salloway and Butler Hospital Memory and Aging Program's research—there was one story that I believe gets at the essence of our work. The [Health Check segment by Barbara Morse of NBC Channel 10](#) captured one of the participants in the A4 Study as she learned the results of her PET brain scan to determine if she had signs of Alzheimer's. The camera observes 70-year-old Donna Cronin and her daughter Katie McManus while Dr. Salloway tells her that the scan results are negative, thus placing her at lower risk for Alzheimer's. When you watch the interview, you feel Cronin's outtake of breath. In fact, I too, was holding my breath while watching. It's quite powerful.

It is also a reminder that all of our groundbreaking research and technological breakthroughs are not only allowing us to explore and understand the brain in new ways, but enabling people to live the fullest life possible. While our research achievements are phenomenal, the true success is in those moments like the one with Cronin where we are reminded of the true purpose of our work.

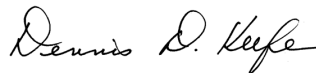
That is why it's exciting that out of the more than 300 calls received to date, more than half have met the pre-screening eligibility and are now being evaluated for [one of the studies hosted at Butler](#) which are looking at the prevention, detection and treatment of Alzheimer's. As part of that effort, the team is also helping to register people in the Brain Health Registry to help create a pool of subjects who will help researchers with "an ambitious plan to speed up treatment—and just maybe a cure—for Alzheimer's disease by 2025," according to the Registry's website.

Still interested in learning more? On Wednesday, September 28 at 7 p.m., a free screening of the NOVA documentary aired on PBS, "Can Alzheimer's Be Stopped?" will be hosted at Butler's Ray Hall. Hear more after watching the film with a panel discussion led by Dr. Salloway, the show's director Sarah Holt, senior executive producer Paula Apsell and other special guests. A limited number of seats are still available; contact Tara Tang at [ttang@butler.org](mailto:ttang@butler.org) or (401) 455-6403, ext. 21037.

There's no doubt that many of us have been touched by Alzheimer's disease either personally or through family or friends. Take pride in the fact that your colleagues at Butler Hospital are on the front lines of the battle against this devastating disease.

Continue the great work you all do—and enjoy these last official days of summer!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe  
President and Chief Executive Officer



[Click here](#) to view this week's *ConvergenceRI*





## Research evaluates risk factors for postpartum depression on mothers of preemies



Postpartum depression is the most common complication of pregnancy and childbirth, affecting up to 15 percent of all women within the first three months following delivery. Research has shown that mothers of infants born prematurely have almost double the rates of postpartum depression, particularly during their time in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Research led by Betty R. Vohr, MD, director of Women & Infants' [Neonatal Follow-Up Program](#) and professor of pediatrics at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, found that there are certain social and emotional factors that further increase the risk of postpartum depression in mothers of preterm infants. The research, entitled "Social Emotional Factors Increase Risk of Postpartum Depression in Mothers of Preterm Infants," has been published in [The Journal of Pediatrics](#). Lead author is Katheleen Hawes, PhD, RN, of the Center for Children and Families and assistant professor (adjunct) in the Department of Pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School.

"We found mothers with a previous mental health disorder and experiencing negative perceptions of herself and her infant at NICU discharge were at increased risk for depression one month post discharge, regardless of the infant's gestational age at birth," explained Hawes.

The study included 724 mothers of preterm infants who were cared for more than five days in the NICU and participated in a Transition Home Program. Families in the program received enhanced support and education about their infants from former NICU parents trained as family resource specialists. Participants completed an evaluation prior to discharge to determine their perceptions of NICU staff support, infant well-being, maternal well-being (emotional readiness/competency), and maternal comfort (worry about her infant). Mental health history and social risk factors were also obtained by the researchers. At one month post discharge, the [Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale](#) was administered.

Hawes said, "Mothers of early, moderate and late preterm infants reported similar rates of possible depression—20, 22 and 18 percent respectively—one month after NICU discharge. A history of mental health disorders, decreased perception of maternal well-being, decreased maternal comfort regarding her infant, and decreased perception of family cohesion were also associated with possible depression at one month post discharge."

Hawes and her colleagues concluded that comprehensive mental health assessment prior to discharge is essential to identify women at risk and provide appropriate referrals. She said, "Comprehensive transition home assessment and interventions to reduce anxiety and bolster maternal mental health, confidence and readiness, along with post discharge assessment, are needed to identify, treat and support mothers of preterm infants."

The Women & Infants/Brown research team also included Elisabeth McGowan, MD; Melissa O'Donnell, MSW; and Richard Tucker, BA.

## TPC launches educational program for nurses

The Providence Center (TPC) recently rolled out the Nursing Clinical Advancement Program, a four-stage scaled curriculum that recognizes and rewards nurses for professional growth. Sharon Morello, director of Clinical Training and Development, designed the program, which is based on an advancement scale that was used in hospitals on a national level in the 1980s and 1990s, before budget issues led to its termination.

"Historically, when nurses get more education, they move away from the patients into other roles," said Morello. "I designed this program to help further the experience of our nurses while allowing them to continue providing TPC clients with the treatment they need."



Sharon Morello

The program has four levels, and candidates must meet the requirements for each. For example, clinical nurse

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III candidates have to become involved with four (out of 17 suggested) leadership activities of their choosing, including:

- Making contributions to a performance improvement task force.
- Coordinating a community health education event.
- Developing patient or family educational materials.
- Active membership in a professional nursing organization.

Three TPC nurses achieved the CNIII distinction, the first to do so. They are: Jillian Pastina from emergency services, Kathleen Kristopik from community support and Evelyn Encinas from the Latino team.

## Memorial offers informational meeting for amputees

The New England Amputee Association will host an informational meeting for amputees and their families at Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m.



The group, which regularly holds support group meetings at Kent Hospital, is seeking to expand the services offered in northern Rhode Island. The purpose of such meetings, according to New England Amputee Association founder Rose Bissonnette, is to help those who have suffered the loss of a limb.

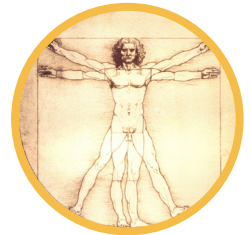
The meeting will bring amputees together to offer support and fellowship through the sharing of experiences and tips, as well as to demonstrate the information and support available through the New England Amputee Association, which is affiliated with the Amputee Coalition, a national organization dedicated to informing and advocating for amputees.

The meeting will be held in the Center for Rehabilitation on Memorial's main campus at 111 Brewster St., Pawtucket. There is handicapped parking available.

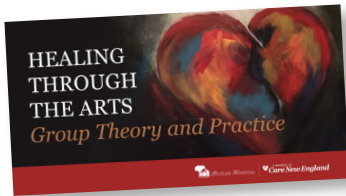
For more information about the group, visit <http://www.NewEnglandAmputeeAssociation.com>. For information about the meeting, call (401) 829-5643.

## National Rehabilitation Week being observed September 18 to 24

Care New England Rehabilitation Services at Kent and Memorial hospitals join in recognition of our loyal rehabilitation staff for their continued care to improve the overall health and functions of patients. Our physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, medical director, nurses, neuropsychologist and social worker/case managers provide evaluations and treatment to patients across the continuum of care throughout Care New England. The staff is committed to clinical excellence and superior patient outcomes and patient satisfaction.



"I am pleased to recognize the dedicated team of rehabilitation and clinical experts that care for our patients every day. Our professional staff works tirelessly to ensure the highest functional level achievable for our patients." Jerry Hotchkiss, COTA/L, MBA, executive director of Care New England Rehabilitation Services.



## Register now: Healing Arts Conference at Butler

The Healing Arts Committee at Butler Hospital is hosting a one day educational seminar titled, "Healing through the Arts: Group Theory and Practice," on Friday, September 30, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Ray Conference Center on the Butler Campus. Attendees will learn the basics of group theory and the connection between art and healing, and practice skills for creating a healing environment. The conference features nationally acclaimed storyteller Len Cabral as the keynote speaker, and break-out sessions covering topics including dance and movement, visual arts, music, creative writing, yoga and more. Continuing education credits are available for social workers and nurses. Discounted rates for students and professionals will be applied. Register now online at <http://bit.ly/2d5lg6q>.



## 'Operation Terminal Dose' tests statewide emergency response

Care New England hospitals joined with the RI Airport Corporation, RI Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Health and first responders to take part in the full-scale disaster exercise, Operation Terminal Dose, last week. The scenario included the deployment of a weapon of mass destruction dispersal device in a crowded area of the T.F. Green Airport terminal. The exercise took place Thursday evening and continued into early Friday morning.

The main areas of activity for our hospitals during the event included emergency departments/triage, and other areas of the hospitals as deemed necessary, while also activating our Incident Command Centers. This drill served to test our patient decontamination abilities and identify areas of opportunities for enhanced communication with local agencies. All four hospitals' emergency preparedness teams have participated in some aspect of the drill planning and coordination and represented a tremendous learning opportunity for all involved. Normal hospital operations and patient care were not interrupted during this time.



## Register now: Tickled Pink!

It's almost here! Come join us for our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Tickled Pink event and celebrate breast cancer survivors with an evening of comedy and camaraderie. Tickled Pink XIII will be held Friday, October 28, at 6 p.m. at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. Don't miss out on a great night of laughter, fun, shopping, and entertainment. You asked and we listened! We are bringing back Loretta LaRoche, acclaimed speaker, author and international stress management and humor consultant!



We will offer a sit-down dinner, fantastic raffle prizes, shopping, information tables and our signature Tickled Pink items for sale. There will be plenty of vendors on hand so come prepared to shop 'til you drop! We'll have jewelry, clothing, personalized ornaments, sweet treats, and of course, Tickled Pink items for sale!

We expect another sold-out event, and are giving our staff an opportunity to reserve tickets now. If you would like to attend this laugh out loud event, we've made it easier for you to register, you can purchase your tickets online now (credit card only) by going to <http://www.womenandinfants.org/tickledpink/> (please use an updated browser) or if you would like to purchase tickets by check, please contact Jennifer Kilduff at [jkilduff@carene.org](mailto:jkilduff@carene.org) or call (401) 681-2819.

Tickets are \$45 each, or you can reserve a Pink Ribbon table of 10 for \$550. All tickets must be paid for in advance. Checks should be made payable to Women & Infants Hospital Foundation. A portion of the proceeds of Tickled Pink will go to the Women & Infants Breast Health Center.

## Memorial celebrates Employee Appreciation Day

Staff members line up to choose a free ice cream treat from Palagi's ice cream truck last week as the hospital celebrated the dedication and compassion of all its employees for a special Employee Appreciation Day organized by Human Resources. The Palagi's ice cream truck was at Memorial during all three shifts so all staff could enjoy a treat. 