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Good day! As we leave June in the rear view mirror, it should be the time of year when we start talking about the dog days of summer, but as has become the popular phrase of late—not so much! First, the weather has been anything but summerlike for the most part, leaving many pondering just when the perfect beach day might arrive. That aside, and more important to our work here at Care New England, there has been a frenetic pace of activity at the State House in the closing days of this year's General Assembly session.

“Our work is critical, relevant and life-saving. As such, it knows no schedule, no calendar or even hour of the day. Together, we all endeavor to do this work, to achieve the best for those in our care.”

To get you all up to speed, CNE has been working to pass legislation that would grant an expedited regulatory review of our proposed transaction for Memorial Hospital and Prime Healthcare Foundation. Given the urgency around the need to resolve the future of Memorial in the best possible way for the community and our employees, this legislation is critical in helping move the process along. I am pleased to report the legislation has passed the Senate and will be taken up in the House this week. If all goes well, it could go to the governor soon after.

On another critical front, the leadership team from Women & Infants Hospital was back at the Department of Health last week before the Health Services Council presenting the need for its CON to renovate the birthing center. I have included more details below but the good news is the council voted to approve! There are more hurdles to clear but this is a very positive sign, so well done to the team on this well-deserved victory!

Speaking of good news, I would also like to recognize the ongoing and amazing work at Butler Hospital and the Memory and Aging Program for the groundbreaking research that is seeing tremendous progress. Just last week, Dr. Stephen Salloway conducted the first test of its kind in the country using a retinal scanner to determine if a specific drug in development can lower deposits in the retina of the eye. The buildup of these deposits is one of the major causes of Alzheimer's disease. Be sure to read the article below along with some of the great media coverage this research is drawing. It holds great promise and that is exciting news.

I also had the pleasure of attending our annual Care Awards last week, where we recognize and honor our colleagues from across all of the operating units for their teamwork, resolve and focus on addressing issues of critical importance relating to

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patient care, education, training programs, community outreach and an array of issues relevant to all facets of our daily work. The full list of those recognized is included below. I was frankly inspired by the quality of initiatives that led to the awards, which truly demonstrated positive and important improvements in patient care and overall team effectiveness. Congratulations to all who took part and for those who help make this annual highlight a reality.

So in closing, as I started off talking about the dog days of summer, I conclude by saying there are simply no lazy days of summer around CNE—and that is a good thing! Our work is critical, relevant and life-saving. As such, it knows no schedule, no calendar or even hour of the day. Together, we all endeavor to do this work, to achieve the best for those in our care.

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Butler Hospital enrolls first participant in Alzheimer's disease study using retinal scans



Last Monday, June 19, the Memory and Aging Program (MAP) at Butler Hospital tested the first person in the United States in a landmark study to determine if solanezumab, a drug being developed for Alzheimer's prevention, can lower amyloid deposits in the retina of the eye. Amyloid build up is one of the major causes of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

The retinal imaging study is part of the Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer's Disease (A4) prevention trial. The A4 study is designed for people aged 65 to 85 years old with normal memory, but who are building amyloid plaques in the brain and have an increased risk for developing memory loss due to AD.

Therefore, the study offers the potential of two game changing results in the fight to prevent Alzheimer's. In addition to solanezumab offering the hope of preventing Alzheimer's progression in people who are at risk, the retinal imaging has the potential to be a safe and cost-effective method for detecting and tracking AD risk and progression.

"I had high hopes for this study, as it is exploring a possible prevention drug while at the same time potentially demonstrating that the eyes are windows to the brain," said Stephen Salloway, MD, director of MAP at Butler Hospital and professor of neurology and psychiatry at The Warren Alpert School of Brown University. "We are excited to be

the first program to enlist participation in this study, which is yet another weapon in the war against Alzheimer's."

Participants will be followed for three years, with one eye exam before they begin their trial medication, and one per year thereafter. As a randomized double-blind study, neither the research team nor the participants are aware of whether the drug, solanezumab, or a placebo is being administered intravenously on a monthly basis.

Butler Hospital is one of five research centers participating in the retinal imaging study in the A4 study. This study is sponsored by the National Institute of Aging, Eli Lilly and Company, and the Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute and Neurovision.

To learn more about Butler Hospital's MAP participation in this landmark study read the article published in [The Providence Journal](#) or preview the [ABC6](#) news segment.

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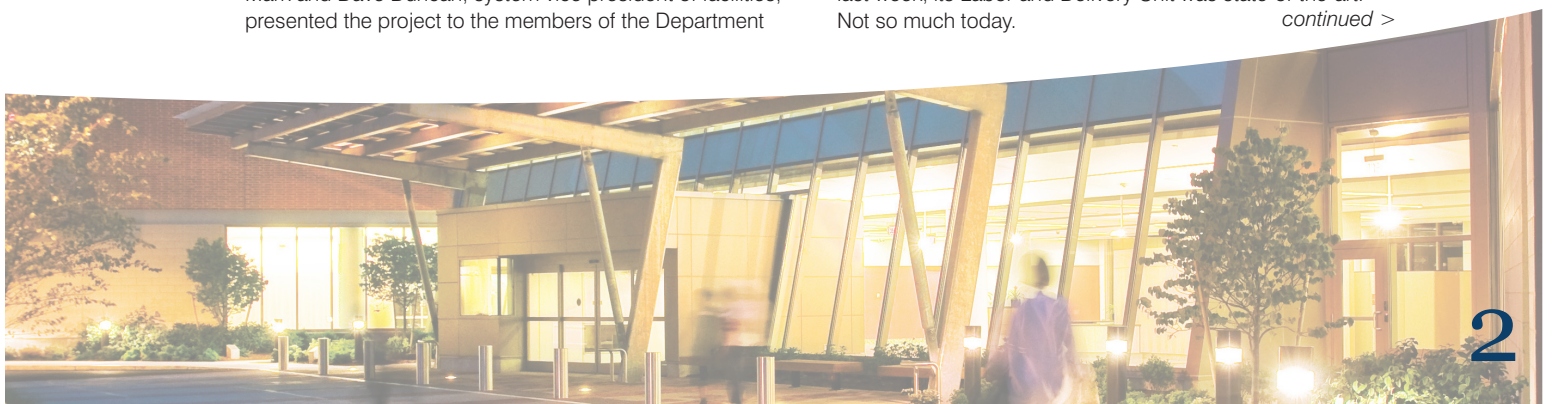
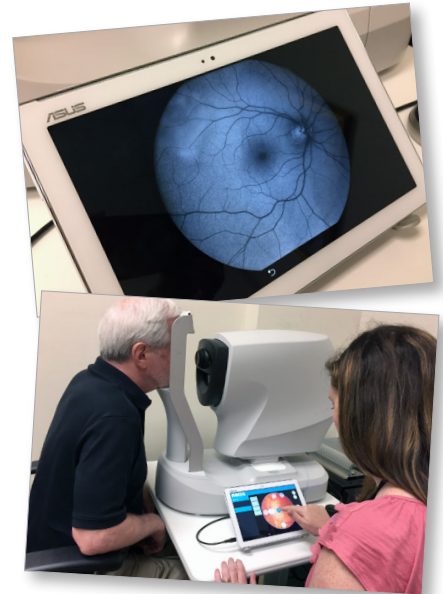
Women & Infants gets closer to final approval of CON

Last week, hospital President and COO Mark Marcantano reported that Women & Infants has passed the first hurdle in its quest to get approval for a certificate of need (CON) application to renovate the birthing center, as the Health Services Council recommended approval of the application.

Mark and Dave Duncan, system vice president of facilities, presented the project to the members of the Department

of Health's Health Services Council on Wednesday. As Dave explained, consider the telephone that you used 30 years ago—would it meet your needs today? Definitely not. So, too, is the case with our Labor and Delivery Unit. As explained in last weekend's flashback on WJAR-TV10, when Women & Infants opened the "new" hospital 31 years ago last week, its Labor and Delivery Unit was state-of-the-art. Not so much today.

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Patrick Quinn and Rosario Parente, representing SEIU 1199 New England, spoke about the need for the renovation. They spoke about the changes in the care model and how the environment of care also needs to change; staff involvement in the planning for the new project; the union's commitment to work with the hospital during construction to minimize any disruption in patient care; and the need for updated facilities so that we can continue to provide the highest quality care in the safest environment for patients and staff.

The next step is that the Department of Health will write a Report of the Health Services Council providing a summary

of the project description, findings, recommendations and conditions of approval. If we are comfortable with the conditions of approval, the report will be reviewed and adopted at an upcoming meeting of the Health Services Council, and then shared with Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott, director of the Department of Health, for a final decision.

The Health Services Council has not yet set a date for Rhode Island Hospital to present its CON to build an obstetrics service.

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Congrats to the 2017 Care Awards recipients

Future Vision Award

Honorable mention – Butler Hospital, Music and Therapeutic Experience (top left)

Winner – VNA, New Graduate Nurse Residency Program (top right)

Bridge Builder Award

Honorable mention – Kent Hospital, Our Journey to Zero Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (second row left)

Winner – Women & Infants, Mother Baby Unit Care Project

World Class Workforce Award

Honorable mention – Women & Infants, The Development of the W&I Sexual Assault Research and Awareness Team (second row right)

Winner – Care New England, When Something Goes Bump in the Night, A System Perspective

Excellence in Customer Satisfaction Award (Non-clinical)

Winner – Women & Infants, Driving Research Forward at WIH

Excellence in Customer Satisfaction Award (Clinical)

Honorable mention – Kent, Good Catch Award (third row left)

Winner – Women & Infants, The WISH (Women's Intimacy and Sexual Health) Clinic Initiative (third row right)

People's Choice

Winner – The Providence Center, Tele-friend Program (bottom)

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Have a great week ahead!

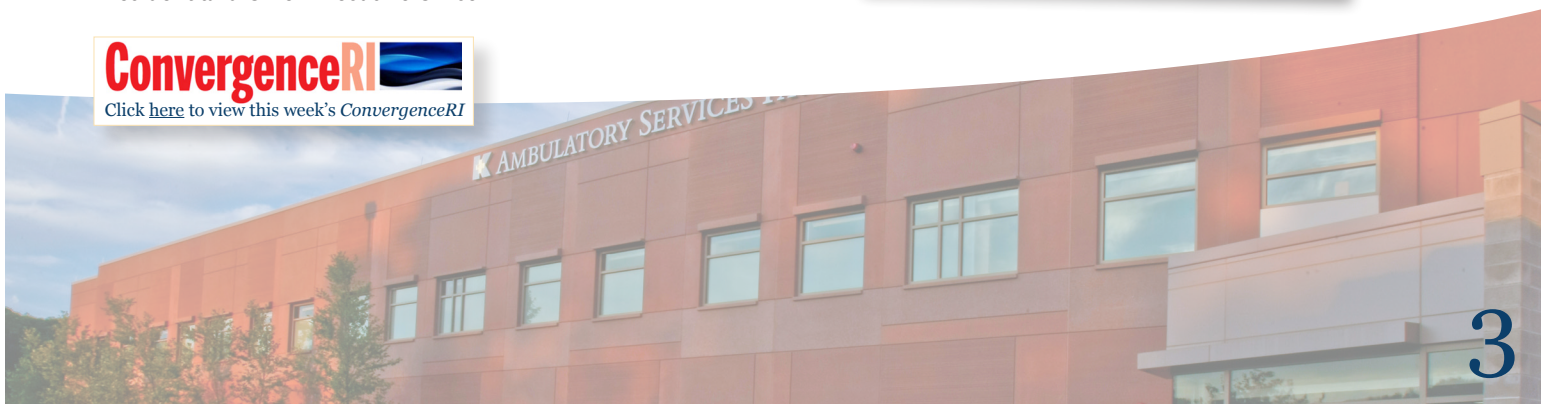
Sincerely,

Dennis D. Keefe

Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



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



TPC announces new vice president of finance

The Providence Center is pleased to welcome Todd Spencer, who is joining as vice president of finance, replacing Denise Patnode, who is retiring.



Todd has more than 23 years of strategic and operational finance experience in mid-size and Fortune 100 public, private and non-profit health care organizations. He comes to TPC from Boston Medical Center and has previously worked at AmerisourceBergen Corporation, UnitedHealth Group and Apria Healthcare. He has a BA in business and economics from UCLA, Los Angeles, and an MBA from UCLA, Irvine.

Please join us in welcoming Todd to the CNE family!

Save the date! Schwartz Center Rounds™ focuses on human trafficking

All caregivers are welcome to attend the next Schwartz Center Rounds™, “Human Trafficking: Desire to Help, Need to Protect,” on **Tuesday, June 27** from noon to 1 p.m. (lunch is available at 11:30 a.m.) in the Malcolm and Elizabeth Chace Education Center, South Pavilion, auditoriums 1 and 2.

Upon conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Identify resources in the community that can assist when working with this population.
- Discuss the importance of clear communication with these patients as well as among the care team.
- Describe the increasing prevalence of human trafficking in our patient population.
- Explain the challenges of current reporting guidelines. CEUs are available.

Program in Women’s Physical Therapy has moved

The Program in Women’s Physical Therapy at Women & Infants Hospital has moved.

The new office is located within the Women & Infants’ Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery, 101 Plain Street, 5th Floor, Providence (Bay Tower Medical Center).

Patients are also seen at Women & Infants’ Medical Office Buildings in East Greenwich (1050 Main Street), South Kingstown (49 South County Commons Way), and Woonsocket (2168 Diamond Hill Road).

For more information | <http://www.womenandinfants.org/services/physical-therapy/index.cfm>
or call (401) 277-3704.

