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Good Day!

You might have heard that the eyes of the nation were on Rhode Island last week as the state and Governor Raimondo played host to the National Governors Association meeting. Along with most of the nation's governors, there were many U.S. Cabinet officials and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau among the list of dignitaries who made the trip. It is important for the state to be showcased like this for so many to see. Kudos to the Governor for rolling out the red carpet and putting Little Rhody out there to shine!

In keeping with showcasing the great things happening here, Care New England continues to shine not just locally but across the nation. Just last week, a much-anticipated *The New York Times* column appeared in print highlighting the innovative work in health care delivery taking place right here. Much of the focus of columnist David Leonhardt was a patient who receives her care through Integra, our accountable care organization (ACO). The piece captures the sense of innovation and caring invested in our ACO work, and it is exemplified in the important words of patient Annie Hall, the centerpiece of the column. Read about it below.

Care New England also had tremendous success in the General Assembly with the passage of critically important legislation that serves to provide coverage for fertility preservation services. The bill was also signed by the Governor, and I am proud to say it is now law. Many people collaborated to realize this success. So many families will benefit from this legislation, and its impact is already generating interest and discussion across the country—just another example of CNE leading the way!

Finally, today I want to conclude with a special recognition of Dr. John Buster of Women & Infants Fertility Center, who recently was inducted into the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Hall of Fame. Read all about Dr. Buster's accomplishments throughout his career in full detail in the article

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included. It is worth noting, he has been a true innovator in his field, and this recognition is well deserved. Mark Marcantano, president and COO of Women & Infants, said it best when he said of Dr. Buster, "He has impacted women's health care in unique and valuable ways." Once again, well done!

I have said it before, these accomplishments and achievements do not come as a surprise to me. These are just some of the ongoing examples of the excellence and innovation that is demonstrated each day by all of you across CNE.

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The New York Times highlights Rhode Island and Integra for health care strategy

In [an article](#) in last week's *The New York Times*, columnist David Leonhardt wrote that the story of health care in Rhode Island "involves cost savings, fewer uninsured and a rising quality of care." A key part of the piece was the high level of care being delivered by the Integra Community Care Network, our accountable care organization (ACO) comprised of Care New England Health System, Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation, and South County Health. The reporter interviewed a number of people for the story which was focused on Annie Hall, a 74-year-old widow who considers the Integra providers "family" as a result of the relationships she has developed over the years.



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CNE makes strides for women's reproduction in Rhode Island

Based on the proactive efforts of clinicians at Women & Infants as well as CNE's legal and government relations teams, Governor Raimondo signed a bill into law earlier this month requiring health insurers in Rhode Island to cover fertility preservation services for patients undergoing medical treatments that could cause infertility. The bill was aimed primarily at helping cancer patients, since treatments like

radiation and chemotherapy can cause infertility. The legislation (2017-S 0821A, 2017-H 6170A) requires insurers to cover standard fertility preservation services when a medically necessary treatment may directly or indirectly cause infertility. Watch in the coming weeks for a formal announcement.

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Dr. John Buster inducted into ACOG Hall of Fame



John E. Buster, MD, a reproductive endocrinologist with Women & Infants Fertility Center and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Dr. Buster was one of four inductees honored at ACOG's Annual Meeting in May for their "indelible mark" on the profession of obstetrics and gynecology.

"This is a wonderful honor for Dr. Buster and the hospital in general," said Mark R. Marcantano, president and chief operating officer of Women & Infants Hospital. "Dr. Buster, like so many of our physicians, works tirelessly every day to help improve the lives of women. Through his innovation in the field of reproductive endocrinology and infertility, hundreds

of thousands of couples are parents, and thousands of women have new potential solutions for the symptoms of menopause. He has impacted women's health care in unique and valuable ways."

According to Maureen G. Phipps, MD, MPH, chair and Chace-Joukowsky Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and assistant dean for Teaching and Research in Women's Health at the Warren Alpert Medical School, professor of epidemiology at the Brown University School of Public Health, and chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Women & Infants Hospital and Care New England Health System, "In the field of medicine, there are physicians who rise above and break new ground, making an indelible mark on clinical care, research and education. Dr. John Buster is one such physician, and we are so very proud of him on this wonderful achievement."

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Dr. Buster has spent almost his entire career as a physician, spanning more than four decades, focused on reproductive endocrinology and infertility. His expertise within the field is varied-assisted reproductive technology procedures, medical treatment and surgical treatment for infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss, preimplantation embryology, and female hormone replacement.

It was at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 1983 that Dr. Buster revolutionized the standards for the treatment of women with infertility and those with genetic conditions they did not want to pass onto their child. He directed the research team that performed the world's first donated blastocyst embryo transfer, which resulted in a live birth in February 1984. As part of the procedure, an embryo was created in one woman using the sperm of an infertile woman's husband through artificial insemination. Once the embryo began to develop, Dr. Buster's team transferred it from the first woman to the second, who gave birth 38 weeks later.

This breakthrough gave many women new hope for natural parenthood through the means that allowed them to bear a child that contains their husband's genetic makeup. Since the initial birth in 1984, more than 300,000 live births have resulted from donor embryo transfer. Dr. Buster's work also helped establish the legal-ethical framework and technical foundation for the clinical use of human oocyte and embryo donation, which is now a mainstream clinical practice. Thirty years later, Dr. Buster has updated the uterine lavage technology and is currently working to adapt it as an office procedure for diagnosis and prevention of genetic diseases in embryos.

More recently, Dr. Buster helped develop a testosterone delivery system for women called Intrinsa which was ultimately marketed in Europe. The transdermal patch delivers chemically identical testosterone directly into the body's microvascular circulation, much like an artificial endocrine organ. Dr. Buster was the lead investigator in a major study that demonstrated the effectiveness of this patch to treat decreased sexual desire in postmenopausal women.

In addition, Dr. Buster served as lead investigator in another major study demonstrating the effectiveness of an estradiol mist called Evamist, which offers women a safe way to stem the impact of hot flashes in menopause. Evamist is now widely marketing and prescribed in the U.S.

Dr. Buster attended Stanford University and earned his medical degree from the University of California-Los Angeles School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency training in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility. He is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and in the subspecialty of reproductive endocrinology and infertility, and serves as a diplomat with the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Before relocating to the east coast, he was director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at UCLA School of Medicine and then director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

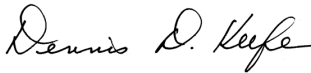
Dr. Buster is a well-known international lecturer and has authored more than 200 scientific papers in the field of reproductive endocrinology and infertility. He served as director for the Society of Reproductive Endocrinologists and chair of its Practice and Fellowship committees. He has also served on the Fellowship Committee for the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society and on the board for the American Society of Reproductive Medicine.

In the past decade, Dr. Buster has been recognized for his clinical expertise by various lay publications, including Castle Connolly's "Best Doctors in America," *Good Housekeeping's* "401 Best Doctors for Women," the Consumers Research Council of America's "Guide to America's Top Obstetricians and Gynecologists," and, in 2011, in *Boston Magazine* as a top doctor for reproductive endocrinology. He was selected for a Patients' Choice Award, an honor given to only five percent of practicing physicians in the country.

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Have a great week ahead!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer

ConvergenceRI 
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Dr. Brandon Gaudiano publishes book



Dr. Brandon Gaudiano, a clinical psychologist in the Psychosocial Research Program at Butler Hospital, edited "Mindfulness," an essential one-stop resource for advanced students, scholars, researchers, and clinicians interested in gaining a thorough understanding of this increasingly popular topic. The four-volume collection provides an authoritative reference work that makes sense of this expanding field. It explores topics such as the philosophical and historical sources of mindfulness; the definitional and multi-modal assessment issues related to mindfulness; the applications of mindfulness practice and related interventions in terms of their potential benefits to people and groups; and current controversies, emerging themes, and future directions. The book was released in mid-June at Routledge publishing company. For more information visit <http://ow.ly/p7ls3ockoUf>.



Pink Heals visits Kent Hospital

Last Monday the Pink Heals fire trucks were stationed outside Kent Hospital, welcoming survivors, caregivers, and all those affected by cancer. Pink Heals uses their pink trucks as a symbol of support for women in their fight against cancer and also as inspiration for men to get involved in the fight against breast cancer.

Aboard the truck are the "Guardians of the Ribbon" who drive and volunteer at the events, ensuring all contributions and awareness from the non-profit, Pink Heals, assist women in the city and state they are currently visiting.

TPC's administrative department moves to Orms St.

Due to the continued growth of The Providence Center (TPC), a number of employees who are currently located at 530 North Main St. will be moving to 10 Orms St., just a short walk away TPC's headquarters.

TPC's administrative wing, including the Finance, Billing, Marketing, and Development Departments, will make the move today, Monday, July 17.

The move will create additional space for TPC's clinical programs to provide care for more clients in need of services. TPC's overall number of clients served has grown by 13 percent each year over the last six years, necessitating additional client-serving space. cne



Care New England