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**Good day and Happy Fourth of July!** As we approach the national holiday tomorrow celebrating our independence, I will be brief in my comments. Let me simply wish you, your family and loved ones a day of rest and relaxation. If you are heading to the beach, a cookout or just sitting on the deck enjoying the day, I hope you take time to pause and simply enjoy the moment.

We all know too well the commotion of balancing the responsibilities of our home life and work life. If you find yourself working, and I know many of you will be, let me thank you. I know it can be a sacrifice to be away from home, but I also know your commitment and dedication to the work we do for our patients. And while you might not be at the barbecue or pool tomorrow, I hope you will be sure to get some time in the near future to recharge and refresh in whatever way you most enjoy. With that in mind, let me just conclude by again wishing you a great Fourth and wonderful summer ahead.

But before you rush out for the hot dogs and hamburgers, please be sure to take a look at this week's news items and other highlights included. They represent the many wide and varied projects, endeavors and successes that everyone here at CNE continues to accomplish day in and day out.

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## *University of Rhode Island and CNE ink pact to improve professional education and health of Rhode Islanders*

The University of Rhode Island (URI)—the state's flagship, learner-centered research University—its Academic Health Collaborative, Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies and its Office of Strategic Initiatives will partner with Care New England to improve the education of health professionals and advance the health of Rhode Islanders.

"When the University laid the foundation for its Academic Health Collaborative, these are

the kinds of partnerships we envisioned. This is a partnership that will help make Rhode Islanders healthier, spark research and clinical work between our faculty and Care New England health professionals and enhance opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students," said URI President David M. Dooley. "The ability to develop new clinical procedures and create interdisciplinary research teams involving Care New England and the University will benefit

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both institutions, and ultimately the patient. We believe that this is an important step in an expanding a collaborative relationship between the University of Rhode Island and one of the state's internationally renowned health systems."

"URI's understanding of the important connection between education, research and clinical expertise puts both organizations in a position to further our critical leadership roles by helping to shape the future of health care," said Dennis D. Keefe, president and chief executive officer of Care New England. "While there remains a good deal of uncertainty regarding the impact of health care policy, these types of collaborative efforts are critical to our collective vision of creating healthier communities and we are excited at the opportunities this presents for clinical staff, researchers and most importantly, the patients and families we serve.

The URI Academic Health Collaborative, comprised of 175 faculty and 5,000 students, formally connects the College of Nursing, the College of Pharmacy and the newly

formed College of Health Sciences, it is designed to foster innovation in health education, research and community engagement with a focus on interprofessional education, population health, health promotion and health disparities. The collaborative was formed to foster links with health and hospital systems, community agencies, the Rhode Island Department of Health and other universities. The goal is to develop research, education and outreach partnerships that benefit Rhode Islanders, the nation and the world.

The program planning process, including delivery and evaluation, will be managed by the Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies, its Office of Strategic Initiatives in conjunction with Care New England. Programs will be customized for clinical and non-clinical professionals in supervisory and managerial roles and could be held at Care New England sites, URI or other settings. Credentials would be offered for successful completion of programs. The college could also provide consulting, coaching and grant program evaluation and outreach programs.

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## Rhode Island Quality Institute and Integra Community Care Network launch Care Management Alerts and Dashboards

The Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) and Integra Community Care Network announced the launch of Care Management Alerts and Dashboards, an innovative new service enabling health care providers to proactively coordinate care and support for 140,000 individuals throughout Rhode Island.

RIQI's Care Management Alerts and Dashboards provide near real-time data about patients admitted to and/or discharged from acute care hospitals and their emergency departments across the state. Through the Integra Care Management Dashboard, clinical staff at Care New England, Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation (RIPCPC), South County Health, and care management staff at Integra now have quick and easy access to important data to improve care coordination, time-sensitive follow-up, education, and support for their patients.

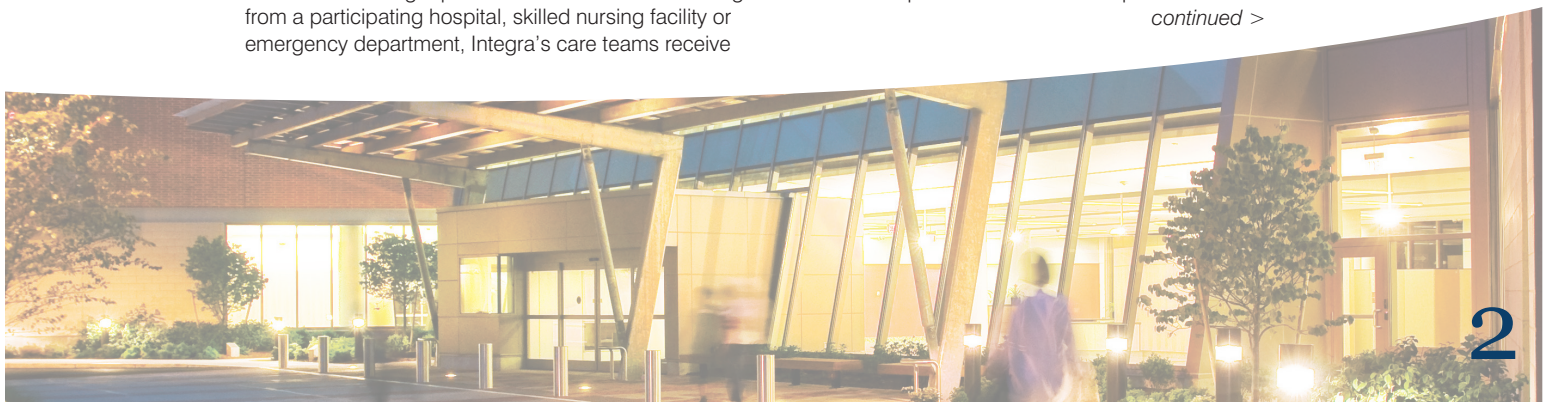
"These services help providers stay connected with others delivering care to their patients in a timely way that prevents patients from falling through the cracks when seen in different care settings in the state," said Laura Adams, president and CEO, RIQI. "With this information delivered directly to them, Integra's care teams have the ability to prevent avoidable hospital and emergency department readmissions that often result when care is poorly coordinated."

Each time an Integra patient is admitted to or discharged from a participating hospital, skilled nursing facility or emergency department, Integra's care teams receive

information alerting them about their patient's status. In addition, care teams can view more detailed information about current as well as past admissions and discharges for their patients.

"For a practicing primary care physician (PCP), there is nothing more important than knowing where your patient is at any point in time and what problem needs to be addressed. The dashboard created by the RIQI is a major advance in achieving this important goal," said Al Puerini, MD, chairman of the Integra Board of Directors and president and CEO of the RI Primary Care Physician Corporation. "Now, a PCP can open this dashboard and instantly know when his/her patients are in an emergency department or admitted to the hospital. The dashboard includes their diagnosis and exact location. This permits us to be more directly involved in their care allowing instant communication in real time with providers, patients and patients' families. The physicians at RI Primary Care are already experiencing the incredible benefits of this innovative service provided to us and our patients."

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Access to this information provides several key benefits to both providers and patients:

- Care teams can reach out to the hospital, emergency departments, and/or patient to provide information from the practice and facilitate coordination of care during and immediately after an admission.
- Follow-up visits can be scheduled sooner.
- Readmissions can be prevented through discussion of the care plan and review of medications.
- Education can be provided to the patient about when to call the office first.

"It's common sense that doctors can provide the best care when they have a patient's full medical history in front of them," said Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, who helped launch RIQI while serving as Rhode Island's Attorney General. "I commend the Rhode Island Quality Institute and Dr. Puerini's team at Integra for joining forces to make our health care system work better for Rhode Islanders."

Integra's care teams can also watch trends over time for specific patient panels and track outcomes of its comprehensive care management approach that puts the patient first. This is particularly valuable for following their patients with chronic conditions or an unusually high number of hospital visits.

"RIQI's Care Management Alerts and Dashboards support Integra's goal to constantly provide a better patient

experience, better health care, and, most important, better health," said James E. Fanale, MD, EVP, Physician Enterprise and chief clinical officer for Care New England Health System, and Integra Community Care Network. "Dashboard data is near real-time and we have created a process to notify providers' care teams when a patient's status has changed so they can respond appropriately and immediately to help them manage their health and focus on preventive care."

Integra's nurse care managers monitor patients with diabetes daily and reach out to them routinely to discuss proactive disease management approaches. The goal is to help them better cope with their conditions and find more enjoyment in life.

"Having alerts and access to records from other facilities enhances our ability to manage care for our patients," said Ruth Scott, director of Care Management for the Integra Community Care Network. "It can also help with medication management as well as lab and radiology results, particularly when there are multiple providers and locations. I can't say enough about the importance of being able to track patients as they transition through the continuum of care."



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## *ProThera Biologics and Women & Infants awarded \$1.95 million grant to study treatment for infant brain injury*

ProThera Biologics has been awarded a \$1.95-million Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the potential of Inter-Alpha Inhibitor Proteins (IAIP) to prevent and treat neonatal hypoxic ischemic brain injury.

ProThera collaborated with Women & Infants on the pilot phase of the study, which was supported by a 2010 research grant from the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC). Based on the success achieved during Phase I, ProThera was issued the second round of SBIR grant funding. ProThera will work once again with neonatologist Barbara Stonestreet, MD, and Xiaodi Chen, MD, PhD, a key member of her team, to conduct the Phase II study.

ProThera is a biotherapeutics company developing IAIP for the treatment of acute inflammatory disease, including severe community-acquired pneumonia and neuro-

inflammatory diseases. IAIP are naturally occurring proteins that circulate in the blood and play an essential role in human health by modulating inflammation, preventing damage and repairing injured tissues. They exert their anti-inflammatory effects through multiple mechanisms and have a broad range of potential uses. Since inception, ProThera has invested an aggregate of \$12 million in the preclinical development of IAIP, funded primarily from peer-reviewed grants awarded by the NIH.

Hypoxic ischemic (HI) injury, which occurs in infants when blood flow to the brain is reduced, is one of the leading causes of infant mortality and long-term neurologic disability. Inflammation of the brain is a major contributor to the disease, and ProThera and WIH researchers have determined that IAIP levels play a part in the inflammatory process. In animal models, IAIP therapy has been shown to reduce this inflammation and dramatically improve outcomes. ProThera's goal is to provide the first drug

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therapy to address the inflammatory process in neonatal HI brain injury, leading to improved survival and a reduction in the many detrimental effects of this disease.

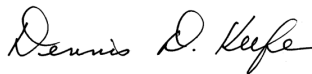
"Hypoxic ischemia brain injury is one of the most significant challenges faced by infants today, and we have great hopes that IAIP can have significant benefit in treating and preventing the effects of this terrible disease," said Dr. Stonestreet. "So far, we have seen extremely promising results with this drug, and this new grant will allow us to more fully understand and explore the promise of IAIP."

"We are delighted to be working with Dr. Stonestreet on this critical program," said Dr. Yow-Pin Lim, founder and CEO of ProThera Biologics, who serves as principal investigator in this NIH supported project. "Her extensive knowledge is key to our program's success. Our goals in working with her are to demonstrate the value of IAIP, move IAIP into clinical testing, and ultimately make IAIP a key part of the limited therapeutic tools available today to treat these delicate and important patients."

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Have a great week ahead!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## Kent Hospital recognizes June DAISY Award recipient

Last week Kent Hospital's nursing leadership presented Ny Tran, RN, of Johnston, with the June 2017 DAISY Award. This award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the above-and-beyond efforts performed by nurses every day.

Ny was nominated by the daughter of a recent patient, Sue. Both Sue and her husband joined nursing leadership at the surprise early morning honoring, just as Ny was wrapping up her shift on 2 West, Kent's Progressive Care Unit.

Sue's nomination stated, "My father passed away in January on the Progressive Care Unit at Kent. During his hospitalization, fate was so amazing to my dad and our family by bringing us Ny as his caretaker. Ny demonstrated the utmost respect, empathy, medical expertise, and compassion for my dad and she will forever have my heartfelt thanks. Ny's compassion, empathy, and respect lifted not only my father, but our entire family during his final days of life."

"It is my pleasure to present Ny with the DAISY Award," said Rebecca Burke, RN, MS, NEA-BC, SVP of patient care services, chief nursing officer at Kent Hospital. "Ny showed true compassion to both the patient and family during a very difficult time. Thank you for your continued dedication to provide the highest level of care to our patients and families each and every day."

Beyond her role at Kent Hospital Ny is currently pursuing her MSN as an acute care nurse practitioner at Rhode Island College. Congratulations Ny for your commitment to providing exceptional care to your patients and their families!



## Memorial Hospital receives grant, improving emergency response

Thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the E.J. & V.M. Routhier Foundation, Memorial Hospital has secured six video laryngoscopes to improve the emergency response capabilities of the Pawtucket and Central Falls Fire Departments. Video laryngoscopes allow for easier intubation for patients who are in cardiac arrest, unresponsive or breathing abnormally. Grant funds will also support training, conducted by staff from Memorial, on the use of the new equipment, ensuring patients are more stable when they arrive in the emergency department and ultimately improving patient outcomes. The grant also provided for two emergency “go-bags” that will be available for hospital and EMT personnel to serve any emergent situation in the community in and surrounding the hospital.



## Kent Hospital emergency department staff publishes scholarly articles

Recently, multiple articles submitted by emergency department physicians and residents have been accepted and published within notable medical journals.

Contributors include: Dr. Nina Kohli, PGY-4 EM resident; Dr. Alyssa Bennet, PGY-4 EM resident; Dr. Joe Pepe, PGY-2 EM resident; Dr. Kevin O’Connell, Kent Hospital EM faculty; Dr. Melissa Murphy, MPH, Kent Hospital surgeon; and Christopher P. Zabbo, DO, FACEP, FAAEM, Kent Hospital clinical associate professor of emergency medicine. Their publications are outlined below.

- [“Availability of on-call specialists in Rhode Island Emergency Departments”](#) Kohli NS, Bennett AL, Zabbo CP, Faridi MK, Raja AS, Camargo CA Jr. *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*.
- [“Choosing Wisely Imaging Recommendations: Initial Implementation in New England Emergency Departments”](#) Raja AS, Venkatesh A, Mick N, Zabbo CP, Hasegawa K, Espinola JA, Bittner JC, Camargo CA Jr. *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*.
- [“Fecal Impaction with Multisystem Organ Involvement”](#) Pepe, Joseph; Murphy, Melissa M; O’Connell, Kevin P; Zabbo, Christopher P. *Clinical Practice and Cases in Emergency Medicine*.
- [“Early Manifestations of Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis”](#) J. Chapman and K. DeBlois *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*.

Congrats to all contributors on their ongoing efforts to advance care and educate the present and future emergency medical professionals.

## Leadership changes in Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Today we are announcing that W. Dwayne Lawrence, MD, MSc (Path), will be stepping down as chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital and executive chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Care New England as of July 1, 2017. In his 16-plus years as chief at Women & Infants, Dr. Lawrence built the department to achieve national and international stature, leading a team of pathologists, researchers and laboratory professionals who deliver services with a specialized focus and depth of experience in women’s and children’s health. In addition, he has trained the next generation of pathologists as professor and vice chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Lawrence serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Gynecological Pathology* and acted as its associate editor (for North America) for 22 years. He also serves on the editorial board of Human Pathology. He is the author of more than 150 publications in female genital tract disease, including scientific papers, book chapters, co-editorship of a textbook of gynecologic oncology, and coauthor of a textbook on differential diagnosis in gynecologic pathology. Dr. Lawrence has been active for more than 25 years in national

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and international pathology organizations such as the International Society of Gynecologic Pathologists and the United States & Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP), the flagship of academic pathology. He presently serves as treasurer of the International Society of Gynecological Pathologists.

Over the last 25 years, Dr. Lawrence has served in a variety of general and specialty offices in the USCAP including a four-year stint as co-director of its annual diagnostic pathology update and a three-year stint as the specialty panel moderator in gynecologic pathology. He has also served as specialty lecturer in gynecologic pathology for the annual surgical pathology update for the American Society of Clinical Pathology. Dr. Lawrence served on the combined World Health Organization (WHO) and International Society of Gynecological Pathology Subcommittee on revising the nomenclature of gestational trophoblastic disease as well as contributing to the fourth edition of the *WHO Classification of Tumours of Female Reproductive Organs*. He has lectured widely in local, national and international venues, including five different named lectureships.

We'd like to thank Dr. Lawrence for his incredible leadership and insight, and are thrilled that we will continue to benefit from his clinical expertise as he remains on staff at Women & Infants and Care New England. He is a true innovator and leader in the field of women's pathology.

Filling Dr. Lawrence's very large shoes while a national search is conducted will be C. James Sung, MD, FCAP, interim chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Women & Infants and interim executive chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Care New England. Dr. Sung previously served as vice chief of Pathology and director of Clinical Pathology at Women & Infants and director of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Informatics at Care New England. He is a professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, program director of the Stuart C. Lauchlan and International Visiting Fellowships in Women's Pathology at Women & Infants/Brown, faculty liaison for the Brown University-National Cheng Kung University College of Medicine Exchange Program, and division commissioner for Rhode Island and Connecticut for the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Commission on Laboratory Accreditation.

A graduate of Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan, Dr. Sung completed an internship at National Taiwan University Hospital and a pathology residency at Brown University. He was the first Stuart C. Lauchlan Fellow in Developmental and Gynecologic Pathology under the tutelage of Drs. Don B. Singer and Stuart C. Lauchlan at Women & Infants/Brown. Board certified in anatomic pathology and clinical pathology, Dr. Sung joined the staff at Women & Infants and Brown in 1990.

Dr. Sung has authored or co-authored 90 publications and book chapters. An award-winning educator, Dr. Sung lectures locally and internationally and has been recognized by medical students, residents and fellows through a number of awards including the Dean's Teaching Excellence Awards, Calvin Oyer Teaching Award, and Outstanding Teacher Awards.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Lawrence and in congratulating Dr. Sung. 

