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I want to take a moment to briefly address the recent development of Brown University and Prospect Medical Holdings publically announcing their proposal to acquire Care New England.

While you all received my brief message last Thursday as this was unfolding, let me once again be very clear—Care New England continues to be engaged in exclusive negotiations with Partners HealthCare and we look forward to the next steps in *that* process.

I understand this probably came as somewhat of a surprise and no doubt, introduces yet another level of uncertainty and concern for all of you at a time when there has already been more than enough of that to go around. I would encourage you to not let this distract from your work at hand and dedication to what we are all working towards across the system. Further, the plan as presented, seeks to acquire and split up our organization while potentially diminishing the level of excellence, recognition, and academic and clinical prestige that has been rightly earned through the years. This is sad and undeserved, and I am sure you agree.

As employees of Care New England, regardless of where you actually work each day, we all know the dedication and commitment we have to one another, to our patients, and to our community. Do not let this be lost in the midst of the rapidly changing health care industry, 24/7 news cycle, or from the rumors and talk you might hear in your daily work.

I hope by now you have come to know that I am a very direct person. I will answer your questions and give it to you straight with as much information as I can. That is why I felt it important to briefly revisit this important issue. Please know that we will not be deterred by outside distractions. We remain committed to the course we have set upon, and I need your continued help to get us there! I have heard your concerns and I have also seen your enthusiasm and energy. I appreciate all of it, and I appreciate everything you are all doing. Let's keep doing it together and see this through!

Thanks and have a great week!

Sincerely,

James E. Fanale, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

ConvergenceRI
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WOMEN & INFANTS

Dr. Erica Hardy named director of Women's Infectious Disease Consult Service



Erica Hardy, MD, MMSc, has been named director of the Women's Infectious Disease Consult Service at Women & Infants. Dr. Hardy is an assistant professor of medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

A collaborative service of the hospital's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Department of Medicine, as well as the Integrated Program for High-Risk Pregnancy, this service provides inpatient infectious disease consultation to all providers at Women & Infants Hospital in both obstetrics and gynecology and their respective subspecialties. Outpatient consultations are available to referring providers from throughout southern New England.

Ray Powrie, MD, FRCP(C), FACP, chief of medicine at Women & Infants Hospital and executive chief of medicine at Care New England, said, "Since joining Women & Infants in 2010, Dr. Hardy has helped build a robust women's infectious disease program here in collaboration with our Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. With this new title and role, we recognize and support Dr. Hardy as she further develops our clinical, teaching, and research program in women's infectious disease."

WOMEN & INFANTS

Dr. Kristen Matteson named director of Division of Research



Kristen A. Matteson, MD, MPH, has been named director of the Division of Research for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Women & Infants Hospital. Dr. Matteson, who is also an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is recognized nationally for her expertise in the field of abnormal uterine bleeding and clinical research methods.

Maureen Phipps, MD, MPH, chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Women & Infants and Care New England, said, "Dr. Matteson has been a tremendous leader for the department's research mission including promoting research among trainees, junior faculty, and colleagues.

Her commitment to scholarship, mentorship, and leadership is part of everything she does from research and teaching to clinical care and committee work. Her vision for enhancing the department's research program and supporting investigators with innovative initiatives will serve us well into the future."

WOMEN & INFANTS

Women & Infants Hospital's Emergency Department achieves level 3 certification

In response to Governor Gina Raimondo's Executive Order to establish a statewide task force to address the opioid epidemic, Women & Infants' Emergency Department partnered with other Care New England facilities and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) to ensure the needs of this specialized patient population are met.

At the Governor's Task Force Meeting last week, RIDOH and the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH) presented Women & Infants with its Level 3 Certification as part of the Levels of Care for Rhode Island Emergency Departments and Hospitals for treating Overdose and Opioid Use Disorder.

"Many have patients, friends, family, and even colleagues who have been personally affected by addiction and opioid use disorder. While accidental drug overdose has been a growing problem across the nation, Rhode Island has been one of the most severely impacted states in recent years,"

continued >



Pictured from left to right are Tracy Casala, RN, nurse manager of emergency room/triage at Women & Infants; Roxanne Vrees, MD, medical director of emergency obstetrics and gynecology at Women & Infants; and Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, director, Rhode Island Department of Health.

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"Many have patients, friends, family, and even colleagues who have been personally affected by addiction and opioid use disorder. While accidental drug overdose has been a growing problem across the nation, Rhode Island has been one of the most severely impacted states in recent years," said Roxanne Vrees, MD, medical director of emergency obstetrics and gynecology at Women & Infants Hospital and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. "With this designation, our team hopes to continue to do our part in ending the opioid epidemic and working to make a positive impact on the lives of so many who would otherwise be lost."

Women & Infants' plan has four fundamental areas focusing on treatment, overdose rescue, prevention, and recovery. The team developed organizational policies, clinical protocols, and institutional infrastructure to ensure that patients are managed appropriately.

This designation formalizes the hospital's commitment to this health care problem and requires that the hospital maintain standard protocols, capacity, and commitment to the following:

- Follow the discharge planning standards as stated in current law.
- Administer standardized substance use disorder screening for all patients.
- Educate all patients who are prescribed opioids on safe storage and disposal.
- Dispense naloxone for patients who are at risk, according to a clear protocol.
- Offer peer recovery support services in the Emergency Department.
- Provide active referral to appropriate community provider(s).
- Comply with requirement to report overdoses within 48 hours to RIDOH.
- Perform laboratory drug screening that includes fentanyl on patients who overdose.

BUTLER

Butler Hospital hosts 'swabbing party' in fight against Alzheimer's

In the fight against Alzheimer's disease, researchers at Butler Hospital and Brown University recently sought volunteers for testing and studies of promising new medications to prevent or even reverse the illness that destroys memory and personality as it advances to inevitable death.

The "swabbing party" hosted at Butler Hospital in early January included 18 volunteers who underwent a painless swab of the cheek, to collect a genetic sample. The cheek swab begins the screening, which is analyzed for the APOE gene. The APOE results indicate if there is an increased risk of the disease, depending on which of six possible variants an individual carries. Other factors, including age, diet, lifestyle, and overall health, also influence risk.




"Not only can you find out your genetic risk by having the APOE test," said Stephen Salloway, MD, MS, director of the Memory and Aging Program at Butler, "but then if you're the right age group and meet the criteria and you're interested, you could also participate in a prevention trial to try to lower the risk. We're very excited about that."

The swabbing event and Butler Hospital's dedication to fighting Alzheimer's through an array of prominent research studies was highlighted in *The Providence Journal*. The full story can be read at <http://bit.ly/2FICvFW>.

Community event benefits Kent Hospital employees

A check for \$1,900, proceeds of the Warwick Rotary Club 5K Turkey Trot held Thanksgiving morning at City Park, was donated to the Kent Hospital Emergency Employee Program, KEEP.

The funds dedicated to hospital employees who have fallen on tough times, allocated by a committee that reviews applications and keeps situations confidential. 

From left to right are Rev. David Ricard, hospital chaplain; Sue Barbour, who helps oversee KEEP; and Rotary Club member Thomas Sanford.

