

Newsmaker



Deborah Rhodes, MD, has been promoted to senior vice president and chief quality officer, Yale New Haven Health, and associate dean of Quality for Yale School of Medicine. She joined YNHHS in 2020 as vice president of Care Signature from the Mayo Clinic, where she was a professor of Medicine. In 2022, Dr. Rhodes' role expanded to vice

president of Care Signature and Quality. She earned her MD from Cornell University Medical College and completed her residency and fellowship at Johns Hopkins, where she was also a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.

Library Services resources for staff – ClinicalKey for Nursing and ClinicalKey physicians

The library at Bridgeport Hospital provides access to outstanding health information resources and services that support education, research and patient care. The hospital libraries promote the Yale New Haven Health care signature initiative by fostering an atmosphere of innovation, collaboration, cooperation and life-long learning in support of an academic health network. Each library is open to YNHHS faculty, students, staff and affiliates.

ClinicalKey for Nursing and ClinicalKey for physicians

The ClinicalKey databases support the use of evidence-based practice by providing access to leading nursing, medical and basic sciences textbooks and journals. These databases function like a web browser and provide full-text access to a large collection of trusted resources.

Contact Todd Lane MAT, MLS
Podium 4
203-384-3615
Mon. – Fri., 7 am – 4:30 pm

Badge access is required evenings, weekends and holidays.

Save the Date – July 20 for Private Day at the Zoo

All Bridgeport Hospital Medical Staff and their families are invited to A Private Day at the Zoo. The outing takes place on Saturday, July 20, 4:30 pm at the Beardsley Zoo, 1875 Noble Ave, Bridgeport. RSVP required to attend. Respond to alison.tighe@bpthosp.org by July 5.

Digestive Health Virtual CME Series 2024: Trust Your Gut – June 20

Yale Medicine and Yale New Haven Health host free, monthly virtual Digestive Health CME series, called Trust Your Gut. The year-long series is held the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm throughout 2024.

The series provides digestive health educational programming, professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers.

On June 20, presenters Michelle Hughes, MD, and Jeffrey Topal, MD, will share updates on C. diff. Yale School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ per session, a total of 12.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for the series.

To register, visit the Yale CME portal at yale.cloud-cme.com. For questions, contact Joseph Mendes, executive director, clinical program development, Digestive Health at joseph.mendes@ynhh.org.

Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the June 2024 issue of Medical Staff News is Friday, May 31. Please submit items for consideration to: Alison Tighe at alison.tighe@bpthosp.org or Myra Stanley at myra.stanley@ynhh.org.

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | May 2024

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Bridgeport
Hospital

Greg Buller, MD, named Physician of the Year



Greg Buller, MD, chair, Medicine (second from left), was named Bridgeport Hospital Physician of the Year at this year's Medical Staff Spring Update meeting held recently. On hand to congratulate him were (left) Anne Diamond, president, Victor Morris, MD, chief medical officer and Pam Scagliarini, chief operating officer, Congratulations Dr. Buller!

The online nominations process is open to all licensed physicians in America who are able to nominate physicians in any medical specialty and in any part of the country, as well as indicate whether the nominated physicians is, in their opinion, among the best in their region in their medical specialty or among the best in the nation in their medical specialty. Careful screening of doctors' educational and professional experience is essential before final selection is made among those physicians most highly regarded by their peers. Congratulations!

New tools available to fight liver cancer through Interventional Oncology Program

Hepatocellular Carcinoma, or primary liver cancer, is a common cancer and a leading cause of cancer-related death, according to the American Cancer Society.

Unfortunately, screening programs often fail to deliver the diagnosis at stages that are amenable to surgical resection or curative therapies. The condition frequently affects patients from underserved communities with poor access to healthcare. The majority of these patients get diagnosed at unresectable stages.

As part of best practices at Yale New Haven Health, Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, once a patient is diagnosed with liver cancer, their journey includes a multi-disciplinary review of their case at the Yale Liver/Transplant Tumor Board. Patients from across Yale New Haven Health and allied healthcare systems are presented and referred to subspecialized providers. Now, patients have access to a fully integrated Interventional Oncology Program at Bridgeport Hospital.

The current standard of care for such patients is locoregional image-guided therapy using the minimally invasive procedure transarterial chemoembolization (TACE). Performed by interventional radiologists with

More than 700 Yale New Haven Health physicians are 'Top Doctors'

A total of 724 Yale New Haven Health-affiliated physicians, including 172 Bridgeport Hospital doctors, have earned a spot on *Connecticut Magazine's* 2024 Top Doctors list.

To compile the list, *Connecticut Magazine* partnered with Castle Connolly, a leading national healthcare research company. Castle Connolly's research team thoroughly vets each physician's professional qualifications, education, hospital and faculty appointments, research leadership, professional reputation, disciplinary history and if available, outcomes data.

Additionally, a physician's interpersonal skills such as listening and communicating effectively, demonstrating empathy, and instilling trust and confidence, are also considered in the review process.

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subspecialty experience in interventional oncology, TACE is a catheter-based technique that allows for selective targeting of liver tumors in a way that preserves the background liver while achieving high local tumor control. The response rate for the procedure is as high as 75 percent.

“Procedures such as TACE represent a significant step in offering targeted, minimally invasive cancer treatments,” said Julius Chapiro, MD, interventional radiologist and associate professor of Radiology, Digestive Diseases (Hepatology) and Biomedical Engineering. “Through the Elizabeth M. Pfriem Neurovascular and Interventional Radiology Center here at Bridgeport Hospital, our patients now have access to the most cutting-edge image-guidance technology for TACE, including 4D volumetric image guidance in the procedural theater. We have the advantage of using the most advanced hardware and software available for accurate and specific tumor targeting.”

Additionally, through Bridgeport Hospital, patients have access to Smilow’s Hepatology/Interventional Radiology clinic providing the highest standards of care, including diagnostic liver biopsy for all patients undergoing planning for TACE.

Bridgeport Hospital Foundation launches Michael E. Ivy, MD Fund for Resident Wellness

The Michael E. Ivy, MD Fund for Resident Wellness at the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation was announced at the recent Medical Staff Reception. Thanks to a \$10,000 pledge from the Bridgeport Hospital Medical Staff, the fund is on its way to the initial goal of \$25,000 to launch the fund.

Wellness activities the Fund could sponsor in the future include social gatherings, program “retreats” for team building, and seminars focusing on career development, leadership skills and financial planning.

To contribute, visit the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation website at <https://foundation.bridgeporthospital.org>, select “Honor Your Colleague” from the drop-down menu and enter Mike Ivy’s name in the honoree field to give securely online. Please reach out to Steve Jakob steve.jakab@bpthosp.org with any questions.

YNHHS and Yale Medicine adopt clinical documentation technology

Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine recently launched Abridge, an artificial intelligence tool, for user acceptance testing in selected clinics and practices within YNHHS Northeast Medical Group, Yale Medicine and Yale Health.

Abridge enables providers to create clinical notes instantly and effortlessly. Instead of wasting time and energy dictating or typing notes, providers can use Abridge to capture key information from patient visit conversations and generate structured and organized notes in seconds.

Abridge also helps providers document exam findings, medical and social history, medications, treatment plans and lab work in a clear, concise way. The tool will be phased in at other YNHHS and YM locations in the coming months.

The tool works like this: Once a patient provides verbal consent, the provider uses the Abridge smartphone app to record the visit. Abridge’s AI filters out parts of the conversation that aren’t relevant and transforms the remaining concepts into an electronic note in the traditional format. The provider reviews and, if necessary, edits the note. If they have a question about something discussed during the visit, they can click a word or sentence in the note to see the conversation transcript and hear the original, recorded conversation. Because it is integrated with Epic, once a provider approves the clinical note, it automatically embeds itself into the patient’s visit note in Epic.

By using Abridge, providers can reduce their cognitive and administrative burden and focus on what matters most: caring for their patients face-to-face. Abridge also aligns with the SPACE2CARE advanced Epic optimization initiative, which supports providers in delivering high-quality, compassionate and personalized care by optimizing and augmenting use of the electronic medical record and digital solutions.

Pilot program provides at-home assistance to families of newborns

Governor Ned Lamont recently announced that a state pilot program led by several of Connecticut’s health and human services agencies has provided at-home nurse and community health worker assistance to the families of more than 500 newborns who live in the Greater Bridgeport region since launching in October of 2023.

Known as Family Bridge, this pilot program aims to ease transition from hospital to home for the parents of newborn babies by giving these families the option of having a nurse or community health worker visit their homes in the immediate days and weeks following birth. Participating families can have up to three at-home visits from a registered nurse and, if needed, from a specially trained community health worker, as well. The program is offered to all families at no cost and there’s no eligibility criteria to apply.

The Lamont administration is funding the program through the state’s allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources, as well as grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and health disparities funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The pilot program began as an initiative offered to the families of newborns who are delivered at Bridgeport Hospital and who live in Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Milford, Monroe, Shelton, Stratford, and Trumbull. It will expand to include additional hospitals and areas.

Take the YNHHS 2024 Safety Culture Pulse Survey

Medical staff are invited and encouraged to access the YNHHS 2024 Safety Culture Pulse Survey and share their thoughts about safety throughout the health system. The survey is available through Friday, May 24.

In addition to the medical staff, the pulse survey is open to all clinical and nonclinical workers, employees and contract workers, administrators and support staff.

The online survey, developed by Press Ganey, includes multiple-choice questions, and should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Questions about resources, teamwork, pride and reputation are included. Survey responses are confidential and only aggregated data and comments will be shared.

Staff should be assured that the results of this survey are highly valued by our Safety & Quality team and our leaders throughout YNHHS and will guide important initiatives to improve safety for all our teams. Result debriefs and action planning will occur in late June through August.

Safety Matters

Implicit Bias

Implicit (subconscious) bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions and decisions in an unconscious manner and leads to healthcare inequity. Implicit bias poses significant challenges in healthcare. These biases, often unconscious, can affect clinical decision-making, communication, and patient outcomes. To help recognize and mitigate our bias, we must prioritize awareness and education. Following our standardized protocols and decision-making tools, such as Care Signature Pathways in Epic, can help reduce the impact of bias on patient care. Additionally, having a basic understanding of the patient’s culture, individuating patients, performing teach-back, and using evidence-based care are all tools that can help combat implicit bias.

Take away: Discuss implicit bias with staff and help them to overcome it by recognizing situations that may magnify the implicit bias. Fostering a culture of diversity, inclusion, and accountability can promote equitable treatment for all patients and can help enhance patient safety and improve overall quality of care.

Across YNHHS, hundreds donate thousands of pounds of food to combat hunger

When it comes to relieving hunger, YNHHS employees and medical staff once again answered the call. In 2024, hundreds of employees and medical staff across the system donated more than 21,950 pounds of food to hunger-relief organizations during the health system’s fourth #GiveHealthy online food drive.

This year’s drive, which ran March 1 - 31 to coincide with National Nutrition Month The donated food translates into nearly 18,300 meals for people in need throughout Connecticut, in Westerly, RI, and Port Chester, NY.

Bridgeport Hospital donors gave 5,110 pounds of food – 4,258 meals – to support the Milford Food Bank and the East End Food Bank in Bridgeport.