

Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | April 2022

Yale
NewHaven
Health
Bridgeport
Hospital

The Wellness Corner

A message from the Chief Wellness Officer



Spring always brings a sense of renewal. The days get longer, the weather gets warmer, the birds sing louder, and the flowers bloom. With this rebirth, we have an opportunity to reflect on the past, and be intentional about what new growth we foster in our lives.

As we look back over the last two years, one of the most significant casualties of the pandemic has been the ease of community built through chance encounters in the hospital halls and social get-togethers with the medical staff. We know from the psychology literature that positive social connection is foundational to wellbeing. While each of us can be intentional about fostering those positive social connections personally, we can also create structures and processes that develop them at an organizational level. Currently, at the organizational level, we are working to increase this culture of positive connection for our medical staff. The video for Doctors' Day was one effort to start bringing the faces of our medical staff back into view for each other. (If you missed it, you can watch it here: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/691384910?h=11b580e784>). You've likely seen the announcements for the in-person medical staff engagement brainstorming event in Fairfield in April, as well as the in-person medical staff retreat in May.

In this month's newsletter, I am delighted to introduce a new feature which is also aimed at bringing out our human connection once again. If you've ever seen the television series "Humans of New York," you'll recognize the title. The show originally began as a photography project but expanded to tell the stories of individual New Yorkers. In "Humans of the Medical Staff," we will have the opportunity to highlight the human side of our medical staff members through a series of questions and answers and personal photos. Please take a moment to read our spotlighted

medical staff member and let Alison Tighe know if you or your colleagues would like to be featured in future months

In gratitude and community,
Kristin Edwards, MD, Chief Wellness Officer

Wellbeing Resources

Medical Staff Portal <https://ynhhconnect.org/>

Includes more Wellbeing Resources and remote access for EPIC. The Wellness Hub is on the right under "Quick Clicks."

Employee and Family Resources Call 877-275-6226 (24/7) or visit <https://www.achievesolutions.net>

Offering confidential counseling and work / life support services for YNHHS employees and family members.

Save the date:

Building Against Burnout session May 5

Mark your calendar for the next Building Against Burnout (BAB) session on Thursday, May 5, from 12:15 to 1 pm, when the topic will be the Epic upgrade. The principal trainers will give a high-level overview of the major upgrade features. The session will also include breakout sessions focusing on specifically on changes for inpatient units, the Emergency Department and Ambulatory areas.

These brief sessions highlight timesaving topics to work through ways to reduce burnout. The presenters are physicians and APPs who have completed rigorous Epic training. The BAB sessions are a form of "fireproofing," to help build resistance to the challenges and stresses of practicing medicine. CME credit is available.

To join the session via Zoom, visit zoom.us. Select "Join a Meeting" and enter meeting ID 937 4636 0432 and passcode 649503.

BAB sessions are recorded and posted on the Medical Staff Portal for those unable to attend the live session.

Humans of the Medical Staff

In order to help members of the Bridgeport Hospital Medical Staff learn more about each other, Medical Staff News will include a new feature - Humans of the Medical Staff - where medical staff members will share a few special human interest facts about themselves.



Spotlight: Jean M. Tornatore, MD

Jean M. Tornatore, MD, is residency program director in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Q: What made you decide to work in health care?

It certainly wasn't a direct thought process, but a series of thinking about what I liked, doing well at what was in front of me, and talking to lots of people along the way.

Q: What was one of your best moments from the last year?

In the last few months, I have had a few of my past residents, from different parts of my career, contact me out of the blue to say that they wanted to let me know how much they appreciated the part I played in their training. That really makes me feel successful because I know that what I do will affect so many patients in the future.

Q: What is your favorite book and why?

The Stand, by Stephen King. My parents have always read a lot and had books all over the house. I picked it up one day the summer I turned 13 and asked if I could read it. It was the first book that I read where I understood the feeling of getting lost in a story and not wanting to put it down.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

That I can be very competitive and in my distant history, I was an athlete.

Do you have ideas for medical staff engagement?

Plan to attend the Medical Staff Engagement Brainstorming Session on Thursday, April 21, from 5 – 7 pm at Brewport Brewing Company, Bridgeport. All medical staff are welcome to attend. RSVP to Debby Davis at debby.davis@bpthosp.org.



Dr. Tornatore (left) after placing third in the Sprint Triathlon Michigan State Championships.

Regulatory update: CMS Open Payments expand to five new provider types

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Open Payments is a federal program that provides transparency and increases public awareness of financial relationships between the healthcare industry and certain healthcare providers and teaching hospitals. This is done by collecting and making public any payments or transfers of value from drug and device manufacturers to healthcare providers or teaching hospitals.

Per Open Payments, all transfers of value from an industry representative to certain healthcare providers or teaching hospitals valued at or above \$10, or aggregate of \$100 per year, are reported. Transfers of value may include food and beverage, entertainment, charitable contributions, speaking fees, royalties or licenses, grants, consulting fees, honoraria, travel and lodging, education, research and more. The nature and purpose of the amount is also recorded and disclosed.

The Open Payments program has expanded to include the five new provider types: physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologist assistants.

For healthcare providers, the CMS review and dispute period is April 1 – May 15. Starting April 1, providers can review their 2021 data posted by drug and device manufacturers. This review and dispute period allows physicians and other recipients to dispute any inaccurate or incomplete data before it is published to the public on June 30. Each YNHHS provider is accountable for reviewing their 2021 data and disputing any inaccurate information during CMS’s review and dispute period.

Yale New Haven Health’s Office of Privacy and Corporate Compliance (OPCC) will review applicable CMS Open Payments data once released on June 30 and may contact providers regarding their Open Payments data if it does not align with their most recent Conflict of Interest disclosure survey responses.

Providers should ensure all interactions with drug and device manufacturers comply with the Interactions with Vendors policy: <https://ynhh.ellucid.com/documents/view/33702>.

Additional guidance material is on the OPCC SharePoint site: <http://dept.ynhh.org/OPCC>. With questions, contact the OPCC at 203-688-8416 or conflictofinterest@ynhh.org.

Register for 2022 Safety, Quality and Experience Conference

After a two-year hiatus, the Joseph A. Zaccagnino Safety, Quality and Experience Conference is back and scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 7:30 am – 3:30 pm at the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford. Sponsored by Yale New Haven Health, Yale Medicine and Yale School of Medicine, the conference offers a dynamic day of learning and sharing of information designed to improve the healthcare experience.

This year’s theme, “Gratitude,” brings greater attention to the people who influence, execute, monitor, and report the many ways we improve safety, quality, and the patient experience.

Guest speakers for this year’s conference include BJ Miller, MD, a renowned speaker on patient-centered, palliative and end-of-life care; Laurie Santos, PhD, host of “The Happiness Lab” podcast and an expert on human cognition, its origins

and the evolutionary biases that influence life choice; and Nick Propper, CEO of Impact Human Performance, with advice, tips and tricks to reprioritize focus on managing energy as the secret to success.

The conference is open to medical staff, employees and faculty. To register, visit the Safety, Quality and Experience Conference intranet page.

Save the date: May 19 – Trust Your Gut Digestive Health session

YNHHS and Yale Medicine continue the free, monthly virtual Digestive Health CME series called “Trust Your Gut.” The yearlong series, held the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm, is designed to provide world-class digestive health educational programming, professional development and networking opportunities for physicians and advanced practice providers.

On Thursday, May 19, William Ravish, MD, and Daniel Pievsky, DO, will present a case study on esophageal swallowing disorders. Earlier this month, Michelle Hughes, MD, and Marie Robert, MD, discussed celiac disease and gluten sensitivity. A recording of the session is available on the Medical Staff Portal.

Yale School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits per session, for a total of 12.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits for the series.

To register, visit the Yale CME portal at yale.cloudcme.com. For questions, contact Joe Mendes, executive director Clinical Program Development, Digestive Health, at joseph.mendes@ynhh.org.

Save the date – Medical Staff Retreat May 24

The BH Medical Staff Retreat will be held Tuesday, May 24, noon - 6 pm at the Penfield Pavilion, 323 Fairfield Beach Rd., Fairfield. Lunch will be provided and will be served promptly at noon. RSVP to alison.tighe@bpthosp.org by Tuesday, May 10.

Yale New Haven Health and Hartford HealthCare receive approval to build Proton Center

YNHHS and Hartford HealthCare announced they have received final state approval to introduce proton beam therapy – a highly advanced form of radiation treatment for cancer – to Connecticut. The new Connecticut Proton Therapy Center will use highly targeted radiological proton therapy rather than X-rays to treat cancer and is currently only available at a handful of facilities in the Northeast outside of Connecticut. This 25,000-square-foot center will be the first in Connecticut and located at 932 Northrop Road in Wallingford.

Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses a high energy beam of protons to irradiate cancer. The chief advantage of proton therapy over other types of radiotherapy is that the dose is more finely controlled. With proton beam, there is less entry, exit, and scattered radiation so that physicians can safely deliver higher doses of radiation to tumors with fewer side effects. Proton therapy is appropriate for many solid cancer tumors, including tumors of the brain and central nervous system, eye, gastrointestinal tract, head and neck, liver, lung, prostate, spine and breast. It is particularly beneficial for children, as they are more vulnerable to damage to healthy tissue from radiation.

The Wallingford center, which is projected to open in 2025, will include the latest technology and equipment; treatment room; control room; exam rooms and clinical space. Employees will include physicians and clinical staff from YNHHS and HHC, as well as additional new staff.

Doctors' Day 2022

Bridgeport Hospital saluted its physicians with breakfast celebrations at its Bridgeport and Milford campuses March 30. The hospital has over 1,000 active attending physicians across its delivery network, representing more than 60 sub-specialties and 230 medical/surgical residents and fellows in programs affiliated with Yale School of Medicine.



In the Medical Staff Lounge at the Bridgeport Campus are (l-r) Drs. Shariful Alam, Monique Misra, Augustine Andoh-Duku, Kristan Sikorski, Naiha Nadeem, and Hardik Patel.

Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission of content for the May 2022 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, May 6, 2022.

Please submit items for consideration to Alison Tighe at alison.tighe@bpthosp.org or Myra Stanley at myra.stanley@ynhh.org.