

# Medical Staff News

Newsletter for the Medical Staff of Bridgeport Hospital | April 2019

Yale  
NewHaven  
**Health**  
Bridgeport  
Hospital

## From the desk of the CMO

It's spring time, and if everything stays on track, Bridgeport Hospital and Milford Hospital will have integrated by the very end of this season. That means we're only weeks away!

Recently, I was sworn in to give testimony supporting the integration at a public hearing held by the Office of Health Strategy. I was proud of my Bridgeport and health system colleagues for thoughtfully answering some tough questions, but I was moved by testimony provided by some long-time employees of Milford Hospital and residents of Milford in support of the integration.

I also got to meet with a few dozen members of the Milford Hospital Medical Staff the night before the public hearing. Not surprisingly, they are anticipating experiencing change (and needing to manage transition) right now. Still, the group was welcoming. Although a large number of Milford Hospital Medical Staff are also on staff at Bridgeport Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital, some of whom you probably see regularly in our hallways here at Bridgeport, there are also some at Milford who practice exclusively there and in the surrounding community.

I very much hope you'll join me in welcoming Milford Hospital-based physicians into a combined single medical staff of Bridgeport Hospital. We'll be inviting a member of the current Milford medical staff to join our Medical Executive Committee, and we're committed to maintaining representation from Milford on our MEC and inviting membership on medical staff committees as well.

I'd like to conclude by wishing you a belated Happy Doctors' Day! Thank you especially to those who came to the evening event at the Fairfield Museum or breakfast in the Physicians' Lounge to celebrate with us.

*Ryan O'Connell, MD, Interim Chief Medical Officer*

## Expert panel discusses how to address comorbidities in primary care

Most clinical practice guidelines describe management of a single diagnosis, but so many patients have multiple diagnoses. As a primary care physician, what is the best approach to caring for patients with multiple conditions when there is not always a clear guideline?

The issue was addressed at "Reading between the Guidelines: Managing the Patient with Comorbidities." Case-based discussions conducted last fall showcased a panel of experts in endocrinology, cardiology, nephrology and internal medicine. Attendees learned about the clinical practice guidelines for treatment of diseases such as diabetes, coronary artery disease and chronic kidney disease. Discussion also focused on how to make clinical decisions for patients who might have a combination of these diagnoses.

"Using clinical practice guidelines is like using a two-dimensional chessboard to play three-dimensional chess. How do you apply best-practice recommendations for BP control to patients with CAD, CHF, CKD and PVD? The panel of a cardiologist, endocrinologist, nephrologist and general internist discussing the issues of care management and application of practice guidelines was great, highlighting the challenges and subtleties of real-life multisystem disease management," said Alan Kliger, MD, YNHHS vice president and medical director, Clinical Integration and Population Health.

Email [pophealthci@ynhh.org](mailto:pophealthci@ynhh.org) for clinical practice guidelines. They are also available in Epic Tools.

---

## YNHHS improves echocardiogram Epic order process

A clinical redesign team project that originated at Bridgeport Hospital's echocardiography laboratory identified several opportunities where decision support could improve workflow and create better long-term solutions across Yale New Haven Health.

Findings and recommendations from a multidisciplinary team with representatives from across the YNHHS (including cardiologists, sonographers and department leaders from the echo departments) resulted in the following changes to the echo orders within Epic as of March 26, 2019:

- The number of available choices for "echo" orders has been reduced.
- Order names no longer indicate "contrast." Wording has been changed to "Image Enhancement."
- "Reason for Exam" is now a drop-down list that considers appropriate use criteria for performing an echo, with the "Other" option and ability to input free text.
- The "Order Priority" quick button list will include "Discharge Dependent" for all echo exams except transesophageal echoes.
- A best practice alert will fire if the patient has had a finalized study within the prior six months.

---

## Auxiliary celebrates 60 years

Join the Bridgeport Hospital Auxiliary for its Diamond Anniversary Party, celebrating 60 years of support to Bridgeport Hospital, May 2 at Birchwood Country Club, 25 Kings Highway South, Westport. The event features a reception, silent auction and dinner. Proceeds benefit the hospital's REACH program. For tickets visit: [bphosp.convio.net/aux-60annivparty](http://bphosp.convio.net/aux-60annivparty). For more information, contact Susan Castagna at 203-522-8082 or [susan.castagna67@gmail.com](mailto:susan.castagna67@gmail.com).

---

## Caregivers honored by patients

The Bridgeport Hospital Foundation announced the following clinical staff members were recognized by patients in February and March with a gift to the Honor Your Caregiver program: Michele Attard, LMT; Bridgeport Hospital Wound Care Center/Diane Merkle, APRN; Judith Castillo, MD; Ronika Choudhary, MD; Amanda Ganzak; Sara Richer, MD; Jen Yaggi, LMT (two gifts in her honor.)

---

## Use of mobile devices to capture images

Mobile technology has been deployed and is widely used by clinicians to secure and share clinical images for patient care. It was recently discovered that mobile devices (Haiku, Mobile Heartbeat) are being used inappropriately to capture images of documents which is outside of their intended use.

Mobile devices should never be used to capture documents as they will appear incorrectly in the photo document type and will not be available to other clinicians for patient care. In an audit limited to the last two months only, 23,000 documents were uploaded inappropriately (e.g. informed consents, telemetry, EKGs, etc.) and not indexed correctly for access in Epic.

Prescribed workflows are in place on each clinical unit to support timely upload/access to documents in Epic within either a one-hour STAT or 24-hour turnaround time. For more information on how to use established workflows for timely upload of documents in the hospital setting, please see a business associate on a clinical unit, contact Health Information Management at [HIMDocMgmt@ynhh.org](mailto:HIMDocMgmt@ynhh.org) or contact the Help Desk at 203-688-4357.

### Key Points:

- Do not use mobile devices to capture documents.
- Follow established workflows on clinical units to ensure timely document capture which is accessible to others.
- When uploading patient photos, enter a brief description of the photo so that other users can easily identify the content.
- Periodic audits will be performed to ensure appropriate use of mobile devices to capture patient photos and prescribed workflows are followed for document capture.

---

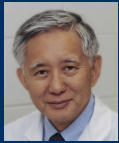
## The Joseph Keane Lecture

Caring for Families Experiencing Perinatal Loss: Interdisciplinary perspectives on the care of the family with an intrauterine, neonatal or infant death.

Thursday, May 9, 9 am - noon, Yale New Haven Hospital, Park Street Auditorium, 55 Park St., New Haven.

Open to all YNHHS employees and providers who care for patients experiencing perinatal loss. For more information visit: [tinyurl.com/y3zw7p7l](http://tinyurl.com/y3zw7p7l) or contact Kelley Reddington at [kelly.reddington@bpthosp.org](mailto:kelly.reddington@bpthosp.org).

## New Physicians



### IL Song Hahn, MD

Pathology Department  
Yale New Haven Hospital  
1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT 06511  
**Phone:** 203-789-3096

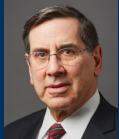
**Medical School:** Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea

**Internship:** Internal Medicine, Sinai Hospital of Detroit, Detroit, MI

**Residency:** Anatomic Pathology, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT; Anatomic Pathology, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, CT

**Fellowship:** Surgical Pathology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA

**Board Certification:** American Board of Pathology



### Irwin Nash, MD

Pathology Department  
Yale New Haven Hospital  
1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT 06511  
**Phone:** 203-789-3096

**Medical School:** Columbia University College of Physician and Surgeons, New York, NY

**Residency:** Pathology/Laboratory Medicine, Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT; General Internal Medicine, Hospital of St. Raphael, New Haven, CT

**Fellowship:** Pathology/Laboratory Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT; Hematology/Oncology, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT

**Board Certification:** American Board of Internal Medicine



### Craig Thorne, MD

Emergency/Occupational and Industrial  
NEMG – Bridgeport Hospital Occupational Health Clinic  
226 Mill Hill Road, Bridgeport, CT 06610  
**Phone:** 203-384-3923

**Medical School:** Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada

**Internship:** Rotating Internship, Ottawa Civic Hospital, Ottawa, ON, Canada

**Residency:** Internal Medicine, Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC

**Fellowship:** Occupational and Environment, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

**Board Certification:** American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Preventive Medicine



### Fady Elshikh, MD

Medicine/Hospitalist Medicine  
Bridgeport Hospital  
267 Grant St., Bridgeport, CT 06610  
**Phone:** 203-384-4677

**Medical School:** Alexandria Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria, Egypt

**Residency:** Internal Medicine, Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, Bronx, NY

**Board Certification:** American Board of Internal Medicine



### Andrew Chow, MD

Internal Medicine/Hospitalist  
Northeast Medial Group – Bridgeport Hospital  
267 Grant St., Bridgeport, CT 06610  
**Phone:** 203-384-4677

**Medical School:** New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY

**Residency:** Internal Medicine, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, NY

**Fellowship:** Nephrology, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, NY; Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT

**Board Certification:** American Board of Family Medicine



### Tuba Khawaja, MD

Internal Medicine/Hospitalist  
Northeast Medial Group – Bridgeport Hospital  
267 Grant St., Bridgeport, CT 06610  
**Phone:** 203-384-4677

**Medical School:** Dow Medical College, Karachi, Pakistan

**Residency:** Family Medicine, Saint Joseph's Medical Center, Yonkers, NY; Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk, CT

**Board Certification:** American Board of Family Medicine



### Daren Spinelle, MD

Hospitalist Medicine  
Gaylord Specialty Healthcare  
50 Gaylord Farm Road, Wallingford, CT 06492  
**Phone:** 203-284-2800

**Medical School:** Ross University School of Medicine, Roseau, Dominica

**Residency:** Internal Medicine, St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury, CT

**Board Certification:** American Board of Internal Medicine



### Farhad Bahrassa, MD

Surgery/Neurosurgery  
YUSM Department of Neurosurgery  
800 Howard Ave., New Haven, CT 06520  
**Phone:** 203-785-4085

**Medical School:** Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA

**Residency:** Neurosurgery, Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY

**Fellowship:** Endovascular Neurosurgery, Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY



### Shean L. Barrett, MD

Hospitalist Medicine  
Bridgeport Hospital  
267 Grant St., Bridgeport, CT 06610  
**Phone:** 203-384-4677

**Medical School:** American University of Antigua, Coolidge, Antigua

**Residency:** Family Medicine, Institute for Family Health Program, Kingston, NY

**Board Certification:** American Board of Family Medicine



### Brittany Kerkar, MD

Pediatric Department  
Optimus Healthcare  
64 Black Rock Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605  
**Phone:** 203-579-5000

**Medical School:** Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI

**Residency:** Pediatrics, Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC

**Board Certification:** American Board of Pediatrics



### Isabel Oliva Cortopassi, MD

Radiology Department  
YUSM Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging  
35 Park St., New Haven, CT 06511  
**Phone:** 203-200-2328

**Medical School:** Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil

**Residency:** Universidade de Sao Paulo Medical School, San Paulo, Brazil

**Fellowship:** Diagnostic Radiology; Emergency Radiology; Cardiothoracic Imaging; Research Fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

**Board Certification:** American Board of Radiology



### Jay Pahade, MD

Radiology Department  
YUSM Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging  
35 Park St., New Haven, CT 06511  
**Phone:** 203-200-2328

**Medical School:** State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine, Buffalo, NY

**Internship:** General Internal Medicine, Cabrini Medical Center, New York, NY

**Residency:** Diagnostic Radiology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA

**Fellowship:** Abdominal Radiology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA

**Board Certification:** American Board of Nuclear Medicine

## Bridgeport Hospital providers to share information on stress and mental health

Bridgeport Hospital's Charles Morgan, MD, and Jim Haddon, APRN, will present information at the "Learn about the impact of stress and burnout on one's mental health" community health symposium on Saturday, May 4 at Harding High School, 379 Bond St., Bridgeport, from 8:30 - 11:45 am. The program, hosted in coordination with the Northeast Medical Group and Bridgeport Hospital Diversity and Inclusion Councils and community partners, is free of charge. Providers, employees and community members are welcome to attend. For more information, write NEMGD&I@ynhh.org or call St. Matthew Baptist Church at 203-414-9366.

## Hot Topics Forum

The next Hot Topics breakfast will be Monday, May 13, 7:30 - 9 am in the Medical Staff Lounge. The speaker will be Hugh Taylor, MD; chief, Obstetrics and Gynecology, YNHH; and chair, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Yale School of Medicine.

## Save the Date

**Celebration of Life** –Bridgeport Hospital Annual Newborn ICU Reunion, Saturday, May 4, 12:30 - 2 pm, Bridgeport Hospital Picnic Area, RSVP to 203-384-3199.

**The 2019 Physician Leadership Summit** will be May 9, 12 - 6 pm at the Milford Yacht Club, 131 Trumbull Ave., Milford. RSVP to alison.tighe@bpthosp.org or 203-384-4790.

## Medical Staff Executive Committee March 4, 2019

**Michael Ivy, MD, interim president and CEO:** BH is roughly \$3 million behind budget for the year. Discharges are down from budget and from last January, and the ED is down similarly. Observations and surgery are both up. Length of stay is at 5.9 days, due to a significant number of long term stay patients. The variance in performance vs. budget is explained by a change in DRG reimbursement by state Medicaid. This is a different issue from last year's provider tax pain. Specific DRGs took a huge hit, worth \$200 million total for all the hospitals in the state, and \$80 million for (Yale New Haven Health). Cash on-hand remains strong. The hospital reached a census of 392 this winter, the highest in memory.

**Ryan O'Connell, MD, interim chief medical officer:** Milford Hospital integration – BH provided the Office of Health Strategy with responses to a number of questions. Credentialing of the medical staff has begun. All providers from Milford will need to meet BH criteria. Epic will go live after the close. Resource needs are being inventoried and prioritized. The census at Milford was up this winter.

**Sheikh Hoq, MD, executive director, Clinical Operations:** On the scorecard, Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI) was in the red due to colon and central line infections. C difficile infections are way down. There is a significant spike in length of stay in FY19.

**Pamela Scagliarini, executive vice president and COO:** Performance update on Y Access: Overwhelmingly positive feedback, with great deal of usage for both transfers and direct admissions. Not clear if there is a financial impact, but is a clear win-win for patients and providers.

## Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission for the May 2019 issue of *Medical Staff News* is Friday, April 26. Please submit items for consideration to Ryan O'Connell, MD, at ryan.o'connell@bpthosp.org, 203-384-3760 or Myra Stanley, Yale New Haven Health at 203-688-1531 or myra.stanley@ynhh.org.

*Medical Staff News* is published monthly by YNHH  
Marketing and Communications  
**Executive Editor:** Ryan O'Connell, MD  
(ryan.o'connell@bpthosp.org)  
**Editor:** Myra Stanley (myra.stanley@ynhh.org)  
**Designer:** Lori Martino

267 Grant Street  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06610

Yale  
NewHaven  
Health  
Bridgeport  
Hospital