From the desk of the CMO

Dear Colleagues:

On June 9, 2019, Milford Hospital became part of Bridgeport Hospital and Yale New Haven Health. We are happy to join together two proud hospitals, both with strong missions and rich histories. Although the two have been separate hospitals, we have shared the common mission of providing patients and families with expert, compassionate, high-quality health care.

I’ve met and spoken with dozens of members of the Milford Hospital Medical Staff in recent months. Along with some concerns about change—which are inherent to changes such as this—most have expressed optimism about the combined future of Milford and Bridgeport into one.

To the veteran Bridgeport Hospital Medical Staff members, please join me in welcoming our new team members into the combined, single medical staff of Bridgeport Hospital.

To my new colleagues, welcome! We look forward to working together to provide access to high-value, patient-centered care. We welcome your expertise, talent and input and please know that we are committed to maintaining representation from Milford on Bridgeport Hospital’s Medical Executive Committee and medical staff committees.

I am confident that together, we will become a vigorous, forward-looking hospital – one that will honor the history and culture of Milford Hospital and add to its impressive legacy, while bringing additional expertise to Bridgeport Hospital.

Thank you for your support in reaching this milestone. As this journey continues, we thank you for what you do each and every day for the patients and families we are privileged to serve.

Ryan O’Connell, MD, Interim Chief Medical Officer

It’s Official!

Leaders from Milford and Bridgeport hospitals joined for the signing ceremony. (l-r) are: Richard D’Aquila, president, YNHH and YNHHS; Gina Galder, lead administrator, Milford Campus; Mark Toney, interim president and CEO of (former) Milford Hospital; and Michael Ivy, MD, interim president and CEO of Bridgeport Hospital; and Marna P. Borgstrom, CEO, YNHH and YNHHS.

After nearly a year of planning, diligence and hard work has paid off. At 12:01 am on June 9, Milford Hospital became a fully integrated campus of Bridgeport Hospital, a member of Yale New Haven Health. While major changes will continue, patients at both Bridgeport Hospital campuses will continue to receive the quality and compassionate care they have come to rely on.

Moving forward, Yale New Haven Health intends to develop the Milford Campus of Bridgeport Hospital into a vibrant, state-of-the-art community hospital and center for gerontologic health, staffed with clinicians who have the requisite geriatric competencies to care for an aging population based upon the patient’s goals, preferences and values. This new campus will not only invigorate healthcare services in the Milford community, but it will also invigorate the community as a whole.

YNHHS will make significant investments in the Milford Campus infrastructure including capital improvements, expansion of clinical service lines and the implementation of the Epic electronic medical record system allowing for enhanced data sharing among providers.
More than 80 Bridgeport Hospital physicians on “Best Doctors” list

A total of 82 Bridgeport Hospital-affiliated physicians and close to 400 from across Yale New Haven Health have been selected by their state colleagues for Connecticut Magazine's 2019-2020 Best Doctors in America list. The list is compiled by Best Doctors, which undertakes a peer-to-peer survey every two years.

The “Best Doctors” issue features close to 800 physicians representing more than 30 specialties. Physicians affiliated with Yale New Haven Health represent half of the total list. For a list of the Bridgeport Hospital doctors named in this year’s “Best Doctors” issue, visit bridgeporthospital.org/news-media.aspx. To access the complete Top Doctors list, visit connecticutmag.com.

Bridgeport Hospital launches new CME website

Bridgeport Hospital recently launched the new Continuing Medical Education (CME) website. The upgraded site contains information on CME policies and workflows, plus provides access to planning and documentation forms. The site is available at bridgeporthospital.org/medical-professionals/cme.aspx.

General information for medical professionals at Bridgeport Hospital, including access to the Reeves Health Sciences Library site and Graduate Medical Education (GME) information, may be found at bridgeporthospital.org/medical-professionals.aspx.

If you have any questions regarding the information on the sites, contact Todd Lane, chief, Library and Multimedia Services at 203-384-3615 or todd.lane@ynhh.org.

Harris Jacobs, MD, to retire

Harris Jacobs, MD, chair of Pediatrics at Bridgeport Hospital and administrative director of Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital (YNHCH) at Bridgeport, will retire effective Dec. 31. In addition to his career as a neonatologist, Dr. Jacobs has served as leader of the Bridgeport Hospital pediatric community for 10 years and was an active contributor to the establishment of a second YNHCH inpatient campus in 2012.

Conference focuses on the power of storytelling to make a difference in health care

Approximately 1,400 people from across Yale New Haven Health, Yale Medicine and Yale University attended the 2019 Safety, Quality and Experience Conference June 5 at the Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford. Following the theme, “The Power of Storytelling,” speakers framed their shared presentations around personal experiences, events and interactions.

Guest speakers included Lucy Kalanithi, MD, the widow of the late Paul Kalanithi, MD, author of the bestselling memoir, When Breath Becomes Air. Dr. Lucy Kalanithi wrote the book’s epilogue. Other speakers were Michael Englesbe, MD, director of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan-supported Michigan Surgical Quality Collaborative and co-director of the Michigan Opioid Prescribing and Engagement Network; and Matthew Dicks, founder and artistic director of SpeakUp, a Hartford-based storytelling organization.

The conference showcased more than 50 juried project initiatives that addressed best practices in clinical redesign, general performance improvement, patient experience and patient safety.

The Safety, Quality and Experience Conference aligned the Joseph A. Zaccagnino Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Conference with the Yale Medicine Quality and Safety Symposium and the YNHHS Patient Experience Conference for a dynamic day of learning and collaboration.

Newsletter submissions

Deadline for submission for the August 2019 issue of Medical Staff News is Friday, July 19. Please submit items to Ryan O’Connell, MD, at ryan.o’connell@bpthosp.org or Myra Stanley at myra.stanley@ynhh.org.
Dr. Tuohy named Physician of the Year

Congratulations to Edward Tuohy, MD, Interventional Cardiology, for receiving Bridgeport Hospital’s Physician of the Year Award. Part of the medical staff for 15 years, Dr. Tuohy was selected for his commitment to high-quality patient care and the outstanding feedback he has received from patients, their families and his colleagues.

In presenting the award during the annual Physician Leadership Summit at the Milford Yacht Club, Ryan O’Connell, MD, interim chief medical officer, recalled one occasion involving a heart attack patient that typified Dr. Tuohy’s compassion and skill.

“He sprang into action, using every possible intervention available,” Dr. O’Connell said. “When it became clear that the patient could only receive the necessary care in New Haven, he accompanied the patient there to continue to coordinate his care. He spoke with the patient’s wife countless times in a caring, thoughtful and professional way.”

Dr. Tuohy said he was honored to be chosen for the award. “There are so many spectacular physicians, mentors and colleagues who have received this distinction. To get it is overwhelming, to say the least.”

CT Food Bank comes to Bridgeport Hospital

Beginning in May, the Connecticut Food Bank added Bridgeport Hospital as one of their monthly mobile food pantry sites. The mission of Connecticut Food Bank is to provide nutritious food to people in need.

One of the ways they distribute food is through their mobile food pantry truck. This truck makes monthly stops at locations throughout their service area. The truck will be parked behind the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing building on the third Tuesday of every month and will distribute food from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. This program is available to all those in need, including Bridgeport Hospital patients, families and neighbors from the surrounding community.

Please promote this opportunity with staff, patients, visitors and community members. For more information, or a copy of the program flyer, contact Gina Smith, 203-384-3946 or gina.smith@ynhh.org.

Medical Staff Executive Committee
May 6, 2019

Michael Ivy, MD, interim president and CEO: March operating margin beat the budget and last year’s results, with a healthy $4.0 million margin when non-operating results are included. Outpatient is doing very well. Cash on hand is very solid at 118 days. Net operating margin percentage at 7.8 percent is the best in the system. Hence as long as the redistribution formula for the provider tax is not altered, it benefits BH. The length of stay is stubbornly high at 5.88. This is in part due to increased observations (those very short stay patients don’t count in admitted numbers), and due to more surgery being done as outpatient.

A significant factor to the high length of stay at 5.47 is the fact that at the greater than 95 percent occupancy the hospital is experiencing, inefficiency is inevitable. Problems at St. Vincent’s have contributed to the increased volume at BH. Hartford HealthCare is reportedly going to invest $100 million in St. Vincent’s over seven years.

Ryan O’Connell, MD, interim chief medical officer: Associate Chairs for Milford campus: Dr. Ferrigno identified Dr. Rich Greiner, the current chair of Emergency Medicine at Milford. Dr. Greiner, a former Navy Seal platoon commander, is well-known to the ED at BH, having worked there in the past. Dr. Buller identified Dr. Robert Lewis, who is the current chair of Medicine at Milford, and a well-respected cardiologist. Dr. Atweh identified Dr. David Esposito, a vascular surgeon who has served as the chair of Surgery at Milford. The MSEC unanimously approved these appointments.

Dr. Darcy Harris of the nominating committee will review physicians from Milford who might serve as a representative to the MSEC. Dr. Vijay Chhabra, the current president of the Milford Hospital staff, and an enthusiastic, vocal advocate of the integration, has been suggested. The Health System as a whole will invest roughly $65 million over several years in Milford. Marketing is definitely part of the plan.

Sheikh Hoq, MD, interim vice president, Performance and Risk Management: Presented the Quality and Safety scorecard. Doing very well on CAUTI, C. difficile and RL event classification. Opportunities remain in CLABSI, colon and hysterectomy infections.

Caregivers honored by patients

The Bridgeport Hospital Foundation announced the following clinical staff members were recognized by patients in May with a gift to the Honor Your Caregiver program: Michele Attard, LMT (two gifts in her honor); Bridgeport Hospital Cardiac Rehab Fairfield Staff; Bridgeport Hospital Northeast 7 and Northwest 7 Nurses; Ceasar Irby, Jr., DPM; Andrew Kenler, MD; Julia Lisi, RN; Joseph Petreyck; Edward Pinto, MD; Ari Pollack, MD; Marianne Scofield, RN; Edward Tuohy, MD; Lizz Watts, PCT.
New Physicians

Lazaruz Onwuka, DO
Medicine/Hospital Medicine
Gaylord Specialty Healthcare (NEMG)
50 Gaylord Farm Road, Wallingford, CT 06492
Phone: 203-284-2800
Medical School: New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Glean Head, NY
Residency: Family Practice, Peconic Bay Medical Center/Northwell Health, Riverhead, NY
Board Certification: American Osteopathic Board

Joseph J. Cavallo, MD
Diagnostic Radiology
YUSM Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging
320 Cedar St., New Haven, CT 06520
Phone: 203-785-6263
Medical School: Stony Brook University School of Medicine
Residency: Healthcare Leadership/Emergency, YNHH, New Haven, CT
Fellowship: YNHH, New Haven CT

Krishna Kilaru, MD
Internal Medicine/Hospitalist
Northeast Medical Center
267 Grant St., Bridgeport, CT 06610
Phone: 203-384-4677
Medical School: MediCiti Institute of Medical Sciences, Ghanpur, India
Residency: Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow, NY

Christine Colton, MD
Radiology Department
YUSM Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging
789 Howard Ave., New Haven, CT
Phone: 203-785-5913
Residency: Radiology, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Fellowship: Neuroradiology, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL
Board Certification: American Board of Radiology

Mary Murray, MD
Obstetrics/Gynecology
Southern CT Women’s Health Care, P.C.
247 Broad St., Milford, CT 06460
Phone: 203-783-0543
Medical School: Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA
Residency: Family Medicine, Ob/Gyn; Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA
Board Certification: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Curtis Campbell, MD
Surgery/Ortho & Rehab
The Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center
888 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT 06611
Phone: 203-268-2882
Medical School: Loyola University Chicago, Maywood, IL
Residency: Rutgers – New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ
Fellowship: Total Joint Arthroplasty, Steadman Hawkins Clinics of the Carolinas, Greenville, SC
Board Certification: American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery

John Kunstman, MD
Surgery/General Surgery
Smilow Cancer Hospital, YNHH
35 South Frontage Road, New Haven, CT 06510
Phone: 203-283-3577
Medical School: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine General Surgery, YNHH, New Haven CT
Residency: General Surgery, YNHH, New Haven CT
Fellowship: Complex General Surgical Oncology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Board Certification: American Board of Orthopedic Surgery

Daniel Lavy, MD
Surgery/General Surgery
PACT Surgical Specialists
2200 Whitney Ave, Suite 220, Hamden, CT 06518
Phone: 203-283-7000
Medical School: Ross University, Roseau, Dominica
Internship: General Surgery, Harrisburg Hospital/Pinnacle Health, Long Branch, NJ
Fellowship: Colon and Rectal Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Florida, Weston, FL
Board Certification: American Board of Surgery

Hot Topics

The next Hot Topics breakfast will be Monday, July 8, 7:30 - 9 am in the Medical Staff Lounge. The speaker will be Keith Churchwell, senior vice president and executive director, YNHH Heart and Vascular and Transplantation Services and Francine LoRusso, vice president, Patient Services, YNHH Heart and Vascular and Transplantation.