From the desk of the CMO

I’d like to open this month by congratulating Kristin Edwards, MD, on her appointment as medical director of Physician Wellness at Bridgeport Hospital. Kristin has been very involved in promoting physician wellbeing for a number of years, and my goal is to enthusiastically support this work however I can!

It’s also important to me to share with you some results of the pulse survey of medical staff conducted in May and June. Overall, the results were positive for Bridgeport Hospital Medical Staff, with above average scores for engagement, and even better scores for alignment, compared with many thousands of physicians across the country. We are in the process of sharing departmental results with our chairs, and I am asking them to share those results with all of you in more detail than I can provide here. We are reviewing comments in depth, as we know there are many areas into which we can incorporate your feedback for making improvements.

Additionally, across the health system, we are encouraging the use of the Yale CME website to access courses that meet the State of Connecticut’s requirement for continuing education required of all licensed physicians. Please see “Reminder: CME made easy and accessible” in this issue for details on how to register for classes, or you are welcome to contact me for instructions on how to access the content. Of course, there are other ways to meet the CME requirement, such as through FCMA, CSMS, or certain Grand Rounds, and I’d encourage you to use whichever way is easiest for you.

Finally, I’ll share some additional good news—it is no longer necessary to have an annual PPD in order to maintain medical staff membership and privileges! We do still require PPD placement and interpretation upon joining the medical staff, but unless there is an exposure or concern for conversion, this would be a one-time occurrence.

Again, thank you for all that you do each day to make Bridgeport Hospital a great hospital. Happy autumn!

Ryan O’Connell, MD, Interim Chief Medical Officer

YNHHS prepares for flu season and mandatory vaccination

With the 2019-2020 influenza season approaching, members of the medical staff are expected to lead our organization’s efforts in improving patient safety by demonstrating their commitment to receive the flu vaccine and promoting vaccination for patients, colleagues and family. The flu vaccination program continues to be mandatory at Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale New Haven hospitals, as well as NEMG. All employees at these organizations must receive an annual flu vaccination as a condition of continued employment, and medical staff members must receive it in order to maintain privileges.

The deadline to receive flu vaccination is December 1, 2019. If you have a bona fide medical or religious reason why you cannot receive the flu vaccine and are employed by Bridgeport, Greenwich or Yale New Haven hospitals or NEMG, you must formally request an exemption by Sept. 30 (for medical exemptions) or Oct. 31 (for religious exemptions) through the Human Resources process. Medical staff who are not employed by one of these organizations and who would like to request an exemption must do so via a survey link that will be distributed by email in the late fall.

Members of the medical staff are encouraged to receive the flu vaccine at flu clinics scheduled at all YNHHS hospitals this fall. Watch your email and the medical staff newsletter for a schedule of flu vaccine locations and times in October. Flu vaccination at all Yale New Haven Health flu fairs is free for all employees, volunteers and medical staff. If you opt to be vaccinated anywhere other than at a Yale New Haven Health flu vaccination clinic, you will be asked to attest to having done so via a survey that will be distributed by email in the late fall.

Please do not drop off documents, records, notes, etc. at your local hospital medical staff department location.
Evaluation and Management of Fatty Liver Disease and Obesity: Clinical Update

Learn about the latest in clinical management and advances in the management of fatty liver disease and patients with obesity on Saturday, Oct. 5, 11 am - 3 pm at the Mystic Hilton. CME credit available for eligible attendees.

This free event is hosted in partnership with the American Liver Foundation and the Yale Fatty Liver Disease Program. RSVP is required. Lunch will be provided. For more information and to RSVP, contact Antonio Trombino at antonio.trombino@westerlyhospital.org or email liver.health@yale.edu.

Graduate Medical Education Quality Award

Mark McFarland, MD (PGY 3, Medicine) – recognized by a nurse manager for giving excellent care to her family member and going above and beyond to communicate with her about his care. At the time, the MICU was very busy with several complex cardiac cases, but Dr. McFarland still managed to coordinate with specialists and provide support for the patient’s family. When the patient, who was terminally ill, expressed that he preferred to return to his home, Dr. McFarland facilitated his discharge to accommodate his request.

Caregivers honored by patients

The Bridgeport Hospital Foundation announced the following clinical staff members were recognized by patients in July and August with a gift to the Honor Your Caregiver program: Michele Attard, LMT (seven gifts in her honor); Bridgeport Hospital Emergency Department Nurses; Bridgeport Hospital Geriatric Psych Unit (NE8); Bridgeport Hospital Northeast 7 Nurses; Bridgeport Hospital West Tower 7 Oncology Staff; Marcy Furano, LMT (two gifts in her honor); Mary Jones, RN; Gulden Menderes, MD; Edward Pinto, MD; Marguerite Pinto, MD.

October 30 Bogin Lectures to focus on autism

Autism is the subject of the 42nd annual Maxwell Bogin, MD, Lectures in Pediatrics presented by the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation and the Bridgeport campus of Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital, Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 8 am - 2 pm, at the Trumbull Marriott.

Topics and speakers, all from Yale School of Medicine, include:
- Early Markers of Core and Comorbid Features of Autism, Katarzyna Chawarska, PhD
- Diagnosis and Clinical Management of Autism, Kelly Powell, PhD
- The Changing Face of Autism: A Developmental Perspective, Fred Volkmar, MD

CME credits will be offered to all eligible attendees. To register by phone, please call 888-357-2396 and select “1” for events or visit bridgeporthospital.org/events.

Unleash your inner innovator!

YNHHS employees and physicians are invited to the Center for Health Care Innovation’s first HealthTech Forum, 8 am - 3 pm Tuesday, Nov. 5, Zhang Auditorium, Yale School of Management, 165 Whitney Ave., New Haven. The event, also open to staff, researchers, faculty and student teams at Yale University, along with members of the community, seeks to lower the barrier to healthcare innovation and help the next group of innovators translate their ideas into solutions that reshape the healthcare experience.

The forum will include education programming featuring insights on innovation and entrepreneurship from YNHH leaders, area investors and healthcare entrepreneurs, and a pitch competition for innovators to present their healthcare innovation ideas to a panel of judges for a chance to win a prize.

To learn more about the pitch competition and submit an application, visit ynhhs.org/HealthTechForum. Applications are due by Sept. 28. To attend the education program, pitch event or both, register by Nov. 5 at ynhhs.org/HealthTechForum. Email innovation@ynhh.org if you have questions about the event and competition.
New Physicians

Thomas Eisen, MD  
Medicine/Nephrology  
Metabolism Associates  
136 Sherman Ave., New Haven, CT 06511  
Phone: 404-787-0117  
Medical School: New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY  
Residency: Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, TX  
Fellowship: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Christopher Thomas Erb, MD  
Medicine/Pulmonology/Tele ICU  
YUSM Pulmonology/Critical Care  
1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT  
Phone: 203-688-4748  
Medical School: University of Illinois at Urbana College of Medicine, Urbana, IL  
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Fellowship: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

David Esposito, MD  
Surgery/Vascular  
20 Commerce Park Drive, Milford, CT 06490  
Phone: 203-876-9720  
Medical School: Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC  
Residency: Rush Medical Center, Chicago, IL  
Fellowship: Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, NC  
Board Certification: American Board of Surgery

Omar Faridi, MD  
Surgery/Ophthalmology  
Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
202 Cherry St., Milford, CT 06460  
Phone: 203-876-1236  
Medical School: Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA  
Residency: William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI  
Fellowship: New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, New York, NY  
Board Certification: American Board of Ophthalmology

Paul Xiaoebi Fu, MD  
Medicine/Tele ICU  
YUSM Pulmonology/Critical Care  
1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT  
Phone: 203-688-4748  
Medical School: Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI  
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Board Certification: American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

Filipe Lopez Gonzalez, MD  
Medicine/Pulmonology Tele ICU  
YUSM Pulmonology/Critical Care  
1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT  
Phone: 203-688-4748  
Medical School: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia  
Residency: Hospital of Saint Raphael, New Haven, CT  
Fellowship: Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk, CT; Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Ludmilla Gustave-Coupet, MD  
Emergency Medicine  
Bridgeport Hospital  
300 Seaside Ave., Milford, CT 06450  
Phone: 203-384-3566  
Medical School: University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, NJ  
Residency: Jacobi Medical Center, Bronx, NY  
Board Certification: American Board of Emergency Medicine

Joni Hansson, MD  
Medicine/Nephrology  
Metabolism Associates  
136 Sherman Ave., New Haven, CT 06511  
Phone: 404-787-0117  
Medical School: Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT  
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Fellowship: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine/Nephrology

Dean Har, MD  
Medicine/Primary Care  
Dean Har, MD  
2080 Bridgeport Ave., Suite B, Milford, CT 06460  
Phone: 404-298-9191  
Medical School: Stony Brook University Medical School, Stony Brook, NY  
Residency: Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY  
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Asma Iftikhar, MD  
Medicine/Hospital Medicine  
Bridgeport Hospital  
300 Seaside Ave., Milford, CT 06450  
Phone: 203-384-3566  
Medical School: Pennsylvania College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA  
Residency: Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine  
Board Certification: American Board of Podiatric Surgery/Ankle-Foot Surgery

David Novicki, MD  
Surgery/Podiatry  
Milford Podiatry Associates, P.C.  
202 Cherry St., Milford, CT 06460  
Phone: 203-874-6755  
Medical School: Pennsylvania College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA  
Residency: Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine  
Board Certification: American Board of Podiatric Surgery/Ankle-Foot Surgery

Aydin Uzun Pinar, MD  
Medicine/Pulmonology Tele ICU  
YUSM Pulmonology/Critical Care  
1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT  
Phone: 203-688-4748  
Medical School: Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey  
Residency: Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey; University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
Fellowship: University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT  
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Martin Pressman, MD  
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Medical School: Pennsylvania College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA  
Residency: Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine  
Board Certification: American Board of Podiatric Surgery

Nadim Ramadan, MD  
Surgery/Podiatry  
Reconstruction Foot Surgeon, LLC  
228 New Haven Ave., Milford, CT 06460  
Phone: 203-701-0252  
Medical School: Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA  
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Board Certification: American Board of Podiatric Surgery/Ankle-Foot Surgery
New Physicians

Jean Paul Hugueno Sevilla, MD
Medicine/Tele ICU
NEMG-YNHH Hospital Med
20 York St., New Haven, CT
Phone: 203-688-4748
Medical School: Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Residency: Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL
Fellowship: Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Steven Saunders, MD
Medicine/Primary Care
849 Boston Post Road, Suite 102, Milford, CT 06460
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Medical School: University of Pennsylvania
Residency: New York Langone Medical Center, New York, NY
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Mark Schoenfeld, MD
Medicine/Cardiology
Arrhythmia Center of Connecticut
330 Orchard St., New Haven, CT 06511
Phone: 203-867-5400
Medical School: Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
Residency: Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Fellowship: Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

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OBGYN/Gynecology
Milford Ob-Gyn Physicians, PC
309 Seaside Ave., Suite 203-204, Milford, CT 06460
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Medical School: University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL
Residency: Jackson-Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL
Board Certification: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Tania Sierra, MD
OBGYN/Urogynecology
Urological Associates of Bridgeport
150 Hawley Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611
Phone: 203-375-3456
Medical School: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
Residency: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
Fellowship: University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA
Board Certification: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Jonathan Siner, MD
Medicine/Pulmonology Tele ICU
YUSM Pulmonology/Critical Care
1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT
Phone: 203-688-4748
Medical School: University of Pittsburgh
Residency: Hospital of University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Fellowship: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

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YUSM Dept. of Radiology
333 Cedar St., New Haven, CT
Phone: 203-785-5253
Medical School: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
Residency: Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, NY
Fellowship: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Muhammad Ali Syed, MD
Medicine/Pulmonology Tele ICU
YUSM Pulmonology/Critical Care
1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT
Phone: 203-688-4748
Medical School: Hamdard College of Medicine and Dentistry, Karachi, Pakistan
Residency: John Stroger Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, IL
Fellowship: Miriam Hospital, Providence, RI
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

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YUSM Dept. of Radiology
333 Cedar St., New Haven, CT
Phone: 203-785-2358
Medical School: Albany Medical College, Albany, NY
Residency: Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY
Fellowship: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Board Certification: American Board of Radiology/Diagnostic Radiology

Brian Trezak, MD
Internal Medicine/Hospitalist
Northeast Medical Group
267 Grant St., Bridgeport, CT 06610
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Medical School: SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse, Syracuse, NY
Residency: Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Board Certification: American Board of Orthopedic Surgery

Venu Madhav Velagapudi, MD
Anesthesiology Department
Integrated Anesthesia Associates
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Phone: 203-688-4748
Medical School: Guntur Medical College, Guntur, India
Residency: University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA
Fellowship: University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA; Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Lansheng Wang, MD
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Board Certification: American Board of Anesthesiology

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Medical School: Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, IL
Residency: Emory University/Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, GA
Fellowship: University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Board Certification: American Board of Emergency Medicine

Dino George Zacharakos, MD
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2 Trap Falls Road, Suite 414, Shelton, CT 06484
Phone: 203-929-7353
Medical School: Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine, Rootstown, OH
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Fellowship: Yale University, New Haven, CT
Board Certification: American Board of Anesthesiology
RSVP for lecture on caring for the elderly patient

Primary care clinicians are invited to join Mary Tinetti, MD, chief of Geriatrics, Yale School of Medicine, when she presents, “Moving the Focus from the Disease to the Patient,” on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Dr. Tinetti, recognized as a leading expert on fall risk among the elderly, will discuss caring for the older patient. The presentation will also touch on helping identify a patient’s priorities in their care and how to provide the care they wish to receive.

The event, sponsored by YNHHS, will take place at Amarante’s Sea Cliff, 62 Cove St., New Haven from 6 - 8 pm. Hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served. CME credits are available to eligible clinicians.

To attend, RSVP at https://tinetticipophealth.eventbrite.com and use the password: CIPopHealth. For more information, contact Via Abolencia, program specialist, Clinical Integration, at via.abolencia@ynhh.org.
New Physicians

Augustine Andoh-Duku, MD
Medicine/Hospital Medicine
Bridgeport Hospital
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Phone: 203-384-3566
Medical School: Kwame Nkrumah School of Medical Science, Kumasi, Ghana
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Fellowship: St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Brighton, MA; Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, GA
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Harvey Armel, MD
Surgery/Urology
140 Clark St., Milford, CT 06460
Phone: 203-882-1288
Medical School: SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
Residency: SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
Board Certification: American Board of Urology

Dana Simone Assis, MD
Medicine/Nephrology
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Medical School: Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
Residency: Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein, Bronx, NY
Fellowship: New York Langone Medical Center, New York, NY
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Thelma Batiancila, MD
Medicine/Family Medicine
West Haven Medical Group
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Phone: 203-209-9130
Medical School: Cebu Institute of Medicine, Cebu City, Philippines
Residency: Hospital of Saint Raphael, New Haven, CT
Fellowship: Hospital of Saint Raphael, New Haven, CT
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Gioiamaria Boria Berna, MD
Medicine/Pulmonology Tele ICU
YUSM Pulmonology/Critical Care
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Medical School: Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, PA
Residency: St. Vincent’s Hospital, New York, NY
Fellowship: St. Vincent’s Hospital, New York, NY
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

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Medical School: Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Medical College, Pune, India
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Fellowship: Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY
Board Certification: American Board of Anesthesiology

Hugh Carey, MD
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Medical School: New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY
Residency: Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, TX
Fellowship: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

Sue Chang, MD
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Metabolism Associates
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Medical School: Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Fellowship: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine

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Medical School: Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston Salem, NC
Residency: Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Board Certification: American Board of Emergency Medicine