

# centralline

A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEDICAL STAFF OF THE HOSPITAL OF CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

## Your input welcomed on physician satisfaction survey

By Steven D. Hanks, M.D., MMM, FACP, executive vice president & chief medical officer of The Hospital of Central Connecticut



It's that time again, when we're asking you to take a few minutes to help us better help you and your patients by completing our biannual

physician satisfaction survey, administered by Press Ganey. An oft-quoted maxim of those who specialize in helping hospitals determine where they can make improvements is "don't ask if you're not prepared to do anything." As with previous physician satisfaction surveys, The Hospital of Central Connecticut stands ready to respond to physician concerns and suggestions, but we need you to take the time to offer your critiques, good, bad or indifferent.

Many positive changes were implemented following our last survey in 2009. Among the many changes were an extensive re-engineering of laboratory workforce hours to allow for earlier results availability for inpatients; expanded avenues for communication with the medical staff; establishment of a quarterly

luncheon series for your practice managers; establishment of a preoperative center to reduce delays in surgery start times. The point is, we value your collective voice and the physician satisfaction survey helps us fine tune our efforts toward improvements.

As with earlier surveys, you can complete the survey either online or via paper. By now, each member of the active medical staff should have received a communication that included an introductory letter with instructions to complete the survey, along with a personal identification number (PIN) and a paper survey with a preaddressed postage paid return envelope. For those who wish to complete the survey electronically, go to <https://esurvey.pressganey.com> and when prompted, enter your 16-character PIN. If you did not receive or have lost the survey, contact Physician Liaison Michelle Osipowicz at [mospowicz@thocc.org](mailto:mospowicz@thocc.org) or call her at 860-839-9517, and she'll provide you with your PIN, or get you a copy of the paper survey if you prefer. The survey will close Oct. 20, and results will be back to us early December, so please take the time now to assure your perspective is included.

## Hospital's Cancer Center earns accreditation

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons has granted Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation to The Hospital of Central Connecticut Cancer Center.

A facility receives this recognition following an on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor during which the facility demonstrates a Commendation level of compliance with one or more standards representing the cancer program's scope. Standards include cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach, and quality improvement.

"This Accreditation with Commendation demonstrates the continuing excellence of the hospital's cancer program," said Peter D. Bye, M.D., medical director, HCCC George Bray Cancer Center. "It is also reflective of the strong commitment and compassion of hospital staff who work as a team to care for cancer patients in our community."

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## High-tech video system for ORs

A new video integration system for New Britain General campus Main ORs allows staff to instantly retrieve and display different images during surgeries, including patients' CT scans, microscope images and other visuals.

By the end of September, all nine ORs were expected to have the system, which includes a central console and three flat-screen monitors in each OR. A staff member – usually the circulating nurse – uses a touch screen to call up whichever images the surgeon needs and displays them on one or more monitors. The system also allows staff to take photographs or video of procedures that can be used for training or other medical purposes.

“This system will enhance patient care by making information instantly available to surgeons and other OR staff,” says Carol Sparks, R.N., senior director of Perioperative Services. “It will also help us stay competitive in a high-tech market.”

The video integration system is one of several OR improvements under way. Each OR will also get new LED lights that are cooler, save energy and have bulbs that can last over 10 years. Structural improvements in the ORs include new columns in each room that can store equipment, making better use of space.



William H. Seymour Jr., anesthesia/OR equipment tech, shows Arleen Ellison, R.N., how to use the new OR video integration system. Behind them in the photo are new LED lights to be installed in all the New Britain ORs.

## Center for Bariatric Surgery earns national accreditation

The Hospital of Central Connecticut's Center for Bariatric Surgery has been accredited as a Level 1 facility by the Bariatric Surgery Center Network (BSCN) Accreditation Program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

This achievement means The Hospital of Central Connecticut's (HOCC's) bariatric surgery center has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality care for its patients. Accredited centers provide the hospital resources necessary for optimal care of morbidly obese patients, along with support and resources to address the entire spectrum of care and needs of bariatric patients, from the pre-hospital phase through postoperative care and treatment. For ACS BSCN accreditation, each hospital undergoes an on-site verification by experienced bariatric surgeons, who review the center's structure, process, and quality of data.

“We're very pleased to earn ACS BSCN accreditation, which recognizes the high level of care we provide, the expertise of our staff and the comprehensiveness of our program,” says Carlos Barba, M.D., FACS, bariatric surgeon

and medical director of HOCC's Center for Bariatric Surgery.

In June the hospital was designated a Center of Excellence® by the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery.

In addition to bariatric surgeons, the Center for Bariatric Surgery is staffed by a bariatric coordinator, registered dietitians, behavioral psychologists, nurses, and clinical exercise physiologists. HOCC offers Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, gastric banding and sleeve gastrectomy.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has recognized HOCC's Center for Bariatric Surgery and allows expanded Medicare coverage of bariatric surgery for beneficiaries of all ages who have been diagnosed with other obesity-related health problems. Medicare coverage has been limited to procedures performed in facilities certified by the American College of Surgeons or the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery.

Center for Bariatric Surgery and Weigh Your Options programs are at 11 South Road, Suite 130, Farmington. For information, call 1-866-668-5070 or visit [www.thocc.org](http://www.thocc.org).

## New 64-slice CT scanner in ED: faster exams, less radiation

The Hospital of Central Connecticut's (HOCC's) Emergency Department (ED) has acquired a new 64-slice CT scanner specifically designed to offer a quick exam that yields superior image quality and significantly less radiation.

"This new scanner is faster and also reduces radiation exposure to the patient by 30 to 50 percent to the patient, depending on the study," says Jeffrey Finkelstein, M.D., FACEP, chief of emergency medicine and CMIO.

While the radiation dose is comparably lower in the new GE Healthcare scanner, its images are "the equivalent high quality image that we've always produced," says Joe Vaccarelli, HOCC's administrative director for laboratory and radiology services. The 64-slice scanner employs GE's latest advancement in dose reduction.

Joel Gelber, M.D., associate chief of Radiology, notes the patient value of limiting radiation exposure from radiology tests, including CT scans, over a lifetime. "It's especially important to try and minimize radiation in children and young adults," Gelber says.

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Using laser lights as a guide, radiologic technologist Christine Chiu, R.T.(R)(CT), can center patients for CT scans.

In the Emergency Department's CT scan control room, (at right) Chiu can precisely correlate which part of the anatomy is to receive a CT scan.



## Surgery at HOCC corrects large abdominal wall hernias

For patients with very large abdominal wall hernias, often an outcome of abdominal wall sepsis, corrective surgery is offered at The Hospital of Central Connecticut.

Traditionally, such patients would have only a skin graft over the abdominal opening. A procedure at HOCC, lateral component separation, releases fascia which allows the midline defect to close.

General surgeon Terrence Donahue, M.D., says the procedure can be done for hernias up to 20 cm using a minimally invasive approach to release one layer of fascia on the far side of each abdomen. This triggers release of all three fascia layers. Over the hernia is placed an infection-resistant biological mesh that grows into the abdominal wall, adding strength to the fascial repair. The

mesh "becomes part of the scaffolding of the abdominal wall," says Donahue.

The pulled fascia and skin cover the graft and the opening is sutured. The mesh eventually dissolves.

Other causes of large abdominal wall hernias include untreated spontaneous hernia, post-surgical hernia or congenital defects.

A two- to four-day inpatient stay follows surgery and recovery is two to six weeks. Other HOCC surgeons who perform the procedure include M.D.s Carlos Barba, Robert Napoletano, Michael Posner and Rekhinder Singh.

Donahue says the surgery is "a huge benefit to the patient," adding, "They can lead a much more normal life."

## NEWSnotes

### Carey named physician education specialist.



**Jenifer Carey, CPC-H**, has joined the hospital's Physician Relations Department as physician education specialist. In this role she is a coding and documentation resource for physicians and reviews physicians' coding and documentation toward maintaining HOCC compliance and documentation requirements. Most recently, Carey was in the hospital's department of Internal Audit and Compliance. Carey, a certified professional coder, is based at the New Britain General campus and can be reached via 860-224-5900 X6520 or [jcarey@thocc.org](mailto:jcarey@thocc.org).

### Lundbye a "40 under 40" winner.

**Justin Lundbye, M.D.**, director, Division of Cardiology, was recently named one of *Hartford Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 winners. Lundbye is also medical director of Hartford Hospital's Cardiac ICU and director of the hospital's inpatient cardiology services and cardiology hospitalist program.

**DOCC adds neurology practice.** The Doctors of Central Connecticut (DOCC), the medical practice affiliated with The Hospital of Central Connecticut, recently opened DOCC Neurology Southington at 51 North Main St., Suite 3C, Southington (860-621-1896). Staff neurologists are **Philip A. Micalizzi Jr., M.D.**, and **Timothy Parson, M.D.** Parsons is medical director of HOCC's Stroke Unit and a neurology hospitalist. Micalizzi's primary practice is at 3180 Main St., #302, Bridgeport.

**Physician Reception Oct. 20.** The 6:30 p.m. reception will be held in the Wagon Wheel Room at Aqua Turf, Plantsville, and will pair French foods and fine wines. Invitations have been mailed.

**The 2011 Chrysanthemum Ball Nov. 5.** The event, presented by the Auxiliary at the New Britain General campus and The Hospital of Central Connecticut, will be held at 6 p.m. at the Aqua Turf Country Club, Plantsville. Proceeds will benefit the hospital's new Cancer Center. Invitations have been mailed to medical staff members

**ONE: HOCC part of state pilot program testing electronic lab reporting.** The Hospital of Central Connecticut (HOCC) is one of three sites working with the state in a pilot program for electronic reporting of laboratory test results. The state Department of Public Health chose HOCC to participate in the pilot, which was scheduled to launch last month. Electronic lab reporting is part of the hospital's ONE initiative, which will change the way we use technology to improve care quality, safety and efficiency. HOCC's Lab is piloting the Cerner HealthSentry system, designed to streamline reporting of certain information to local, state and federal governments. This information may include incidence of certain diseases, which would allow the government to track any outbreaks in geographic areas. To meet HIPAA standards and protect patient privacy, HealthSentry automatically extracts and reports only government-required information from patients' electronic health records.

**Joslin diabetes education program recognized.** The American Diabetes Association recently awarded continued education recognition of the diabetes self-management program to the Joslin Diabetes Center Affiliate at The Hospital of Central Connecticut. Recognition, valid for four years, assures that approved patient education programs meet National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs. Joslin staff members teach patients with diabetes self-care skills as part of their treatment plans. The Joslin education program at HOCC was originally recognized in 1999. Educational topics covered at Joslin include the diabetes disease process; nutritional management; physical activity; medications; blood glucose monitoring and use of results; foot, skin and dental care; and prevention, detection and treatment of acute and long-term complications. Joslin instructors include certified diabetes educators, an exercise physiologist and a social worker. The Affiliate has three offices, at the hospital's New Britain General and Bradley Memorial campuses, and 11 South Road, Farmington.

**Hospital a participant in breast health care quality initiative.** HOCC has been recognized by the National Consortium of Breast Centers as a certified participant of the National Quality Measures for Breast Centers™ (NQMBC) Program. This recognition is indicative of the hospital's commitment to providing the highest level of quality breast health care to patients in its community and signifies its aim to become a Certified Quality Breast Center of

Excellence. As a participant, the hospital is part of a national quality documentation program and will, among other objectives aim to perform above the 25th percentile for more than 30 National Quality Indicators™ as established by the NQMCB. After fulfilling these certification requirements, the hospital would then be a Certified Quality Breast Center. HOCC would then strive for the highest certification level, Certified Quality Breast Center of Excellence.

**Golf tournament raises over \$80,000 for hospital.** The 21st annual golf tournament held by the Hospital of Central Connecticut Auxiliaries at Bradley Memorial and New Britain General in June raised \$83,000 for the hospital. Proceeds from the June 7 tournament will go toward the purchase of intravenous Smart Pumps at both campuses. Smart Pumps deliver precise doses of medications intravenously to patients and can help protect patient safety and enhance care.

**Upcoming American Red Cross blood drives at HCC.** Blood drives at the New Britain General campus are set for Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1 to 6 p.m. (LR 1 and 2); Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30 a.m. to noon (LR 1 and 2); and Wednesday, Dec. 28, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To sign up for a blood drive or learn of other American Red Cross blood drive locations, go to [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Donor requirements include that one must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. Donors must allow 56 days between donations. For information about donor eligibility, please call 1-866-236-3276, option # 2.

## \$25,000 grant funds program for breast cancer survivors

The Hospital of Central Connecticut (HOCC) has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative, Inc. toward a free and unique interactive educational program that stresses nutrition and fitness for breast cancer survivors.

Survive & Thrive: A Nutrition and Fitness Educational Series for Breast Cancer Survivors is a multi-faceted initiative that began last month and includes four, eight-week yoga sessions at the hospital's Bradley Memorial campus which began last month; and three, 12-week interactive nutrition and exercise sessions at the New Britain General campus beginning this month. Nutrition and exercise sessions will offer one hour of weekly supervised physical activi-

ty in the Elliot and Marsha Cohen Good Life Center, followed by one hour of nutrition education. Participants will be able to extend Good Life Center membership through a full year. Survive & Thrive will also include a winter and spring nutrition workshop and two exercise/physical activity workshops. Program offerings will extend through 2012. The grant will also help fund patient education materials.

For more information on HOCC's comprehensive breast program, please contact Nurse Navigator Donna Boehm, R.N., M.S.N., M.P.H., at 860-224-5900, X6307 or visit <http://www.thocc.org/services/breast/nurse.aspx>.

## Walk with a Doc attracts walkers from many towns



More than 80 walkers from 17 towns participated in the hospital's Aug. 13 Walk with a Doc program at Rockwell Park in Bristol. Before the 30-minute walk, Mary Windels, M.D., vascular surgeon (at front, left), discussed circulation problems and your legs. At the Sept. 17 walk, Christina Czyrko, M.D., colorectal surgeon, discussed high fiber and your health at YMCA Camp Sloper, Southington. For more information, please visit [www.thocc.org/walk-with-a-doc/](http://www.thocc.org/walk-with-a-doc/) or call 1-877-914-WALK.

## New Medical Staff appointments announced

**Eric Crespo, M.D., MPH, FACC**



**Cardiology/Electrophysiology**

**Practice:** Hartford Hospital  
Interventional Electrophysiology, 80  
Seymour St., Hartford, 860-545-1506  
**Education/Experience:** University of  
Connecticut School of Medicine; cate-  
gorical internal medicine  
internship/residency, Duke University

Medical Center, Durham, N.C.; cardiovascular medicine fel-  
lowship, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.;  
clinical cardiac electrophysiology fellowship, University of  
Vermont, Burlington, Vt. He earned a master of public  
health at The University of North Carolina Gillings School of  
Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, N.C. He is also an assistant  
professor of medicine at the UConn School of Medicine.

**Andrea Joyner, M.D.**



**Obstetrics/Gynecology**

**Practice:** The Hospital of Central  
Connecticut Women's Health  
Outpatient Clinic, 100 Grand St., New  
Britain, 860-224-5261; Hartford Hospital  
Women's Ambulatory Health Services,  
111 Park St., Hartford, 860-972-2780  
**Education/Experience:** University of

South Alabama College of Medicine, Mobile, Ala.; obstet-  
rics/gynecology residency, University of Connecticut Health  
Center.

**Aleksandr Korniyenko, M.D.**



**Hospitalist**

**Practice:** The Hospital of Central  
Connecticut  
**Education/ Experience:** Ross University  
School of Medicine, Dominica, West  
Indies; internal medicine internship/res-  
idency, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital  
Center, Columbia University College of

Physicians and Surgeons, New York City.

**Jason D. Mayo, M.D.**



**Radiology**

**Practice:** The Hospital of Central  
Connecticut Department of Radiology  
**Education/Experience:** New York  
Medical College, Valhalla, N.Y.; internal  
medicine internship, Winthrop  
University Hospital, Mineola, N.Y.; radi-  
ology residency, NYU Langone Medical

Center, New York City; musculoskeletal radiology fellow-  
ship, NYU Langone Medical Center/Hospital for Joint  
Diseases.

**Susan Parker, M.D.**



**Pathology**

**Practice:** The Hospital of Central  
Connecticut  
**Education/Experience:** University of  
Connecticut School of Medicine;  
pathology internship, and anatomic  
and clinical pathology residency,  
University of Massachusetts (UMass)

Memorial Medical Center, Worcester, Mass. She was also a  
chief resident in anatomic pathology, a chief resident in  
clinical pathology, and an instructor in pathology at UMass  
Memorial Medical Center. Most recently, she was chief of  
Pathology at Johnson Memorial Hospital (now Johnson  
Memorial Medical Center), Stafford Springs.

**Camielle A. Rizzo, M.D.**



**Emergency Medicine/Hospice &  
Palliative Medicine**

**Practice:** The Hospital of Central  
Connecticut (HOCC) Emergency  
Department, 860-224-5675; HOCC  
Wolfson Palliative Care, 860-224-5463  
**Education/Experience:** Penn State

College of Medicine, Hershey, Pa.; tran-  
sitional year internship York Hospital, York, Pa.; emergency  
medicine residency, University of Connecticut Health  
Center/Hartford Hospital, Farmington; hospice and pallia-  
tive medicine fellowship, University of Michigan, Ann  
Arbor, Mich.

**Peter Davis Smith, M.D.**



**Internal Medicine for adults/  
adolescents**

**Practice:** Doctors of Central  
Connecticut, Unionville Primary Care,  
1825 Farmington Ave., Unionville, 860-  
673-1869  
**Education/Experience:** Case Western

Reserve University School of Medicine,  
Cleveland; internal medicine internship, MetroHealth  
Medical Center, Cleveland; internal medicine residency, and  
chief resident of internal medicine, University of  
Connecticut. He is also a staff physician and medical direc-  
tor, Wesleyan University Davison Health Center,  
Middletown.

## Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee update

By David L. Girouard, MPH, R.Ph., director of Pharmacy

### Simvastatin 80mg and risk of myopathies

The FDA issued a box warning regarding increased risk of myopathies when patients are given simvastatin at high doses (80mg) and/or used concurrently with Cyp3A4 inhibitors. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee will review the HMG-CoA auto-interchange policy to ensure compliance with current recommendations.

### Adverse drug reaction (ADR) reports

There were 14 ADRs, reported in the second quarter 2011 (April-June 2011). Of these ADRs, four were associated with narcotic analgesics, two with antibiotics, and three with contrast media. Notable this quarter is the absence of any anti-coagulant-related ADRs.

There were five adverse drug events (ADEs) of note in the second quarter.

- Two patients had infusion-related reactions to the chemotherapy agents paclitaxel and rituximab, which required CCU admission for further monitoring.
- One patient was suspected of having toxic psychosis to hydroxychloroquine (Paquenil®).

Two patients had respiratory depression and mental status changes on narcotic analgesics. One of these patients required CCU admission due to an ADE related to oxycodone IR administration. The Committee suggested further investigation into the narcotic-related ADRs to determine if they were preventable.

### Hospital's Cancer Center earns accreditation *Continued from page 1*

"Accreditation with commendation is another step in our continued development of world-class cancer services right here in our own community," added Steven D. Hanks, M.D., HOCC's executive vice president and chief medical officer.

HOCC provides comprehensive care for a variety of cancers and offers advanced diagnostic procedures, including MRI, CT, PET and PET-CT scanning; chemotherapy; radiation therapy, including intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), brachytherapy and Novalis radiosurgery; surgical oncology for esophageal, colorectal, thoracic, breast and neurological cancers; hematology and gynecologic oncology; clinical trials to test new treatments; and support services for patients and their loved ones/caregivers. For information, visit [www.thocc.org/services/cancer](http://www.thocc.org/services/cancer).

### Lexi-Comp™

HOCC has transitioned from MicroMedex to Lexi-Comp as the primary drug information database for the hospital; Lexi-Comp is used at other Hartford HealthCare affiliates. The new database is accessed through a desktop icon available on all network computers. An online product tour is available at <http://www.lexi.com/tours/online.jsp?id=lco0>.

### Formulary changes

The following additions and deletions are from the June and July 2011 Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meetings.

#### Additions

Medication	Use
Lurasidone (Latuda®)	Schizophrenia
Lidocaine 4% topical (LMX-4®)	Topical anesthetic for use in children over 2 years old (more rapid onset as compared to EMLA cream)

#### Deletions

Medication	Reasoning
Ribavirin (Virazole®)	No use in three years.

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Central Line is a **bimonthly publication** for the medical staff of The Hospital of Central Connecticut. To send information, story suggestions or comments, please contact Kimberly Gensicki at [kgensicki@thocc.org](mailto:kgensicki@thocc.org); (860) 224-5900 x6507; or via fax at (860) 224-5779.

## Upcoming physician communiqués

To help improve hospital communications to Medical Staff members, here's a schedule indicating when events and other communiqués are expected.

Oct. 31, 2011	Staff Executive Committee
Nov. 28, 2011	proceedings
Dec. 1, 2011	Quarterly Medical Staff meeting, 7:45 a.m., Cafeteria
Dec. 3, 2011	<i>Central Line</i> distributed

### New 64-slice CT scanner in ED: faster exams, less radiation *Continued from page 1*

“As a medical facility,” he adds, “we are increasingly aware of the dangers of radiation over one’s lifetime and our goal is to try to minimize that while giving patients the optimal care that they need.”

Common CT exams in the ED are for abdominal, pelvic, chest, head and cervical spine areas. The New Britain General campus ED, which sees about 250 patients every day, averages about 50 CT scans daily.

At its New Britain General campus, the hospital also has a 64-slice PET-CT. The Bradley Memorial campus has a 16-slice CT scanner. The offices of Mandell & Blau, 40 Hart St., New Britain will acquire the 32-slice CT scanner previously at the New Britain General campus ED.

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