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**For your convenience! December PM Munch & Learn to be video linked to Bradley Memorial campus.** For the convenience of practice managers in the Southington area, the Wednesday, Dec. 5 Practice Managers' Munch & Learn at the New Britain General campus, Lecture Room 2, will be video linked to the Bradley Memorial campus, Conference Room A. The event is from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Invitations and agenda will be mailed.

**Aiming for excellence in diabetes care by the numbers.** The Joslin Diabetes Center Affiliate at The Hospital of Central Connecticut has launched a hospitalwide campaign to improve diabetes care for the growing volume of inpatients with the disease. The HOCC Performance Improvement Core Team group is leading a glycemic control inpatient initiative to flag, monitor and stabilize blood sugar numbers for patients whose levels are below 70 mg/dL or above 300 mg/dL. A newly formed inpatient diabetes team tracks and supports a patient's diabetes care from admission to discharge. If a patient's glucose levels are less than 70 or greater than 300 mg/dl, a team member flags the patients' chart with an orange notification sheet and the patient is placed on a daily watch list, also sent to nurse managers and the patient's physician.



**Kombert named Hospitalist program director.** Daniel Kombert, M.D., has joined HOCC as Hospitalist program director. Most recently, Kombert was vice president, Hospitalist Services, Steward Health Care System, Boston, and a hospitalist medicine director, Cape Cod Healthcare, Cape Cod, Mass. Kombert earned his medical degree at New York Medical College, Valhalla, N.Y. He completed an internal medicine internship and residency at Westchester County Medical Center (now known as Westchester Medical Center), Valhalla, where he was also a chief medical resident.



**Nurse navigator for lung cancer patients named.** Noa Mencher, R.N., B.S.N., MPA, has joined the hospital as a nurse navigator, working primarily with lung cancer patients. Before joining HOCC, Mencher was administrator of a home health company and weekend supervisor of a long-term care facility. Before that, she was a nurse in the Pediatric Hemato-Oncology Unit at Hadassah Hospital, Ein Kerem, Jerusalem, Israel. Mencher earned her bachelor's degree in nursing at the School of Nursing, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel; and her master's of public administration, with a concentration in gerontology and management of senior housing facilities, at Clark University, Worcester, Mass. She holds advanced oncology certification and is fluent in English and Hebrew.

**Error-prevention training under way.** To reduce The Hospital of Central Connecticut's incidence of preventable harm, a year ago HOCC launched its Highly Reliable Organization plan. The hospital is now providing training on error-prevention techniques for all employees and medical staff members. A Highly Reliable Organization (HRO) is defined as one that avoids accidents, despite working in a high-risk industry. The hospital's goals with this HRO journey are to substantially reduce incidents of preventable harm, to the point where it goes at least one year without an incident.

**Focus: Improved Radiology efficiencies.** An outcome of the most recent physician Press Ganey survey is development of three workgroups, including one targeting Radiology, charged with increasing efficiencies. Among Radiology's initiatives, some resulting from the workgroup, are:

- **New ultrasound units.** This month, 10 new Philips IU-22 ultrasound units offering more visual capabilities will replace existing units in Radiology and at 40 Hart St.

- **OR X-rays within seconds.** A new, wireless digital device placed on a portable X-ray unit at the New Britain General campus will enable surgeons to see an image within a minute of it being taken. The device, expected to be in use by month's end, will further reduce radiation exposure to the patient and improve image quality.
- **Revised CT radiation protocols and ASiR.** Radiology continues to revise its CT radiation protocols, including for pediatric CT scans, to use as little radiation as possible. HOCC's newest CT unit at New Britain General campus ED further reduces radiation exposure via ASiR (Adaptive Statistical Iterative Reconstruction) technology.
- **One-stop registration.** Starting early October, the Bradley Memorial campus will have one-stop patient registration at Radiology.

**Backus and Hartford HealthCare sign definitive agreement.** The boards of directors of Hartford HealthCare and Backus Corporation have signed a formal definitive agreement, which outlines how the two healthcare systems will come together. The next steps are to seek state and federal regulatory approvals, a process that could take several months. Once the partnership is approved, Backus will become a member of the Hartford HealthCare system. Backus Corporation is the parent of the Backus Healthcare System, which has about 2,000 staff members. The system includes The William W. Backus Hospital, a 213-bed acute care hospital that is the only state-licensed Trauma Center east of the Connecticut River; Backus Home Health Care; primary care and walk-in urgent care centers in Ledyard, Plainfield, Montville and Colchester; Backus Physician Services, a multi-specialty surgical group; and Community Medical Partners, a medical foundation.

**Hospital's Family Enrichment Center now on Hawkins St.** The Family Enrichment Center's new convenient and spacious location is at 32 Hawkins St. Among Center programs, offered at no cost to families in Greater New Britain, are Mothers Offering Mothers Support (M.O.M.S.) program, Nurturing Families Network, and Parents as Teachers Program. For more information, please call 860-224-5373.

**All Heart<sup>sm</sup> program recertified.** The Hospital of Central Connecticut's All Heart<sup>sm</sup> Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at its New Britain General campus recently received a three-year recertification by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR). HOCC's program was recognized for its commitment to improving quality of life by enhancing care standards. The All Heart Cardiac Rehabilitation Program includes exercise, education, counseling and support for patients and their families. An AACVPR program is recognized as a leader in cardiovascular rehabilitation, offering the most advanced practices available. HOCC's All Heart Cardiac Rehabilitation program, New Britain General campus, certified since 1999, was one of the first programs in Connecticut to receive this designation.



**Walk with a Doc reaches milestone.** Hartford HealthCare's Walk with a Doc program recently marked 1,000 event participants since starting at The Hospital of Central Connecticut in 2010. Walk with a Doc hosts free community walks at area parks that are led by doctors and stress the benefits of exercise while providing health tips. On Oct. 13, The Hospital of Central Connecticut will host a walk at YMCA Camp Sloper in Southington; W. Richard McQueen Jr., M.D., internist, will discuss prevention and treatment of colds, flu. For information, call 1-877-914-WALK or visit [www.hartfordhealthcare.org/walkwithadoc](http://www.hartfordhealthcare.org/walkwithadoc). At the July 21 Walk with a Doc at Rockwell Park, Bristol, dermatologist Christopher Norwood, M.D., pictured front, left, discussed sunscreens and sun safety.

**Hospital welcomes these physicians.** Arun Agarwal, M.D., Cardiology. Hussein I. Alahmadi, M.D., Neurosurgery. Talhat Azemi, M.D., Cardiology. Jonathan Aaron Cosin, M.D., Gynecologic Oncology. Amy E. Garaffa, M.D., Pediatrics. Ramachandra Illindala, M.D., Hospitalist. Daniel Kombert, M.D., Hospitalist Director. W. Richard McQueen Jr., M.D., Internal Medicine. Joshua L. Rock, D.O., RPVI, Cardiology. Parth Shah, M.D., M.P.H., Vascular Surgery. Evelyne Sousa, M.D., Pediatrics. Elizabeth Tillman, M.D., Hospitalist. Michael J. Tiqui, M.D., Emergency Medicine. Yousong Wang, M.D., Ph.D., Rheumatology.

PM Link is produced quarterly by The Hospital of Central Connecticut Corporate Communications Department. For more information about the Practice Managers' Munch & Learn lunch series or this newsletter, contact Kimberly Gensicki, senior marketing communications specialist, at (860) 224-5900 x6507 or [kgensicki@thocc.org](mailto:kgensicki@thocc.org).