

Clinician Update

August 15, 2024

Listen to an abbreviated [audio version](#) of this issue.

Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine Welcomes Class of 2028

New Jersey's largest incoming medical-school class—288 future physicians—participated in White Coat Ceremonies this past Friday on Rowan University's main campus in Glassboro. More than 60% of the students are from New Jersey, with 16% from South Jersey, and 56% are women. Students hail from 15 states and as far away as California and British Columbia.

University President Ali Houshmand emphasized the importance of Rowan's partnership with Virtua, including greater opportunities for students to learn from physicians in South Jersey's largest health system. "Your decision to join us reflects Rowan-Virtua's reputation as an ever-expanding hub for clinical care and academic medicine in South Jersey," he said.

Richard Jermyn, DO, dean of Rowan-Virtua SOM, reminded the students to "always remember the character of your white coat is only as good as the character of the person who wears it."

Students received two gifts in their white coats: the traditional welcoming note from a faculty or staff member, and a naloxone (Narcan) dispenser. The life-saving nasal spray, for use in a drug overdose emergency, is meant to remind students of the critical role they will undertake in their medical journeys.

Ira Monka, DO, president of the American Osteopathic Association and a 1984 graduate of SOM, also addressed the Class. "You will become ambassadors of compassion, champions of healing, and beacons of hope," he said, "in a world that is in desperate need of healing."

Read more at [New Jersey Business & Industry Association](#) and [Rowan Today](#). The ceremony can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

Effective Aug. 21: New Visiting Hours for Virtua Hospitals

Virtua Health recognizes the important role family and friends play in aiding the recovery of our patients. To provide a safe and restful environment for all, Virtua Marlton, Virtua Mount Holly, and Virtua Voorhees hospitals will discontinue the current 24/7 visiting policy effective Aug. 21.

Effective Aug. 21, visiting hours will be 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily at all five Virtua hospitals.

The Peerless II Study – RCT of Flow Retriever vs. Anticoagulation Alone in Pulmonary Embolism

Virtua Research periodically shares trials for your consideration. A brief synopsis with the eligibility criteria for the Peerless II study is listed below. If you have a patient who meets the criteria, please contact the Virtua Research team at research@virtua.org, and a research coordinator will review their eligibility with you. If your patient is enrolled, we will keep you updated on their progress. Physician colleagues are vital to the success of the research program, even when they are not participating as an investigator. Rita Butler, MD, is the principal investigator for this trial.

The purpose of the study is to compare the clinical outcomes of patients treated with the FlowTrievers Retrieval/Aspiration System plus anticoagulation versus anticoagulation alone for intermediate-risk acute pulmonary embolism (PE). The study will collect data on demographics, comorbidities, details from the PE diagnosis and treatment, and clinical outcomes through 3 months follow-up.

The FlowTrievers is an FDA cleared device to remove a blood clot trapped in the lung. The FlowTrievers is used to remove the clot by pulling it into a catheter so that the clot can be removed from the body.

The inclusion criteria include patients at least 18 years of age and diagnosed with PE. The exclusion criteria include patients who are unable to be anticoagulated with medications necessary to perform the treatment procedure (i.e. heparin, enoxaparin or other parenteral antithrombin used to treat blood clots), allergy or sensitivity to radiographic contrast that cannot be adequately pre-treated.

The remaining inclusion/exclusion criteria are extensive and can be shared by reaching out to our research team.

Virtua's Midwifery Birth & Wellness Center Welcomes First CenteringPregnancy Baby

Virtua Midwifery Birth & Wellness Center, the only freestanding birth center in South Jersey, recently celebrated the first baby born from its new CenteringPregnancy program. Macie Hall was born to Amanda and Jacob this past July 27.

CenteringPregnancy is a patient-centered model of care that was launched at Virtua's Midwifery Birth and Wellness Center this past March. It brings together 8-10 pregnant patients in a group setting for their prenatal care. During 90-minute group sessions, patients have private time with their provider for individual health assessments while also having time to "circle up" for a support group and interactive learning session.

"Benefits include comprehensive care, patient engagement, symptom management and community building," said Tammy Motzenbecker, CNM, clinical director of the center. "Our patients and our providers love this new model of care."

National data scores patient satisfaction at 96%. CenteringPregnancy has improved health outcomes for patients nationally by reducing risk for low birth weight by 63%, reducing risk for preterm birth by 58% and reducing NICU admissions by 37%.

CenteringPregnancy may also help reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Data shows that among African Americans, babies are born one week later on average, have fewer NICU admittances and shorter NICU stays than African American patients receiving traditional care.

“Virtua is committed to providing an environment of open communication, compassionate care and outstanding outcomes,” said Nicole Lamborne, MD, MBA, FACOG, VP of Clinical Operations for Women’s and Children’s services. “We have embraced CenteringPregnancy as another innovative approach designed to empower expectant mothers and enhance their overall well-being.”

Advancing the Patient Experience

We're in Week 19 of the 26-week Advanced Patient Experience Program! Discover valuable insights and discussion starters in the [Week 19 Guide](#).

What Patients Are Saying About Our Clinicians

Confidence in care is a common reference among our clinician reviews. Note the following recent examples and how the patient felt about the experience, and the clinician referenced:

“I saw him in a timely manner, and he was very kind and compassionate. He took time to listen, explained treatment options and answered all my questions. ER doctors are obviously rushed throughout the day, but he was very attentive, and I felt confident in his knowledge. I wish I could make him my PCP!” (Roy Alan Shubert, Jr. MD)

“I've been seeing Dr. Judith Lightfoot for the past 13 years. Her kindness, consideration, and bedside manners are exceptional. I trust her immensely and she cares about each one of us. Kind heart, great doctor. Care deeply about her, as she does for me.” (Judith A. Lightfoot, DO)

“My provider had retired so I had to find a new provider. Adrianne Ortega was so nice. I was immediately put at ease. Thank you for being so personable.” (Adrianne M. Ortega, APN)

“She spends the time to listen. She has always been spot-on with my treatment and diagnosis. She is the opposite of a dismissive impatient doctor. Five stars to Doctor Razvi!” (Batool Razvi, MD)

“He is, by far, the best doctor that I have ever had the pleasure of receiving care. He is professional but at the same time, he is down to earth and very easy to talk to. He never rushes me and always allows me to ask questions (and I ask a lot). He has made me feel comfortable and has been a blessing.” (Geoffrey Bowers, MD)

Virtua in the News

Prestigious Publication names Virtua a ‘Diversity Leader’

Virtua has been recognized by *Modern Healthcare*, a prominent industry magazine, as a 2024 Diversity Leader. The designation honors health care executives and organizations working to further equity and inclusion at their organizations and in the overall industry.

“The organizations honored...set an example, from their leadership ranks to their programming efforts, of the results that can be achieved across a workplace,” said Mary Ellen Podmolik, editor-in-chief of *Modern Healthcare*.

Virtua has a long history of serving diverse communities, and President and CEO Dennis Pullin has helped create initiatives to advance inclusion, diversity, and health equity. He was individually named a Diversity Leader by *Modern Healthcare* in 2022.

Rhonda Jordan, EVP and chief human resources officer, explained the impact on Virtua’s 14,000-person workforce: “This means fostering a culture that appreciates our individuality while reminding us of our shared vision and values. We want each colleague to know they belong and appreciate the value they add.”

Read in [New Jersey Business Magazine](#). View the honorees in [Modern Healthcare](#).

Virtua Paramedics Save Officers from Fentanyl Exposure

An elite team of Virtua paramedics frequently accompanies Camden County law enforcement on missions where injuries could occur. Last year, 11 officers were exposed to fentanyl during a drug raid—and Virtua responders quickly treated them, preventing serious injuries or even death. Virtua’s Eric Jacob, an assistant EMS chief, and paramedic Ed Carey recounted the rescue, for which they received an award from County authorities. Watch their story, part of the “Heroes on the Front Lines” series on [6 ABC News](#).

Virtua a Leading Adopter of Advanced Technologies

A statewide business publication highlighted several health systems that embrace cutting-edge technology and other breakthroughs to enhance patient care.

Tom Gordon, SVP and chief information officer, described the organization’s approach to identifying and implementing such innovations. As one example, he cited Virtua’s successful Hospital at Home program, which is the first of its kind in New Jersey.

And Craig Zaretsky, MD, chair of the Department of Surgery, discussed the new “da Vinci 5” robotic surgery system—which Virtua was among the first to launch.

Read in [New Jersey Business Magazine](#).

14th Annual Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium, Sept. 7

Join us for this year’s Cardiology for Primary Care, the first in the Key Essentials for Optimizing Patient Care five-block CME series presented by the Rowan-Virtua College of Osteopathic Medicine and offering up to 5 AOA CATEGORY 1-A / 5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™.

The event will take place virtually on **Saturday, September 7, 2024, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

This year's agenda includes the following topics and speakers:

- **Prescribe with Precision: Better Cardiovascular Outcomes Using the Updated BEERS Criteria** - Kevin Overbeck, DO
- **Lipids: An Overview and Update on Diagnosis and Management** - Tania Maheshwari, DO
- **Aortic Stenosis** - Teresa Sousa, MSN, FNP-BC
- **Diagnosis and Management of Hypertension** - Christopher Mercogliano, DO
- **Innovations & Guidelines on Hypertension** - Kintur Sanghvi, MD
- **EKG Lecture for Primary Care** - Ramneet Wadehra, DO
- **Immunotherapy Adverse Events & Management** - Shayma Kazmi, MD
- **PE Management and PERT Team in 2024** - Luai Tabaza, MD
- **Current State of Coronary Artery Calcium Scoring (CACS) and Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)** - Michael Gannon, MD

The registration fee for the individual Cardiology for Primary Care program is \$149. To register for this event, or for the full series, visit: go.rowan.edu/cme. Go [here to review the full brochure and for more details](#).

For questions about the series, email at cme@rowan.edu.

Webinar Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds: Advancing Patient Care Using Cardiac Magnetic Resonance, Sept. 18

Join us for the next Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds, to be held virtually on **Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.** Michael P. Gannon, MD, Virtua Cardiology, fellowship-trained in advanced cardiac imaging, will discuss advancing patient care using cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR).

The program objectives are to:

1. Assess the clinical strengths and weaknesses of CMR as a tool in multi-modality imaging
2. Understand the clinical indication and prognostic value of CMR in patients with heart failure and coronary artery disease
3. Become familiar with the use of CMR in diagnosing patients with myocardial infarction with non-obstructive coronary artery disease (MINOCA)
4. Provide resources for future patient and provider use for CMR

The target audience is physicians and interprofessional teams. To register for this online event, click [here](#). For continuing medical education accreditation information, and to learn more about the event, click to [view the flyer](#). For more information, please contact VirtuaClinician@Virtua.org.