

Clinician Update February 2, 2023

Sign Up for Practicing Excellence Keynote Presentations for Clinicians—TOMORROW

Throughout this week, Dr. Stephen Beeson, founder and CEO of Practicing Excellence, is leading a series of keynote presentations across Virtua Health. Two sessions remain: **Friday, Feb. 3 at 7 a.m.** at the Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center in Voorhees, and **Friday, Feb. 3 at 9:30 a.m.** at Virtua Marlton Hospital.

Each session is one hour long; click to [sign up](#). Clinicians, do not miss this opportunity to hear and learn directly from one of the industry's leading voices in connecting patient care with a strong sense of purpose. Please note: these presentations are distinctly different from the Catalyst Camps held earlier this month and will introduce new ideas and insights.

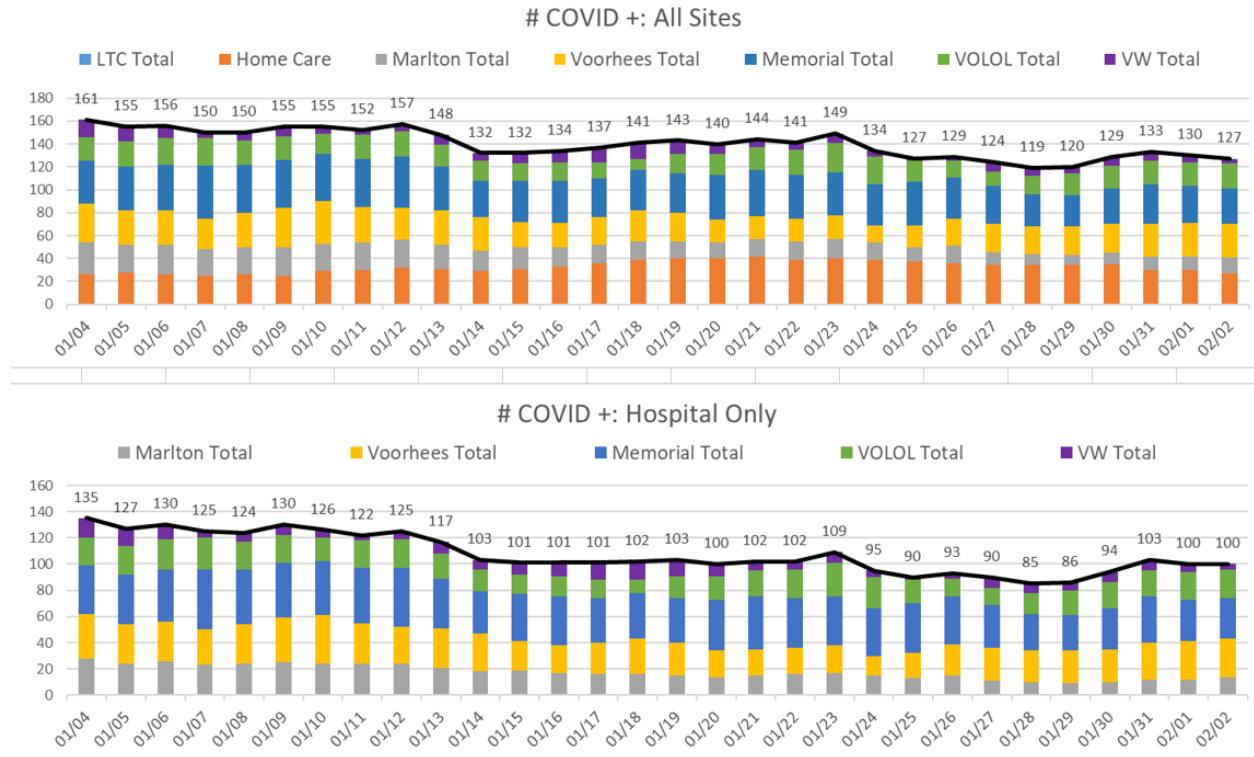
Important: What to Know about Student Notes in Epic

As you have probably noticed, there has been a flurry of excitement with the arrival of our medical students from the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine. We also have students rotating from Jefferson and Drexel schools of medicine. Virtua is committed to making sure our students receive top-notch education, and part of this training involves learning how to document in an EMR, specifically, Epic.

Starting this past Monday, medical students have been able to document in Epic. If you work with medical students and are their supervising clinician, here is a [tip sheet](#) on how to cosign and attest a medical student note. There is also a short training video on how to do this on the LHD within Epic. The tip sheet also includes directions on how to access that video. Even if you are not a teaching clinician, please familiarize yourself with what a medical student note looks like by reviewing the tip sheet.

The Office of Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) would like to thank each and every teaching clinician at Virtua. If you are interested in teaching our future generation of clinicians, please reach out to our office by emailing us at GraduateMedicalEducation@virtua.org.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported on Wednesday as .92.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. yesterday:
 - Atlantic County 70,132
 - Burlington County: 112,941 cases
 - Camden County: 136,479 cases
 - Gloucester County: 69,149 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 5,078.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 20,157,993 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Mpox Stats

As of the last weekly posting, the number of probable and confirmed cases of mpox cases in New Jersey: **764.**

An Opinion Piece by Dr. Reg Blaber :

The Tool that Saved Damar Hamlin’s Life Should be Available to Everyone

With February being Heart Month and the recent cardiac event that captured the nation's attention, Dr. Reg Blaber, EVP and chief clinical officer, penned an opinion piece about the incredible benefits of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

Dr. Blaber writes:

Sports fans watched in horror recently when NFL player **Damar Hamlin** collapsed on the field after being struck in the chest by an opposing player. I was one of them, glued to my TV and offering a silent prayer for the 24-year-old safety with the Buffalo Bills.

Fortunately, medical professionals acted quickly and used an AED – automated external defibrillator – to restart Hamlin’s heart. This immediate intervention is likely the reason he survived the incident and is, gradually, recovering. The high-profile nature of his injury has brought widespread attention to the incredible benefit of AEDs, which shock the heart into a proper rhythm.

And, more importantly, these life-saving devices can be used by virtually anyone during an emergency – not just those with medical training.

AEDs are remarkable because they remove any guesswork. Through simple illustrations and clear audio commands, most people can safely and quickly administer the device. AED use nearly doubles the rate of survival following an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, according to a study published by the National Library of Medicine. Therefore, it is critical these devices are widely available – and easily accessible when a health crisis occurs.

To read more, view the opinion piece on [NJ.com](#) or [ROI-NJ](#).

We’ve Got Heart!

February is short on days, but is big at heart. It’s Heart Month, an opportunity to shine a light on our cardiovascular services. Throughout the month, most Virtua campuses will illuminate in red exterior lights. And tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 3, is Go Red for Women, and we invite all our colleagues to wear red to show support and raise awareness about cardiovascular disease. We invite you to submit a selfie or team photo by [clicking here](#).

The calendar ahead features many events where our fellow clinicians will be sharing heart-healthy information with the public:

- Interventional cardiologist Chao-Wei Hwang, MD, is speaking about signs, symptoms and diagnosis of heart attacks on WMMR and WXTU. [Here is his interview](#).
- Meanwhile on the same radio stations, Tolulope Agunbiade, MD, medical director of Advanced Heart Failure, is addressing the topic of heart failure.
- The winter 2023 issue of [HeartTalk](#) features articles with interventional cardiologist Ibrahim Moussa, DO, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI, on complex heart procedures; clinical cardiologist Christopher Mercogliano, DO, on how sleep habits affect heart health; and Dr. Agunbiade on what to know about heart failure.
- Dr. Agunbiade will also be speaking to school teachers in Somerdale as well as seniors in Camden.
- Theresa Rowe, director of Heart Failure Services, will be speaking at a heart health event at a church in Burlington and a retirement community in Cherry Hill.

Pass It Along: WomenHeart at Virtua

If you know a woman living with heart disease, invite her to join our free, fun, and informative group for monthly gatherings. Facilitated by WomenHeart Champions, heart disease survivors trained at the Mayo Clinic's WomenHeart Science and Leadership Symposium, attendees can expect expert-led discussions to help improve heart health and reduce future risks as well as peer support from other women with heart disease. Meetings are held 6:30 to 8 p.m. via Zoom on the second Thursday of each month. This month's guest speaker is Virtua cardiologist Maria Duca, MD. Share [this link](#) to register.

Pass It Along: For Better Heart Health, Sleep on It!

Thursday, February 16 at 7 p.m.

Being heart healthy isn't just about eating right and exercising regularly. Sleep is an essential part of heart health and overall well-being. Nicole Michalik from 92.5 XTU, will be chatting with Dr. Agunbiade and pulmonologist Neha Vagadia, DO, about the connection between sleep and heart health. Plus, they'll offer useful tips to get a better night's sleep right away.

Registration is required to receive the event link to the live online webinar. [Register for Free](#)

Friday, February 3rd Is National Women Physicians Day

Tomorrow is National Women Physicians Day, celebrated on Feb. 3 each year. It is a day set aside to honor and appreciate the path paved by female doctors over the last 172 years. It marks the birthday of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States in 1849. She was famously allowed to attend medical school as a joke and she proved everyone wrong about her "intellectual inferiority." Dr. Blackwell became the first woman in America to earn her medical degree, and initiated the movement that helped women gain entry and equality in the field of medicine.

"National Women Physicians Day recognizes the strides made by generations of women doctors," said Senior VP and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jennifer Khelil. "We celebrate and honor Dr. Blackwell and the many talented professionals who came before us. And we celebrate those among us today. Look no further than our colleagues right here at Virtua Health. We are inspired by their dedication and care for our patients, as well as their roles in paving the way for future female leaders here at Virtua and in the medical field."

It's Black History Month!

As we move into celebrating Black History Month, we invite everyone to join in remembering, honoring, and celebrating not only past, but ongoing contributions and current experiences of Black and African Americans across the country. For Donee Thomas-Patterson, MD, Virtua family medicine physician, this is a month set aside for remembering and honoring African American contributions, but what is most important is what goes on year-round.

"Learning about our history should not be just in February but ongoing for all of us. Every day should be a celebration of who we are, and how we are all treasured contributors to this world we share," she said. "If the only Black history figures that come to mind are Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or Rosa Parks, you are depriving yourself of knowing so many more individuals who have contributed to this rich heritage."

On MLK Day, Dr. Thomas-Patterson led the incredible effort of posting MLK Day murals in six Camden schools. [See their work here](#). The murals are Black History Month calendars featuring profiles of historic people. Each day, during announcements, the students will spotlight a new noteworthy individual. Thanks to the support of the Virtua Black and African American Colleague Community and the help of 45 children and 70 volunteers, the murals were posted in just one day on Jan. 16.

The Black and African American Colleague Community shares resources to uplift and highlight Black & African American voices through stories, motivation, and song. They can be accessed and listened to as you add movement into your day and continue your journey toward improving your well-being in 2023!

- Black History Boot Camp Podcast
- Straight Up with Trent Shelton Podcast
- I Am Affirmations
- Beyond Black History Month on Apple Podcasts
- Trained by NIKE Podcast

Let us stay committed to researching and implementing action supporting racial health equity within Virtua.

Celebrate Ambulatory Care Nursing Week—Feb. 6 to 12

[Ambulatory Care Nursing Week](#) is from Feb. 6 to 12. Ambulatory care nursing is a unique domain of specialty nursing practice that focuses on health care for individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations. They practice in primary and specialty care outpatient venues, non-acute surgical and diagnostic outpatient settings in the community, and during telehealth encounters.

They collaborate and partner with the consumer and other health professionals to ensure all can access and receive appropriate care across the health care continuum. In partnership and collaboration with other health care professionals, ambulatory care nurses address patients' wellness, acute illnesses, chronic diseases, disabilities, and end-of-life needs.

At Virtua, ambulatory care nurses serve in a variety of roles, particularly in population health within the Virtua Integrated Network (VIN) and Virtua Medical Group (VMG) supporting our most complex, high risk patients.

“We commend these talented colleagues not just during that special week, but yearlong for their professionalism, and tireless dedication,” said Rebecca Lynch, president of operations for VMG.

“We are so grateful for them,” added Patty Lubrano, VP of operations for VMG. “It’s important to acknowledge these extremely talented individuals making such a positive difference for the community.”

VIN nurses are integral in ensuring medically complex patients are supported and are staying closely connected with their VIN PCPs, assuring continuity of care.

“The support provided by the VIN nurses to patients in the community we serve is invaluable,” said Donna Antenucci, president of VIN. “These nurses are dedicated to providing education, navigation to

needed services, and coaching to assist patients in attaining their goals. Thank you to all of the ambulatory nurses!”

WWII Veteran and Grateful Patient Creates Lasting Legacy

Carl Fravel was regarded for his high intellect, dedication, and generous spirit. Carl enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and proudly served his country in World War II. He served on the USS Eldorado during the Battle of Iwo Jima and was awarded two bronze stars for his valiant service. After his time in the military, Carl had a notable career with the U.S. Department of Defense, followed by a part-time role with the New Jersey State Marine Police.

Carl was married to his beloved wife Anne for nearly 75 years when she passed away in 2017. Together, they believed in making a positive difference in the world and found fulfillment in contributing to causes that were personally meaningful to them.

During the last few years of his life, Carl turned to the team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital for care on numerous occasions. He suffered from considerable vision and hearing loss, but remained as sharp as ever. Being treated with dignity and compassion was of great importance to him, and that is exactly what his care team provided.

In particular, the kindness and support from Mary Bucci, RN, was of great comfort to him. Carl was so grateful for the excellent care he received from Mary and the team that he decided to include Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital as a beneficiary of his estate.

“Carl was a remarkable man and friend,” says Michael McGinty, Jr., trustee of the Carl R. Fravel Memorial Trust. “He had a brilliant mind and cared deeply about his country and the well-being of those around him. Through his memorial trust, Carl’s contributions to the world will continue, positively impacting future generations.”

Carl passed away peacefully on May 21, 2020, at the age of 100 in his home in Audubon. Following his passing, the Carl R. Fravel Memorial Trust was established, creating a lasting legacy that will support patient care at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital for years to come.

Learn more about The Lasting Impact Project and how we invite our patients and community to share their gratitude at virtua.org/gratitude.