

## Clinician Update

### July 3, 2024

With your busy schedules in mind, we are experimenting with a way to expedite the delivery of this important clinician messaging to you. **If you are interested in an abbreviated audio version of *Clinician Update*, [click here](#).**

### Dr. Riaz Completes 50 ION Robotic Bronchoscopies in 50 Days

Virtua interventional pulmonologist Syed Riaz, MD, recently completed his 50th robotic bronchoscopy case with the ION navigation-guided technology—in just 50 days! This is the fastest anyone has reached this landmark across Virtua, compared to all previous navigational bronchoscopy platforms used by the health system to date. The procedures took place at Virtua Marlton Hospital.

Robotic-assisted bronchoscopies enable our doctors to catch and treat lung cancer early—when it’s most treatable—allowing them to reach 85% to 90% of suspicious lung nodules versus just 50% to 60% with traditional, *non-robotic* bronchoscopy.

“This tool makes it easier to diagnose even small, hard-to-reach growths in the lungs,” said Dr. Riaz. “The overall number of cases is not as important as each individual one. I am so grateful for our team and all we are doing for our patients.”

### Virtua Adds Leading-Edge LVAD Procedure for Heart Failure

The advanced heart failure team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital has performed the health system’s first left ventricular assist device (LVAD) implantation. LVADs help maintain heart function for people with end-stage heart failure. The surgery took place in May and the patient is recovering well.

“The LVAD can support patients for the long term or serve as a bridge for individuals who may later be a candidate for a heart transplant,” said Tolulope Agunbiade, MD, medical director of Virtua’s Advanced Heart Failure Center. “Our goal is to continually expand our capabilities and capacity so that South Jersey residents can receive highly specialized care close to home.”

Read more about it in [Becker’s Hospital Review](#).

### Advancing the Patient Experience

As we continue our Practicing Excellence journey, we thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Advanced Patient Experience Program. This week, we invite you to focus on the invaluable insights provided for your track in the [Week 13 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 felt that he explained things and listened to me and I did not feel rushed.” (Joshua S. Coren, DO)

“The entire staff at this practice are wonderful. It feels like you are catching up with friends, a very enjoyable visit every time. Quick, friendly, and professional.” (Steven Nguyen, MD)

“She is one of the most compassionate and professional doctors I have ever seen. A most professional and truly amazing doctor!” (Jean Soh, MD)

“Excellent communicator. Takes time for questions. Overall, a pleasant experience.” (Paula Preston-Dougherty, APN)

“He is one of the best doctors I've ever had. He's extremely professional. His bedside manner is outstanding. He's very attentive. He listens to you. He seems to really care and have knowledge about you and your questions and concerns and what may or may not be going on with you. I would definitely always visit Dr. Mukherjee and will always recommend him to others.” (Kanad Mukherjee, DO)

## LAST CALL: Expert in Cardiovascular Anesthesiology to Address Echo Considerations for the LVAD Patient, July 9

Join us virtually or in person, as we welcome S. Michael Roberts, DO, FASE, FAOCA, chief of cardiovascular anesthesiology at Penn State Health-Hershey Medical Center, as he discusses:

- Pre-, peri-, and postoperative considerations and management of HeartMate 3 left ventricular assist device (LVAD) patients
- Interpretation of transesophageal and transthoracic echocardiograms
- Hemodynamic management of HeartMate 3 LVAD patients
- Anesthesia considerations

The event will take place **Tuesday, July 9**, from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Physician's Conference Room at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, or [virtually live here on Teams](#).

[Click here for a flyer](#). For more information, contact 856-952-1056 or email Theresa Rowe-Ruffin, director of Heart Failure Services, at [troweruf@virtua.org](mailto:troweruf@virtua.org).

## More Virtua in the News

### ED Doctor Warns Public to Avoid Backyard Fireworks

It's fireworks season, and experts advise leaving the displays to the professionals. "Every year, we see burns, eye injuries, people losing fingers" from handling these explosives themselves, said Al Sacchetti, MD, an emergency room physician at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. Drinking alcohol while handling fireworks increases the risk of injury even further, he noted. Watch on [NBC 10](#).

### Spotlight on Rowan-Virtua School of Translational Biomedical Engineering & Sciences

Two academic leaders sat for a video podcast to discuss the exciting future of Virtua's partnership with Rowan. The conversation was hosted Richard T. Jermyn, DO, dean of the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine. His guest was Mark Byrne, founding dean of the Rowan-Virtua School of Translational Biomedical Engineering & Sciences.

"The affiliation with Virtua Health is really a game-changer for us," said Dean Byrne. "Their signature really pushes us towards making an impact translationally."

He elaborated how together, the two entities are creating a novel academic health system that can translate technology to patients faster. "We couldn't do it without Virtua Health. It adds that landscape that we didn't have before. That, to me, is what makes it most exciting."

Watch [here](#).

### Bearded Dragons Linked to Salmonella Outbreak

Salmonella infections in multiple states are linked to pet bearded dragons, which can spread the bacteria through their feces. Young children, older adults, and those with weak immune systems are especially vulnerable, said Martin Topiel, MD, chief of infectious diseases. He was among several experts who offered tips for pet owners and others to avoid the disease. Read in [PhillyVoice](#).

### Pediatric Mobile Services Launches Second Vehicle

On June 13, Virtua debuted its second Pediatric Mobile Services vehicle at a celebratory event at the Virtua Voorhees Hospital campus. The ceremony included a special performance by children from the Under the Sun Learning Center.

Established in 2018, Virtua's Pediatric Mobile Services has provided free screenings and care to more than 14,000 children —all thanks to you and many generous philanthropic partners. A second \$1 million pledge from the Joseph Lacroce Foundation made the expansion of this impactful service possible, enabling the program to provide 70% more services to local children and their families.

[Watch the highlight video](#) to learn more about the program and see inside the new vehicle. [Read more](#) about the program's expansion.

### Philly TV Personality Samples Sushi at Voorhees Cafeteria

Yet more media coverage on the Virtua Voorhees cafeteria! This time, it was Fox 29's Mike Jerrick taking an entertaining tour, where he chatted up the staff and tasted the mouth-watering sushi. Part of the station's "Ya Gotta Try This" series on local eateries, the segment includes interviews with Geary Wilson, assistant director of food and nutrition services; chef John Branella; and sushi chefs Joe and Evie Sutiono. Plus, check out Mike's arrival in a Virtua vehicle, thanks to our EMS team! Watch [here](#).

## Taking Steps for Crohn's & Colitis

When it comes to supporting the Crohn's and colitis community, we not only talk the talk, we walk the walk—literally. The Virtua team was over 90 people strong at the "Take Steps Crohn's & Colitis Walk" at Lincoln Financial Field at the end of June. This special event was an opportunity to show our commitment to supporting the IBD community. Sanket Patel, DO, director of the [Virtua Crohn's & Colitis Center](#), even volunteered for a turn in the "Dunk the Doc" dunk tank. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our team and this initiative. To see pictures of the event, click [here](#).

## Virtua Background Options on Teams Now Available

If you're looking to spruce up your Teams background for video calls, Virtua-branded options are now available. Here's how to get yours:

- Head over to the Brand Hub on the Colleague Corner, located under the "Resources" tab.
- Under "Ready to Use," click on "[Teams/Video Backgrounds](#)."
- Browse the selection and choose the image(s) you like best. Download it/them to your computer.
- Need help adding the background to Teams? Click on the "[Upload Instructions](#)" button for a quick guide.

For any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to [BrandHubSupport@virtua.org](mailto:BrandHubSupport@virtua.org).

## IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

We remember [Thurgood Marshall](#), born on July 2, the first African American Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Leading the charge to end racial segregation through a landmark case in 1954, Brown v. Board of Education, the "separate but equal" doctrine was rejected. He was also the founder and first director of the Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Also wishing a blessed [New Hijri Year](#) to those celebrating the start of the new Islamic lunar calendar year. This is set to begin around sundown on July 7; or for some, it will begin after spotting the first lunar crescent moon in the month of Muharram.

## Happy Birthday, America!

The [Fourth of July](#) bursts onto the scene with fireworks and fanfare, but its heart lies in honoring American independence. We celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a bold act that declared freedom and self-governance.

From parades to picnics, this day unites communities in remembering the sacrifices that built a nation. Here at Virtua Health, we join in the spirit of celebrating liberty and the pursuit of a healthier tomorrow for all.