

Clinician Update

June 8, 2023

Rowan Medicine Officially Becomes an Affiliate of Virtua Medical Group

On Monday, Rowan Medicine and Virtua reached a significant milestone in their partnership with the successful “Day One” of their Epic journey. This achievement marks an important step forward in our academic affiliation, as 130 Rowan Medicine clinicians officially became affiliates of Virtua Medical Group (VMG), which will provide greater access and continuity of care for the people of South Jersey.

Under the new aligned name, "Rowan Medicine, an Affiliate of Virtua Medical Group," Rowan Medicine clinicians become part of a network that is comprised of more than 1,200 Virtua-employed and fellow affiliate providers. VMG's leadership team [recorded this welcome video](#) to share their enthusiasm about the transformational relationship,

"Virtua and Rowan offer distinct and complementary services to the community," said Rebecca Lynch, president of VMG and SVP for Virtua. "By working more closely together, we will help ensure our respective and shared patients can easily access the services they need to be their healthiest selves."

Dr. Joshua Coren, senior associate dean of clinical affairs and professor at the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, highlighted the shared missions of Rowan and Virtua: "The agreement builds on Rowan's and Virtua's unique shared clinical, academic, and research missions by expanding access to quality medical care, focusing on patient outcomes, and creating new opportunities for graduate and undergraduate medical education, while enhancing the operations of the Rowan Medicine practices."

Rowan Medicine's transition to Epic will facilitate seamless collaboration between the Rowan and Virtua teams in developing a comprehensive plan of care for patients. Tom Gordon, SVP and chief information officer, praised the teamwork and dedication that led to a successful go-live: "Success in any go-live is a testament to the incredible dedication and tireless efforts of an exceptional team. This was the culmination of a lot of hard work, planning, and collaboration. These clinicians are so enthused for the enhanced capabilities that Epic brings."

In the spirit of enthusiasm, Dr. James Bailey, interim chair of Rowan Medicine's NeuroMusculoskeletal Institute, [recorded this musical performance](#) that captured the excitement surrounding the launch of Epic. His performance bridged the anticipation of "tomorrow" with the present-day utilization of Epic's features.

Dr. James Gamble, Virtua informatics medical director, expressed his excitement about Epic's interoperability. He noted, "It's fun to see. This is what excites us clinicians—the ability to help us serve our patients most effectively. So, it's no surprise that a clinician like Dr. Bailey is excited about what our shared interoperability now brings."

The Rowan Medicine affiliation with Virtua Health has garnered significant media coverage, highlighting the importance of this partnership in delivering high-quality health care services. Links to news coverage can be found below.

ROI-NJ: [Virtua and Rowan Formalize Affiliation](#)

NJ.com: [Partnership Between Virtua and Rowan Takes Another Step](#)

NJ Biz: [Virtua and Rowan Advance Partnership](#)

NJ Business: [Rowan and Virtua Formalize Affiliation](#)

Burlington County Chamber of Commerce: [Rowan and Virtua Formalize Affiliation](#)

Tap into Camden: [Rowan Medicine Clinicians Formally Affiliate with Virtua](#)

Health Leaders Media: [Partnership Between Virtua and Rowan Takes Another Step](#)

Virtua Clinicians Meeting the Emergency Need Over the Unhealthy Air

The heavy haze that continues to cast a pall over our region with smoke from Canadian wildfires has caused unhealthy air for the people of our community, especially those who are respiratory compromised. Virtua emergency departments and physicians have been answering the call.

“The most vulnerable patients have been those suffering from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease, pregnant women, infants, and children,” said Dennis Guest, DO, vice president of Clinical Operations for Virtua Health Emergency Services. “At our EDs, we are seeing an increased number of patients with asthma, COPD, sore throat, eye irritation, and headache.”

Dr. Guest reminds all clinicians to be aware of what may materialize from this unprecedented time. “Be sure to encourage your patients to stay indoors, and when going outside is required, instruct them to wear a KN 95 mask, because surgical masks are not as effective in filtering out particulates.”

The current conditions have been at the top of the news, and the coverage has featured Virtua clinicians. Pulmonologist Eric Szejman, MD, VP of Clinical Operations, discussed the risks associated with wildfire smoke and offered tips on how people can protect themselves. Watch on [CBS 3](#). In addition to this story, pulmonologist Andrew Schiff, MD, and emergency medicine physician Craig Turner, DO, have provided interviews to the media. (We will share clips in our next issue.)

Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds, June 21

The New HF Guidelines: What We All Need to Know

Back in March, Virtua Cardiology initiated a Grand Rounds series for clinicians. The next program in the virtual series will highlight the new heart failure guidelines we all need to know. It will take place on Wednesday, June 21 at 7 a.m., and will feature Sabra Lewsey, MD, MPH. Dr. Lewsey is a cardiologist specializing in heart failure and assistant professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine. She completed her residency in internal medicine at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she also completed fellowships in cardiology, advanced heart failure, and transplant cardiology.

Virtua Health designated this live medical education activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. [Go here to register](#). To learn more, [view the flyer](#). After June 21, be sure to mark your calendars for future sessions on September 20 and December 20.

Practicing Excellence at Virtua

Thank you for your commitment to Practicing Excellence and the *Patient Experience* journey. This week, we invite you to focus on the invaluable insights provided in the [Week 10 and 11 guides](#).

To share your experiences, email virtuainfo@virtua.org and your thoughts could be featured in upcoming messaging. To access the weekly guides and additional resources, visit the [Practicing Excellence page](#) on the Colleague Corner.

Virtua Cardiologist Is Featured by American College of Osteopathic Internists

The old saying, “where there’s a will, there’s a way” isn’t just a saying for Troy L. Randle, DO, FACOI, FACC, MBA. It epitomizes the way he lives. Dr. Randle’s compelling story of overcoming a series of hurdles is featured in two articles shared in the most recent publication by the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI).

This [article](#) and an accompanying [article](#) capture how this accomplished Virtua cardiologist, despite all the obstacles, has been ever dedicated to being here for good by bringing increasing health care access and education to our community.

“Growing up in a city environment and seeing disparities in health care, including not having access to care, is something I understand,” said Dr. Randle. “In addition to transportation, there are other disparities in terms of things like a healthy diet and food access.”

From his active efforts in addressing health care disparities, to mentoring to taking time to communicate about proper health care at barbershops, Dr. Randle is always busy doing good in a vocation he dreamt about as a child.

“I thought this is the type of doctor that I want to be, because this really is part of my mission and passion,” he said.

From the Hello Good Mailbox

Brenda O’Brien, practice manager for the VMG Hospitalist Group, submitted the following story to recognize Dr. Dhipu Sebastian, a hospitalist who was nominated for a Daisy Award. While the award is traditionally given to nurses, Dr. Sebastian was recognized for providing a human experience to a patient’s loved one. Their family member wrote the following heartfelt message:

“Thanks for caring for my mother and for trying to find another way to contact me as my mobile phone account was compromised, and I was unable to receive calls, only texts. That really meant a lot to our family. We appreciate the care and concern you showed.”

Thank you, Dr. Sebastian, for your exceptional care.

Virtua ED Physician Highlights Emergency Medicine Developments in Poland

Virtua emergency medicine physician Nicole E. Tyczynska, MD, recently traveled to Poland, where she is supporting the development of emergency medicine there. Dr Tyczynska has been traveling to Poland regularly for over a decade as the ACEP Vice-Ambassador to Poland, and has been active in helping her Polish colleagues move the needle forward on EM growth in the region. She shared those highlights with her ED colleagues recently at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

The war in Ukraine, as well as the mass exodus of refugees into Poland, greatly increased stressors on the Polish emergency health care system over the last year. Dr Tyczynska initially assisted by using her American College of Emergency Physicians role to help organizers with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Global Response Management get their footing in Poland, and then travelled there herself in May 2022. Thanks to her colleagues at the Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Emergency Department and the Virtua pharmacy, she was able to raise \$7,000 toward medical supplies, as well as bring a full suitcase of top-requested medications.

“I must say I am always so impressed by my colleagues here and their willingness to not only learn more about this profession we share with those globally, but to impact it,” she said.

Dr Tyczynska returned to Poland again in May 2023 to lecture at the Central European EM Congress and is happy to report that a year later, the situation has largely stabilized. “I was able to reconnect with my Polish EM colleagues, as well meet some fascinating physicians from the Ukraine with whom I look forward to working on upcoming EM development projects.”

Virtua Launches the *Here for Good: Inside Edition* Podcast with Dennis Pullin

Get an insider’s perspective on the captivating stories of your fellow colleagues through the *Here for Good: Inside Edition* podcast, hosted by President and CEO Dennis Pullin.

Building upon the resounding success of the *Here for Good* podcast, these heartwarming companion episodes shine a spotlight on our colleagues’ remarkable accomplishments, as well as their passions beyond the workplace. This delightful series of mini-conversations feature colleagues from diverse roles and departments, and highlights the strong connection between our culture and their selfless acts of kindness.

Dennis’ first guest on *Here for Good: Inside Edition* is Lisa Rosenberry, manager of NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) at Virtua. Dennis and Lisa discuss Virtua's groundbreaking new Mobile Health

and Cancer Screening Unit. She shares how this service makes health screenings more accessible, empowering people to take charge of their health and well-being. Click to [view the episode](#).

Yesterday, on Mobile Fleet Night, Virtua showcased the Mobile Health and Cancer Screening Unit, as well as its entire fleet of mobile health vehicles to those who generously donated to power this important work and help our organization be Here for Good. Virtua's fleet also includes a grocery store, farmers market, and pediatric unit.

Tune in to view the [premiere episode of Here for Good: Inside Edition](#) and discover the power of kindness, compassion, and human connection. Look to the [Colleague Corner](#) to view all episodes.

More of Virtua in the News

Virtua Physician Gives Tips on Recovering from Falls

Falls are a [leading cause of death for adults over 65](#). Each year, 3 million older people are treated in emergency rooms because they've had a serious fall. *The Washington Post* featured a Virtua expert in providing advice.

"Tell your doctor even if you don't think you're hurt," said Mary Campagnolo, MD, Virtua family physician and geriatrician, medical director for value-based programs and payer contracts for Virtua Medical Group, and a member of the board of directors for American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). "Also, your doctor may be able to help identify and deal with the cause of your fall, whether it's a health issue such as a vision problem, a drug side effect, or factors at home, such as throw rugs that pose tripping hazards."

Read the full article [here](#).

Hospital Leaders Share Lessons from 'Ted Lasso'

The popular TV series "Ted Lasso" chronicles the ups and downs of a fictional British football team. But it also offers powerful lessons in leadership, according to *Becker's Hospital Review*. The publication asked 16 health care executives, including Virtua President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE, to discuss the wisdom revealed in the show. Read their responses [here](#).

Upcoming events

Last Call! Run with the Docs Sunday, June 11

Lace up your sneakers! Run with the Docs benefits Virtua's Perinatal Bereavement and Palliative Care Program, which provides support and care to families experiencing [pregnancy and infant loss](#). The

program helps to ensure that families who experience loss have access to a multidisciplinary range of services that provide comfort and support during a very difficult time.

For more information, click [here](#).

Real Talk... for Men!

Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m.

For the first time ever, *Real Talk! Women's Health Chats* is for men! If you know a patient, colleague, or family member who could benefit, forward the link below. Virtua physicians Richard Levine, MD, medical director of Virtua Pride Primary Care, and Christopher Morrison, MD, of Virtua Gastroenterology will join host Nicole Michalik from 92.5 XTU, as they discuss digestive issues, high blood pressure, and everything to master a man's health checklist.

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

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity and Equity for All

Celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month

According to the [latest data from the Camden Center for Law and Social Justice](#), New Jersey is home to a thriving immigrant population of more than 2 million individuals. As we commemorate [Immigrant Heritage Month](#), it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the remarkable diversity of people who have chosen New Jersey as their home. Furthermore, it is essential to recognize the invaluable contributions made by immigrants, both past and present, who have played a pivotal role in enriching the fabric of our nation. With an estimated 45 million immigrants throughout the United States, let us honor their resilience, cultural heritage, and the numerous ways they have positively impacted our country.

National Puerto Rican Day on June 11

On **June 11**, the eagerly awaited 66th annual [National Puerto Rican Day Parade](#) will kick off in New York City, offering a vibrant celebration that allows us to delve into the parade's origins and explore diverse ways to honor not only the 3.5 million individuals from Puerto Rico, including their rich Indigenous Taíno heritage, but also the 5 million Puerto Ricans residing across the United States.

National Loving Day on June 12

On [National Loving Day](#), we commemorate the courageous journey of Mildred and Richard Loving, whose unwavering determination to live as an interracial couple led to a groundbreaking Supreme Court case in 1967. This landmark ruling established that no state should infringe upon an individual's right to marry someone from a different race, affirming the principle of equality and love beyond racial boundaries.