

Clinician Update

May 25, 2023

Virtua Health Named One of the Best Places to Work in Health Care

Virtua Health has been named as one of the recipients of *Modern Healthcare's* “Best Places to Work in Health Care” for 2023. This esteemed recognition program acknowledges the top 150 companies and organizations that excel in fostering an environment where employees are empowered to deliver exceptional results.

We are proud to be among this list of industry leaders who prioritize the well-being and satisfaction of their workforce. This achievement is a testament to our commitment to creating a culture that values and supports our dedicated team members. Thank you to all the colleagues who were randomly selected to participate in the employee survey and provided their feedback to the judging committee.

We extend our gratitude to all Virtua colleagues for their dedication, passion, and commitment to providing the best possible care. Together, we continue to practice excellence in serving our patients and community.

Click to view the full list in [Modern Healthcare](#) and read [Virtua's announcement](#) in [The Trentonian](#).

Virtua Vascular Surgeon Reflects on Memorial Day

“As a veteran, I recognize the significance of Memorial Day to remember those who paid the ultimate price for our liberty and freedom,” said vascular surgeon Joseph P. Costabile, MD, who served two tours of duty in Iraq. “On Veterans Day, we thank those who served, but on Memorial Day, we honor and pray for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. They gave all their tomorrows for our todays. So on this Memorial Day, we honor the fallen and thank the living.”

“As for the living,” he added, “know that no words of ours will ever give the fallen proper justice. All our gratitude, debt, and prayers that we present to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom that we now live should come from deep within our hearts. This Memorial Day, we should take a moment to think about what truly matters— an unending appreciation for the freedom we enjoy and cherish, secured by their sacrifice, and now bestowed upon us to share.”

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 8 and 9 guides](#).

Additionally, we acknowledge the efforts of those who continue to practice excellence and make a profound impact. A colleague from the Emergency Department shared their experience with *Communicating at the Bedside Tip #6: Clear Discharge Communication*:

“I recently reviewed discharge instructions with a patient. I asked him if he had any questions, and he proceeded to ask me everything that we just discussed. Instead of reading the instructions, I asked him to tell me the names of his medications, the doctors who take care of him, how often he visits his doctors, and what his meals consist of. It was easier to emphasize the changes only.”

This colleague’s experience reminds us that the way we frame patient conversations can shape the outcome. For instance, “Do you have any questions?” invites a yes/no response only. Whereas, “I’m sure you have questions, and I’d be happy to review them” is a more engaging way to approach the same scenario.

To share your experiences, email virtuainfo@virtua.org, and they could be featured in upcoming messaging.

To access the weekly guides and additional resources, visit the [Practicing Excellence page](#) on the Colleague Corner.

Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds, June 21

The New HF Guidelines: What We All Need to Know

The next Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds program in this virtual series will highlight the new heart failure guidelines we all need to know. It will take place on Wed., June 21 at 7 a.m. and will feature Sabra Lewsey, MD, MPH. Dr. Lewsey is a cardiologist specializing in heart failure and an 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™. To learn more and to register directly via Teams, [view the flyer](#). After June 21, be sure to mark your calendars for future sessions on Sept. 20 and Dec. 20.

Virtua in the News

Newsweek Rates Virtua Voorhees a Top U.S. Maternity Hospital

Once again, look for Virtua Voorhees Hospital on *Newsweek*'s annual list of the best U.S. maternity hospitals. *Newsweek*'s evaluation is based on a nationwide online survey that asks hospital managers and maternity health care professionals (such as OB/GYNs) to recommend leading maternity hospitals. The publication also considers medical and patient-satisfaction data. Read at [NJ101.5](#) and see the full list in [Newsweek](#).

Virtua Executive Cited for IDE Leadership

Becker's Hospital Review has named Virtua leader Rhonda Jordan among 86 "Hospital and Health System Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officers to Know." As executive VP and chief human resources officer, Rhonda spurs the development of programs to encourage and celebrate inclusion, diversity, and equity (IDE), noted *Becker's*. She has also established clear pathways for cultural growth, including an IDE committee, colleague communities, diversity training, and other initiatives, according to the publication. Read [here](#).

Daughter Becomes Virtua EMT, Following Dad's Footsteps

It's national EMS Week, which means it's a time to celebrate emergency services professionals for their hard work and sacrifices. This father-daughter duo at Virtua is serving their community in South Jersey. View the story about Socrates and Alyssa Kouvas on [CBS 3](#).

Virtua Thoracic Surgeon Promotes American Cancer Society Relay for Life Saturday, June 3 in Marlton

The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program is proud to once again sponsor the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. "It is a very meaningful way for the community to come together to celebrate cancer survivors and their caregivers, and to take time to remember those we have lost to cancer," said Virtua thoracic surgeon Matthew M. Puc, MD, medical director of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Cancer Program.

"We will be actively promoting screenings, and are with the community every step of the way," said Dr. Puc.

The Virtua Mobile Health & Cancer Screening Unit will be in attendance providing tours and information on how the community can host future screening events.

As the sun sets, Relay teams will help light premade luminaria bags that are dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one. The event will take place at the Memorial Sports Complex at 1040 Tuckerton Road in Marlton from 2 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 3. For more information, click [here](#).

Top Physicians 2023 - South Jersey Magazine

In its August issue, *South Jersey Magazine* will highlight physicians voted by the public that have made an impact on the lives of people in our area. Each person can vote one time per day [here](#). Entries must be received by June 2. [Here is the publication's Top Physicians, 2022](#).

On June 11, It's Time to Run with the Docs!

The popular 5K run and 1-mile walk known as [Run with the Docs!](#) will take place on the Virtua Voorhees Hospital campus on Sunday, June 11, all to support our programs for families who have experienced [pregnancy and infant loss](#).

For event organizers and OB/GYN physicians Drs. Stacy McCrosson and Kimberly Bridges-White, the event is a great opportunity to get out for a truly meaningful cause. “We are so inspired by the families who show up with their teams each year,” Dr. McCrosson said. “We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support these families receive from our colleagues at Virtua, all the doctors, nurses, and staff, the running community, and friends and family from all over the tristate area who make it a tradition of kindness to be at this event.”

“All of us together,” said Dr. Bridges-White, “it’s how we show we are truly Here for Good. So, we hope everyone feels welcome to be a part of it!”

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

A Grateful Patient Returns Home after Extended Hospital Stay

Earlier this week, Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital hosted a [monumental “clap out” celebration](#) when long-time patient Kelley returned home after 127 days in hospital care.

Kelley, whose health journey included a liver and kidney transplant, spoke highly of all the Virtua colleagues who supported her long, often difficult recovery.

“I would not be here without every person’s dedication and love for their jobs,” she said. “These are not ordinary jobs; you must have it in your heart and really care.”

Kelley said it was impossible to name all the people for whom she’s grateful, whether it’s the hospital-based physical therapist who motivated her when she lacked the strength to perform basic movements, to the ICU team members who came to visit after she progressed to the inpatient rehab within Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes.

“They are my friends now,” she shared.

Kelley’s ICU friends came through in a big way when her 60th birthday arrived in April. Her Virtua team filled her room with colorful luau décor and had a small-but-meaningful party.

Now—after a pitstop for a long-awaited lemon water ice—Kelley is back at home with her husband and dog. Her recovery—including twice-weekly visits to the Virtua Center for Liver Disease—is ongoing, but she is feeling confident that better days are ahead.

“It’s been an adventure,” she said. “All I can say is thank you!”

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity and Equity for All

Buddhists around the world will celebrate one of their most important holidays, [Buddha Day, also known as Vesak](#), on Friday, May 26. This holiday celebrates the birth and enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama and was established in 2000 by the United Nations.

Additionally, it is essential to acknowledge a significant historical event known as [the Tulsa Massacre of 1921](#). This event occurred between May 31 and June 1, during which a prosperous African-American community in Tulsa, Oklahoma was violently destroyed by the surrounding white community, resulting in numerous deaths and the destruction of businesses and homes. This tragic incident has had enduring consequences that persist to this day. To gain a deeper understanding of its lasting impact, one can explore the works of writers like [Mary E. Jones Parrish](#) and her great-granddaughter, [Anneliese M. Bruner](#).

[In Case You Missed It: Cycling for Care 2023](#)

On May 13, colleagues and community members participated in the "Cycling for Care" event, a scenic bike ride across the rolling hills of Burlington County in support of the Cherry Hill Free Clinic (CHFC).

"I can't thank our clinicians enough, most especially our Virtua clinicians, for your support," said Jubril Oyeyemi, MD, medical director for community health at Virtua and founder and CEO of CHFC. "At CHFC, we work tirelessly to provide health care, at no cost, to neighbors who cannot afford health insurance. Events like this bring us together in being here for good."

In case you missed it, click to [view highlights from the event](#).