

Clinician Update November 7, 2024

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Clinicians Honored at Medical Staff Meeting

Last week, Virtua held its annual Medical Staff Meeting at the Barry D. Brown Health Education Center in Voorhees. Medical staff presidents Stephen Goldfine, MD; Navneet Kaur, MD; and Michael Driscoll, DO; as well as senior Virtua leadership, welcomed attendees.

“It was a meaningful opportunity to look back on our shared year as well as to preview what is ahead,” said Christopher Pomrink, DO, VP of Medical Affairs. “And it was especially rewarding to take time to connect, share camaraderie, and honor some very special doctors.”

The following clinicians were honored:

North (Virtua Mount Holly Hospital)

- Distinguished Career - Michael Conrad, MD
- Physician Recognition - Samuel Ventrella, MD
- President’s Award - Robert Cowan, MD

South (Virtua Voorhees Hospital & Virtua Marlton Hospital)

- Distinguished Career - Shahram Mirmanesh, MD, MBA
- Physician Recognition - Mario Maffei, MD
- President’s Award - Douglas Stranges, DO

West (Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital & Virtua Willingboro Hospital)

- Distinguished Career - Alfred Sacchetti, MD
- Physician Recognition - Hafeza Shaikh, DO, MBA
- President’s Award - Joseph Costabile, MD

Congratulations to all the awardees!

Dr. Oyeyemi Honored by Gloucester County NAACP

Congratulations to Virtua’s Jubril Oyeyemi, MD, Cherry Hill Free Clinic founder and CEO, for receiving the Game Changer award for Excellence in Medicine at the Gloucester County NAACP Black & White Freedom Fund Gala and Game Changer Awards. Congratulations to Dr. Jubril! Click [here](#) for a LinkedIn post.

Rise in Cases of Walking Pneumonia

State and national health officials are warning providers to be on the lookout for symptoms of mycoplasma pneumoniae-associated pneumonia, a common but potentially serious respiratory infection, amid a rise in cases across New Jersey and the United States. Click [here](#) for news coverage.

“We call it ‘walking pneumonia’ because the symptoms are usually mild,” said Virtua pulmonologist Eric Szejman, MD. “People with M. pneumoniae infections can seem better than expected for someone with a lung infection. They might not stay home and can pose a risk to others when going out. All the more so, awareness on the clinician side is important.”

Dr. Khelil Discusses IV Fluid Supply

A national shortage of IV fluids, caused by damage from Hurricane Helene last month, continues to affect hospitals and patients in our region and beyond. Virtua, however, has sufficient supplies of these products. Dr. Jen Khelil, Virtua’s SVP and chief medical officer, explained the shortage’s impact and how Virtua is maintaining its IV fluid supplies. Watch on [6 ABC](#).

Helping Patients—and Ourselves—With Election Anxiety

With the conclusion of the 2024 election season, this is a time of heightened stress and emotions for many of our patients, colleagues, and ourselves. Regardless of political views or affiliation, current events can easily impact our mental and emotional well-being.

“It’s important for us as clinicians to create a safe space for our patients to feel comfortable expressing their mental health concerns,” said Virtua psychiatrist Tyler Veterano, DO. “While it can be normal to experience election-related stress and anxiety, counseling may be recommended if symptoms persist for more than two weeks, or sooner if symptoms negatively impact work, school, or relationships.”

Warning signs may include:

- Depressed mood most of the day
- Loss of interest or pleasure in activities you once enjoyed
- Unexplained weight loss or gain
- Changes in appetite
- Difficulty sleeping
- Restlessness
- Fatigue
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- Lack of concentration or difficulty decision making
- Thoughts of death or suicide

Virtua offers a range of mental and behavioral health services through our team of compassionate behavioral health experts. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Thanking Our Veterans

On Monday, Nov. 11, Virtua observes [Veterans Day](#), a federal holiday honoring military veterans for their bravery and service. All Virtua hospitals will hold a **two-minute moment of silence** on **Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.**

Virtua's WE Serve Colleague Community, a group of service-minded, active/veteran military members, is dedicated to assisting active/veteran patients, family members, and Virtua colleagues. WE Serve recently spearheaded the creation of Veteran and Wounded Warrior parking spots at each acute care facility. Additionally, on Nov. 11, WE Serve plans to participate in the Top Secret Mission challenge at the Amazing Escape Room in Cherry Hill. To join or learn more about WE Serve, contact WeServeColleagueCommunity@virtua.org.

To recognize a veteran at Virtua, check out the Veterans Day eCard at peopleareeverything.com/virtua.

National Medical Staff Services Awareness Week

It's National Medical Staff Services Awareness Week (**Nov. 3 to 9**). We recognize the medical services professionals who are a vital part of the healthcare team. These valuable staff members are responsible for verifying and investigating the credentials of health care practitioners.

Reminder: Complete the Practicing Excellence Experience Program

We encourage everyone to complete the Advanced Patient Experience Program if you haven't done so already. Click to [view the guide](#). For additional details about what is required, visit the [Practicing Excellence page](#) or email virtuainfo@virtua.org.

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:

"The staff is so great. They are kind and understanding. Dr. Palli is a great doctor. I truly trust him with my life. He's kind and funny. And a professional all at the same time. Hats off to Dr. Palli and staff. Thank you all so much." (**Vasu Palli, DO**)

"One of a kind provider. So thankful for Dr. McCrosson, her knowledge, and the incredible care she provides." (**Stacy Ann McCrosson, MD**)

"Dr. Kaiser-Smith is an exceptional physician. She was serious in her approach to my illness, yet at the same time, very caring and warm. She was thorough in her examination and in explaining the results and course of treatment. I felt very well-cared for with her." **(Joanne Kaiser-Smith, DO)**

"Everyone is welcoming and treats me with care and kindness. She listens carefully and provides guidance. The thing I like most about her is that I never feel rushed. She takes her time and listens." **(Nicole Glassman, APN)**

"He is always a very pleasant, compassionate, and informative doctor. He knows me and my health issues and addresses them in a caring manner, giving me the most excellent plan of care after each visit. He is the best! His staff is very friendly, professional, and caring. Each one goes above and beyond to help with whatever need may arise." **(Rohit Malik, MD)**

LAST NOTICE: Deadline for *Philly Mag's* Top Docs of 2025 – Nov. 8

If you have a colleague who you'd like to see included in the **2025 Top Doctors issue of *Philadelphia Magazine***, there's a short time left to make that happen. The magazine partners with health care researcher Castle Connolly to create a list of top doctors. Nominations are open year-long, but to make the deadline for consideration into the May 2025 Top Doctors issue, Castle Connolly has announced that the **nomination window will close Friday, Nov. 8.**

The polling is open to all licensed physicians in America. You can nominate physicians in any medical specialty and in any part of the country. The poll does not accept self-nominations nor any duplicate nominations of the same physician per calendar year.

- Each calendar year, a physician may nominate: 15 in their own specialty, seven in each family medicine/internal medicine/pediatrics, and five in each of the remaining specialties.
- Helpful general info can be found [here](#).
- Physicians wishing to nominate someone can register here: <https://providers.castleconnolly.com/login>

Congratulations to the 100-plus Virtua-affiliated physicians selected for *Philadelphia Magazine's* Top Docs list in 2024, listed [here](#).

VOTE: 2025 Top Docs for Kids

It's that time of year when *SJ Mag Media* asks South Jersey doctors to nominate colleagues for their Top Docs for Kids issue. There are many colleagues amongst us who are exemplars in pediatric medicine, and this is an opportunity to give them some recognition.

Please find ballot link here: [2025 Top Docs for Kids Ballot](#)

A few guidelines:

- The online voting link is a private link. Please do not forward it or share it with anyone who is not a physician practicing in South Jersey.
- Physicians must provide their name, practice name, and medical license number in order to cast their ballot
- The physicians you nominate must work in South Jersey.
- Only physicians may cast a ballot.
- **Deadline for ballot submissions is 5 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2024.**

Please note that our 2025 Top Docs for Kids Patient Poll is open now as well and can be shared with patients. Voting for the Patient Poll also ends at 5 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2024.

Link to Patient Poll: [2025 Top Docs for Kids Patient Poll](#)

And, if you'd like to see last year's Top Docs for Kids, [click here](#).

Separately, looking ahead, the *SJ Mag Media* 2025 Top Docs distinction will be on the ballot in March. That poll will honor physicians chosen by their peers—and patients—and will be published later in 2025. More details on that when the polling opens. To see 2024's Top Docs, click [here](#).

Reviewing ACCME Integrity Standards

Standard 1: Ensuring Content Is Valid

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education are designed to ensure that CME activities are developed and delivered in a manner that is ethical, transparent, and free from commercial bias. There are five standards in total. Standard 2, which discussed commercial bias and marketing, was reviewed [in the Oct. 31 Clinician Update](#). Over the next few weeks, the other standards will be reviewed. According to Standard 1, accredited providers are responsible for ensuring that their education is fair and balanced and that any clinical content presented supports safe, effective patient care.

- All recommendations for patient care must be based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning while giving a fair and balanced view of diagnostic and therapeutic outcomes.
- All scientific research referred to, reported, or used in support or justification of patient care recommendations must conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental methods.
- Accredited providers should facilitate engagement with these topics without advocating for, or promoting, practices that are not, or not yet adequately, based on current science, evidence, or clinical reasoning.
- Organizations cannot be accredited if they advocate for unscientific approaches to diagnosis or therapy.

The CE Department requires that all education (slide decks with objectives and references) is submitted, and peer reviewed by a subject matter expert. Both the slide deck and a completed peer review worksheet must be submitted to the CE Department in advance of the scheduled activity. If you have any questions, please contact cme-cne@virtua.org.

Last Call: Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation Due Friday, Nov. 8

Currently, 82% of eligible Virtua colleagues who are **supervisor level and above and all employed health care providers** (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) have completed the annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation. The Attestation is available on the home page of Virtua Works under *Announcements*.

Virtua Physician Assistant Representing USA in Field Hockey

Trish Gitt, PA, of Virtua's Complete Weight Management Program, is representing Team USA at the 2024 World Masters Hockey World Cup. Trish played field hockey at Ursinus College and Shawnee High School and was away from the sport for 27 years before joining the Red Rose Hockey Club and USA Masters. She has an amazing love of the game and teammate camaraderie.

How have her lessons in field hockey made her a better health care professional? "It's about being a team player with inclusive teamwork," she said. "It takes good communication skills, with value and respect for everyone's role on our team. And all the roles work in synchronicity for an optimal outcome on the field just like in the operating room."

To learn more, click on these social posts, [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Go Trish!

A Double Dose of Dedication and Inspiration

Kristina Martinez, MSN, RN, and Kelly Warren, MSN, RN, CMSRN, dynamic duo nurses at Virtua Voorhees Hospital, are making a difference. Together, they bring a unique blend of experience and leadership, empowering their teams and celebrating patient connections. Beyond Virtua, they both lead by example, with Kelly volunteering in various church roles and Kristina teaching future health care professionals. Together, they're the heart and soul of their teams at Virtua.

Tune in to Dennis Pullin's podcast, "Here for Good: Inside Edition," to [hear their inspiring story](#).

Next Real Talk! Women's Health Chat, Nov. 14

Americans are twice as likely to say their mood declines in the winter, but sometimes laughter can be the best medicine. Virtua's Real Talk! Women's Health Chat "Laugh your way to good health" will feature a celebrated comedian alongside a pair of Virtua's experts to discuss how to create moments of

joy, even when it's difficult. They will provide real-time solutions for stress relief and help patients recognize when feeling blue is more serious and how to seek help.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

Speakers:

- Jessica Holmes (guest comedian)
- Scott Dorfner, DO (Primary Care - Burlington)
- Emilie Sheridan, LCSW, PMH-C (Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program)

Registration is required to receive the event link to the live online webinar. Please share with your office staff and patients.

[Register for Free.](#)

Share the Word on Type 1 Diabetes Support Networks at Virtua

It's officially Diabetes Awareness Month, which heightens type 1 diabetes awareness in our communities. If you know of a patient looking to join a safe space to connect with people with type 1 diabetes, Virtua offers free support networks. The [Insulin Users Support Group](#), facilitated by Suneetha Gogineni, RN, CDE, certified insulin pump trainer, meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Virtua Health and Wellness Center in Moorestown. The [Young Adult Diabetes Support Network](#), facilitated by Cheryl Holland, RD, CDCES, certified pump trainer, meets the second Thursday of each month, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Virtua Health and Wellness Center in Voorhees. There, they discuss how to balance working, taking classes, partying, and relationships, as well as the latest changes in diabetes self-management and technology.

Navigating Advances in Alzheimer's Disease

Nov. 20, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The FDA granted traditional approval to the amyloid beta-directed antibody, lecanemab, for the treatment of mild dementia. With the goal of helping specialists maintain an understanding of the evidence supporting new and emerging treatments, PeerView, chaired by James E. Galvin, MD, MPH, has prepared a discussion on the use of biomarkers to aid in early and accurate diagnosis and how to integrate therapies into practice. Click to [view the flyer and register.](#)

UPDATE: CME Liver Disease and Transplantation Postponed to Jan. 15

Due to conflicts in recently added mandatory training, the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine CME session entitled "Liver Disease and Transplantation" scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 13, will now take place Jan. 15. Stand by for updates.

Protect Yourself and Virtua from Phishing Emails

We encourage you to stay vigilant and informed about phishing tactics. The Virtua security team offers these tips on how to identify and report phishing attempts.

Do:

- Scrutinize the sender's email address. A single altered letter can be a red flag.
- Look for typos, grammatical errors, or unusual spacing.
- Hover over links to see if the destination URL matches the sender and text (e.g., avoid foreign or unrelated domains).
- Report any suspicious email, even if you're unsure.
- Trust your gut. If something feels off, it probably is.

Don't:

- Click suspicious emails based on sender or subject line. Report it first!
- Open attachments or click links from unknown or untrusted sources.
- Use your work email for personal communication.
- Share personal information like passwords, Social Security numbers, or account numbers via email.

Take notice of phishing email red flags:

- Requests for sensitive information (passwords, credit cards, Social Security numbers, etc.)
- Requests for sensitive information about others
- Urgency to act or open attachments to avoid account closure
- Mismatched link hover text and displayed text
- Sender's email address doesn't match the "To" field

How to report suspicious emails:

- Outlook/Outlook Web Mail: Open the email and click the "Report Phish" icon.
- Outlook/Mobile Device: Click the "Report Suspicious" button in the email body.

Introducing new phishing email reporting feedback:

After reporting a suspicious email, you'll receive an automated email from Proofpoint Threat Response (noreply@proofpoint.com). It will analyze the reported email and tell you if it was malicious, suspicious, spam, or low risk, the action was taken (like quarantine), and what you might need to do next (i.e., confirm quarantine).

Contact securityawareness@virtua.org for further guidance.

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

The ¡HOLA! Colleague Community is a safe space to cultivate success for our Hispanic and Latin colleagues. Join ¡HOLA! on **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 5 to 7 p.m.** for an inspiring and empowering panel event to learn about the experiences and achievements of diverse leaders within Virtua.

To register, click [Colleague Community Event: ¡HOLA! Empowerment Panel](#).