

Clinician Update

September 12, 2024

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Halfway Milestone: Rowan-Virtua School of Translational Biomedical Engineering & Sciences

This week, leaders from Virtua Health and Rowan University, joined by state and local officials, students, and community members, marked the ceremonial halfway point in the construction of the future home of the Rowan-Virtua School of Translational Biomedical Engineering & Sciences, as well as the Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine.

When the building is complete next year, it will include classrooms, research and diagnostic labs, administrative and faculty offices, and more.

"Incredible work is already underway at the Virtua-Rowan College, but soon it will have an additional home that allows for enhanced innovation, collaboration, and possibility," Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin told the audience.

Watch a video recap of the event [here](#). Read more [here](#).

South Jersey's Only Proton Therapy Center Celebrates First Year

The [Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center](#) has enabled 150 people to receive the most advanced form of radiation therapy—right here in South Jersey—since opening last year. On Tuesday evening, dozens of these grateful patients and their families reunited with their care teams to celebrate and express their appreciation for one another.

"It's incredibly gratifying to have helped so many people in our first year," said Stephanie Fendrick, Virtua's EVP and chief strategy officer.

Patients have come from across the state, as well as central Pennsylvania and Florida, she noted. They've been treated for a wide range of cancers, including prostate, brain, breast, lung, liver, and esophageal.

"I'm lucky and thankful to have proton therapy services available here in South Jersey and so close to my home," said Kyersten Corda, a breast cancer survivor who spoke at the reunion.

The proton facility is one of just 45 centers nationwide and the only one in South Jersey. Located on the Virtua Voorhees Campus, the center is part of Virtua's longstanding partnership with Penn Medicine.

Read more in [ROI-NJ](#).

Radiation Oncology Preps for Upgrade in Washington Twp.

Our Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Radiation Oncology location in Washington Township is preparing for an important delivery: a new state-of-the-art linear accelerator. This exciting upgrade will enhance the team's capabilities to deliver highly precise and effective cancer treatments.

"We are committed to making this process as smooth as possible and ensuring that patients receive the highest quality care," says Alexis Harvey, MD, lead radiation oncologist, Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Radiation Oncology at Washington Township. "Physicians can continue to refer through the same process and feel confident that we'll work with each patient to coordinate the best care plan."

Construction required for the new equipment is expected to take place from mid-October through February 2025. During this time, the team will continue to see patients for consultations and follow-up appointments in Washington Township, but radiation treatments at this site will pause. Patients will be accommodated at our Voorhees location to ensure that treatments continue uninterrupted and on schedule. If you have any questions, please call 856-247-7330.

Colleague Flu Vaccination Program Has Launched

Virtua has released the [flu vaccination schedule](#). Flu shots are mandatory for all Virtua colleagues, by **Nov. 5**.

Note: Virtua Medical Group (VMG) colleagues will continue to be directed to receive their flu shots from designated practice extenders, coordinated by VMG leadership.

Renal Denervation: Key Advancement in Addressing Uncontrolled Hypertension

Our most recent issue of the *Today* series of physician education newsletters is now posted to Digital 411. [Interventional Cardiology Today](#) focuses on an advanced new treatment for intractable hypertension, a condition that poses a danger to millions of people for whom drug treatment and lifestyle changes have failed to bring their blood pressure to healthy levels. Now, interventional cardiologists at Virtua are offering renal denervation (RDN) to treat these patients.

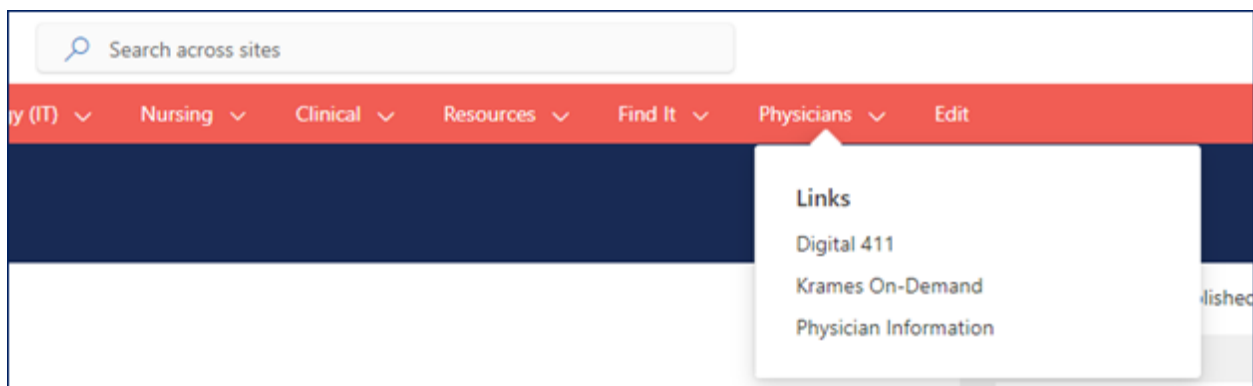
"With endovascular RDN, we are delivering a solution that is safe and provides long-term, life-saving correction for uncontrolled hypertension," said Kintur Sanghvi, MD, FACC, FSCA, Virtua chief of interventional cardiology and director of cardiovascular innovation.

Rhondalyn McLean, MD, Virtua AVP for cardiovascular clinical operations added, “With lifestyle changes often difficult to maintain as well for these high-risk patients, a one-time treatment such as renal denervation may prove a significant boon for the hypertension field.”

To learn more, click here to view [Interventional Cardiology Today](#).

Remember, our library of publications has a home base on [Digital 411](#), found under “Additional Resources/Clinician Publications.” There, you can find archived copies of *Clinician Update*, as well as the growing resource of the *Today* series.

As mentioned in previous editions of *Clinician Update*, the [Digital 411 website link and Physician Information](#), previously found on the VINE, is now readily accessible under a new and dedicated "Physicians" tab in the Colleague Corner navigation bar.



Advancing the Patient Experience

We're in Week 23 of our Practicing Excellence journey. Today's tip can be found in the [Week 23 Guide](#).

This week, the organization shines a spotlight on *Track 1: Hospital Medicine*. They are watching the tip, "[Self-Care While on Service](#)." This tip shares the impact of applying self-care habits during a clinical shift to improve well-being.

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 just have to say that Dr. Tartaglia basically saved my life. I walked in and easily after a couple questions, care, and sympathy, she led me in the right direction with a plan A and a plan B. And that is some of the best care I've ever gotten. So, I just want to say thank you and just keep at it. That was everything I needed. I'm really thankful." (Michele Tartaglia, DO)

“Thank you for listening and hearing me.” (George J. Scott, DO)

“Dr. Huggins is so amazing. She is personable, knowledgeable, and makes her patients feel important. She listened to my concerns and provided me with advice to help me improve my health. I appreciate her sincerity. She is an excellent doctor.” (Juanita Huggins, DO)

“Where do I start? Natasha is amazing. Her attentiveness to my health concerns and her personable spirit were unmatched. She has earned herself a new patient. She is so kindhearted and really listens to your issues. Natasha suggested things I could try to better assist my issues immediately, alongside making sure to prescribe what she hoped will be of relief for me for now. As a 12-year Army veteran, I'm honored to make Natasha my PCP, someone who understands and respects my ailments and concerns. Thank you, Natasha, for your kind and personable visit at Virtua Camden.” (Natasha Halyard, APN)

“He is amazing, and I am so happy that I found him. He is very knowledgeable and has a great bedside manner. He spent almost an hour listening to me and thoroughly explained everything we were going to do to improve my sleep hygiene. I walked out of the office feeling empowered that together we are going to improve my sleep and, if I do have sleep apnea, explore all available options for treatment. He is one of the best doctors that I have ever seen, and I highly recommend him.” (Aaron Crookshank, MD)

Virtua in the News

Oliver Station, a Pioneering Community, is Rising in Camden

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* highlighted this unique community, which will combine affordable apartments and primary care in one building. A partnership between Virtua and developer The Michaels Organization, the community is expected to open next March. [Read more](#) about the expected impact of Oliver Station, which will be easily accessible via the Ferry Avenue PATCO Hi-Speedline station next door.

Experts Predict Surge of Hospital-at-Home Care Model Adoption

The emerging care model, Hospital at Home, is expected to spread quickly among New Jersey hospitals thanks to a new law that greatly expanded the number of patients eligible for these services. Diego Ortega, MD, lead physician for Virtua's Hospital at Home program, and Kristin Bloom, assistant vice president overseeing the program, are among the experts consulted. Virtua's program, which has cared for more than 1,100 patients, is one of the most extensive in the country. Read on northjersey.com.

Virtua Leader Discusses Growth of ASCs

As demand for outpatient care continues to rise, leaders of ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) are working to meet this need. Virtua's Barry Graf, SVP of partnerships and business development, was among 31 ASC leaders to share insights on these opportunities in [Becker's ASC Review](#). This group will also speak at Becker's annual ASC conference next month.

Spread of Whooping Cough Continues to Make News

Martin Topiel, MD, Virtua's chief infection control officer, gave an in-depth interview about this highly communicable illness, which is rising in our area and nationwide. Read in [Sun Newspapers](#).

Upcoming Events

LAST CALL: Webinar Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds: Advancing Patient Care Using Cardiac Magnetic Resonance, Sept. 18

Join us for the next Quarterly Cardiology Grand Rounds, to be held virtually on **Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 7 to 8 a.m.** Michael P. Gannon, MD, Virtua Cardiology, fellowship-trained in advanced cardiac imaging, will discuss advancing patient care using cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR).

The program objectives are to:

1. Assess the clinical strengths and weaknesses of CMR as a tool in multi-modality imaging
2. Understand the clinical indication and prognostic value of CMR in patients with heart failure and coronary artery disease
3. Become familiar with the use of CMR in diagnosing patients with myocardial infarction with non-obstructive coronary artery disease (MINOCA)
4. Provide resources for future patient and provider use for CMR

The target audience is physicians and interprofessional teams. To register for this online event, click [here](#). For CME accreditation information, and to learn more about the event, click to [view the flyer](#). For more information, please contact VirtuaClinician@Virtua.org.

Hepatology and Gastroenterology Updates: Closing the Gaps, Oct. 5

In this session at the Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center on **Saturday, Oct. 5**, participants will be able to:

- Diagnose, evaluate, and treat alcoholic hepatitis
- Recognize updates on new advanced and endoscopic techniques, such as transgastric liver biopsy
- Understand nonsurgical treatment options for liver tumors by interventional radiology
- Create a platform that allows the providers within the network to manage patients with hepatobiliary and GI diseases collaboratively, as well as empower communication with advanced care

Speakers include Simona Rossi, MD; Charles Snyder, MD; Ashraf Malek, MD; Nyan Latt, MD; Joseph Broudy, MD; Ely Sebastian, MD; Raman Battish, MD; and Brian Colangelo, LCSW.

For more details, including CME accreditation, registration information, the agenda, and more, [click here](#).

Virtua's Heart Health Fair, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

401 Young Avenue, Moorestown

Spread the word about this free event open to the public, rain or shine, under tents in the employee parking lot at the Virtua Health & Wellness Center — Moorestown.

The public can:

- Tour our facilities and learn about our services
- Participate in health screenings
- Relax with a chair massage
- Let the kids enjoy face painting and balloon artists
- Enjoy healthy snacks and giveaways and enjoy music from our live DJ
- Join a short fitness session with our instructor
- Meet clinicians and practitioners for heart-healthy information sessions
- Take a “walk with a doc” to get your steps in for the day
- Check out our EMS and mobile screening vehicles

Walk-in's welcome but to learn more and register, [click here](#).

Interprofessional Critical Care Symposium, Oct. 18

The Virtua Center for Nursing Excellence and Innovation, in collaboration with Virtua critical care leadership, will be hosting its [first critical care symposium](#). This interprofessional, accredited event will include presentations on advanced heart failure, cardiovascular surgery, organ transplantation, complex technology in the ICU setting, and much more. The target audience is physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, medical fellows, nurses, pharmacists, and medical residents.

Participants will be able to:

- Discuss strategies for improving patient outcomes, including respiratory management of ARDS, hemodynamic management, and pharmacological interventions
- Foster collaboration of the interprofessional team to promote best practices in the care of complex patients
- Explore technological advances in critical care and their practical applications

Presenters will include Gary Weissman, MD, MSHP; Emilio Mazza, MD, PhD; Tolulope Agunbiade, MD; Dan Choi, MD; Michael Lee, MD; Janine Vallen, MSN, RN, CCTN, APN-C; Ann Thompson, DO; Mikel Shea Ehnholt, MD; Joanne Phillips, DNP, RN, CPPS, NEA-BC, FCNS; Kavitha Dalal, PharmD; and Donna Wixted, MS, RD.

The event will take place **Friday, October 18, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, at the Barry Brown Health and Education Center (the HEC) in Voorhees. For more details, including CME accreditation, registration information, the agenda, and more, click [here](#).

Meet Virtua's Own Network Maestro

At Virtua Health, we often call our colleagues rock stars. But Tim Segado, network engineer, takes that one step further.

In addition to making sure our network runs in perfect harmony, Tim spends his free time engineering harmonious tunes. He writes and produces music under the name "Miles Before Sleep" and currently has an EP available on your favorite streaming platforms.

Click to [view the video](#) and discover a hidden talent within our own Virtua family.

IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity for All

[Hispanic Heritage Month](#) begins **Sept. 15**, celebrating cultures and contributions of those whose ancestors came from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Spain.

Here at Virtua, we're proud of our diverse workforce. Our ¡HOLA! Colleague Community fosters an environment of awareness, education, mentorship, inclusion, and respect for those of Hispanic and Latinx backgrounds and beyond. Interested in becoming part of ¡HOLA!? Reach out to HOLA@virtua.org. Together, we can continue building a vibrant and inclusive community at Virtua.