



Neuroscience Institute

For Immediate Release

April 15, 2019

Contact:

Susan McDonald

Senior Communications Specialist

860.874.2196 (mobile)

Susan.McDonald@hhchealth.org

Stars Dance For Parkinson's Fundraiser

HARTFORD – They're doctors, administrators, corporate organizers – and now they're dancers as part of the second annual Stars Dancing for Parkinson's fundraiser to benefit the Chase Family Movement Disorders Center at the Hartford HealthCare Ayer Neuroscience Institute.

"I'm no dancer - I'm not even sure I have rhythm! But, when I thought about the great things the Ayer Neuroscience Institute is doing for (our) patients, I simply couldn't say no," said Donna Handley, president of Backus and Windham hospitals and one of the "celebrity" dancers competing.

Planned for Friday, May 10, from 6-11:30 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, Stars Dancing for Parkinson's features eight dancers who have been training for several months with their experienced dance partners to compete for the top prize, as decided by four celebrity judges.

In addition to Handley, dancers include:

- Andrew Carroll, service line director of oncology for the Hartford HealthCare Medical Group (HHCMG)
- Andrea Dash, director of planning and communications at Hartford HealthCare

- Ray Figlewski, patient advocate
- Therese Hannoush McCarthy, a member of the community
- Dr. Camila Lawrence, a breast surgeon at HOCC
- Mohamed Saleh, lean sensei with the system

Their dancing will be judged by:

- Joanne Berger Sweeney, a Hartford HealthCare board member and president of Trinity College where she is a professor of neuroscience
- Jeffrey Flaks, president and chief operating officer of Hartford HealthCare
- Jocelyn Maminta, WTNH Channel 8 news anchor
- Jonathan Roberts, US and World Professional American Smooth champion, US Rising Star ballroom champion

Parkinson's disease is the second most common age-related neurodegenerative disorder in the world, affecting seven to 10 million people. The Chase Family Movement Disorders Center combines the most advanced diagnostic and therapeutic skills to provide compassionate and comprehensive care in the management of the disease and other movement disorders.

This includes cutting-edge research, pharmacologic management, surgical options, and psychosocial support. Our Community Wellness and Education Room serves as a venue for educational programs and exercise classes in dance, TaiChi, boxing and interval training.

Tickets to the Stars Dancing for Parkinson's fundraiser are \$150 a person and are available at <https://hartfordhealthcare.ticketspice.com/stars-dancing-for-parkinsons>.

Hartford HealthCare is Connecticut's most comprehensive healthcare network. Our fully integrated health system includes a tertiary-care teaching hospital, an acute-care community teaching hospital, an acute-care hospital and trauma center, three community hospitals, the state's most extensive behavioral health network, a large multispecialty physician group, a regional home care system, an array of senior care services, a large physical therapy and rehabilitation network and an accountable care organization. Through its institute model, Hartford HealthCare

offers the highest standards of care for cancer, heart and vascular services, neuroscience, orthopedics and urology. Visit us at www.hartfordhealthcare.org