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## SAVE THE DATE

### Connecticut Hospital Association's 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, June 25, 2013**  
Aqua Turf Club, Southington, CT  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

[Leaders Take Hospital Message to Washington](#)



Connecticut hospital leaders joined CHA and colleagues from across the country at the AHA Annual Membership meeting, held April 29 to May 1 in Washington, D.C. This important advocacy event provided a valuable forum to present a unified message about the importance of hospitals and the need to ensure their financial stability.

"Whether an act of violence or nature, hospitals are there – they MUST be – let's salute the men and women of America's hospitals," Rich Umbdenstock, President and CEO of AHA, said during the opening ceremony. He urged hospitals to be vocal advocates for their communities, state, and country in meetings with legislators.

Because Congress was not in session, hospital leadership met with the health aides of Connecticut's congressional delegation, including staff from the offices of John Larson (CT-1), Joe Courtney (CT-2), Elizabeth Esty (CT-5), Richard Blumenthal (CT), Chris Murphy (CT), and Jim Himes (CT-4). They discussed hospital programs including quality and patient safety initiatives, as well as serious issues like the need to preserve Medicare and Medicaid funding, protect Connecticut hospitals as Congress debates changes in the area wage index, reauthorize the Medicare Dependent Hospital program, and preserve the positive aspects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Hospital leaders attending the meetings included Kurt Barwis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bristol Hospital; Steven Hanks, EVP & Chief Medical Officer, The Hospital of Central Connecticut; Peter Karl, President and CEO, Eastern Connecticut Health Network; John Leone, Vice Chairman of the Bristol Hospital Board; Marie O'Brien, Chairman of the Bristol Hospital Board; and Andrea Rynn, Director, Public & Government Relations, Western Connecticut Health Network.

Legislative aides expressed appreciation for the great work being done by Connecticut hospitals and encouraged hospital leaders to continue their vocal advocacy through the difficult budget discussions ahead.

[WCHN's Andrea Rynn Recognized as Grassroots Champion](#)

The American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award was given to Andrea Rynn, Director, Public & Government Relations, Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN), at a special breakfast of Grassroots Champions at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2013. As a 2013 Grassroots Champion, Ms. Rynn was recognized for her exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community support for issues of importance to hospitals and healthcare.



*WCHN's Andrea Rynn Recognized as Grassroots Champion*

"Andrea Rynn is a true leader in advocacy," said CHA President and CEO Jennifer Jackson. "She has a single-minded focus on the welfare of people in western Connecticut, and is engaged in working with legislators to develop substantive solutions to critical issues facing WCHN and the people for whom it cares. Ms. Rynn is innovative, determined, and dedicated to her community. She is an active participant in hospital collaborations and provides valuable insight to colleagues from hospitals across the state. We are so happy that she is Connecticut's Grassroots Champion."

The award, given annually to one person in each state, was created to recognize hospital leaders who effectively educate elected officials about how major issues affect hospitals' roles in the community, who have expanded the base of community support for hospitals, and who have been tireless advocates for hospitals and patients.

Ms. Rynn has worked at WCHN for nearly nine years, serving in a variety of public affairs roles until she became Director, Public & Government Relations, four years ago. In addition to her leadership role at WCHN, Ms. Rynn serves on the Board of Directors for the Women's Business Council in Danbury, the Board of the New Milford Chamber of Commerce, and the Advisory Board of the Community Culinary School of Northwestern Connecticut. She is a member of CHA's Committee on Government and various advocacy and communications subcommittees and work groups.

## **Surgical Health Care Quality Forum Features Healthcare Leadership**



*Scott J. Ellner, DO, MPH, FACS, and Rocco Orlando III, MD, FACS*

On April 26, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) hosted the ACS Surgical Health Care Quality Forum Connecticut, a community discussion about the state of healthcare in Connecticut and how surgeons and other clinicians, hospitals, health plans, and government can work together to achieve better patient outcomes and increase the value of healthcare.

The Forum featured a diverse set of perspectives on what is currently being done to ensure high quality healthcare, and some of the challenges state providers and health plans are facing in the wake of health reform.

The Forum highlighted the efforts of the Connecticut Surgical Quality Collaborative (CtSQC), a statewide group of hospitals that meets regularly to share quality outcomes including successes and best practices for the benefit of all patients in the state.

"Our collaborative is a unique forum to get hospitals at the table, not as competitors but as healthcare providers with a common goal to improve patient care," said forum host Scott J. Ellner, DO, MPH, FACS, Vice Chairman of Surgery and Director of Surgical Quality, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, and Co-Chair, ACS Connecticut Chapter Committee on Patient Safety. "As a result of this effort, patients will get better care and our healthcare system will improve. Everyone wins."

"The foundation of sustainable quality improvement for any healthcare organization is culture and high reliability," said Rocco Orlando III, MD, FACS, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Hartford HealthCare. "Our leaders drive our culture by linking our values to our performance. Across our health system, we set goals collectively and collaboratively—building dashboards and objective metrics to assess our progress."

Alison L. Hong, MD, Director, Quality and Patient Safety, CHA, said "Connecticut hospitals are setting the standard for quality and patient safety, and last year they began an ambitious first-of-its-kind statewide initiative to eliminate all cause preventable harm using high reliability science to create a culture of safety. Improving surgical quality outcomes is among the many goals of this quality and safety improvement program. Meanwhile on the national level, Connecticut hospitals are recognized as leaders by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for their participation in Partnership for Patients, an initiative to prevent harm and reduce readmissions."

Other speakers included Kathleen A. LaVorgna, MD, FACS, private practice surgeon, Norwalk Hospital, and President, ACS Connecticut Chapter; Colleen Desai, MSN, RN, CEN, Trauma Program Manager, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and President-Elect, Connecticut Emergency Nurses Association; and Kevin Lembo, Comptroller, State of Connecticut.

The program was sponsored by the ACS Connecticut Chapter, the Connecticut Surgical Quality Collaborative, and the Connecticut State Medical Society.

## **Modern Healthcare Names Marna P. Borgstrom one of its Top 25 Leaders**

Modern Healthcare magazine has named Marna P. Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer of Yale-New Haven Hospital



(YNHH) and President and CEO of Yale New Haven Health System, one of its top 25 Women Leaders in Healthcare.

The program honors female healthcare executives who are chosen based on five criteria including successfully managing an organization or company, the ability to effect change in the healthcare industry, and a demonstrated willingness to share expertise with others. Ms. Borgstrom was nominated for her leadership in Yale-New Haven's mutually beneficial acquisition of the former Hospital of Saint Raphael (HSR). Ms. Borgstrom and her colleagues worked with HSR executives and physicians, the boards of both hospitals, elected officials, state and federal regulators, and community leaders to overcome the transaction's challenges.

The integration of the two hospitals will improve access, coordination, and delivery of healthcare, and enhance the quality of care on both campuses. With more than 1,540 beds and 12,000 employees, Yale-New Haven Hospital is now one of the largest in the United States.

Ms. Borgstrom, a 34-year veteran of YNHH, began her career in 1979 as an administrative fellow after earning her MPH in hospital administration at Yale School of Medicine. She has held positions with increasing responsibility, including 14 years as COO and seven years as CEO. She is a member of the Board of Directors of VHA, Inc., the Association of American Medical Colleges, and CHA. She is an American College of Healthcare Executives Fellow and is the Chair of the Council of Teaching Hospitals Administrative Board.

## Education Updates

### CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Thursday, May 23, 2013

8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside. Curriculum for the Nurse Preceptorship Program was developed by a team of educators from area hospitals and schools of nursing, and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. The program includes presentations and interactive sessions that cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, evaluating competence, delegating effectively, and more. The Nurse Preceptorship Program will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to nurse preceptors that have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for details.

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