

Sweet Relief  
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Positioned To Meet  
GROWING DEMANDS

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# synapse

THE CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL MAGAZINE | 2022 VOL 1

## *Helping* breast cancer patients bloom

JOAN RIMKIS SHARED HER JOURNEY >>>



Penn Medicine

# CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL WELLNESS CALENDAR PROGRAMS TO KEEP YOU WELL

## WELLNESS PROGRAMS

If you are looking to make healthier lifestyle choices, you will benefit from these educational programs offered by Chester County Hospital's Community Health and Wellness Department. The majority of offerings are virtual, please visit [ChesterCountyHospital.org/Wellness](http://ChesterCountyHospital.org/Wellness) for more details.

### NUTRITION AND WEIGHT CONTROL



Whether you have a chronic health condition or want to improve your eating habits for your personal and physical well-being, we have the expertise and programs in place to help you.

**Nutrition Counseling**—Meet one-on-one with a Registered Dietitian.

**Struggles & Solutions**—A Dietitian leads a monthly discussion on interesting, timely, and immediately useful topics about food, activity, and wellness.

**Weight Management Programs:**

- Truth About Weight Loss
- Your Weigh Down
- A Conversation about Emotional Eating

### DIABETES PREVENTION

Approximately 88 million Americans have pre-diabetes. With early detection and awareness, you can take the steps to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. Our programs will help you make proven, achievable lifestyle changes to reduce your risk.



**Reversing Prediabetes**—A 90-minute program about diagnosing pre-diabetes and what to do to prevent type 2 diabetes.

**Prevent Type 2 Diabetes**—A six-week program led by a trained lifestyle coach to make lifestyle changes to improve your health.

**National Diabetes Prevention Program**—A year-long program designed by the Centers for Disease Control to help you make sustainable lifestyle changes.



### DIABETES EDUCATION

By learning to manage your diabetes, you can enjoy a long and active life. We have education programs to help you understand nutrition, blood sugar testing, exercise, and coping.



**Diabetes Basics**—For Type 2 diabetes.

**Intensive Insulin Management Training**—For anyone on multiple insulin injections.

**Gestational Diabetes Management**—For pregnant women who develop diabetes.

### CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION

Whether you are a first-timer or an experienced parent, we offer carefully crafted and comprehensive programs to support you during pregnancy, labor, postpartum and parenthood.

### WELLNESS PRESENTATIONS

We are committed to providing a broad scope of high-quality education programs that address specific life cycle needs and chronic health conditions and topics:

- Cancer
- CPR and Safety
- Heart and Vascular
- Mental Health and Addiction
- Nutrition
- Orthopaedics
- Senior Health
- Women's Health



### SMOKING CESSATION

Our six-week cessation program, **Stop Smoking Now!** will teach you the tools you need to quit smoking. The class meets virtually on a weekly basis to help identify your smoking triggers and deal with withdrawal symptoms.



### SUPPORT GROUPS

We have a wide variety of support groups to provide participants with education, information-sharing and support:



- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Heart and Vascular
- Mommy Wellness
- Parkinson's Disease



### SPEAKERS BUREAU

We have a panel of healthcare providers and educators who can present to your group or organization for **FREE**. The format of your presentation can be flexible ranging from a formal lecture presentation with questions and answers to a more informal/ interactive program.

For additional program information including descriptions, schedules and registration call 610.738.2300 or visit: [ChesterCountyHospital.org/wellness](http://ChesterCountyHospital.org/wellness)



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## DEAR FRIENDS



After a long winter and three years into a pandemic, we continue to work our way back to some kind of post-COVID "new" normal.

As we do, we navigate the significant added challenge of two local hospitals – one with an inpatient psych unit, closing. A surge in COVID-19 before spring, caused by the omicron variant, saw an upswing in the demand for care. Despite these challenges, Chester County Hospital and our care teams were at the ready.

As detailed in this edition of *Synapse*, the completion of the final phase of our Emergency Department renovation project came at a crucial time for the hospital and added much-needed bed capacity.

Also in this issue, we meet **Lou Testa**, a patient who trusted his spine surgery to orthopaedic surgeon **Mark Tantorski, MD.**

**Susan Chang, MD**, surgical oncologist, and **Joseph Serletti, MD**, plastic surgeon, share the conveniences, expertise, innovations, and compassionate care journey Chester County Hospital breast cancer patients can rely on.

Lastly, we talk to some new members of the Chester County Hospital family to get a firsthand account of what makes working at the hospital a game changer.

Summer represents a sense of optimism, excitement, and something to look forward to. The welcoming of longer days, warmth and sunshine have me feeling encouraged for what's to come.

Thank you to our patients, their families, and our community for their continued support of our efforts.

Warm regards,

Michael J. Duncan  
President and CEO

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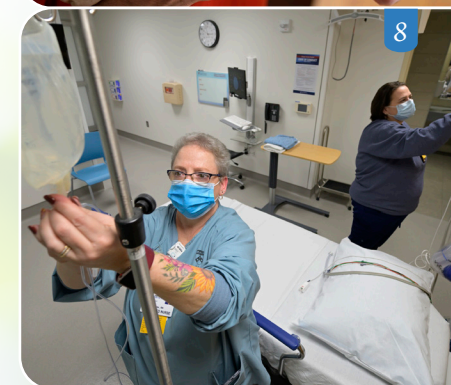
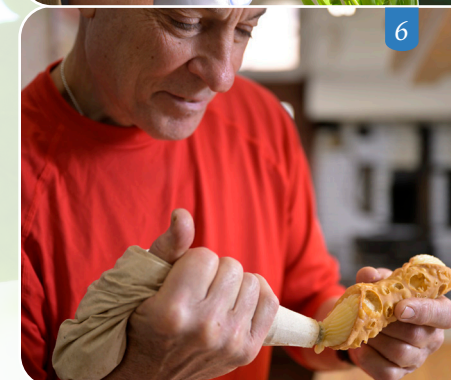
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## synapse

SYNAPSE MAGAZINE SINCE 1981

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# Helping breast cancer patients bloom

Rattling as a breast cancer diagnosis is, treatments are more effective than ever before. That's partly because they're more personalized than they've ever been. This is a glimpse at what the journey – from diagnosis to restoration – looks like at Chester County Hospital.

JOAN, RECOVERED BREAST  
CANCER PATIENT AT CHESTER  
COUNTY HOSPITAL >



**A breast cancer diagnosis can arrive like a shock, simultaneously rocking both your equilibrium and plans for the future. Once that moment begins to subside, however, there are many reasons to be hopeful. In recent years, treatment options have grown in number and effectiveness, which has enabled doctors to better tailor their care to a patient's specific needs. As a result, breast cancer, when caught early, is nearly always cured.**

As an integral member of the Penn Medicine healthcare system, Chester County Hospital has been able to aggressively combat breast cancer. High-caliber surgeons are deploying the full range of available tactics to not only achieve a successful outcome but also to completely restore patients' quality of life for the many years that will follow their treatment.

Here, we'll describe what this journey looks like at the Abramson Cancer Center at Chester County Hospital, from diagnosis to breast reconstruction.

## Tailoring the Treatment

Oncologic surgeon Susan S. Chang, MD, did her fellowship training at the John Wayne Cancer Institute. At the time, she was simply trying to become a more proficient surgeon. She had no expectation of building her career around breast health. But as she progressed through the final phase of her training, she grew to appreciate the deeper and more enduring relationships she was forming with her patients.

*Joan appreciated Dr. Chang's thorough approach to her treatment. After a scare in April 2021 she followed an aggressive screening schedule, enabling her care team to catch a cancerous tumor very quickly.*

"It's very different from when, say, someone gets an appendectomy, or they have their gall bladder taken out. Once they're done, they're done. You don't see your surgeon again unless you have another surgical problem," Chang says. "But as a breast cancer surgeon, I'm doing surgical procedures and I'm remaining in my patients lives through their entire treatment and, hopefully, for many years after that."

A patient typically will meet with Chang after they've been diagnosed by their family doctor or gynecologist. Because most women undergo a mammogram as a matter of routine, many of Chang's patients are diagnosed relatively early in the course of their disease, which enables her to discuss breast-conserving therapy (the cancer is removed while leaving as much of the breast intact as possible) as well as mastectomy.



**CYNTHIA BROWN, BSN, RN, CN-BN, BREAST CARE COORDINATOR**  
STEERING ONE'S WAY THROUGH A CANCER DIAGNOSIS IS MADE EASIER FOR PATIENTS THANKS TO THE COMPASSIONATE CARE THEY RECEIVE FROM OUR CLINICAL TEAMS, INCLUDING CYNTHIA, ONE OF OUR NURSE NAVIGATORS.

But treatment is rarely an either-or scenario. It can include some combination of surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, HER2-targeted therapy, CDK4/6 inhibitor therapy, immunotherapy, or PARP inhibitor therapy.

"It's also not straightforward, where everyone goes down this one path," Chang says.

How much the cancer has spread will heavily influence the course of treatment. But the patient's age and their family history with the disease are also taken into account. For that reason, Chang will often order additional imaging studies, including a breast MRI, as well as genetic testing.

"When we meet, nothing's set in stone because I'm still gathering information that could totally change the surgical management," she says. "Still, it's pretty overwhelming. Usually we tell patients, bring a family member or friend, a second set of ears, because it's a lot of information thrown at them."

For reference later on, she provides her patients with a binder and book published by SHiNE – a donation-based support initiative the Chester County Hospital Foundation fosters for cancer patients in Chester County. She'll also advise them to limit their Googling and the number of people they confide in about their diagnosis. The reason is largely the same for both: There's a lot out there. In the end, very little of it will apply to you. So, spare yourself the stress of worrying about it. She's commonly asked, "What would you do?" *continued >*



“Dr. Chang treats you like you are the only patient she has when you are with her. Her bedside manner is wonderful and I trust her immensely.”

She always declines to answer. “Everybody’s different,” she says. “I don’t want them to make their decision based on what I would do for myself in this situation.”

While she is the surgeon, Chang wants to make sure each of her patients has agency over their treatment. She’ll explain their diagnosis, the stage of their disease, and the options available for curing it. But she prefers, once all of the best clinical options have been presented to them, that the patients decide which course is right for them.

Surgery is generally scheduled a month after the initial meeting with Chang, though it can vary based on the timing of the imaging studies, whether the patient decides to undergo another kind of treatment prior to their operation, and if they opted for breast reconstruction following their treatment.

A new collaboration with the office of Joseph M. Serletti, MD, FACS, Chief of Plastic Surgery for Penn Medicine and the Henry Royster-William Maul Measey Professor in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, offers patients the option to have an immediate reconstruction following their

mastectomy. When patients are candidates for this option and interested in learning more, Chang will arrange for a consultation.

Drs. Chang and Serletti began working together at Chester County Hospital last fall.

“It’s been wonderful working with him,” Chang says. “He’s bringing a lot of different options to our patients at Chester County Hospital. And the outcomes have been great.”

### Restoring What Was Lost

Though breast reconstruction surgery follows treatment, Serletti believes a woman should be informed about it the moment a mastectomy becomes a possibility. As much as it is a matter of awareness, it’s also about ensuring the patient has sufficient time and space to decide. Everyone, he says, will come to the decision to do it, or not do it, in their own way because it’s weighted with a significant emotional component.

“Breasts are an important part of a woman’s body and, in turn, her identity and perception of her sexuality,” he says. “Restoring them to their previous state can have an enormous psychological impact. Many studies have shown breast reconstruction can positively influence a woman’s wellbeing.”

There are two ways to reconstruct a breast. One is with an implant and the other makes use of the patient’s own tissue. The implant is the more traditional approach, though the tissue reconstruction tends to yield a more natural result, Serletti says.

He has performed both procedures at Chester County Hospital. “What we’re doing at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, we’re also doing at Chester County Hospital,” he says.

The implant reconstruction is a three-step process. First, Serletti will place an inflatable balloon under the skin of the breast and fill it partway so that the patient’s left with the beginning of a breast mound. Then, two weeks after the surgery, she’ll begin a series of weekly in-office treatments during which Serletti will add a little saltwater to the balloon, slowly stretching the skin so that it will ultimately be able to accommodate an implant the size of the patient’s original breast. Typically, this process occurs over about three months.

Finally, during a one-hour procedure, Serletti will remove the balloon and place the implant.

That said, working together, he and Chang have been able to expedite the process and move straight to placing the implant with a few patients. “They’ve gone incredibly well,” he says. “The patient spends one night in the hospital.”

When the patient’s own tissue is used to reconstruct the breast, the tissue is usually taken from her lower abdomen. “It’s basically like a tummy tuck, only instead of discarding the tissue, we’re using it to reconstruct the breast,” Serletti says. “It’s a little more of a complex operation than the implant, but the entire breast is reconstructed in a single day.”

For an implant reconstruction, a patient generally will spend a night in the hospital after the surgery and then another four weeks recovering at home. A tissue reconstruction entails a three-day hospitalization, followed by six weeks of recovery at home. At the six week-point, with both procedures, the patient is usually permitted to resume all normal activities.

Whether to undergo breast reconstruction is not an easy decision to make, especially after a lengthy treatment, but Serletti says he’s rarely seen someone regret doing it. The opposite, in fact.

“Once she’s fully recovered, she’ll see the very natural-looking result and say she really underestimated how important this was to her,” he says. “And that’s very rewarding for me, to help someone reach that emotional state where they’re feeling good about themselves again.”

“You want what’s best for you, and the best medical care after a breast cancer diagnosis,” Rimkis added. “Dr. Serletti is the best. He is extremely calm and gentle. He provides answers to your questions and gives you all of the information about the options and procedure.”





# Sweet relief

## through spine surgery

**Lou Testa was told that spinal surgery was his only option. But he was frustrated those surgeons didn't seem to appreciate the gravity of their recommendation. That changed with Dr. Mark Tantorski.**

Last summer, Lou Testa, an active bakery owner and family man, was walking through his backyard when he suddenly had trouble lifting the front part of his left foot.

"It felt like an electric shock went through my left thigh," Testa says. "I was completely dumbfounded."

He had recently had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee and was scheduled to begin physical therapy in a couple of days, so he didn't seek immediate help. Instead, Testa waited and explained to his physical therapist what happened. She recommended he get it looked at right away, and even put him in touch with an orthopaedic surgeon's office that day.

Following an MRI, the first surgeon he met with told him he needed spinal surgery, which came as a bit of a shock to Testa.

"He told me I needed surgery, but he only spent 10 minutes with me. He gave me a bunch of papers and said they would explain the procedure. That concerned me," he says. "To me, this was a major operation, and he was only going to spend 10 minutes with me?"

When he got home, Testa called his daughter, Karla Testa, who's a doctor, and recounted the episode. She shared her father's MRI report with a friend who's a spinal surgeon in Colorado. He told her there was no way around the surgery and recommended a colleague, orthopaedic surgeon Mark E. Tantorski, DO, in Chester County, close to her father.

### SURGERY WAS HIS BEST OPTION

Testa was experiencing a spinal condition called spondylolisthesis, which usually causes lower back pain. It occurs when one of the vertebrae – the bones of your spine – slips out of place onto the vertebra below it.

Physical therapy and/or corticosteroid injections can often relieve symptoms. Testa began receiving injections to the affected part of his back 10 years prior. He said each injection resolved his pain for a couple years. But they were no longer effective, largely because Testa's shifting

vertebrae – specifically, his lumbar 4 and 5 at the base of his spine – had created a bone spur that was growing and compressing a nerve. That compression is what ultimately caused his foot drop.

"At this point, surgery was his best option," said Tantorski, who ultimately performed Testa's operation.

Tantorski made two incisions in Testa's lower back. Each was less than an inch long. Through them, he was able to locate the bone spur and remove enough of it to completely free the affected nerve. And then he fused together the problematic segment of Testa's spine, ensuring that those vertebrae will never change positions again.

"We were fortunate in that he was able to regain all the strength in his left leg. It's the outcome we hope for," Tantorski added. "That's not the case every time. Sometimes the nerve is so traumatized, even with the surgery, we're not able to get a complete recovery of muscle function. In this case, once the fusion process is complete, he should never have to worry about these particular vertebrae again."

This doesn't necessarily mean that Testa won't experience an issue like this again with a different segment of his spine. "The likelihood of that happening is low," Tantorski shared, "but it isn't zero."

### COMFORTED BY THOUGHTFULNESS

Shortly before Christmas, Testa and his wife, Janis, reopened their business, Testa's Bakery, a fixture in Havertown for the last four decades. It had been closed since Lou's knee surgery in June, and he was itching to get back to work. But he was committed to doing it on Tantorski's terms. Since their first meeting a few months' prior, Testa had developed a deep respect for the surgeon.

"I saw two other surgeons before I saw Tantorski. It just didn't feel right with them. But it did with Dr. Tantorski," Testa remembered. "For him to spend 45 minutes with me and explain everything so clearly meant a lot. I was very happy with the way he prepared me for the surgery. And that same thoughtfulness continued through my recovery."

For his part, Tantorski says he approaches each patient as a partner in their care.

"I tell them what's going on with them and offer to help navigate them through their treatment," he says. "But we need to be able to work together, from the preparation



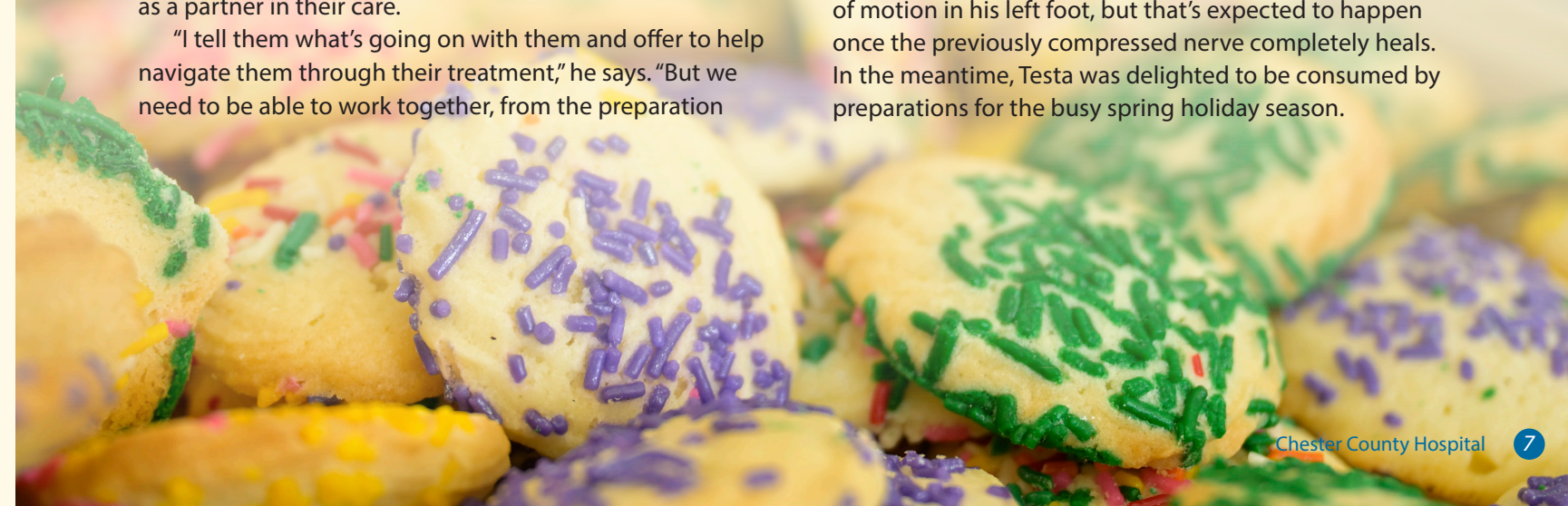
"I felt completely looked after from the minute I was admitted to the minute I was discharged. I told my wife, 'If I ever need to go back into the hospital for any reason, I want it to be this one'"

for their surgery through the immediate and long-term post-operation period."

Integral to that, he says, is being able to articulate each step in a straightforward way. "Once they have a good understanding of what's going to happen, it's easier for them to feel comfortable with the situation and put their faith in me," Tantorski said.

Testa shared he was also buoyed by the care he received at Chester County Hospital, where his operation was done.

Three months after he returned to the bakery, Testa said he was pain-free. He had not yet recovered the full range of motion in his left foot, but that's expected to happen once the previously compressed nerve completely heals. In the meantime, Testa was delighted to be consumed by preparations for the busy spring holiday season.





POSITIONED TO MEET

# growing demand

An extensive renovation of Chester County Hospital's Emergency Department has been completed, and it couldn't be a moment too soon. Visits to the Emergency Department have increased over the last several years. That trend will likely intensify in the wake of recent shifts in Chester County's healthcare landscape.

A 26,000-square-foot expansion of the department was completed last spring. Since then, the unit has undergone a renovation that occurred in phases to ensure patient access and care were not impacted. Now complete, the project,

which is part of the largest expansion in the hospital's history, will have spanned three years.

In November, Darren Girardeau, MSN, BM, RN, PHRN, CCRN, CEN, Director of Emergency Services at the hospital, said the clean lines and new streams of natural light had already helped lift morale among a staff that's endured a steady succession of construction-related obstacles to its daily workflow. This is on top of the demands of a pandemic that's now in its third year.

"It's created a more pleasant environment for both our staff and patients," he shared.

"This country is facing a mental health crisis, and I think every ER is feeling the strain of it, including ours. Patients who are here for mental health-related issues are, in some cases, here for 12 to 13 days before an inpatient bed opens up for them at another facility."

**FRONT LINE OF CARE: THE DEDICATED MEMBERS OF OUR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TAKE A MOMENT TO ENJOY THEIR NEW WORK ENVIRONMENT.** PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: DARREN GIRARDEAU, MATTHEW DEGAETANO, SHANNON CURLEY, KELLI CUNEO, TYLER OTTINGER, THERESA MOORE, DARIUS SPADY, COREY KLUMPP, JACLYN WRIGHT, STACEY WITTMAN, MARINA MATTLEMAN, SHANNON GILLESPIE



## INCREASED CAPACITY

With the completion of the renovation, 10 more beds will become available, bringing the department's total to 43. These include specialty exam rooms for the most vulnerable patients.

"The number of beds has been an issue for us not only because we're seeing more patients these days but also because the cases we treat, on average, have become more complex since we became part of Penn Medicine," shared Diana Kane, MD, FAAEM, Chairperson and Medical Director of Emergency Medicine at the hospital. She's been a doctor in Chester County Hospital's Emergency Department for the last 21 years. "We've become a stop for local patients who require highly specialized care or surgeries. Some, we admit and treat here. Others may be transferred to one of our sister hospitals."



# patient centered care

The Emergency Department has also experienced an increase in patients who are there seeking mental health services, since most long-term treatment programs across the region are at capacity. Girardeau said the department added staff during the first phase of the renovation because the department was divided by construction into two distinct parts. This essentially forced it to function as such. Now that more beds are available, additional staff have been added and the space is again contiguous.

## STREAMLINED WORKFLOWS

Previously, the beds in the department were divided only by curtains. Now, each is behind a closed door, which will help enhance privacy and, Kane said, reduce the risk of infection. Two of the four new resuscitation bays can also be used as negative pressure rooms. Within these, the department can isolate people with airborne diseases, such as COVID-19, flu, or tuberculosis. A machine pulls air into the room, then filters it before releasing it outside.

Prior to the renovation, the Emergency Department didn't have specialty care areas of any kind.

"It wasn't a barrier for us. We could take care of anyone in the department at any time," Girardeau shared. "But with the resuscitation bays, we'll have at our fingertips all the equipment we need to treat any critically ill patient."

The new department also features a less centralized floorplan compared to the former unit. A single nurses station has been replaced by multiple, smaller stations spaced throughout the department.

"Even now, there's a definite flow about the department," Kane added. "I think everyone feels more in touch, even if we're more spread out than we've ever been."

The doctors occupy an all-glass office in the middle of the floor that they've dubbed "the fishbowl." Within it, they have unobstructed views of all the resuscitation bays. Just as critically, the nurses can easily see who's in the fishbowl from almost anywhere on the floor, expediting the process of having a doctor review test results.



NEW RESUSCITATION BAY, WHICH ALLOWS FULL OPERATING CAPACITY

"Our staff felt safer right from the start, and the majority of our patients have commented that they feel safer, too."

# streamlined

## ENHANCED SAFETY

In an environment where there's often a palpable sense of urgency, Girardeau said hospital leaders, himself included, were concerned by how the department's enhanced security features would be received. Since March 2020, the Emergency Department has been supervised by a security officer 24/7. Everyone who enters the department must also pass through a metal detector and x-ray security screening.

Girardeau says it was apparent almost immediately that their fears were unfounded.

Most visitors will probably only ever notice the more spacious waiting area (complete with access to a new bistro) and exam rooms. But all around them, subtle and pronounced changes are positioning providers to be even better prepared when they're thrust into action.

**DARREN GIRARDEAU, MSN, BM, RN, PHRN, CCRN, CEN, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**



▶▶ LEARN MORE AT [www.chestercountyhospital.org](http://www.chestercountyhospital.org)

Meet our

## NEW HIRES

### Lauren Murphy & Susan Oddo



**Lauren Murphy** is a current college student at West Chester University (WCU). Studying exercise science with a minor in psychology, her post-graduate goals are to become an exercise physiologist. Murphy began working in Food and Nutrition Services at Chester County Hospital in December 2021. Prior to joining the hospital, she spent three years working in the food and nutrition industry for a retirement company.

Murphy heard about the position, and a job fair at the hospital, from her mother, a fellow CCH employee. Murphy decided to attend the fair and brought several friends from WCU along. Many of them were also offered part time positions. Given its close proximity to the University, and the flexible hours, the hospital's Food and Nutrition openings were perfect for these full time students.

**Susan Oddo, BSN, RN** joined Chester County Hospital (CCH) in January 2022 as a daytime staff nurse in the Emergency Department (ED). With 33 years in the industry as a registered nurse, Oddo believes that being in healthcare is a calling, for her and her family.

Preceding her recent onboarding, Oddo worked at CCH three times prior; in Neighborhood Health, Penn Hospice at Home, and as a case manager approximately five years ago. Oddo wasn't nervous about her return to the hospital, though she was timid about returning to the clinical setting after spending the last two and a half years as a hospital nursing supervisor.

"The ER directors at CCH were very encouraging and told me it would be just like riding a bike and they were so right," Oddo said.

#### What appealed to you about your new position?

**ODDO** I have worked in emergency rooms in the past and I enjoyed it. There was and is a need for high quality emergency care, especially with the recent local hospital closures. With that in mind, I knew I wanted to return to the emergency setting.

**MURPHY** The competitive wages and benefits, flexible scheduling, and the proximity of the hospital to the University worked great with my school schedule and commute.

#### What is your favorite aspect of working at Chester County Hospital?

**ODDO** Although everyone's roles differ, every patient, task, or project is tended to with a team approach and we all work together. If you need help with something, people just jump in, they don't say that it is someone else's job.

**MURPHY** The staff. Everyone at Chester County Hospital is positive and helpful. The environment is comfortable and accommodating to employee needs.

#### What differentiates your current role and department from past experiences?

**ODDO** The Emergency Department team is collaborative and helpful, sharing their expertise and knowledge for the greater good. The administrators and charge nurses take care of the staff and are understanding and provide assistance during high volumes.

**MURPHY** The Food and Nutrition Services' staff are extremely willing to help and assist one another. They bring positivity and light to the workplace, from the cooks to the service workers, everyone has such great enthusiasm and demonstrates kindness.

#### What made you choose CCH as your employer?

**ODDO** Chester County Hospital has very high standings in the community. I have had family members who have had difficult medical issues stay here and everyone has done such a phenomenal job. Penn Medicine is one of the top health systems in the country, and you can tell by the quality of what they do and the support they have for their employees.

**MURPHY** The opportunity for growth as a student. There are so many avenues you can take at Chester County Hospital, and getting my foot in the door now will assist in growing in the future.

#### Is there a specific benefit that you find most helpful as an employee?

**ODDO** The beautiful vicinity. The parking, safety, and location; everything is well-lit and you feel secure being here.

**MURPHY** The flexibility and opportunity to pick up extra shifts. With being a college student, having a flexible schedule for my classes is important. The ability to pick up extra shifts throughout the week as my course load allows is beneficial to my savings goals.

#### What would you say to job seekers considering applying at the hospital?

**ODDO** Absolutely, go apply! The county needs a strong hospital to take care of the community and that is what we do here. The community needs healthcare and individuals who want to give back to them.

**MURPHY** Yes, apply! Chester County Hospital has a plethora of opportunities available with such welcoming employees to work with every day.

#### What is your experience with the leadership and culture at Chester County Hospital?

**ODDO** The leadership here is fantastic. I have seen Mike Duncan, President and CEO, every day that I have worked. He makes rounds, talks to everyone, and addresses them by name. He introduced himself and asked about my previous employment. Coming from a local healthcare facility that had just closed, I shared my concerns about that part of the county not having the access to care that they need. He reassured me that he is reaching out to that community, going to their churches and other locations, so that they know Chester County Hospital is here and can help take care of them.

**MURPHY** The culture is incredibly unique and inclusive – and that starts at the top. When you walk around, everyone knows everyone. I never feel intimidated to go to work, and always look forward to coming in.

**At Chester County Hospital, our employees find tremendous teamwork, community and collaboration. As an employee, you'll enjoy an outstanding compensation and benefits package that is among the best in the region, the opportunity for professional development and a career that offers flexibility and variety.**

TO LEARN MORE VISIT  
[GameChangerCCH.org/Careers](https://GameChangerCCH.org/Careers)



**Allergy & Immunology**

**Soheil Chegini, MD**

Dr. Chegini earned his medical degree from the University of Vienna Faculty of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Afterward, he completed his fellowship at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center. Board certified in the field of Allergy & Immunology, Dr. Chegini practices at Exton Allergy & Asthma Associates in Exton, PA.

**Otolaryngology**

**Sinehan Bayrak, MD**

Dr. Bayrak earned her medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She completed her residency at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Afterward, she completed her fellowship at the American Academy for Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Board certified in the field of Otolaryngology, Dr. Bayrak practices at Subbio Plastic Surgery & Medspa in Newtown Square, PA.

**Pediatrics**

**Antonietta D'Urso, MD**

Dr. D'Urso earned her medical degree from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. She completed her residency at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Afterward, she completed her fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Board certified in the field of Pediatrics, Dr. D'Urso practices at Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine Exton in Exton, PA.

**Gloria Koskey, MD**

Dr. Koskey earned her medical degree from the University of Virginia. She completed her residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Koskey practices at CHOP Newborn & Pediatric Care at Chester County Hospital.

**Phalgune Patro, MD**

Dr. Patro earned her medical degree from SCB Medical College Cuttak. She completed her internship at Henry Ford Hospital. Afterward, she completed her residencies at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and Nassau University Medical Center. Board certified in the field of Pediatrics, Dr. Patro practices at CHOP Newborn & Pediatric Care at Chester County Hospital.

**Reproductive Endocrinology**

**Rachael Cohen, DO**

Dr. Cohen earned her medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed both her residency and fellowship at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Board certified in the field of Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility and Obstetrics & Gynecology, Dr. Cohen practices at Sincera Reproductive Medicine in West Chester, PA.

**Internal Medicine**



**Renee McDonough, MD**

Dr. McDonough earned her medical degree from the University of Miami. She completed her residencies at the University of Alabama Hospital and Christiana Care. Board certified in the field of Internal Medicine and specializing in geriatric care, Dr. McDonough practices at Penn Internal Medicine Westtown in West Chester, PA.

**Qurratulain Baig, MD**

Dr. Baig earned her medical degree from Dow University of Health Sciences. She completed her residency from Dow University of Health Sciences. Board certified in the field of Internal Medicine, Dr. Baig practices at Gateway Internal Medicine of West Chester in West Chester, PA.

**Sonia Ignatius, MD**

Dr. Ignatius earned her medical degree from the University of Kerala. She completed her residency at Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center. Board certified in the field of Internal Medicine, Dr. Ignatius practices at Penn Internal Medicine Westtown in West Chester, PA.

**Uzma Quraishi, MD**

Dr. Quraishi earned her medical degree from King Edward Medical University. She completed her residency at Cooper University Hospital. Board certified in the field of Internal Medicine, Dr. Quraishi practices at Brandywine Med Spa in Kennett Square, PA.

**Michael Saleeb Ibrahim, MD**

Dr. Ibrahim earned his medical degree from Ain Shams University Faculty of Medicine. He completed his residency at the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education. Board certified in the field of Internal Medicine, Dr. Ibrahim practices with the Hospitalist Group at Chester County Hospital in West Chester, PA.



**Jaehyoung Choi, MD**

Dr. Choi earned his medical degree from Korea University College of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of Miami JFK Medical Center. Board certified in the field of Internal Medicine, Dr. Choi practices with the Hospitalist Group at Chester County Hospital in West Chester, PA.



**Podiatry**

**Christopher Fung, DPM**

Dr. Fung earned his medical degree from Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine. He completed his residency at Bryn Mawr Hospital. Board certified in the field of Foot Surgery, Dr. Fung practices at the Foot and Ankle Center of Chester County in Exton, PA.

**Family Medicine**

**Sara Sterling, DO**

Dr. Sterling earned her medical degree from New England College of Medicine. She completed her residency at Geisinger Health System. Board certified in the field of Family Medicine, Dr. Sterling practices with the Hospitalist Group at Chester County Hospital in West Chester, PA.



**Gregory Swan, DO**

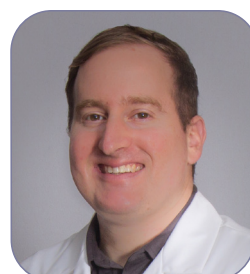
Dr. Swan earned his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency at Reading Hospital. Board certified in the field of Family Medicine, Dr. Swan practices with Christine Meyer, MD and Associates in Exton, PA.

**Harmony Bonnes, DO**

Dr. Bonnes earned her medical degree from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her residency at Abington Jefferson Health Network – North Penn Family Medical Associates. Board certified in the field of Family Medicine, Dr. Bonnes practices at Gateway Medical Associates in Downingtown, PA.

**Matthew Pagano, DO**

Dr. Pagano earned his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residencies at Rochester General Hospital and Saint John's Episcopal Hospital. Board certified in the field of Family Medicine, Dr. Pagano practices at Penn Family and Internal Medicine Longwood in Kennett Square, PA.



**Cardiology**

**Steven H. Back, MD, PhD**

Dr. Back earned his medical degree from Temple University. He completed his residency at Temple University Hospital. Afterward, he completed his fellowship at both the Boston Medical Center and Lankenau Hospital. Board certified in the

fields of Cardiovascular Disease and Internal Medicine, Dr. Back practices at West Chester Cardiology in West Chester, PA.

**Radiation Oncology**

**Anthony Ricco, MD**

Dr. Ricco earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. He completed his residencies at Crozer-Chester Medical Center and Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Ricco practices at Comprehensive Cancer Care in Exton, PA.

**Dentistry**

**Sonal Jyotindra Dave, DMD**

Dr. Dave earned her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. She then completed her residencies at Christiana Care Health System and Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Dave practices at West Chester Orthodontics in West Chester, PA.

**OB/GYN**

**Chase White, MD**

Dr. White earned his medical degree from the University of California Davis School of Medicine. He completed his residencies at Albert Einstein Medical Center and the University of California Irvine Medical Center. Board certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Dr. White Practices at Chester County Hospital in West Chester, PA.

▶▶ TO FIND A DOCTOR, CALL 610.738.2300, OR SEARCH ONLINE AT [www.chestercountyhospital.org](http://www.chestercountyhospital.org)



**Anesthesiology**

**Jaeyoon Chung, MD**

Dr. Chung earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. He completed his residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Afterward, he completed his fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. Board certified in the field of Anesthesiology, Dr. Chung practices at Penn Anesthesiology West Chester – Chester County Hospital in West Chester, PA.



**Daphne Jo Florence, MD**

Dr. Florence earned her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. She completed her residencies at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Board certified in the field of Anesthesiology, Dr. Florence practices at Penn Anesthesiology West Chester – Chester County Hospital in West Chester, PA.

**Vascular Surgery**

**John Flanagan, MD**

Dr. Flanagan earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania. He completed his residency at University Hospital – UMDNJ. Afterward, he completed his fellowship at Geisinger Hospital. Board certified in the fields of Surgery and Vascular Surgery, Dr. Flanagan practices at Vascular Surgical Specialists in Phoenixville, PA.

**Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery**

**Ritwik Grover, MD**

Dr. Grover earned his medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School. He completed his residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Afterward, he completed his fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Grover practices at the Plastic Surgery Center in Phoenixville, PA.

**Joseph Serletti, MD**

Dr. Serletti earned his medical degree from the University of Rochester. He completed his residency at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Afterward, he completed his fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Board certified in the field of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Serletti practices at Penn Plastic Surgery Perelman in Philadelphia, PA and Penn Plastic Surgery in Bryn Mawr, PA.

**Nicholas Wingate, MD**

Dr. Wingate earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. He completed his residency at Strong Memorial Hospital – University of Rochester. Board eligible and a candidate for the American Board of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Wingate practices at Legacy Plastic Surgery in Exton, PA.

**Timothy Browne, MD**

Dr. Browne earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He completed his two residencies at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Program. Afterward, he completed his fellowship at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital. Board certified in the field of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Browne practices at The Plastic Surgery Center in Phoenixville, PA.

**Urology**

**Michael Chiusano, DO**

Dr. Chiusano earned his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residencies at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and Albert Einstein Medical Center. Board certified in the field of Surgery, Dr. Chiusano practices at MidLantic Urology in West Grove, PA.

**Radiology**

**Tracy Carmellini, MD**

Dr. Carmellini earned her medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine. She then completed her residencies at the University of Connecticut – Hartford Hospital and St. Francis Medical Center. Board certified in the field of Diagnostic Radiology, Dr. Carmellini practices at Chester County Hospital in West Chester, PA.



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**Fortune and IBM Watson Health**

Chester County Hospital has been named one of the nation's top performing hospitals by Fortune and IBM Watson Health. The annual Fortune/IBM 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals study spotlights leading short-term, acute care, non-federal US hospitals that treat a broad spectrum of cardiology patients. The study is designed to identify impartial, actionable, and attainable benchmarks for hospital and clinical leaders as they work to raise their own organizations' standards of performance in cardiac care.



**SATOSHI FURUKAWA, MD, FACS CHIEF, CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL SURGERY ON STAFF AT CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL, DR. FURUKAWA SPECIALIZES IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE CARDIAC SURGERY, HIGH RISK CARDIAC SURGERY AND OFF-PUMP VENTRICULAR ASSIST DEVICE IMPLANTATION SURGERY.**

**Leapfrog Hospital Safety**

Chester County Hospital has been awarded an "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for Spring 2022. In Pennsylvania, only 61 hospitals received an A grade. This national distinction recognizes Chester County Hospital's achievements in protecting patients from preventable harm and error in the hospital.



**U.S. News & World Report**

Chester County Hospital earned national and statewide recognition from U.S. News & World Report and its Best Hospitals for Maternity Care.

The hospital earned the highest available rating of "high performing" and is one of just two hospitals in the county to receive this designation. U.S. News & World Report released its inaugural list of the 237 Best Hospitals for Maternity Care in December.

"It is gratifying to see our team's hard work, quality care, and compassion recognized by U.S. News & World Report. The birth of a baby is a precious and important moment in the life of a family and we are honored that so many place their trust in our care," Francis Doyle, MSN, RN, CNML Director, Maternal Child Services, shared.



**Vizient**

Chester County Hospital has been recognized as a top performer in the 2021 Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Annual Ranking by Vizient, Inc. CCH was one of 121 healthcare facilities ranked in the Complex Care Medical Centers cohort for demonstrating excellence in delivering high-quality care based on the Vizient Quality and Accountability Ranking, which has been conducted annually since 2005.

*"Delivering patient-centered, efficient, effective, safe, and equitable quality care to the community we serve is at the forefront of Chester County Hospital's mission. The hard work and focus the hospital's team puts forth to achieve this superior performance year over year is remarkable and evident with this recognition,"*

Karen Pinsky, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Chester County Hospital.



**Penn Medicine**  
Chester County Hospital

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West Chester, PA 19380

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# *Grateful for our* **PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITY**

Responding to the ever-changing challenges of healthcare, while staying focused on the unique circumstances of each patient, is only possible because of you. Your thoughtful generosity and passion to make a difference remain key to our continued success. You can create a charitable legacy to be remembered by generations and secure the future of healthcare in our community. Planned gifts provide the resources that create extraordinary opportunities. Each giving experience is unique. Contact Susan Kelly at 610-431-5433 or [Susan.Kelly@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:Susan.Kelly@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) to discuss creative giving options including The Chester County Hospital Foundation in your will or estate plans.

*Information is not offered as legal or tax advice. We urge you to seek the advice of your tax advisor, attorney and/or financial planner to make certain a contemplated gift fits well into your overall circumstances and planning.*

