

VA CONNECTICUT - AFFILIATED PHYSICIANS NAMED TOP REGIONAL DOCTORS

Twenty-three VA Connecticut-affiliated physicians were named in New York magazines 2003 top regional physicians listing. The list was compiled in collaboration with Castle Connolly Medical, a research and publishing company. Thousands of top physicians in the New York area completed a survey that asked them to nominate top doctors in various specialties. Castle Connolly then refined the list based on hundreds of interviews with leading specialists, chiefs of service and other hospital personnel. Congratulations to the following physicians who were listed in the 2003 edition:

Lawrence Brass, M.D.	Dennis Spencer, M.D.
Carolyn Rochester, M.D.	Gary Friedlander, M.D.
Barry Zaret, M.D.	Peter Jokl, M.D.
Irwin Braverman, M.D.	Darryl Carter, M.D.
Richard Edelson, M.D.	Richard Matthay, M.D.
David Leffell, M.D.	Carrie Redlich, M.D.
Robert Sherwin, M.D.	Robert Schoer, M.D.
Leo Cooney, M.D.	Ronald Salem, M.D.
Vincent Quagliarello, M.D.	Joseph Eleftriades, M.D.
Vincent DeVita, Jr., M.D.	Gary Kopf, M.D.
Peter Aronson, M.D.	Robert Weiss, M.D.
Joseph Piepmeier, M.D.	

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Future Events:

Training for Supervisors
August 7
9-10:30 a.m.
2-3:30 p.m.
Donaldson
(PCTEL to Newington)

CARES
Commission Hearing
August 25
Billerica, Mass.

Mental Health Care
Conference
September 18

For more information on these and other events please see *Good Morning VA Connecticut*.

VA's Summer Youth Volunteer Program

Part II

By Monica Liu
Summer Youth Volunteer



Steve Washington, 14



Steve, a sophomore at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, works six hours every Tuesday in Patient Transportation. This is his first year volunteering. So far, he is enjoying his experience, during part of which he got lost on the sub-ground level. On a more serious note, however, he said, "I like helping other people. It gives you a really good feeling."

Steve enjoys playing piano and video games in his free time and looks forward to a career in computers. He volunteers as part of a school requirement. He explained that upon entering Choate for four years, a requirement of at least 30 hours of volunteer work is needed to graduate. As a junior, the 30 hours decreases to 10 hours, and there is no requirement for seniors. Steve thought it was a good idea to volunteer at the VA. As a result of his positive experiences here he said he would recommend volunteering to other students.

"It's a good experience for others, especially for younger people, because it really helps to build character."

Kimberly Gould, 14

Kimberly volunteers at the Retail Store every Tuesday for six hours. She is a freshman at Luralton Hall in Milford. She said she volunteers because "I just like it! It gives me something to do over the summer." Also, she is here as part of confirmation, a Catholic practice much like a coming of age. Twenty-four hours of community service are required to complete confirmation. Kimberly chose to volunteer at the VA mostly because her friend's father was once a patient here. Because of that, she felt that she, "really *should* come here."



Kimberly likes working in a retail store environment because it, "gives you a good background for part-time jobs at a store." In addition, she has met some very interesting people while at work and has enjoyed talking with them. In her spare time, Kimberly loves listening and playing music, singing, watching movies and traveling.

"I can never travel enough," she said fervently. "I'm in Connecticut all the time, and I like to go somewhere different." Her favorite vacation spot is Florida where the environment is so unlike that of Connecticut's.

Kimberly is excited about coming back to volunteer at the VA Retail Store next year. She exclaimed, "Of course I will volunteer here again! I want to get more used to the environment, and besides, it's fun!"

THE ROVING REPORTER

Welcome to the Roving Reporter. This column will occasionally appear in Spirit Online and will give randomly selected employees a “voice” on the important and not-so-important issues of the day. Questions and answers will at times be informative, at times entertaining, at times just plain fun. Smile! YOU may be the “Roving Reporter’s” next subject.



Question: If you won a \$10 million Connecticut lottery would you continue to work? What is the first thing you would do or buy with the money?



Ken Geisel, Facilities Management Service

“No, I wouldn’t continue to work. I’m too close to retirement. I retire in 17 months, 6 weeks and 3 days. Why should I work any longer? I would set up a trust-fund for the grandchildren and give my kids some cash. I would take my wife on a trip and see all the things I never saw before. I would give my boss notice though.”



Lisa J. Blais-Andrea, Veterans Canteen Service

“No, I wouldn’t work but I’d come back here as a volunteer. The first thing I’d do with the money is pay off my mom’s house then I’d send my daughter to college. With \$10 million I wouldn’t worry about anything that’s for sure. I don’t need anything but maybe I’d buy myself a pair of Nikes or Jordans.”



Ernest Pagan, Shuttle Driver - Facilities Management Service

“No! I wouldn’t work. I have a good boss (Venita Godfrey) so I would give plenty of notice. That’s too much money to spend. At my age the money would become a headache. I would help a lot of people who had less. I’d donate a lot to charity and churches.”

in the
NEWS

The Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association presented \$400,000 to the PVA/EPVA Neuroscience Research Center of Yale University at VA Connecticut. Dr. Patricia Dorn, Acting Deputy Director for the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service attended the July 18 presentation. Funds will be used to further the center's neuroscience research.

The Draft National CARES Plan was submitted to the CARES Commission and is available for viewing at:

<http://www.va.gov/cares>

From this site, you can also submit comments to the CARES Commission by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on the appropriate box in the Draft National Plan Toolbox. The VA New England Healthcare System CARES Commission Hearing is scheduled for Aug. 25 at the Wyndam Billerica Hotel in Billerica, Mass. Comments may also be emailed to: CAREScommission@mail.va.gov/.

Robert M. Donaldson Jr., M.D., the David Paige Smith Professor Emeritus and former deputy dean at the Yale School of Medicine, died July 8 in West Falmouth, Mass. He was 75. Dr. Donaldson was a former chief of the medical service at VA Connecticut's West Haven campus. In 1998, the Donaldson Education Center was dedicated in his honor.

Award Programs

There are currently many federal/health care award programs open for competition or will be opening for competition in the near future. More information can be obtained by logging on to the website:

<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/humanres/default.htm>

For assistance, call Human Resources at ext. 5909.

SPIRIT ONLINE

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