October 2020

Dear Friends of Greenwich Hospital,

It is with enthusiasm that we share this first-ever magazine from the Office of Development at Greenwich Hospital. During the many weeks of the pandemic, our community has shown an astounding dedication to our staff, lifting their spirits and helping them to deliver the finest care possible to our patients. For this and so much more, we are forever grateful.

*Greenwich Hospital Magazine* was conceived with the goal of sharing our dear friends’ stories that reflect the fruits of their investments of time and philanthropy. You will read about our journey through Covid-19, a concern you contacted us about consistently with one question: how could you help?

These pages also illustrate your commitment to the plans for the future of Greenwich Hospital. In less than 30 months, you have helped us to launch a Neurosciences Center, expand care in Pediatrics, enhance the care in Heart and Vascular services and kick-off, with the largest single gift in our history, fundraising for a new Smilow Cancer Center in Greenwich.

Leadership is central to everything we work steadily to accomplish. One leader stands out among many others at this time – Norman G. Roth, our outgoing chief executive officer. He came to Greenwich Hospital with a stellar background in health care. Among the most notable achievements of his tenure were the relationships he forged with the hospital, town and region. As he retires, we know you will join us in extending our gratitude to him for his many accomplishments.

Enjoy the pages you are about read. Write to tell us what was meaningful to you. Partner with us to sustain and grow our great hospital.

*Diane P. Kelly*  
President

*Noël Appel*  
Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer

---

*Diane P. Kelly*  
President
PLANNING FOR A SURGE

In late January, as the nation watched the Covid-19 pandemic sweep through China and Italy, Greenwich Hospital instituted Code D (for Disaster) as part of its emergency planning. Projections for Greenwich from Yale New Haven Health (YNHHS) were staggering – a possible influx of 600 patients in a 206-bed hospital. Armed with the data, hospital leaders plotted different scenarios for treating numbers of patients in the ICU and on ventilators. A specimen collection tent, the state’s first, was erected outside the hospital.

FIRST PATIENT ARRIVES AND DECISIONS ARE MADE

On March 14, the first Covid-19 patient was admitted to Greenwich Hospital. Cases spiked quickly. The hospital became the epicenter of the pandemic in Connecticut. Compounding the mounting crisis was the short supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as N95 face masks. Staffing, safety and equipment were top concerns. A YNHHS Incident Command System was activated with members from each hospital providing twice-daily status and resource-need reports. Lead physicians from across the system shared recommendations for standardizing care.

Perhaps the biggest challenge was the virus itself – a new and highly contagious disease in which no one was an expert. Innovation was critical. To minimize infection exposure for clinical staff, the facilities department cut holes in solid doors to insert viewing windows. The hospital purchased long tubing that enabled medication drip machines to be kept outside the patient’s room instead of bedside.

As the hospital struggled to keep pace, frontline staff stepped into the breach. Physicians with critical care training assisted their colleagues. Others whose practices were closed came to work at the hospital. Senior critical care nurses trained nurses from other departments to help in the ICU. Employees whose departments had closed took contamination-mitigating assignments wiping down surfaces.

There were setbacks, but staff always returned to work. They became advocates for the vulnerable and left an indelible imprint on the lives of patients and their families.
YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH SYSTEM ASSISTS

Being part of YNHHS was a tremendous asset for the hospital. When Greenwich reached a critical mass of patients on ventilators, the system sent more vents and respiratory therapists. Throughout the crisis, Yale New Haven Hospital accepted Greenwich ICU patients as needed. The system’s IT and biomed teams installed advanced telemedicine equipment in every inpatient and emergency room, and increased telemetry monitoring. Clinical staff from YNHHS sister hospitals temporarily moved to Greenwich to assist with the influx of patients.

A COMMUNITY RISES AS ONE

News that Greenwich Hospital was at the epicenter of the pandemic elicited a swift response from the community. This support had a profound impact, helping the hospital maintain exceptional care and boosting morale. Six hundred donors contributed $3.9 million to the Covid-19 Support Funds for ventilators, PPE and operational expenses, and even the cost of lodging staff from other YNHHS hospitals. Area restaurants delivered 17,000 prepared meals to grateful employees. Said one senior leader who rounded the floors with the food cart, “If you can bring somebody a sandwich and put a smile on their face, that is a good thing.”

MODEL OF CARE IN A COVID WORLD

Although the number of patients has declined since the mid-April peak, Covid-19 isn’t going away soon. YNHHS is still in Code D. The YNHHS Incident Command System team continues to convene.

Visionary donor partners, whose compassion for the heroic teams of Greenwich Hospital is surpassed only by their desire to save lives, are funding these innovative programs:

Covid-19 Dedicated Unit, a generous gift from an anonymous donor couple providing staff with safe locations for donning and doffing PPE, enhancing the level of infectious disease care, and funding the acquisition of powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) hoods;

Covid-19 Employee Disaster Relief Fund, a compassionate gift from the O’Malley Family assisting frontline employees who helped during the height of the pandemic and are now burdened with their own financial hardship;

The Gabelli Family Greenwich Hospital Emergency Department Fund, a generous gift recognizing the vital efforts of the Emergency Department including its heroic care of patients during the pandemic;

The Greenwich Hospital Education Fund: Investing in our Healthcare Professionals, an inspiring gift from the Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation, Inc. to help advance the educational goals of healthcare professionals by incorporating their pandemic knowledge into future educational plans.

“The Greenwich Hospital Covid-19 frontline doctors, nurses and EMTs are working relentlessly, putting their own lives at risk, to support the greater health of our community. In gratitude, The Simon and Eve Colin Foundation recognizes these heroes and every Greenwich Hospital employee behind the scenes handling the myriad challenges of dealing with this devastating virus. Thank you for sustaining our families with the highest quality of medical care, always.”

Rebecca Colin, PhD

“The staff at Greenwich Hospital has performed extraordinary service for our community. They've put themselves in harm’s way to make sure the residents of Greenwich and the surrounding area receive the care necessary during this pandemic. We think it’s incredibly important to recognize their contribution and assist those staff members that have suffered physical and financial damages.”

Mary Alice O’Malley

“The protection and wellness of the frontline staff and their families is key to successful patient care and to the safety of the broader population of patients and caregivers at Greenwich Hospital. We hope this gift helps our greater community for many years.”

Anonymous
“With the outbreak of the pandemic, I knew I needed to help. News reports of the numbers of much-needed medical supplies were staggering. I contacted Greenwich Hospital to inquire about what assistance they needed to help alleviate the disastrous shortage of supplies. I decided to invest in the Covid-19 Support Fund with the hope that they will be able to save lives.”

Gordon Oppenheimer

“With this pandemic unfolds, we will never again take for granted something as essential as a strong, well-prepared local hospital. When we heard that Greenwich Hospital had established an emergency fund for capital expenses and another for operational expenses, it felt urgent to answer that call with a donation. For all they’re doing for us, it’s the least we can do for them.”

Eryn and Michael Bingle

“As my wife and I watched this worldwide pandemic begin to hit our community, we decided that we could not stand by without doing our share to help fight it. We decided to reach out to Greenwich Hospital to see how we could contribute to the effort to get through this emergency as safely as possible.”

Art and Pam Sanders

“Knowing that Greenwich Hospital was at the epicenter of the Covid-19 crisis in Connecticut, we wanted to do something that was immediately impactful. There was an urgent need to help fund temporary lodging for visiting nurses, doctors and staff from throughout the Yale New Haven Health system. We are truly grateful to all the medical heroes who are working so hard to save lives.”

Madeleine Rudin

“I have long admired the quality of medicine and care at Greenwich Hospital. My aunt, Helen Frankenthaler, was in and out of Greenwich Hospital for part of her last decade and I was frequently there with her. Now that I have a house in the area I wanted to help the hospital in any way I could. Please give whatever you can.”

Fred Iseman

“Dear Dr. Sabetta, Thank you for your extraordinary dedication to Greenwich Hospital and the health of our community. Due to the overwhelming challenge of the current coronavirus pandemic, we are delighted to contribute and grateful that our community is under the care of you and your colleagues at Greenwich Hospital Yale New Haven Health.”

Tracy and Catherine Wolstencroft

“We are living through an unprecedented moment in our lives where the quality of health care can have a disproportionate impact on society. We salute Greenwich Hospital – all the doctors, nurses, staff and leadership for their tireless, selfless and wonderful service. We truly feel privileged to be able to support this institution and here’s to your continuing your mission of care with compassion. Love Light Laughter.”

Chandrika and Ranjan Tandon

“As this pandemic unfolds, we will never again take for granted something as essential as a strong, well-prepared local hospital. When we heard that Greenwich Hospital had established an emergency fund for capital expenses and another for operational expenses, it felt urgent to answer that call with a donation. For all they’re doing for us, it’s the least we can do for them.”

Eryn and Michael Bingle

“As my wife and I watched this worldwide pandemic begin to hit our community, we decided that we could not stand by without doing our share to help fight it. We decided to reach out to Greenwich Hospital to see how we could contribute to the effort to get through this emergency as safely as possible.”

Art and Pam Sanders

“Knowing that Greenwich Hospital was at the epicenter of the Covid-19 crisis in Connecticut, we wanted to do something that was immediately impactful. There was an urgent need to help fund temporary lodging for visiting nurses, doctors and staff from throughout the Yale New Haven Health system. We are truly grateful to all the medical heroes who are working so hard to save lives.”

Madeleine Rudin

“I have long admired the quality of medicine and care at Greenwich Hospital. My aunt, Helen Frankenthaler, was in and out of Greenwich Hospital for part of her last decade and I was frequently there with her. Now that I have a house in the area I wanted to help the hospital in any way I could. Please give whatever you can.”

Fred Iseman

“Dear Dr. Sabetta, Thank you for your extraordinary dedication to Greenwich Hospital and the health of our community. Due to the overwhelming challenge of the current coronavirus pandemic, we are delighted to contribute and grateful that our community is under the care of you and your colleagues at Greenwich Hospital Yale New Haven Health.”

Tracy and Catherine Wolstencroft

“We are living through an unprecedented moment in our lives where the quality of health care can have a disproportionate impact on society. We salute Greenwich Hospital – all the doctors, nurses, staff and leadership for their tireless, selfless and wonderful service. We truly feel privileged to be able to support this institution and here’s to your continuing your mission of care with compassion. Love Light Laughter.”

Chandrika and Ranjan Tandon
Greenwich Hospital has embarked on a multi-year growth plan securing our position as the region’s leading medical center and healthcare provider. Together with Yale New Haven Health, we are expanding our clinical services in oncology, neuroscience, pediatrics, heart & vascular, and converting to all private rooms.

Lynne and Richard Pasculano’s historic landmark gift of $14 million to name the Pasculano Radiation Oncology Center and support the creation of a Healing Garden within the new Smilow Cancer Center Greenwich Hospital will help establish Greenwich Hospital as the region’s preeminent cancer center.

Major discoveries and emerging technologies have revolutionized how cancer is understood. In fact, early detection and new therapies have greatly improved survival rates for many types of cancer.

Lynne and Richard Pasculano understand that today’s oncology breakthroughs come from advanced academic research, technologies, and clinical care. Greenwich Hospital’s partnership with the Yale School of Medicine and the discoveries made within the Yale Cancer Center research programs resonated with their desire to advance treatments for patients suffering from cancer. Upon learning of Smilow Cancer Center coming to Greenwich, the couple saw an opportunity to make a lasting impact and give back to the community they love and have resided in for over 45 years. With unmatched conviction and unprecedented support, they joined us in our journey to new beginnings.

Patients here will receive access to national clinical trials, evidence-based treatments, expert Greenwich Hospital and Yale Medicine physicians, and the most advanced technology. Of course our core practice of compassionate, patient-centered care will always remain our guiding philosophy. In partnership with Yale New Haven Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Medicine, Lynne and Richard Pasculano’s foundational gift allows Greenwich Hospital to reach new heights in health care.
Greenwich Hospital is emerging as the region’s premier destination for neurological and neurosurgical treatments.

Jean and David Wallace, now deceased, and their Foundation have been donors for decades. David Wallace was a former trustee of Greenwich Hospital and trustee emeritus. Their daughters, Mary Wallace Strizek and Anne Wallace Juge, Treasurer, Greenwich Hospital Board of Trustees, explained that “this gift continues the legacy of our parents’ giving to build the highest clinical care for patients served at Greenwich Hospital.”

Thanks to bold investments in neuroscience from our community partners, a next-generation program is delivering results. The Yale Neurosciences Center at Greenwich Hospital is emerging as the region’s premier destination for neurological and neurosurgical treatment of stroke, traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries and tumors, seizure disorders, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

Akli M. Zetchi, MD, a board-certified cerebrovascular neurosurgeon, serves as the inaugural director of this position. “I am honored to be the first holder of The Jean and David W. Wallace Medical Director Neurovascular Surgery Program,” said Dr. Zetchi.

In looking at the crucial innovations that have changed the course of medicine at our hospital, perhaps none is more significant than the decision by the Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation to help launch the Yale Neurosciences Center at Greenwich Hospital, a multi-million dollar neuroscience program which, among myriad other services, includes the lifesaving mechanical thrombectomy.

Steadfast champion of the hospital, the Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation gave $4.25 million for procurement of sophisticated 3D technology, construction of a neuroscience interventional laboratory and a leadership gift of $5 million to establish an endowed named director position: The Jean and David W. Wallace Medical Director Neurovascular Surgery Program at Greenwich Hospital.

Just a few years ago a person suffering the crippling symptoms of stroke – paralysis, confusion, or slurred speech – might have faced permanent impairment. Today at Greenwich Hospital, a game-changing practice can reverse these symptoms. Mechanical thrombectomy, a minimally invasive procedure for eligible patients, extracts a large blood clot in an artery to the brain, yielding dramatic results. Some patients actually regain mobility and speech in the operating room, within minutes of having the clot removed.

WALLACE FAMILY GIFTS DRIVE
NEXT GENERATION NEUROSCIENCE
**WORLD-CLASS PHYSICIANS HONORED**

In gratitude to Greenwich Hospital for the care given to their late husband and father, George, Frayda Lindemann, PhD, and family made a generous gift for the refurbishment of the ICU Waiting Room in honor of Dr. James A. Brunetti. The soothing space offers patients’ families a place of comfort and respite during difficult times. At the room dedication ceremony, Frayda Lindemann said, “This gift is but a small testament to the exceptional quality of care and warmth Dr. Brunetti provides to all his patients, and to Greenwich Hospital, which enables such excellence.”

Former Board of Trustees Chairman Donald J. Kirk and his wife Mimi, both longtime hospital volunteers, recognized the extraordinary talent of James R. Sabetta, MD, with the first-of-its-kind gift to establish an endowed named position: The Mimi and Don Kirk/James R. Sabetta, MD, Chief of Infectious Diseases at Greenwich Hospital. The $5 million gift is a groundbreaking investment ensuring the future of infectious disease services in perpetuity, and will help to advance the education of physicians, medical students and key staff in infectious disease services. Now trustee emeritus, Don Kirk was a member of the hospital’s board for 26 years. He served as chairman from 1996-2000, at an auspicious time, when the board signed a partnership agreement with Yale New Haven Health. Mimi Kirk has been a dedicated volunteer since the 1990s and a warm presence at the front desk with Don, who joined her in his retirement. Their exceptional commitment to Greenwich Hospital will benefit patients today and for years to come.

**PEDIATRICS TRANSFORMED**

In 2004, an anonymous donation established the Pediatric Center in Greenwich Hospital to enhance inpatient services for children from Greenwich and the surrounding communities. The Center offers comprehensive and personalized services to each child, spanning medical or surgical care in the hospital, diagnostic or preoperative tests, time spent in recovery, and even through follow-up care at home. Funding from this anonymous family in 2020 has further enhanced this vision for a pediatric ambulatory care center and pediatric emergency waiting room.

The Gabelli Foundation Inc. has generously supported pediatric care through the years with funding to the Emergency Department. More recently, through support of the Pediatric Innovation and Education Fund, the Foundation invested in ongoing education and training in leading-edge approaches to pediatrics for our clinical staff. This special fund enables the Greenwich Hospital team to further their knowledge and skills to keep up with the latest advances in research and technology.

**CONNECTING ART WITH HEALING**

Recognizing the healing force of art and for the enjoyment of all patients and visitors, distinguished art collectors Leslee and David Rogath have once again donated several hundred pieces of artwork and reframed dozens of other pieces to be placed at the main Greenwich Hospital campus and off-site locations.
LIFE-SAVING CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEUROSCIENCE

Thanks to extraordinary gifts to neuroscience, Greenwich Hospital has become a center of excellence in neurological and neurosurgical care. The Pasculano Foundation, the Jean and David W. Wallace Foundation, the Leah and Alain Lebec Foundation, and the John L. and Sue Ann Weinberg Foundation together gave $3.5 million toward the purchase of a biplane fluoroscopy machine used in neurovascular thrombectomies to remove a stroke-inducing clot from a blood vessel. This 3D technology has been a game changer toward reversing the symptoms brought on by a stroke.

SUPPORTING IVF EXCELLENCE

Through his generous gift, Gordon Oppenheimer, as trustee of the Shendell Foundation, established the Shendell IVF Assistance fund to provide support to the Greenwich Hospital Fertility Center assisting patients who are eagerly pursuing a journey to parenthood. Greenwich Fertility treats all stages of infertility in a setting known for personalized, supportive, and nurturing care. Its team consists of experienced reproductive endocrinologists, laboratory embryologists, andrologists, and exceptional nurses and patient support staff. The gift will fund acquisition of IVF equipment and facility renovation at Greenwich Hospital.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ENHANCE CARE

The Greenwich Hospital Auxiliary has provided steadfast support to Greenwich Hospital since its inception in 1906. Over 600 dedicated volunteers assist patient services and staff at the Thrift and Gift Shops. Since 1990, earnings from the two shops and annual fundraising efforts have resulted in donations of $12.6 million. In 2020, it generously provided gifts for the Greenwich Hospital Auxiliary Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Nursing Station and the Greenwich Hospital Auxiliary Labor and Delivery Waiting Room.
In the 117-year history of Greenwich Hospital, six years is a moment in time. Perhaps no one appreciates that more than Norman G. Roth, whose passion for history reminds him that one person’s contribution is often felt well beyond years of service.

Roth, who retired on Oct. 2 after a 41-year career with Yale New Haven Health (YNHHS), six at the helm of Greenwich Hospital, has paved the way for future growth at the hospital, leaving a legacy that alters the quality and delivery of health care in this region for generations to come.

He arrived at Greenwich Hospital in 2014 as interim COO, quickly moving into the role of President and CEO. His goal: “To take an already spectacular organization and bring it to the next level.” He helped strengthen the hospital’s partnership with YNHHS, brought patient-centered care to a wider community, and ushered in a forward-thinking $160 million clinical growth plan with YNHHS that significantly expands clinical services and subspecialties at Greenwich Hospital, as well as private room conversions and a new cancer center project.

Roth retired on the heels of successfully steering Greenwich Hospital through its most challenging days of the Covid-19 onslaught. He gives tremendous credit to a community that rallied behind the hospital.

“The number of families and individuals who supported this hospital during the Covid crisis is just remarkable,” he said.

During his first years in Greenwich, Roth directed plans to build outpatient facilities in both Stamford and Westchester, bringing vital services and Yale Medicine and NEMG physicians closer to patients. With the Board of Trustees and YNHHS leadership, he solidified and made swift progress with the clinical growth plan.

He envisions the future of Greenwich Hospital as a small academic medical center that expands “medical education beyond residency in internal medicine, and having a clinical trial center in Greenwich to advance medical research.”

Roth facilitated a major expansion of cardiovascular services with Yale Medicine and a partnership with Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital that significantly alters the scope of pediatric medicine in the region. During his tenure, the Yale Neurosciences Center at Greenwich Hospital has transformed neurological care locally with life-saving technology and top-tier neurologists and neurosurgeons.

“One of the things that I tried to do over six years, was to take what was best and comprehensive in New Haven and bring it to Greenwich,” Roth said. An example of this is a new Smilow Cancer Center Greenwich Hospital that will be a hub for cancer care in both Fairfield and Westchester counties. Roth also oversaw plans to enhance surgery and trauma care, and has accomplished much toward turning all patient rooms private throughout the hospital.

While he has witnessed great change during his career, Roth says challenges surrounding health care still need to be addressed.

“When I was in graduate school we had the debate about whether health care is a privilege or a right. I think we are still struggling with that and we need to have public policy that really addresses social determinants of health and health care, not necessarily the financing of health care,” he said.

If he has a regret it is that he came to Greenwich late in his career.

“The number of families and individuals who supported this hospital during the Covid crisis is just remarkable.”

“I have learned to love this organization like no other,” he said. “The culture is extraordinary. Our staff really understands and practices caring and compassionate values every day.”

Despite how much he will miss Greenwich Hospital, Roth said he is following his own advice when it comes to retirement: “I used to say that you want to retire on a high point, and I am privileged that I’ve had six years of high points at Greenwich Hospital, so I’m very fortunate.”

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP OF NORMAN G. ROTH
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, VISION AND COMMITMENT

Greenwich Hospital’s events draw a large community of friends in celebration of our beloved hospital. Dedicated volunteers and dynamic co-chairs lend their creativity and vision to help us attain new heights of fundraising. Although our Benefit 2020 was canceled, we look forward to coming together again for another unforgettable event in the future.
THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP

From its founding in 1903, Greenwich Hospital’s civic-minded leaders forged a partnership for the betterment of all. Physicians, business investors, philanthropists, nurses, and volunteers came together to establish a peerless medical facility. Decades later, hospital leaders formed a strategic partnership with Yale New Haven Health and Yale Medicine to offer unmatched access to clinical specialists, research, technology and expanded services.

LEVEL III TRAUMA CENTER

Hundreds of trauma patients come into the Greenwich Hospital Emergency Department each year. To better serve our community, the hospital has applied for Level III Trauma Center designation from the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The stringent ACS standards necessitated an analysis outlining staffing, such as a board-certified trauma surgeon, program readiness for advanced trauma life support and related equipment. While the designation is pending, an anonymous donor has come forward to help us advance this important next phase of clinical growth.

STEPHEN & BETSY CORMAN

Longtime volunteers Stephen Corman and his late wife, Betsy, helped to shape important initiatives in the areas of palliative care and prostate cancer, and deepened the hospital’s research capability with Yale New Haven Health. They were founding donors of the Palliative Care Department, since renamed the Stephen and Betsy Corman Center for Palliative Care at Greenwich Hospital, helping patients to cope with the challenges of a persistent illness. In 2017, The Stephen Corman Prostate Cancer Early Detection Initiative helped to purchase technology for prostate biopsy and to fund clinical trials and research between Greenwich Hospital and Yale Urology.

COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

Tucked within Greenwich Hospital’s medical library is a public mini-library for anyone seeking health information. The Dr. Steven Mickley Community Health Resource Center was established six years ago with an anonymous gift from a husband-wife couple to underwrite a full-time, specialized librarian, a lending library and educational materials to benefit patients. The librarian welcomes emails, phone calls and drop-ins – many of whom are family members of a hospital patient trying to understand more about their loved one’s diagnosis.

HURST FAMILY FOOD ALLERGY CLINIC

Brian and Nisha Hurst wanted to reduce the serious health consequences of food allergies for children. With an impactful gift they helped to establish the Hurst Family Food Allergy Clinic, part of Greenwich Hospital’s Pediatric Specialty Center. Here, a Yale Medicine multidisciplinary team composed of immunologists, gastroenterologists, pulmonologists and child-life specialists provide comprehensive treatment and care. The Hursts broadened the scope of their gift to also support a landmark joint effort between Greenwich Hospital, Yale School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital for medical research into severe allergic food reactions. Their gift supports examining the basic mechanisms of food allergies to test potential treatments.
How did you come to be involved with Greenwich Hospital?

When I retired from Sears in 2000, my family and I were very happy to return from Chicago to Greenwich. I had been on the board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, so I was familiar with the delivery of health care. Nothing touches a community more than health care and how it is delivered. My friend Jim McTaggart, then chairman of the board at Greenwich Hospital, said, “We need people like you.” I became chairman of the board first from 2004-2007, a second time as co-chair with John Townsend in 2015, and now, on my third lap, my term will end this year.

What was the healthcare landscape like when you first came onto the board?

There was a big capital campaign at the time for the Watson Pavilion. I transitioned to chairman at the moment we had a brand spanking new physical plant, compared to others that were, frankly, down at the heels. As a result, Greenwich Hospital became a magnet for patients and physicians. We had joined Yale New Haven Health System in ’97, but it wasn’t the deep affiliation we have today. It was a time of steady-state nice performance. At the same time, there was an awareness that we were under attack, in a sense, from the strong competitive forces of the New York behemoths like Memorial Sloan Kettering, NewYork-Presbyterian, Mount Sinai, Montefiore and what is now Northwell.

What did you and the Board of Trustees do to address the competition from these hospitals that were coming further into our market?

Well, these were the big dogs, you know? The academic medical centers that had international reputations. Very clearly, we needed to be tied with somebody whose brand could compete effectively with their brands. We had to have not just a bigger megaphone to talk about it, but the real skills to compete. That was the origin of the clinical growth plan. From 2017 to 2018, we negotiated a deeper affiliation with Yale New Haven Health that satisfied both of our objectives.

Can you elaborate on the clinical growth plan?

A small subcommittee of us on the board helped guide the development of the growth plan. We’re all volunteers without staffs, so we used a consultant group to analyze the market. We developed a view that there was a big economic opportunity if we had the right enhanced, clinical skill sets. The most important of those? Well, no shock, oncology was at the top of the list. We have a fairly mature population in our area and the frequency of cancer increases with advancing age. Neuroscience, cardiology, women’s health and pediatrics also made the list. All major specialty areas should be enhanced, but these were priorities. Our board had said we’ve been around for 117 years; we’ve been good stewards for the community; we’ve delivered a great facility and better care with more physicians with greater skills and we need to go further. The question was, would Yale come to the table with enough support for the clinical growth plan, while respecting our uniqueness to make it a win-win for both of us? They did and they supported the clinical growth plan both strategically and economically, and we’re seeing evidence of it already. Now, because of our closer connection to Yale Medical School, we have a closer proximity to the science than we ever had before. Solutions start with science. Getting the science right, first and foremost, is a precondition for a solution.
TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE
THE ANNUAL FUND FOR GREENWICH HOSPITAL

Gifts to The Annual Fund for Greenwich Hospital directly support hospital departments with the greatest needs.

“As clearly as ever, everyone working for Greenwich Hospital has demonstrated courage, resolve, resilience, and professionalism during this challenging time. It has been a blessing for my family to be in this community supported by Greenwich Hospital.”

Jinmei Yang

“Respect for patients and their families, along with a competent and caring staff, is what we find at Greenwich Hospital. Through our long history with the hospital, we have come to realize it is one of the region’s gems and deserving of our philanthropic support. They are like family – always here when needed.”

Marola and Charles Persico

“Greenwich Hospital is a unique institution. It is a community hospital, but with vastly more resources than any of its competitors. Given the reimbursement environment (very low), its qualitative edge is, to be honest, entirely dependent on donors like ourselves.”

David Fein

For more information, contact:
Kathleen Minarik, Director
The Annual Fund for Greenwich Hospital
kathleen.minarik@greenwichhospital.org 203-863-3889
Greenwich is a wonderful town where I lived with my family for 43 years. Without hesitation, I can say that Greenwich Hospital is one of the greatest resources we had. My children were all born at the hospital, and it was a constant reassurance for us to have a world-class medical facility right in our backyard. Today, I am proud to be a member of the Elias C. Benedict Legacy Society, the hospital’s planned giving society.

I chose to make a legacy gift to Greenwich Hospital not only because of its importance to the community, but also because my family always had the finest healthcare, and I owe my life to the four doctors who treated me there over 20 years ago: my general practitioner, gastroenterologist, surgeon and oncologist.

Following my colon cancer surgery, I engaged Dr. Dickerman Hollister, Director of Medical Oncology, Greenwich Hospital, to commence chemotherapy. At the suggestion of Dr. Hollister, I pursued a second opinion by contacting the Executive Director of the John A. Hartford Foundation based in New York City, where I was a Trustee. The Executive Director reported back to me that among the five hospitals queried one name came up twice. I asked Dr. Hollister if he recognized the doctor and he informed me that he had personally trained that physician. So why leave Dr. Hollister?

This whirlwind of a health experience could have ended differently were it not for Greenwich Hospital and my team of talented physicians. One year later, I was given a clean bill of health. I continue to be grateful for the skill and expertise of Drs. Marc Newberg, Nelson Bonheim, Philip McWhorter and Dickerman Hollister.

Twenty years later, I can definitively say that Greenwich Hospital saved my life. As a devoted supporter of Greenwich Hospital through the years, I wanted to extend my commitment to help ensure its future. It is in the spirit of sustaining a great organization and my gratitude for what the team in Greenwich gave to me that I am a member of the Elias C. Benedict Society. I hope my story inspires others to consider making a legacy gift to Greenwich Hospital. My gift will support the hospital’s endowment, the most important funding an institution can receive. Endowments grow and build in perpetuity, and as such are foundational to a fundraising program. Greenwich Hospital extended my life through the exceptional care I received, and it is my hope that my bequest will continue to sustain its vitality for years to come.

“Twenty years later, I can definitively say that Greenwich Hospital saved my life.”
The piano in the lobby was my favorite place in the hospital. It’s a beautiful instrument: a restored Steinway with great tone, a soft touch, and player piano capabilities. I miss it! I played it often, mostly Ravel and Debussy, when I needed a break from the struggles of practicing medicine, and I hope it was calming for listeners, too. Music like that can be healing, I think.

Peter Hung, MD
Resident Physician, Radiology,
Mount Sinai Hospital
Greenwich Hospital Resident,
2018-2019