

# Newport Hospital

2020



All Hands on Deck for  
COVID-19 *Page 4*



Newport Hospital  
*Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®*





**W**e've all heard how 2020 is "the year of vision and clarity"—a clever play on the fact that 20/20 acuity is considered the ideal. At Newport Hospital, the focus is crystal clear too. As part of Lifespan, Rhode Island's largest health care system, our sights are firmly set on *Delivering health with care* to the people of Aquidneck Island every day.

Your generosity helps to make much of our work possible, and for that, we are truly grateful. Whether it's clinical care, medical research and education, or community services, we always strive to attain the next level of excellence.

Thank you for sharing in our vision.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Aubin, Sr." in a cursive script.

**Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr.**

Chairman,  
Lifespan Board of Directors and  
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COVER: All Hands on Deck for COVID-19. *More on page 4.*

ABOVE: Staff from the emergency department.



*Crista F. Durand*

**Crista F. Durand**

President, Newport Hospital

**N**ewport Hospital’s role in the community is unique and essential—never more so than in difficult and unpredictable times. And today, more than ever, we are grateful for your support.

Thanks to donors like you, Newport Hospital is a best-in-class facility that serves the medical and behavioral health needs of a diverse community, while also maintaining the safety net for our most vulnerable populations.

In this edition of *Newport Hospital* magazine, we shine a spotlight on the hospital and community’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so proud of our staff for rising to this unparalleled occasion and are indebted to our donors and the community at large for their unwavering support.

We also profile one patient’s story and the incredible team of caregivers that saved his life, and recognize you and our wonderful donor community in the 2019 Honor Roll.

Great things are happening at Newport Hospital every day. These are challenging times, but with your support, we’ll get through them together. Thank you for being by our side.



*Norey D. Cullen*

**Norey Dotterer Cullen**

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## A Unique Program for Annual Donors

**F**ounded and funded by local residents, Newport Hospital is dedicated to creating a safe place of healing and recovery close to home. Over the nearly 150 years since it opened, generous supporters like you have continued to step forward, allowing us to evolve into a state-of-the-art facility providing the kind of high-level care this community deserves. Our goal, as always, is *Delivering health with care*. As an expression of gratitude, the Newport Hospital Foundation offers a specialized donor amenity program called Friend of the Foundation to donors who reach an annual unrestricted giving level of \$5,000 or more. The Friend of the Foundation experience includes personalized assistance navigating our health care system and arranging care at Newport Hospital or across the system, as well as 24/7 access to a donor liaison through a dedicated telephone line, among other benefits.



With more than 100 members enrolled, the feedback about the program is overwhelmingly positive. “The program was really there for me when I needed help; it was so nice to see a friendly face,” says one donor. Another says, “The program makes such a difference when you are feeling scared and need help navigating the hospital system.”

To learn more, contact the Newport Hospital Foundation at 401-845-4339.





## All Hands on Deck for COVID-19 Readiness and Response

**O**n New Year's Eve 2019, the World Health Organization was notified of a cluster of puzzling pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China. Just two short months later, the global outbreak of a novel strain of the coronavirus named COVID-19 reached the shores of Rhode Island.

And thanks to preparations that began almost immediately after the first reports of the new disease, Newport Hospital was ready for it.

“In the beginning, when we first heard about these pneumonias, no one really knew how serious this disease was,” says Francine Touzard-Romo, MD, Director of Infection Control and Infectious Diseases at Newport Hospital. “We expected it to be contained. But as we saw how quickly it was spreading, we realized that we had to take this disease very seriously.”

“Fortunately, at the state level and within Lifespan, we began preparing for COVID-19 early on,” Dr. Touzard-Romo says of work that began in January. “This gave us an advantage when we saw the number of cases rising. We already had a plan in place and a direction to move forward.”

So, how exactly does Newport Hospital prepare for and respond to a once-in-a-century pandemic, with many unknowns, little predictability, and a voracious capacity for contagion?

Jeffrey Gaines, MD, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, says several key elements have supported the hospital's lifesaving work against COVID-19. The first is a close collaboration between Newport Hospital and Lifespan, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Governor's Office, which in turn connects us to federal resources such as

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and on up to the World Health Organization.

“We’re a branch of a larger tree in this epidemic,” says Dr. Gaines. “So, we tap into all the resources available to us.”

Another factor in fighting COVID-19 is the hospital’s ongoing emergency preparedness plan under the leadership of Pamela Crocker, Newport Hospital’s Director of Facilities and Emergency Preparedness. The plan allowed for a COVID-19-specific incident command structure to be put into action, which is essential for the nimble and fluid responses this crisis demands.

Rotating as incident commanders are President Crista F. Durand; Michael Dawson, Vice President of Finance; Dr. Orla Brandos, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer; and Dr. Gaines.

**“...Our entire staff, without exception, are the running towards the fire type of people...”**

—Dr. Jeffrey Gaines

Additionally, the local expertise of Dr. Touzard-Romo and Gail Jackson, RN, Infection Prevention Coordinator, gave Newport Hospital a critical leg up in fighting the virus in Newport County.

And then there’s the singular, baked-in culture of caring at Newport Hospital.

“In a crisis, there are people who run towards a fire and people who run away,” says Dr. Gaines. “Our entire staff, without exception, are the running towards the fire type of people. That’s what they do. That’s what they signed up for. It’s how they see their job and their identities.”

Dr. Gaines and Dr. Brandos say they spend most of their time walking the halls of Newport Hospital, making sure staff members have the resources they need to take care of their patients—and themselves.

“If we didn’t check in and ask them to take a breather, they’d literally be going 24-7,” says Dr. Gaines.

“Everyone supports each other across the organization,” says Dr. Brandos. “They leave their problems and stresses at home, come to work, and do what they need to do to take care of their patients. And they’re doing a fantastic job.”

The core team delivering bedside care to COVID-19 patients includes physicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists—but there’s an army behind them from virtually every department in the hospital, including environmental services and the pharmacy, to name a few.

Even the Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center has a role to play as it absorbs inpatients from Rhode Island Hospital’s rehab program to free more beds there. Other Newport Hospital clinicians are being trained up and cross trained to work on the front line.

Meanwhile, says Dr. Brandos, “The outpouring of support from the community—moms and children, first responders, restaurants, local businesses, Salve Regina University, the Navy—it’s been incredible.”

From the delivery of meals to homemade signs of support and charitable contributions to Newport Hospital’s COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Fund, the community reminds us that truly, we are all in this together.

“We’re already looking at what Newport Hospital and the community will look like after COVID-19, and how we will meet the needs ahead,” says Dr. Gaines. “We are eternally grateful for the support that has helped us weather this storm and will make us better and stronger on the other side.”

# Team Approach Saved Doug's Life



Doug Shewring

**D**oug Shewring was born at Newport Hospital 81 years ago and he's received care there all his life. As he likes to joke, "I'm a regular customer." But what brought Doug to Newport Hospital in December 2018 was anything but regular—and it nearly cost him his life.

In the early morning hours, Doug was in bed and began bleeding profusely. "The whole bed was covered in blood," he recalls. "I started vomiting, feeling weak and passed out." His wife, Kathi, immediately called 911. Within minutes, Doug was transported to the emergency department where he underwent stabilizing measures. The problem, however, was finding the precise location of his bleed.

"The vast majority of intestinal bleeds come from the stomach or colon, but that wasn't the case with Doug," reports surgeon James Valente, MD. "Also, his CTA scan came back negative, meaning at that moment, his bleed was not active."

"It was our job in the ICU to hold down the fort and buy time for Doug while the bleed was being pinpointed," says Adrian Velasquez, MD, Medical Director, Intensive Care Unit," and we gave him transfusions and medication to keep his blood pressure from bottoming out."

A nuclear medicine bleeding scan of Doug showed activity in the beginning of his small intestine. Consulting with gastroenterologist Ravi Nadimpalli, MD, the team decided that using a flexible scope with an attached camera was the best option to find the bleed. It worked. But what it showed was surprising. "Doug's bleed was in a very uncommon place," Dr. Valente says, "and it was caused by a chicken bone."

Doug has diverticulosis, a common condition of the colon, but less so in the small intestine. The chicken bone he unknowingly consumed got lodged in one of the small, bulging pouches that developed in the digestive tract, which caused an ulcer and the bleeding.

With time of the essence, Dr. Valente quickly performed resection surgery, which consisted of taking out less than one foot of the small intestine that contained the bleeding area, reconnecting the two parts, and putting the small intestine back in place.

"Dr. Valente saved my life," Doug says. But the surgeon sees his involvement as one part of a greater team, and says kudos should go to the radiologists, nuclear med techs, nurses, and ICU staff too.

What the Shewrings' story demonstrates is the power of a true community hospital in action and the lifesaving care Newport Hospital provides. "The first thing I said to Dr. Velasquez was, 'Please do whatever you can to save him' and that's what they did," Kathi adds. "The whole team was amazing!"



# Q&A: Dr. Timothy J. Babineau

**T**imothy J. Babineau, MD, is president and chief executive officer of Lifespan. He previously led Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital.

## Why do you believe philanthropy is so important to the hospital?

Support from our donor community plays a vital role in enabling us to keep pace with the ever-evolving advances in medicine and science, and in our ability to be nimble in responding to emerging needs in our community. Philanthropy affords us the opportunity to ensure our physical environment matches the exceptional caliber of the people who work here. The recently completed Beyond the Building campaign is an amazing demonstration of the power of philanthropy to make a difference in the lives of the patients in our care. The community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is another.



Timothy J. Babineau, MD

## What are the most pressing issues facing health care today?

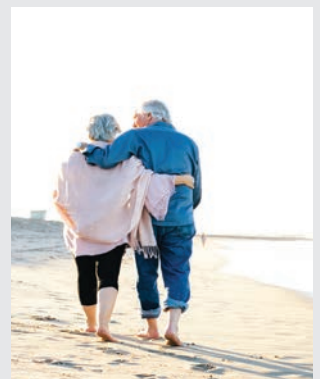
From my perspective, one of the most challenging issues surrounds fiscal responsibility. Buildings need to be upgraded, technology is rapidly changing, and treatment costs are rising as reimbursement rates are diminishing. While more patients are either uninsured or underinsured, we turn no one away because of their inability to pay. This is another area where philanthropic support has really had an impact on our ability to deliver health with care.

## If someone could know just one thing about Newport Hospital, what would you want it to be?

Newport Hospital is an invaluable community asset—and yet, it cannot serve the community without the support of the community, both philanthropic and otherwise. Newport, particularly when you consider the current environment, is fortunate to have a hospital so accessible. At the same time, community hospitals in this country face unique challenges given their size, scope of responsibilities, and challenging financial models. Those that thrive are hospitals that are embraced, supported and cherished by the community. I know we all see Newport Hospital in that peer group.

## Make Summer Simple

**D**octor on Call, now in its third year, is enrolling for the 2020 season (May 22 to September 30, 2020). This unique membership-based, on-call physician service is the first of its kind in Rhode Island. Offering exclusive, 24/7 access to a highly experienced, on-call, board-certified family medicine physician wherever you are in Newport County is a direct response to the demand for this level of personalized patient-centered care with convenience. “Newport Hospital is leading the way with its progressive Doctor on Call program. It provides multi-generational care and peace of mind to me and my family during the busy summer months in Newport. I highly recommend it!”— *Oliver H. “Piper” Quinn, Newport Hospital Foundation Trustee, and Doctor on Call member.*



For more information, please call 401-845-4339.

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Newport Hospital Foundation is proud to recognize its generous supporters whose philanthropy enables Newport Hospital to provide exceptional, compassionate, patient-centered care to the people of Rhode Island and beyond. Many thanks for your generosity!

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