

Newport *Hospital*

2026





COVER: Dr. Meredith Wasserman and Dr. Jordan Hebert with the da Vinci 5 surgical system.

INSIDE COVER: A demonstration of the precision the da Vinci 5 surgical robot brings to the operating room. *(see page 4 for full story)*



Tenny Thomas, MD

As I approach my one-year anniversary as President and Chief Medical Officer of Newport Hospital, I do so with deep gratitude and reflection. In my brief time here, I have already come to know this hospital as an extraordinary place of hope and healing. It is a privilege to serve our community and ensure that high-quality healthcare is available close to home.

Of course, we do not do this work alone. The generosity of our supporters—people like you—makes our lifechanging and lifesaving care possible. Your commitment enhances patient experience, advances clinical excellence, and ensures that care rooted in compassion is available when it is needed most. For that, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

As we look ahead, Newport Hospital continues to move forward with purpose, guided by careful evaluation, meaningful community engagement, and commitment to the services our community relies upon. This includes the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center, which will remain open. At the same time, our dedication to excellence is being recognized beyond our region. I am proud to share that *Newsweek* and *Statista* named Newport Hospital to its “World’s Best Hospitals” list for 2026, an honor that reflects exceptional quality, strong patient outcomes, and the dedication of our remarkable care teams.

Within the pages of this magazine, you will find just a few powerful examples of how your thoughtful and inspired philanthropy makes a meaningful difference. These stories reflect what is possible when clinical expertise, compassion, and generosity come together in service to our community.

Thank you for standing with us and believing in our future. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the years ahead.

With heartfelt appreciation,

TENNY THOMAS, MD, FACEP, MHL
President and Chief Medical Officer

WITH
Gratitude
“This hospital was
all about recovery
and healing. . . it was
a blessing to be at the
right place with the
right people at the
right time.”

—Carol Tuschick, grateful patient
(read her story on page 6)

When it Comes to Gratitude, Sharing is Caring

Newport Hospital often hears from patients, like Carol, who express their gratitude for the care they’ve received—and we’re always grateful. Some send letters and share their stories, others make donations. No matter how it arrives, sharing appreciation creates the positive power to heal, to inspire, and to connect people in deeply profound ways.

Our “with Gratitude” grateful patient program aims to keep this energy going and make it easier for people to express their feelings about Newport Hospital.

To read more grateful patient stories—and to share your own or show support—please visit: www.brownhealth.org/newport-hospital/gratitude-stories.

The Most Advanced Robotic Surgical Technology is Coming to Newport Hospital



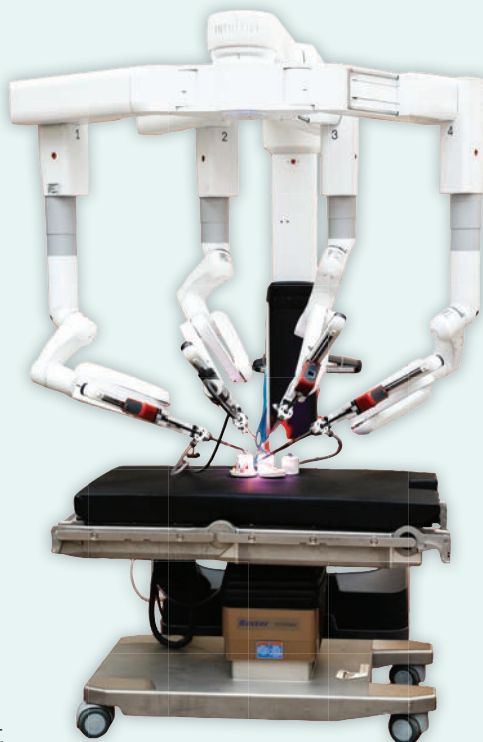
Newport Hospital's skilled surgical team delivers exceptional patient care, achieving outstanding results across a wide range of procedures. Today, their outcomes are realized using either traditional open or laparoscopic techniques.

Thanks to our donors and the power of philanthropy, surgeons at Newport Hospital will soon be adding the most advanced robotic surgical technology available today to their toolbox—the da Vinci 5 Surgical System.

The sophisticated platform offers unmatched precision, flexibility, and control. For surgeons, the benefits are extraordinary. Among them, a 3D high-definition view with 10x magnification for optimal visualization and wristed instruments that offer exceptional dexterity. Enhancements like these elevate what is possible inside the operating room.

For patients, the benefits of precise, personalized robotic-assisted surgery are equally impressive. Less scarring and postoperative pain, reduced blood loss, faster recovery, and shorter hospital stays, are just some of the advantages. With the da Vinci's enhanced capabilities, procedures once requiring large incisions and extended hospitalizations can now be performed through openings no bigger than the diameter of a pen. Jordan Hebert, DO, FACS, FASMBS, is a board-certified, fellowship-trained surgeon at Newport Hospital. He has performed more than 1,000 robotic-assisted procedures and is a champion of the DV5.

"What this robotic platform enables is the highest degree of precision for minimally invasive procedures," he explains. "Laparoscopic techniques are unable to match the dexterity that robotic technology places in the hands of surgeons. It's a massive leap forward in terms of enabling more exact technical maneuvers. This is critical in complex operations where this added control translates



to maximized patient safety and optimized patient outcomes."

Fellowship-trained urologist Meredith Wasserman, MD, MS, agrees. "Robotic surgery is now the gold standard for minimally invasive care," she reports, "and its precision and visualization are especially important in small, complex anatomical spaces."

Being able to offer this state-of-the-art technology here on the Island is also significant, Dr. Wasserman adds. "For many in our community—especially those facing transportation,

financial, or health literacy challenges—proximity means everything," she says. "So, having the capacity to provide accessible, high-quality healthcare close to home enables them to receive an exceptional standard of care without having to travel."

The advantages of da Vinci extend across surgical specialties as well. "This tool is a pivotal resource for a wide array of procedures across multiple surgical specialties," Dr. Hebert notes. "It's certainly not a one-trick pony. The versatile platform is high yield for specialties including bariatric, foregut, hernia, colorectal, urology, gynecology...the breadth of impact is remarkable."

Newport Hospital will be the first hospital in Rhode Island to have the latest generation DV5 robotic surgery system when it arrives later this year. "This investment positions Newport Hospital as a regional leader in cutting-edge, minimally invasive surgical care," Dr. Hebert says, "and demonstrates our long-term commitment to excellence."

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit Opens at Newport Hospital

Newport Hospital celebrated a landmark moment on December 15, 2025, with the ribbon cutting of the *James P. Nolan, MD, and Peggy Nolan Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit*.

An eight-bed, state-of-the-art facility, the unit was created to meet the urgent mental health needs of young people across Newport County and—for the first time ever—give families local access to acute behavioral healthcare for their children.

“This unit represents hope for families in our community,” said Tenny Thomas, MD, President and Chief Medical Officer of Newport Hospital, at the ceremony. “We know the mental health crisis for this age group is real and urgent. With this dedicated space, we can now offer specialized care close to home, ensuring that young people receive the support they need during their most vulnerable moments.”

Filling a critical gap in care

The opening of the unit signals the culmination of years of strategic planning and strong community partnership. Developed in collaboration with Bradley Hospital, the new unit provides short-term stabilization, assessment, and treatment for adolescents ages 12 to 18 facing profound mental and behavioral health challenges.

The new space includes modern therapy rooms, activity spaces, and a secure outdoor area designed to support healing and recovery. It is expected to serve more than 240 adolescents and their families each year, filling a critical gap in local access to care.

The vision for the unit was first announced in summer 2023, as Rhode Island faced an escalating pediatric mental health crisis. While the clinical need was clear, accelerating construction required significant philanthropic support—and the community responded with remarkable generosity.

Extraordinary philanthropic investment

More than \$5 million in donor contributions allowed construction to begin earlier than anticipated, moving the project swiftly from concept to reality.

This generosity includes leadership gifts from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation, Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust, The Champlin Foundation, Bellevue Asset Management, and the Schorsch and Weil families, among others.



Peggy and James Nolan (center) make it official at Newport Hospital's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Retired medical professionals, Peggy and James Nolan, MD, contributed \$1 million toward construction as part of a larger gift, earning the unit's naming recognition.

“This is a transformative moment for Newport Hospital, and even more so for the children and families who need the level of specialized care this behavioral health unit will offer,” explains Carol Bazarsky, Chair of the Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees. “The impact of philanthropy here is extraordinary and the completion of this space is another example of the difference it makes. I am deeply grateful to our incredible donors for their unwavering support and commitment to our community.”



Carol Wanted Her Life Back. Vanderbilt Made That Possible.



Carol Tuschick

From day one, Carol's dedicated team of doctors, nurses, therapists, and psychological support staff worked in unison to create and implement a personalized roadmap to get her back on her feet and walking again—and it worked.

For three weeks, Carol received best-in-class care in an intensive, immersive environment that employed high-tech and high-touch tools to realize a positive outcome. On the day before Thanksgiving last year, Carol graduated from the Vanderbilt program and returned to her Florida home to continue recovery.

Reflecting back, Carol says she knew Newport Hospital was a special place right away. "I had my own room, with my own bathroom. I could look out the window and see the ocean and there was beautiful art on the walls," she recounts. "It almost felt like I was in a hotel for a minute. Then I realized this hospital was all about recovery and healing—physically and mentally—and that everything had a therapeutic purpose."

"This hospital was all about recovery and healing—physically and mentally ... everything had a therapeutic purpose."

—Carol Tuschick

While she wishes the accident never happened, Carol says "it was a blessing to be at the right place with the right people at the right time."

These days, Carol stays active and says she is basically back to 100 percent functionality and inching ever closer to her pre-accident activity levels, which included hiking, biking, sailing, and worldwide traveling.

It was late September of 2025. Carol Tuschick and her husband Richard were closing up their summer home on Block Island for the season. They chose the perfect afternoon for their annual task, as the sky was blue and the sun was shining.

Unfortunately, the good vibes didn't last.

Carol was on a low rung of a ladder attempting to secure shutters when she slipped off. Although she fell only 18 inches, the damage was extensive, exacerbated by her osteoporosis. Carol had shattered her pelvis and sustained multiple internal injuries.

"I knew I had done something horrible," she says, "because the pain was excruciating."

Shortly after her accident, Carol was stabilized and airlifted to Rhode Island Hospital, where she would spend the next seven weeks in and out of complex surgeries.

After that, it was time for Carol to—as she puts it—"get my life back." For this, she needed a unique and elevated level of expertise that only the Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center at Newport Hospital is capable of providing in our region.

When she arrived at Vanderbilt, Carol was experiencing a significant loss of function. She could not put weight on one of her legs and had a metal rod attached by screws covering her lower torso to keep her pelvis in place as it healed.

\$80,000 Gift Helps Newport Hospital Acquire Magseed® Technology

Breast cancer remains the most common non-skin cancer in women. While the rates of breast cancer have increased in the last several decades, mortality from breast cancer has decreased, thanks to improved screening and treatment. Fortunately, Newport Hospital has a robust screening program, which allows patients without symptoms to be diagnosed early through imaging tests such as mammography, ultrasound and MRI. Breast cancers found through screening are smaller, easier to treat and have the best prognosis.

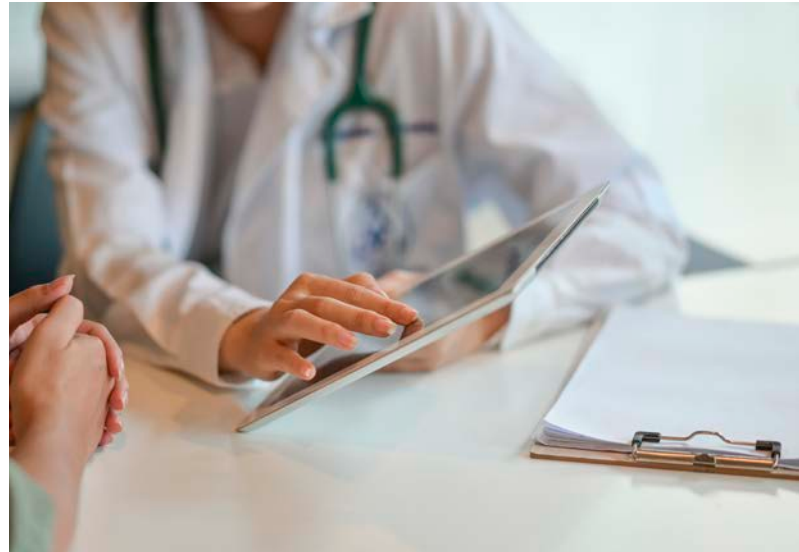
Recently, the hospital ushered in a new era of precision and patient comfort in breast cancer care by acquiring Magseed® localization technology to identify non-palpable tumors or lymph nodes for surgical removal. As the name suggests, non-palpable breast cancer refers to a malignancy that cannot be felt during a clinical breast examination or by self-exam. Rather, it is detected via imaging, such as mammography, ultrasound, or MRI.

Previously at Newport Hospital, the only option for patients having breast surgery for non-palpable lesions was wire localization to mark the area on the same day as surgery so surgeons could accurately locate and remove them. This pre-surgical procedure consists of a radiologist using imaging to guide a fine, hooked wire into the breast. But while it's a common and well-established method that is still recommended in some patients, wire localization has its drawbacks.

A tiny solution making a huge difference

“The wire protrudes from the breast and having an extra procedure on the day of surgery can cause the patient more discomfort and anxiety,” explains Martha B. Mainiero, MD, Medical Director of the Anne C. Pappas Center for Breast Imaging. “It can also move or be accidentally dislodged between placement and surgery. Moreover, she adds, “wire localization causes scheduling constraints, as it requires the radiologist and patient to both be available for the procedure on the same day as the surgery, which can create delays scheduling patients for surgery and reduce operating room efficiency.”

Magseed localization, on the other hand, addresses these concerns.



Roughly the size of a sesame seed, the tiny magnetic marker can be placed at any time in the days or weeks before surgery, allowing the patient to avoid the stress and discomfort of same-day localization. Surgeons then locate the seed during surgery with a handheld magnetic probe—an approach that is not only precisely accurate, but dramatically more flexible and also better tolerated by patients.

Powered by philanthropy

Although acquiring the technology had been on staff's radar, Magseed had not yet been budgeted for. Serendipitously, Linda Purdy, a long-time Newport Hospital supporter, caught wind of the need and understood the meaningful impact acquiring the single-use, implantable medical device would have on patient experience.

“My husband Jack and I are pleased to help scores of women at Newport Hospital with Magseed,” she says, “an innovative machine that marks breast cancer, allowing precise and accurate removal during surgery, saving many lives.”

Van T. Nguyen, MD, Chief of Radiology at Newport Hospital, adds that the Purdys' gift did more than accelerate the adoption and deployment of Magseed. “It also showed, once again, how invested our donor community is in the hospital,” he says. “The generosity of people like the Purdys make it possible for us to practice big-city care in our small community hospital and we are grateful for their support.”

A Message from the Foundation Board Chair



Carol Bazarsky

As Chair of the Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, I have the privilege of working alongside an extraordinary group of civic-minded volunteer leaders who share a deep commitment to our hospital and our community.

Each trustee selflessly gives their time, talent, and personal support to their role. They provide strategic guidance and oversight, serve as ambassadors, and advance the Foundation's mission. Collectively and individually, our members do everything in their powers to ensure Newport Hospital thrives as a cornerstone of health and healing on the Island.

In this publication, we shine a spotlight on two such trustees, Andre Khalfayan and Leonard Taddei, DMD. The unique experiences and unwavering commitment they bring to our hospital and our community are emblematic of our entire Foundation Board. As you read about them, I also want to recognize the service of a departing trustee, Isabella Ridall. During her tenure with us, Isabella devoted her time and

resources to supporting and advancing Newport Hospital's mission and helping to foster fundraising success that has a meaningful impact on patient care. We appreciate all her contributions.

Of course, we greatly appreciate our donors as well. Among the Foundation Board's primary responsibilities is to serve as stewards of your generosity, ensuring that every donor gift is used thoughtfully, responsibly, and with an eye toward guaranteeing "healthcare close to home" remains accessible to all. Your support fuels Newport Hospital's lifesaving work and has a direct impact on patient care. So, on behalf of all of us, thank you!

With deepest gratitude,

Sincerely,

CAROL BAZARSKY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol R. Bazarsky".

Chair, Newport Hospital Foundation
Board of Trustees

Newport Hospital Foundation 2026 Board of Trustees

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Meet a Member: Foundation Board Profiles

Members of the Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees work diligently to support and advance the Board's philanthropic mission and purpose. Here, we highlight two of those members, who share their thoughts and perspectives.



Andre Khalfayan

A lifelong resident of Aquidneck Island, Andre Khalfayan brings deep community ties and more than three decades of financial experience to his service as a newly appointed trustee of the Newport Hospital Foundation Board. A native of Newport and a current Portsmouth

resident, Andre previously served as a Corporator. His ongoing commitment reflects his belief that “the hospital is a cornerstone of our community” and his desire to strengthen the patient care that serves families across the Island.

Professionally, Andre serves as Managing Partner and Financial Advisor at Corrigan Financial, a company of Savant Wealth Management, where he has worked since 1997. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Personal Financial Specialist, and Accredited Estate Planner®, and he holds a Master of Science in Taxation from Bentley College and a bachelor's degree from Salve Regina University.

Andre has been active in the community through service on several local boards. He views his appointment to the Foundation Board as an opportunity to collaborate in advancing services, technology, and philanthropic support for Newport Hospital.

Outside of his professional and civic commitments, Andre enjoys golf, spending time with family and friends, and taking advantage of all that Aquidneck Island has to offer.

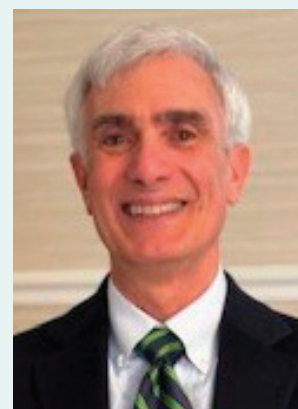
Leonard Taddei, DMD

Leonard Taddei, DMD, is a long-time community healthcare advocate and well-respected local dentist. Born and raised in Connecticut, Dr. Taddei came to Rhode Island decades ago to attend Providence College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He went on to receive his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Pennsylvania before returning to the Ocean State to serve three years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps. Soon after, he would launch his professional dental career and establish a successful practice here.

A Portsmouth resident, Dr. Taddei has been a Corporator (formerly Governor) of Newport Hospital since 2009 and previously served on the Newport Hospital Board of Trustees, from 2011 to 2014. Dr. Taddei has also dedicated 15 years to the hospital's Quality Oversight Committee, where he says he is committed to “helping trustees and donors better understand hospital quality, transparency, and system-level opportunities.”

Dr. Taddei has been deeply engaged in civic leadership over the years as well, through his involvement in various nonprofit boards. Among them, the Newport County YMCA, where he is a past president and four-term board member and currently serves on its finance committee. He also served on the Board of Directors of Delta Dental of Rhode Island.

These days, Dr. Taddei works one day a week in the dental practice and stays busy otherwise by cycling, traveling with his wife Kathleen, and spending time with their three daughters and five grandsons. “Life is good,” he says.



Q&A with Sam Mencoff, Chair, Brown University Health Board of Directors



Sam Mencoff

What inspired you to take on the role of chair of the board?

The first thing I'd like to do is acknowledge my friend and predecessor, Larry Aubin, who served as chair for a decade. Larry left very big shoes to fill, but also a bright North Star to steer by.

My relationship with Brown Health (previously Lifespan) goes back a long way. I grew up in Rhode Island and my family has received outstanding care for generations, so my tenure begins with a deep well of gratitude—I care deeply about the system and its mission. In fact, my first job as a teenager was as a volunteer intern at Rhode Island Hospital. From those early days I developed a deep admiration for the amazing professionals who have dedicated their lives to the health and well-being of others and perform lifesaving work, day in and day out. It is the highest of callings and one that deserves our appreciation and full support.

What opportunities do you see emerging as Brown Health continues to grow and evolve?

The formation of Brown University Health presents enormous opportunities. It created, for the first time, an integrated academic medical system in Rhode Island that will have major benefits for patient care, research, and medical education. It can also serve as a powerful engine for innovation and economic growth in our state and the region.

At the same time, the healthcare delivery system nationwide is broken, and the structural headwinds in Rhode Island are even more acute. We operate with an unusually challenging payer mix and at a significant Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement disadvantage to our neighboring states. The reality is that operating a hospital system is both capital intensive and labor intensive, so fulfilling our mission requires that we generate an adequate margin that enables reinvestment in our facilities, our processes, and our people.

Do you have a specific message for donors to Newport Hospital?

My family and I live in Newport and know firsthand the amazing work being done by Tenny Thomas and the Newport Hospital team every day. The donor and volunteer community on Aquidneck Island is second to none—they are incredibly engaged and generous, and they are essential to the continued success and excellence of the hospital. Two recent, highly impactful examples of this are the new adolescent behavioral health unit and the da Vinci advanced robotic surgical system, both of which were generously donor-funded with more than \$7 million in philanthropy.

Brown Health is committed to investing in the growth and key services at Newport Hospital. We have recently hired both pulmonology and urology physicians and continue to recruit critical care professionals to further strengthen and restore these essential service lines on the island. This will allow us to keep more care local and reduce transfers within the system. Our ability to continue these critical investments in Newport and the broader system is tied directly to Brown Health's financial success, so eliminating the reimbursement disadvantage that we have long suffered from in Rhode Island is essential.

Meet the newest additions to the Newport Women's Health team

Newport Women's Health is a group practice of physicians and certified nurse midwives working together to provide gentle, respectful, and individualized care and guidance for women of all ages, from adolescence through menopause and beyond. Recently, the group added several new care providers, shown here, to its stellar team.



Olivia Collette, CNM
Certified Nurse Midwife



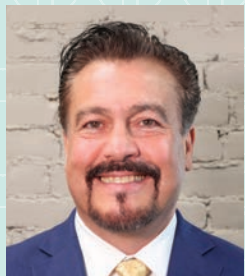
Sheila Connery, MD
Obstetrician-Gynecologist



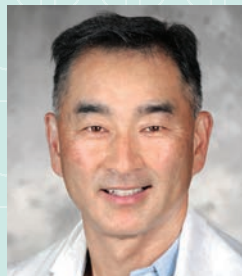
Renee Desrosiers, PA
Physician Assistant



Lindsay Clark Donat, MD
Pelvic Pain Specialist



Stephen Gagliardi, MD
Obstetrician-Gynecologist



Insu Kong, MD
Gynecologist



Michael Silverberg, DO
Obstetrician-Gynecologist



Meredith Wasserman, MD
Urogynecologist

To find out more about Newport Women's Health or make an appointment, call (401) 848-5556 or visit www.brownhealth.org/centers-services/newport-womens-health

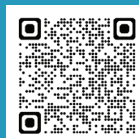
Leave a Lasting Legacy



A bequest to Newport Hospital is a powerful way to help future generations of patients and their families. Your gift will ensure that our caregivers can continue providing exceptional care for years to come. You can plan for a future gift to Newport Hospital by including a bequest provision in your will or trust. You can also name the hospital as a beneficiary of a 401(k), IRA, life insurance policy, or donor-advised fund—often in just minutes by contacting your financial institution. Every gift, of any size, makes a difference and can be directed to the hospital's greatest needs or a program close to your heart.

Please contact us at 401-845-1763 or nhgiving@brownhealth.org with questions, to request sample will language, or to let us know if you have already included us in your estate plans so that we can invite you to our next Living Heritage Society event.

For more information, please visit us at brownhealth.org/NHLegacy



Brown Health Leads Regional Trial for Promising Chronic Lower Back Pain Therapy

Chronic lower back pain is one of the most common and debilitating medical challenges facing adults today. For many, the condition stems from degenerative disc disease, a gradual “wear and tear” of the spinal discs that can leave individuals unable to work, exercise, or enjoy everyday life.

But help could be on the way.

Brown University Health is the regional leader of an innovative effort in progress, called the Mesoblast Study, which is testing a new, nonsurgical therapy that could change what treatment looks like for millions of people.

“The study is evaluating whether a onetime injection of an experimental stemcell-based therapy, called rexlemestrocel-L, can safely reduce or even eliminate pain caused by degenerative disc disease,” explains Alexios G. Carayannopoulos, DO, MPH, Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Newport and Rhode Island hospitals.

Rexlemestrocel-L is derived from healthy adult donor cells, mixed with hyaluronic acid, a natural gel-like substance already used in other joints. “Injected directly into the damaged disc under Xray guidance, the aim of this

treatment approach is to change the environment inside the disc—not to merely mask pain as standard therapies often do,” says Dr. Carayannopoulos, who is the study’s principal investigator. “The goal is to calm inflammation and potentially stabilize the disc itself and improve function over time.”



Alexios G. Carayannopoulos, DO, MPH

Currently, the clinical trial is in phase 3, which means its approach has already been studied in earlier trials and is now being tested in a larger group to confirm benefits and safety. Newport and Rhode Island hospitals are the only sites in New England participating in this potentially game-changing study, which looks to help advance a therapy that could transform spine care nationally.

Earlier clinical trials have shown meaningful pain reduction lasting one to two years after a single injection, with some patients also demonstrating slower disc degeneration on imaging. This suggests there could be light at the end of the tunnel for chronic lower back pain sufferers. “This research offers patients renewed hope,” Dr. Carayannopoulos concludes. “Not only for long-lasting pain relief, but for reducing reliance on medications, including opioids, and avoiding major back surgery.”

Follow-up for those enrolled in the clinical trial will continue for two years, including imaging, neurologic exams, and regular assessments of pain, mobility, and medication use.

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