

JUNE 2009

Pulse

THE MEDICAL STAFF NEWSLETTER OF WATERBURY HOSPITAL

Connecticut Travel • Angry Moms • Private Schools

CONNECTICUT MAGAZINE

connecticutmag.com

Top Docs

Our exclusive survey of Connecticut physicians.

657 trusted specialists in 24 medical categories. See page 71.

Dr. Michael J. Flanagan
UROLOGY

APRIL 2009 \$4.50

WATERBURY HOSPITAL CONGRATULATES OUR DOCTORS ON THEIR RATING AS A

“TOP DOCTOR”

IN THE STATE BY CONNECTICUT MAGAZINE IN 2009.

A MESSAGE FROM

STEVEN E. SCHNEIDER, MD

Vice President of Medical Affairs



Every year, Connecticut’s medical community looks forward with some anticipation to Connecticut Magazine’s annual “Top Docs” survey of the most widely trusted and highly regarded physicians in a broad range of medical categories.

In years past, the physicians affiliated with Waterbury Hospital have always fared well in the survey, with specialists in all types of fields finding their names on the glossy pages of the magazine’s special issue.

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I fully expected to see some of our doctors lauded in the 2009 issue, which came out in April. With the degree of talent and experience and dedication routinely shown by the physicians on our medical staff, I would not have been surprised to see a dozen or two of our physicians named in this year's survey.

But when the issue showed up in our mailbox, many of us here at the hospital were stunned to find that no less than 58 of Waterbury Hospital-affiliated physicians were listed as the Top Docs in Connecticut.

From allergy and immunology to thoracic surgery and urology, physicians on our staff found themselves listed in 19 of the 24 categories surveyed. To cap it off, the cover of the issue featured a photo of **Michael J. Flanagan, MD**, Waterbury Hospital's Chief of Urology and the Practice Manager for Urology Specialists located in Middlebury.

In a way, the sheer number of Waterbury Hospital-affiliated names on the list worked against the purposes of this issue of the Pulse newsletter. There were simply too many for us to profile individually, though we are listing them all here with their contact information. In terms of meeting our goals of providing the highest quality care to our patients, it's a great problem to have.

We hope this issue will serve not only as a forum to congratulate the fine physicians who were honored in the Top Docs survey, but also as guide for referring your patients to a well-regarded specialist in a given field.

We've always said our physicians are second to none, and we certainly didn't need a magazine to tell us how lucky we are to have such a fine staff.

But it's nice to get a public pat on the back, especially when it's so richly deserved.



Steven E. Schneider, MD
Vice President of Medical Affairs

Pulse

IN THE
SPOTLIGHT:

Lydia Barakat, MD



**FROM BEIRUT
TO WATERBURY:**

BRINGING A BACKGROUND OF CARING
AND EXPERTISE TO HER PATIENTS AT
WATERBURY HOSPITAL

As a young girl growing up in Lebanon, **Lydia Barakat, MD**, the Medical Director of Waterbury Hospital's Infectious Disease Clinic, always thrived on a challenge. In school, she was always among the top of her class, never requiring much prodding from her parents to do her best in any endeavor she embraced.

The need to test herself was also a reason why, after completing medical school in Lebanon in 1995, Dr. Barakat decided to complete her residency and then her Fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Yale University. Arriving in the United States, she found herself drawn to the field of infectious diseases because of the boom in HIV and AIDS cases that were presenting new challenges to doctors.

"Infectious diseases are always evolving and changing, so it never gets boring," she said. "Plus, I think I wanted to help change the world and do some good for humanity."

Though her plan was initially to complete her residency and Fellowship and return to Lebanon and her family, things changed when Dr. Barakat met her husband, an engineer who she met at Yale and whose family had moved to the U.S. from Lebanon. After getting married in 1997, she continued to pursue her career in infectious diseases before taking a job in the Infectious Diseases Section at Waterbury Hospital in 2003. She is now one of the hospital's most highly regarded physicians, helping to substantially reduce infections among patients by encouraging staff to wash their hands before and after contact. Last year, she was given the 2008 National Leadership in Quality award by the National Quality Center for her dedication to caring for HIV patients.

One of the most unusual chapters of her career came shortly after the terrorist attacks of 2001, when an elderly woman from Oxford came to Griffin Hospital in Derby, where Dr. Barakat was working at the time, to be examined for abdominal pain. A blood culture showed that the woman, 94-year-old Otilie Lundgren, had been infected with the deadly anthrax virus (investigators later determined that the anthrax had reached Lundgren's home through the mail.) Two days later, despite the best efforts of Dr. Barakat and a team of highly skilled experts from across the country, Lundgren would succumb to the virus, a case of bioterrorism that would become national news.

"It was a crazy time," Dr. Barakat said. "There were reporters and TV stations from all over the world camped outside the hospital. I even had a reporter from the Washington Post call me at home. I never expected to encounter a situation like that."

Dr. Barakat said she eventually decided to take a job at Waterbury Hospital because of the excellent staff of physicians in the I.D. Section, including former section Chief **Merceditas Villanueva, MD**, and current Chief **Steven Aronin, MD**. Dr. Barakat said she was also drawn to the hospital because it managed to boast a top-notch staff of physicians without being overly stuffy or pretentious.

"These are highly skilled physicians and administrators. We have an excellent lab and our staff of pathologists and radiologists is outstanding. And yet it is a very collegial atmosphere here," she said. "You feel like you can talk to people here."

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From Allergies to Urology, the Physicians of Waterbury Hospital are Among the **BEST ANYWHERE!**

Pulse

Congratulations to the physicians who were recognized in the “TOP DOCS” issue of *Connecticut Magazine*

Allergy/ Immunology

David H. Dreyfus
Waterbury, CT
203-755-7080

Christopher Randolph
Waterbury, CT
203-755-7080

Dermatology

Jeffrey N. Alter
Waterbury, CT
203-757-1585

Lance R. Eriksen
Waterbury, CT
203-757-8919

Eugene R. Mirrer
Waterbury, CT
203-757-8919

Salvatore Romano
Waterbury, CT
203-757-8919

Gastroenterology

Joel J. Garsten
Waterbury, CT
203-756-9706

Robert I. Leventhal
Waterbury, CT
203-756-6422

Paolo Mapelli
Waterbury, CT
203-575-0112

Albert R. Marano
Waterbury, CT
203-574-3007

Thomas A. Rockoff
Waterbury, CT
203-756-6422

Internal Medicine

David J. DeLucia
Waterbury, CT
203-756-7788

Internal Medicine (cont.)

Peter G. Levinson
Waterbury, CT
203-754-5504

Fitzhugh C. Pannill III
Southbury, CT
203-264-6503

David J. Pizzuto
Waterbury, CT
203-756-6148

Stephen R. Rubenstein
Waterbury, CT
203-754-5504

James Sarfeh
Cheshire, CT
203-272-7251

Internal Medicine/ Nephrology

Joseph L. Renda
Waterbury, CT
203-597-9733

Neurology

A. Roger Bobowick
Waterbury, CT
203-757-8735

Steven L. Eisen
Waterbury, CT
203-753-5700

Kenneth A. Kaplove
Middlebury, CT
203-758-8995

Obstetrics/ Gynecology

Edmund F. Funai
New Haven, CT
203-785-5682

Arthur Landry III
Waterbury, CT
203-754-2535

Oncology/ Hematology

Joseph J. Bowen
Waterbury, CT
203-591-3077

Kert D. Sabbath
Waterbury, CT
203-755-6311

Ophthalmology

Stanley B. Hersh
Waterbury, CT
203-597-9100

Andrew J. Levada
Waterbury, CT
203-597-9100

Neal J. Zimmerman
Prospect, CT
203-758-5733

Otolaryngology

Neil F. Schiff
Waterbury, CT
203-574-3777

Martin J. Spinella
Waterbury, CT
203-574-5997

Jerome O. Sugar
Waterbury, CT
203-753-8833

Raymond E. Winicki
Waterbury, CT
203-753-8833

Pediatrics

Charles A. Fischbein
Waterbury, CT
203-755-2999

Diane L. Fountas
Waterbury, CT
203-753-6776

Order Sheet Now Required for Warfarin Therapy



As of June 1, physicians at Waterbury Hospital who are initiating patients on a therapy involving the anticoagulant drug Warfarin must fill out an order sheet before commencing the therapy.

The new requirement is part of the hospital's effort to comply with National Patient Safety Goal 03.05.01, which seeks to increase patient safety related to use of anticoagulant medications.

The order sheet is now required for patients continuing on home doses of Warfarin therapy. This will allow Waterbury Hospital to be compliant with Joint Commission requirements.

The order sheet can be found on the Clinician Resource page on the hospital Intranet, and the form is available on all patient floors as well.

The May issue of the Pulse newsletter featured profiles of the physicians affiliated with the hospital's Family Birthing Center. Unfortunately, the issue did not include a profile of **Andrea Needleman, MD**, a family physician for the past 19 years who also delivers babies at the hospital. We regret that Dr. Needleman was not included in the issue, and offer her profile and background here.

Andrea Needleman, MD

4 South Pomperaug Ave. • Woodbury CT 06798
(203) 263-2020



Undergraduate:
The Johns Hopkins University

Masters:
The Johns Hopkins University

Medical School:
Albert Einstein
College of Medicine

Residency:
Swedish Hospital Medical Center, Seattle

Personal:
Married with three children, Dr. Needleman enjoys biking, skating, reading, knitting and spending time with her family.

"TOP DOCS"

continued from page 3

Pediatrics (cont.)

Jane E. Rudolph
Waterbury, CT
203-574-4747

Neil B. Vitale
Waterbury, CT
203-755-2999

Podiatry

Marc R. Bernbach
Waterbury, CT
203-753-2048

Robert P. Matusz
Naugatuck, CT
203-729-4714

John J. McHugh
Watertown, CT
860-274-1773

Psychiatry

Alex R. Demac
Middlebury, CT
203-758-1817

Psychiatry (cont.)

Robert S. McWilliam
Woodbury, CT
203-266-0404

Rheumatology

David N. Podell
Waterbury, CT
203-573-6000

Surgery: General

David C. Knight
Waterbury, CT
203-757-1587

John J. Mazzucco
Waterbury, CT
203-757-1587

Jayakara Shetty
Waterbury, CT
203-755-6666

Surgery: Neurosurgery

Alan S. Waitze
Waterbury, CT
203-573-1423

Surgery: Orthopaedic

Robert P. Hendrikson
Waterbury, CT
203-755-9166

Michael J. Kaplan
Middlebury, CT
203-758-1272

John Keggi
Middlebury, CT
203-598-0700

Kristaps J. Keggi
Middlebury, CT
203-598-0700

Andrew J. Nelson
Waterbury, CT
203-755-7115

Eric J. Olson
Waterbury, CT
203-755-0163

Robert S. Wetmore
Middlebury, CT
203-758-1760

Surgery: Thoracic

Abdel Aziz Richi
Waterbury, CT
203-753-0877

Urology

John K. Conant Jr.
Waterbury, CT
203-753-2800

Robert A. Feldman
Middlebury, CT
203-757-8361

Michael J. Flanagan
Middlebury, CT
203-757-8361

York "Paul" Moy
Middlebury, CT
203-757-8361

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For comments, questions and suggestions, please contact
Heather Tindall at (203) 573-6717 or htindall@wtbyhosp.org

COMING IN JULY: The 2009 Waterbury Hospital Residents Directory featuring the new physicians joining the hospital's Surgical and Medical Residency Programs

64 Robbins Street
Waterbury, CT 06708

**WATERBURY
HOSPITAL**

