

Hospital hospice stroke care recognized nationally

In recognition of its high quality stroke care, The Hospital of Central Connecticut (HCC) has received a Silver Plus Performance Achievement Award through participation in Get With The Guidelines, an American Heart Association/American Stroke Association quality improvement program for hospitals that focuses on stroke treatment.

The award signifies HCC demonstrated 12 consecutive months of excellence in following patient care treatment guidelines for its stroke patients.

The hospital's achievement is recognized in an advertisement in the August "America's Best Hospitals" issue of *U.S. News and World Report* magazine.

"We are delighted that the Hospital of Central Connecticut has received

national recognition for exemplary care of stroke patients," says Michael R. Grey, M.D., M.P.H., FACP, chief of Medicine. "This has been a true team effort combining the skills and dedication of our nurses, our physicians, our rehabilitation staff, and many others in the interdisciplinary care of this group of patients."

In 2007, the hospital joined Get With The Guidelines, which offers a Web-based system to regularly measure and evaluate its stroke patients' treatment.

The HCC is one of over 1,400 hospitals participating in the program.

HCC neurologist and Stroke Center medical director Timothy Parsons, M.D., notes that in addition to helping the hospital focus on tasks that help to differentiate its center's care toward optimal stroke recovery and

prevention, the Get With The Guidelines program also compares HCC's task performance to that of other participating hospitals.

Last year, the Joint Commission awarded HCC advanced certification as a Primary Stroke Center.

In 2008, the hospital was also designated a Primary Stroke Center by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

The hospital's Stroke Center treats patients who have had strokes and TIAs (transient ischemic attacks).

It also provides education for hospital inpatients and the community on stroke prevention via identifying risk factors, including smoking and conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes and heart and artery disease, age, family history of

stroke, gender and prior stroke, heart attack or TIA.

The American Stroke Association estimates that about 795,000 Americans annually suffer a new or recurrent stroke.

Stroke kills more than

Zalaski: no CSU pay increases

State Rep. Zeke Zalaski (D-Southington) has called on Connecticut State University Chancellor David G. Carter and university presidents to give back their five percent cost-of-living raises they were recently granted by Connecticut State University trustees.

"I'm not going to hold my breath for this to happen, but not accepting the raises would send a strong message to students and taxpayers," Zalaski said. "It is beyond outrageous

137,000 people a year, and is the third leading cause of death.

Stroke symptoms include numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg (especially on one side of the body), sudden

confusion, trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing, sudden dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, and sudden severe headaches with no known cause.

that the trustees would be giving pay raises to some of the highest paid administrators in the state. I just don't understand what world these trustees are living in."

Zalaski pointed out that other state employees, including legislative employees, have accepted pay freezes and are participating in furlough days during the current fiscal year.

"I represent private sector workers who have lost their jobs," Zalaski said. "How do you explain

these ridiculous raises to people in the real world?"

Zalaski welcomes a request by Democratic leaders for the Higher Education and Appropriation Committees to conduct a public hearing on the administration of the public higher education systems.

"Perhaps the time has come for members of the General Assembly to vote on pay raises for non-union higher education administrators," Zalaski said.

Police Blotter

Francis D. Gill, 32, of 6 Evansville Avenue #13, South Meriden, was charged on August 18 with two counts of probation violation. He was held on a bonds totaling \$105,000 for an August 30 court date.

Kristin A. Orsini, 32, of 185 North Star Drive, was charged on August 19 with fourth degree larceny. She was held on a \$1,000 bond for an August 30 court date.

Michael Laramée, 20, of 46 Garden Gate Road, was charged on August 20 with sixth degree larceny, first degree forgery and forgery of symbols of

value. He was held on a \$1,000 bond for an August 30 court date.

Justin Larrabee, 24, of 249 North Main Street, was

charged on August 23 with a probation violation. He was held on a \$50,000 bond for an August 23 court date.

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