

Pulse

THE MEDICAL STAFF NEWSLETTER OF WATERBURY HOSPITAL



**A MESSAGE FROM
STEVEN E. SCHNEIDER, MD**
Vice President
of Medical Affairs



ABOVE RIGHT
An ambulance crew
rushes a patient
into the
Emergency
Department at
Waterbury Hospital.

An Emergency Department Second To None

The modern Emergency Department (ED) is, by necessity, a place of chaos and high adrenaline. For doctors and other clinicians who enjoy the "rush" of working in a fast-paced environment that stretches their skills every day, it is the perfect place to practice.

Unfortunately, in this era of skyrocketing medical costs, it is also increasingly a place of frustration caused by long waits and minor medical problems that would be better handled in a different clinical setting.

Here at Waterbury Hospital, we have made great strides in our effort to cut down on that frustration, which sometimes extends not only to patients, but to hospital staff as well. Our team of 16 ED physicians, including ED Chairman **Christopher J. Michos, MD**, makes up one of the most highly regarded and well-trained emergency staffs in the state, and they are supported by a host of physician assistants, nurses, technicians, paramedics and support staff who are second to none.



An Emergency Department Second To None

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As Dr. Michos and other ED staffers will tell you, one of the greatest challenges they face – just as with Emergency Departments across the country – is the growing number of people who come to the ED for treatment of minor ailments that in the past would have been treated in other settings. Mounting bureaucracy and questions surrounding those who are insured, and those who aren't, also threaten to create backlogs, as does the problem of limited space.

To keep these problems from overwhelming the Emergency Department, and impacting the level of care we provide our patients, Dr. Michos and the ED team have shown great ingenuity in taking a variety of steps designed to evaluate and treat patients in a timely manner.

One such effort is the Rapid Assessment Program in which ED physicians, physician assistants and nurses use mobile medical equipment to take care of patients when the ED's examination rooms are otherwise full (see sidebar feature at left).

Another step the ED is taking to keep ahead of the curve is a plan, expected to go into effect over the next few months, to renovate existing rooms near the ED entrance to create a sort of triage area where patients with minor ailments can be quickly diagnosed and sent on their way before they even reach the front desk.

I commend both Dr. Michos and his ED staff for continuing to find new ways to provide top-notch care to patients despite the growing demands of running a modern, efficient Emergency Department. When you come to our ED, you are in good hands.



Steven E. Schneider, MD
Vice President of Medical Affairs



Janet Richardson, RN, (left) Assistant Emergency Department Nursing Director; and physician assistant **Lynn Baylis, PA**, are part of the Rapid Assessment Team.

RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM CUTS DOWN ON WAITS

Because of the high volume of patients using Emergency Departments across the country, it can sometimes take a long time to see a clinician for treatment. At Waterbury Hospital, that problem is being tackled with an innovative program designed to evaluate and treat patients in a timely manner.

The Emergency Department's Rapid Assessment Program, launched earlier this year, features an Emergency Department physician or physician assistant and an Emergency Department nurse who use mobile medical equipment to evaluate and treat patients without having to take them to an examination room.

Instead, patients are often taken to a private hallway or a special treatment room, where they are quickly examined and diagnosed. If the patient's condition is not serious or easily treatable, they can be sent home in much less time than it would normally take if they had to wait for a full examination room to open up.

Christopher J. Michos, MD, the Chairman of the Emergency Department, said one of the goals of the program is to cut down on the number of patients who grow so frustrated by the long waits in the Emergency Room that they decide to walk out before being examined.

"We've seen the number of so-called 'walk-outs' reduced dramatically so far," Michos said. "We don't want to lose patients who would be able to benefit from our care."

The Emergency Department's Rapid Assessment Team is made up of Assistant Emergency Department Director **Mark Garber, MD**; **Janet Richardson, RN**, the Assistant Emergency Department Nursing Director; and physician assistant **Lynn Baylis, PA**. Richardson said the program has provided relief for patients and Emergency Room personnel alike.

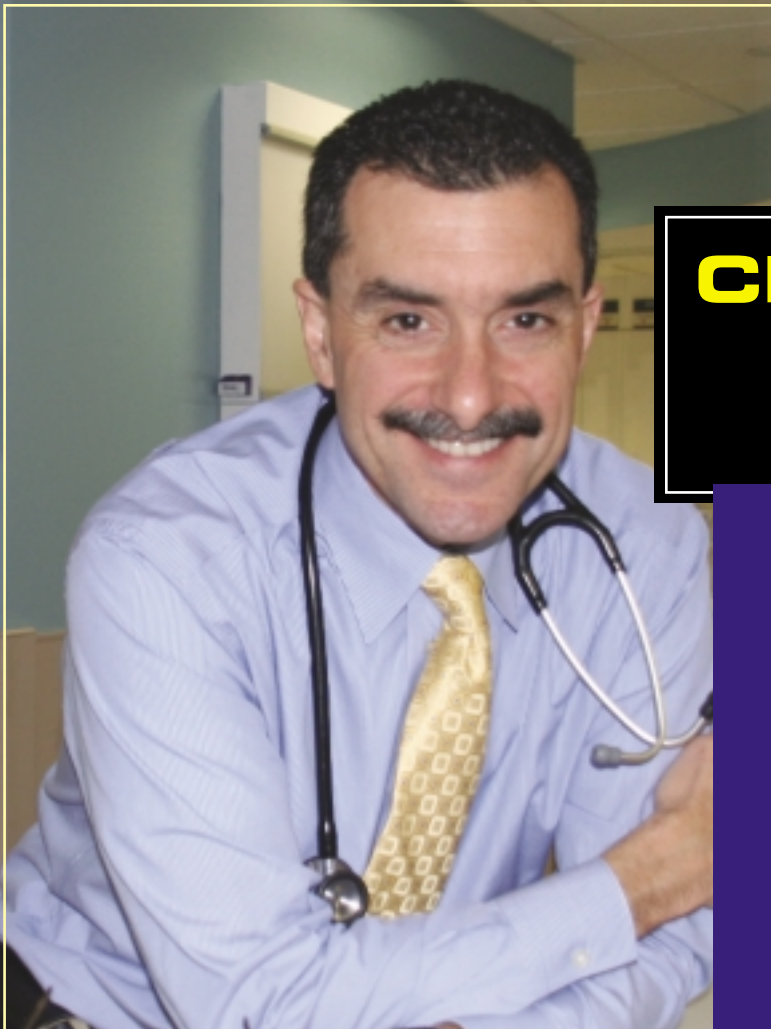
"The sooner we can see a patient, the happier the patient will be, and that makes our job easier," she said. "It's been very effective."

The program is currently available most days from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.



The **Emergency Department** at Waterbury Hospital

The physicians who staff the Emergency Department at Waterbury Hospital are among the most experienced and skilled anywhere. They also bring a wide range of backgrounds and medical perspectives, which only enhances the services provided to patients. Take a look.



CHRISTOPHER MICHOS, MD

Emergency Department Chairman

Hometown

South Orange, N.J.

Medical School

University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey
Medical School

Residency

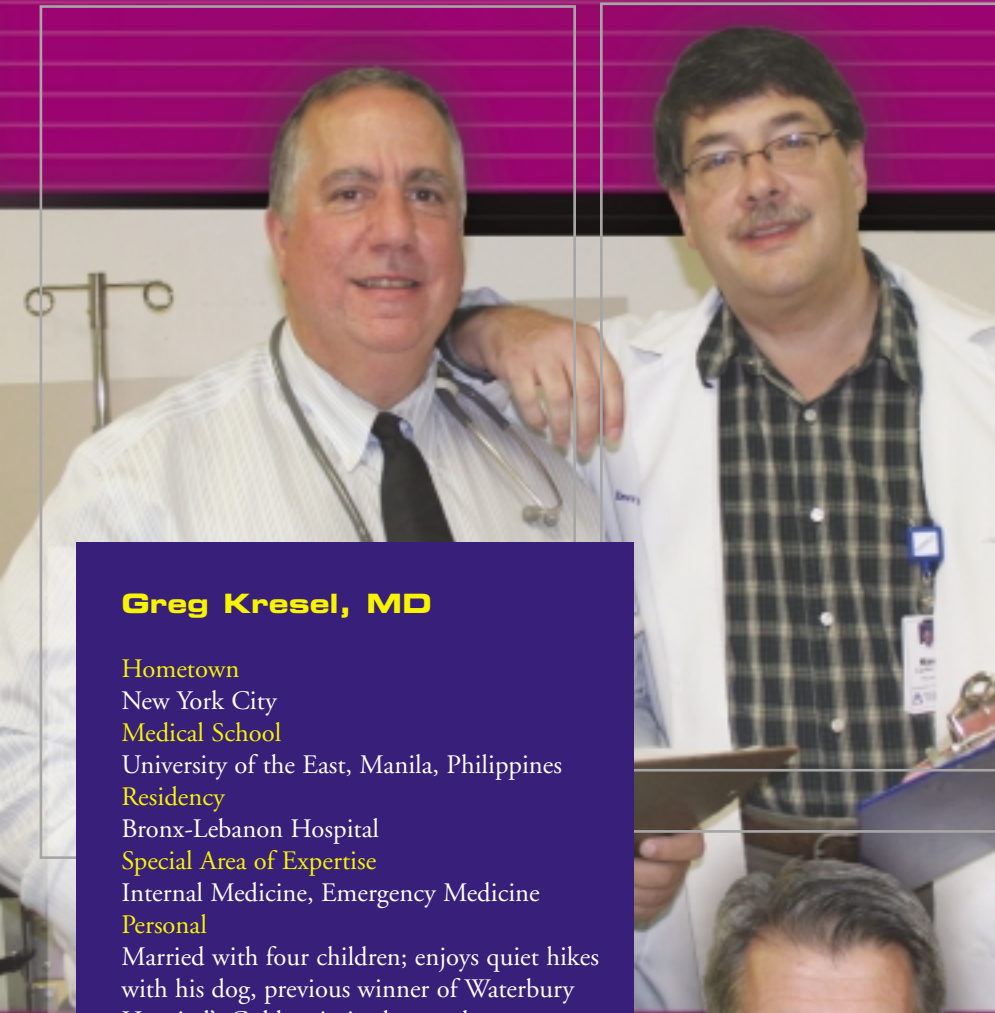
Long Island Jewish Medical Center

Special Area of Expertise

Quality Assurance and Risk Management, Media
Relations

Personal

Owner of a thoroughbred and an avid fan of horseracing.
Enjoys reading, cooking, automobiles and exercise.



Greg Kresel, MD

Hometown
New York City
Medical School
University of the East, Manila, Philippines
Residency
Bronx-Lebanon Hospital
Special Area of Expertise
Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine
Personal

Married with four children; enjoys quiet hikes with his dog, previous winner of Waterbury Hospital's Golden Attitude award.

Mark Garber, MD

Hometown
Bronx, New York
Medical School
Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez - Mexico
Residency
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia
Area of Specialty
Holistic Medicine
Personal
U.S. Navy veteran. Enjoys foreign travel; speaks Spanish, German, French and Italian.



Robert Greene, MD

Hometown
Born in The Bronx, N.Y., raised on Long Island
Medical School
George Washington University
Residency
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Special Area of Expertise
Emergency Medicine
Personal

Likes to restore old automobiles and motorcycles.

R. Robert Rohatsch III, MD

Hometown
Grew up in military family and lived in 13 states!
Medical School
Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University
Internship
New York Medical College, Westchester Medical Center
Residency
University of Florida
Area of Specialty
Training in Difficult Airway Techniques; ACLS instructor
Personal
Member of the NASA Space Shuttle Medical Team from 2000 to 2003. Military Veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

Mohammad "Mike" Dbeisi, MD

Hometown

Born in Jordan, raised in Waterbury, Conn.

Medical School

University of Connecticut

Residency

University of Connecticut

Special Area of Expertise

Emergency Medicine

Personal

Spent four months in 2007 as an Army National Guard medic serving in Iraq. Enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities, including mountain climbing, snowboarding and skiing.



Bernd Gunther Woerner, MD

Hometown

Born and raised in Germany.

Medical School

Medical College of Wisconsin

Residency

Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Cleveland

Special Area of Expertise

Urgent Care Medicine

Personal

Married with three boys: Evan, Reed and Kurt. Enjoys skiing and water-skiing.



Robert Murray, MD

Hometown

Glens Falls, N.Y.

Medical School

University of Rochester Medical School

Residency

Harvard Emergency Medicine Residency Program; Brigham & Women's Hospital, Chief Resident

Special Area of Expertise

Emergency Medicine

Personal

Married with a son, Shane.



JoNell Benedetto, MD

Hometown

Danbury, Conn.

Medical School

University of Connecticut

Residency

University of Connecticut

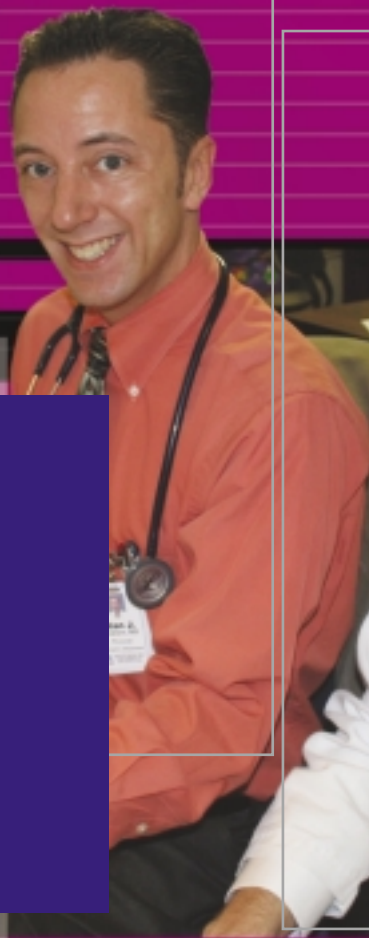
Special Area of Expertise

Emergency Medicine

Personal

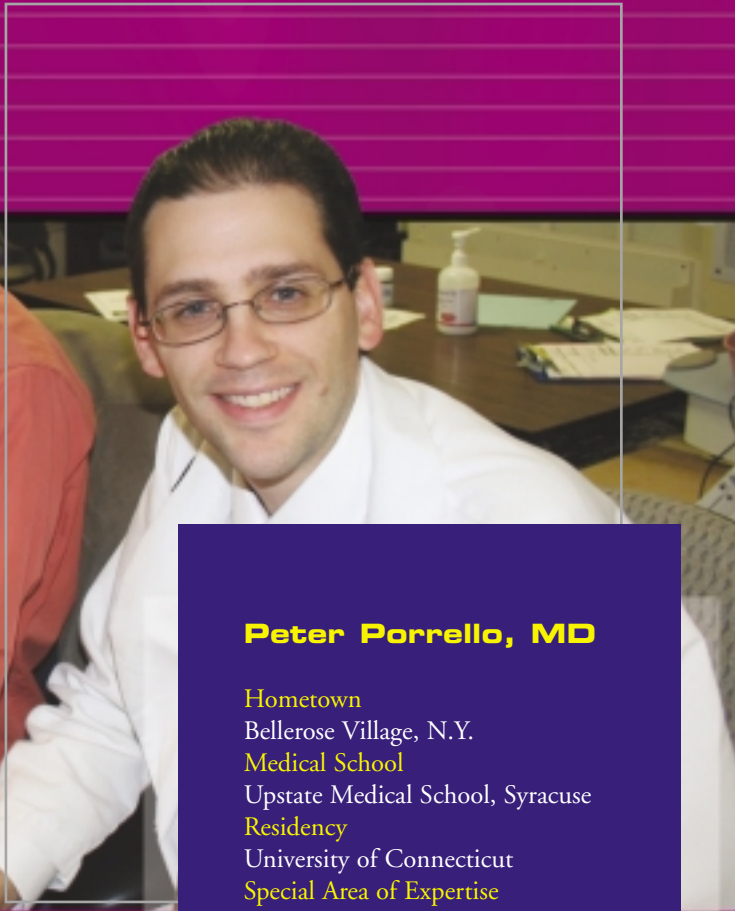
An avid fitness buff, JoNell ran up every flight of stairs in the Empire State Building in 2007.





Alan J. Couture, MD

Hometown
Waterbury, Conn.
Medical School
University of Connecticut
Residency
Hartford Hospital
Area of Specialty
Emergency Medicine
Personal
Interested in politics and bowling.



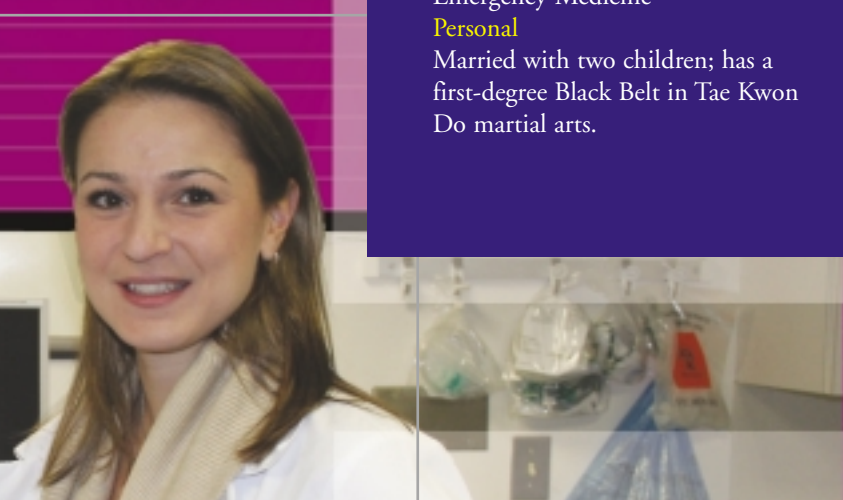
Peter Porrello, MD

Hometown
Bellerose Village, N.Y.
Medical School
Upstate Medical School, Syracuse
Residency
University of Connecticut
Special Area of Expertise
Emergency Medicine
Personal
Married with two children; has a first-degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do martial arts.



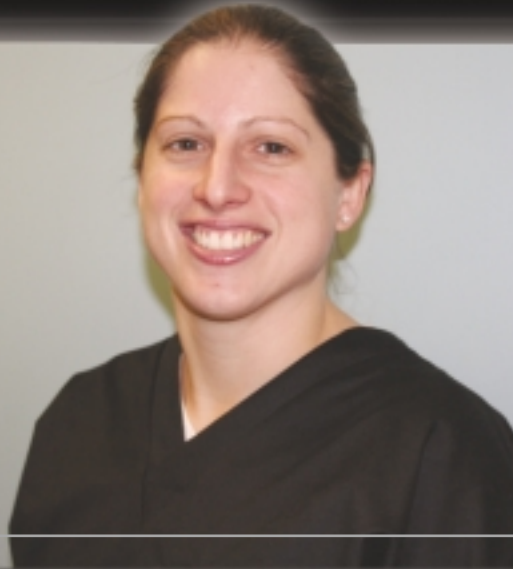
James Paul Santacroce, MD

Hometown
Plainville, Conn.
Medical School
Georgetown University
Residency
Waterbury Hospital Internal Medicine
Area of Specialty
Nocturnal Medicine
Personal
History buff and Civil War re-enactor who serves as a Regimental Surgeon with the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Unit, a re-enactment unit.



Jennifer Muneyirci Dugan, MD

Hometown
Plainview, N.Y.
Medical School
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Residency
Long Island Jewish Medical Center
Special Area of Expertise
Boarded in Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine
Personal
Jennifer loves playing golf and squash and hosting parties. Most of all, she enjoys spending as much time with her 3-year-old son as possible.



Jennifer Sanders, MD

Hometown

Meriden, Conn.

Medical School

University of Connecticut

Residency

University of Massachusetts

Special Area of Expertise

Emergency Medicine

Personal

Once studied in Australia; enjoys scuba diving and hiking and snowboarding.

Heather Walsh, MD

Hometown

New Haven, Conn.

Medical School

Stony Brook

Residency

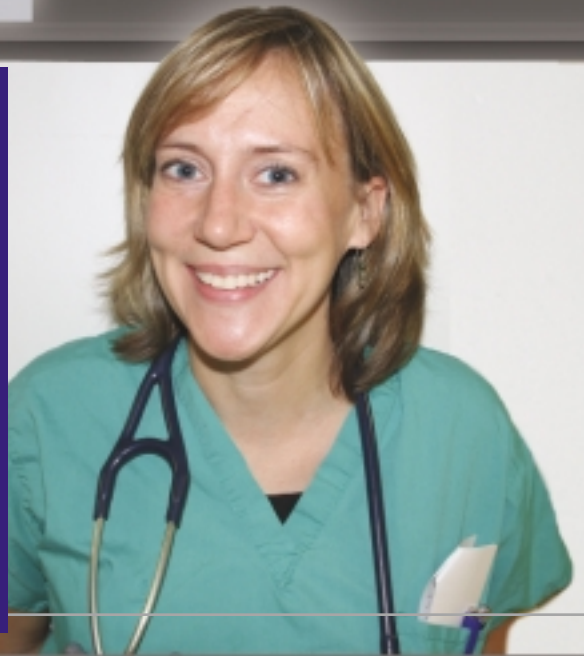
Bay State Medical Center

Area of Specialty

Emergency Medicine

Personal

Heather and her husband spent their honeymoon in Borneo, where they spent a night in a native village in a house called a Long Hut. She enjoys adventure traveling in off-the-beaten-path locales.



Lisa Vieira, MD

Hometown

Fall River, Mass.

Medical School

New York Medical School

Residency

University of Connecticut

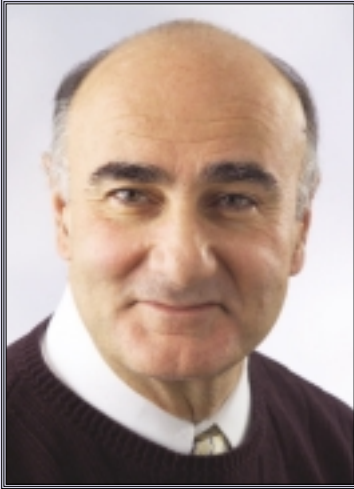
Special Area of Expertise

Lisa is an assistant Medical Examiner for the state of Connecticut

Personal

Married with two children; an enthusiastic traveler who once covered 20 states in 21 days on an automobile trip with her husband.



*Francis “Frank” Alfano**Beloved Friend and Colleague*

Francis “Frank” Alfano, MD, a widely respected and well-loved physician who specialized in oncology at the Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center, died unexpectedly in September at Waterbury Hospital. He was 56.

Alfano’s death came as a shock to the area’s medical community, where he was long recognized as a deeply skilled and knowledgeable physician. He was also an extremely popular colleague who was known for his good nature and keen intellect.

“He was just a great guy, a terrific physician and a wonderful friend,” said **Kert Sabbath, MD**, who was a partner of Alfano’s at their practice, Medical Oncology and Hematology, for 21 years.

Sabbath said Alfano was a man who enjoyed intellectual challenges and could often be found reading books on complex topics such as relativity and “string theory,” just for his own amusement.

“He was someone you could always look forward to talking to on a personal and professional level. He is already sorely missed,” Sabbath said.

Alfano leaves behind **Sandra Alfano**, his wife of 24 years, and two college-age sons, **Louis F. Alfano** and **Alexander V. Alfano**. He was raised in Greenwich by his late parents, **Louis and Josephine Alfano**, and eventually settled in the Middlebury area in 1984.

Alfano was board-certified in internal medicine and medical oncology.

“I was blessed to have such a wonderful partner,” Sabbath said.

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**WATERBURY
HOSPITAL**

