

SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to the following colleagues celebrating milestone service anniversaries:

5 years **Ammar Abbasi, MD**, LVPG Physiatry; **Tamara Balent**, housekeeping; **Lacy Gashi**, imaging director, imaging; **Shakuntala Varhade, MD**, LVPG Pediatrics

10 years **Linda Banos**, rehabilitation services; **Margaret Haley**, **Eugene Myers**, rehabilitation; **John Palaggi, LPN**, occupational health services; **Melissa Powell, RN**, obstetrics/gynecology; **Danielle Wiley, LPN**, LVPG Physiatry; **Monica Wills, RN**, occupational health services

15 years **Zozett Bandy**, transportation; **Janine Hauslyak**, radiology

20 years **Hope Frask, RN**, medical surgical; **Marguerite Obert, RN**, medical surgical

25 years **Martha Goida**, pharmacy

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



Marisel Mieses, RN, of Lehigh Valley Home Care-Hazleton recently received a special thank you from students of West Hazleton Elementary Middle School.

Mieses educated the students using Glitterbug, a proper handwashing technique system, during National Handwashing Awareness Week.

WYLN TV 35 was there to report on the project.



Terry's Take: Working Hard for the Health of Our Communities

You work hard all year long to keep the people in our communities healthy.

Lately, you've been working harder than ever due to increased patient volumes across all our campuses, at our health centers, ExpressCAREs and LVPG practices.

Your passion and dedication are truly remarkable. Patients and family members have noticed and told us how grateful they are for your commitment and caregiving. Leaders across the health network have noticed too. They've called your collaboration and teamwork "heroic" and "magnificent." And I couldn't agree more.



In the Lehigh Valley, we've seen record-breaking volumes in January and February due to seasonal illnesses like the flu, respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses. Our surgical volumes are way up too. In fact, we exceeded 125 percent of volume on several occasions, yet still achieved our goal of zero diversions.

At LVH-Hazleton, seasonal volumes were up in January and ED visits were up 10 percent. At LVH-Schuylkill, January volumes on our clinical units were all higher than budget. At LVH-Pocono, patient volumes were slightly higher in January than previous months, though still lower than before we experienced changes in the competitive landscape. On all our campuses and in our practices, we're caring for our most vulnerable populations – young children and the elderly.

Whether you're on the frontline at one of our hospital campuses, work at an LVPG practice, in an ambulatory setting or play a vital support role, chances are you're feeling the effects of the cold and flu season. Now more than ever, we need to take time to encourage one another and cheer each other on. We also need to practice self-care and keep each other healthy so we can continue to do an extraordinary job for our communities.

I wish I could send each of you a personal note for going the extra mile these past two months. As one of our more than 17,000 colleagues, you can be proud of the work you do and the compassion you show our community. Thank you for working for LVHN and for giving it your all throughout this busy season.



Welcome these colleagues to the LVHN family:

LVH-Hazleton: **Alisha Almanzar**, clerk typist, fifth floor telemetry; **Elisha Condon**, radiology technician, radiology; **Alyssa Dikeman**, ultrasound technician, ultrasound; **Jeffrey Lutz**, dietary aide, food and nutrition services; **Edmund Golomb**, health portal navigator, medical records

Health & Wellness Center at Hazleton:

Emma Gresh, phlebotomist, laboratory; **Paola Thomas**, client services representative, client services

LVPG: **Shirllie Rosario**, registered medical assistant, LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology

SOCIAL NEWS



The HEART Activities Committee will be pre-ordering Hershey Park tickets at discounted rates.

Go to the intranet and click Recreational Activities, Events, Concerts & Parks for more information and an order form.

COLLEAGUE RECOGNITIONS

Please extend congratulations to the following colleagues who achieved professional milestones:

Sara Reed, RN, ICU, has obtained her CCRN from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

Karen Young, RN, clinical informatics department, has received her Master of Science degree in informatics.



Senior Management, Leadership Restructured

LVHN management committees and leadership responsibilities are being altered so LVHN can focus on its key priorities amid the changing face of health care. For details, read the special announcement email sent to all colleagues on Monday, Feb. 27.

Imaging Provides New Services to Hazleton Patients

The new interventional radiology suite, located at LVH-Hazleton, offers patients safer, less invasive diagnostic and treatment options. Minimally invasive interventional radiology is beneficial to patients who need surgery but may want to avoid traditional surgery.

Interventional radiologists perform minimally invasive techniques to treat a variety of conditions in nearly every organ system. X-ray and other imaging technologies are used to guide small, specialized instruments through tiny incisions to treat affected areas.

The combined PET/CT scan provides images that pinpoint the location of abnormalities within the body. The combined scans have been shown to provide more accurate diagnoses than the two scans performed separately. The mobile unit is located at the Dessen Center every other Friday.

Both of these services allow patients to remain close to

Interventional Radiology Suite



PET/CT

LVHN Supports the 39th ACS Telethon

Last Saturday marked the American Cancer Society Greater Hazleton Unit's 39th Telethon. It was held at the Health & Wellness Center at Hazleton for the second consecutive year, and LVHN colleagues in Hazleton came together to support the event.

Special thanks goes out to colleagues who helped set up the event, participated at the health fair and answered the phones. During the telethon, Michael Evans, MD, made a check presentation on LVHN's behalf.



PEARL Award Recipient Named

Mary Ann Kolcun, RN, nurse manager of outpatient services, has been selected as the recipient of the YWCA of Hazleton's 2017 PEARL Award. PEARL is an acronym for professionalism, excellence, achievement, role model/responsibility and leadership.

Kolcun has excelled as both a role model and leader throughout her 46-year nursing career. An active member in the community, Kolcun volunteers for various community organizations.

Kolcun will be honored as the PEARL Award recipient at Capriotti's Palazzo on Friday, March 10 at 6 p.m. Please congratulate her on this outstanding achievement.

PHYSICIAN REFERRAL PROGRAM

All LVHN colleagues are eligible to earn \$1,000 for referring a physician who gets hired by the health network under a recently enacted program.

The process for the referral program is as follows:

- Refer a physician to Lea Carpenter, Administrator, Physician and Executive Recruitment.
- Receive \$1,000 referral "finder's fee" notification.
- Fee is payable to the colleague through payroll process once the referred physician starts employment.



MOURNING ONE OF OUR OWN

Sadly, another beloved colleague, Deborah Ann Yacubik, clerk typist, patient registration, recently passed away. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to her family, friends and colleagues. She will be truly missed.

The Three Passions of LVPG President Michael Rossi, MD

There are three primary passions in the life of Michael Rossi, MD. One is his family, a passion best manifested by the delicious Italian dinners served just about every Sunday and holiday in the Rossi household. Another is the New York Mets, his favorite baseball team since the days Casey Stengel was their manager in the early 1960s. The third is medicine, which like his other passions has been part of him as long as he can remember.



"I've always wanted to be a doctor since I was a little kid growing up in Brooklyn," says Rossi, LVHN Chief Physician Executive and President of Lehigh Valley Physician Group (LVPG). In fact, he started volunteering at his local hospital in New York City when he was 13. His father worked for a taxi company as an auto mechanic and his mother was a seamstress. "They worked hard to get by," Rossi says. "My dad always encouraged me to aim high and work hard. He taught me that respect is something you earn."

The son of Italian immigrants, Rossi didn't learn to speak English until he got to kindergarten. He was the first in his family to attend college and the first to become a doctor, earning both his bachelor's and medical degrees at Brown University.

Rossi was in private practice in Allentown before he joined LVHN full time in 2003. He was Chief of Cardiology and Medical Director of the Regional Heart Center before he was asked to lead LVPG in 2008. "It's been nothing short of amazing to see how LVPG has grown during my time as president and long before that," he says.

LVPG began in 1993 with 24 physicians. Today it includes more than 1,200 providers and 3,000 colleagues. Rossi regularly meets with LVPG's clinical and business leaders, having oversight for what is now the fifth largest employer in the Lehigh Valley.

LVHN providers care for more than 400,000 unique patients, which means we serve about half of the population of the entire Lehigh Valley area. "Think about that for a moment," Rossi says. "That says a lot about the entire team of colleagues we have in place across LVPG and our network."

Rossi looks forward to talking with members of that team during "Open Mike Forums." As we introduce the Communication Cascade – which elevates the role of leaders in keeping colleagues informed – these forums will give Rossi a venue to share health network and LVPG news with colleagues, as well as learn about their successes, challenges and questions.

Despite all his responsibilities, Rossi had managed to continue treating patients as a cardiologist until only recently. "It was difficult to step away," Rossi says. "I'd been caring for some of them for nearly 25 years, but it became impossible to continue as my administrative role evolved. It's still hard because caring for patients will always be part of who I am. So now it's about how do we optimize caring for the entire community instead of one patient at a time."

Thirty years ago, Rossi met his wife, Barbara, while doing his residency at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Today they have four children and enjoy tennis, the Mets and New York Giants, and those amazing Italian family dinners. That word "family" means a lot to Rossi, whether it's at home or work. "At LVPG, we're like family – a 3,000-member family," he says. "Family is my everything. It's my joy - always has been and always will be."