

Get Discounted Dorney Park Tickets

Buy tickets for two select weekends this summer.

Buy IronPigs Tickets

Tickets are on sale for four games.

Attend a Town Hall Meeting at LVH–Muhlenberg

Two sessions will take place on Monday, April 23.

Value: It's in the LVHN DNA

It's the focus of LVH–Hazleton's robotic surgery team.

Data is Making a Difference for Patients

Our great work led to a national award.

John Brodsky is LVHN's First Treasurer

Working with our CFO, he'll focus on debt management.

Tactics to Deal With Violent Situations

Female colleagues: Take this self-defense class.

Sowing Seeds of Quality Care

Amazing patient care starts with quality as a mindset.

Attend the Earth Day Fair April 20

Learn how LVHN is preserving the environment.

Summer Internships for College Students

Internships are available in nonclinical areas this summer.

Colleague Engagement Survey Underway

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LVHN Faculty Focus Week

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Lifesaving Stories From our Cancer Institute

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LVHN news

Back Surgery: Advanced Cures for Pain

What is a Hiatal Hernia?

Why You Need a Primary Care Provider

Information on LVHN Weekly is for LVHN colleagues only and cannot be accessed on smartphones or computers outside of LVHN's network.

Get Discounted Tickets to Dorney Park This Summer

BY [EMILY SHIFFER](#) · APRIL 10, 2018

The LVHN Recreation Committee invites you to spend a day with your family at Dorney Park for a discounted price.

Tickets are only \$28.50 for two select weekends:

- Friday, June 29- Sunday, July 1
- Friday, Aug. 10 – Sunday, August 12

Tickets are available now for purchase at dorneypark.com/lvhn.



Buy IronPigs Tickets for May, June and August Games

BY [EMILY SHIFFER](#) · APRIL 11, 2018

Cheer on the Lehigh Valley IronPigs at four games sponsored by the LVHN Recreation Committee.

Attend a game on May 12, June 17, July 17 or Aug. 26.

Regular seats are \$11 with a \$2 concession credit on each ticket. Party Porch tickets are \$37 each and include a buffet and unlimited soft drinks.

For more information and to purchase tickets, [click here](#).



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Attend a Town Hall Meeting at LVH–Muhlenberg April 23

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · APRIL 13, 2018

Town Hall meetings are underway. We're holding Town Hall meetings on each of our hospital campuses as a way to keep colleagues informed about what's happening in our health network. Town Halls are being hosted by the leaders from each hospital campus. When you attend a Town Hall meeting, you'll hear LVHN news and get information specific to your campus. You'll also have an opportunity to ask your questions.

Here are details about the Town Hall meetings scheduled for LVH–Muhlenberg.

LVH–Muhlenberg Town Hall With

Bob Begliomini, Incoming President, LVH–Muhlenberg

Jackie Fenicle, RN, Vice President, Patient Care Services, LVH–Muhlenberg

Pat Toselli, DO, Senior Medical Director, LVH–Muhlenberg

Monday, April 23

Two sessions

7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

ECC rooms C and D

Help spread the word. [Print this flyer](#), post it in your department and encourage colleagues to stop in.



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Value: It's in the LVHN DNA

BY [ADMIN](#) · APRIL 12, 2018

Our three positions of strength – access, experience and value – are part of the LVHN DNA. LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, talked about it during his State of the Health Network Address. [Watch his presentation or read the recap.](#)

Throughout LVHN, colleagues are focusing on access, experience and value. They're bringing the LVHN DNA to life. Colleagues from LVH–Hazleton's [robotic surgery](#) team, for example, are focusing on value, which is high quality care at a lower cost.

LVH–Hazleton's team partnered with the robotic surgery team at LVH–Cedar Crest to get the program up and running. In January, they were ready to perform the very first hysterectomy with robotic surgery in Hazleton. However, this was not a typical case. Their patient wanted to avoid a blood transfusion due to religious beliefs. She declined a transfusion, even if it was medically necessary. The stakes at the time of surgery were high, but the team was ready.

Thanks to the numerous benefits of robotic surgery, the team is able to perform “bloodless” surgery. With robotic surgery, transfusions are needed less than 1 percent of the time, compared to 25 percent of the time with an open procedure.

When a hysterectomy is performed as an open procedure, it typically results in a three-day hospital stay. Their patient was discharged early in the afternoon on the same day she had her surgery. She experienced so little pain afterward that she only needed an over-the-counter pain reliever.

With robotic surgery, our teams provide:

- Better health – Patients experience less pain, spend less time in the hospital and recover faster.
- Better care – Robotic surgery lowers the risk for infection and complications.
- Better cost – Robotic surgery reduces length of stay and readmissions, preventing patients from occupying precious and costly hospital resources.

Data from 601 LVHN patients who had robotic surgery for benign conditions over a five-year period



translates into saving more than 600 days in length of stay. And because these patients were out of the hospital sooner, more beds were available for people who needed inpatient care. That's proof that creating value is in our DNA.

Inspired by their great work? Every day when you put on the LVHN badge, think about our DNA and what we're made of. Then, challenge yourself to bring our DNA to life.

Have a great story to share about how a colleague or team is creating health care value? [Tell us about it.](#)

Read other stories on LVHN Daily about colleagues who have the LVHN DNA. Learn how [colleagues from LVPG Family Medicine–Hamburg](#) are focused on giving people access to the care they need, and how colleagues from [LVH–Pocono's emergency department](#) give patients an amazing experience.

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How Data Is Making a Difference for Our Patients

BY [LORI MCFERRAN](#) · APRIL 12, 2018

Data is a driving force in health care at LVHN. About five years ago, LVHN subsidiary, Populytics, was formed to support the health network's population health initiatives by combining health insurance claims data with electronic medical records. With this powerful combination, physicians and other providers can better determine and prioritize the best next steps for their patients. It helps them identify gaps in patient care, stratify patients based on their level of risk and find opportunities for cost containment. This was made possible by building on a population health analytics platform from national health services and innovation firm, Optum.

“The ultimate goal is better health, better care and more value for all patients,” says Gregory Kile, LVHN Chief Insurance Officer and President and Chief Executive Officer of Populytics. “LVHN care coordination/population health teams use the data insights to prioritize outreach, tailor care for patients with chronic health conditions, and avert hospitalization and emergency department visits.”

As a result, the health network has seen positive impacts in quality, care delivery and improved resource efficiency. Some highlights include a drop in emergency department utilization (down 7.3 percent in 2017), a drop in emergency department utilization for end-stage renal disease (down 27 percent), and significant savings from steps taken to mitigate the escalating cost of prescription drugs (almost \$1 million).

Recognition of LVHN and Populytics' progress has spread to the national arena. In March, LVHN received the 2018 American Medical Group Association (AMGA)–Optum Award for Innovation in Population Health, which recognizes pioneering work in the field. According to sponsors, the award is “a direct attestation to the positive outcomes LVHN and Populytics have had in improving the health of patients, as well as advancing the business model for population health.”



Nina Taggart, MD, Senior Medical Director of Accountable Care, LVPHO (center) accepts the 2018 AMGA-Optum award on behalf of LVHN at AMGA's annual conference. Also pictured are John Cuddeback, Chief Medical Information Officer, AMGA (left), and Alejandro Reti, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Optum Analytics.

For more information on data analytics and what it can do, [download the latest Populytics Progress Report](#).

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LVHN Announces Appointment of First Treasurer

BY [ADMIN](#) · APRIL 11, 2018

This message is from Tom Marchozzi, MBA, CPA, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, LVHN

As our organization has grown, so has the complexity of financial management. Over the last four years, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) has acquired or merged with several regional health systems to improve our overall competitiveness. While locations and building projects have been strategically selected to capture market share, the network is competing in a business environment defined by population health parameters, reduced reimbursements, fluctuating debt rating and equally aggressive retail and other health care competitors.

To assist us with specific aspects of financial management, we are pleased to announce the appointment of John Brodsky, MBA, as Senior Vice President and Treasurer. Brodsky will work directly with Tom Marchozzi, MBA, CPA, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. In accepting the role, Brodsky becomes the first treasurer to serve at LVHN. He will begin his new position on April 16.

Chief among his new responsibilities, Brodsky will focus on debt management for the entire organization. This will include working on behalf of LVHN with debt rating agencies and other elements of the capital markets.

Ratings directly influence the cost (interest rate) for funds that LVHN borrows and access to funding based on our (estimated) ability to repay loans.

In addition, he will oversee Accounts Payable and Real Estate Financing. Currently, LVHN has significant annual leasing and real estate costs. Brodsky will review location costs and leasing contracts to determine best practices for LVHN with the goal to reduce these operational costs.

He also will provide guidance for LVHN investments and pension assets and work to ensure that these portfolios continue to meet the needs of the enterprise.

Throughout his career, Brodsky has focused on the world of health care while attaining higher levels of financial, management and leadership experience. He comes to us from Fairmount Capital Advisors,



Inc., Philadelphia, where he served as Managing Director and President from 2007 to 2018. While there, Brodsky advised hospitals, colleges and other 501c3 (non-profit) organizations, especially in relation to debt management and investment opportunities. Brodsky has spent more than 30 years in health care and non-profit finance.

Brodsky earned his MBA at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, with a concentration in health care administration and financial accounting. He earned his undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering at Princeton University.

Brodsky lives in Rumson, N.J. with his wife Mary. They have three children. When he isn't crunching numbers, Brodsky enjoys getting outside. He is a skier – both water and snow – plays tennis and platform tennis, and is an avid boater. He is a long standing member of the Zoning Board of Adjustments for the Borough of Rumson, and currently serves as board chairman.

Please join us in welcoming John to LVHN.

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Learn Tactics to Deal With Violent Situations

BY [EMILY SHIFFER](#) · APRIL 9, 2018

Though potentially violent situations are isolated, they do exist. Women in particular can feel vulnerable walking to their vehicle, leaving work late or entering a dark home. There are steps you can take to reduce the risk of becoming the victim of violence, and female colleagues now have the opportunity to learn these steps free of charge.

The Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) System is the largest, most comprehensive women's self-defense course in the world. The system empowers women to make their own decisions regarding self-preservation and self-defense. Women learn defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assaults by utilizing proven, effective self-defense tactics.



The RAD course is taught by certified instructors and focuses on awareness, prevention, risk reduction, avoidance and basic hands-on defense.

Colleagues who complete the course have lifetime free access to any RAD classes taught in the U.S. or Canada at any time if they'd like to brush up on self-defense techniques.

The classes will be taught at the Public Safety Office, 2024 Lehigh Street, Allentown, in different timing formats to make them accessible to different shifts. The 12 hour program is available as two options:

- **May 12 and 19** – 8 a.m.-2 p.m. each class
- **Oct. 15 and 17** – 6-9 p.m. and **Oct. 20** – 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information and course registration, contact [Kim Diehl](#) of public safety at 610-402-2333. Again, the RAD course is available to women colleagues only.

Sowing Seeds of Quality Care

BY [MARCIANN ALBERT](#) · APRIL 10, 2018

Gardens are not the only things that respond to tending, attention and a nurturing approach. Through consistent cultivation, support and pollination of care, high-quality, patient-centered care blooms. Quality is sown into LVPG's mission and foundation. Colleagues on the front line of patient care champion the development of standard work and process improvement. Through their service promise commitment and participation in quality initiatives, they perceive quality care as a "mindset."

"Helping LVPG practices improve their patient safety reporting process and making sure those reports are used to improve the care we deliver are a priority," says [Brian Stello, MD](#), Associate Medical Director for Quality and Safety. A cohesive approach to quality improvement

takes time and work. Stello, in collaboration with Tammie Papada, BSN, LVPG Clinical Services' Clinical Procedure and Product Nurse Specialist, reviewed every patient report filed from LVPG practices in 2017 and found opportunities to improve medication safety and lab specimen management.

Based on the review findings, Stello and several LVPG colleagues are forming a multispecialty review committee to evaluate cases across LVPG practices and specialties. Three LVPG primary care practices will also be piloting more robust patient safety workflows – working collaboratively with Stello and LVHN patient safety colleagues – to learn what to report, enhanced standard processes and how to address service recovery.

Care coordination and preventive medicine are "nutrients" of extraordinary patient care. Alyssa Bruchko, BSN, Clinical Manager for LVPG Obstetrics and Gynecology Practices, knows this well. She believes quality improvement comes from an organic team-based approach. "This is not just about helping the patient navigate the health network," she says. "At LVPG, we are one team. When it comes to quality, it is a ripple effect among those practices caring for the patient."

Bruchko and her practice colleagues made it a goal for breast health and colon-rectal screening to outreach to patients quarterly. At the LVH-17th Street, LVH-Cedar Crest, and Palmer locations, significant metric improvements highlight the result of teamwork:



LVH-17th Street

- Breast cancer screening in December 2017 were 82.9 percent. As of March 2018, LVPG was able to bring this up to 86.7 percent.
- Colon-rectal cancer screening in December 2017 were 80.8 percent. As of March 2018, LVPG was able bring this up to 83.5 percent.

LVH-Cedar Crest

- Breast cancer screening in December 2017 was 84.8 percent. As of March 2018, LVPG was able to bring this up to 86.5 percent.
- Colon-rectal cancer screening in December 2017 were 75.1 percent. LVPG was able to bring this up to 77.8 percent.

Palmer

- Breast cancer screening in December 2017 were 67.3 percent. As of March 2018, LVPG was able to bring this up to 70.1 percent.
- Colon-rectal cancer screening in December 2017 were 78.4 percent. As of March 2018, LVPG was able to bring this up to 84.9 percent.

For gardens to yield bountiful harvests, collaborative growing environments are ideal. With the right tools, standard work and dedicated cultivators of care, high-quality, patient-centered care also blooms. [Lynn Shay, DNP, CRNP](#), LVPG Family Medicine, believes one of the foundational elements in transformative care is change. To her, quality *and* caring go hand-in-hand. “If we truly care about patients, it drives us to give them the very best in terms of shared decision-making based on evidence based guidelines,” she says. Shay feels privileged to work alongside our excellent ExpressCARE clinicians. They are often the first and continued touchpoint for a large number of patients who are either without a primary care provider (PCP) or have not seen their PCP in the past 12 months.

Efforts to reach out to this group include a coordination of referral and care project that will enable “orphaned” patients a place in the attached family medicine office to develop a relationship with a new “medical home.” “Caring about patients also means embracing change when it’s clear it is in the best interest of the patient,” Shay says. “To me, quality means how I can give the best care, as well as what needs to change to make that happen.”

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Attend LVHN's Earth Day Fair April 20

BY [EMILY SHIFFER](#) · APRIL 13, 2018

Celebrate Earth Day at LVHN by attending the Earth Day Fair on Friday, April 20, at LVH-Cedar Crest, ECC room 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Learn about what LVHN and your local community are doing to preserve the environment. Get updated information on local parks, and learn how to reduce your energy footprint and join sustainability groups in the area.

The event is open to the public and LVHN colleagues.
No registration necessary.



Summer Internships Available for College Students

BY [EMILY SHIFFER](#) · APRIL 13, 2018

LVHN is offering summer internships in nonclinical career areas throughout the health network to develop a talent pipeline and early access to potential future candidates. This program will be operated by volunteer services in conjunction with human resources.

Internships will be available to college students entering their sophomore, junior and senior year of college.

Priority will be given to students of LVHN colleagues.

This is a non-credit opportunity. Here are details about the summer internship:

- The internship will be eight weeks from June 4-July 27.
- Summer interns will be scheduled 30-35 hours per week according to department needs.
- The program will include two group educational sessions at LVHN-Mack Boulevard.
- Interns will be awarded a \$2,000 stipend upon completion of the program to be paid by the hosting department.

If you have questions, please reach out to Karla Bachl at 610-402-8897 or Karla_m.bachl@lvhn.org.



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