

*The International Women's Forum Connecticut (IWFCT) brings together accomplished and professional women leaders of significant and diverse achievement. The organization promotes leadership and advocacy in a trusting and respectful community that is committed to the advancement and support of each member.*

### IWF Upcoming Conference

**Reminder!** Our next IWF Leadership Conference will be taking place in Stockholm, Sweden. Mark your calendars and let's continue the momentum of strong attendance.



### New Members



#### Meredith Reuben

Welcome to our newest member, Meredith Reuben! Meredith is the owner and CEO of EBP Supply Solutions, a wholesale distributor of janitorial and food service supplies with three distribution centers (Milford, CT, Tewksbury, MA and Cranbury, NJ).

### A Message from IWFCT's President Roberta Prescott

Dear Members,



Congratulations to **Membership Chair Michele Etzel** and **Vice Chair Sallie DeMarsilis**, whose committee has recruited seven new members since taking on this committee responsibility in June. This hardworking committee has met its ten percent new member goal in under six months!

It was so nice to celebrate the holidays with the membership in December. Many thanks to our gracious hosts, **Maura and Jack Carley**, for opening their home to IWFCT. I'd also like to thank all the members who donated to our holiday collection for My Sisters' Place in Hartford. Through your generosity, we donated \$350 in gift cards as well as bedding to the facility. For over thirty years, My Sisters' Place has been a safe haven for mothers and children, who often arrive at the shelter with only the clothes they have on their backs. Our donations help the agency provide the warmth of a home, clothing, diapers, formula, and supportive services to these women and children.

We had a wonderful turn-out at our January 11<sup>th</sup> Innovation in Healthcare Panel Discussion, hosted at Yale New Haven by **IWFCT member Marna Borgstrom**. Highlights from that program are provided in this Newsletter. Our next program, Innovation in Technology, will be held on Friday, February 24, at the IBM research facility in Yorktown Heights, NY. I hope to see many of you at that exciting program as well.

*Roberta Prescott*

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## Member News



**Sallie DeMarsilis**, On January 15th, the National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW) honored IWFCT member Sallie DeMarsilis with its Business Honoree award at its annual Three Wise Women event held in New Haven. Congratulations Sallie!



**Paddi LeShane**, was recently featured in the article, [“Connecticut’s Largest Lobbying Firms Led by Women,”](#) published in the Hartford Business Journal on January 9, 2017. Congratulations Paddi!

**Carolyn Miles**, On January 12th, Save the Children and the Pequot Library in Southport, CT sponsored a Women in Philanthropy Panel Discussion, which included IWFCT member Carolyn Miles, President & CEO of Save the Children, Susan Friedlander Calzone, President & CEO, Foundation Source, Fiona Hodgson, VP for Development and Philanthropic Services, Fairfield County Community Foundation and Emily Tow Jackson, Executive Director & President, Tow Foundation.



**Marilyn Ford** On January 16th, IWFCT member Marilyn Ford delivered the keynote address at the 3rd Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Stamford Community Breakfast, sponsored by the Stamford Community Collective. Marilyn is the Neil Cogan Public Service Professor of Law at Quinnipiac University, and also serves as the Secretary to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She also delivered the keynote address at the Westport tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. held on Sunday, January 15th at the Westport Country Playhouse. For additional details see [article](#)

**Maura Carley**, Terrie Wood, State Representative for the 141st General Assembly District, has sponsored a forum on “The Affordable Care Act: Connecticut Successes and Challenges Ahead”. Panelists for this event included IWFCT member Maura Carley, Founder and President of Healthcare Navigation LLC, and Victoria Veltri, JD, LLM, Chief Health Policy Advisor in the Office of Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. The event was held in the Community Room of the Darien Library (1441 Post Road, Darien).



## Events - January 2017

### INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH CARE AT YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH

BY Marie Meliksetian and Roberta Prescott

#### THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE IS NOW

Innovation, advancements and breakthroughs are transforming how healthcare is provided. IWFCT member and CEO of Yale New Haven Health System and Hospital, Marna Borgstrom, and her team are leading the way.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, Marna and 5 of her most senior leaders (mostly women) captivated us in a lively discussion. It gave a fresh perspective on today's challenges in healthcare from a hospital that has been ranked by U.S. News & World report as one of the best hospitals in the United States.

The record number of attendees from IWFCT were impressed by the professionalism and enlightening perspective of Marna and her team. Below are some of the highlights:

**COST:** Making people better for less is crucial. To that end they are focusing on achieving better care at lower cost. This is a challenge when Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements cause a dollar loss for two third of the treated patients, leaving entities such as Anthem Blue Cross and Aetna being left to pick up the cost shift.

Since 2013, annual cost savings of \$325 million have been achieved by scaling fixed costs and managing variable costs through largely clinical process improvements. Payment is moving from volume to value.

**PATIENT-CENTERED CARE:** Their research shows that what patients want are

- To be valued and listened to. To be cared for and about
- To be respected and treated as an individual
- To have quality care and outcome and more control versus "Doctor knows best"

The hospital has made this an integral part of their values. At the same time they are focusing on:

**SAFETY:** They have improved safety in three years by 80%

**COMMUNITY:** They are investing in reaching out to the community to help lower the total cost of care and to promote preventive medicine. This includes behavioral changes that will lead to better health before they get sick and enter the system. Also important is better pre-natal care to prevent lifelong illnesses - all while providing better access, transportation and convenience.

**EFFICIENCY:** Dr. Tom Balcezak, Chief Medical Officer, has set the objectives of decreasing / eliminating adverse outcomes (Vs. process) and decreasing Length of Stay.

#### KEY TOPICS COVERED BY THE PANEL:

- **DATA:** A major trend. Storing and securing data is critical. Also, data is not the same as information and often does not give meaningful input. Therefore, instead of providing service based on general data analysis, more and more the emphasis will be on specialized individual cases and major improvements in electronic records that talk to each other. As a result, early warning systems and coordination between doctors and providers can save lives.
- **GENOME SEQUENCING** for targeted therapies: There is pressure on gene sequencing. Only 57 of 20,000 genes are part of active research today. This exciting field is in its infancy and is already providing exciting results. At the same time attention is being paid to ethical issues that these advances present.
- **TELEMEDICINE** There will be e-visits (virtual visits), e-consults often at sites outside of medical centers. Skyping or texting the doctor will prevent time away from work for simple illnesses such as UTI's and Sinusitis. Online information will become more useful.
- **ROBOTICS** There will be no more "watch one, do one" teaching, where inexperience can harm patients. They will now use software, mannequins and simulation procedures way before getting near a patient for outstanding results.

These are just a few of the major initiatives that have put Yale at the forefront of innovation. The audience wanted to hear more. Alas, time caught up with us and we departed with a promise to come together again in the coming year.

## Events - January 2017

### INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH CARE AT YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL (Cont'd)

BY Marie Meliksetian and Roberta Prescott

#### ABOUT THE EVENT, PANEL and YALE



**Topic:** “Enhancing Value and Transforming Care”

**Sponsor:** [Marna Borgstrom, Chief Executive Officer of Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health System](#), and IWF CT member

**Panel:** Moderator [Dr. Thomas Balcezak, MD, MPH, Chief Medical](#).

Panelists were highly achieved women leaders in their field:

- [Cynthia Sparer, Senior Vice President, Operations and Executive Director of the Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital](#)
- [Lisa Stump, MS, RPh, FASHO, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer of the Yale New Haven Health Systems & Yale School of Medicine](#); and
- [Prathibha Varkey - MBBS- MPH, MHPE, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer, North East Medical Group](#)
- Wrap-up by [Sue Fitzsimons, RN, PhD, Senior Vice President Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer at the Yale New Haven Hospital](#)

#### **Overview of Yale New Haven Health and School of Medicine**



A teaching hospital with a Revenue of \$4.4B, Yale New Haven System is one of the largest hospitals in the world, made out of 5 hospitals with more than 5,000 Medical staff and 1,400 trainees. A School of Medicine with 2,799 Full-Time Physician and Research Faculties generating more than 2.1M annual patents.

**We are all proud of its leader, our own IWFCT colleague Marna Borgstrom as the Chief Executive Officer who has been at the forefront of its innovation and success.**

## Events - November 2016

### AT THE UN WITH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR SAMANTHA POWER

By Sheryl Sleeva and Roberta Prescott

On Wednesday November 9, 2016, Valarie Gelb, Sheryl Sleeva and Roberta Prescott joined the members of the Women's Forum on New York at a special luncheon at the UN with Ambassador Power. The luncheon was followed by a tour of the Security Council chambers.

#### BACKGROUND

Ambassador Power has been a key figure in the Obama administration since 2008 and has played a major role in shaping US foreign policy, particularly in the Middle East, Libya, Sudan and Myanmar. In 2016 Forbes Magazine ranked her as the 41<sup>st</sup> most powerful woman in the world. There are 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council (US, UK, France, China and Russia – hence the strategic issue of veto power) and 10 nonpermanent members with 2 year terms. Ambassador Power was interviewed by NY Forum member Gillian Sorensen



#### SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

##### GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES

In international relations in the Security Council there is no door number 2. There needs to be coalitions and follow dollars across countries. Terrorism and Climate change are the obvious issues. Also:

- Ongoing Syrian conflict where 11 million people have fled for their lives; 2) Crisis in the Ukraine; 3) Global refugee problem; 4) Sex trafficking 5) Growing tensions between Russia and other permanent members of the security council, much affected by Russia's veto power on important issues; 6) Haiti can't absorb the dollars being sent. There's no infrastructure to support what's being sent, especially around sanitation

#### UN SUCCESSES AND FAILURES DURING HER TENURE

##### SUCCESSES

- Global cooperation and success in handling the Ebola crisis; 2) Prioritization on a myriad of human rights issues – there are now 3 million girls in Afghanistan who are in schools due to UN programming; 3) there is very little division on the peace process in Colombia and Africa

##### FAILURES

- Lack of success in resolving the Syrian and Ukraine issues which she called "huge stains on the (UN) building, with 65 million people displaced. The Security Council can't come to grips and take action.

#### HER CONCERNS ABOUT TRANSITION TO NEW ADMINISTRATION

Ambassador Power was flying to Washington after the luncheon to initiate the 10 week transition process. She attempted to be diplomatic about the election results but expressed concerns about the future of US support of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the willingness to accept Syrian refugees by the new administration. In the spirit of helping / mentoring other women, she told the audience that she has an incredible team that she's been working with and she and her team will be out of a job on January 20<sup>th</sup>. She asked the audience as women leaders if any of them needed outstanding employees to please call.

#### NEW UN SECRETARY GENERAL – ANTONIO GUTERRES

On October 6, 2016, the UN Security Council selected former Prime Minister of Portugal, Antonio Guterres as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations. His 5 year term begins in January, 2017. 6 of the 12 candidates for the post were women and many were hopeful that a woman would be appointed, but Mr. Guterres emerged as a star and the clear favorite. The fact that he and the new US President will commence their terms of service at the same time is an historic event which has not happened in a very long time.

## Upcoming Events



**FEBRUARY – IBM Watson.** Joins us on February 24, 2017, for a unique opportunity to interact with Jeopardy's IBM Watson, and to learn about the latest Innovations in Technology from the experts at the IBM THINKLab.

*The ThinkLab includes Triptychs designed to showcase research demos, a Vertical Wall that features event designed content, and a Visualization Wall that displays presentation, research*



**APRIL – Dine-arounds.** Our 2017 Dine-arounds will be taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Our hosts will be Ann Gray, Roberta Prescott and Joanne Firstenberg. Please mark your calendars and join us for intimate gatherings across various regions of the state.

### **JUNE – Annual meeting @ Aspetuck Golf Course.**

Join us for a great food cooking demonstration by the Aspetuck Golf Course Chef Girard. You will enjoy a unique experience in cooking and demonstration event. This will be a good treat to both the food connoisseurs and the cooks in you! A real treat!



## Job Opportunities

**Virginia P'an, IWFCT member and Founder and CEO of Yumi Ecosolutions, Inc.:** Yumi EcoSolutions, Inc., an environmentally conscious manufacturer of products made from sustainable and renewable bio-materials, has openings for a Sales Candidate and an Operations Analyst. For additional information and a description of the requirements and responsibilities of these positions, please contact Jessica Cooper at [jessica@yumieco.com](mailto:jessica@yumieco.com)