

HIGH TECH, HIGH RESOLUTION, HIGH SPEED!

In the time it takes your heart to beat just 5 times, your doctor can see a 3D model of your beating heart on screen. According to Dr. Ethan Foxman, who is Chief of Radiology at Windham Hospital, and a partner in Jefferson Radiology, the state's premier radiology group and provider of imaging services at Windham, "this new technology is just incredible! This equipment is absolutely state-of-the-art, and using it, we can look inside blood vessels, pinpoint heart problems, and find blockages – without surgery." The equipment he's talking about is a brand new 64-slice CT scanner, the first in eastern Connecticut.

"In the past, we had to rely on cardiac catheterization for information. That's a fairly complex procedure, so people often waited until a problem surfaced before undergoing the testing, and that, of course, delayed any treatment. But now," he says, "we can find blockages before they develop into major problems, and we can treat proactively to slow down or reverse blockages in the arteries. It's incredible!"

What makes this new equipment so revolutionary? The CT scanner creates 64 credit-card-thin images – the "slices" – and combines them into a three-dimensional picture. Doctors who have used the new scanner say that – for many scans – the run-time is literally 5 to 10 seconds, and the resolution is "unbelievable."

Dr. Foxman concurs, adding that "we get a detailed view of your heart, for example, and we can peel back the virtual layers to view areas deep within. We can see so many details, much better than ever before."

The implications are enormous. Patients are more comfortable, results are immediate, and doctors are better informed. Digital images can be shared with

colleagues electronically, making consultations much easier, whether across the hall or across the state.

The patient simply lies on a table while the system scans the body and creates an on-screen image. Because the scan-time is so short, there is no need for the patient to maintain a specific body position or hold a breath for long periods of time. The 64-slice CT scanner works "a bit like a freeze-frame function in your camera. It stops the motion of the heartbeat, so there are no blurs or unreadable spots," says Foxman. He adds that "although previous CT scanners could create good images, this new version produces magnificent detail."

Dr. Foxman adds, "Atherosclerosis is the most common disease on the planet, and equipment like this CT scanner is our best hope because now we can see initial symptoms of disease, years – if not decades – before the onset of serious problems, and we can accelerate the treatment process as a result. It's a great step forward in medicine."

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SPRING 2007 ISSUE

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He concludes, "It's surprising for a small community hospital to have such amazing technology. This equipment is as good or better than anything you'll find in Hartford or New Haven, and it's right here in Willimantic."

The new 64-slice CT scanner is just the latest in a series of significant technology leaps for Windham Hospital. Improvements have just been completed on the hospital's MRI equipment, making Windham one of a handful of facilities statewide to offer breast MRIs. The upgrades also allow for clearer images and more rapid examination speeds. Last fall, a new Picture Archival and Communications System (PACS) brought Windham to the leading edge of radiological technology – the perfect complement to the new services offered to the region by Jefferson Radiology.

A new emergency department information system – installed shortly after the opening of the Jeffrey P. Ossen Emergency Center and the hospital's new Outpatient unit – made patient registration much faster and easier. Laptop computers allow bedside registration, and allow multiple caregivers to access information simultaneously.

So what's next? "We believe that we will be very busy with this new equipment," says Foxman. "There is a growing demand for CT and MRI scans, and we're now ready to meet that demand. We look forward to serving the people of our towns using this wonderful new technology!"

AT RIGHT: Dr. Ethan Foxman views imaging studies in Windham Hospital's upgraded radiology "reading room."



WINDHAM HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENTS

Windham Hospital Foundation Underway

The newly formed Windham Hospital Foundation had its first organizational meeting on April 17, 2007 and its members are enthusiastic about making a real difference to our fundraising efforts in years to come. The sole purpose of the Foundation is to uphold, promote and further the programs of the Hospital through a variety of fundraising activities. The benefit of having a separate foundation is that there will be a group of Trustees who are solely dedicated to this task.

At the meeting, a slate of officers was elected to serve for two years: Chairperson, Jeffrey Ossen; Vice-Chairperson, Corine Norgaard, PhD; Secretary, Carol Williams, PhD; and Treasurer, Harry Johnson, PhD. The Board of Trustees also appointed Mona Friedland Executive Director of the Foundation.

The Windham Hospital Foundation, Inc. has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. This will allow donors to receive a tax-deduction for their gifts. The Foundation and the Hospital will be working together to identify priorities for funding. Ultimately, all funds raised will benefit the Hospital. The Foundation Office is located in the same offices as the former Development Department at 112 Mansfield Avenue on the fifth floor. The phone number is 456-6700.

If you are interested in supporting the work of the Windham Hospital Foundation, please contact Mona Friedland, Executive Director at 456-6911 or you may make a contribution directly to the Windham Hospital Foundation, Inc. Thank you for your continued interest and support!

In January, members of the Windham Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees were elected by the Hospital Board to serve three-year terms.

*Arthur Brodeur
Robert Bundy, MD
Harry Johnson, PhD
Milton Johnson
Corine Norgaard, PhD
Jeffrey P. Ossen
Michael Rice
Carol Williams, PhD*

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Jim Papadakos,
Chief Financial Officer
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Chairman of the
Hospital Board*

June is LEAVE A LEGACY® Month!

LEAVE A LEGACY® is a national initiative to encourage people to make a difference in the lives that follow. By setting aside a gift in your will for a favorite charity or religious organization, you can demonstrate your concern for causes that you care about. Here are the top seven things you can do today to ensure that your legacy will continue:

1. Prepare or update your will.
2. Set aside a gift in your will to a non-profit organization that has made a difference in your life.
3. Name your favorite charity as the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy or purchase a new policy and name the charity beneficiary.
4. Remember your loved ones with a charitable bequest in their honor.
5. Name a charity as beneficiary of your IRA.
6. Discuss with your advisors and favorite charities the tax advantages you can enjoy now by leaving a gift to a charity.
7. Spread the word. Let family, friends and advisors know that you've taken responsibility for your legacy and for a cause you care about.

For more information on how you can leave a legacy to Windham Hospital, contact Mona Friedland at 456.6911 or visit our website at www.windhamhospital.org.



Is there a doctor in the house ?

When you are admitted to Windham Hospital, your primary care physician may refer you to the care of one of the new Hospitalists – staff physicians who oversee admitted patients during their hospital stay. As the name implies, Hospitalists see only hospitalized patients, so they are readily available to respond to any changes in your condition, order medication changes or tests, and answer your questions. Hospitalists and primary care physicians share information and medical records at the time of your admission to the hospital, and throughout your stay, so that one doctor knows what the other is doing – essential to your health and well-being! Once you're discharged, you return to the care of your regular doctor.

Since June 2006, Windham Hospital has hired five Hospitalists – Doctors Tagbo, Detroja, Hasni, Mukherjee, and Tollman. Patients who have experienced Hospitalist care say that they appreciate the individualized attention they receive, saying that it's "wonderful to know they're right here in the hospital." Adds one patient, "The Windham Hospitalists were so nice, and their care was a tremendous help to me."

Dr. Catherine Hylwa is just one of the local physicians who relies on the Hospitalists to care for her hospitalized patients. Since her practice is in Colchester, the round-trip drive to the hospital could take as much as an hour. Factor in the time spent seeing a patient or two at the hospital, and the trip can easily take her out of her office for two hours or more. "If a doctor has several hospitalized patients, it's possible to schedule a morning visit at the hospital, and then go into the office. With only one or two hospitalized patients, driving for an hour just doesn't make sense," she says, adding that "mid-day and emergency calls are even more complicated, because the office may be full of unseen patients while I'm gone." Response to changes in a patient's condition, medication requests, and family explanations may be postponed until the hospital staff can reach her, and "that's just not right!" she exclaims.

Primary care physicians throughout the region echo her concern, and appreciate the benefits that having a Hospitalist on staff can offer. Dr. Ralph LaGuardia feels "it's been great for my patients to have someone right there, someone who can respond to patient needs."

The Windham Hospitalists, left to right: Dr. Austin Tagbo, Dr. Kismet Detroja, Dr. Dan Tollman, Dr. Debmalya Mukherjee, and Dr. Shayan Hasni.



Yes! There are several new doctors in the house, thanks to the new Hospitalist program at Windham Hospital.

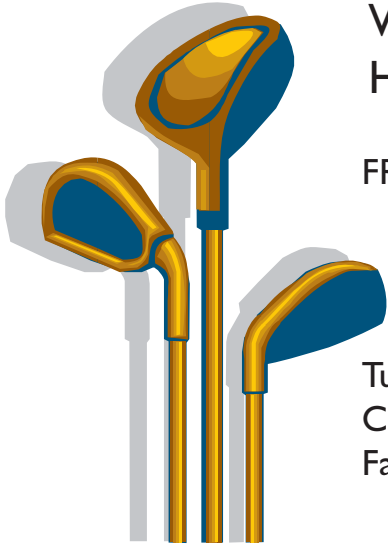
He adds, "The Hospitalists have been absolutely wonderful—they have given my patients very good care, and they provide me with daily updates and reports, so I'm certainly kept informed about the progress of my patients. The arrangement with the Hospitalists leaves me free to concentrate on office care, and that's very important." When asked about patient response to the program, Dr. LaGuardia says he's "had no complaints," adding that his patients feel that the Hospitalists have provided excellent care.

Physician participation in the hospitalist program is voluntary, and local doctors may elect to see their patients throughout any hospitalization—with or without the assistance of the Hospitalists. "This is a new model of patient care," says Vice President Robert Peterson. "And we have some doctors who prefer to attend to their own patients. We welcome that. But not every doctor feels that they can serve both office and hospitalized clients. They may be able to focus on private practice better by leaving inpatient care in the hands of the Hospitalists on staff."

Hospitalists first began practicing in U.S. hospitals in the early 1990s, according to the Philadelphia-based Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM), the specialty's professional association. Today, 70-80% of Connecticut's acute-care hospitals employ hospitalists, according to Jennifer Barrows, Director of Communications for the Connecticut Hospital Association. "More and more hospitals are using them, and our take is that it's a trend that will continue to grow," she said.

The 12th Annual

ConnectiCare GOLF CLASSIC



to benefit
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FRIDAY,
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10:30 AM

Tunxis Planatation
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To Your Health !

A Tasting of Fine Wines,
Exceptional Libations &
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Thursday, June 14th
4:30 - 7 PM

An event sponsored by the
AUXILIARY TO WINDHAM HOSPITAL



For information, contact Shawn Maynard at 456.6861 or email
smaynard@wcmh.org.



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Plan now to attend the 2nd Annual



Sunday, June 10th
Noon - 3 PM

Sponsored by
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