

David Lee Sanford Ryon, MD, CPPS

Physician Leader, Patient Safety Specialist, Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician

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CAREER SUMMARY

Medical leader in community hospitals, initially directing pulmonary specialist groups. After establishing at Deaconess Health System in that capacity, I then became President of Medical Staff, Medical Director of Patient Safety, and served on the Board of Directors. Recent achievements include establishing multidisciplinary rounding in the ICUs, leading a patient safety and safety culture movement, overhauling our Medical Staff peer review with sustainability, and leading improvement projects together with Nursing and Medical Staff Leadership, Pharmacy, Risk Management, IT, and Human Resources.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

Duke University

Durham, North Carolina
BS degree in Psychology, Magna Cum Laude
August 1980 – May 1984

University of Miami School of Medicine

Miami, Florida
MD degree, Graduation with Research Distinction
September 1984 – May 1988

New York University Medical Center, Bellevue Hospital Center

New York, New York
Intern and Resident, Department of Internal Medicine
July 1988 – June 1991

Fellow, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
July 1991 – June 1993

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Fellow, Division of Critical Care Medicine, Department of Anesthesia
July 1994 – June 1995

Johns Hopkins Medical Center, Armstrong Institute for Safety and Quality

Baltimore, Maryland,
Patient Safety Certificate Course
September 14-18, 2015

American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Certified

Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care Medicine
Last recertified in 2014

Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS)

Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)
September 2019

Active Medical License in Indiana

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT

Deaconess Health System Southern Indiana and Kentucky

A regional health system based in southern Indiana made up of eleven hospitals and a multispecialty clinic of over 95 care sites that serve a catchment area of about 1.5 million persons. The system is deeply networked with area hospitals and is a national leader in population health. For the past two years, Deaconess Health System has ranked #2 in the State of Indiana by US News and World Report.

Medical Director, Patient Safety

Drive improvement of Patient Safety as measured by Patient Safety Survey (AHRQ), in collaboration with the department of Quality and Safety. Advise on patient safety issues, Co-Chair Safety Committee, serve on the Risk Oversight Committee, help investigate safety events, advocate patient safety through speaking venues, in-services, and committee work.

January 2016 – present

Co-Chairman, Quality Committee of the Board of Directors

Organize and lead monthly meetings for this Committee, orient incoming members, strategic innovation, coordinate with the CEO and the Chairman of the Board to ensure productive meetings. Co-chair with a senior member of the Board of Directors.

October 2018 - present

Member, Board of Directors of Deaconess Hospital, Inc

Carry out fiduciary responsibilities for governance of quality for this flagship hospital of Deaconess Health System. Includes meetings, discussions, and decision making.

October 2021 present

Medical Director, Critical Care Medicine

The Deaconess Women's Hospital
Deaconess Trauma Services

Serve on Multidisciplinary Quality and Peer Review panels that review system and physician care events for these two specialty services; teach and advise on critical care and safety issues.

April 2016 – present

Medical Director, Black Lung Clinic

Work with Department of Labor to assess coal mine workers for respiratory disability.

September 2016 - present

Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician, Department of Medicine

Deaconess Health System Employee

Full-time practice of all aspects of pulmonary and critical care medicine.

December 2010 – present

Indiana University School of Medicine Bloomington and Evansville, Indiana

Voluntary Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine

Appointment for clinical teaching of medical students and residents, which I do several times annually.

January 2014 – present

KEY RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2015 - 2017 Led the development and implementation of Multidisciplinary Rounding (MDR) in our five Medical/Surgical Intensive Care Units (with modification of the pre-existing Trauma ICU rounds). This included assisting recruitment of enough intensivists to initiate MDR, working with Nursing and other ancillary disciplines, and getting rounds running reliably. In addition, I led follow-up at two years to ensure compliance and co-managed a TeamSTEPPS process to standardize all of the ICU rounding. This model has been adopted by our hospitalists.

2015 -2020 Helped drive a system-wide movement to improve our Safety Culture and raise awareness for Just Culture and Psychological Safety. I specifically led several education sessions for our Board of Directors, physician leaders, and performed nearly 30 separate talks for management around the organization. Most recently this ongoing movement included the revision of how our Board of Directors governs Quality, during which I worked closely with senior administration and our Chairman of the Board.

2015 -2019 Chaired the TeamSTEPPS Steering committee with the initiation of teamwork training at Deaconess, and supervised roll-out of this training into several procedural areas. Through an iterative process and collaboration, I facilitated improved application of this program into the organization. Most recently I teamed with physician leaders to make TeamSTEPPS training mandatory for all providers seeking medical privileges and credentialing.

2016 - 2018 Personally overhauled our peer review process for the Medical Staff Quality Committee (MSQC). I led the changes needed to anchor the new process with policy and procedure. The result has been closer monitoring of disruptive events with better perceived fairness, meeting national standards as set forth by The Greeley Company. The improvement has been sustained under subsequent chairs of MSQC.

2018 and 2019 Led detailed education of approximately 50 leaders in our organization on Psychological Safety and Teaming through two book clubs each lasting 10 weeks. I arranged mentorship from author and international expert in organizational psychology, Amy Edmondson, who telephonically led our summary sessions each year, without charge.

2018 - 2019 Identified a system-wide Nursing work-around regarding hazardous drugs. I led the teaming process with Pharmacy, IT, and Nursing Leadership to justly assess and find solutions. This resulted in objective data to support the need for an 'interoperability' intravenous pump to work through our EPIC system and remove layers of potential for human error.

2019 Together with our CEO, I led a movement to improve feedback to staff who file incident reports. This involved collaboration with leaders from Risk Management, Human Resources, Nursing, Quality and Safety, and culminated in a hard-wired process with accountability at the Risk Management Oversight Committee.

2019 In collaboration with an outside expert, our Patient Safety and Quality leaders, and both our CMO and CEO, I led an initiative to present an hour-long 'Deep Dive' focus on an organizational quality concern at our annual Retreat for the Board of Directors. I pressed forward the topic of "Never-Events", drafted the PowerPoint, drove over a dozen iterative revisions together with the expert and with our team, invited a co-speaker, and carried the bulk of the presentation.

2020 Initiated and developed the Deaconess COVID Convalescent Plasma Program, which required cross-teaming from over 20 different departments and entities, both in and outside of the Deaconess Health System.

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT

Evansville and Newburgh, Indiana

Immediate Past President, Medical Staff

Deaconess Hospital

Active position serving as Chairman of Quality Committee of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, member of the Medical Executive Committee, member of the Governance Committee of the Board of Directors, Chairman of Medical Staff Quality Committee.

October 2018 – September 2020

President, Medical Staff

Deaconess Hospital

Presided over Medical Staff meetings, Chaired the Medical Staff Quality Committee (MSQC), led investigation of physician-related incidents, served on Medical Executive Committee, assisted medical staff with problems and appointments, met monthly with senior leadership.

Position transitioned to Immediate Past President, Medical Staff in October 2018.

October 2016 - September 2018

President-Elect, Medical Staff

Deaconess Hospital

Served as Chair of the Medical Executive Committee and supported Medical Staff in concert with Administration, met monthly with senior leadership.

Position transitioned to President, Medical Staff in October 2016.

October 2014 – September 2016

Member, Board of Directors of Deaconess Health System

Governance discussion and decision-making. I have been driving improvement of Governance of Quality in Healthcare, with support of our CEO and Chairman of the Board.

October 2014 – September 2020

Associate Medical Director, Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care

Deaconess Health System

Implemented physician-led Multidisciplinary Rounds for our ICUs and recruited to double the size of our group. Resigned Directorship to attend to Health System duties.

January 2013 – January 2016

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Senior Co-Director, Pulmonary Medicine and Intensive Care Unit

HCA Healthcare Portsmouth Regional Hospital

Full time clinical and administrative responsibilities. Led multidisciplinary rounds and helped with policy, procedures, and order sets. Resigned to relocate near wife's family in Evansville.

February 2007 – November 2010

Kingston and New Paltz, New York

Director of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute (MHFI)

Pulmonary/Critical Care physician in multispecialty group with a Family Practice residency.

October 2000 – January 2007

Medical Director, Intensive Care Unit and Respiratory Care

The Kingston Hospital

Established multidisciplinary rounds and helped with policy, procedures, and order sets.

January 2002 – January 2007

Schenectady, New York

Employee, Northeast Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates

August 1998 – August 2000

Melbourne, Florida

Partner, Melbourne Internal Medical Associates (MIMA)

August 1995 – August 1998

New York, New York

Attending Physician, Department of Medicine, Chest and Asthma Clinics

Bellevue Hospital Center, New York Health and Hospitals Corporation

July 1993 – June 1994

COMMITTEES

Deaconess Health System, Evansville, Indiana

Co-Chair, Quality Committee of the Board of Directors, 12/2018 - present

Co-Chair, Task Force for Health Equity, 12/2021 - present

Co-Chair, Patient Safety Committee, 11/2016 – present

Member, Medical Staff Quality Committee, 10/2016 - present

Member, Risk Management Oversight Committee, 10/2016 – present

Member, Quality and Safety Committee, The Women's Hospital, 1/2016 - present

Member, Physician Leadership Team, 2/2014 – present

Medical Liaison, Trauma Peer Review Committee, 9/2014 – present

Chairman, TeamSTEPPS Steering Committee, 10/2015 – 1/2020

Chairman, Credentials Committee of the Medical Staff, 10/2018 – 9/2020

Member, Medical Executive Council, 10/2014 – 9/2020

Member, Board of Directors, Deaconess Health System, 11/2014 – 9/2020

Member, System Quality Committee of the Board of Directors, 11/2014 – 9/2020

Chairman, Medical Staff Quality Committee, 10/2017 – 10/2019

Chairman, Task Force for Delirium Management and Early Mobility, 12/2013 - 6/2014

Member, Task Force to initiate Low-Dose CT screening for Lung Cancer, 2012

Portsmouth Regional Hospital, Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Co-Chair, Critical Care Committee, 2007 - 2010

Chair, Task Force to revise Brain Death Policy and Procedure

Chair, Task Force on Therapeutic Hypothermia

Chair, Code Blue Committee, 2007 - 2010

Member, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, 2007 – 2010

Kingston Hospital, Kingston, New York

Chair, Acute Care Committee, 2001 – 2006

Chair, Code Blue Committee, 2001 - 2006

Chair, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, 2002 - 2006

Chair, Ethics Committee, 2001 – 2004

Member, Quality Committee of the Board of Directors, 2005 - 2006

Holmes Regional Medical Center, Melbourne, Florida

Chair, Multidisciplinary Critical Care Committee, 1996 - 1997

Chair, Code Blue Committee, 1996 – 1998

Society of Critical Care Medicine

Member, Electronics Communications Committee, 1996 – 2000

Member, Task force to Draft Admit/Discharge/Transfer Guidelines, 1997

Member, Quality Indicators Committee, 1997-2000

Member, Task Force to Revise ICU Admit/Discharge/Transfer Guidelines, 2007 – 2009

MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Critical Care Medicine, 1995 - present
American Association for Physician Leadership, 2013 - present
Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine, 2016 - present
National Patient Safety Foundation (now a part of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), 2017 - present
American Alpine Club, 1999 - present

PUBLICATIONS

Ryon, D: "Rime" After 25 Years: Reflections on Medical Futility From an Ancient Intensivist. *Critical Care Medicine* 2021: 49:1-5.

Ryon,D: The rime of the ancient intensivist. *Critical Care Medicine* 1995: 23:773-4.

PRESENTATIONS

October 29, 2019 "Eliminating 'Never Events' in Surgery: Deaconess Patient Safety Improvement Strategy," Board of Directors Retreat, Deaconess Health System.

April 24, 2019 "Governance of Quality," IHI white paper presentation with follow up of survey results in May 2019, Quality Committee of the Board of Directors, Deaconess Health System.

January - October 2019 Ten presentations on Just Culture and Psychological Safety at different leadership venues throughout Deaconess Health System.

June 14, 2019 "Teaming: What's in it for Me?" Deaconess Primary Care Provider Seminar.

December 19, 2018 "Medical Staff Peer Update and Safety Culture," Deaconess Medical Staff.

December 17, 2018 "Just Culture, the Basis of a Culture of Safety: Our Experience at Deaconess," ECRI Institute consortium of medical leaders, delivered as a live web in-service.

November 2, 2018 "Let's Communicate," 21st Annual Deaconess Trauma Conference, University of Southern Indiana.

March - December 2018 "Psychological Safety," Delivered over 20 times for leadership venues throughout the Deaconess Health System, including Quality Committee of the Board.

January 29, 2018 "Leading Teamwork for a Learning Culture, What Works?" Med/Surg/Neuro Nursing Conference, Deaconess Health System.

November 18, 2017 "Psychological Safety and Safety Culture," Safety Ambassadors, Deaconess Health System.

September 18, 2017 "Making Sense of HROs," Quality Strategy Day, Deaconess Health System.

August 17, 2016 "Dangerous Journeys: The role of teamwork in managing risk," ICU and hospitalist physicians, Deaconess Health System.

March 30, 2016 "Taking on the Nationwide Problem of Diagnostic Error," poster presentation and PowerPoint presentation, Patient Safety Week, Deaconess Health System.

February 25, 2014 “Septic Shock: what you don’t know, can kill,” Grand Rounds, Deaconess Health System.

November 14, 2013 “Shine a Light on Lung Cancer,” Speaker, Deaconess Cancer Services.

January 23, 2013 “Latent Error, Heuristics, and Decision Paralysis,” Deaconess Health System.

July 20, 2012 “Local Anesthesia, Cognitive Bias, and Decision Paralysis,” Deaconess Health System.

February 10, 2010 “Therapeutic Hypothermia,” Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

March 15, 2008 “Current Concepts in Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy,” Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

October 19, 2006 “Current Concepts in the Management of Septic and Hypovolemic Shock,” Kingston Hospital Emergency Physician Department Meeting, The Kingston Hospital.

November 16, 2005 “Hypovolemic Shock and Intraabdominal Catastrophes,” Critical Care Course, The Kingston Hospital.

June 14, 2005 “Hemodynamic Monitoring,” ACCN Critical Care Lecture, The Kingston Hospital.

May 16, 2005 “COPD,” Visiting Professor, The Kingston Hospital.

February 23, 2001 “Current Concepts in Sedation/Analgesia in the ICU,” Visiting Professor, The Kingston Hospital.

May 11, 2000 “Have Another Smoke?” Doctor’s Presentation Day, Ellis Hospital, Schenectady, NY.

(Presentations prior to 2000 available upon request)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Annual Safety Congress, Houston, TX, May 2019.

“The Art of Negotiating the Best Deal,” from The Great Courses, Professor Seth Freeman, JD at the New York University Stern School of Business, 2019.

Greeley Training courses on Credentialing Medical Staff, and on Medical Staff Leadership, Boca Raton, FL, November 29 – December 1, 2018.

11th Annual Congress on “Diagnostic Error in Medicine,” Society for Improvement of Diagnosis in Medicine, New Orleans, LA, November 3 - 6, 2018.

“How You Decide: The Science of Human Decision Making,” from The Great Courses, Ryan Hamilton, PhD at the Emory University, Goizueta Business School, 2018.

Leadership Development Institute instructor training, through Steve Harden and LifeWings, LLP at Deaconess Hospital, May 2018.

“Teaming,” by Amy Edmundson study group, including an hour group audio discussion with Dr. Edmundson following the book review, January - May 2018. Repeated in January – May 2019 with another hour discussion with Dr. Edmundson in May 2019.

“Game Theory in Life, Business, and Beyond,” from The Great Courses, Scott P. Sevens, PhD, Professor of Computer Information Systems & Management Science, James Madison University, 2017.

10th Annual International Congress on “Diagnostic Error in Medicine, Society for Improvement of Diagnosis in Medicine,” Boston, MA, October 2017.

National Patient Safety Foundation Annual Congress, Orlando, FL, May 17 - 19, 2017.

Intensive Design Workshop on Inpatient Care Coordination by Truven Analytics at Deaconess Hospital, November 8, 2016.

“Behavioral Economics: When Psychology and Economics Collide,” from The Great Courses, Scott Huettel, PhD, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience from Duke University, 2016.

Greeley Peer Review Training Course, San Antonio, TX, October 6 - 8, 2016.

Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt training, September 2016.

Specialty Summit on Population Health, Deaconess and One-Care Collaborative, August 25, 2016.

Society of Critical Care Medicine Annual Congress 1995-99, 2001, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2018.

Greeley Advanced Leadership training course, Phoenix, AZ, October 24 - 25, 2015.

Greeley Medical Executive Committee Institute, Phoenix, AZ, October 22 - 24, 2015.

TeamSTEPPS Leadership training and instruction, Deaconess Health System, October 8 - 10, 2015.

Patient Safety Certificate Course, Johns Hopkins Medical Center, Armstrong Institute for Safety and Quality, Baltimore, MD, September 14 - 18, 2015.

“Scientific Guide to Critical Thinking,” from The Great Courses, Steven Novella, MD from Yale School of Medicine, 2014.

ACCP Pulmonary Board Review Course, Orlando, FL, September 2014.

“A Beginner’s Guide to Irrational Behavior,” from Coursera. Dan Ariely, Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Economics from Duke University, January - June 2013.

“Art of Critical Decision Making,” from The Great Courses, Michael A. Roberto, Professor of Management from Bryant University, 2012.

Second Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium on Decision Neuroscience, Fox School of Business, Philadelphia, September 2011.

Endobronchial Ultrasound Interdisciplinary Training Course, Harvard Medical School, May 2010.

Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification 3/1988, 10/1992, 6/1994, 5/1998, 12/2008, 11/2010.

Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (FCCS) Instructor Certification 2004, 2007.

IHI National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, Chicago, IL, December 2001.

Postgraduate Review Course, SCCM, Management & Administrative Issues in Critical Care, Feb 2001.

(Continuing Education prior to 2000 available upon request)