

ART PLACE APPLAUDED BY COMMUNITY

The Yale Physicians Building Art Place has received the "2000 Arts Award" from the Arts Council of Greater New Haven. This award is presented to those organizations that have most significantly contributed to the growth and development of cultural activities and the arts in the New Haven community. For more information, contact Lorraine Roseman at 785-5144 or lorraine.roseman@yale.edu.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The third in a series of exhibits is being planned for the Yale Physicians Building Art Place to begin in March. Artists from the University and medical center communities are invited to submit their work for consideration. Artists must complete an application and submit a portfolio of slides or actual pieces to be exhibited no later than January 19. For more information, contact Linda Borer at 785-5144 or linda.borer@yale.edu.

YALE PHYSICIANS WEB SITE WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The Yale Physicians web site received a silver medal for the best medical practice site in the 2000 E-Healthcare Leadership Award competition. Web sites were judged by a panel of Internet and healthcare industry leaders using 20 criteria such as ease of navigation, depth of content and usefulness to site visitors. Visit the site at www.info.med.yale.edu/yfp. For more information, contact Mary Hu at 785-2140 or mary.hu@yale.edu.



TREATING CATARACTS: COMPARING THE OPTIONS

As an ophthalmologist with special expertise in cataract surgery at Yale, **Dr. Brian DeBroff** embraces the latest minimally invasive techniques such as phacoemulsification. "Not only does this technique provide better outcomes, it also provides patients greater comfort before, during and after the procedure," he said.



Brian DeBroff, M.D.

"There are many advantages," he said. Many individuals with cataracts are also taking medications such as coumadin or aspirin therapy. With this sutureless technique, there is no need to change the patient's medication schedule before the surgery. "It's easier on patients and referring physicians who are managing the patient's medicine regimen."

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Yale Dialysis Practice Opens in Branford

The Yale Nephrology Section recently opened a satellite dialysis practice in Branford. According to Rex Mahnensmith, M.D., medical director of the new practice, "Our practice in the medical center was running at capacity. We needed to expand." Rather than expand the current facility, the team found it preferable to locate the new service along the shoreline to make it more convenient for patients who live in areas from Branford to New London.

"Most dialysis centers are very large. We wanted our setting to be more comfortable and let our patients really get to know our nurses and staff," said Dr. Mahnensmith.

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THE SPARK OF INNOVATION

The largest economic expansion in the history of the United States has been propelled by, among other things, the use of technology to increase productivity. While the soft landing many economists are predicting could have the paradoxical effect of increasing unemployment while maintaining productivity, the healthcare industry is unlikely to follow suit. In fact, healthcare rarely obeys classic laws of economics and this is probably most true in our world of academic clinical medicine.

Technology has made little impact on our ability to practice quality medicine in an efficient fashion. Paper medical records can be elusive when we need them most. Documentation, upon which reimbursement for services depends, remains laborious and costly in spite of major advances in speech recognition. Blending innovative means of documentation with ever-changing medical billing guidelines could further enhance compliance with complex federal regulations. Any assessment of the return on investment in cutting edge information technology must be measured against its impact on reducing our excessively high overhead in academic medical practice.

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LAG DAYS SHOW WHO BILLS FAST OR SLOW

A key ingredient in building strong financial performance is the prompt completion of the visit encounter form and the entry of the charge information into the billing system. In the Yale Faculty Practice, each clinical department and section is responsible for the completion of encounter forms and the entry of charge information into IDX. The best measure of efficiency and timeliness for these billing processes is called "lag days."

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