



## Making the Case at the Capitol

The UHP-led UConn Labor Coalition continues to emphasize its message of keeping UConn Health a public entity for the public good, delivering that message to the legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee Feb. 18.

**Ron Salonia**, a cardiovascular perfusionist, testified about the life-saving work he does at UConn Health and beyond, explaining how UConn Health perfusionists also assist with heart surgeries in Waterbury and at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

"The service we provide to these communities generates revenue and extends the visibility of UConn Health's clinical expertise in our state. We are delivering great care, and UConn Health is at its finest," he told the lawmakers. **See Ron's testimony at [bit.ly/2002ctnRon](http://bit.ly/2002ctnRon)** (video courtesy CT-N).

**Stephanie Rauch**, an administrative program coordinator for the UConn Health Graduate School's Biomedical Science Ph.D. Program, submitted testimony sharing her family's personal experience with UConn Health from the patient perspective.

"Connecticut's citizens deserve quality health care regardless of their type of insurance – health care that they receive with dignity and compassion at UConn Health," she wrote.

UHP President **Bill Garrity** read Stephanie's testimony and added, "UConn Health needs to be here. Any one of us could be a split-second away from being on Medicaid. UConn Health needs to be the lynchpin in the future of Connecticut's public health plans."

**See Stephanie and Bill's testimony at [bit.ly/2002ctnBill](http://bit.ly/2002ctnBill)** (video courtesy CT-N).

UHP VP for Communication **Chris DeFrancesco** also spoke to UConn Health's value as a state asset.

"Jeopardizing the future of UConn Health also jeopardizes the future of some of our most vulnerable populations," he said. "And if we truly believe that one of the responsibilities of government is to protect its most vulnerable citizens, we are failing if we fail to invest in the state's only public academic medical center." **See Chris's testimony at [bit.ly/2002ctnDeFran](http://bit.ly/2002ctnDeFran)** (video courtesy CT-N).



## VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### UHP Business Convention Is April 17

All members in good standing are invited to join us for our annual business convention, **Friday, April 17**, at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville.

Registration and cocktail hour start at 5 p.m. We'll start the business portion at approximately 6:30, with a buffet-style dinner to follow. Please note, due to complexities with home and work email systems, we're not sending official invitations this year, so we ask for your help to spread the word.

**Please RSVP to [sbrown@uhp3837.com](mailto:sbrown@uhp3837.com) no later than Friday, March 27, at 5 p.m.**

**—In solidarity, Shawn Brown  
VP Membership Activities**





From left: Laura Didden, Theresa Aisevbonaya, Bill Garrity, Robin Washington Addison, Peter Baranowski, and Ivonne Hamm represent UHP at the 2020 AFT Connecticut Legislative Issues Conference at the Legislative Office Building Feb. 29. (Photo by Matt O'Connor)

## UHP Welcomes New Field Rep

**Logan Place** is our new AFT Connecticut field representative and will work with us on our next contract negotiation.



Before joining AFT CT in November, Logan worked as an attorney at a union-side law firm in Washington, D.C. for more than three years, representing international, state, and local labor unions in the private and public sectors.

"UHP is a strong, well-established union that is in many ways a model for other health care unions," Logan says. "I'm excited to be working with UHP's strong leadership and active membership to secure and enforce a contract that not only benefits members, but also patients and our community."

Between his undergrad studies at UConn and law school at Harvard, Logan spent a year facilitating public health education programs throughout eastern Connecticut.

Our last field rep, Shane Lancer, has returned to an organizer role at the state federation.

## Seeking Worker's Comp Committee Members

We still could use a few more UHP members who work in patient care to serve on the UConn Health Employee Safety and Health Committee. Known informally as the worker's comp committee, this group meets for one hour every other month as a way for labor and management to discuss workplace safety and come up with recommendations to ensure a safe workplace. While the time commitment is minimal, having a voice in the room is anything but. Interested? Have questions? Email [ihamm@uhp3837.com](mailto:ihamm@uhp3837.com) or [cdefrancesco@uhp3837.com](mailto:cdefrancesco@uhp3837.com). Please consider it. And for a full list of committee membership opportunities, visit [bit.ly/UHPinvolved](http://bit.ly/UHPinvolved).



## Keep up With HEP Online

The Health Enhancement Program portal offers access to what you and your family need to do to stay compliant, avoid additional premiums, and plan to avoid the late-year appointment rush: [bit.ly/HEPportal](http://bit.ly/HEPportal).



The 2020 HEP Portal is up!

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

March 24, 5p, UHP Office

### Steward Committee

March 26, 5:30p, UHP Office

### Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

March 14, 11:30a-1p, Coventry

### NE CT Regional Legislative Mtg.

[aftct.org/20\\_NE\\_CT\\_Reg\\_Leg\\_Mtg](http://aftct.org/20_NE_CT_Reg_Leg_Mtg)

March 21, 11:30a-1p, East Hartford

### Greater Hartford Reg. Legis. Mtg.

[aftct.org/20\\_Htfd\\_Reg\\_Leg\\_Mtg](http://aftct.org/20_Htfd_Reg_Leg_Mtg)

March 23, 5p, AFT CT, Rocky Hill

### Health Care 'Legal Issues' Training

[aftct.org/Mar\\_20\\_Healthcare\\_Legal\\_Issues](http://aftct.org/Mar_20_Healthcare_Legal_Issues)

March 28, 9a-10:30a, Southington

### Central CT Reg. Legislative Mtg.

[aftct.org/20\\_Ctrl\\_CT\\_Reg\\_Leg\\_Mtg](http://aftct.org/20_Ctrl_CT_Reg_Leg_Mtg)

April 9, noon, Onyiuke Dining Room

### Union Rep Assembly

April 13, 5p, UHP Office

### Executive Committee

April 17, 6p, Aqua Turf Club

### UHP Business Convention

May 9, 8a-2p, Aqua Turf Club

### AFT CT Convention

<http://bit.ly/2003aftct>

UHP online calendar: [bit.ly/uhpca](http://bit.ly/uhpca)