Dr. Mark Kulaga, Program Director at Norwalk Hospital, began by welcoming all. He then introduced Dr. Stuart Zarich, Interim Chair at Bridgeport Hospital. Dr. Zarich proceeded to introduce the new Program Director at his institution, Dr. David Lobo. Dr. Lobo was selected after a national search. He has been affiliated with Bridgeport Hospital for several years, practicing and teaching Infectious Diseases. He is a graduate of a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Yale. Dr. Zarich praised Dr. Lobo’s enthusiasm for the position and looks forward to a revitalization of the training program under his leadership. Dr. Zarich also mentioned that after another national search, a new Chair has been selected at Bridgeport Hospital, to begin in January. This individual, Dr. Greg Buller, is well known to the affiliation, and will be stepping down from his current position as Chair of Medicine at St. Mary’s Hospital.
Meeting Minutes, cont’d

To lead off the meeting, Dr. Steve Huot, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, introduced Dr. Gary Desir, the newly appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. The former Chair, Dr. Jack Elias, has recently left Yale to become Dean of the School of Medicine at Brown University. The Department is fortunate to have Dr. Desir, Professor of Medicine and former Chief of Medicine at VA-Connecticut Health Care System, to serve in this role. Dr. Desir obtained his undergraduate degree from NYU and his MD from Yale School of Medicine, where he stayed for housestaff training and Nephrology fellowship. His laboratory is best known for the discovery of renalase, a novel hormone produced by the kidney that is responsible for catecholamine metabolism and also appears to have an important role to enhance renal cell survival. In large part due to Dr. Desir’s stewardship as chair of medicine, VA-Connecticut has lead the nation in quality measures and research funding. Dr. Desir thanked the audience for its welcome and underscored the importance of the Affiliation to both its member institutions and the Department. He mentioned several residents from Affiliated hospitals that have pursued nephrology training and have become national leaders and with whom he remains in contact.

Next, Dr. Silvio Inzucchi, YAHP Program Director, updated the group on Epic EMR training for Affiliated residents undertaking elective rotations at Yale-New Haven Hospital. The new EMR is enormously complex and requires a full 4-hour training course for access. In addition, training opportunities are more limited than they were with the old EMR, Sunrise Clinical Manager (SCM). Given the short duration of most electives (2 weeks), if residents are not ‘pre-trained’ on Epic, they could spend a large portion of their rotation without access to the computer information system, limiting their experience and involvement in patient care. Accordingly, having all residents trained before they begin their rotation has been deemed to be important. Tracy Crosby, YAHP Program Coordinator, has developed a series of Saturday training sessions (2 for the fall and 2 for the spring semesters). Program Directors and Coordinators are asked to strongly encourage their trainees to take advantage of these sessions. Those residents who have arranged electives scheduled during the course of the academic year, after the schedule has been released in June, may not be able to take part in the Saturday sessions. Instead, they may be able to be scheduled ad hoc for the nearest regular training session before their elective begins. These may be at YNHH, either York St. or St. Raphael’s campus, Bridgeport Hospital or Greenwich Hospital.

Dr. Inzucchi next reviewed planning for the Annual YAHP Spring Retreat. This year’s focus will be on “The Changing Hospital Landscape in Connecticut” (see attached tentative agenda). The date has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 28th 2014 at Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, CT. Based on last year’s successful retreat in which, for the first time, Program Coordinators were invited, the group felt that this tradition should continue. Speakers who have accepted invitations to date include Dr. Peter Herbert, Chief of Staff at YNHH; Dr. Steve Huot; Dr. Jonathan Fine, DIO at Norwalk Hospital; and Dr. Donna Windish, PD at Waterbury Hospital. We are still waiting to hear from Dr. Allen Hsiao, Chief Medical Information Office, YNHH, and Dr. Majid Sadigh of Danbury Hospital/University of Vermont. The Affiliates will be notified as soon as plans are finalized.
Dr. Mark Kulaga next introduced Drs. Agata Sajkiewicz and Natalia Abramovich to speak about Norwalk Hospital’s great success in developing a Simulation Lab to assist in the training of their residents in critical care procedures and codes. The joint presentation, entitled “You Don’t Need A Million Dollars To Have A Million Dollar Simulation Program,” reviewed the history of the program, its structure, and early feedback from both trainees and hospital staff. Unique features include fixed scheduling of sessions each week, selected faculty with dedicated effort, and a ‘control room’ for observation by the supervising faculty which facilitates objective evaluations and debriefing. The entire department is enormously pleased with the progress of this program over the past several years.

Discussion followed with questions from the audience. Dr. Kulaga concluded the meeting at 8:30 PM. Prior to departures, Dr. Winston Shih, Program Director at Danbury Hospital, mentioned that their Associate PD for the Primary Care Track, Dr. Dino Messina, has accepted a position as PD at a Brown affiliate in Rhode Island. Danbury Hospital is now actively seeking his replacement. Anyone interested or who knows someone who might be interested is asked to contact Dr. Shih.

Bridgeport Hospital will host the next Dinner Meeting on March 19.