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Long Island Doctor Joins Leading Patient Safety Organization

Doctors and advocates often find themselves on opposing sides of the patient-safety movement. Some doctors feel attacked by calls for transparency around medical errors. That's changing on Long Island, where the leading patient safety organization appointed a medical doctor to its Board of Trustees.

PULSE named Dr. Leslie Farrington-Griggs to its Board of Trustees. Farrington-Griggs is an OB/Gyn and a longtime teacher at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. She is the second physician to be named to the eight-member board. The first, Dr. Sharada Jayagopal, a radiologist, joined PULSE in 2000.

Dr. Farrington Griggs will help expand PULSE's "Critical Communication" initiative. In an effort to reduce medical errors, Critical Communications empowers patients to speak up when they do not understand medical information, and encourages healthcare providers to speak in plain language.

"I am honored to join PULSE's Board of Directors and eager to contribute to patient safety on Long Island," said Dr. Farrington Griggs. She is deeply committed to helping healthcare providers, patients and their families listen and speak in ways that inspire compassion.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Farrington Griggs to PULSE," said Ilene Corina, PULSE President. "Her breadth of medical knowledge coupled with her interest in compassionate communication will be a great asset to our mission.

"Cutting down on medical errors requires that healthcare providers and patients join forces to improve critical communication. Patient safety is not about blaming doctors for medical errors but finding ways to build safety into the larger system," Corina said.

Dr. Leslie Farrington worked on the PULSE Patient Safety Health Fair for Patient Safety Awareness Week in March, 2006. She helped develop curriculum for the Family Centered Patient Advocacy Training and has presented at patient-advocate training workshops. Dr. Farrington's personal experience has fueled her interest in making a contribution to ongoing efforts of PULSE. She lives in Freeport, Long Island with her family.

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