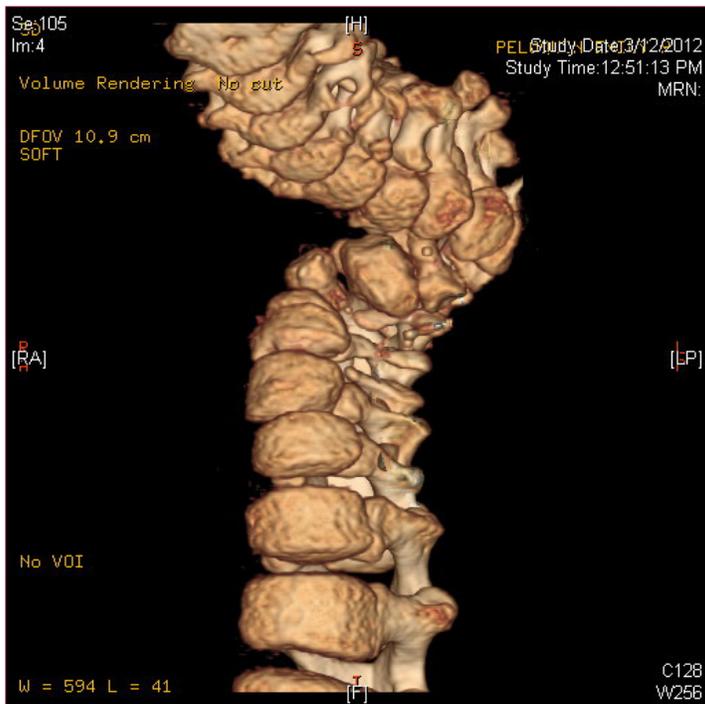


RIH, Hasbro orthopedic surgeons introduce 'GPS for the spine' to RI *FluoroNav system pinpoints surgical locations with real-time 3D images*

PROVIDENCE – Orthopedic surgeons at Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital are the first in the state to use the FluoroNav surgical guidance system that enables more accurate, efficient placement of spinal instrumentation in complex spine reconstructive procedures. Also called "GPS for the spine," the system allows surgeons to place orthopedic screws more efficiently, and also reduces the amount of X-ray radiation exposure to patients.

"This technology allows real time monitoring of hardware insertion using three dimensional models of the spine, so that screws can be safely placed even in the smallest of areas," said **MARK PALUMBO, MD**, an orthopedic surgeon at Rhode Island Hospital. "We use FluoroNav in orthopedics for spinal surgeries, but it can also be used for real time imaging in several types of surgeries including tumor resection, pelvic reconstructions, trauma cases and many others."

The FluoroNav system allows the surgeon to place a marker on to the patient to show the preferred location of each screw. The system then produces a real-time scan using



much less radiation, and provides the surgical team with a 3-D model of the spine to see all the surgical screws at once.

It can be particularly helpful in pediatric surgeries. "Orthopedic spine surgery in children can be challenging, as the areas that screws must be placed are often underdeveloped or much smaller than the same areas in an adult," said **CRAIG EBERSON, MD**, a pediatric orthopedic

surgeon at Hasbro Children's Hospital. "This technology can assist in better visualizing the placement of screws in a much smaller operating field, and ensures that everything is placed perfectly before we leave the operating room."

FluoroNav can also help with difficult cases where other views would be obstructed or difficult to reach, such as scoliosis or kyphosis. The system is portable and can be moved among the hospital's pediatric and adult operating rooms as needed. ❖

Women's Medicine Collaborative joins primary care initiative

PROVIDENCE – The Women's Medicine Collaborative has been selected to join a statewide initiative focused on promoting the patient-centered medical home model throughout Rhode Island.

Established in 2006, the Rhode

Island Chronic Care Sustainability Initiative (CSI-RI) is a community-wide collaborative effort. One of the first multi-payer patient-centered medical home demonstration projects in the United States, CSI-RI promotes the patient-centered medical home (PCMH), putting an emphasis on prevention, wellness and appropriate treatment.

Currently, CSI-RI – which is also supported by the R.I. Medicaid program, along with the state's major health insurers – serves more than 260,000 Rhode Islanders across 48 sites and practices.

The CSI-RI selection committee followed an extensive and objective selection process, based on the applicants' service to Medicare and Medicaid patients, ability to use Electronic Health Records, commitment to establishing a patient-centered care team and demonstration of high quality care. The Women's Medicine Collaborative is the only Lifespan practice selected to participate.

"We have always supported and embraced patient-centered care and strongly believe in focusing on a patient's entire health needs, not just a single condition or diagnosis," said **IRIS TONG, MD**, director of primary care at the Collaborative. "Having an opportunity to be part of CSI-RI gives us a more systematic approach that will allow us to support patients in a more meaningful way and will help us continuously improve quality and service." ❖



Iris Tong, MD