

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Welcomes Three to Board of Trustees

Leaders from St. Francis Hospital, Pratt & Whitney, and Women's League Child Development Center Elected

Hartford, CT (January 6, 2025) – The Connecticut Science Center Board of Trustees has elected three distinguished leaders. Beginning their terms in January 2025 are **Jessica Abrantes-Figueiredo, MD**, Chief of Infectious Disease at St. Francis Hospital; **Amy Comer**, Vice President of Geared Turbo Fan Programs at Pratt & Whitney; and **Karen Lott**, Executive Director of the Women's League Child Development Center.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jessica, Amy and Karen to our Board of Trustees," said Len Wolman, Chair of the Connecticut Science Center Board. "Each of these remarkable leaders shares our passion for inspiring learners of all ages to explore science, technology, and innovation. Their diverse expertise and visionary leadership will play a vital role in advancing the Science Center's mission to engage children of every background in science experiences and STEM careers."



Jessica Abrantes-Figueiredo, MD, Chief of Infectious Disease at St. Francis Hospital and Regional Infectious Diseases leader for Trinity Health of New England, brings extensive expertise in patient care, education, and community advocacy. She leads the hospital's Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence, served on Governor Ned Lamont's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Task Force, and is an Assistant Professor at UConn School of Medicine. A graduate of UConn Medical School and the University of Hartford, she has been honored as a Connecticut Healthcare Hero (2021) and with the UConn Health

Teaching Award (2023). Dr. Abrantes-Figueiredo lives in Farmington with her family, including three young Science Center enthusiasts.



Amy Comer is Vice President of GTF Programs at Pratt & Whitney, overseeing program management for the GTF engine portfolio, including development, customer delivery, and strategic initiatives to enhance fleet performance. With over 20 years in the engine industry, she has held roles in engineering and leadership, including Chief Engineer for all Commercial Engine products, where she managed product development, airframer integration, and customer support. Ms. Comer began her career as a controls engineer at Collins Aerospace and holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from

Cornell University.



Karen Lott is the Executive Director of the Women's League Child Development Center in Hartford, where she champions high-quality early childhood education and equitable opportunities for children from low-income families. With more than 25 years in education, she has focused on transforming underperforming urban schools and eradicating achievement gaps faced by children of color. A lifelong learner, Ms. Lott holds a bachelor's degree from Springfield College, a Master's in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Certificate in School Leadership from Westfield State University.

For more information about the Connecticut Science Center and its Board of Trustees, please visit CTScienceCenter.org

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About the Connecticut Science Center: Located in downtown Hartford, the LEED Gold-certified Connecticut Science Center ignites creativity and fosters a love for science through engaging, hands-on interactive experiences—all while maintaining a commitment to environmental sustainability. With more than 165 hands-on exhibits, the Science Center explores a wide range of topics, including space and earth sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy, physical sciences, Connecticut's inventors and innovations, and more.

Highlights include the state's year-round butterfly habitat, a dedicated children's gallery, five educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, a function room, and a gift store. The Science Center also hosts events for all ages throughout the year.

As a nonprofit organization, the Connecticut Science Center is committed to enhancing science education across Connecticut and New England, providing enriching learning opportunities for students and adults alike.

For more information, visit CTScienceCenter.org or call (860) SCIENCE.