# SCI-TECH

*"The more you don't want to be like your parents, the more you will resemble them."*
**YONG KANG CHAN** BY NATASHA BEDINGFIELD

# YNHHS settles hospital acquisition dispute with $45-million deal

BY HARI VISWANATHAN
STAFF REPORTER

After nearly three years, Yale New Haven Health system has gotten out of its deal to acquire three Connecticut hospitals owned by Prospect Medical Holdings, a private equity company that manages various medical organizations around the country.

According to the settlement, which was filed Friday, the health system will pay Prospect $45 million to "to settle the disputes between them," the agreement states.

"Following years of negotiation and litigation, Yale New Haven Health signed a settlement agreement with Prospect. This settlement will officially end all pending litigation between our health system and Prospect allowing both parties to move forward and focus on the future," YNHHS spokesperson Carmen Chau wrote in a statement.

According to the settlement, YNHHS's counsel said that "everybody's pretty satisfied" with the outcome, although "I don't think anybody's happy with it," and Prospect Medical Holdings agreed with the court that the sentiment was indicative of a good compromise.

Prospect did not respond to the News' request for comment.

**History of the suit**

In October 2022, YNHHS signed a $435 million agreement with Prospect Medical Holdings to acquire three Prospect-owned Connecticut hospitals: Waterbury Hospital, Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital.

The deal proved difficult to close. In May 2024, YNHHS sued Prospect, claiming that the company failed to uphold its end of the agreement. YNHHS claimed that Prospect was "driving away" physicians and vendors, engaging in "a pattern of irresponsible financial practices" and neglecting to follow cybersecurity practices, resulting in a ransomware attack. As a result of Prospect's mismanagement, YNHHS claimed the acquisition deal was overpriced, CT Insider reported.

In response, Prospect counter-sued, accusing Yale of trying to renege on its agreement.

At the time, Gov. Ned Lamont encouraged the two parties to complete the deal, arguing that a collapse would hurt local communities.

In January, Prospect filed for bankruptcy, which YNHHS took as further "proof of disinvestment and mismanagement." Since Prospect filed for bankruptcy, the three Connecticut hospitals now owe over $200 million in unpaid property taxes and other overdue invoices.

In addition to the debt, a report released by Sen. Christopher Murphy in August 2025 claims that Prospect's Connecticut hospitals are in acute disarray: they face crumbling infrastructure, staff report to paying for supplies out of pocket, patients face long wait times due to a lack of supplies and staff shortages are reportedly affecting patient health. The report claims that Prospect, as a private equity firm, "decimated" Connecticut hospitals.

Now, with the recent settlement, YNHHS has officially abandoned its deal to acquire the hospitals.

**What now?**

According to the settlement, the agreement "preserves estate resources that may otherwise be spent on litigation." Friday's deal also "provides clarity to the Debtors and potential bidders in connection with the Debtors' ongoing sale process for the Debtors' CT Assets,'" the settlement reads.




ZOE BERG
The settlement brings an end to three years of litigation over the failed sale of Prospect's three Connecticut hospitals

After Prospect filed for bankruptcy in January, Hartford HealthCare bid to buy Manchester Memorial and Rockville General for $86.1 million in a bankruptcy auction two weeks ago. UConn Health has also said it would bid for Waterbury Hospital.

Connecticut Sen. Jeff Gordon views the saga as a lesson to keep private equity out of healthcare.

"This is why I want to ban private equity from being involved in hospitals," Gordon said. "Because they make a mess of things, and they even make a mess of trying to sell their hospitals to a big entity like Yale, when Yale was very interested."

While Gordon said he is hopeful that the settlement will close the chapter of Prospect Medical Holdings being involved with Connecticut healthcare systems, he believes that damage has already been done in the hospitals, and that it is necessary for the state to step in and fix it.

Gordon said he hopes to enact state laws that will protect patients and healthcare employees from a similar story of litigation and hospital mismanagement, which he believes "decimated the hospitals," from happening again.

Yale New Haven Health first announced an acquisition agreement with Prospect on Oct. 6, 2024.

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# Yale representatives 'power on' at Climate Week NYC

BY MICHELLE SO
STAFF REPORTER

Yale faculty, students and representatives recently returned from Climate Week NYC, the world's largest climate gathering outside the United Nations' Conference of Parties.

From Sept. 21-28, attendees participated in thousands of Climate Week NYC activities, including Yale @ Climate Week — two days of programming hosted by Yale Planetary Solutions at the Yale Club of NYC.

This year's theme — Power On — emphasized climate progress across sectors including energy, finance, technology, green jobs and climate justice.

"At Climate Week NYC, our faculty, alumni, and students shared expertise and insights on everything from the role of AI in delivering climate progress to how working forests can serve as natural climate solutions," School of the Environment Dean Indy Burke said. "Their participation was a powerful reminder of how much determination there is to address the climate crisis, and the important role that our school plays in generating new ideas and exploring pathways to progress."

At Climate Week, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication Partnership Director Joshua Low spoke on a panel titled "Moving from Data to Dialogue to Doing."

For Low, Climate Week was a chance to come together with people from all different sectors to discuss, strategize and connect on how the world is powering through climate action.

"Climate Week can be overwhelming, with over 1,000 public-facing events and many more behind-the-scenes events such as gatherings and coffee chats," Low said. "You can't do it all, you have to pick and choose."

Low aimed to connect with those partners to "build political will in climate action." He was able to meet with partners in the Northeast who work with businesses to cut climate waste, as well as climate communicators across the globe, he said.

Another panel hosted by Yale @ Climate Week featured the Yale Center for Natural Carbon Capture Co-Director Peter Raymond. Raymond's goal was both to share climate solutions and share the center's messaging, he said.

"Our goal is to let people know what we're doing, but also try to make progress on scaling natural climate solutions," Raymond said.

According to Raymond, the most important climate solutions involve managing natural ecosystems such as forests, agricultural lands and blue carbon systems to management to remove greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere.

"Some countries and companies are really leaning in, so that's hopeful for sure. The U.S. isn't necessarily leading policy right now, but other countries are trying to pick up the slack," Raymond said.

School of Environment alum Natasha Feshbach ENV '23, a funds manager for the Activate Fellowship, which supports scientific researchers become founders, spoke on a panel about purpose-driven careers in climate.

"We discussed what we did, the highs and lows of our career, how to balance and prioritize working with great people and building skills for your career toolkit," Feshbach said. "I thought it was a great opportunity to bring people together both Yale and non-Yale audience members to discuss to drive this kind of career forward."

Feshbach and other panelists noted the challenges and uncertainties of being in the climate space right now.

Before arriving at Climate Week, Low was also worried this year's attendance would be diminished due to federal-level changes to climate change attitude and policy. However, he said he was pleasantly surprised by the turnout.

"What's most helpful is that there are so many people from so many walks of life in New York working to address climate change," Low said. "It makes me incredibly hopeful. For the 100,000 people in town, there are a hundred more back home who care."

The first Climate Week NYC took place in 2009.

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G. SCOTT SEGLER VIA WIKIPEDIA COMMONS
Representatives from Yale spent last week in New York City connecting with other climate activists.

