Local Physician Appointed to Commission on Cancer Position

Kevin Harbour, M.D., received a three-year appointment as Cancer Liaison Physician for the cancer program at North Mississippi Medical Center. Dr. Harbour is a pulmonologist at Pulmonary Consultants in Tupelo.

Cancer Liaison Physicians are an integral part of cancer programs accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC).

Dr. Harbour is among a national network of more than 1,500 volunteer physicians who are responsible for providing leadership and direction to establish, maintain, and support their facilities’ cancer programs. Dr. Harbour, who has a significant interest in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with malignant diseases, is a member of the multidisciplinary cancer committee at NMMC.

Cancer Liaison Physicians are responsible for evaluating, interpreting and reporting their facilities’ performance data through the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) and facilitating quality improvement initiatives based on data findings. In addition, the Cancer Liaison Physician is responsible for leading CoC initiatives within the cancer program and collaborating with agencies such as the American Cancer Society on behalf of the hospital. The CoC collects data from its accredited cancer programs and provides tools for these programs to facilitate analysis of patterns of diagnosis, treatment and quality of care for patients treated at the hospital.

Hamilton Primary Care Center Welcomes New Provider

North Mississippi Medical Center-Hamilton Primary Care Center recently welcomed new nurse practitioner Ashton Wilbanks, NP-C.

Wilbanks is a graduate of Hamilton High School and received her associate’s degree in nursing from Bevill State Community College in Hamilton. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of North Alabama in Florence. She completed her master’s degree and family nurse practitioner training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is board certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

The clinic is located inside the hospital, 1256 Military Street South, and offers extended hours. The clinic is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 1-6 p.m. Sunday.

For more information or to make an appointment, call (205) 921-6496 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

FMRC Physician Goes on to Sports Medicine Fellowship

Douglas Barron, D.O., recently matched into the John Peter Smith Hospital's Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship in Fort Worth, Texas. This is the largest sports medicine fellowship in the U.S. Dr. Barron currently serves as chief resident for the NMMC Family Medicine Residency Center, and is scheduled to graduate in June.

Dr. Barron received his bachelor's degree in biology from Berea College in Berea, Ky., and a master's degree in biomedical science from William Carey University in Hattiesburg. He completed medical school at Lincoln Memorial University-Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tenn.

North Mississippi Medical Center-Hamilton Recognized by CMS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently released updated star ratings, and North Mississippi Medical Center-Hamilton received a five-star rating.

The ratings are a composite metric of one to five stars, with five being the best. They intend to convey the overall quality of nearly 4,000 hospitals in the U.S. and are posted to the CMS' Hospital Compare site. In grading hospitals on their overall quality, the CMS used 64 measures, such as hospital-acquired infection rates or emergency room wait times, that had already been posted to the Hospital Compare site. It grouped those measures into broader categories, then weighted them. Hospitals had to meet minimum reporting requirements in order to be eligible to receive a star rating.

Only 2.2 percent of eligible hospitals received five stars, and only three hospitals in Alabama received five stars.

The rating includes quality measures for routine care that the average individual receives, such as care received when being treated for heart attacks and pneumonia, to quality measures that focus on hospital-acquired infections, such as catheter-associated urinary tract infections. Specialized and cutting edge care that certain hospitals provide, such as specialized cancer care, are not reflected in these quality ratings.

“The past several years have been very challenging, especially for rural hospitals,” said Dr. Cesar Romero. “With the determined health care team in Hamilton and the support and guidance from NMHS in Tupelo, we are eager to make our hospital even more robust and ready to meet the quality health care needs of our community. Improving our hospital is a continuous and ongoing process and we are just elated that CMS has recognized our efforts.”

IRB Approves New Studies

The NMHS Institutional Review Board (IRB) currently oversees more than 80 biomedical and behavioral studies. The IRB meets monthly and the following studies were approved at the January meeting.

Study: ASAP TOO – Assessment of the WATCHMAN™ Device in Patients Unsuitable for Oral Anticoagulation (S2317)

Investigators: James Stone, M.D. (PI); Karl Crossen, M.D.

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if the WATCHMAN™ left atrial appendage closure device is safe and effective in patients who have atrial fibrillation who cannot use oral anticoagulation therapy.

Robert Moss, Ph.D., Named Editor-in-Chief

Robert Moss, Ph.D., clinical psychologist for North Mississippi Regional Pain Consultants, now serves as editor-in-chief of AIMS Neuroscience, an international Open Access journal devoted to publishing peer-reviewed, high quality, original papers in the field of neuroscience. They publish original research articles, reviews, editorials, letters and conference reports. Dr. Moss provides psychologic care for pain management patients. He received his bachelor's degree in psychology at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Ga. He completed his master's degree and Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Georgia in Athens. He has been working as a licensed psychologist since 1981. He is a diplomate in clinical psychology with the American Board of Professional Psychology and a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology.
Study: **ANTEGRADE-PVD** – A Multicenter, Prospective, Post-Market Registry to Evaluate Procedural Outcomes Data Using the Cardiva Vascade Vascular Closure System for the Management of the Femoral Arteriotomy after Percutaneous Endovascular Procedures via an Antegrade Approach (PTL 0502-01)

**Investigators:** Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Joseph Adams, M.D.; Benjamin Blossom, M.D.; Amit Gupta, M.D.; Sourabh Mukherjee, M.D.; Joseph Stinson, M.D.

**Summary:** The purpose of this registry is to collect procedural data when the Cardiva Medical VASCADE™ Vascular Closure System device is used to close the artery that will be punctured using a specific technique as part of the percutaneous endovascular procedure.

Study: **GALACTIC-HF** – A Double-blind, Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Multicenter Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Omecamtiv Mecarbil on Mortality and Morbidity in Subjects with Chronic Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction (20110203)

**Investigators:** Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to determine how well omecamtiv mecarbil works to increase the heart's ability to pump in patients with chronic heart failure.
Continuing Medical Education

The CME Program is based in the NMMC Education Department and works to provide quality educational programming that will meet general as well as specific professional needs. Please call (662) 377-3826 or the Consult Line at 1-800-952-8101 if you have CME comments and/or suggestions. Select CME programs are by invitation only and are also subject to change.


February 24-25
Spring Cardiology Symposium
Elvis Presley Event Center
For more information or to register, call (662) 377-3900 or visit www.nmhs.net/physicians_portal/cme.php.