

practice notes

April 2008

Davis Accepts Role as Chief Medical Officer at San Antonio Methodist Health System

Ken Davis, M.D., chief medical officer for North Mississippi Health Services, announced recently that he is leaving to join Methodist Health System in San Antonio, Texas, as chief medical officer.

“Dr. Davis has done an outstanding job during his tenure at NMMC and will be sorely missed,” said John Heer, NMHS president and chief executive officer. “His vision and ability to align the organization along our clinical initiatives have contributed greatly to our success and reputation as a national leader in the delivery of quality patient care.”

“It has truly been an honor to work at North Mississippi Health Services for the past 16 years,” Dr. Davis said. “The community board, management, physicians and staff provide world class health care to the people they serve in this region. It was particularly satisfying for North Mississippi Medical Center to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and be recognized as one of the elite organizations in the country.”

“I am comforted by the fact that I leave the health system with superb physician, board and management leadership,” Dr. Davis said. “As difficult as it is to leave such an excellent organization, I am excited by the opportunity to serve as the chief medical officer of San Antonio Methodist Health System. Leaving this organization and community is very difficult for my family and me. It is because of NMMC’s tremendous accomplishments in health, quality and service that I have an opportunity to help replicate this excellence elsewhere.”

San Antonio Methodist Health System is located in the seventh largest city in the nation. The system has more than 7,500 employees and 2,300 physicians.

NMMC to Host Women’s Health, Newborn & Children’s Conference

North Mississippi Medical Center will host a Women’s Health, Newborn and Children’s Conference on April 21-22.

Sessions will meet from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days in NMMC’s North Education Center, 830 S. Gloster St. The conference is targeted toward physicians, nurses, dietitians, social workers, therapists and pharmacists involved in women’s basic health care, obstetrical/gynecological, newborn and/or children’s health. A wide variety of timely topics and concurrent sessions are planned.

The conference is free to NMMC employees but pre-registration is required. For other participants, the registration fee is \$60 for one day or \$100 for both days. **To pre-register or for a conference brochure, call (662) 377-5297 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).**

Dr. Kevin Johnson Joins NMMC’s Advanced Wound Care Center

Kevin Johnson, D.O., has joined North Mississippi Medical Center’s Advanced Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center.

Dr. Johnson received an associate’s degree from Itawamba Community College in Fulton and graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in biology from



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the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. After his medical training at Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville, Ky., Dr. Johnson completed his family medicine residency at NMMC's Family Medicine Residency Center.

He is board certified by the American Board of Family Physicians and is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association.

Dr. Johnson received advanced training in wound care and hyperbaric medicine in May 2007. He joined the Advanced Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center medical staff on a part-time basis in June 2007.

Pediatrician Joins NMMC Medical Staff

North Mississippi Pediatrics, P.A., is pleased to announce the association of Maria Valdez, M.D.

Dr. Valdez received her medical degree at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine in Manila, Philippines. She was a research fellow in pediatric cardiology/exercise physiology at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York, N.Y. She completed her pediatric internship and residency at the Children's Medical Center of Brooklyn in New York, and her clinical fellowship in pediatric endocrinology and metabolism at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y.

Before coming to Tupelo, Dr. Valdez served as chief of staff for Alliance HealthCare System, and as staff pediatrician at Williams Medical Clinic in Holly Springs. She is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and is certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support.

NMMC To Offer Bridging the Grief Gap Support Group

North Mississippi Medical Center Hospice is offering a Bridging the Grief Gap support group, an educational series April 3-May 8 for anyone experiencing grief after the loss of a loved one.

Sessions are scheduled from 6-7:30 p.m. six consecutive Thursdays at the NMMC Home Health Agency's Tupelo Branch Office, located at 424 E. President St.

Topics that will be discussed during the six-week series include:

- The General Task of Grief
- Living with Loss
- Physical Signs of Grief
- Emotional and Psychological Effects of Grief

- Spiritual Concerns during Bereavement
- Holidays and Special Occasions

For more information, call Jamie Grissom at (662) 377-7064 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

Uterine Fibroid Embolization

Uterine fibroid embolization (UFE), also known as uterine artery embolization, is a safe and effective minimally invasive treatment for the management of symptomatic uterine leiomyomata.

The fluoroscopically guided procedure typically is performed under local anesthesia and conscious sedation using unilateral (or in some cases bilateral) femoral access through a tiny puncture in the groin. Both uterine arteries are selectively catheterized and embolized with embolic particles sized for the perifibroid plexi. The procedure results in ischemic infarction of the fibroids and significant or complete relief of symptoms. Over the past 10 years, the procedure has proven to be safe, effective, durable and much less invasive than surgical options.

This procedure, performed by interventional radiologists, is a valuable treatment option to hysterectomy or myomectomy for many women suffering with fibroids. The most common presenting symptoms are menorrhagia, pelvic pain and/or pressure, and increased urinary frequency. UFE is performed in the outpatient setting and the majority of patients are able to return to normal activities in seven-10 days. This procedure is done in NMMC's special procedure's area. **For more information on this procedure, or for information on referrals, call (662) 377-5232 or 377-5225.**

Asthma Camp Helps Children 'Breathe Ezzzze'

Camp Breathe Ezzzze, a camp for children ages 6-12 who have asthma, is set for May 26-29 at Tishomingo State Park.

Camp Breathe Ezzzze will feature fun activities, as well as educational sessions on asthma and its treatment. This year's theme is "Peak Flows in Paradise."

Camp Breathe Ezzzze is sponsored by NMMC with assistance from the American Lung Association of Mississippi, Project Hope and United Way. Around-the-clock care is provided by registered nurses and respiratory therapists. Camp participation is limited, and registration is due by April 15. The fee is \$50 per camper, and full scholarships are available.

For more information, call (662) 377-4706 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). Applications can also be downloaded from the Camp Breathe Ezzzze Web site at www.nmhs.net/asthmacamp.

Sports Medicine Program Celebrates 12 Years

In 1996, NMMC began a sports medicine program to cover 19 local community colleges and high schools. Now, the program has seven full-time and three part-time certified athletic trainers on staff. In addition to daily coverage for area schools, the program offers a Saturday Morning Injury Clinic each fall, annual pre-participation physicals and community education initiatives. The trainers work closely with the Tupelo Parks and Recreation Department and Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau, providing medical coverage for local, regional and national tournaments hosted in Tupelo. **For more information on this program, call (662) 377-7223.**

NMHS Chronic Disease List Effective April 1

In an effort to increase compliance on commonly prescribed medications and, in turn, reduce hospitalizations and ER visits, NMHS is offering a "Chronic Disease List." This list will contain several medications used to treat diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma, etc. that are being offered to NMHS employees at a reduced co-pay.

DRUG	INDICATION
Diovan®	Hypertension
Diovan HCT®	Hypertension
Lipitor®	Cholesterol
Tricor®	Cholesterol
Actos®	Diabetes
Byetta®	Diabetes
Lantus®	Diabetes
Novolog®	Diabetes
Novolog® Pen (1 box of 5 pens)	Diabetes
Lantus Solostar®	Diabetes
Advair®	Asthma
Pulmicort®	Asthma
ProAir HFA®	Asthma
Singulair®	Asthma
Foradil®	Asthma
Atripla®	HIV

IRB Approves, Renews Studies

The NMHS Institutional Review Board (IRB) currently oversees more than 90 biomedical and behavioral studies. The IRB meets monthly and the following studies were approved and renewed at the February and March meetings.

New Studies

Study: A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Active-control, 96-week, Phase III Trial of the

Efficacy and Safety of Clevidine Compared with Adefovir at Weeks 48 and 96 in Nucleoside Treatment-naïve Patients with HbeAg Negative Chronic Hepatitis due to Hepatitis B Virus

Investigators: John Phillips, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: This study will compare the safety and effectiveness of clevidine to adefovir in HbeAg negative hepatitis people who have never been treated with nucleoside analogues.

Study: A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Active-control, 96-week, Phase III Trial of the Efficacy and Safety of Clevidine Compared with Adefovir at Weeks 48 and 96 in Nucleoside Treatment-naïve Patients with HbeAg Positive Chronic Hepatitis due to Hepatitis B Virus

Investigators: John Phillips, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: This study will compare the safety and effectiveness of clevidine to adefovir in HbeAg positive hepatitis people who have never been treated with nucleoside analogues.

Study: A Long-term, Randomized, Double-blind, Parallel-group, Placebo-controlled, Radiographic Study to Investigate the Safety and Efficacy of Orally Administered SD-6010 in Subjects with Symptomatic Osteoarthritis of the Knee

Investigators: Charles King, M.D. (PI); IMA-Tupelo Rheumatology and Osteoporosis Center

Summary: The purpose of this X-ray and drug study is to determine if SD-6010 is effective in slowing down the worsening of knee osteoarthritis.

Study: A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind, Multicenter, Active-controlled Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Celecoxib (Celebrex) and Indomethacin in the Treatment of Moderate to Severe Acute Gouty Arthritis

Investigators: Charles King, M.D. (PI); IMA-Tupelo Rheumatology and Osteoporosis Center

Summary: This study will compare celecoxib and indomethacin in the treatment of gouty arthritis.

Study: Limited Access Protocol for the Use of Oral Cisapride in the Treatment of Refractory Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease and Other Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders

Investigators: Ken Harvey, M.D. (PI); Charles King, M.D.; Marcus Owen, M.D.

Summary: This limited access protocol will allow the use of cisapride by patients with GERD, gastro

paresis, pseudo-obstruction or severe chronic constipation disorders who have failed standard therapy.

Study: *Randomized, Phase II Trial of AG013736 or Bevacizumab in Combination with Paclitaxel and Carboplatin as First-line Treatment for Patients with Advanced Non-small Cell Lung Cancer*

Investigators: Christopher Croot, M.D.(PI); Hematology and Oncology Associates

Summary: This study will assess if giving AG-013736 in combination with paclitaxel and carboplatin is as helpful as bevacizumab in treating patients by delaying the growth of the tumor in non-small cell lung cancer.

Study: *Randomized, Open-label, Phase III Trial of CP-751,871 in Combination with Paclitaxel and Carboplatin versus Paclitaxel and Carboplatin in Patients with Non-small Cell Lung Cancer*

Investigators: Christopher Croot, M.D. (PI); Hematology and Oncology Associates

Summary: This study will determine if CP 751,871, combined with standard chemotherapy, will prolong survival in patients with non-small cell lung cancer.

Study: *A Randomized, Double-blind, Parallel Study of Rabeprazole Extended-release 50 mg versus Esomeprazole 40 mg for Healing and Symptomatic Relief of Moderate to Severe Erosive Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)*

Investigators: Stephen Amann, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: This study will compare rabeprazole extended-release to esomeprazole and see how effective they are in healing erosions of the esophagus and providing symptom relief after four to eight weeks of treatment.

Renewals

Study: *A Study to Investigate the Effect of Pancrealipase Delayed Releases Capsules on Maldigestion in Patients with Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency Due to Chronic Pancreatitis and Pancreatotomy*

Investigators: Stephen Amann, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

Summary: This study is to compare the change in the coefficient of fat absorption from baseline to the end of double blind treatment period for each treatment group. Enrollment is open.

Study: *Randomized Trial of Patient-specific Vaccination with Conjugated Follicular Lymphoma-*

derived Idiotyp (FNHLId1) with Local GM-CSF in First Complete Remission

Investigators: Christopher Croot, M.D. (PI); Hematology and Oncology Associates

Summary: This study will determine if a combination of standard chemotherapy and vaccine therapy is effective for the treatment of lymph node cancer. A special vaccine will be created from each subject's tumor. Group I will receive the vaccine made from their own tumor protein, attached to a carrier protein, plus the adjuvant. Group II will receive the carrier protein, plus the adjuvant (but no vaccine). Enrollment is open.

Study: *LORHAN – Prospective, Longitudinal, Multicenter, Descriptive Registry of Patients Receiving Therapy other than Surgical Resection Alone for Newly Diagnosed Head and Neck Carcinoma*

Investigators: Ray Reed, M.D. (PI); Bert Duncan, M.D.

Summary: This registry will describe patterns of care for head and neck carcinoma patients. Also, the registry will document the outcome by treatment survival, determine the incidence and severity of major dose limiting and other important treatment toxicities and identify supportive care received for managing nutrition, pain, nausea and other complications. Enrollment is open.

Study: *MADIT – Multicenter Automatic Defibrillator Implantation Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy Trial*

Investigators: James Stone, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

Summary: The study will determine if people who have impaired heart function will have improved survival and less heart failure with implantation of an automatic defibrillator device that can also pace the heart more efficiently using resynchronization when compared to people treated with only an implanted defibrillator. Enrollment is open.

Device: *JOMED Jostent: Non-investigational (FDA limited humanitarian device exemption approval) Rescue Coronary Stent Graft for Coronary Peroration during percutaneous transluminal coronary intervention (PTCI)*

Investigator: Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI)

Summary: The Jostent is a covered stent that was made to aid in the rare situation of a coronary vessel perforation during an angiography/PTCI procedure. This particular stent was approved under the Humanitarian Device Exemption Regulation for

the specific use of such perforations, causing the patient to be at risk of severe complications and/or death.

Study: InSync Registry – A Post Market Study

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

Summary: This is a randomized, multicenter study to characterize the post market InSync CRT system performance. Enrollment is closed.

Study: Telemonitoring to Improve Heart Failure Outcomes

Investigators: Mark Strong, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine the effectiveness of a telemonitoring strategy in decreasing hospital readmissions and death in patients with heart failure. Enrollment is open.

Study: ROCKET AF – A Prospective, Randomized, Double-blind, Double-dummy, Parallel-group, Multicenter, Event-driven, Non-inferiority Study Comparing the Efficacy and Safety of Once-daily Oral Rivaroxaban (BAY 59-7939) with Adjusted-dose Oral Warfarin for the Prevention of Stroke and Non-central Nervous System Systemic Embolism in Subjects with Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation

Investigators: Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

Summary: The purpose of the study is to determine if rivaroxaban is as good as warfarin for reducing the formation of blood clots in the hearts of patients with atrial fibrillation. Enrollment is open.

Study: FREEDOM – A Frequent Optimization Study Using the QuickOpt Method

Investigators: James Stone, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

Summary: The purpose of this study is to prospectively evaluate the benefits of frequent AV/PV and V-V delay optimization using QuickOpt in patients with CRT-D devices. Enrollment is open.

Study: RATE – Registry of AT/AF Episodes in the CRM Device Population

Investigators: James Stone, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

Summary: The purpose of this registry is to produce a prospective, outcome-oriented registry to document the prevalence of AT/AF in the CRM population by using the Advanced AT/AF Diagnostics in select SJM devices. Enrollment is open.

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. **Please RSVP upon receipt of invitation.**

April 5

11th Annual Spring Cardiology Symposium

Beginning at noon, Tupelo Hilton Garden Inn
Call Tracy Maxey Conwill at (662) 377-3826 to register.

April 10-11

ACLS Two-day Provider Course

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., NMMC Education Center
Call Renea Magana at (662) 377-3421 to register.

April 11

Neurology Case Studies

Hunt Bobo, M.D.
1 p.m., NMMC Education Center
Call (662) 377-3826 for more information.

April 17-18

PALS Provider Course

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., NMMC Education Center
To register, call Renea Magana at (662) 377-3421 or Jeff Bonds at (662) 377-3448.

April 17

Medical Ethics Committee

Medical Ethics: Family Medicine and Administration
Ed Hill, M.D., and Bruce Toppin, J.D.
7:30 a.m., NMMC Education Center