

practice notes

July 2009

NMMC Announces New President

Steve Altmiller has accepted the position of president of North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo.

Altmiller, who will join NMMC's staff on Aug. 3, is currently serving as president and chief executive officer of San Juan Regional Medical Center, a 240-bed facility in Farmington, N.M. The hospital, which also includes a 20-bed rehab hospital, an ambulatory surgery center and a diagnostic center, has 1,400 employees and 150 physicians on staff.

"We are extremely pleased that Steve Altmiller is joining our leadership team," said John Heer, NMHS president and chief executive officer. "His work philosophy is a good fit for our organization's cultural values, servant leadership and balanced scorecard approach."

"I am really privileged to be joining the team at North Mississippi Medical Center," Altmiller said. "This is a proven team that practices excellence in quality, service and community. There are only a handful of Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award recipients, and I am excited about joining this one. Ginny and I look forward to our move to Tupelo."

His work experience includes serving as chief executive officer with AMI/Tenet Health Care Corporation and Bayou City Medical Center in Houston, Texas; senior vice president and chief operating officer of Park Place Hospital and Mid Jefferson Hospital in Port Arthur, Texas; vice president of operations and finance with West Alabama General Hospital in Northport; and chief financial officer for East Cooper Community Hospital in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

Altmiller is a cum laude graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting from Ohio State University in Columbus and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Alabama. He is a certified public accountant. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and holds membership in the American

Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Altmiller is a past chairman of the Farmington United Way Campaign, and past board member and chairman of the New Mexico Hospital and Health Systems Association. He is a past recipient of the American Hospital Association's Grassroots Champion Award.

NMMC Labs Receive Accreditation

NMMC's **Department of Pathology** and the **Women's Hospital laboratory** have been awarded accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), based on the results of a recent on-site inspection.

When presenting this national recognition, the inspectors congratulated both labs for the excellence of services being provided. NMMC's Pathology Department and the Women's Hospital lab are two of nearly 7,000 CAP-accredited laboratories nationwide.

The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, is the "gold standard" for laboratory accreditation, according to Judy Harrison, administrative director of pathology at NMMC.

"This demonstrates that our laboratories at NMMC and at the NMMC Women's Hospital consistently meet the highest standards and levels of performance," Harrison said. "A rigorous self-inspection is performed every other year to assure continuous readiness and compliance with new standards. Much work and preparation goes into this process."

During the CAP accreditation process, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine the entire staff's qualifications, the laboratory's equipment, facilities, safety program and record, as well as the overall management of the laboratory. This stringent inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standard



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of care for the laboratory's patients. NMMC has been accredited by CAP for approximately 27 years.

The College of American Pathologists is a medical society that serves more than 17,000 physician members and the laboratory community throughout the world. The largest association comprised exclusively of pathologists, CAP is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance and is recognized as an advocate for high-quality and cost-effective medical care.

Dr. Christy Oswalt Opens New Clinic

Christy Tucker Oswalt, M.D., recently opened a new clinic, North Mississippi Endocrine Center, which specializes in diabetes, thyroid and endocrine care. Dr. Oswalt is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism. The office is located on 65 S. Thomas St. in Tupelo. For referral information, call (662) 842-7870.

Local RN Earns Statewide Nurse Of The Year Award

Bernice Moore of Belden, a registered nurse at North Mississippi Medical Center, recently received the 2009 Eliza Pillars Nurse of the Year Award.

The award is given annually to a nurse who is very active in her community and church, is dependable and dedicated to "the cause," whatever that worthy cause may be. Moore is an active member of Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi at both the District 1 and state level, where she serves as public relations chairperson.

The award was presented at the group's annual state convention, April 30-May 3, in Robisonville. Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi is named for Eliza Farish Pillars, the first black registered nurse to be employed by the Mississippi State Board of Health on Feb. 1, 1926. The state's District 1 has 25 members.

Moore works as a physician analyst with NMMC's Management Information Services Department. After earning her associate's degree in nursing from Itawamba Community College, she worked 12 years as a gastroenterology nurse before becoming a physician analyst.

Prior to becoming a nurse, Moore earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Mississippi University for Women in 1975 and worked for a television station as well as a marketing and advertising agency in Atlanta.

She also worked on former President Jimmy Carter's re-election campaign as a media buyer.

She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in nursing from MUW.

Ob-Gyn Associates Welcomes New Doctor

Obstetrics-Gynecology Associates is pleased to welcome **Brandy Patterson, M.D.**

Dr. Patterson joins Drs. Jack Kahlstorf, Mark Kellum, Wayne Slocum, Eric Webb and Ronald Young at the clinic.

Dr. Patterson is a graduate of South Pontotoc High School and Mississippi State University, where she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. She completed her medical training at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson, where she was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha. She completed an internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Dr. Patterson received several honors while in medical training, including the Jake P. Mills Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Award, the Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship and a student research award. She served as Associated Student Body President and was a Pharmacology Review Board Member. In residency, she received the Argus Society Award for Best Teaching Resident and the Charles E. Flowers Teaching Award, among other honors.

She is a member of the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology and the American Medical Association.

Obstetrics-Gynecology Associates is located at 1793 Cliff Gookin Boulevard in Tupelo. For more information, call (662) 842-1161.

Acclaim P&T Committee Announces Tier Changes

Crestor[®], a cholesterol medication, was moved to Tier 2. Recently, post-market trial data has shown its effectiveness in certain patient groups.

Exforge HCT[®], a blood pressure agent that contains three distinct medications, was moved to Tier 2. Because three agents are in one pill, it will save the employee a co-pay. The triple agent product is priced competitively compared to each separate medication.



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 June meeting.

New Studies

Study: *A phase II, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study of ACE-011 for the treatment of chemo-therapy-induced anemia in patients with metastatic breast cancer (A011-08)*

Investigators: David Morris, M.D. (PI); Hematology & Oncology Associates

Summary: The purpose of this study is to test the effects of different dose levels of ACE-011, and to evaluate how well the body tolerates ACE-011 and how effectively ACE-011 treats anemia.

Study: *A phase II study of inotuzumab ozogamicin (CMC-544) in subjects with indolent non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) that is refractory to or has relapsed after rituximab and chemotherapy or radioimmunotherapy (3129K7-2001-WW)*

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

Summary: This study will determine if there is a benefit to giving inotuzumab ozogamicin in subjects with slow growing or low-grade non-Hodgkin's lymphoma who have relapsed or are not showing a response to specific therapies such as rituximab in combination with chemotherapy.

Study: *A prospective, non-randomized, multicenter, single-arm clinical trial to assess the safety and efficacy of the RX Herculink Elite Renal Stent System for the treatment of suboptimal post-procedural percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) in atherosclerotic de novo or restenotic renal artery stenoses in patients with uncontrolled hypertension (05-102)*

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

Summary: This study will determine the safety and effectiveness of the RX Herculink Elite Renal Stent System when used to treat renal artery stenosis. This device has not been approved for use in the arteries that supply blood to the kidney.

Study: *STAR - An open-label, randomized study to evaluate the safety, tolerability and efficacy of tocilizumab (TCZ) monotherapy or TCZ in*

combination with non-biologic DMARDs in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis who have an inadequate response to current non-biologic or biologic DMARDs (ML22533)

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

Summary: Tocilizumab is an antibody specifically made to counteract the inflammatory response caused by a substance called interleukin. This substance is partially responsible for the inflammation of the joints seen in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. This study will evaluate tocilizumab monotherapy or tocilizumab in combination with non-biologic DMARDs in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis.

Study Renewals

Study: *Roche M&M – Phase III, Double-blind, Randomized, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Effects of RO4607381 on Cardiovascular Risk in Stable Coronary Heart Disease Patients with a Documented Recent Acute Coronary Syndrome (NC20971)*

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

Summary: The primary objective of this study is to determine if RO4607381 will reduce the risk of death from cardiovascular disease or having a cardiovascular event. 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.**

July 10

Neurology/Radiology Case Studies

1 p.m., NMMC Education Center
CME credit will be issued.

July 16

Medical Ethics Committee

Process and Outcome: World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki
Ed Hill, M.D.
7:30 a.m., NMMC Education Center

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