

# practice notes

October 2009

## NMHS Selected to 100 Best Places to Work in Healthcare

Modern Healthcare's nationwide search for the best places to work in healthcare leads to Tupelo, home of **North Mississippi Health Services**, a regional health care organization that includes North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, five community hospitals and a regional clinic network serving 24 counties in north-east Mississippi and northwest Alabama.

The national health care magazine released information on its web site, [www.modernhealthcare.com](http://www.modernhealthcare.com), that NMHS was one of the 100 Best Places to Work in Healthcare. A supplement to the magazine will be published Oct. 26 and will provide a rank and order of the top 100 honorees.

"This recognition is given to healthcare organizations based on a combination of employee surveys and responses to questions about the culture of the organization," said John Heer, NMHS president and chief executive officer. "This serves as external validation that we are continuing to focus on the 'right things' on our journey to achieve our vision: To be the provider of the best patient-centered care and health services in America."

NMHS was the only Mississippi organization and one of only a handful in the Mid-South selected for this honor.

The listing made its debut in 2008. NMHS was one of 317 entries in this year's ranking and was selected for this honor on its first attempt. Participation is voluntary and no fee is charged to participate.

Employers complete a survey detailing company policies, practices, benefits and demographics. Employees are randomly selected to answer an in-depth set of questions that result in an analysis in eight core areas: leadership and planning, culture and communications, role satisfaction, working environment, relationship with supervisor, training and development, pay and benefits, and overall satisfaction.

For more information on NMHS, visit [www.nmhs.net](http://www.nmhs.net).

## Pulmonary Consultants Welcomes New Physician

Pulmonary Consultants welcomes new physician **Paul Perry, M.D.**

Dr. Perry received his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College, and completed his medical training and internal medicine residency at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He completed fellowships in infectious disease and pulmonology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Dr. Perry previously worked in the Emergency Room at the VA Hospital in Birmingham. He is a member of the Infectious Disease Society of America, and is board certified in internal medicine and infectious disease. Pulmonary Consultants is located in NMMC's East Tower. For more information, call (662) 377-7150.

## Orthopedic Surgeon Joins Sports Medicine Clinic

North Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Clinic announces the association of **Karl Van Osten, M.D.**

Dr. Van Osten received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Virginia, and his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School. He completed his residency at the San Francisco Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program, and recently completed a fellowship at the University of California Davis Medical Center in orthopaedic surgery trauma. For more information, call (662) 840-5747.

## New Pediatric Cardiologist Seeing Patients in Tupelo

Pediatric cardiologist **Kevin Stamps, M.D.**, is now seeing children in Tupelo by appointment through the Le Bonheur Outreach Program.

Dr. Stamps recently completed a pediatric cardiology fellowship at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. He



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earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Dr. Stamps serves as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Le Bonheur Children's Referral and Resource Center at 1-866-870-5570.

## **Nephrology Associates Welcomes New Physicians**

Nephrology & Hypertension Associates in Tupelo announces the association of **Marcus Louis Britton, M.D.**

Dr. Britton received a bachelor's degree in biology from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. He received his medical training at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He then completed a nephrology fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Dr. Britton is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

The practice is located at 1542 Medical Park Circle in Tupelo. For more information, call (662) 844-4711.

Nephrology & Hypertension Associates in Tupelo along with Oxford Nephrology Associates is pleased to announce the association of **Son G. Lam, M.D.**

Dr. Lam graduated magna cum laude from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry. He received his medical training from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson, and completed a combined medicine/pediatric residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where he also completed a fellowship in nephrology. Dr. Lam is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Oxford Nephrology Associates is located at 2301 South Lamar Blvd, Suite 130 in Oxford. For more information, call (662) 236-2900.

## **NMMC to Host Med-Surg Conference**

NMMC will host a Medical-Surgical Conference, "**Changing Treatments for Unchanging Problems,**" Nov. 2-3 in the hospital's North Education Center. For a complete listing of topics or a brochure, e-mail shelia.willis@nmhs.net.

Continuing education credit is available. The program is free to NMMC employees; others pay \$60 for one day or \$110 for both days. To register or for more information, call (662) 377-3900.

## **NMMC-West Point Sleep Laboratory Receives Accreditation**

**NMMC-West Point Sleep Laboratory** has received a five-year program accreditation from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM).

Located at 835 Medical Center Drive, the NMMC-West Point Sleep Laboratory is directed by Andrew Wartak, M.D., who is board certified in sleep medicine. E.A. Miller Jr., M.D., also serves as a Sleep Laboratory staff physician. For more information, call (662) 495-2143.

## **Outpatient Rehab Launches Biomechanical Analysis Program**

**The NMMC Outpatient Rehabilitation Department** at Longtown Medical Park recently launched a Biomechanical Analysis Program.

New equipment allows the therapists to video patients performing activities such as walking, running or throwing. The therapist can then view the video in slow motion and analyze the patient's performance.

The therapist can use the analysis to determine the cause of deficiencies and the best way to correct them. By using this equipment, Outpatient Rehabilitation therapists can provide a more accurate exercise prescription and help patients achieve their goals in a more timely fashion.

## **NMMC-Iuka Obtains 16-Slice CT**

**The NMMC-Iuka Radiology Department** has acquired a new 16-slice CT scanner that will enable them to do CT angiography studies. For more information, call (662) 423-4502.

## **NMMC to Sponsor Cell Phone Drive for Domestic Violence**

Throughout October, NMMC will conduct a **cell phone drive** to benefit S.A.F.E., Inc., a domestic violence shelter and rape crisis center in Tupelo that serves nine counties in northeast Mississippi.

The phones do not have to be in working order, and can be dropped off at NMMC hospitals in Tupelo, Eupora, Iuka, Pontotoc and West Point, Miss., and Hamilton, Ala., or at any NMMC Wellness Center, Home Health branch office or North Mississippi Medical Clinic.

## **NMMC to Present The P.L.A.Y. Project**

NMMC will present **The P.L.A.Y. Project**, Nov. 6-7, at First United Methodist Church, 412 W. Main St. in Tupelo.



The P.L.A.Y. project is a unique autism training and early intervention program based on Dr. Stanley Greenspan's Floortime model. The guest lecturer is Richard Solomon, M.D., medical director of The P.L.A.Y. Project at The Ann Arbor Center for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Dr. Solomon is board-certified in general pediatrics and developmental and behavioral pediatrics.

Sessions include an overview of autism, techniques and strategies for home and school, methods to improve social skills and medications for inattention, anxiety, obsessiveness and out-of-control behavior.

Call the NMMC Outpatient Rehabilitation Center at (662) 377-7221 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375) for fee and registration information.

## **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 September meeting.

### **New Study:**

**Study:** *CYPRESS – A Prospective, Randomized, Multicenter, Double-blind Trial to Assess the Effectiveness and Safety of Different Durations of Dual Anti-platelet Therapy (DAPT) in Subjects Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention with the Cypher Sirolimus-eluting Coronary Stent (P09-6301)*

**Investigators:** Amit Gupta, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to assess the rate of target lesion failure in subjects implanted with the Cypher stent and receiving dual antiplatelet therapy for 12 months.

### **Study Renewals:**

**Study:** *A Phase III, Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Blinded, Multicenter Study of the Induction and Maintenance of Clinical Response and Remission by MLN0002 in Patients with Moderate to Severe Crohn's Disease (C13007)*

**Investigators:** Samuel Pace, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to determine if MLN0002 is effective in treating subjects with Crohn's disease. MLN0002 is a monoclonal antibody, and works by attaching itself to a particular kind of white blood cell and reducing inflammation. Enrollment is open.

**Study:** *A Phase III, Open-label Study to Determine the Long-term Safety and Efficacy of MLN0002 in Patients with Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease (C13008)*

**Investigators:** Samuel Pace, M.D. (PI); Digestive Health Specialists

**Summary:** This extension study will follow the long-term effects of MLN0002. Enrollment is open.

**Study:** *TRA 2P - A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of SCH 430348 in Addition to Standard of Care in Subjects with a History of Atherosclerotic Disease: Thrombin Receptor Antagonist for Secondary Prevention of Atherosclerotic Ischemic Events (P04737)*

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

**Summary:** This study will evaluate if adding study drug SCH 530348 to standard of care will reduce the incidence of atherothrombotic events. Enrollment is open.

**Study:** *ARISTOTLE – A Phase III, Active (Warfarin), Controlled, Randomized, Double-blind, Parallel-arm Study to Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of Apixaban in Preventing Stroke and Systemic Embolism in Subjects with Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation (CV-185-030)*

**Investigators:** Justin Graff, M.D. (PI); Tupelo Neurology Group

**Summary:** This study is being done to test how safe and effective apixaban (blood thinner) is in comparison to warfarin in preventing stroke or other blood clots in people with atrial fibrillation. Enrollment is open.

**Study:** *AVERROES – Apixaban versus Aspirin to Prevent Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation Patients who have Failed or are Unsuitable for Vitamin K Antagonist Treatment: A Randomized, Double-blind Trial (CV-185-048)*

**Investigators:** Justin Graff, M.D. (PI); Tupelo Neurology Group

**Summary:** The primary objective of this study is to determine if apixaban is superior to ASA for preventing the composite outcome of stroke or systemic embolism in subjects with atrial fibrillation and at least one additional risk factor for stroke who have failed or are unsuitable for vitamin K antagonist therapy. 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.**

**Oct. 2**

### **Endocrine Conference: Groovin' to an Endocrinology Tune**

8 a.m., NMMC Education Center

**Oct. 15**

### **Medical Ethics Committee**

7:30 a.m., NMMC Education Center

"Health for Life: A Vision for Health Reform"

Gerald Wages

**Oct. 15**

### **Liver Transplantation: Patient Selection & Evaluation**

J. Steven Bynon, M.D.

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Transplantation, University of Alabama School of Medicine

6 p.m. Dinner • 6:30 p.m. Program

NMMC East Tower Room 21

Call (662) 377-3826 to register.

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