

practice notes



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

January 2020

A monthly
newsletter for
physicians, nurse practitioners,
physician assistants & other
health care professionals

Dr. Powell Retires with Almost 40 Years of Medical Service

Family physician
Dr. Ron Powell
has retired with
almost 40 years
of medical service
to the West Point
community and
beyond.



A native of
Wynne, Arkansas, Dr. Powell graduat-
ed from Arkansas State University
with a bachelor's degree in biology
and chemistry before completing a
bachelor's degree in pharmacy at the
University of Mississippi in 1970. He
then served four years in the Public
Health Service Commissioned Corps,
a military branch overseen by the U.S
Surgeon General.

Upon completion of his active duty,
he enrolled in medical school at the
University of Health Sciences in
Kansas City, Missouri. He earned his
medical degree there in 1979 and
completed a rotating internship in
1980 at Mount Clemens General
Hospital in Michigan.

One month later, he opened his

own private practice in West Point. He
had first visited the community at the
suggestion of Linda King, a friend and
native of West Point. His first clinic
was right next door to Ivy Memorial
Hospital. "The building was made of
concrete blocks and had no windows
in any of the rooms," Dr. Powell said.
In 1985 he built and opened a new
clinic on Medical Center Drive, where
his wife, Diann, served as the office
manager.

After 15 years in private practice,
Dr. Powell joined North Mississippi
Medical Clinics, and West Point
Medical Clinic opened across the
street on Medical Center Drive.
"Joining North Mississippi Health
Services was a highlight of my career,"
he said, noting that he could focus on
practicing medicine without worrying
about the business side. "Diann could
now go home and be a full-time
mother to our children."

Dr. Powell also served in the
Mississippi Army National Guard for
26 years. Colonel Powell served as the
Battalion Surgeon with the 223rd
Engineer Battalion, Combat Heavy,
from 1984-1998. He transferred to
STARC, MED, TDA in 1998 and
served as a General Medical Officer

until 2000. He was appointed as
Commander of DET 1, MSARNG,
Medical Detachment in 2000 and
served until May 2003, when he was
appointed the Commander of the
MSARNG Detachment. In 2005 he
served as the medical officer with the
155th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq
for Operation Iraqi Freedom. A few
months after he returned home, he
was deployed again to the Mississippi
Gulf Coast for four months after
Hurricane Katrina hit. He retired from
the MSARNG in 2006.

West Point Medical Clinic has
continued to grow throughout Dr.
Powell's career. Dr. Clifton Story
joined the clinic in 2005, followed
by Dr. Robert Smith in 2008. In
2017, the clinic moved to a new,
larger location, adding Urgent Care
and several new physicians. It was
a dream of Dr. Powell's to offer a
modern, well-equipped and full-
staffed clinic for the people of West
Point and Clay County. "We have a
fine new clinic, an efficient, well-
trained staff and caring physicians
who all work well together and enjoy
being a family together," he said.

Because his practice spans many
decades, Dr. Powell has cared for

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several generations of local families. "I have enjoyed practicing in a small community where I came to know my patients and they to know me," he said. "I have patients that I delivered years ago and now they bring their own children and grandchildren to me for care."

With retirement in view, Dr. Powell looks forward to more time with his family, which includes his wife of 51 years, Diann; daughter Amy (Jeremy) Tabor of West Point; son Ron Jr. (married to the former Melanie Elliott of West Point) of Eads, Tennessee; and grandchildren Powell, Elizabeth Claire and Barrett Tabor, and Maddox and Lily Powell.

The Powells have long anticipated a trip to Israel planned for February. He also looks forward to playing golf and deer hunting. They are active members of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation.

"It's exciting to retire, but it's kind of a sad thing too," Dr. Powell said. "I will miss it."

NMMC Specialty Pharmacy Achieves Accreditation with ACHC

North Mississippi Medical Center recently achieved accreditation through the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) for specialty pharmacy services. Accreditation is a process through which healthcare organizations demonstrate compliance with national standards. Accreditation by ACHC reflects an organization's dedication and commitment to meeting standards that facilitate a higher level of performance and patient care.

ACHC is a nonprofit organization that has stood as a symbol of quality and excellence since 1986.

NMMC Specialty Pharmacy provides services for patients with complex and chronic diseases who need challenging drug regimens, such as: ankylosing spondylitis, immune deficiencies, multiple sclerosis, cancer,

osteoporosis, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and others. The Specialty Pharmacy offers a patient management program to help ensure that patients are able to adhere to their medications as prescribed. Staff works closely with patients and providers to manage any problems or side effects that need to be addressed.

The NMMC Specialty Pharmacy is also accredited by URAC.

Hamilton Primary Care Center Welcomes New Provider

Hamilton Primary Care Center recently welcomed Clay Cockrell, NP-C, board-certified nurse practitioner.

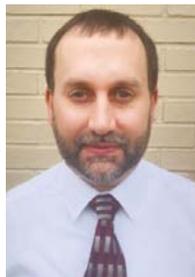
Cockrell has taken care of patients in Marion County for 13 years, and says he is looking forward to continuing to serve in Hamilton for many more years.

Cockrell received his associate degree in nursing from Northwest Shoals Community College, and his bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Alabama at Huntsville. He graduated cum laude from the University of Alabama at Huntsville with a master's degree in nursing and his family nurse practitioner certification.

Cockrell moved to Alabama after his father retired from military service in the late 1990s.

Hamilton Primary Care Center is located inside North Mississippi Medical Center-Hamilton at 1256 Military Street South. The hours are 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 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).



NMMC, Family Resource Center Partner to Assist Patients

The Family Resource Center of North Mississippi has partnered with North Mississippi Medical Center to connect hospital patients with beneficial services.

"Our mission is to continuously improve the health of the people of our region. We realize that medical care only influences around 10-20% of the modifiable contributors to healthy outcomes," said Ormella Cummings, Ph.D., NMMC chief strategy officer. "The other 80-90% is determined by health-related behaviors, socioeconomic factors and environmental factors. The Family Resource Center already has programs in place to address these factors. If we are truly going to impact our mission, this is really the perfect marriage."

"So many of these social determinants are the reason behind the patient's hospitalization or health issues," said Christi Webb, executive director of Family Resource Center/Families First of North Mississippi. "One of our agency's strongest points is providing resources and connecting people to those who have the expertise they need. So many people cannot come to us or do not know to. Through this partnership, we can come to them."

Claire Goodson and Stephanie Collier, licensed social workers and field educators with Family Resource Center, now have an office at NMMC. The hospital's case managers help identify patients who could benefit from Family Resource Center's free services.

Collier said they start with an assessment to determine the best way to meet the patient's needs, which can include food insecurity, housing, domestic violence, transportation and other issues. Then, they work the patient to offer help with parenting skills, conflict resolution, youth development, healthy relationships, addiction recovery, job readiness and educational needs. Fortunately,

NMMC's service area significantly overlaps with that of the Family Resource Center, which has 16 offices located throughout north Mississippi.

"Even if the patient's need is not on our list of available services, we'll try to find that for them," Goodson said.

The partnership is already making a difference. Through the Beds for Kids program, local volunteers built a bed for a patient's son who had been sleeping on the floor. Local groups also donate mattresses, bedding and pillows to the program.

Another patient's young child could not read, and Family Resource Center was able to refer her to Regional Rehabilitation Center for testing. A pregnant patient received a free car seat through the Family Resource Center.

Patients are also benefiting from parenting and addiction recovery classes. "We find that once people come to our programs, they do tend to come back," Goodson said.

"They see how much they learn and enjoy it, and they make connections," Collier said. "It's very validating to find out that they're not alone."

Both organizations believe the partnership will improve health and quality of life throughout the region they serve. "We see people when they're in crisis, and NMMC sees people when they're in crisis," Webb said. "If we can plug in and provide help, hopefully we can keep them from coming back to the hospital."



NMMC Rehabilitation Institute case managers (from left) Scott Thrasher and Clarissa Hughes confer often with Claire Goodson and Stephanie Collier, Family Resource Center field educators.

IRB Approves, Renews 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 and renewed at the November meeting.

New Study:

Study: ILLUMENATE BTK – Prospective, Randomized, Multicenter Study to Evaluate Treatment of Subjects with Occlusive Disease with a Novel Paclitaxel-Coated Angioplasty Balloon in Below-The-Knee (BTK) Arteries

Investigators: Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Dane Ballard, M.D.; Joseph Stinson, M.D.; Chris Bell, ACNP; Lee Ferguson, ACNP; Katie McDuffie, FNP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if the treatment of narrowed lower leg blood vessels with this investigational drug coated balloon is safe and beneficial.

Study Renewals:

Study: SPYRAL-HTN-ON MED (IDE #: G150036) (Sponsor – Medtronic)

Investigators: Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Joseph Adams, M.D.; Dane Ballard, M.D.; Benjamin Blossom, M.D.; Roger Williams, M.D.; Chris Bell, ACNP; Lee Ferguson, ACNP; Wanda Ikeda, DNP; Katie McDuffie, CNP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if renal denervation decreases blood pressure and is safe with up to three anti-hypertensive medications. Enrollment is open.

Study: SPYRAL-HTN-OFF MED (IDE #: G150036) (Sponsor – Medtronic)

Investigators: Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Joseph Adams, M.D.; Dane Ballard, M.D.; Benjamin Blossom, M.D.; Roger Williams, M.D.; Chris Bell, ACNP; Lee Ferguson, ACNP;

Wanda Ikeda, DNP; Katie McDuffie, CNP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if renal denervation decreases blood pressure and is safe in the absence of anti-hypertensive medications. Enrollment is open.



NORTH MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

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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. Visit www.nmhs.net/cme for more information.

January 10

Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

Noon-1 p.m.
NMMC North Education Center Room 7/8

January 31

Emergency Medicine Symposium

7:30 a.m.
NMMC North Education Center

February 14

Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

Noon-1 p.m.
NMMC North Education Center Room 7/8

February 21

Mental Health Conference

7:30 a.m.
NMMC North Education Center Auditorium

February 28-29

Spring Cardiology Symposium

Elvis Presley Birthplace Conference Center