



practice notes



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

January/February 2019

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

Clinic Physicians Named Top Performers



Dr. Basler

North Mississippi Medical Clinics has awarded Top Performer 2018 awards to Drs. Bonnie Basler and Julie Palmer of West Tupelo Medical Clinic and Dr. Frank Fortenberry of IMA-Tupelo.



Dr. Palmer

Dr. Palmer was named Top Performer for Diabetes, recognizing her dedicated focus on her patients' diabetes management.



Dr. Fortenberry

Drs. Basler and Fortenberry were named Top Performer for Preventive Health, recognizing their dedicated focus on their patients' immunizations and health maintenance needs.

NMMC Offers World's Smallest Pacemaker

North Mississippi Medical Center now offers the world's smallest pacemaker for patients with problematic slow heart rates.

The Micra[®] Transcatheter Pacing System (TPS) is an implantable cardiac device that provides the most advanced pacing technology at one-10th the size of a traditional pacemaker. Karthik V. Prasad, M.D., a cardiac electrophysiologist with the NMMC Heart and Vascular Institute, performed the first procedure Nov. 5, 2018.

Medtronic's Micra TPS is the size of a large vitamin pill – which makes it cosmetically invisible. More importantly, Micra TPS requires neither the leads going into the heart nor the surgical "pocket" under the chest.



Dr. Karthik V. Prasad, compares a traditional pacemaker (right) with the new Micra[®] Transcatheter Pacing System (left). The Micra TPS is one-10th the size, attaches directly to the heart and requires no cardiac leads.

Instead, Micra TPS is small enough to be delivered through a catheter and implanted directly into the heart.

Compared to a traditional pacemaker, the Micra TPS has

a higher implant success rate (99.1 percent), a lower infection rate and 63 percent fewer complications in the first year. These complications are often related to traditional pacemakers' leads, which can break or become disconnected, or issues related to the chest pocket holding the pacemaker battery.

Dr. Prasad said the leadless pacemaker is beneficial for patients who have symptomatic bradycardia, especially atrial fibrillation. Individuals with kidney failure requiring dialysis are historically considered to be at higher risk for infections with traditional pacemakers, and the Micra TPS is a great option in such patients. Other scenarios are patients with defective blood vessels in their chest and neck that make implantation of traditional pacemakers technically difficult.

IMA-Tupelo Welcomes New Physician

IMA-Tupelo welcomes Meghan Luter, M.D.

Dr. Luter will see adult and pediatric patients at IMA-Tupelo.

She graduated magna cum laude from Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. She received her medical degree at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson. She completed her internal medicine and pediatric residencies, as well as her pediatric critical care fellowship, at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.



Pulmonary Consultants Welcomes New Providers

Pulmonary Consultants welcomes Bobby Tullos, M.D., and Kelli Plunk, MSN, FNP-C, to the practice.



Dr. Tullos graduated cum laude from the University of Mississippi in Oxford with a bachelor's degree in biology. He received his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson. He completed his internal medicine residency and his pulmonary and critical care fellowship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

He is board certified in internal medicine and pulmonary medicine, and is a member of the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Thoracic Society and the American College of Physicians.

He has served in the United States Army for more than 19 years – five years on Active Duty, five years in the Army Reserves and is currently on his ninth year in the Mississippi Army National Guard. His current rank is Major, and he has served four overseas deployments to Bosnia, Kuwait and Iraq.

Plunk received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus and her master's degree in nursing from the University of



Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson. She is board certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She recently completed the Advance Practice Clinician Fellowship at North Mississippi Medical Center.

Ecru Medical Clinic Welcomes New Nurse Practitioner

Ecru Medical Clinic welcomes Timothy Watson, FNP-C.

Watson received his bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Mobile in Alabama. He completed his master's degree in nursing and his family nurse practitioner certification at the University of Phoenix in Sacramento. He is board certified by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.



Government Rewards NMMC-West Point

The federal government has rewarded NMMC-West Point's Swing Bed program for its outstanding efforts in reducing avoidable hospital readmissions of nursing home patients.

Facilities received scores of 0 to 100 for their performance and 0 to 90 for their improvement, and the higher of the two scores was used to determine their overall score. Facilities were then ranked highest to lowest. NMMC-West Point ranked No. 1 in Mississippi with a performance score of 100 and an improvement score of 90.

"Our team of providers and

employees work diligently on a daily basis to ensure our patients are medically stable prior to discharge. We have enhanced our inpatient services in several ways during the last few years, including revamping our discharge planning processes,” said Barry Keel, NMMC-West Point administrator. “It is gratifying to be recognized with a No. 1 ranking in the state and a true testimony to the exceptional team of caregivers at NMMC-West Point.”

NMMC’s Swing Bed Program is classified as a Skilled Nursing Facility.

Determined by each facility’s readmission rates, these financial incentives significantly expand Medicare’s effort to pay medical providers based on the quality of care instead of just the number or condition of patients.

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 December meeting.

New Studies:

Study: *A Randomized Controlled, Open label, Adaptive Phase-3 Trial to Evaluate Safety and Efficacy of EndoTAG-1 Plus Gemcitabine versus Gemcitabine Alone in Patients with Measurable Locally Advanced and/or Metastatic Adenocarcinoma of the Pancreas Failed on FOLFIRINOX Treatment (CT 4006)*

Investigators: Andrew Kellum,

M.D. (PI); Charles Montgomery, M.D.; Jiahuai Tan, M.D.; Paschal Wilson, M.D.; Ashley Gilliland, ANP; Jessica Glidewell, ANP; Tammy Pelegrin, ANP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine the safety and efficacy of EndoTAG-1 when used in combination with gemcitabine for the treatment of advanced adenocarcinoma of the pancreas.

Study: *A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Parallel-group, Phase III Study of Baricitinib in Patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (14V-MC-JAIA)*

Investigators: Charles King, M.D. (PI); Srikanth Mukkera, M.D.

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine the safety and efficacy of Baricitinib and to see if it combined with standard therapy can help subjects with systemic lupus erythematosus.

Study: *Reducing Immunogenicity to Pegloticase (KRYSTEXXA®) (RECIPE)*

Investigators: Charles King, M.D. (PI); Srikanth Mukkera, M.D.

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine the effectiveness of Krystexxa® in combination with CellCept® or mycophenolic acid in the treatment of chronic gout.

Study: *A 52-Week, Placebo-controlled, Randomized, Phase III Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Seladelpar in Subjects with Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC) and an Inadequate Response to or an Intolerance to Ursodeoxycholic Acid (UDCA) (CB8025-31735)*

Investigators: John Phillips, M.D. (PI); Noel Hunt, M.D.
Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine the safety and efficacy of seladelpar in treating primary biliary cholangitis.

Study: *DIAMOND-AF II – A Prospective Clinical Evaluation of the DiamondTemp™ Ablation System for the Treatment of Persistent Atrial Fibrillation (TP01071)*

Investigators: Jim Stone, M.D. (PI); Karl Crossen, M.D.; Karthik Prasad, M.D.

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if the DiamondTemp™ Ablation Catheter can restore the heart to a normal rhythm in subjects with atrial fibrillation.

Study Renewal:

Study: *XIENCE Short DAPT Study (16-308)*

Investigators: Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Joseph Adams, M.D.; Benjamin Blossom, M.D.; Amit Gupta, 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 the safety of taking FDA-approved P2Y12 inhibitor (antiplatelet drug) drug for three months with indefinite use of aspirin after the implantation of the commercially approved XIENCE stents for patients at high risk of bleeding. Enrollment is open.



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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/physicians_portal/cme.php for more information.

January 25

2019 Emergency Medicine Conference

8 a.m., NMMC North Education Center

February 8

Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

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

February 22-23

Spring Cardiology Symposium

Elvis Presley Birthplace Conference Center

March 8

Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

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