



practice notes



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

August 2020

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

NMHS Patients Have Opportunity to Participate in COVID-19 Investigational Treatment

Those who have completely recovered from COVID-19 may have immune-boosting antibodies in their plasma – called “convalescent plasma” – that could be used to treat critically ill COVID-19 patients.

North Mississippi Medical Center is now working with Vitalant on collecting convalescent plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 as part of a program to treat patients infected with the virus. This FDA-sponsored investigation includes emergency use of a special blood product containing antibodies that may give patients an extra boost to fight the virus.

To be eligible to donate convalescent plasma, the individual must have a prior COVID-19 diagnosis documented by a laboratory test (or a positive test result for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies) and meet additional eligibility requirements.

If you are interested in donating convalescent plasma, do not make a normal plasma appointment with Vitalant. Donors must meet additional criteria for convalescent plasma eligibility. To learn more and apply, visit www.vitalant.org/COVIDfree.

Patients at NMMC who are severely ill from COVID-19 are eligible to receive plasma from patients who have already recovered, according to Stephen Southworth, M.D., chairman of North Mississippi Health Services’ Institutional Review Board (IRB).

“Plasma donated from recovered COVID-19 patients may have the ability to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 through antibodies,” Dr. Southworth said. “This treatment is investigational, but early results are promising.”

Affected patients must provide informed consent and meet inclusion criteria in order to be eligible. While the national protocol is being overseen by the Mayo Clinic, this program was reviewed and approved by the NMHS IRB.

Jeff Michelletti and Brian Donner of NMMC’s Oncology Research Department coordinated with Mayo Clinic to open this study at NMMC.

Oncology staff are responsible for ensuring regulatory compliance, as well as proper documentation and collection of all information as outlined by the study’s protocol.

Dr. Pizzimenti Named to Internal Medicine Board

David Pizzimenti, D.O., has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the American Board of Internal Medicine.



As NMMC’s Associate Medical Officer of Acute Care, Dr. Pizzimenti directs the hospitalist program as well as the new Internal Medicine Residency Program. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He earned his medical degree from Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, followed by an internal medicine internship and residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, Florida. A board-certified internal medicine

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physician, Dr. Pizzimenti was inducted into the American College of Osteopathic Internist College of Fellows in 2009. In addition, he is a certified wound care specialist.

Dr. Pizzimenti has practiced internal medicine in north Mississippi since 2005. Prior to joining the NMMC staff in 2019, he served in a similar role at Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth. He has multiple academic and committee appointments, including the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Resident Review Committee for Internal Medicine. He is also on ACGME's subcommittee that creates the training standards for internists and internal medicine sub-specialists nationally.

NMHS Welcomes New Providers

Uyi Idemudia, M.D., Hospital Medicine

Dr. Idemudia comes to Tupelo from Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Florida. He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



He received his medical degree from the University of Debrecen in Hungary, where he graduated summa cum laude. He is board certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. He completed a residency at the Morehouse School of Medicine Internal Medicine Residency Program in Atlanta. He is fluent in English, Edo and Hungarian.

Samantha Houston, M.D., Hospital Medicine

Dr. Houston graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. She



received her medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, and completed her internal medicine residency

at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. She is board certified in internal medicine. She comes to NMMC from Oxford, where she served as chair of the medicine department.

Amy Doyle, M.D., Hospital Medicine

Dr. Doyle graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She completed her medical degree at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and her internal medicine residency at Baptist Health Systems in Birmingham, where she served as chief resident. She completed a clinical fellowship in infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Department of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a diplomat in internal medicine with the American Board of Internal Medicine. She most recently worked as a hospitalist at Sacred Heart Hospital in Florida.



Joshua Calcote, D.O., Hospital Medicine

Dr. Calcote received a bachelor's degree in biology from Mississippi State University in Starkville. He completed his medical degree at William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and his family medicine residency at the NMMC Family Medicine Residency Center. He recently completed a hospitalist fellowship at NMMC. He is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.



Cameron Bonds, M.D., Iuka Medical Clinic

Dr. Bonds recently completed residency training at the NMMC Family Medicine Residency Center in Tupelo. He received his



bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, where he graduated summa cum laude and was a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. He completed his medical degree at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He is a Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program recipient and is a member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

John Williams Elliott, D.O., Nephrology and Hypertension Associates, Ltd.

A Tupelo native, Dr. Elliott moved to Tallahassee, Fla., with his family in 1999 and graduated from high school there. He earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Mississippi State University in 2009 and a master's degree in biology/medical sciences from Mississippi College in 2011. He received his medical degree from William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg in May 2015 and completed an internal medicine residency with Brookwood Baptist Health System in Birmingham, Alabama, in June 2018. He recently completed a nephrology fellowship with the University of Alabama in Birmingham.



Jordan Steele, D.O., West Point Medical Clinic and Urgent Care

Dr. Steele attended Itawamba Community College and earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Mississippi State University in 2011. He earned his medical degree from William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg in 2015. He completed residency training at NMMC's Family Medicine Residency Program in 2018. He recently completed an emergency medicine



fellowship at NMMC in partnership with Relias Healthcare. Dr. Steele has extensive emergency department and urgent care experience.

**Leland Husband, M.D.,
Premier Radiology**

Dr. Husband is a Tupelo native who graduated from the U.S Military Academy at West Point, New York. He received a bachelor's degree at Mississippi



State University in Starkville and two master's degrees at Mississippi College in Clinton. He obtained his doctorate of medicine from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson where he also completed a general surgery internship. Dr. Husband finished his residency in diagnostic radiology and his fellowship in nuclear radiology at the University of Tennessee Medical School in Knoxville.

**Stephen Morgan, M.D.,
Chickasaw Medical Clinic**

Dr. Morgan, a Vardaman native, recently completed residency training at the NMMC Family Medicine Residency Center in Tupelo. He graduated summa cum laude with a



bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. He completed his medical degree at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He is a Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program recipient and a Taylor Medal recipient, among other awards and scholarships.

**Jhoclay See, M.D.,
Children's of
Mississippi**

Dr. See, assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, is caring for seriously ill



pediatric patients at NMMC in Tupelo.

Dr. See gained his medical education in Manila, Philippines, earning a bachelor of science in pharmacy at University of Santo Thomas and his M.D. at University of the East Medical Center. After his pediatric residency at the University of Toledo Medical Center in Ohio, he was a pediatric critical care fellow at Cleveland Clinic Children's. Most recently, See was chief fellow in the Cleveland Clinic's Department of Pediatric Critical Care.

**NMMC-Tupelo Receives
Get With The Guidelines
Target:**

Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus Silver Quality Achievement Award American Heart Association Award recognizes NMMC-Tupelo's commitment to quality stroke care

NMMC-Tupelo has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus Silver Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

NMMC-Tupelo earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health and get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

"The mission of NMMC is to continuously improve the health of the people in our region. Unfortunately, we live in the Deep South where there

are higher rates of stroke," said David Wilson, NMMC-Tupelo president.

"Fortunately, we have a highly qualified team of professionals who are improving the care of our stroke patients each and every day. Recognition by the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines stroke initiative is evidence of this team's dedication. This recognition was based on implementing evidence-based clinical guidelines and demonstrating a consistent and significant improvement in patient outcomes."

NMMC-Tupelo additionally received the association's Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll Elite award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke.



Members of NMMC-Tupelo's stroke team celebrated by watching the virtual awards presentation together in different locations to allow for social distancing.



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IRB 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 renewed on June 18, 2020.

Study: *Building a Repository of Cardiac Phase Signals for Algorithm Development Recruiting Mostly Female Subjects (CADFEM)*

Investigators: Steve Carroll, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

Summary: The purpose is to build a database of heart signals from subjects using the Phase Signal Acquisition System. Enrollment is open.

Study: *The DETOUR II Study – PQ Bypass System for Femoropopliteal Bypass II (STP 203)*

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

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine the safety and effectiveness of the PQ Bypass

System when used in subjects who have blocked arteries in the lower limbs. Enrollment is open.