



practice notes

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



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

March/April 2020

NMMC Cancer Care Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) has granted its 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award to a select group of 49 accredited cancer programs throughout the United States, including North Mississippi Medical Center.

“To meet the basic standards of care established by the CoC, programs must commit significant time and resources throughout each three-year accreditation cycle,” said Ray Reed, M.D., radiation oncologist and NMMC Cancer Committee chair. “While most programs in our region are not CoC-accredited, NMMC Cancer Care has been continuously accredited since its inception. In fact, we are the oldest continuously accredited program in the northern half of Mississippi.

“To receive the Outstanding Achievement Award is the result of many hours of hard work by an outstanding team of people whose life’s work is spent taking care of people in their greatest time of need. I am proud to work alongside this

remarkable group who dedicate their lives in service to their fellow man. This award is recognition for the exceptional patient- and family-centered care that is provided every day at NMMC, but most importantly, it recognizes our unwavering commitment to cancer patients and their families in our community.”

The purpose of the award is to raise the bar on quality cancer care, with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness about quality care choices among cancer patients and their loved ones.

“More and more, we’re finding that patients and their families want to know how the health care institutions in their communities compare with one another,” said Lawrence N. Shulman, M.D., MACP, Chair of the CoC. “They want access to information in terms of who’s providing the best quality of care, and they want to know about overall patient outcomes. Through this recognition program, I’d like to think we’re playing a small but vital role in helping them make informed decisions on their cancer care.”

The 49 award-winning cancer care programs represent approximately 7% of programs surveyed by the CoC Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2019. “These cancer programs currently represent the best of the best when it comes to cancer care,” added Dr. Shulman. “Each of these facilities is not just meeting nationally recognized standards for the delivery of quality cancer care, they are exceeding them.”

NMMC Welcomes New Hospitalist

NMMC welcomes Raymond Seay, D.O., for the practice of hospital medicine.

Dr. Seay received his bachelor’s degree in biological sciences at Florida State University, and his medical degree from Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at Magnolia Regional Healthcare. He is board certified in internal medicine.



NMMC to Launch Internal Medicine Residency Program

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has accredited a new Internal Medicine Residency Program at NMMC.

The program kicks off in July 2021 with 12 internal medicine physicians who have completed medical school and will spend three years training in internal medicine throughout NMMC. Dr. David Pizzimenti, NMMC's associate medical officer of Acute Care, will lead the residency program in addition to the hospitalist program. Before joining NMMC in 2019, he was the founding director of the internal medicine residency and hospitalist programs at Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth.

The Internal Medicine Residency Program will operate similarly to NMMC's Family Medicine Residency Program, which was founded in 1994. In addition to Dr. Pizzimenti, the faculty will include Drs. Bradley Boldizar, Renee Walters, Renata Palasiewicz and Marissa Cruz.

Renovation projects underway for the program include a state-of-the-art education center within the hospital and a new clinic area inside IMA-Tupelo. In addition to daily lectures and case presentations Monday-Friday, residents will rotate through various areas – critical care, pulmonology, gastroenterology,

cardiology, palliative care, geriatrics, rheumatology, endocrinology and nephrology – to gain diverse experience.

“Mississippi is ranked last nationwide for physician accessibility,” Dr. Pizzimenti explained. “Our goal with the Internal Medicine Residency Program is to bring more doctors to the state, as doctors tend to stay where they train.”

The application process begins this fall through the Electronic Resident Application Services (ERAS). Around 50-75 applicants will be interviewed for the 12 slots. Positions will be awarded in March 2021, and residents will start the program on July 1.

“As these young doctors and their families move to our area, I encourage area residents to welcome them to our community,” Dr. Pizzimenti said. “We want to help them become part of our community because in turn, they will be helping all of us.”

For more information, contact program coordinator Dorie Crouch at (662) 377-6652 or dlcrouch@nmhs.net.

NMMC Women's Hospital Receives Prestigious Baby-Friendly Designation

NMMC Women's Hospital has achieved the highly prestigious international Baby-Friendly designation after a rigorous review process conducted by Baby-Friendly USA, the organization responsible for bestowing this certification in the United States.

This honor demonstrates that NMMC is adhering to the highest standards of care for breastfeeding mothers and their babies. Standards are built on the *Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding*, a set of evidence-based practices recommended by the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

“Achieving the Baby-Friendly designation is not an easy task. We



Women's Hospital Staff

are very proud to be recognized for the hard work of our team members throughout this process,” said Ellen Friloux, vice president of NMMC Women and Children's Services.

“This designation recognizes our commitment to ensuring that every woman who delivers a baby here receives the resources, information and support needed to give her baby the healthiest start in life.”

New Minimally Invasive Procedure at NMMC Prevents Stroke

NMMC recently became the first hospital in north Mississippi to use a new, less-invasive procedure called TransCarotid Artery Revascularization (TCAR) to safely reduce the risk for stroke in patients with blocked carotid arteries but considered too risky for traditional surgery.

Vascular surgeon Joey Stinson, M.D., and cardiothoracic surgeon Vishal Sachdev, M.D., performed the first two cases at NMMC on Feb. 21. The procedure lowers patients' risk for stroke with faster recovery, less pain and smaller scars.

TCAR is an important new option to prevent stroke. “This procedure is particularly suited for the large portion of patients we see who are at higher risk of complications from carotid surgery because of age, anatomy or other medical conditions,” Dr. Stinson said. “We perform the procedure through a much smaller incision at the neckline just above the clavicle instead of a



Leading NMMC's new Internal Medicine Residency Program are (front row) Dr. David Pizzimenti, director; Dr. Renee Walters; Dorie Crouch, program coordinator; (back row) Dr. Renata Palasiewicz and Dr. Bradley Boldizar. Dr. Marissa Cruz is also on faculty.

longer incision on the neck.”

The TCAR procedure was developed by Sunnyvale, California-based Silk Road Medical Inc., and more than 10,000 cases have been performed worldwide through clinical trial and commercial use.

For more information, visit www.nmhs.net/vascular or call Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery Clinic at (662) 377-7170 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).



Vascular surgeon Dr. Joey Stinson (front row, fourth from left) and cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Vishal Sachdev (second from left) performed the first two TransCarotid Artery Revascularization (TCAR) cases at NMMC on Feb. 21.

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 February meeting.

New Studies:

Study: *PENGUIN 1: A Phase 3, Randomized, Double blind, Placebo and Adalimumab-controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Filgotinib in Subjects with Active Psoriatic Arthritis Who Are Naïve to Biologic DMARD Therapy (GS-US-431-4566)*

Investigators: Charles King, M.D. (PI); Marian Boykin, FNP-C

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if filgotinib is effective and safe for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis in subjects who have never had or are not on disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug therapy.

Study: *PENGUIN 2: A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Filgotinib in Subjects with Active Psoriatic Arthritis who have an Inadequate Response or are Intolerant to Biologic DMARD Therapy (GS-US-431-4567)*

Investigators: Charles King, M.D. (PI); Marian Boykin, FNP-C

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine if filgotinib is effective and safe for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis in subjects who do not respond to disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug therapy.

Study: *TORUS 2 – The PQ Bypass Pivotal IDE Intra-arterial Stent Graft Study for Occlusive and Re-Stenotic Fem-Pop Revascularization – 2 Trial*

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

Summary: The purpose of this study is to determine how safety and effective the TORUS Stent Graft System is when used in subjects who have blocked arteries in the lower limbs.

Study: *The SyncAV Post-Market Trial is a Prospective, Randomized, Multicenter Trial Performed to Determine if Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy (CRT) Devices Programmed with SyncAV ON Improve Long-term CRT Response Compared to Devices Programmed with Conventional CRT through Evaluation of Changes in Left Ventricular Reverse Remodeling (CRD-973)*

Investigators: Karl Crossen, M.D. (PI); Karthik Prasad, M.D.; Jim Stone, M.D.; Chris Bell, ACNP; Lee Ferguson, CFNP; Katie McDuffie, CFNP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to evaluate changes in heart size between baseline and 12 months in subjects with a CRT device programmed with SyncAV compared to subjects with standard CRT device settings.

Study: *Randomized, Double-blind, Phase III Study of Tucatinib or Placebo in Combination with Ado-Trastuzumab Emtansine (T DM1) for Subjects with Unresectable Locally Advanced or Metastatic HER2+Breast Cancer (SGNTUC-016)*

Investigators: Charles Montgomery, M.D. (PI); Andrew Kellum, M.D.; Jiahuai Tan, M.D.; Paschal Wilson, M.D.; Ashley Gilliland, ACNP; Jessica Glidewell, ACNP; Tammy Pelegrin, ACNP

Study Renewals:

Study: *Blood Sample Collection to Evaluate Biomarkers in Subjects with Untreated Solid Tumors (ES2018-01)*

Investigators: Paschal Wilson, M.D. (PI); Andrew Kellum, M.D.; Charles Montgomery, M.D.; Jiahuai Tan, M.D.; Ashley Gilliland, NP; Jessica Glidewell, NP; and Tammy Pelegrin, NP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to collect blood samples to better understand the biomarkers of patients with breast, lung, colorectal, prostate, bladder, uterine, kidney, pelvis, pancreatic, liver, stomach, ovarian or esophageal cancer. Enrollment is open.

Study: *COBRA REDUCE – Cobra PzF Stenting to Reduce the Duration of Triple Therapy in Patients Treated with Oral Anticoagulation Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (COBRA 2015-01)*

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; Katie McDuffie, CNP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to collect information about the safety and effectiveness of the COBRA PzF Coronary Stent System in the treatment of new lesions in native coronary arteries with a shortened duration of dual antiplatelet therapy. 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/cme for more information.

April 10

Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

Noon

NMMC North Education Center Room 7/8

NMMC to Offer Lifestyle Medicine Conference

April 3

NMMC will offer a Lifestyle Medicine Conference at 8 a.m. Friday, April 3, in the NMMC North Education Center.

The agenda for the conference includes:

- Josh Lajaunie, co-author of the book "Sick to Fit."
- Richmond McCarty, D.O., will discuss *Plant-Based Nutrition & Reversal of Disease*
- Emily Littlejohn, MS, RD, LD, will discuss *Popular Approaches to Weight Management*
- Sandra Holmes, Ph.D., will discuss *The Science of Food Addiction & Cravings*

- Josie Bidwell, DNP, will discuss *The Development of a Lifestyle Medicine Clinic*

The event will close with a panel discussion.

"I'm very excited to have secured the speaker, co-author of the book 'Sick to Fit,' Josh Lajaunie, who's got a unique story of losing 200 pounds, and having run over 100 miles after tipping the 400-pound mark," says Dr. McCarty, co-director of the Lifestyle Medicine Conference. "One of the goals of the conference is not only to make more people aware, but also making physicians aware and educating them, and incentivizing people of the value of the plant-based diet. Seventy percent of the problems I see on a daily basis consisting of heart disease, diabetes and chronic obesity could all be reversed by using a plant-based diet."

Continuing education credit will be available for health care providers. Lunch will be catered and feature plant-based food and healthy snacks. There is no cost for NMMC employees. The fee for non-NMMC employees is \$50.

For more information, call (662) 377-3826 or visit www.nmhs.net/cme.