



# practice notes

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



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI  
MEDICAL CENTER**

October/November 2020

## **NMMC Earns Three-Year CARF Accreditation**

CARF International recently announced that North Mississippi Medical Center's Rehabilitation Institute has been accredited for a period of three years for its Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs-Hospital (Adult) and Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs-Hospital: Stroke Specialty Program (Adult).

During this survey NMMC received no recommendations, which happens to only 3% of the facilities surveyed by the international accrediting body.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality.

NMMC's Rehabilitation Institute is

a 28-bed unit on the west wing of NMMC-Tupelo's first floor. When an injury or illness requires additional time in the hospital to focus on recovery, NMMC's Rehabilitation Institute helps patients strengthen physical, cognitive, psychological, social and vocational abilities.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF International, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. For more information about the accreditation process, please visit the CARF website at [www.carf.org](http://www.carf.org).

To learn more about NMMC's Rehabilitation Institute, call 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375) or visit [www.nmhs.net/rehabilitation-institute](http://www.nmhs.net/rehabilitation-institute).



*Rehabilitation Institute Nursing Staff*



*Rehabilitation Institute Medical Staff*



*Rehabilitation Institute Therapy Staff*

To submit information, call (662) 377-2371 or email [gacausey@nmhs.net](mailto:gacausey@nmhs.net).  
Visit [www.nmhs.net/practice-notes](http://www.nmhs.net/practice-notes) to read this newsletter online.

## New Heart Valve Device

Mitral regurgitation affects one in 10 adults over age 75 worldwide. Cardiologist Dr. Dane Ballard and cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. David Talton (both wearing green scrubs in the photo below) and NMMC's Heart and Vascular Institute Surgical Services and Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory teams recently implanted the newest generation of a heart valve repair device with enhanced precision capabilities – MitraClip™ – to treat mitral regurgitation. Not everyone is a candidate for surgery because of advanced age, advanced heart failure or other serious medical conditions.

NMMC offers a less-invasive treatment option called transcatheter mitral valve repair using MitraClip. Patients usually go home from the hospital within two to three days and experience improvement in their symptoms and quality of life soon after the procedure. For more information, call Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic of North Mississippi at (662) 377-7170.



## Maternal Fetal Medicine Available in Amory

Maternal fetal medicine specialist Justin Brewer, M.D., now sees high-risk maternity patients at NMMC Gilmore-Amory the second Tuesday of each month.



In 2013, Dr. Brewer launched Mississippi's only maternal fetal medicine program outside of Jackson at the NMMC Women's Hospital in Tupelo. While most initial consultations will continue to be done in the Tupelo clinic, follow-up

appointments may be scheduled at NMMC Gilmore-Amory.

Dr. Brewer is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist who completed a three-year fellowship in maternal fetal medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

Dr. Brewer earned his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson and completed his residency in obstetrics-gynecology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He then completed three years of fellowship training in maternal fetal medicine at UMMC. He is board certified in obstetrics-gynecology.

Dr. Brewer works closely with the mother's ob-gyn, sending test results and recommendations after each office visit. The ob-gyn remains the mother's primary caregiver and will continue to see her for regular visits and, in most cases, delivery.

Services include pre-conception counseling, routine and high-risk obstetric ultrasound, genetic counseling, prenatal diagnostic procedures, targeted sonographic evaluation of fetal anomalies and growth disorders, fetal echocardiography, first trimester aneuploidy screening for Down syndrome and other chromosomal anomalies (nuchal translucency evaluation), second trimester screening, 3D and 4D ultrasound and cell-free fetal DNA (non-invasive prenatal testing). Physician referral is required to see Dr. Brewer.

For more information, call (662) 377-4989 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375), or visit [www.nmhs.net/high-risk-pregnancy](http://www.nmhs.net/high-risk-pregnancy).

## North Mississippi Health Services Welcomes New Providers

NMHS has welcomed several new providers in recent months. For more information on all our new doctors, visit [www.nmhs.net/medical-professionals/](http://www.nmhs.net/medical-professionals/).

## Hamilton Primary Care Center welcomes family physician Diego Hidalgo, M.D.

Dr. Hidalgo is board certified in internal medicine. He received his medical degree from Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador. He completed an internal medicine residency at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, and a geriatrics fellowship at the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida. He is fluent in Spanish and English. Dr. Hidalgo joins Drs. Keri R. Merschman, Cesar Romero, Mary Rose Santiago, Eric Tillotson and nurse practitioners Clayton Cockrell and Ashton Wilbanks at the clinic. Hamilton Primary Care Center is located at 1336 Military Street South, next door to the hospital. For more information, call (205) 921-6496 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).



## Waqas Gilani, M.D., has joined Neurology Consultants of North Mississippi

Dr. Gilani joins Drs. Mark Fletcher, Justin Graff, Donna Harrington and Samuel Newell, and nurse practitioners Jeanne Benson, Lisa Dabbs and Paige Sanders at the clinic, which is located at 845 S. Madison St. For appointment information, call (662) 377-3008 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). Referral is required.

Dr. Gilani earned bachelor's degrees in neuroscience and biochemistry from the University of Toronto in Canada in 2005 and his medical degree from Foundation University Medical College in Pakistan in 2011. He completed an internal medicine residency at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., in 2016 and a neurology residency at JFK Medical Center in Edison, New



Jersey, in 2019. He recently completed a neurophysiology fellowship at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Gilani has served as a clinical research fellow in the Emergency Medicine Department of Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and in the Department of Neurology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He is a member of the American Academy of Neurology.

Dr. Gilani has a special interest in research in comparative demographics and studies of underserved populations.

### **Booneville Medical Clinic recently welcomed two new doctors and added urgent care services and extended hours**

Luke Campbell, M.D., graduated magna cum laude from Millsaps College in Jackson with a bachelor's degree in biology. He received his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.



John Browning, M.D. received his bachelor's degrees in history and psychology from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He completed a master's degree in psychology at the University of Southern



Mississippi in Hattiesburg and his medical degree at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

Both doctors completed their residencies at the North Mississippi Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Center and have been caring for patients in north Mississippi since 2014.

No appointment is needed for urgent care. Hours are from noon-5:45 p.m. on Sunday, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m.-6:45 p.m. Saturday.

Booneville Medical Clinic is located at 1301 N. Second St. For more information, call (662) 728-2071 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375), or visit [www.nmhs.net/booneville-clinic](http://www.nmhs.net/booneville-clinic).

### **Jennifer Kennard, D.O., has joined Rheumatology Consultants, which recently relocated to 408 Council Circle, Suite A**

She joins Dr. Charles King and nurse practitioners Marian Vann Boykin, Janice Riggs Driskell, Maegan Gilliland Flynn, Angel Isabelle Justice and Jenna Allbritton Mordecai. For appointment information, call (662) 377-1130 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375). Referrals are required.



Dr. Kennard earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi State University's Meridian campus. She earned her medical degree from William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg in 2015. She completed an internal medicine residency and rheumatology fellowship, both at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. She served as chief fellow in rheumatology in 2019-2020.

Dr. Kennard is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, and a member of the American College of Rheumatology and American College of Physicians.

### **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 September meeting.

#### **New Studies:**

**Study: ABT NG DES 48 Study - A Clinical Investigation to Assess the Abbott Next Generation Drug Eluting**

### **Stent 48mm Everolimus Eluting Coronary Stent System in Treatment of de novo Native Coronary Artery Disease (ABT-CIP-10321)**

**Investigators:** Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Joseph Adams, M.D.; Dane Ballard, M.D.; Benjamin Blossom, M.D.; Michael Boler, D.O.; Roger Williams, M.D.; Chris Bell, ACNP; Lee Ferguson, ACNP; Katie McDuffie, FNP

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and performance of the ABT NG DES 48 stent for the treatment of long narrowed heart vessel sections in patients with heart disease.

### **Study: TactiFlex PAF IDE - Safety and Effectiveness of TactiFlex™ Ablation Catheter, Sensor Enabled™ (TactiFlex SE) for the Treatment of Drug Refractory, Symptomatic, Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation (ABT-CIP-10303)**

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

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate the TactiFlex SE catheter in delivering energy to the parts of the heart with abnormal electrical activity for treatment of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation.

#### **Study Renewal:**

### **Study: HEART FID – A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Investigate the Efficacy and Safety of Injectafer® (Ferric Carboxymaltose) as Treatment for Heart Failure with Iron Deficiency (1VIT15043)**

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

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to determine if Injectafer® will work to reduce death and hospitalizations associated with heart failure and improve daily function when administered to treat heart failure with iron deficiency and reduced ejection fraction. Enrollment is open.



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## **Continuing Medical Education**

Our top priority is the safety of our patients, staff, physicians and others. In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, in-person continuing education events are temporarily suspended. We encourage you to check out our online education offerings at <https://www.nmhs.net/medical-professionals/continuing-medical-education/online-learning/>. CME credits are available in a wide range of topics, from mental health to infection control.

**2020**  
OUTCOMES CONFERENCE:  
**VIRTUAL**  
**INSANITY**  
THRU OCTOBER 31