



# practice notes



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI  
MEDICAL CENTER**

September 2019

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

## **NMHS Welcomes New Associate Medical Director & Internal Medicine Residency Program Director**

David Pizzimenti, D.O., F.A.C.O.I., joined North Mississippi Health Services July 8 as Associate Medical Officer of Acute Care, which



entails leadership of the hospitalist program. In addition, he will serve as Program Director for the new Internal Medicine Residency Program. In his role, Dr. Pizzimenti will lead efforts in two areas critical to the future of patient care across our system: grow and develop a hospitalist model that will integrate the internal medicine residency and hospitalist programs, and develop and grow an ACGME accredited, region-leading internal medicine

residency program that supports the clinical objectives of NMHS and prepares future hospitalists, general internists and subspecialists to practice within the NMHS system. The system will incorporate virtual care (telehealth) within the hospitalist and internal medicine residency programs to provide inpatient hospitalist coverage across the organization.

NMHS will apply for and develop an internal medicine residency program, targeting July 2021 as the start date for the inaugural class of internal medicine residents. The same rationale that led to the start of the family practice residency program in 1995 is applicable to internal medicine today: a growing need to increase the supply and availability of practicing internal medicine physicians in our system and region. The residency program will train and develop future hospitalists and general internists, and likely some medicine subspecialists. Research demonstrates

that over two-thirds of all medical residents remain within the state in which they trained. Thanks to the family medicine residency program, the number and availability of family medicine physicians in NMHS' service area are greatly improved. A similar trend is expected with the addition of an internal medicine residency program.

Dr. Pizzimenti recently served as program director of the internal medicine residency program and director of the hospitalist program at Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth. Dr. Pizzimenti led the founding of Magnolia's internal medicine residency program in 2007 and later developed their hospitalist group. He has multiple academic and committee appointments, including ACGME's Resident Review Committee for Internal Medicine. He is also on ACGME's subcommittee that creates the training standards for internists and internal medicine

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.

sub-specialists nationally. Dr. Pizzimenti and his wife, Dr. MARRISA CRUZ, have practiced internal medicine in north Mississippi since 2005.

## Dr. Steele Joins West Point Medical Clinic & Urgent Care

Janeè Routh Steele, D.O., has joined West Point Medical Clinic and Urgent Care.

A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dr. Steele earned her bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in political science from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 2006. She completed her master's degree in biomedical science in 2011 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. She earned her medical degree from William Carey College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg in 2015.

After one year with East Central Health Network in Meridian, Dr. Steele completed her family medicine residency at North Mississippi Medical Center in June.

She is a board-certified family physician and a member of the American Medical Association, American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, American Osteopathic Association and American Association of Family Physicians.

Dr. Steele joins Drs. Keith Box, John Browning, Ned Miller, Ronald Powell and Gerald Turner at the clinic, which is located on the east side of the NMMC-West Point campus at 755 Emergency Drive and visible from U.S. Hwy 45.



## Dr. Boler Joins Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

Interventional cardiologist Michael Boler Jr., D.O., has joined Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi.



Dr. Boler earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 2006 from Mississippi State University, where he graduated cum laude and played on the varsity basketball team. He taught biology and chemistry at Lewisburg High School in Olive Branch for a year before starting medical school. He earned his medical degree from DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tenn., in 2011, and was inducted into the Sigma Sigma Phi Honor Society. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson in 2014, where he won the Spirit of the Program Award. He worked as a hospitalist with Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson for a year before fellowship training.

Dr. Boler completed a fellowship in cardiology in 2018 at UMMC, where he served as chief fellow. This July he completed a fellowship in interventional cardiology at UMMC.

Dr. Boler is a member of the American College of Cardiology, American College of Physicians and American Osteopathic Association.

## Local Neurologist Attains Board Re-Certification

Justin Graff, M.D., has recently been re-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in the specialties of neurology and clinical neurophysiology.

Dr. Graff is a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology.

He is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Iowa in biology. He graduated in the top 5 % of his medical school class at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He subsequently did an internship in internal medicine and residency training in neurology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, where he also served as chief resident. He completed fellowship training in clinical neurophysiology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Graff practices adult neurology with Neurology Consultants and joined the medical staff of North Mississippi Medical Center in 1998. He is actively involved in both day-to-day patient care and clinical research.

## myCONNECTION

Dr. Bonnie Basler, a family medicine physician at West Tupelo Medical Clinic, says myConnection, North Mississippi Health Services' new patient portal, is a great resource for patients and providers.

"It's easy to use and gives patients the convenience of connecting with their providers through myConnection instead of playing phone tag. They can see test results, past and present, and they can easily interact with

their care team. They have the ability to get answers to non-urgent questions and request a refill or an appointment,” she said. “Our new portal is a game-changer! Now clinical staff members have a quick, confidential way to communicate with patients. We will be using myConnection to send reminders when vaccinations, mammograms, colonoscopies and other routine health screenings are due. And we’re looking forward to e-visits over the portal in the not-too-distant future.”

To connect with these conveniences, visit [www.my-connection.org](http://www.my-connection.org).

## **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 at the August meeting.

### **Study Renewals:**

**Study: AEGIS II – A Phase III, Multicenter, Double-blind, Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Parallel-group Study to Investigate the Efficacy and Safety of CSL112 in Subjects with Acute Coronary Syndrome (CSL112\_3001)**

**Investigators:** Murray Estess, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to determine how safe and effective CSL112 is at reducing the risk of dying from heart related events, having another heart attack or having a stroke. Enrollment is open.

**Study: The Access Trial – A Phase III, Randomized, Multicenter, Single-Blind Controlled Study Evaluating Arteriovenous Fistula**

### **Outcomes with and without a Perivascular Sirolimus-Eluting Collagen Implant in Subjects on Hemodialysis (VT-304)**

**Investigators:** Thomas Wooldridge, M.D. (PI); Nephrology and Hypertension Associates

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to determine if the experimental drug, Sirolimus-eluting collagen implant, is safe and effective in preventing or reducing the narrowing of the fistula where the implant is applied or placed. Enrollment is open.

### **Study: A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Dose-ranging, Multicenter Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Rifaximin Soluble Solid Dispersion (SSD) Tablets plus Lactulose for the Treatment of Overt Hepatic Encephalopathy (OHE) (RNHE2041)**

**Investigators:** John Phillips, M.D. (PI); Noel Hunt, M.D.; Digestive Health Specialists

**Summary:** The purpose of this study is to determine if the new modified forms of rifaximin are safe and effective for treating overt hepatic encephalopathy. Enrollment is open.



# NORTH MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

830 South Gloster  
Tupelo, MS 38801

Non Profit  
US Postage Paid  
North MS  
Medical Center  
38801

[www.nmhs.net/practice-notes](http://www.nmhs.net/practice-notes)



## 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](http://www.nmhs.net/cme) for more information.

**September 13**

**2019 Oncology Conference**

8:15 a.m.

NMMC North Education Center

**October 11**

**Neuro/Radiology Case Studies**

Noon-1 p.m.

NMMC North Education Center Room 7/8

**September 13**

**Neuro/Radiology Case Studies**

Noon-1 p.m.

NMMC North Education Center Room 7/8

**October 25**

**2019 Endocrine Conference**

7:30 a.m.

NMMC North Education Center

**September 20**

**2019 Geriatric Conference**

7:30 a.m.

NMMC North Education Center