



practice notes



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

December 2021

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

NMMC, UMMC Welcome Neonatology Team to Tupelo NICU

North Mississippi Medical Center and the University of Mississippi Medical Center recently welcomed two new physicians and six nurse practitioners to care for this region's smallest and most critically ill infants.

On July 1, UMMC began managing the 34-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Tupelo, which cares for babies born at NMMC Women's Hospital as

well as those transferred from other north Mississippi hospitals. Recently joining the NICU team at NMMC Women's Hospital are:

Jeanne Nunez, M.D., completed her medical training and pediatrics specialization at University of Paris V Necker Enfants-Malades Hospital in Paris, France. She completed a pediatrics residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, and a neonatology fellowship at the University of Maryland Medical System in Baltimore.

Wambui Waruingi, M.D., began her medical training at University of Nairobi in Kenya. She completed her internal medicine

and pediatrics residency and neonatology fellowship at Case Western Reserve Metro Health Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. She served as a post-doctoral research fellow in immunology and infectious

diseases at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. She also holds a doctorate in public health sciences focused on epidemiology and health management and policy from St. Louis University and earned certification in global health practice from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Kari Anna Adams, NNP, earned her undergraduate and master's degrees in nursing from UMMC in Jackson.

Kelli Carey, NNP, earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus and her master's degree in nursing from the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Brittany Harris, NNP, earned her undergraduate and master's degrees in nursing from the UMMC in Jackson.

Beth Mullins, NNP, earned her undergraduate and masters' degrees in nursing from the UMMC in Jackson.

Anna Kathryn Noel, NNP, completed her both her undergraduate and master's degrees in nursing at UMMC in Jackson.

Charity Tamboli, NNP, earned her associate degree in nursing from



Nunez



Waruingi



Adams



Carey



Harris



Noel



Tamboli

To submit information, call (662) 377-3712 or email drpugh@nmhs.net.

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Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia. She earned her bachelors' degree in nursing from Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis and her masters' degree in nursing from University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Dr. Fischer Joins Neurology Consultants

Esther Fischer, M.D., has joined Neurology Consultants of North Mississippi.

Dr. Fischer received a bachelor's degree in biology and an associate degree in Jewish studies from Yeshiva University, Stern College for Women in New York, New York, in May 2008. She earned her medical degree from St. George's School of Medicine in Grenada in 2013 and completed an internal medicine internship at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey in 2014. In 2018 she completed residency training in adult neurology at Hackensack Meridian Health, JFK Medical Center in Edison, New Jersey. She completed a sleep medicine fellowship in 2019 at Hackensack Meridian Health, where she served as chief fellow.

Since 2019, Dr. Fischer has practiced neurology and neuropsychiatry in Sweden and Norway. She has a special interest in dementia syndromes and sleep disorders, especially sleep apnea, narcolepsy and rapid eye movement (REM) behavior disorder.

Dr. Fischer joins neurologists Drs. Mark Fletcher, Waqas Gilani, Justin Graff, Donna Harrington and Sam Newell and nurse practitioners Jeanne Benson, Lisa Dabbs, Paige Sanders and Erin Smith at the clinic. Referral is required.



NMMC-Tupelo Nets Leapfrog 'A'

NMMC-Tupelo received an "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for

fall 2021. This national distinction recognizes NMMC-Tupelo's achievements in protecting patients from harm and error in the hospital.

"Earning an 'A' for our commitment to patient safety is an important achievement, but for our team to continue to maintain this level of excellence while combating a pandemic is truly special," said David C. Wilson, president for NMMC-Tupelo and chief operating officer for North Mississippi Health Services. "Even as our team responded to the challenges of COVID-19, they kept patients and their families at the center of their efforts."

NMMC-Tupelo is the only Level I or II Mississippi-designated trauma center to receive a grade higher than a C. Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, as a specialty hospital, was the only Level I or II trauma center not included in the Leapfrog report.

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on more than 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, injuries, accidents and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm. For more information, visit www.nmhs.net/leapfrog-2021.

NMMC Earns Stroke Award

NMMC has received the American Heart Association's GoldPlus Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality Achievement Award for their commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines.

Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke helps health professionals provide the most up-to-date, research-based guidelines for treating stroke patients. Each year participants apply for award recognition by demonstrating how



Representing NMMC-Tupelo's Stroke Team are (front row, from left) Dr. Feras Jeradeh-Boursouliau, neurohospitalist; Laura McClung, director of Clinical Quality and Population Outcomes; neurosurgeon Dr. Jason Stacy; (back row, from left) T.J. Adams, NMMC-Tupelo president and NMHS vice president of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Services; Lee Waldrop, clinical nurse manager, Emergency Department; and Lori Forrester, acute care nurse practitioner.



Staff of NMMC's Acute Stroke Unit

their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, participants also provide education to patients to help them manage their health and rehabilitation once at home.

NMMC also received the Association's 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 tPA.

Dr. Bertolet Elected as MS ACC Governor

Interventional cardiologist **Barry Bertolet, M.D.**, of Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi has been elected as Governor-Elect of



the Mississippi chapter of the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Bertolet will be installed as governor in 2022 and will serve a two-year term.

Dr. Bertolet is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and joined Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi in 1997.

Dr. Basler Attains Quality & Management Certification

The American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians (ABQAU-RP) recently announced that **Bonnie Basler, M.D.**, of West Tupelo Medical Clinic and Urgent Care has attained Health Care Quality and Management (HCQM) Certification.



HCQM Certification demonstrates that ABQAURP Diplomates have the practical knowledge and tools to reduce medical errors, ensure patient safety and eliminate waste/unnecessary services, while avoiding potentially harmful delays in care. The result is a safer, more efficient and cost-effective health care system.

In addition to practicing as a family physician, Dr. Basler serves as Medical Director for Quality and Safety for North Mississippi Medical Clinics and Physician Advisor for North Mississippi Medical Center.

NMMC Pathology Accredited by CAP

The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has awarded accreditation to NMMC's Pathology Department based on results of a recent on-site inspection as part of the CAP's Accreditation Programs. In addition to the NMMC-Tupelo Pathology

Department, this accreditation also includes the NMMC Women's Hospital Laboratory and the Respiratory Therapy Department at both facilities.

"It's certainly welcomed and wonderful news, to have the hard work and daily commitment of NMMC's team recognized," said Sherry Okun, M.D., MBA, medical director of NMMC's Pathology Department. "This is an accomplishment to be proud of and exemplifies the laboratory and institution's dedication to provide excellent patient care and continuously strive to improve the health of the people of our region."

Clark Earns Advanced Hospice, Palliative Care Certification

NMMC Hematology and Oncology nurse practitioner **Melinda Clark, AOCNP**, has earned advanced certification from the Hospice and Palliative Certification Center.



Clark is only the ninth advanced practice registered nurse in Mississippi to earn the certification. She was selected to participate in a national course sponsored by the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium as part of the certification process. Certification requires at least 500 practice hours in palliative/hospice care and successful completion of a proctored exam.

Hill Named to National Leadership Council

Kelli Hill, NMHS manager of Clinical Documentation Integrity, has been named to the Association of Clinical Documentation Integrity



Specialists (ACDIS) Leadership Council.

Clinical Documentation Integrity (CDI) is incredibly important as regulators and insurance companies review medical records to ensure quality and safety standards are met and to confirm billed charges match the care delivered. Clinical documentation specialists (CDS) are nurses who work with physicians to ensure all medical record documentation is complete and accurate. Hill leads the CDS staff throughout NMHS hospitals and spearheaded the team which established the inaugural NMHS Physician Advisor Panel.

IRB Update

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 on October 21, 2021.

New Studies

Study: A Real-World Comparative Effectiveness Trial of Treatment Strategies in Patients with rheumatoid Arthritis: The RA-PROPR Pragmatic Trial (05312021)

Investigators: Charles King, M.D. (PI); Marian Boykin, FNP; Robyn Dalton, FNP ; Janice Driskell, FNP; Maegan Flynn, FNP; Jenna Mordecai, FNP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to assess whether the addition of a TNFbiologic (tumor necrosis factor inhibitor) medication to methotrexate is superior to adding a targeted synthetic DMARD medication to methotrexate for people with active rheumatoid arthritis despite current methotrexate treatment.

Study: A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of ABBV-154 in Subjects with Moderately to Severely Active Rheumatoid Arthritis with Inadequate Response to Biologic



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Studies Continued

and/or Targeted Synthetic Disease-modifying Anti-rheumatic Drugs (b/tsDMARDs) (M20-466)

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

Summary: The purpose of this study is to evaluate how safe and effective ABBV-154 is in participants treated for moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.

Study: *RESPECT-ISR – Resveratrol Excipient Paclitaxel Coated Balloon for Coronary Treatment (BIS-CL-5001)*

Investigators: Dane Ballard, M.D. (PI); Joseph Adams, M.D.; Barry Bertolet, 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 effectiveness of this study device in preventing the recurrence of stent blockage in patients.

Study: *Disrupt PAD BTK II – Prospective, Multicenter, Single-arm Study of the Shockwave Medical*

Peripheral Intravascular Lithotripsy (IVL) System for Treatment of Calcified Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) in Below-the-Knee (BTK) Arteries (CP 65007)

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, FNP

Summary: The purpose of this study is to further investigate the safety and effectiveness of the Shockwave medical device in the arteries below the knee.



Continuing Medical Education

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