

practice notes



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

August 2019

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

Dr. Turner Joins West Point Medical Clinic & Urgent Care

Family physician Gerald Turner, M.D., of Columbus has joined West Point Medical Clinic and Urgent Care.



Dr. Turner earned a bachelor's degree from Delta State University in Cleveland and his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson in 1990. He completed an internship and residency training, both in family medicine, at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He joined North Mississippi Medical Clinics in 1993 working at the former Lowndes Medical Clinic in Columbus. Dr. Turner is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. He is a member of the American Medical Association, Mississippi State Medical Association, Northeast Mississippi Medical Association and

American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Turner joins Drs. Keith Box, John Browning, Ned Miller and Ronald Powell 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. The clinic is part of the North Mississippi Medical Clinics network.

NMMC Announces Use of SpaceOAR® Hydrogel for Prostate Cancer Radiation

North Mississippi Medical Center recently became the first in north Mississippi to offer a new technology for men choosing to undergo radiation therapy for prostate cancer. The new addition, SpaceOAR hydrogel, is a protective spacer between the prostate and the rectum. It has been clinically proven to reduce the risk of side effects during and after radiation treatment.

Radiation therapy is a common and effective first-line treatment for

prostate cancer. However, side effects can negatively impact a patient's quality of life.

SpaceOAR is a minimally invasive outpatient procedure performed by a urologist before radiation treatments begin.

"We want to treat the whole patient, not just their cancer," said NMMC urologist Dr. Stephen Farmer. "Many times prostate cancer can be cured, but what is that patient's life going to look like afterward? This simple procedure is leading to much better quality of life for our patients."

In April 2015, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cleared SpaceOAR hydrogel. In a prospective, randomized, multi-center clinical trial in the United States, patients treated with SpaceOAR hydrogel prior to prostate cancer radiation treatment demonstrated bowel, urinary and sexual benefits through a median of three years of follow-up. The study found that the patients who did not receive SpaceOAR hydrogel experienced a clinically significant decline in bowel, urinary and sexual quality of life eight times more often than

patients who received SpaceOAR hydrogel.

The procedure is performed under local or general anesthesia, and patients can immediately resume their normal activities. The gel stays in place for approximately three months and is then naturally absorbed and cleared in the urine in about six months.

NMMC offers radiation oncology in Tupelo and Starkville.

For more information, on urology procedures, call (662) 377-7100. For more information on radiation oncology services, call (662) 377-4077. For more information on SpaceOAR, visit SpaceOAR.com.

Wilson Earns Doctorate in Nursing Practice

Dorothy Wilson, DNP, FNP-C, a nurse practitioner with NMMC's Heart and Vascular Institute, has recently earned her Doctorate of



Nursing Practice from the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

Wilson works in the NMMC Heart and Vascular Institute's Electrophysiology Department. A native of northwest Missouri, Wilson served five years of active duty with the U.S. Army. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in information technology from Strayer University before becoming a nurse.

She moved to Plantersville in 2005 with her husband, Richard Wilson. She earned her associate degree in nursing from Itawamba Community College in Fulton in 2010 and her bachelor's degree in nursing in 2011 from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. In 2016 she earned her master's degree in nursing from the University of South Alabama.

Wilson joined the NMMC

staff in 2012 as a nurse on 3 South. In 2013 she transferred to the Chest Pain Center and Cardiac Observation Unit. She assumed her current position in Electrophysiology in 2017.

For more information about NMMC's Heart and Vascular Institute, visit www.nmhs.net/heart-vascular.

New Treatment for Lung Disorders

NMMC now offers a new option for patients who develop a leak in their lungs after lung surgery.

"Sometimes after surgery for lung cancer or COPD patients develop a leak in their lungs that won't heal," said pulmonologist Jaime Ungo, M.D. "This new valve is an easy way to treat that leak without having to have a long-term chest tube or another surgery."

Dr. Ungo worked to bring this treatment option to Tupelo after he had a patient develop this problem.

"It was a difficult case of a hospitalized patient who developed this leak, and I knew that this new valve had recently gotten approved by the FDA and knew it was something that needed to be available here for our patients," Dr. Ungo said.

He and his colleagues were soon trained on inserting the valve, which is placed during an outpatient procedure.

"The valve goes inside of the lung and keeps air from going in, but lets air out," Dr. Ungo said. "It gives the leak a chance to heal on its own."

This treatment option can improve lung function and exercise capacity, and increase quality of life. It is designed to be removable, preserving future treatment options.

"We now have an option for patients who did not have any before," Dr. Ungo said. "It's been around for 10 to 12 years in research – I've just been waiting for it to be available."

Spees to Serve as Chairman of MHA's Board of Governors

The Mississippi Hospital Association announces the appointment of Shane Spees as the Chairman/System Representative of the organization's Board of Governors.



Spees succeeds Lester K. Diamond, who previously held the title in 2018.

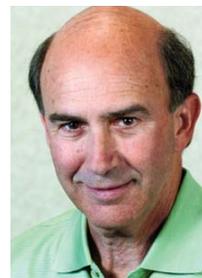
Spees currently serves as president and chief executive officer of North Mississippi Health Services in Tupelo. Before joining NMHS in 2014, Spees served as president and CEO for Baptist Health System in Birmingham, Alabama.

Spees earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Mississippi, a master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of Houston at Clear Lake, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Spees and his wife, Parker Hilbun Spees, have two children, Addy Parker and Michael.

McGraw named Trustee of the Year by MHA

Robin McGraw, member and former chairman of North Mississippi Health Services Board of Directors, was named the 2019



Trustee of the Year for the Mississippi Hospital Association. The presentation was made at the MHA's 88th Annual Leadership Conference, held June 5-7, in Point Clear, Ala.

The award was presented to

McGraw by Shane Spees, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Hospital Association. Presentation of the award is made to an individual who has demonstrated significant contributions in the field of hospital governance over a sustained period of time.

Recipients are chosen from a pool of nominations of hospital board chairmen, other trustees, and hospital chief executive officers by a selection committee appointed by the chairman of the MHA Board of Governors.

McGraw joined the North Mississippi Medical Center Board of Trustees in 2002 and served until 2012. He served as Chairman of the Board from 2006 until 2010. McGraw was also selected in 2004 to serve on the North Mississippi Health Services board which he chaired from 2013 until 2018 and continues to presently serve.

During his tenure at NMMC, the system experienced significant growth. The system recruited approximately 100 new physicians and 85 additional advanced practitioners. The system's growth during that timeframe also included significant gains in market share, additional services and capabilities added to all hospitals within the system, and the introduction of telehealth services to the system's many methods of delivering care.

McGraw earned a bachelor's degree in banking and finance from the University of Mississippi and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law. McGraw currently serves as executive chairman of Renasant Corporation and Renasant Bank. McGraw and his wife, Mimi, have two children and three grandchildren. They attend First United Methodist Church, where he is a past treasurer and a member of the administrative board.

myConnection Enrollments

This spring marked the launch of a new electronic medical record. myConnection allows patients to request medical appointments, view their health summary, view test results, request prescription renewals, access trusted health information resources, and communicate electronically and securely with their medical care team. There is also the added convenience of online bill pay. Visit www.myconnection.org/mychart/ to learn more.



Congratulations to the staff at South Madison Medical Clinic for having the highest percentage of myConnection enrollments at a single location within North Mississippi Clinics in April. They are front row, from left, Vicky Kaspar-Reeder, office manager; Billy Walton, D.O.; Lauren Waldrop, FNP; and back row, Cassandra Betts, admission/discharge clerk; Amanda Kirby, admission/discharge clerk; Linda "Diane" Weeden, CLPN; and Morgan Smith, RTR.



Congratulations to the staff at West Tupelo Medical Clinic for having the highest percentage of myConnection enrollments at a single location within North Mississippi Clinics in May. The staff includes front row,

from left, Deundra McGee, Jackie Acosta, Christy Holloway, Vanity Hodges, Will Jennings, M.D., Charles Abavare, D.O., Hanna Hollis, Shelia Riggs, back row, Mandy Nichols, Lee Ann Houpt, Ciara McKinney, Sherita Boykin, Amy O'Daniel, Amanda Reynolds and Julie Palmer, D.O.

IRB Approves New Study

The NMHS Institutional Review Board (IRB) currently oversees more than 80 biomedical and behavioral studies. The IRB meets monthly and the following new study was approved at the July meeting.

Study: SHIELD II PIVOTAL – HeartMate PHP™ Supporting Patients Undergoing High-Risk PCI Using a High-Flow Percutaneous Left Ventricular Support Device (IDE #G150079)

Investigators: Barry Bertolet, M.D. (PI); Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi

Summary: The purpose of this study is to evaluate HeartMate PHP when used in patients who are undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention procedures, such as angioplasty and/or stent placement, but are not candidates for coronary artery bypass graft surgery.



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



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.

August 9

Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

Noon-1 p.m.
NMMC North Education Center Room 7/8

August 21-24

Rocking the Best Outcomes Conference

Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa, Florence, Ala.
Visit www.nmhs.net/cme for more information.

September 13

2019 Oncology Conference

8:15 a.m.
NMMC North Education Center
Call (662) 377-7239 for more information or to register.

September 13

Neuro/Radiology Case Studies

Noon-1 p.m.
NMMC North Education Center Room 7/8

September 20

Geriatric Conference

7:30 a.m.
NMMC North Education Center
Call (662) 377-7239 for more information or to register.