



PROFILES IN CARDIOLOGY

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AROUND THE REGION:

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Curry Joins Sylvester
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Center Page 32

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February 2023

THE REGION'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS & PHYSICIANS

OUR 19TH YEAR SERVING THE HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY!

Education



Dr. Bryan Stewart

Miami Dade College Medical Campus: Academics Live-from-the- Workplace

BY BARBARA R. FALLON

Whether you are a freshly graduated, enthusiastic high school alum, a seasoned health care practitioner looking to climb the management ladder, a transitioning career student or a returning to the workforce parent seeking to embark on your dream of a health career, Miami Dade College has designed custom programs to meet your needs. They offer more than 300 distinct degree pathways including associate and baccalaureate degrees, career certificates and apprenticeships through an accredited academic portfolio of online, on-site, flexible pace and hybrid activities.

Miami Dade College Medical Campus President, Bryan Stewart, Ph.D., arrived in 2018 to lead plans to upgrade the health curriculum clinical experience via a simulation hospital on the Medical Campus and graduate students with a live-from-the-workplace knowledge that balances academics with contemporary field experience. That started during the first quarter of 2019 when more than 1,600 students participated. Approximately 60% nursing-bound and close to 40% other health science students were immersed in

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Cardiology

Expert Cardiac Care and Emerging Technologies Help Advanced Heart Failure Patients Improve Quality of Life

BY KERTING BALDWIN,
ED.D., APR

Heart failure continues to grow in prevalence, affecting approximately six million adults in the U.S., a number that is expected to increase 50% by 2030. While many factors account for this trend - including an aging population, persistent risk factors in the population, and improved longevity - it is clear communities and hospitals will be significantly impacted, given the financial and labor resources required to treat the disease.

To address these issues, Memorial Cardiac and Vascular Institute has developed a dedicated team that manages heart failure, especially in its advanced stages. The

Continued on page 24



Dr. Michael Cortelli



Dr. Iani Patsias

Education

Mountasser Kadrie: Teaching and Mentoring Future Healthcare Leaders at FAU

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Mountasser Kadrie's interest in the academic space and teaching was natural and meaningful. The healthcare industry is a vast and complex field needing forward-thinking and change agents to transform it and to build and support resilient organizations and communities, according to Professor Kadrie, a professor in the Executive and Online Master of Healthcare Administration at Florida Atlantic University (FAU).

"With my many years of professional experience in the field, relevant knowledge of the U.S. healthcare delivery system, and deep understanding of core issues and competencies needed, I felt a strong need to share this knowledge and guide/mentor future healthcare leaders," says Professor Kadrie. "I thought teaching and mentoring students/learners was and still is the way to do it."

Professor Kadrie says he joined FAU because it is an incredible academic institution that supports student learning and success and progress

"FAU has great students who take their learning seriously and are challenged to become future leaders and change agents in their professional fields," he says.

In his 25 years in the healthcare industry, Professor Kadrie served in various senior executive leadership positions at world-class universities and institutions with a deep affinity for excellence in healthcare mission. He embraced and promoted a cherished cul-



Mountasser Kadrie

Continued on page 14



Mary Mayhew

A Much-Needed Boost for Florida's Hospitals

BY MARY MAYHEW

Just before the end of 2022, Congress passed and the President signed an omnibus budget bill to fund government operations through the end of September. The legislation includes a number of much-needed policies to support and advance the health care system, beleaguered after nearly three years of the pandemic. The legislation:

- Waives the statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Medicare 4% sequester for two years;
- Extends the low-volume and Medicare-dependent hospital programs;
- Creates 200 new Medicare-funded GME slots, beginning in 2026;
- Extends the Acute Hospital Care at Home waiver for two years;
- Extends the public health emergency telehealth waivers, including coverage and payment for audio-only telehealth services, for two years; and
- Reduces the Medicare physician fee schedule cut from 4.5% to 2% for 2023 and 3% for 2024.

The legislation acknowledges the successes of innovations spurred by the pandemic, including the hospital-at-home program and telehealth waivers. The telehealth waiver, for example, led to exponential growth in the number of Medicare beneficiaries using telehealth services. Prior to the pandemic, just 1% of Medicare beneficiaries used telehealth services. During the first year of the pandemic, more than 28 million Medicare beneficiaries used them,

Continued on page 10

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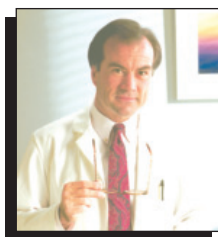


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Publisher's Note

Call Me Nurse Charles

This year the Felix household decided to start the New Year off with a BOGO, instead of a bang. In early January Carol decided to go with a 2-for-1 — and had neck and back surgery rolled into one hospital stay and subsequent recuperation. Needless to say, that means I dusted off my Superman cape, becoming the resident chef, driver, and healthcare aide. (In the interests of full disclosure, I did have some awesome assistance from my sister Fran and sister-in-law Bobbi.) But regardless of lots of extra help, it's been a long January and February isn't looking too good either.



As happens each time Carol is on the D/L, I quickly realize while I may be a Jack of all trades I definitely am a master of none. And while healthcare is my "beat," a hands-on healthcare provider, I certainly am not. Kudos and thanks to all the doctors, nurses and staff at the Marcus Neuroscience Institute for taking such exemplary care of Carol. I'm afraid you set a very high bar that I have yet to vault ... not even close.

Charles Felix



You can reach Charles Felix at
Charles@southfloridahospitalnews.com

FREE MED MAL EXPERT REVIEW



HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR MED MAL POLICY?

It's no longer just a matter of signs hinting at a hardening market. Indisputable evidence is now at the forefront. Malpractice rates are going up across the board. Weaker malpractice carriers are being placed into receivership or sold. Juries in Florida are making shockingly high awards. And this is only the beginning.

ISN'T IT TIME YOUR MED MAL POLICY GOT A CHECKUP?

Risk Strategies will perform a no-obligation comprehensive review of your current malpractice coverage. Few doctors and administrators have an in-depth knowledge of their coverage or insurer and may not be asking all the right questions. For instance, do you know the following about your coverage:

- Are the policy exclusions outlined and clearly defined?
- Do you have full or just limited rights to consent to any lawsuit settlement?
- Is defense coverage offered outside or inside the limits of liability?
- What are the "tail" provisions upon termination of the policy?
- How is your corporation, professional association or other entity covered?

These are just a few of the questions you should be asking in this volatile market. It's not too late for a no-obligation medical malpractice insurance review, just contact Risk Strategies at **800.966.2120** or matt@dannagracey.com.

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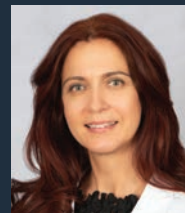
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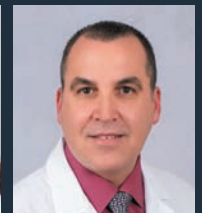
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The Ultimate Guide to Be A Successful Healthcare Board Member

What Every Healthcare Board Member Should Know

Healthcare reform and enhanced regulatory matters are making healthcare more complicated and challenging for board members than ever before. Hospitals have varying types of leadership structures, depending on their size and whether they are private, for-profit entities or nonprofit hospitals. Overall, hospital care is changing from volume-based care to value-based care, which means that boards of members need to make key changes in their objectives and strategic goals while maintaining financial sustainability for the hospital and quality of care for their patients.



BY BEN ASSAD MIRZA, ESQ., LLM, MPHA

What are the Board Members' Roles?

In brief, we can break down the board's role into three primary roles as following:

- 1) The Role of Policymaking:** Well-written policies lead to more efficient board functioning, define focus and differentiate responsibilities among the board, the management, and the medical staff. It is important for boards to review their policies every year to make sure they're still effective and continually updated.
- 2) The Role of Decision-Making:** Boards make decisions about issues that are strategic and significant, such as whether to enter an affiliation agreement with another organization. Decision making involves making choices about the organization's vision, mission, and strategies, such as whether to enter an affiliation agreement with another organization. As decision makers, they can also delegate non-governance types of decisions to others.
- 3) The Role of Oversight:** Boards should ensure that every decision would reflect the organization devotion to quality and ensuring that management has all the proper mechanisms in place to provide the assurance of quality within the scope of the organization. Boards should also have plans in place to monitor implementation of policies.

What are the Board Members' Responsibilities?

Responsibilities: Boards oversee management, finances, and quality; set strategic direction; build community relationships; establish ethical standards, values, and compliance; and select a CEO and monitor his or her progress. Boards are called to consider elements in the environment such as growing competition and changing patterns of care and develop strategic thrusts, goals, and tactics that respond to the environment, all the while showing the organization's values.

Most susceptible risks facing Board Members:

The bigger the responsibility the bigger the risks that come with it. The following are some of the potential risks that you might face as a board member:

- a) Operational Risk:** Workplace safety, infection control, equipment, etc.
- b) Human Capital Risk:** Employment practices, vetting, terminations, shifts, etc.
- c) Strategic Risk:** Reimbursement, competition, alliances, and affiliations, etc.
- d) Legal & Regulatory Risk:** Compliance, AKS and Stark Laws
- e) Technological Risk:** Electronic health records, robotic surgery, bar coding, failing to implement technology
- f) Hazard and General:** Storms, fire, aging infrastructure

Overall, no matter what skills, talents, and expertise an individual brings to their board, there's always room for improvement.

Learn more about the business side of medicine. Join us on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm for "Board Member Orientation – Leadership and Survival" webinar. Signup at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEIf-GsqD4iHdD0hJCE7TsIRpPI_Xj6D89k. Hosted by South Florida Hospital News and Healthcare Report

If you have any questions, contact Ben Mirza, Mirza|Healthcare Law Partners, at call/text (954) 445-5503 or email BAM@MirzaHealthLaw.com.

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Miami Cancer Institute Global Summit on Immunotherapies for Hematologic Malignancies



**Guenther Koehne,
M.D., Ph.D.**

Deputy Director and Chief of
Blood and Marrow Transplant
and Hematologic Oncology,
Miami Cancer Institute

Live Summit

Friday-Saturday, March 10-11, 2023

Summit Director: Guenther Koehne, M.D., Ph.D.

MiamiCancerInstitute.com/HematologicMalignancies

This two-day symposium is designed to provide an overview and opportunity to learn about the most recent advances in the treatment of acute myeloid leukemia, acute lymphoid leukemia, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, allogeneic stem cell transplants and CAR T-cell therapies.

Updates on evolving immunologically and molecular-based system therapies will be profiled and discussed.

Use **#MCIImmunotherapySummit** to join the conversation.

Speakers will include:

Juliet Barker, M.D.

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Adam Cohen, M.D.

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Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

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Six Steps to Check Up On: Organizational Transformation and Margin Improvement in Healthcare

Today's market environment has created some difficult challenges for healthcare organizations with 69% of health system strategic planners reporting operating margins below pre-pandemic performance in 2022. While contending with the continued impact of COVID, labor shortages, declining reimbursements, evolving payment models, and increased competition from non-traditional players and the migration to ambulatory and home care settings, healthcare organizations are finding that traditional methods of operational cost reduction and revenue enhancement will not be enough to remain viable.

Healthcare leaders will want to consider bold initiatives that extend across the organization to achieve real improvement. These 6 steps can help identify and execute opportunities that drive margin performance and sustainability:

1. Execute on cost and revenue advantages that differentiate you from the competition and drive margin improvement.
2. Identify balance sheet opportunities to achieve additional financial flexibility.
3. Advance consumer centric strategies that address the unique needs of your market.
4. Adopt digital technologies, automation and data driven analytics that enhance your organization's competitive advantage and drive growth.
5. Prioritize "collaboration and partnership" business models including outsourcing and managed services to achieve operational efficiencies.
6. Reinvest cost savings in talent development and retention, innovation, and performance improvement.



BY ALEXANDER
BINELO

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FICPA Health Care Conference

The FICPA's 2023 Annual Health Care Industry Conference brings together experts in the field providing the latest data, resources, and insights to explore the most pressing issues facing the health care accounting and business community. Our conference this year will be hosted at a new location, the Loews Royal Pacific Resort – Universal Orlando, May 25 – 26, 2023. This is great opportunity to stay and play in Orlando.

Mr. Tommy Inzina, retired CEO of Baycare Health Systems, will be our featured opening keynote and share "Lessons Learned Over My 30 Years in Health Care." We will also have sessions on Health Care Private Equity, Fraud in Health Care, Cybersecurity in Health Care to include Ransomware, and Update from Washington DC, Tax Exempt updates, PIP Update, Accounting and Auditing Update, and more.

We hope that you can join us to network with your colleagues and industry partners as we come together to help you and your organization.

Register online at ficpa.org/hcc.

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Malpractice Insurance

EXPERT ADVICE

Does Your Cyber Policy Cover What You Need?

BY VANESSA ORR

In January 2023, T-Mobile announced that 37 million customers' accounts had been breached by hackers, despite having gone through extensive cybersecurity measures after a previous breach had occurred. What this shows, unfortunately, is that even the largest companies can be at risk of cybercrime—which is why healthcare providers should, in addition to risk management measures, make sure that they're covered with comprehensive cyber policies.

"When you talk about cybercrimes, healthcare is always among the top five industries targeted," said Bill Gompers, CFE, vice president, Risk Strategies Company | Danna-Gracey. "They have a large amount of personal information, and it's often fairly easy for hackers to get in."

Cybercrime usually takes one of three forms, which most cyber policies cover, according to Gompers. This includes ransomware requests in which a hacker encrypts a practice's files and won't unlock them until paid a ransom, and wire fraud and social engineering, in which funds are transferred to someone pretending to be someone else within the company.



Bill Gompers

"For example, the chief financial officer gets an email from the company's CEO saying that they need to pay XYZ company \$50,000, with an attached invoice," said Gompers, "only that email is not from the real CEO."

Hackers can also gain access to employees' emails or breach the employer network through a process known as phishing.

What many healthcare professionals do not realize, however, is that not all cyber policies are the same, and they may not be adequately covered.

"Policies have a dollar amount listed for each claim and an aggregate amount of coverage for the year, but most also have sub-limits for various exposures," said Gompers, noting that the limits and sub-limits aggregate is usually inclusive of costs and expenses.

It's important to look at the types of issues that are covered in each policy, and to understand what the different terms mean. Some examples, as outlined in the declaration pages of policy proposals include:

- **Breach Response:** The insurance company will provide specialists to come into a company and assist them following a

breach. This may include providing expert forensic advice, legal advice, notifying customers, public relations, credit monitoring of affected parties and rebuilding data that was lost.

- **Business Interruption and Extra Expense:** This covers any financial loss from a failure of security, a data breach or system failure, as well as extra expenses to bring the company back online. Some policies will cover computer replacement if they have been damaged beyond repair by malware.

- **Computer fraud:** This covers the theft of funds stolen through cyber methods and the transfer of property or money to an outside party.

- **Cyber Extortion:** This is coverage for damages done due to a breach, which includes ransom payments to restore a system.

- **Healthcare Billing Errors and Omissions:** This helps to pay for an expert defense, as well as fines and penalties associated with unintentional overbilling of government or commercial payors.

"When looking for a cyber policy, you really need to go with a broker that has extensive experience in cyber insurance and security in the healthcare field," said Gompers of the many options available. "Some carriers offer risk analysis of your existing system and will monitor your company while the policy is in effect to

alert you if something is happening or if issues are imminent.

"Considering that an average breach costs in the \$200,000-\$300,000 range to rectify, it's really important that you have the right kind of insurance," he added.

How to Prevent Cybercrime

Considering what can be lost, companies need to take a proactive approach to preventing cybercrime.

"Owners and the board need to make cyber risk a priority; if it doesn't flow from the top, nobody will take it seriously," said Gompers. "Once top management is involved, you need to develop and define what your risk tolerance is, and then develop and implement a plan of risk management policies."

This can include educating staff on cyber policies; limiting access to certain types of sites; implementing cyber policies and practices for staff working from home, and sometimes requiring employees to only conduct business through a company portal. "While cybercrime is definitely on the rise, there are some things you can do to try to avoid it," said Gompers. "And educating your employees is a big part of it."

For more information, contact Bill Gompers at bill@dannagracey.com, (888) 777-7173 or visit www.dannagracey.com.

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Tampa General Hospital's Cancer Institute Awarded Coveted Accreditation from Commission on Cancer

With multiple locations in Palm Beach County, the TGH Cancer Institute has experienced tremendous growth since its establishment in 2021, providing patients across Florida with high-quality, compassionate care and the lifesaving resources of one of Florida's leading academic medical centers.

The Tampa General Hospital (TGH) Cancer Institute, which has several locations in Palm Beach County, recently earned a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Cancer (CoC), a quality program established by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). With this accreditation, the TGH Cancer Institute is recognized for meeting 34 quality care standards, taking a multidisciplinary approach to delivering high-quality, patient-centered cancer care and demonstrating a commitment to improving patient outcomes and quality of life for all cancer patients.

"We set out to build a cancer institute of the future that excels in cancer research, clinical investigations, prevention and control and we have spent the past several years devoting significant energy and resources and acquiring the brightest talent to bring that vision to life," said John Couris, president and CEO of TGH. "Our team is tremendously proud of this accreditation, which is a testament to the unparalleled expertise and quality of care we offer our patients and community across the continuum of cancer care services."

TGH's demonstrated commitment to the highest-quality cancer care is giving new hope and resources to patients across the state. The TGH Cancer Institute has expanded to several Palm Beach County locations staffed by specially trained physicians and nurses to increase the community's access to world-class, innovative cancer care. TGH experts partner with patients to manage all aspects of their cancer care journey – from diagnosis to survivorship and everything in between. Should advanced treatment be needed, local patients who see TGH Cancer Institute doctors in Palm Beach County can now seamlessly transfer to TGH through the TGH Health Ambassador Program. Patients who receive treatment on the West Coast return home to receive follow-up care from their local doctors.

"The TGH Cancer Institute is dedicated to providing the most advanced testing,



State-of-the-art technology is one of the ways the Tampa General Hospital Cancer Institute provides the highest-quality care and improves patient outcomes. The TrueBeam system ensures cancer patients get the exact dose of radiation, precisely where they need it.

next-generation research, therapies, treatment and patient care because we recognize the importance of treating the whole person, not the condition. When fighting cancer, every decision impacts patients' lives and every advantage needs to be identified," said Thomas Rutherford, M.D., medical director of the TGH Cancer Institute and professor and director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. "We are proud of the personalized care plans we provide to patients through our patient navigation program, which has helped us establish relationships with local oncologists, radiologists and other physicians to manage our patients' care together. We also continue to invest in growing our services, as well as our physical footprint, to better support and reach more patients."

CoC-accredited facilities diagnose and/or treat more than 70 percent of all newly diagnosed patients with cancer. The CoC accreditation provides the framework for accredited facilities to further enhance

the quality of patient care through various cancer-related programs that focus on the full spectrum of cancer care, including prevention, early diagnosis, cancer staging, optimal treatment, rehabilitation, lifelong follow up for recurrent disease and end-of-life care.

TGH has created a framework of state-of-the-art services for patients in the Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast areas, with the expertise and innovation of a pre-eminent academic medical center.

TGH has been the primary teaching hospital of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine since the school was created in the early 1970s. Today, more than 700 medical school residents and fellows receive specialty training at TGH in areas ranging from general internal medicine to neurosurgery. In addition, USF medical, nursing, pharmacy, and physical therapy students all receive part of their training at TGH. Faculty of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine admit and care for patients at TGH, as do private practice physicians, many of whom also serve as adjunct clinical faculty at USF.

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Can Hospitals Make a Play in the Trillion-Dollar Plus Wellness Market?



BY CALVIN GLIDEWELL

Let's face it—the healthcare business isn't really about health at all; it's a disease care industry. And, yes, disease care is big business. About 18% of the gross domestic product is estimated to be spent on healthcare financing and delivery. And that percentage is growing; it was 5% in 1960, 12% in 1990, 17% in 2010, and will likely grow to over 20% by 2030.¹

Obviously, we have all benefited greatly as a society by the fantastic growth in technology and the unflagging commitment of our healthcare workforce. But the trend of escalating costs does beg the question: is that level of growth sustainable or even desirable?

One of the most impactful slides I have seen recently is from Kaiser Health News:²

So how can we as healthcare administrators and practitioners position ourselves to benefit from the explosive consumer interest in wellness and the phenomenal growth of the wellness industry? Following are ten steps to consider in repositioning your healthcare system to be not just a purveyor of disease treatment, but a true pillar of wellbeing in your community.

1. Leadership should champion a wellbeing cultural change in the institution.
2. Use your institution as a living laboratory to help your employees and partners live healthier lives.
3. Commit to a hygienic physical work environment by analyzing what you can do to make your workforce safer and healthier.
4. Choose the right lifestyle or functional medicine physician partners.
5. Migrate your wellness programs to the general community.
6. Consider partnering with an established wellness industry leader.
7. Offer digital diagnostic tools to monitor the health of your patients.
8. Develop a clinical program incorporating both genomics and lifestyle in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.
9. Offer retail products and services to meet the wellness needs of your community.
10. Adopt the right metrics to determine the success of your wellness efforts. Metrics should be captured and monitored at the individual, institutional, and community levels.

For a more in-depth explanation of each of these steps, visit www.southfloridahospitalnews.com.

So there you have it—an enormous opportunity to capitalize on the fast-growing consumer wellness market and a few implementation strategies to consider. Of course, not every strategy will work for every institution. It's important to understand the uniqueness of your community and to respond to your market's specific needs. And there are lots of hurdles—resource constraints, capacity constraints, capital constraints—to consider. But make no mistake about it—there is a huge market and a ravenous consumer appetite for wellness and longevity services. I encourage you to think broadly, holistically, and innovatively in your offerings. Build a program you are proud of and can sustain. You already serve the noble causes of treating disease and saving lives, and with dedication and innovation, you can also become the bellwether of health and longevity in your community.

Calvin Glidewell is President of inspirEx Healthcare Strategies.

1. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/184968/us-health-expenditure-as-percent-of-gdp-since-1960/>
2. <https://www.kff.org/other/slide/the-u-s-has-the-lowest-life-expectancy-among-large-wealthy-countries-while-far-outspending-them-on-health-care/>
3. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/consumer-packaged-goods/our-insights/feeling-good-the-future-of-the-1-5-trillion-wellness-market>

The U.S. Has the Lowest Life Expectancy Among Large, Wealthy Countries While Far Outspending Them on Health Care

Life expectancy (2021) and per capita healthcare spending (2021 or nearest year)

Country	Life expectancy	Health spending, per capita
United States	76.1	\$12,318
United Kingdom	80.8	\$5,387
Germany	80.9	\$7,383
Austria	81.3	\$6,693
Netherlands	81.5	\$6,190
Belgium	81.9	\$5,274
Comparable Country Average	82.4	\$6,003
France	82.5	\$5,468
Sweden	83.2	\$6,262
Australia	83.4	\$5,627
Switzerland	84.0	\$7,179
Japan	84.5	\$4,666

Peterson KFF
Health System Tracker

The graphic shows that the United States spends two to three times as much on healthcare per capita than most other developed countries without a commensurate rise in the life expectancy of its citizens. And although life expectancy may not be the definitive measure of health, it's a good indicator of return on investment and cost of care. Clearly the U.S. is an outlier, and not in a good way.

So, is there some way to substantially affect this not-so-good outcome? If we invest more in keeping people healthy as opposed to treating them when they are already sick, can we substantially bend the cost curve and end up with a healthier society?

The idea of keeping people healthy and living longer is not a particularly novel concept. There is already a substantial \$1.5 trillion wellness industry, and it is growing precipitously.³ Much of this is due to the spectacular growth in the science of wellness, that is, what it takes to keep people healthy.

The universally accepted foundations for good health and wellness include a well-rounded diet, regular exercise, healthy behaviors, a toxin-free environment, good sleep patterns, good genes, and a healthy social network. But beyond these core tenets, we are now beginning to understand the “phenomics” of health. Phenomics is the study of how genes, environment, and behavior affect the onset of disease. We are at the cusp of beginning to identify the true drivers of health, the predictors of disease, and the levers of longevity at a cellular and molecular level. (If you haven't read the recent Scientific American custom media publication “The New Science of Wellness,” you should stop now and read it; you won't regret it.

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Cover Story: A Much-Needed Boost for Florida's Hospitals

Continued from page 1

including almost half of Medicare Advantage enrollees and 38% of beneficiaries in traditional Medicare. With this legislation, Medicare enrollees will be able to continue to access needed physical and behavioral health care services from anywhere and even without an Internet connection.

The legislation also recognizes the need for financial relief for hospitals. Nationally, hospital margins were negative for every month in 2022, according to Kaufman Hall. As of the end of November 2022, median operating margins were down 44% compared with the same time period in 2021. Waiving the Medicare sequester for two years and extending the low-volume and Medicare-dependent hospital programs both are key to stabilizing hospital finances amid skyrocketing costs for labor, drugs, supplies, and equipment; increasing costs associated with regulatory and managed care requirements; and stagnating or even decreasing payments from payers. The 4% sequester would cost Florida hospitals about \$500 million annually. Eliminating the low-volume and Medicare-dependent programs would cost more than \$5 million a year for Florida safety net hospitals.

Finally, the legislation provides welcome support to increase the number of physicians. Florida is a growing state. Between 2021 and 2022, no state grew at a faster rate than Florida. Having enough physicians to care for this growing population is a challenge, and the state faces a projected shortage of 18,000 physicians by 2035. Despite the shortage, however, hospitals are constrained in their ability to add more residency slots to train more doctors because the number of Medicare-funded GME residency slots/positions for each hospital is "capped" or limited by federal law. With the addition of 200 Medicare GME-funded residency slots, 100 of which are dedicated to psychiatry residencies, the omnibus budget bill will support hospitals in their work to train more physicians, so they stay and practice in the state after completing training. These 200 slots are nationwide and not guaranteed for Florida. But, although it is funding only a fraction of the number of residencies needed to solve the physician shortage, the omnibus bill is an important acknowledgment of the critical need for more physicians, particularly psychiatrists.

The omnibus budget package sends a strong statement of support for Florida's hospitals and the essential work they do in communities across the state. It's meaningful recognition of the sacrifices of the last three years as well as the innovations and is a step in the right direction to help hospitals create healthier communities and advance health care for all.

Mary Mayhew is President and CEO, Florida Hospital Association.

When It Comes to Patient Care - Compare Yourself to Your Past Self

A colleague and I were recently traveling to the Midwest on business. We booked a nice downtown hotel we had both separately stayed at before. As we traveled from the airport, he made the comment he had not stayed there since prior to COVID but recalled how great the service was. I remarked how, the last time I had visited them, service had understandably slipped due to COVID restrictions. We both felt assured that the experience this time would be back to normal. We were mistaken. The stay was not horrible, but it also came nowhere close to meeting our expectations. Like a lot of hotels, restaurants, businesses, and maybe even your organization, this establishment is stuck somewhere between. As an industry, we need to be taking the same approach. Right now, whatever your reputation was in terms of patient experience prior to COVID-19 is exactly what you are being compared to by patients, visitor, and the community today. This is a time of both tremendous opportunity and tremendous risk. No matter if you were excellent or just ok, the opportunity to impress and win back patients and their families, should be front of mind. The brand loyalty you had prior to the pandemic is not guaranteed as we come out of it. Patient loyalty in many places is wearing thin. Some people who dealt with the same doctor, hospital, or health systems for years are talking with their feet and moving to alternatives. More and more the phrase, 'well, I'm never going to that _____ again' is heard predicated totally on the expectations consumers have on the experience they have today. Take time to objectively look at your organization. Is the care, attention, feel of a patient visit better or worse than it was a few years ago? If not, you may be putting your reputation and revenues in serious risk.



BY JAY JUFFRE

Jay Juffre is Executive Vice President, ImageFIRST. For more information on ImageFIRST, call 1-800-932-7472 or visit www.imagefirst.com.

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Remembering Dr. Ralph L. Sacco

The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine mourns the passing of Ralph L. Sacco, M.D., M.S., professor and chair of the Department of Neurology and a highly respected and beloved member of the UHealth and Miller School community, on January 17, from a glioblastoma.

Dr. Sacco was a dedicated, nationally and internationally renowned stroke neurologist whose leadership helped establish the Miller School's reputation as a hub of excellence in research, education, and treatment of stroke and cardiovascular and brain health.

Besides being chair of the Department of Neurology, he held the positions of the Olemberg Family Chair in Neurological Disorders; professor of neurology, public health sciences, human genetics, and neurosurgery; chief of neurology at Jackson Memorial Hospital; and executive director of the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute, which focuses on advancing clinical care and research in age-related memory loss and cognitive decline. He was also director and multi-principal investigator of the Miami Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and senior associate dean for clinical and translational science.

Dr. Sacco's outstanding achievements and contributions in research, teaching and mentorship, and patient care made a lasting impact on health care in South Florida, the nation, and the world. His work was integral to advancements in overall brain health, stroke, and cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment, and helped to advance health equity, create more targeted stroke prevention programs, improve outcomes, and enhance quality of life for stroke patients. Dr. Sacco's collaborative research advanced the understanding of stroke and cardiovascular and brain health, and helped elucidate the impact of modifiable behaviors, such as alcohol consumption and physical activity, on stroke risk.

"Ralph Sacco personified the excellence and preeminence to which our academic health system aspires," said University of Miami President Julio Frenk. "He was truly one of the most distinguished members of our faculty, whose professional achievements, scientific originality, and personal virtues of leadership changed our University — and the field of neuroscience — for the better. We share in the grief of his loved ones and feel this loss acutely."



Kudos to the First Responders

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the world recognized first responders for the heroes they are and for the care they provide. First responders are often a patient's first exposure with the medical system. This point of contact usually occurs under unexpected circumstances, as a result of a potentially life-threatening event that may not be evident to the patient. They provide the initial evaluation, at times initiate care directed by physicians at the hospital, and provide comfort and reassurance as an anxious patient is transferred to the hospital.

As a physician, sooner or later, circumstances occur in our lives in which we occupy the role of patient, requiring medical services rather than rendering care.

These are humbling events, which bring to light to us, as well as our patients, that physicians are human and are not immune to infirmity. Acknowledging this fact is neither pleasant nor easy to accept. This situation affected me as well as a close family member during the past year.

Looking forward to a short weekend getaway with my wife on a cruise ship, we arrived in our cabin, not to be welcomed by a fruit basket or a fruity island drink, but rather to a condition which required that I be expeditiously taken off the ship. I was met on the port by a fire rescue team from the Port of Miami. I was immediately evaluated and transported to the hospital. The entire team was courteous, compassionate, and highly professional.

Shortly after this incident, my elderly aunt, who at the time was living semi-independently, fell and struck her head on a metal table, causing a significant laceration on her scalp. Her aide, with the assistance of the Superintendent of the building, activated the Emergency



BY RAFAEL
FERNANDEZ, JR., MD

Medical System by calling 911. A Fire Rescue Crew from Key Biscayne, led by Lieutenant Torres, promptly arrived at the scene and evaluated her condition. Lieutenant Torres, as well as her crew, were again courteous, compassionate, and highly professional. Lieutenant Torres and her crew's assessment were essential in the coordination of her care as they transported her to the hos-

pital.

Both my aunt and I have recovered from our respective unexpected events, thanks in part to the incredible job of the first responders, as well as to the medical personnel at the respective hospitals to which we were transported.

Sometimes we overlook how important our First Responders are, and how fortunate we are in South Florida to have such great teams helping people in their time of need and getting them transferred as appropriate.

The Dade County Medical Association (DCMA) continues to champion access to quality medical care for patients in our community. Especially in urgent situations, it is critically important that patients access the highest qualified healthcare professionals who can offer the timely and quality services the patient deserves.

As President of the Dade County Medical Association, I want to express my gratitude to the first responders who came to my, as well as to my aunt's, assistance. Additionally, I would like to publicly recognize all first responders in Miami-Dade County for their dedication, compassion and the professional service they provide our community, not only during times of international crisis, but on a daily basis.

Dr. Rafael J. Fernandez, Jr., is President of Dade County Medical Association.

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Health Care District Board Welcomes Three New Members and Honors Outgoing Chair

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County's Board recently welcomed three new members appointed last month by Governor Ron DeSantis. Tracy Caruso, Patrick Rooney and Carlos Vidueira will each serve a four-year term. They joined Alina M. Alonso, M.D., outgoing Chair; Sean O'Bannon, Vice Chair and Tammy Jackson-Moore, Secretary.

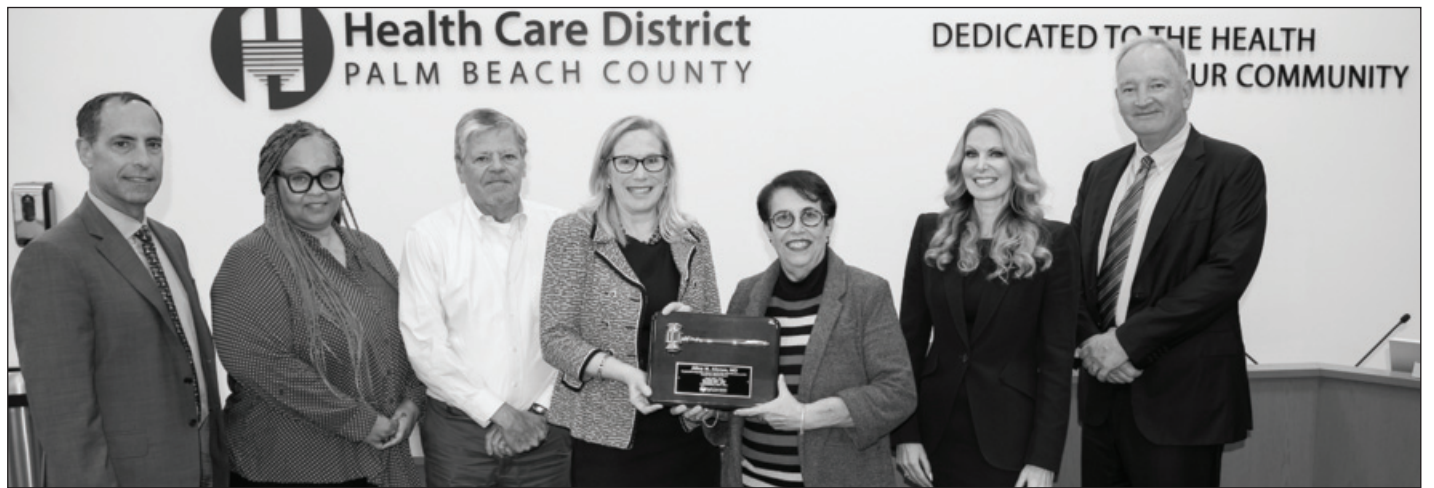
"We are pleased to welcome Ms. Caruso, Mr. Rooney and Mr. Vidueira to the Health Care District Board," said Darcy J. Davis, Health Care District CEO. "They each bring extensive experience and leadership in business, government, and community advocacy. Their volunteer service will be an asset to our unique health care system and the residents we serve."

The Board elected Vidueira as the new Chair. Vidueira is the Vice President of Huizenga Holdings, Inc. and serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Northend RISE in West Palm Beach.

Caruso is the President of Delray Beach Executive Suites and serves as the Vice Chair of the Palm Beach County Housing and Finance Authority. She previously served on the Delray Beach Historic Preservation Board.

Rooney, who served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2010 to 2016, is the President of the Palm Beach Kennel Club.

Dr. Alonso was recognized for her dedication and volunteer service since joining the Board in 2009. Dr. Alonso is retiring this year from her post as Director of the Florida Department of Health for Palm Beach County. That position holds a standing seat on the Health Care District Board.



(l-r) Carlos Vidueira, Chair; Tammy Jackson-Moore, Secretary; Sean O'Bannon, Vice Chair; Darcy J. Davis, CEO; Dr. Alina M. Alonso, outgoing Chair; Tracy Caruso; and Patrick Rooney



(l-r) Carlos Vidueira, Chair; Tracy Caruso and Patrick Rooney

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FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute Opens in Jupiter



(l-r) U.S. Congressman Brian Mast; Barbara Feingold, vice chair, FAU Board of Trustees; MaryLynn Magar, former member of the Florida House of Representatives; Robert Stilley, former chair and member, FAU Board of Trustees; Interim President Stacy Volnick; David J.S. Nicholson; Randy Blakely, Ph.D., executive director, FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute; Patrick McNamara, president and CEO of Palm Health Foundation; and Chris Delisio, FAU vice president of institutional advancement and CEO of the FAU Foundation. (PHOTO BY ALEX DOLCE)

Florida Atlantic University recently celebrated the opening of the FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute at FAU's John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The official launch of the institute heralds a new era in neuroscience research, education and community engagement. The multimillion-dollar, 58,000-square-foot facility will serve as a "beacon of hope" for the study and amelioration of numerous brain and behavioral disorders.

The FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute was made possible by a transformative \$10 million gift from Nicholson, who championed the idea of a new brain research, education and community engagement institute. The \$35-million research space represents a significant investment by the state of Florida, FAU and its research partners.

The first floor of the FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute is home to the Center for Brain Disease Modeling, a facility designed to develop and advance approaches to study brain disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, autism, addiction and brain cancer. The center will more than double FAU's current capacity for physiological and behavioral analyses.

Within the Center for Brain Disease Modeling, the Neurobehavioral Core Laboratory specializes in neurobehavioral research while providing state-of-the-art educational experiences for undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral fellows. The first floor also offers a public area that features a reception space, lobby and a two-story, interactive auditorium designed to be quickly reconfigured for lectures, symposia and community events. In this area, visitors not only hear from world-class neuroscientists on recent advances in brain science and health but also enjoy theater-in-the-round style performances or join community champions in banquet-style gatherings. The lobby area flows to a patio where visitors can meet with schol-

ars, artists and students to enjoy sunsets over a fountained lake.

A key feature of the second floor is the Advanced Cell Imaging Core Laboratory where the visualization of brain cells takes place. Multidimensional, dynamic cellular and brain circuit visualization merges with computational and virtual reality resources in this space to allow researchers to peer deeply into the brain. It also contains more than \$1 million in already acquired equipment and houses one of 14 Nikon Centers of Excellence in the United States, one of 16 in the Americas and 1 of 30 worldwide.

Among the research areas taking place on the second floor, approximately 4,400-square-feet of open laboratory space is linked to facilities with shared technology and faculty offices. The open design stimulates communication and collaboration among junior and senior scientists and fosters multidisciplinary research opportunities.

The third floor is outfitted to support the researchers whose studies link molecular, cellular and computational neuroscience. A space outfitted with high-speed optical fiber connects researchers' computer workstations to the supercomputers of the FAU High Performance Computing Center where analysis of immense data are manipulated for the 3D modeling of proteins and drugs as well as to decipher the complex physiological signatures of the human brain. The space also will support advanced training of high school, undergraduate and graduate students in computational biology, chemistry and neuroscience.

Additional space on the third floor is envisioned as a Center for the Resilient Mind, created to advance the understanding of the brain mechanisms underlying coping with early life and ongoing stress, the temptations of drugs of abuse, and the mood disorders that plague millions worldwide. Key to this center will be the creation of formal partnerships between

psychologists, engineers, social workers and educators. This interdisciplinary activity will boost the understanding of how an intersection of genetics, social interactions and life events drive changes in the brain in some, but not all people. Additional open lab environments will support centers for brain development and autism research and for neurodegenerative disease research.

Another major, transformative element of the Nicholson gift is the establishment of the Stiles-Nicholson STEM Teacher

Academy, which bridges the high-caliber research setting with middle and high school teachers and students, and will provide premier experiential STEM training programs for educators through the Jupiter campus' nationally recognized FAU High School. The academy will complement Nicholson's investment in the Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute's ASCEND Program, which focuses on STEM training for middle school students who are just beginning to consider careers in science, engineering and medicine.

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Cover Story: Mountasser Kadrie: Teaching and Mentoring Future Healthcare Leaders at FAU

Continued from page 1

ture of forward-thinking, collaboration, innovation, diversity and inclusion, and performance excellence during this journey.

"I wanted to bring this experience to the higher education field, especially teaching. In healthcare and teaching, we address the customer's needs (patient or student/learner)," he notes.

His teaching philosophy is based on the following pillars he developed as a healthcare executive:

- Act as a student-centered educator by preparing students academically and professionally to think clearly, act with integrity, and serve passionately.
- Encourage a culture of academic excellence defined by high academic standards, excellent teaching, and supporting student scholarship, success, and progress.
- Offer students a dynamic and innovative practitioner-based learning experience that engages them in theory, practice, and reflection.
- Promote a collaborative educational environment that strengthens dynamic learning and contributes to life-long academic and professional growth.
- Apply strategic vision for developing and implementing innovative and cutting-edge curricula.
- Engage in a learner-centered learning experience and share resources contributing to academic success, personal development, and improved career potential.
- Advocate for student success, pro-

gress, and intellectual and professional diversity.

There are several advancements in digital technologies in the healthcare sector that has Professor Kadrie excited. Considering the transition to value-based healthcare, the rise of health consumerism, and the pandemic COVID-19, he says digital technologies are and will be leveraged in the healthcare sector. These technologies include big data health analytics, machine learning, telehealth/medicine, artificial intelligence (AI), and data visualization, etc.

"The advancement in digital health technologies and applications will be a major force in improving healthcare outcomes and business performance; addressing patients' expectations for care delivery and access will require a shift in the healthcare industry, promoting the virtual care in the clinical space, focusing on population health needs and issues," he explains. "The future of healthcare will be in advancements in digital health technology such as artificial intelligence and virtual care. Healthcare professionals and other members involved in the healthcare industry must be given the opportunities and resources to succeed in a technology-based culture. Without cutting edge education and training on using and understanding this technology, we are setting ourselves up for failure."

There are many challenges facing the health sector today when it pertains to digital health technology, and they are evol-

ing, he adds.

Here are some:

- **Ethical, data privacy, and security:** The increasing digitization of healthcare and the growth of mobile and IoT devices as data collection tools raises many ethical issues related to patient data privacy and confidentiality. The nature of health data is also changing; we are now collecting more private user-generated data, particularly data harvested from social media and through wearable technologies, than ever before. The growth of digital apps and technologies developed for a consumer market blurs the lines between medical and non-medical devices and raises ethical challenges regarding regularizing such technologies. This issue is exacerbated by the speed of advancements, the increasing globalization of healthcare solutions, and the time it takes for healthcare organizations to understand the implications of such advancements.

- **Integration and costs:** Implementing digital technologies in healthcare requires significant resources and long-term commitment. Integrating and connecting different digital technologies (solutions and applications) can often be extremely daunting and costly.

- **Role of Artificial Intelligence:** Artificial Intelligence can utilize data generated in digital health systems to help with aspects of medicine, such as improved diagnosis, selecting treatments, and predicting clinical outcomes. The presence of AI solutions in digital health intensifies challenges surrounding safety, data diversity and representations, explainability, and fairness.

- **User Experiences:** Supporting and maintaining appropriate training and education involves teaching staff how to utilize digital health technologies and the most efficient ways to incorporate them within their responsibilities.

When asked his thoughts on how universities can better equip their students with the necessary skills for a successful career in digital health, Professor Kadrie acknowledges that healthcare systems are complex and multifaceted.

"The global pandemic expedited the integration of many digital health technologies to better everyday life, but it also left many healthcare organizations and systems in chaos and painfully aware of

their digital shortcomings," he says. "As a result, the healthcare sector is ripe for digital disruption, and there has been a huge increase in the application scope of digital solutions in clinical decision support, virtual care, telehealth, healthcare IT systems connectivity, and more."

To ensure the healthcare industry is ready for this digital transformation, he explains that universities and health and academic medical programs must align content with anticipated needs in several ways:

- Provide students with a global perspective on the opportunities and considerations around digital transformation in healthcare.
- Identify how digital and global forces are converging to shape the healthcare ecosystem.
- Recognize the lessons learned from real-world digital health transformation experiences and pilots, and create your action plan through the capstone project.
- Identify the elements of effective change management and the critical success factors for implementing digital transformation within your organization.
- Prepare students to apply best practices and insights to day-to-day operations and longer-term strategic priorities.

"Academic institutions should focus and aim to prepare students to lead digital transformation efforts within their organizations," he says. "The focus is global, and the application is immediate, meaningful, and practical."

One of the few certainties in digital health is that technologies will constantly change, evolve, and improve. Managing medicine and healthcare knowledge is becoming incredibly complex as new scientific discoveries add to healthcare knowledge.

"In 2020 the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic proved that virtual care, digital health, and health informatics infrastructure help healthcare providers and decision-makers address serious health and medical matters," Professor Kadrie says. "As healthcare becomes more complex and ubiquitous, digital health professionals will become vital healthcare team members."

For more information, visit emha.fau.edu



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UM Launches One-of-a-Kind Nurse Leadership Program

Joint degree program blends best of two stellar graduate programs to prepare nurses for high-level executive positions

The School of Nursing and Health Studies and Miami Herbert Business School at the University of Miami have joined forces to create the Master of Science in Leadership (MSL) / Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) joint degree program.

Unique to Florida and in high demand, this two-year, next-level leadership opportunity is tailored to emerging nurse leaders and combines the best resources of two highly regarded graduate-level programs at UM.

"The program is the only one of its kind in Florida and among the first in the nation," says Dr. Mary Hooshmand, associate dean for Graduate Clinical Programs at the School of Nursing and Health Studies. "If you see yourself as a future transformative leader with aspirations of becoming a chief nursing officer, CEO, or president, this program is for you. Our program is intended to help propel early- and mid-career nurse leaders to the highest echelons of executive



Dr. Mary Hooshmand

health system leadership."

The first cohort of students to the program started classes this January in the Spring 2023 semester at the University's Coral Gables campus. Graduates will earn a diploma affirming their completion of both the MSL and DNP degrees.

Immersive Curriculum

The MSL-DNP curriculum offers intensive health care leadership experience through simulations, case studies, and practice immersions, such as participating in a Leadership Challenge Competition and implementing evidence-based practice improvement projects in area hospitals.

Students learn from renowned health sector management and nursing faculty about organizational behavior techniques, management skills, negotiation expertise, marketing, health care finance, ethics, practice improvement, health policy, technology, human resources, and more.

The program's small cohort size allows for individually precepted attention and ongoing support throughout the program and beyond. The part-time track is attractive for working professionals as well, adds Hooshmand.

The Need for Nurse Leaders

There is great demand in the U.S. and international workforce for health care executives who can confidently manage and transform challenging, complex environments. The MSL-DNP joint degree program is designed for RNs with an unrestricted Florida license who have a minimum of two years' experience in a health care setting and earned a BSN from a regionally accredited institution with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Program Highlights

- Readies nurses for executive-level leadership
- The only program of its kind in Florida and among the first in the nation
- Part-time curriculum available for working professionals
- Renowned health sector management and nursing faculty

- Two distinct graduate-level degrees awarded upon program completion

- Small cohort size and individual preceptor attention

- Prestigious "triple crown" accreditation (AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA), plus SACSCOC, EQUAA and CCNE

Learn more at

<http://sonhs.miami.edu/msl-dnp>, email SONHS@miami.edu, or call (305) 284-4325.

The University of Miami is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The UM School of Nursing and Health Studies nursing programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Miami Herbert has earned accreditation from Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), EQUIS, The Association of MBAs (AMBA); and the Education Quality Accreditation Agency (EQUAA); Miami Herbert is one of only three business schools in the U.S. with this coveted "triple crown" designation.

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Cover Story: *Miami Dade College Medical Campus: Academics Live-from-the-Workplace*

Continued from page 1

a faculty-guided, technology enhanced real-world hospital environment of safe practice to reduce errors, correct mistakes, improve safety, breakdown traditional professional silos and enhance interprofessional collaboration, minus the real-world consequences of practice learning ... ultimately elevating the quality of patient care.

Now, as an early entrant into the simulation field, MDC serves as a beta test site for Gaumard, a leading simulation manufacturer who seeks student and faculty feedback on state-of-the-art, lifelike mannequins, contemporary scenarios and other virtual techniques that mirror medical-surgical, obstetrical, trauma and home care delivery. The Medical Campus located in the heart of Miami Health District, a hospital mecca, gives students a higher level of experience and opportunity for input prior to clinical rotations and eventual employment in the world of ambulatory, hospital, clinic and mobile pre-hospital settings.

But first, during 2020, COVID-19 hit the world and left an indelible imprint on health care academics and delivery.

“Beyond the disruptive restrictions the pandemic brought - halting or at least cur-

tailoring many clinical student experiences - our health care partners claim it threw the spotlight on the plusses that our students brought to both their patients and staff which impacted delivery of care," Dr. Stewart said describing the strategy of incorporating workplace knowledge into the academic curriculum.

"I no longer have sleepless nights worrying about cementing enough clinical partnerships to provide rotations for our students, because they are now in heavy demand," he explained.

According to Dr. Stewart, not only does this education style enhance the patient experience in hospital and alternate clinical settings, but this real-world experience heightens the students' grasp of academic theory-in-action and improves their job marketability. Providers seek to hold on to their best 'alums' and smooth the road toward their move to employed staff practitioner roles. Students can rotate through clinical models, test the waters of local institutions in an on-the-job (OTJ) capacity, learn about generic industry and individualized clinic philosophies of care, immerse themselves in relationships with OTJ mentors and feel comfortable with job decisions when entering the work force because they learned in a safe atmos-

phere that encourages independent thinking and embraces learning missteps.

Jobs in trauma centers, surgi-centers, academic hospitals, dental and vision clinics, and rehabilitation facilities offer flexible career access to all types of specialties from pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology to cardiovascular, orthopedics or cancer care.

And the same concept is applied by seven full-time faculty fire battalion chiefs who share the mobile world of Emergency Medical Training with students through rotations available at 200 stations, shadow rides in ambulances and seeing first-hand trauma and pre-hospital communications and mobile-in-the-field evaluation and care guidance to bridge the gap with emergency departments that are disaster-ready to speed care for incoming victims.

With approximately 400 students engaged on the Medical Campus and 10,000 additional students taking pre-requisites on eight campuses, the 140 full time faculty and 600 adjunct faculty teach and monitor the academic concept in practice and are creating a pipeline to address current practitioner shortages. For example, the Benjamín León School of Nursing with technical, certificate, licensed, and bachelor degree accredited


programs, grew 23% last year toward its 3-year goal of 40% growth, according to Stewart.



“Our medical campus is an incubator for future health experts while MDC dental and vision clinics, not only train students but provide affordable care to the community,” Dr. Stewart said. “Furthermore, when practitioners seek continuing professional development to transition to the administrative focus of health care, we offer health care management studies highlighting a behind-the-scenes view of managing health care delivery including finance, operations, marketing and quality management issues,” he explained.

Other innovative technology is available to 25 different health sciences courses including respiratory therapy, histology and clinical lab, physician assistants, medical coding and health informatics, EMS, and veterinary studies.

“Finally, 14 of the newly hired faculty in 2022 were graduates who have returned to teach others based on their own experiences; so, we continue to pay it forward,” Dr. Stewart said.

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Helping to Create Student Success and Professional Excellence at South University West Palm Beach

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

At South University West Palm Beach, Dr. Cindy Manjounes is leading the way toward student success and professional excellence. As the Dean of Academics and Retention, she is responsible for managing all academic operations and student support services - including the academic success center, library, and academic advising - which play an essential role in increasing student success.

South University has long had a reputation for being an institution that supplies students with the healthcare education they need to be successful in their chosen fields, something that drew Dr. Manjounes to take on her role with the university.

One of the reasons why she came to South University is to be part of an institution that's working hard to supply people who are needed in the healthcare field.

"South has a great history, and our faculty and programs here are just stellar," she says. "They're first notch and it's just really a privilege to be a part of every-



Dr. Cindy Manjounes

thing here. I feel like this is a place where I can really make a difference and serve the community."

The university's retention and graduation rates in its healthcare programs have been steadily improving post COVID, according to Dr. Manjounes.

"COVID threw everybody for a loop because students had to take many

degrees and classes online that hadn't really been online before, and the staff did a great job with that," she says. "We offer a lot of support services to our students that include tutoring both online and in person, as well as other student support and counseling services through our Office of Student Affairs. So if a student is struggling personally, we have counseling services that we can refer them to for that."

If students are struggling academically, South University offers tutoring services from faculty mentors who work with the students as well.

"We try to intervene early and often to give them what they need to be successful academically," adds Dr. Manjounes.

Compared to other schools, Dr. Manjounes states that their students are really highly motivated to succeed.

"For our PA and our AA programs, which are our graduate programs, we always have substantially more students apply than we can accept because those cohort sizes are limited," she says. "Our PTA cohorts are smaller, but our nursing cohorts are 40 students, and they're usually maxed out with every enrollment we have."

One piece of advice that she would have for first-year students is to communicate.

"Don't be afraid to ask questions," she says. "Communicate with your instructors, your academic advisors, financial aid, and don't be afraid to ask if you have a question about something. We're all here to help and we may have tools available to help them, such as tutoring and counseling to help strengthen their academic process and their progress and resilience."

One thing South University did this year that's unique is the implementation of a wellness room which can be utilized by both students and faculty. With the high stress profession that these students are going into, they need to learn how to promote that self-care and take care of

themselves as well, stresses Dr. Manjounes.

"It's a quiet place for meditation, yoga, and prayer," she says. "If you just need some quiet time, there's nice music, yoga mats, and bag chairs. We also have some nice, muted lighting."

Looking ahead, Dr. Manjounes says the university will be working to enhance its office space labs and simulation for its nursing program. They also plan to do some reorganization and enhancement of technology there. Also in the works is revamping the library into more of a learning commons where there will be a limited print collection and an enhanced study area with additional tools for student success and learning.

For potential students considering attending South, Dr. Manjounes says that if you have the desire, will and the fortitude, and you want to be a physical therapy assistant or a nurse or something else in the healthcare field, give yourself a shot at that career path.

For more information, visit
<https://www.southuniversity.edu/west-palm-beach>.

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1980	721,000	3244
1985	789,400	3552

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Cardiology

Multidisciplinary Team Approach Helps Patient with Cardiac Amyloidosis and Aortic Valve Stenosis

Although heart surgery is never an easy procedure, the combination of empathetic, state-of-the-art care, physician collaboration and personalized assistance before, during and after treatment, has helped it become much more manageable than in the past.

This approach made treatment much simpler and as easy as reasonably possible for patient Leslie Berk from Sarasota, Florida, who was diagnosed with cardiac amyloidosis.

Cardiac amyloidosis is a condition in which abnormal proteins build up in the heart and ultimately cause heart failure. This occurs because protein build up changes the structure of the heart and interferes with its ability to pump blood, manifesting in biological abnormalities like thickening of heart walls, disruptions in the heart's electrical system, and amyloid buildup. The most common type of amyloidosis is TTR of which 15% is caused by a genetic and familial abnormality. The rest of patients have wild-type amyloidosis, which is most common in men over the age of 70 due to an age-related change in gene function. Most cases of amyloidosis are treatable at Amyloid Center of Excellence.

After also detecting a heart murmur – a whooshing or swishing sound heard through a stethoscope when blood flows abnormally over heart valves – Berk's cardiologist referred him to Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital. His care team reviewed Berk's test findings to select the appropriate treatment plan.

Leslie was diagnosed with severe aortic valve stenosis, so his team recommended minimally invasive therapy, including transcatheter aortic valve replacement, as part of his plan. TAVR is a minimally invasive procedure in which a catheter is used to deliver a new valve to the heart. The procedure is done under moderate sedation and the patient generally stays one night in the hospital. Its use has increased significantly in the past few years, making it now the most common way to replace the aortic valve.

Before undergoing TAVR, patients are typically subjected to diagnostic testing, including echocardiograms, electrocardiograms, various imaging tests, and left heart catheterization.

In contrast to more traditional aortic valve replacement, current research suggests this procedure is safer on average with similar or even better outcomes, so long as personal health and circumstances are taken into account. Since its first performance in 2022, more than 400,000 patients nationwide have undergone TAVR.

Throughout Leslie's care at Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital, he was provided assistance by patient navigators, who coordinated all of his tests and appointments for the day before his procedure. This way, everything was able to fit into his two-night stay. The patient navigators also answered any and all of his questions before and after the procedure, helping to put him at ease throughout his entire experience.

Following his procedure, both Leslie and his wife, Joyce, had glowing testimonials for the care team and for the treatment itself, since they were "utterly amazed" that after just a few days at home, Leslie was walking around, happy, and no longer had any shortness of breath.

Having had a long career as a nurse, Joyce cited that she was impressed with the coordination of effort between all team members and the compassion and sense of caring that she and her husband felt at Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital. To Joyce, quality is the combination of professionalism and human touch – both of which she and Leslie experienced.

"This has been miraculous," said Leslie Berk. "And the people here really care about you."

Dr. Emad Hakemi is a surgeon at Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital who received his medical degree from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt and completed his internal medicine residency at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County.

Dr. David Wolinsky is a graduate of Columbia University where he received his undergraduate and medical degrees. In 2011, Dr. Wolinsky joined Cleveland Clinic Florida where he is a leader in nuclear cardiology, Section Head of Nuclear Cardiology and Director of the Cardiac Amyloid Clinic.



BY DR. DAVID WOLINSKY
AND DR. EMAD HAKEMI

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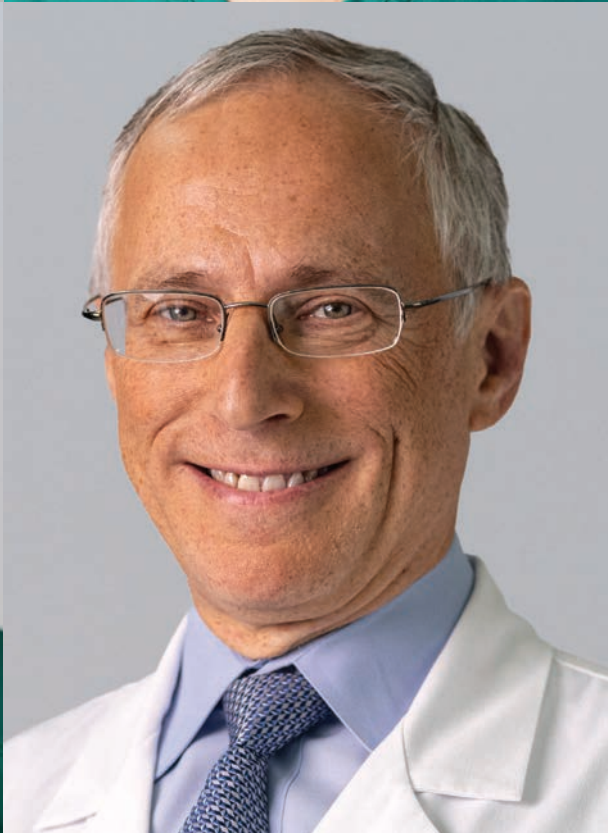
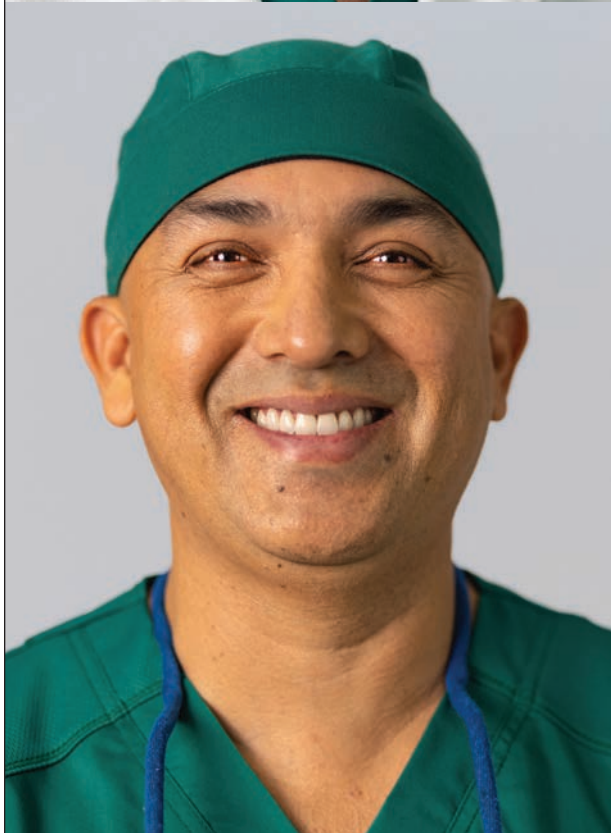
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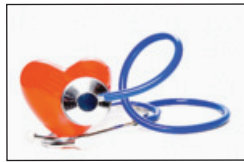


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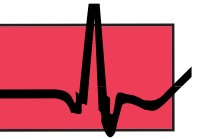
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Cardiology



Cardiac Care Clinical Trials Underway at Holy Cross Health

Physicians at Holy Cross Health in Fort Lauderdale are leading several heart-related trials and studies. As a leader in clinical cardiac research, Holy Cross Health is continuing to expand efforts in offering innovative research studies to ensure the best possible long-term outcomes for patients in the community.

Among the heart studies currently underway are:

- evaluating the effect of in-hospital initiation of Dapagliflozin on clinical outcomes in patients who have been stabilized during hospitalization for Acute HF;
- collecting sensor and heart failure event data that will be used to develop and test new diagnostic features for the insertable cardiac monitor ICM systems;
- evaluating the efficacy and safety of AZD4831 in participants with heart failure with left ventricular ejection fraction;
- studying the safety and effectiveness of cardiac contractility modulation therapy in subjects with symptomatic heart failure;
- evaluating the efficacy and safety of the sGC Stimulator Vericiguat/MK-1242 in adults with stable heart failure with reduced ejection fraction;
- Acute ACS to investigate the efficacy and safety of CSL112 in subjects with Acute Coronary Syndrome;
- Recent ACS to investigate post-discharge care pathway for patients with a recent acute coronary syndrome who have elevated LDL-C despite being on maximally tolerated statin therapy following an ACS will be randomized to receive one of our new LDL-C lowering therapies or usual care
- Non interventional trial: the number

of recurrent HF readmissions, with a monitoring period and time frame of 12 months, to determine if HEMOTAG and symptom guided treatment during a follow-up period results in decreased rate of heart failure re-hospitalizations.

• Pfizer C3651101 to study of the effects of Ponesemoran Health Related quality of life and safety in patients with heart failure.

• SEGA trial, Neuro/Cardio, sedation vs. general anesthesia for endovascular therapy in acute ischemic stroke.

"We have always been on the leading-edge of technology and providing excellent care," said Holy Cross Health President and CEO Mark Doyle. "We are continually providing increased access to studies and trials that will lead to positive outcomes for patients."

Holy Cross Health has also been named a 2022-2023 High Performing hospital by U.S. News & World Report for eight conditions, including Heart Attack and Heart Failure, in recognition of care that was significantly better than the national average, as measured by factors such as patient outcomes.

Early detection of life-threatening heart disorders is possible through the use of Echocardiography procedures. Holy Cross is accredited in Echocardiography in the areas of Adult Transthoracic by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission, which is only granted to facilities that provide quality patient care, in compliance with national standards through a comprehensive application process including detailed case study review.

Learn more at HolyCrossHeart.com

Holy Cross Health Is a Leader in Cardiac Care

For 67 years, Holy Cross Health has been at the forefront of healthcare in South Florida. As a leader in cardiac care, Holy Cross has had several milestones locally, statewide and nationally.

Holy Cross Health was the first in Broward County to:

- be a Joint Commission Advanced Heart Failure Certified program;
- perform Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacements on high-risk patients and on patients who cannot undergo or are at high risk open heart surgery;

- offer Induced Hypothermia; and
- implant Reveal LINQTM.

Holy Cross Health was the first in South Florida to:

- offer the Medtronic MyCareLinkTM Patient Monitor;
- participate in the AngelMed ALERTS Study of an implantable cardiac monitor and patient alerting system; and

- begin work on South Florida's first Rotational 60 Cobalt Unit.

Holy Cross Health was also the first in Florida to:

- utilize the iCT 256-slice scanner to offer Cardiac CT Angiography (CCTA);
- perform a Paravalvular Leak Closure using a transapical approach;
- use the Prime ECG Vest; and
- the first in South Florida to use the 256-slice CT scanner in the treatment of wake-up strokes and to perform Cardiac CTA.

"All of our accomplishments are a testament to the top physicians and specialists at Holy Cross Health," President and CEO Mark Doyle said. "During American Heart Month, we are proud to highlight the heart and vascular care we provide at Holy Cross."



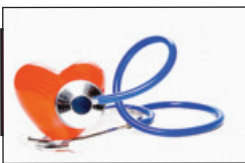
Daniel Benhayon, MD,
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One Patient's Story: "Keep Driving Past Every Other Place Until You Get to Jupiter Medical Center"

For six years, Louis Divita of Palm City worked out religiously and scheduled regular visits with his personal physician to monitor aortic stenosis, a disease that prevents the aorta from pumping blood efficiently to the rest of his body.

The narrowing of Divita's main heart valve had been diagnosed before he experienced obvious symptoms, so the entrepreneur kept up with his busy schedule of business and family commitments while also embracing an active lifestyle "watchful waiting."

"At my age, I was still lifting weights as I had been for years," says Divita, now 74. "I wasn't taking any medications, hadn't been diagnosed with other conditions, and kept up with all my appointments."

But seven years into his disease, ongoing monitoring and tests revealed a worsening of his aortic stenosis. That's when his physician referred him to Jupiter Medical Center in 2022 for specialized cardiac care because of its reputation for innovative technology, expert physicians, and a full spectrum of treatments and interventions at the center's Robson Heart & Vascular Institute.

Life-saving surgery at Jupiter Medical Center

After his evaluation at Jupiter Medical Center, Divita underwent life-saving surgery by Arthur H. Katz, M.D., the institute's medical director of cardiac surgery and a board-certified, fellowship-trained specialist in surgery of the mitral valve, aorta, and tricuspid valve. Dr. Katz also specializes in off-pump bypass surgery, ablation for atrial fibrillation, and reconstruction of the left ventricle — the heart's main pumping chamber.

Divita credits Dr. Katz and his multidisciplinary team of cardiac experts with a great outcome and quick recovery from surgery. He was particularly impressed by daily visits from his surgeon, a personal interaction that provided a sense of post-surgery relief that he had never experienced or expected.

"Dr. Katz would see me three or four times a day and even stop by late at night before he went home," he recalls. "Then one morning he came in and said, 'Everything looks great!'. From then on, I was focused on rehab. Everyone was super nice and friendly. They all told me they were glad to see I was doing so well, which definitely helped in



Louis Divita with Dr. Katz

my recovery."

"Only at Jupiter Medical Center are we able to offer patients such extraordinary resources," says Dr. Katz. "Our team of highly-skilled surgical technologists, anesthesiologists, nurses and physicians work together to provide life-saving care."

Nationally recognized cardiac expertise

The Robson Heart & Vascular features an award-winning team of cardiac physicians and multidisciplinary specialists, coupled with leading-edge technology to offer the community access to highly rated heart and vascular care. Specialties range from minimally invasive diagnostic procedures and intervention to advanced electrophysiology for irregular heartbeats, open-heart surgery and cardiac rehabilitation.

Jupiter Medical Center has earned chest pain certification from The Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and healthcare accrediting body. It also boasts the commission's Gold Seal of Approval, awarded after a rigorous on-site review by national healthcare experts in cardiac and emergency care, safety, quality, performance improvement, and adherence to national standards for treatment of chest pain and heart attacks.

For his cardiac rehab sessions, Divita made weekly 25-mile one-way trips from Palm City to Jupiter Medical Center to continue with expert follow-up care and recovery.

"I could have found a place closer to home," he acknowledges, "but after my experience, I tell anyone I've met that if they ever need care, just keep driving past every other place until you get to Jupiter Medical Center."

Patients seeking care for cardiac symptoms should consult their doctor about treatment options for their specific diagnosis. Then call Jupiter Medical Center for an evaluation to determine the most appropriate plan of care.

To speak to the Structural Heart & Valve Clinic Coordinator, call (561) 263-3767.
For more information, visit jupitermed.com.

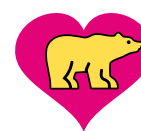
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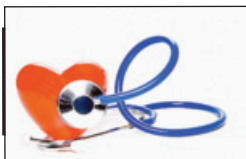


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Atrial Fibrillation Risk Modification Program at UHealth Addresses the Whole Patient to Improve Outcomes

BY KAI T. HILL

Taking a more holistic, multidisciplinary approach to helping people with atrial fibrillation, or AFib, addresses the multiple risk factors that lead to AFib which can lead to better outcomes, new evidence shows. Provider involvement also is key.

The Atrial Fibrillation Risk Factor Modification Program at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine helps people lose excess body weight and control their diabetes and/or blood pressure and other risk factors more effectively than traditional counseling, said Jeffrey Goldberger, M.D., cardiac electrophysiologist and professor of medicine at the Miller School.

"I can tell you for myself that probably five years ago, I probably wouldn't even have extensive discussions with patients about their weight, their blood pressure, or their diabetes control," said Dr. Goldberger, noting that other providers, such as primary care doctors and nurses, generally addressed those issues in the past.

"Now we must incorporate this into taking care of each patient's atrial fibrillation," he added. "That's the novel thing here, and we found it makes a major difference."

Provider Effort Boosts Results

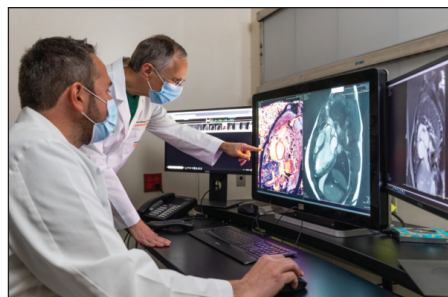
Healthcare providers have been counseling some patients about changing modifiable risk factors across medicine for decades, with mixed results. The program takes this to another level. "What we found is you have to actually invest some provider effort to get the best results for the patient," Dr. Goldberger said.

Nurse practitioners are essential to the comprehensive care offered by the program. Theresa St. Philippe, APRN, a nurse practitioner who sees patients for initial consultations and follow-up assessments, is a prime example.

"The program has been proven to be incredibly beneficial," St. Philippe said. "As demonstrated with our patients participating in the program, increased weight loss correlated with decreased recurrence of atrial fibrillation. The key to success is moti-



Dr. Jeffrey Goldberger



vation. As clinicians, we are in a unique position, not only to be advocates, but also motivators, encouraging patients to make positive lifestyle modifications. An integral component of success for this program is seeing patients routinely and consistently."

"What's new is that these patients are being identified by our electrophysiology attendings as patients that are high-risk," said Natasha Garcia, APRN, who

has been with the program since April. "Instead of only recommending medications or an ablation, they're also recommending that patients follow-up with the nurse practitioner in order to address diet, sleep apnea, and exercise, as well as other risk factors."

"What the research is showing is that if these get addressed, patients respond much better, with less recurrence, if any, of atrial fibrillation," Garcia added.

Randomized Trial and Other Studies

Dr. Goldberger and colleagues are conducting a randomized trial that is incorporating risk factor modification before ablation to treat atrial fibrillation. "There is a lot that we don't know," he said. For example, why does losing weight improve atrial fibrillation? It could have something to do with adipose or fatty tissue that is deposited around the heart.

"We have a number of studies where we're looking at different aspects of how the cardiac fat contributes to atrial fibrillation," Dr. Goldberger said. These studies are essential to improve our understanding on optimizing treatment for AFib. The hope is to better understand the mechanism and to identify novel therapeutic targets for future treatments or interventions. Patients can be referred to the Atrial Fibrillation Risk Modification Program, ideally early in the course of their disease. "We have multiple ways that we can help them," Dr. Goldberger said, "and it's much easier to treat early on than later in the course of their disease."



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Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) is an irregular and often rapid heart rhythm that affects millions of people. If left untreated, AFib increases the risk of heart-related complications. At the Robson Heart & Vascular Institute at Jupiter Medical Center, we offer advanced procedures to correct AFib that help ensure future heart and vascular health. From medication management to ablation to minimally invasive procedures including the Maze and WATCHMAN™ procedures, Jupiter Medical Center offers the latest options. Call 561-263-3767 or visit jupitermed.com/heart.

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Cover Story: Expert Cardiac Care and Emerging Technologies Help Advanced Heart Failure Patients Improve Quality of Life

Continued from page 1

advanced heart failure and cardiac transplant program at Memorial Healthcare System, which was created in 2014, is now comprised of four board-certified heart failure cardiologists who provide expert, evidenced-based, guideline-directed medical therapy, optimizing outcomes and improving patients' quality of life. This team works closely with Memorial's cardiac transplant team and a multidisciplinary team of clinicians to identify those patients who may benefit from mechanical circulatory support and/or ultimately transplant.

"Advanced heart failure is a unique specialty within the field of cardiology," said Michael Cortelli, M.D., Chief of the Memorial Cardiac and Vascular Institute. "There is a growing armamentarium of treatment options that often require extremely close monitoring and frequent fine tuning to optimize patient outcomes. We are a 'heart function' team that uses the latest pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions to restore patients to normal life. Our patients receive comprehensive care targeted to the recovery of heart function."

Training and Collaboration

This team has spent considerable time training and educating nurses and other clinicians in the essential aspects of treatment and monitoring of this patient population. As these cases are generally complex and long term, it is crucial the team works closely with other physician providers in a model Memorial Cardiac and Vascular Institute has defined as "shared care." Each patient's primary care physician and cardiologist are crucial members of the team, and the plan of care is developed and modified with their input.

Early identification and treatment of patients with advanced heart failure is an important component of a successful transplant program. Optimizing the patient's clinical journey, educating, and involving them in important lifestyle changes pre-transplant facilitates the decision to move forward prior to the patient reaching an extreme level that may complicate outcomes.

"Our Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Program has consistently achieved excellent outcomes because of the unique Memorial multidisciplinary approach in treating these complex patients," added Dr. Cortelli.

Technology for the Heart Failure Patient

Technology is continuously evolving, and so is Memorial's transplant cardiologists' approach to using newer monitoring technologies with heart failure patients. There are a number of devices that track physiological data that can be either implanted or worn. Each of these approaches has its own caveats, and advance heart failure cardiologists have to balance risk vs. benefit, especially if implanting a sensor through an invasive procedure.

"The patient has to understand and perceive its benefit to comply with data collection and deliver the data to the treatment team to act and, more importantly, prevent an admission," said Iani Patsias, M.D., FACC, Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiologist.

Within implantable sensors, the only current FDA-approved device is the CardioMEMS (Abbott). It is a small (3.5x2x15mm) implantable sensor that is deployed after a right heart catheterization and lays on a descending branch of the pulmonary artery. It doesn't require any charging and communicates with a pillow with an embedded receptor, transmitting pulmonary artery pressures via Wi-Fi. Memorial Cardiac and Vascular Institute has a dedicated team for remote monitoring of patients using the CardioMEMS device.

"We can trend pulmonary artery pressures in time and can detect a pattern out of normal. This would then trigger an intervention, for example, increasing diuretics, with a goal of preventing decompensated heart failure and an admission to the hospital," said Dr. Patsias.

Overall, heart failure is a growing and daunting disease. Monitoring can greatly assist in improving patient outcomes and quality of life. At Memorial Cardiac and Vascular Institute, the advanced heart failure team has been involved in the development of newer sensor technologies, and it looks promising for patient care.

"As with any new technology, we will need to balance risk vs. benefit and apply technology that is meaningful to patient care. With new sensor technology will come a huge amount of new data. It will be interesting to see how AI plays a role in population health data management and predictive analysis of our heart failure patients," Dr. Patsias said.

For more information on total heart care, you can visit The Memorial Cardiac and Vascular Institute at mhs.net/services/cardiac-vascular.

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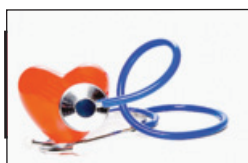
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Cardiology

CLEVELAND CLINIC WESTON HOSPITAL

David A. Baran, MD

David A. Baran, M.D., serves as Section Head of Advanced Heart Failure, Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital. As a renowned specialist in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology, Dr. Baran has cared for more than 1,000 heart transplant patients. He is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, and advanced heart failure and transplant medicine. As a clinical researcher, Dr. Baran is largely focused on transplant immunosuppression and the management of cardiogenic shock including device therapies. He led the team that created the SCAI Shock classification system, which is used worldwide to describe the severity of cardiogenic shock. His research consists of co-authoring more than 120 peer-reviewed articles, publishing 150 abstracts, and conducting more than 125 lectures/presentations. Dr. Baran is currently serving a three-year term (2020-2023) as a regional representative on the UNOS Cardiac Transplant Committee.



Jerry Estep, MD

Jerry Estep, M.D., is Chairman of the Robert and Suzanne Tomsich Department of Cardiology at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital, the top ranked hospital in South Florida by U.S. News & World Report. As part of Cleveland Clinic Florida's Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute, Dr. Estep leads a team of general cardiology and subspecialty trained physicians providing comprehensive heart care services including adult heart transplantation. Board certified in cardiovascular disease as well as advanced heart failure and transplantation, Dr. Estep specializes in advanced heart failure, left ventricular assist devices (LVADs), heart transplantation, echocardiography, cardiac amyloidosis, minimally invasive short-term devices to treat cardiogenic shock, endomyocardial biopsy, right heart catheterization and hemodynamic monitoring. Dr. Estep has shared in the management of over 500 patients who have undergone heart transplantation or received an LVAD and performed more than 1,000 endomyocardial biopsies and right heart catheterizations to guide treatment for these patients.

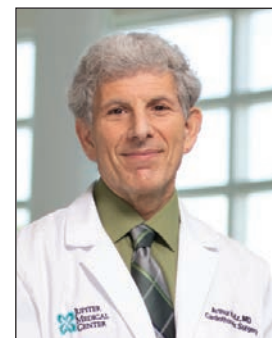


JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER

Arthur Katz, MD

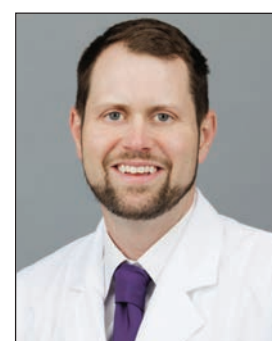
Arthur Katz, M.D., is the Medical Director of the award-winning Cardiac Surgery program at Jupiter Medical Center's Robson Heart and Vascular Institute. Dr. Katz leads a multi-disciplinary team dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of complex cardiac cases.

He has performed more than 2,000 "off-pump" coronary artery bypass surgeries and is considered a national authority on the procedure. He also specializes in heart valve surgeries, left ventricular reconstructions, ablations, tumor excisions and repairs of other heart defects. Dr. Katz is highly regarded in the field, with more than 27 years of experience, and is board certified and fellowship trained in cardiothoracic surgery. He graduated with honors from New York Medical College and completed his residency in general surgery at NYU Medical Center. Nominated by his physician peers for the "Top Doctor" recognition in Palm Beach Illustrated, Dr. Katz is also sought after as an expert speaker on advances in cardiac surgery.



James Michael Gardner, Jr., DO

James Michael Gardner, Jr., D.O., is a board-certified and fellowship-trained cardiologist at Jupiter Medical Center's Cardiology Group practice. Dr. Gardner specializes in Internal Medicine, Cardiology and Nuclear Cardiology, and has contributed industry-leading post-doctoral work through his research and conference presentations. He is well-regarded by colleagues and patients for his thoughtful and patient-centered approach to addressing heart ailments including congestive heart failure and hypertension. His practice areas also include echocardiology, invasive cardiology and preventive medicine. Dr. Gardner graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his internship, residency and fellowship at the St. James Hospital-Midwestern University in Olympia Fields, IL. Practicing since 2012, he is based at the Jupiter Medical Center Cardiology Group office in Jupiter.



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Profiles

MEMORIAL CARDIAC AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE

Miguel Castro, MD

Dr. Miguel Castro is an advanced heart failure cardiologist that gets professional satisfaction seeing his patients in the clinic and doing well. That's because some of them were near death when they first met.

"The patients are extremely grateful our team didn't give up on them," said Castro, whose fellowship training came in cardiovascular disease and advanced heart failure/transplant cardiology at Houston Methodist Hospital. "But these are long-term relationships for us and these individuals are like family."

It's that family feeling that drew Castro to Memorial nearly a year and a half ago. He appreciates that while the hospitals can be big, the cardiac program is smaller, and everyone works together for the benefit of its patients. An added bonus compared to other systems Castro has worked in is that everyone on the clinical team is accessible and willing to do whatever is necessary.



Priyanka Gosain, MD

Dr. Priyanka Gosain is interim chief of adult heart failure and transplantation services, a position that enables her to work with the most medically complex, acutely-ill cardiac patients.

In that role, she is involved in the implementation of new approaches that are less invasive and improve the patient's comfort and experience:

- Non-invasive rejection modeling – Specialists are now able to use very sensitive blood tests, instead of invasive biopsies, to aid potential rejections diagnosis for transplant patients

- Remote monitoring – Implantable devices are able to measure fluid status of heart failure patients in order to make changes to medication doses that maximize the benefits of the treatment while minimizing side effects

"Through research trials, devices, and medication therapies, we're able to improve the medical management of patients," said Gosain, whose fellowship training came at Mt. Sinai Medical Center and the University of South Florida's College of Medicine. "An important benefit is to reduce the times these very sick individuals have to physically be at one of our hospitals."



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MIRAMAR

Paola Casanova, MD

A non-invasive cardiologist, Dr. Paola Casanova's career path was influenced by the coronary artery disease her father was diagnosed with when she was 13 years old. "His condition required surgery, which was only available in Lima, Peru's capital city. The situation impacted my entire family and as the oldest child it was my job to take care of my siblings," she said.

The experience piqued her interest in cardiology, which she studied in Mexico. Reading American journals focused her attention on the U.S. and the cardiac research done here. Meantime, she never forgot what being the family of a patient felt like.

"I do my best to reassure family members and constantly communicate with them," said Casanova. "This was especially important during COVID-19 when they couldn't be together with loved ones. Sharing information builds trust and answer questions 'Dr. Google' just can't match."



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Profiles In Cardiology

MEMORIAL REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Adetola Ladejobi, MBBS

Dr. Adetola Ladejobi is a cardiac electrophysiologist who joined the Memorial Healthcare System in 2022. Though he completed two fellowships at the Mayo Clinic and earned a master's degree from Harvard University, Dr. Ladejobi says it was his upbringing in Nigeria that shaped his views on patient care. "I'm meeting people at difficult times in their lives, so it's important we consider both the medical and the human angles when developing treatments. Many are uncomfortable asking questions, but it's my role to ensure that patients understand what is going on so we can find solutions together."

Dr. Ladejobi was drawn to Memorial by the opportunity to work with patients and families in a public healthcare system. His time as a management consultant enabled him to understand the business side of medicine, and he applies this every day to help his patients navigate a complex healthcare system and achieve their health goals.



Sarah Rosanel, MD

Dr. Sarah Rosanel is a non-invasive clinical cardiologist that believes one of her primary roles is to prevent heart disease from happening. "50% of those who suffer heart attacks expire before they reach the hospital, so it's critically important that we do everything possible to avoid getting to that point." That includes understanding her patient's genetics and family history, testing to assess risk, and making sure there is a clear understanding of the importance of diet, exercise, and smoking cessation. She also advocates individuals schedule their first visit to a cardiologist while still in their 20s and visit at least every two years in the decades that follow.

Rosanel, a native of Morocco that grew up in Paris, is on the American College of Cardiology's Women's Leadership Council. She is also an associate professor at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women and a 2022 recipient of the Women in White Coats Heroes award.



JOE DIMAGGIO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Brian Boe, MD

Dr. Brian Boe was named medical director for pediatric cardiac interventional services in August of last year, just in time to be among the first to work in the newly expanded Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, a facility that includes an entire floor dedicated exclusively to the care of cardiology patients. "Ours is a team approach that has all the cardiac experts collaborating in the same space," said Boe, who specializes in the treatment of congenital heart disease. "The procedural suites with 3D imaging are all adjacent to patient rooms, meaning there is less movement of those we're caring for." Boe says it's an exciting time in the catheterization lab, with technology advancing the procedures that can be done to correct what had previously required open surgery. Heart valves can now be replaced through a minimally-invasive transcatheter procedure and PDA closures in babies are now a bedside procedure.



Javier Gonzalez, MD

Dr. Javier Gonzalez is a pediatric cardiologist and medical director of inpatient cardiac services and echocardiography services at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital (JDCH). Having started his medical career in the early 2000s, he says the advancements in diagnostic imaging from then till now are significant. "We primarily used 2D echocardiograms and had just started to use 3D at the time, now we regularly use holographic 3D reconstructions in planning for complex cases. Computerized tomography was only 16 slices; now we have 384 and photon counting technology with minimal radiation," said Gonzalez, who earned cardiology and advanced cardiovascular imaging fellowships at the Medical University of South Carolina in 2008 and 2009. Dr. Gonzalez joined JDCH in 2022 after serving as the director of hospitalization and non-invasive cardiology for 14 years at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa. He says Memorial's commitment to being at the forefront of technological advances, new treatments, therapies, and the outcomes being delivered by pediatric cardiac teams on even the most complex surgeries are things everyone connected to 'Joe D.' should be extremely proud of.



JOE DIMAGGIO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

John Dentel, MD

Dr. John Dentel is a pediatric heart surgeon that performs procedures to improve the quality and quantity of life of congenital heart disease patients. He also operates on those with advanced heart failure, including the implantation of mechanical circulatory assist devices and heart transplantation.

Transplants, however, require hearts donated from those who have passed away, and Dr. Dentel appreciates the sacrifice those families have made to assist his patients. "All those individuals connected to the work I do hold a special place in my own heart," said Dentel, whose fellowship training came at Indiana University and Washington University/Seattle Children's Hospital. "If the families would want to meet, I would love to show appreciation for their donation."

Dentel says his gratitude comes from his upbringing, with parents that taught him to remember where he came from, be thankful for what he has, and to help others. "The culture at Joe DiMaggio, where everyone wants to do the right thing for patients, fits my values."



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WEST

Inbar Saporta, MD, FACC

While Dr. Inbar Saporta works as a clinical cardiologist with experience in a wide variety of cardiac conditions, her recent focus is on women with high-risk pregnancies.

"Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of maternal mortality in the U.S., and the rates are rising. Many of these are preventable," said Saporta, whose fellowship training took place at Cooper University Hospital in southern New Jersey. "The subspecialty of cardio-obstetrics was formed to address this very specific issue. The goal is to improve maternal outcomes by early recognition of risk factors, evaluation, initiation of treatment and maintaining long term follow up." She is currently the only one in her professional group with this concentration.

Dr. Saporta says that her key to success is creating a trusting relationship with patients, making it clear she is their healthcare advocate. "I want every patient who comes through our doors to feel they have the support, education, and guidance to be as healthy as possible," she said.



Lynda Otalvaro-Orozco, MD

A general, adult, non-invasive cardiologist, Dr. Lynda Otalvaro-Orozco bases part of her practice on helping patients prevent coronary artery disease or, if they've already a cardiac issue, making sure it doesn't happen again. That involves understanding their family's heart history and very often encouraging lifestyle changes. "Genetics play a large part in someone's likelihood of having coronary artery disease, but medication, a proper diet, exercise, and quitting smoking go a long way toward preventing a heart attack or heart failure," said Otalvaro-Orozco.

One area of focus for Otalvaro-Orozco is family hypercholesterolemia and elevated lipoprotein (a), genetic disorders that affect hundreds of people and increases the likelihood of having coronary artery disease at a younger age. To that end she has become certified in not only cardiology, but also echocardiography, nuclear imaging, and clinical lipidology.

Prior to joining the Memorial family, Dr. Otalvaro-Orozco worked at the University of Florida where she was an assistant professor at its College of Medicine and medical director of the Lipid Clinic.



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Profiles In Cardiology

ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER

Gabriel E. Breuer, MD

Dr. Gabriel E. Breuer is a board-certified cardiologist at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, Good Samaritan Medical Center, St. Mary's Medical Center, Jupiter Medical Center and Cleveland Clinic who specializes in consultative and invasive cardiology, with a subspecialty in clinical cardiac electrophysiology. He practices in Palm Beach County for over 30 years. Dr. Breuer helped introduce the practice of clinical and invasive electrophysiology to the community. His areas of interest are arrhythmia management, device therapy and consultative electrophysiology. He has performed over 3,000 procedures such as pacemaker and defibrillator insertion, and biventricular pacing for cardiac resynchronization therapy in patients with congestive heart failure. He completed his internship, residency in internal medicine and fellowships in cardiovascular and electrophysiology at the University of Miami-Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Breuer is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (FACC) and a member of the Heart Rhythm Society.



PALM BEACH MEDICAL CENTER

Morteza Tavakol, MD

Dr. Morteza Tavakol is a board-certified cardiologist at Palm Beach Medical Center who specializes in advanced echocardiography, including 3-D and tissue-tracking modalities to diagnose and treat heart conditions. Dr. Tavakol's areas of interest are in structural and valvular heart disease, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, cardio-oncology and the use of multimodality cardiac imaging. A member of the American College of Cardiology and the American Society of Echocardiography, Dr. Tavakol is board certified in internal medicine, cardiology, echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, and vascular medicine. Dr. Tavakol earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in physiology at UCLA. He completed his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology at New York Presbyterian – Methodist Hospital. A lifelong lover of science and biology, Dr. Tavakol became a physician because he enjoyed the responsibility of making critical, life-impacting clinical decisions and effectively implementing them to obtain the best outcomes for his patients.



Matthew Klein, MD

Dr. Matthew Klein is a cardiologist specializing in electrophysiology, a sub-specialty of cardiology focusing on the management and treatment of electric disorders and arrhythmias affecting the heart. As an electrician of the heart, Dr. Klein specializes in the implantation of cardiac devices including implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), subcutaneous ICD, pacemaker procedures, left atrial appendage closure devices and techniques, cardiac resynchronization therapy, treatment of atrial fibrillation (AFib), ablation of complex arrhythmias including ventricular tachycardia and supraventricular tachycardia, hybrid ablation for AFib and tilt table testing. Dr. Klein is certified in cardiac electrophysiology and cardiovascular disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine. In addition, Dr. Klein is fellowship-trained in cardiac electrophysiology and general cardiology. He is a member of the Heart Rhythm Society and the American College of Cardiology. Since 2010, Dr. Klein's cardiology and electrophysiology office, now with Palm Beach health Network Physician Group – Cardiovascular Care has been located in Palm Beach Gardens. Dr. Klein is on-staff at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center.



GOOD SAMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER

Keith D. Meyer, MD

Dr. Keith D. Meyer, a board-certified cardiologist who has practiced at Good Samaritan Medical Center for 28 years, is committed to using his knowledge and experience to treat his patients and help them attain the best quality of life possible. He works alongside the multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals at the hospital's Cardiac and Vascular Institute to deliver high-quality care to the Palm Beach community. Dr. Meyer earned his medical degree at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, New York. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at New York VA Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in cardiology. He is board certified in both internal medicine and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Meyer, who has been a practicing cardiologist for 37 years, considers his day-to-day interactions with his patients to be one of the most rewarding aspects of his medical career.



Narayn Pillai, MD

Dr. Narayn Pillai is a board-certified cardiologist at Good Samaritan and St. Mary's Medical Centers in West Palm Beach. He specializes in General Cardiology, interventional cardiology and peripheral endovascular interventions. Dr. Pillai, who became interested in biology and the workings of the human body at an early age, earned his medical degree from JIPMER, Pondicherry, India. He completed his residency in internal medicine followed by a fellowship in Cardiology at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. He then did a Cardiac Imaging fellowship at Yale New Haven Medical Center and an Interventional Cardiology fellowship at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. He also completed a dedicated Vascular Fellowship at the Prairie Vascular Institute and expanded his expertise in peripheral arterial and venous disease. He spent three years in academics at University of Cincinnati Medical Center teaching residents and cardiology fellows. Over his 26-year career as a practicing cardiologist, Dr. Pillai has strived to provide the best care for his patients by staying up to date and engaging the patients in their own management. He takes pride in making a difference for his patients through life saving and limb saving coronary and peripheral interventions in both emergent and elective situations.



WEST BOCA MEDICAL CENTER

Carlo M. Zeidenweber, MD

Dr. Carlo M. Zeidenweber, a board-certified pediatrician and pediatric cardiologist at West Boca Medical Center, loves watching his young patients grow up and flourish. Dr. Zeidenweber specializes in treating fetal to adult patients with congenital heart disease. His clinical interests include fetal echocardiography and interventional cardiology, and he has published extensively in the field. Dr. Zeidenweber earned his medical degree at the Universidad Anahuac in Mexico. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Miami Children's Hospital, his pediatric cardiology fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta, and his interventional fellowship at Denver Children's Hospital. Over his more than 15-year career as a practicing cardiologist, Dr. Zeidenweber has successfully made very difficult diagnoses including, most recently, that of a patient with coronary artery atresia, an extremely rare and difficult condition to diagnose. Dr. Zeidenweber, whose love for medicine was inspired by his father, also a physician, has practiced at West Boca Medical Center for 11 years.



Constance Fields, MD

Dr. Constance Fields is a general cardiologist specializing in preventive cardiology and the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of illnesses including hypertension, coronary heart disease and congestive heart failure. Dr. Fields is board-certified in cardiology by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Additionally, she holds the distinction and honor of being a Castle Connolly Top Doctor since 1999, and in addition, earning the Exceptional Women in Medicine award in 2020 and 2021. For her education and training, Dr. Fields completed a fellowship in interventional cardiology and research cardiology from Tufts-New England Medical Center, Boston, MA. She completed her internal medicine internship, residency and general cardiology fellowship at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center located in Chicago, Ill. Dr. Fields graduated medical school from Northwestern University Medical School, in Chicago.



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Profiles In Cardiology

DELRAY MEDICAL CENTER

Yoel Vivas, MD

A board-certified cardiac electrophysiologist at Delray Medical Center, Dr. Yoel Vivas is also certified in Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology. He is the founder of The Arrhythmia Center of South Florida. Dr. Vivas is a Fellow of the Heart Rhythm Society and is among few specialists to have been awarded with this important designation, which recognizes recipients' advanced training, certification and commitment to research and treatment of heart rhythm disorders. Dr. Vivas earned his medical degree Magna Cum Laude at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the Hospital of St. Raphael, Yale University School of Medicine. He then pursued a fellowship in Electrophysiology at the prestigious Lahey Clinic in Boston, Massachusetts. He currently serves as a faculty member of the cardiology fellowship at Florida Atlantic University. He is a distinguished international speaker in the field of Atrial Fibrillation and author of many scientific publications.



Kushagra Katariya, MD, FACS

Dr. Kushagra Katariya is a cardiothoracic surgeon specializing in adult cardiothoracic surgery including minimally invasive heart valve and structural heart procedures at Delray Medical Center. Dr. Katariya specializes in coronary surgery, mitral valve surgery, aortic surgery, aortic valve surgery, lung and mediastinal surgery, transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and minimally invasive valve surgery. In addition, Dr. Katariya is board-certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and the American Board of Surgery. Dr. Katariya is on-staff at Delray Medical Center and Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and he has Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group – Cardiovascular Care offices located on the campuses of both hospitals. For his education and training, Dr. Katariya completed a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery from Jackson Memorial Medical Center/University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Katariya completed his general surgery training at Beth Israel Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine located in New York, NY. He graduated medical school from the University of Delhi, India in 1988.



HOLY CROSS HEALTH

Alexander G. Justicz, MD

Alexander Justicz, M.D., is a cardiothoracic surgeon with Holy Cross Medical Group, and Medical Director, Cardiovascular Surgery Services at Holy Cross Health. Published in multiple healthcare media outlets, Dr. Justicz is certified by the American Board of Surgery and American Board of Thoracic Surgery – Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery. Among Dr. Justicz's focus areas are adult cardiac surgery; aortic valve surgery; transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR); mitral valve surgery; minimally invasive aortic valve repair, mitral valve repair, aortic valve replacement and mitral valve replacement; coronary artery surgery; CABG; OPCAB; MIDCAB; off pump surgery; off pump coronary artery bypass; coronary artery bypass graft; minimally invasive direct coronary artery bypass; and surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation - MAZE procedure. Dr. Justicz earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard and graduated cum laude with his MD from Emory University School of Medicine. He completed an internship and his residency in both general and cardiothoracic surgery at Emory University Affiliated Hospitals as well as a fellowship in both cardiothoracic surgery and research.



Alexander Llanos, MD

Alexander Llanos, M.D., is an interventional and structural cardiologist, with Holy Cross Medical Group. His focus areas include interventional cardiology, structural heart disease, transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), atrial septal defect closure (ASD closure) and paravalvular leak closure (PVL closure). He is Board-certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology. Dr. Llanos is extensively involved in medical research and clinical trials, including several that are currently active. Dr. Llanos earned his undergraduate degree from Mercer University and his MD from Medical College of Georgia. He completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. He completed a clinical cardiology fellowship at Emory University then went on to complete a fellowship in interventional cardiology and advanced coronary and structural heart disease at Massachusetts General Hospital / Harvard Medical School.



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Profiles In Cardiology

BROWARD HEALTH IMPERIAL POINT

Monisha John, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC

Monisha John has served as the Stroke/Heart Failure Program Coordinator at Broward Health Imperial Point since 2018. In her role, she develops, implements and evaluates clinical practice guidelines for the program, in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team. She is also responsible for ensuring compliance with all state, federal and accrediting agencies and supporting optimal patient outcomes for stroke and heart failure patients.

"The field of cardiology is dynamic and ever-changing, with innovative technology that creates many subspecialties and endless opportunities for professionals in the field," John said. "Given that cardiovascular disease is on the rise, it is rewarding to be part of the solution to reduce this burden and to improve our community's health."

John received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Georgia State University and a master's in nursing, family nurse practitioner, from South University.



Jamey Emerson, RN

Jamey Emerson has served as Broward Health Imperial Point's Regional Manager for cardiac services since March 2021. In addition to managing day-to-day operations for the cardiac catheterization lab, interventional radiology, stress lab, the PICC team and the echocardiogram lab, he is also responsible for developing strategic initiatives to grow the service line.

"In my 30-plus years working in the cardiovascular service line, I have seen a lot of innovation," Emerson said. "I'm excited to see what this generation of innovation can do for patient outcomes."

Emerson received his associate degree in nursing from Canton College of Technology. He holds BLS and ACLS certifications from the American Heart Association.



BROWARD HEALTH NORTH

Danish Sheikh, DO, FACC

Danish Sheikh, D.O., a cardiologist at Broward Health North, is board certified in both cardiology and nuclear medicine and treats patients in inpatient and outpatient settings.

"Heart disease is so prevalent, almost everyone's family has been impacted by this disease," Dr. Sheikh said. "I've always had an interest in helping people understand and improve their heart health."

Dr. Sheikh serves as core faculty for the cardiology fellowship and internal medicine residency for Broward Health's graduate medical education program. He is also the program director of the traditional rotating internship program.

Dr. Sheikh received a bachelor's degree in psychology from New York University and his Doctor of Osteopathy degree at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. He served as chief resident when completing an internal medicine residency at Largo Medical Center in Largo, FL, and was named chief cardiology fellow when he completed his cardiology fellowship at Broward Health Medical Center.



Faraaz Mushtaq, DO

Cardiologist Faraaz Mushtaq, D.O., is board certified in both cardiovascular and internal medicine and cardiology. He has practiced at Broward Health North since 2016.

"I've been passionate about cardiology since completing a college internship for the AHA," Mushtaq said. "As I progressed through training, I realized clinical cardiology was where I could make the most impact. Unfortunately, too many patients leave their physician visits with unanswered questions and a poor understanding of their problems. That is why I pride myself on spending as much time as necessary to serve all of my patients' cardiovascular needs."

Dr. Mushtaq received his bachelor's degree cum laude in health information management from Saint Louis University and earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at Palmetto General Hospital and his cardiology fellowship at Broward Health Medical Center.



BROWARD HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER

Alan Niederman, MD

Alan Niederman, M.D., an interventional structural cardiologist with Broward Health Physician Group, was inspired at a young age to pursue medicine.

"My uncle was an internist, and I was fascinated at how he was able to relate to his patients and attend to their needs," Dr. Niederman said.

With more than 35 years of experience, Dr. Niederman specializes in clinical cardiology, echocardiogram, diagnostic cardiac catheterization, percutaneous coronary intervention, transcatheter aortic valve replacement and valvuloplasty.

"Interventional cardiology has rapidly evolved," Dr. Niederman said. "I never thought I would be implanting an aortic valve in an hour and sending my patient home the next morning."

Dr. Niederman received his medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine where he also completed his residency in internal medicine and fellowship in cardiovascular disease. Dr. Niederman is a professional member of the American College of Cardiology and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions.



Pamela Lombardi, MD

Pamela Lombardi, M.D., is a radiologist at North Broward Radiologists, where she specializes in cardiovascular and thoracic imaging for Broward Health and is part of the Coronary CTA task force at Broward Health Medical Center, the systems flagship hospital.

Dr. Lombardi enjoys the complexity of cardiovascular imaging because it requires an accurate interpretation of structural disease of the heart and vessels.

"In the current climate of personalized medicine, cardiac imaging plays an important role to enable advanced quantification of cardiac disorders," Dr. Lombardi said. "I am fortunate to be a part of this contribution to patient care in the Broward Health system."

Dr. Lombardi earned her medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. She completed imaging fellowships, in interventional radiology at Columbia Hospital and cardiothoracic imaging at UNC Chapel Hill. Before joining Broward Health, Dr. Lombardi was an assistant professor at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago and program director for the CV Imaging fellowship.



BROWARD HEALTH CORAL SPRINGS

Nycole Lindsay, RN, BSN

Nycole Lindsay, R.N., B.S.N., is a cardiovascular nurse specialist at Broward Health Coral Springs. She started her nursing career as a telemetry nurse followed by cardiac stepdown, which was the turning point in her career. "I quickly realized I wanted to continue on this path to work in the cardiac cath lab," Lindsay said. "I have always been interested in cardiology and fascinated by the heart." Lindsay is committed to offering world-class patient care. She attends patients during the pre-procedure, intra-procedural, and post-procedure of cardiac catheterizations, implantable devices, mechanical thrombectomies, peripheral angioplasties, transesophageal echocardiogram and cardioversions. "I love that in healthcare, there is always an opportunity to further your knowledge," Lindsay said. "I am constantly learning something new every day in the cath lab and truly inspired by my colleagues." Lindsay earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Nova Southeastern University. She is currently working on her master's degree.



Mohamed Osman, MD

Mohamed Osman, M.D., is an interventional cardiologist and medical director of the interventional cardiology program at Broward Health Coral Springs. With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Osman most enjoys seeing the immediate results of an emergency intervention on his patients. "A person with a heart attack can be literally on the verge of death, but after a successful intervention they can feel much better," Dr. Osman said. "There are only a few fields in medicine where you can achieve that kind of dramatic response." Dr. Osman received his medical degree from Cairo University School of Medicine in Egypt. He completed his internal medicine residency at New York University, a cardiology fellowship at Good Samaritan Hospital in Ohio, and an interventional cardiology fellowship at New York Medical College. "I look forward to the opening of our expanded cath lab, which is built with state-of-the-art equipment to serve our community," Dr. Osman said.





Profiles In Cardiology

PALM BEACH HEALTH NETWORK PHYSICIAN GROUP – CARDIOVASCULAR CARE, CARDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES OF BOCA RATON

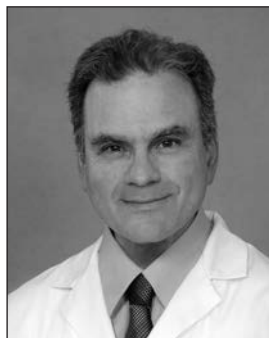
Steven Coletti, MD

Dr. Steven Coletti joined his cardiology associates group in 1996 and today continues to specialize in heart care in the Boca Raton and Delray Beach communities. Dr. Coletti specializes in valvular heart disease, coronary artery disease, hypertension and lipid treatments. In addition, Dr. Coletti specializes in echocardiography imaging of the heart. Dr. Coletti is board-certified in cardiology by the American Board of Internal Medicine. For his education and training, Dr. Coletti completed fellowships in cardiology and interventional cardiology, residency and internship in internal medicine, from the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Coletti graduated medical school from the University of Florida College of Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Coletti holds the distinction of Castle Connolly Top Doctor since 2010. Dr. Coletti is a member of the American College of Cardiology, American Medical Association and American Heart Association. Dr. Coletti is on-staff at West Boca Medical Center and Delray Medical Center.



Ronald Gabor, MD

Dr. Ronald Gabor is a cardiologist practicing in the Boca Raton community since 1999 specializing in preventive cardiology, valvular heart disease and heart failure. Additionally, Dr. Gabor focuses on preventive cardiology and provides diagnosis and pathways towards treatment for arrhythmia, hypertension, respiratory disease, chest pain, coronary artery disease, heart valve disease, circulatory system disease and performs transesophageal echocardiography, echocardiography and cardiac device monitoring. Dr. Gabor is board-certified with the American Board of Internal Medicine. For his education and training, Dr. Gabor completed a fellowship in cardiology from the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Gabor completed an internal medicine residency and internship from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, East Campus located in Bronx, NY. Dr. Gabor graduated medical school from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He is trilingual in French, Hungarian and English. Dr. Gabor is on-staff at West Boca Medical Center and Delray Medical Center among other Boca Raton hospitals.



PALM BEACH HEALTH NETWORK PHYSICIAN GROUP – CARDIOVASCULAR CARE, SOUTH FLORIDA HEART INSTITUTE

Jonathan Kahan, MD

Dr. Jonathan Kahan is a board-certified cardiologist at the South Florida Heart Institute, a cardiology office with Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group (PBHNPG) – Cardiovascular Care in Delray Beach. Dr. Kahan is on-staff at Delray Medical Center and is an associate clinical professor of medicine and the program director of the cardiovascular fellowship program at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Kahan is board-certified in internal medicine, cardiology, echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, cardiac computed tomography imaging and has extra additional certification in vascular study interpretation. He specializes in hypertension, hyperlipidemia coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, peripheral artery disease, preventive cardiology and obesity treatment, arrhythmias, syncope, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Prior to joining PBHNPG, Dr. Kahan served as a chief cardiology fellow at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY, and taught as assistant clinical instructor of medicine at Stony Brook University School of Medicine in Stony Brook, NY. He completed a fellowship in general cardiology at Winthrop University Hospital. Dr. Kahan finished a residency in internal medicine at St. Luke's Hospital, Columbia University in New York and he graduated from the Sackler School of Medicine New York / American Program in Tel Aviv, Israel.



Mark Fisher, MD, FACC

Dr. Mark Fisher is a highly experienced interventional cardiologist specializing in the diagnosis and catheter based treatment of cardiovascular and structural heart diseases. Dr. Fisher specializes in cardiac consultation, echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, cardiac catheterization, pacemaker evaluation and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) stenting. Dr. Fisher's office is located at the South Florida Heart Institute in Delray Beach where he is the medical director of the practice's nuclear cardiology laboratory and a member of a team of seven cardiologists at the practice. Additionally, Dr. Fisher is on-staff at Delray Medical Center. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Fisher is also a member of the American College of Cardiology. For his education and training, Dr. Fisher completed fellowship-training in cardiology and interventional cardiology at Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, his residency and internship in internal medicine at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, NY, and medical school at New York Medical College located in Valhalla, NY. Dr. Fisher has been practicing medicine since 1985.



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Around the Region... Around the Region... Around the Region...

HSS Florida Continues to Grow With Appointment of Tara M. McCoy as CEO

Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) has appointed experienced healthcare leader, Tara M. McCoy, to the new position of HSS Florida Chief Executive Officer.

McCoy brings to HSS more than 20 years of healthcare and Florida leadership experience with Cleveland Clinic, Tenet Healthcare, among others. She most recently served as the Division Chief Executive of GenesisCare, a global provider of oncology services, overseeing the West Florida region. In her new role she will focus on expanding the acclaimed HSS musculoskeletal care throughout the Florida market.

McCoy earned her bachelor's degree from Tulane University and her master's degree from the University of South Florida. In addition, she completed a one-year advanced certification course in managing healthcare delivery from Harvard University Business School.



Tara M. McCoy

New CMCO Rhonda Curry Joins Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Following a national search, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of UHealth – University of Miami Health System, is pleased to announce Rhonda Curry has joined as chief marketing and communications officer.

A seasoned communications executive, Curry has more than 20 years' experience leading strategic marketing and communications in the field of cancer research, prevention, treatment and care. She brings to her new role a wealth of experience in digital content across earned, owned, and paid media. Curry leads executive and internal communication, marketing, and social media, and brings expertise in community and government relations, health care policy and delivery, and reputation management.

Curry joins Sylvester and UHealth from UCLA Health in Los Angeles, where she served as chief of communications and interim chief of marketing. Her oversight included the David Geffen School of Medicine and NCI-designated Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. Curry previously led communications and marketing for NCI-designated Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in health care administration from St. Joseph's College of Maine, and her Master of Arts in communication and leadership studies from Gonzaga University.



Rhonda Curry

HCA Florida Northwest Hospital Welcomes David Paniry as New Chief Financial Officer

HCA Florida Northwest Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of chief financial officer (CFO) David Paniry.

Paniry brings nearly 20 years of professional finance experience to Northwest Hospital and most recently served as the assistant chief financial officer at HCA Florida Kendall Hospital.

Paniry started his career in investment banking where he spent 15 years working in various trading roles in the fixed income space and rose to become Vice President of Fixed Income Trading at Barclays Capital. He earned his bachelor of science from the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business.



David Paniry

Holy Cross Health Adds New Board Member

Linda B. Carter, who recently retired as CEO and president of Community Foundation of Broward after 23 years, has been named to the Holy Cross Health Board of Directors.

As CEO and president of the Community Foundation of Broward, Carter raised assets from \$20 million to more than \$220 million and increased annual grants from under \$1 million a year to more than \$1 million a month, enabling the Foundation to take a leadership role in addressing foster care reform, education and the arts, to name a few. Under her stewardship the Foundation was the first community foundations in Florida to be deemed in full compliance with National Standards and inclusion in the prestigious list of Top 100 community foundations nationwide. Previously, she was executive vice president of the Museum of Discovery and Science where she created and executed a long-range plan to become a world class science center.

Carter currently serves as secretary of the board of trustees of Florida House on Capitol Hill, the State Embassy on Capitol Hill that connects, celebrates and champions Florida. She also sits on the grants, nominating and marketing committees for Funding Arts Broward. Among the many boards she has served on are Broward Workshop, Jack and Jill Children's Center, Museum of Discovery and Science, Funding Arts Broward and Urban League of Greater Fort Lauderdale.



Linda B. Carter

Arnaldo Rodriguez-Yumet, JD, CEC Joins Catholic Health Services as VP Human Resources

Officials at Catholic Health Services announced the appointment of Arnaldo Rodriguez-Yumet, JD, CEC, as the new Vice President of Human Resources. Rodriguez-Yumet joins the organization with over 30 years of experience in human resources across diverse business lines and multicultural environments. He has held distinguished leadership positions in our community, most recently at ChenMed Healthcare where he oversaw the talent management agenda for clinics across 14 states in the past 4 years. He was also responsible for encompassing approximately 1K employees, including 400+ clinicians and non-clinical workforce.

He is a native of Puerto Rico and earned his Juris Doctor (JD) School of Law at Interamerican University, San Juan, PR. Rodriguez-Yumet is a highly skilled strategic business executive who helped lead several organizations through significant growth and expansion. During his career he has implemented best in class programs for staff development around organizational levels from new hires to senior executives.



Arnaldo Rodriguez-Yumet

HCA Florida Brandon Hospital Promotes Melissa Bell to Vice President of Emergency Services and Shannon Vanek to Assistant Chief Nursing Officer

HCA Florida Brandon Hospital has promoted Melissa Bell, MSN, RN, CEN, to vice president of Emergency Services. Bell has successfully served in the position at an interim level since September 2022. Bell joined Brandon Hospital in 2016 as manager of the Emergency Department. She then served as manager of the hospital's Medical/Surgical Inpatient Unit from 2017 to 2018. In 2019, Bell began a new position as manager of HCA Florida New Tampa Emergency and HCA Florida Riverview Emergency, which are both a part of HCA Florida Brandon Hospital. Bell was then promoted in early 2022 to director of Brandon Hospital's free-standing Emergency Departments.

Brandon Hospital has also promoted Shannon Vanek, MHA, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, NE-BC, to assistant chief nursing officer (ACNO). Vanek joined HCA Florida Brandon Hospital in 2017 as director of Women's Services. In this role, she had daily oversight of high-risk labor and delivery patients as well as the nursery, mom and baby unit and gynecology. She also served as interim director of Pediatric Services and has experience as a labor and delivery charge nurse, case manager and nursing supervisor.



Melissa Bell



Shannon Vanek

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Around the Region... Around the

Jared Smith Named Chief Executive Officer of Bethesda Hospital East and Bethesda Hospital West

Baptist Health South Florida today announced it has named Jared Smith as Chief Executive Officer of Bethesda Hospital East and Bethesda Hospital West. Together, these hospitals serve more than 100,000 patients in Palm Beach County each year. This will be effective on February 27 following the retirement of current CEO Nelson Lazo, who has served the hospitals as CEO since 2019, and has been with Baptist Health since 2006.



Jared Smith

"As a visionary and accomplished leader, Jared's focus and passion have been to lead strategy, business development and physician collaboration, while continuously improving quality, patient care, collaboration and culture," said Glenn Waters, Baptist Health Chief Operating Officer. "His experience and dedication will serve our patients and employees well."

"For the past 25 years, Jared's career has been focused on the South Florida healthcare market, including eight years in the Palm Beach market and he has had great success in elevating the standard of care and leading engaged and high-performing teams like ours," said Lincoln Mendez, North Region Executive for Baptist Health and CEO of Boca Raton Regional Hospital. "He understands the unique needs of our community and is committed to delivering exceptional care and service."

Smith comes to Baptist Health from Broward Health Coral Springs where he has served as Regional Chief Executive Officer since January 2018. While in this role, Jared has been responsible for overall strategic, quality and operational aspects of the hospital.

"With almost 30 years of finance and healthcare experience, Jared is an innovative thinker who has a proven track record of successful quality and safety initiatives," said Jeff Pheterson, Board Chair of Bethesda Hospital East and Bethesda Hospital West. "He shares the values of Baptist Health and will be a great asset to our organization."

"Bethesda Hospital East and Bethesda Hospital West are exceptional hospitals with caring, dedicated teams who give of themselves each day to care for our community," said Smith. "I am excited and honored to work with this great team of employees, physicians, nurses, and staff to help carry out our important mission for our patients."

Smith is active in many community and professional organizations including South Florida Hospital and Health Association, where he currently serves as Executive Board Chairman, South Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, and Coral Springs Economic Development Committee.

He received his bachelor's degree in accounting and his master's degree in taxation from the University of Miami.



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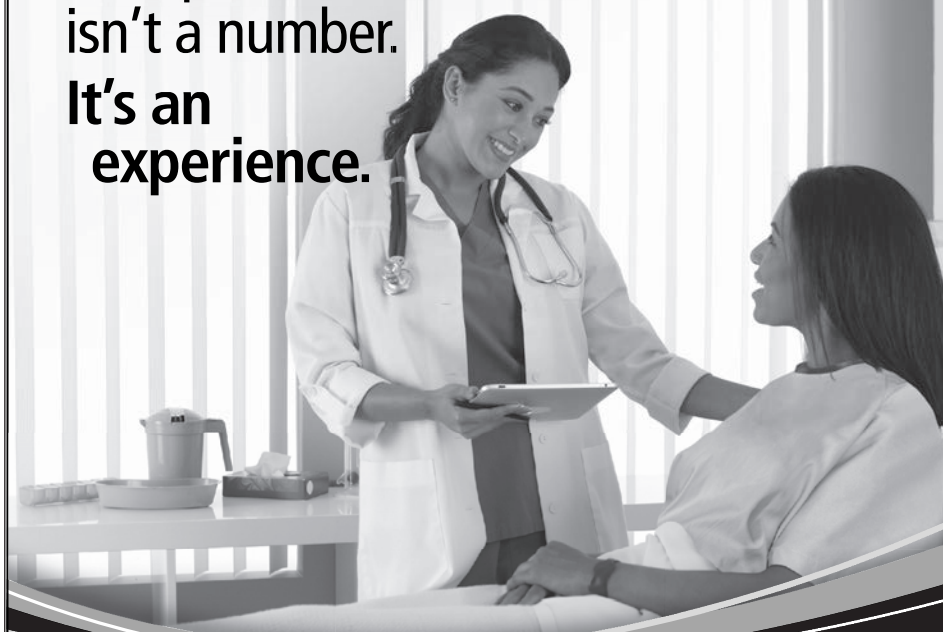
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MAKINGROUNDS...MAKINGROUNDS...

Daniel Benito, MD, Head and Neck Surgeon, Joins Cleveland Clinic Martin Health



Dr. Daniel Benito

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health is pleased to welcome head and neck surgeon, Daniel Benito, M.D. Upon earning his medical degree at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, Dr. Benito completed the otolaryngology – head and neck surgery residency at George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington DC. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, Dr. Benito was a resident physician in the Division of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery at George Washington University Hospital.

Dr. Benito holds professional memberships in the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, the American Head and Neck Society and the American Thyroid Association. He has published more than 45 peer-reviewed articles on a range of head and neck surgery topics, and has presented his research at both regional and national meetings.

Cleveland Clinic Florida Appoints Amre Nouh, MD, as Regional Chair of Neurology



Dr. Amre Nouh

Cleveland Clinic Florida has appointed Amre Nouh M.D., MBA, FAHA, as Regional Chair of Neurology. In this role, Dr. Nouh will lead neurology care for the Cleveland Clinic Florida's Neuroscience Institute.

Dr. Nouh has held various leadership and teaching roles. Most recently, he served as System Director of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease at Hartford HealthCare, a seven acute care hospital system in CT, and Medical Director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center at Hartford Hospital, the first and one of the largest comprehensive stroke centers in New England. During the same period, Dr. Nouh was also Associate Professor of Neurology, Core Faculty and Vascular Neurology Fellowship Director at the University of Connecticut, where he fulfilled his passion for educating medical students, residents, fellows, and advance practice providers.

Upon earning his medical degree from the University of Alexandria, Egypt, Dr. Nouh completed his neurology residency at the University of Illinois. He went on to complete the vascular neurology fellowship at Loyola University Medical Center in Illinois. Dr. Nouh earned his executive MBA from MIT Sloan School of Management.

Dr. Iahn Gonsenhauser Appointed as Lee Health's New Chief Medical Officer



Dr. Iahn Gonsenhauser

With extensive experience in hospital leadership and administration roles, Iahn Gonsenhauser, M.D., will serve as Lee Health's new chief medical officer.

Dr. Gonsenhauser came to Lee Health from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, OH, where he was the chief quality and patient safety officer.

Dr. Gonsenhauser received his medical degree and completed his residency training in internal medicine at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He also has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology/Neuroscience from Syracuse University in New York and a Master's Degree in Finance/Bioscience Entrepreneurship from the Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management. Before his medical training, Dr. Gonsenhauser spent six years working in the biomedical research fields of physiology, genetics and the cognitive science of aging.

Lee Health Brings Urologic Oncologist to Southwest Florida



Dr. Joseph Klink

Dr. Joseph Klink has joined Lee Physician Group Urology to create and lead its urologic oncology department.

Dr. Klink previously spent the past nine years as the director of urologic oncology and robotics at Deaconess Health System in Evansville, IN, and has completed more than 1,000 robotic surgeries. Dr. Klink graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine and completed his residency at Duke University Medical Center and fellowship in urologic oncology at the Cleveland Clinic Glickman Urologic and Kidney Institute. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Urology and a member of the American Urologic Association and American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health Welcomes New Physicians to the Digestive Disease Services Institute

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health is pleased to welcome three new physicians: Roger Nathaniel Coron, M.D., gastroenterologist; Emanuela Silva Alvarenga, M.D., colorectal surgeon; and Hala Al-Jiboury, M.D., gastroenterologist.

Dr. Coron earned his medical degree at New Jersey Medical School and completed the internal medicine residency program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Pennsylvania. He went on to complete the gastroenterology fellowship program at New York Medical College and is board-certified in gastroenterology by the American College of Internal Medicine. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, Dr. Coron was Chief, Division of Gastroenterology, at Montefiore New Rochelle in New York.

Dr. Alvarenga earned her medical degree at the Faculdade de Medicina de Jundiai, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she also completed her general surgery and coloproctology residencies. In the U.S., she retrained and completed the general surgery residency at Florida State University, the ACGME accredited colorectal surgery residency and colorectal surgery research fellowship programs at Cleveland Clinic Florida. She is board certified by the American College of Surgeons and the American Board of Colorectal Surgery. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, Dr. Alvarenga was a colorectal surgeon clinical associate at Cleveland Clinic Florida and a faculty member with Ross University School of Medicine in Miramar and Florida State University College of Medicine.

Dr. Al-Jiboury earned her medical degree at The University of Toledo College of Medicine in Ohio and completed the internal medicine residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in California. She is board certified in both internal medicine and gastroenterology and fellowship-trained in gastroenterology at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, Dr. Al-Jiboury was a partner physician in gastroenterology at Southern California Kaiser Permanente San Bernardino County.



Dr. Roger Nathaniel Coron



Dr. Emanuela Silva Alvarenga



Dr. Hala Al-Jiboury

Ronald Cossman, MD, Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Joins Cleveland Clinic Martin Health

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health welcomes board-certified surgeon, Ronald Cossman, M.D. Dr. Cossman specializes in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. After earning his medical degree at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, Dr. Cossman completed the general surgery residency program at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and the cardiothoracic surgery residency program at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. He is board-certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and holds professional memberships in the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Harwell Wilson Surgical Society. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, Dr. Cossman was cardiothoracic surgeon with OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center in Illinois.



Dr. Ronald Cossman

World-Renowned Immunologist Named Scientific Director of the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

One of the world's leading diabetes experts, Matthias von Herrath, M.D., has been named the new scientific director of the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI) at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. von Herrath joins the Miller School after serving as professor at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in San Diego. He also is vice president and senior medical officer for Novo Nordisk, Inc., a Danish pharmaceutical company. He was twice ranked as the "#1 Juvenile Diabetes Expert" by Expertscape. Dr. von Herrath was the recipient of American Diabetes Association's outstanding scientific achievement award in 2008, the German Diabetes Society's Langerhans award in 2014, and also received a lifetime achievement award from The Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes (nPOD).



Dr. Matthias von Herrath

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NCH Healthcare System Announces \$5 Million Match Gift Earmarked for Healthcare Initiative

On Monday, January 9th, the NCH Healthcare System celebrated the renovation and grand re-opening of the Marco Rehabilitation Center located at 40 S. Heathwood Dr. on Marco Island made possible by contributions from Barbara and Steve Slaggie. As they were being thanked for their generosity, Mr. and Mrs. Slaggie made another exciting, surprise announcement of their intention to inspire others to support the new Marco Urgent Care Center building with a \$5 million dollar match grant.

Originally from Minnesota, the Slaggies have been supporters of NCH for some time after becoming residents of the island. Both Barbara and Steve are firm believers in giving back to the communities in which they live.

Throughout the years, the couple have supported many philanthropic efforts in the education, and humanitarian sector. Healthcare is another area of focus where the Slaggies feel their donated dollars will make a tremendous impact for people of all demographics.

"We have been blessed to be in a position to be able to give back to our communities," said Barbara Slaggie. "Not only do we hope this \$5 million match gift will go a long way in making exceptional, leading-edge healthcare available for the residents of Marco, but we also hope it will inspire others to give as well."

The new, two-story, 24,000 sf Marco Urgent Care Center is slated to begin construction this summer with the existing clinic remaining open until completion of the new site in 2024.



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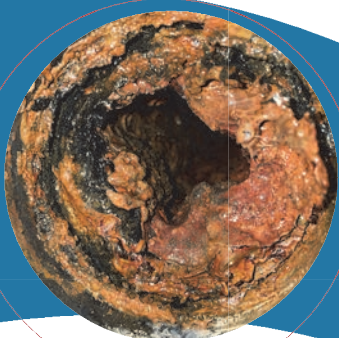


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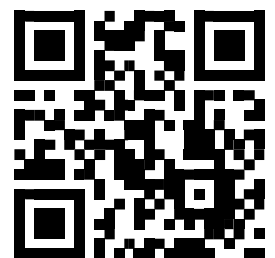


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WHAT'S NEW...WHAT'S NEW...WHAT'S NEW...

Delray Medical Center Launches New “Cardiac Concierge” Program to Quickly Identify, Treat Patients with Chest Pain and Heart Failure Symptoms

Delray Medical Center has launched a new “Cardiac Concierge” program designed to save lives by quickly identifying and treating patients experiencing chest pain and heart failure symptoms. This program provides more personalized care with enhanced accessibility and convenience through a dedicated cardiac team.

Under the program, a dedicated cardiac liaison meets any patient who comes to the emergency room (ER) complaining of chest pains and heart failure symptoms as soon as they arrive at the hospital. Delray’s experienced team of cardiologists, electrophysiologists, cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons, specially trained cardiac nurses and other dedicated cardiac practitioners then implements a specialized care plan to expedite the patient’s diagnosis and treatment. The team and dedicated cardiac navigator remains by the patient’s side throughout their hospital stay in order to fast track their care and provide educational resources.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), prompt diagnosis and treatment of heart attack symptoms has been shown to improve survival rates. Research by the AHA found that the longer the time between when heart attack symptoms start and a patient has an artery-clearing procedure known as a percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), the more damage to the heart muscle and the more significant and damaging the heart attack.

“At Delray Medical Center, we are committed to providing life-saving heart care to our patients,” said Maria Morales Menendez, the hospital’s Chief Operating Officer. “Our new ‘Cardiac Concierge’ program represents a significant enhancement of our ability to quickly identify and treat heart failure patients, and potentially improve their chances of a full recovery.”

“When a heart attack happens, any delay in diagnosis and treatment can be deadly,” said Latosha Wise, Cardiac Navigator at Delray Medical Center. “The ‘Cardiac Concierge’ program is designed to speed up that process while providing our patients with a direct line to their navigator and dedicated cardiac team. The quicker we can identify patients experiencing chest pains or other symptoms of heart failure when they come to the ER, the quicker our team of dedicated cardiac specialists can begin treatment. Our ultimate goal is to save lives.”

McNally Family Foundation Make Generous Gift to Lynn Cancer Institute

The McNally Family Foundation recently made a very generous seven-figure gift to Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute that named The McNally Family Foundation Center for Patient Support Services. This gift will help with integration of the many cancer support programs offered at the Institute. It will ensure the services continue to thrive and serve our patients well. With the newly formed assimilation, Lynn Cancer Institute can assure funding for all the services detailed under each of the respective patient-centered programs.

John and Arline McNally are selfless philanthropists that have resided in Boca Raton since 1969 and have always provided active “hands-on” involvement at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. In addition to their most recent donation, the McNallys founded the Tree of Hope initiative at Lynn Cancer Institute in 2019. The Tree of Hope has quickly grown into a beloved program at the cancer institute. Tree of Hope ensures that all new cancer patients receive a comfort tote that includes a plush blanket, comfy slipper socks, performance cap, a journal and pen, a double-walled tumbler for hot and cold drinks, and lip balm to help soothe patients during their treatment process.

“Boca Raton Regional Hospital considers itself extremely fortunate to have philanthropists like Arline and John,” states Lincoln Mendez, North Region Executive of Baptist Health and CEO of Boca Raton Regional Hospital. “Their giving is steadfast and focused on the true well-being of our patients. The McNallys are regular supporters of League of Ribbons, which funds many different programs at Lynn Cancer Institute, including, but not limited to, providing grocery and gasoline gift cards for cancer patients, as well as yoga and massage therapy. Arline and John’s personal involvement at Boca Regional and other select organizations is testimony of paying it forward.”

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A message from our President

Florida's Medicaid Roll to Grow Smaller

While not many “good” things happened throughout the pandemic, one good thing that did happen was that Medicaid was there to support the many people who became qualified for coverage as our economy suffered.

Yes, 5.6+ million Floridians currently receive Medicaid benefits, or about a quarter of the state's population. For many, this coverage is about to end. Primarily due to the economic impacts resulting from the epidemic, Florida has added almost 1.8 million additional people to the Medicaid roll since 2020.

“At the start of the pandemic, Congress enacted the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which included a requirement that Medicaid programs keep people continuously enrolled through the end of the month in which the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) ends, in exchange for enhanced federal funding.” (Keiser Family Foundation) Well, the end of the public health emergency is about to happen.

CMS has required states to submit plans that explain how they are going to “unwind” their rolls. States have submitted various processes for approval and



Jaime Caldwell

one method that will be used in Florida to look at continued eligibility is the most recent individual earnings data. In a recent legislative meeting, it was offered that almost 900,000 people no longer qualify to receive Medicaid benefits and will be removed from the roll.

Another 850,000 people are targeted because either they have failed to respond to information requests or they haven't used Medicaid benefits over the last two years. For Medicaid beneficiaries who may have moved, once, twice, or more over the last two years, they are in danger of losing their benefits, as mailed questionnaires likely have not found them.

For many of these individuals, other options may not be available. Because Florida did not expand Medicaid, families earning under the Federal Poverty Limits are not eligible to receive subsidies under the government run health exchanges. Said Erica Monet Li, a policy analyst at Florida Policy Institute, “This is a historic number of Floridians to potentially lose health coverage — one in 22 people — and all within the span of under 12 months.”

2023 will, indeed, be an interesting year.



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