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THE REGION'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS & PHYSICIANS
OUR 19TH YEAR SERVING THE HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY!



Dr. Mariselis Rosa-Sanchez

Treating Kidney Disease in Children: The Comprehensive Approach of Pediatric Nephrologist Dr. Mariselis Rosa-Sanchez

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Kidney disease is a widespread health issue affecting people of all ages, including children. Kidneys filter waste and excess fluid from the body, produce urine, regulate blood pressure, and balance electrolytes.

When the kidneys are not functioning correctly, various health problems can occur. In children, kidney disease can be caused by birth defects, infections, inflammation, genetic disorders, and certain medications. Therefore, early detection and treatment are essential to managing kidney disease and preventing long-term complications.

Pediatric nephrologists specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of kidney diseases in children. They work closely with families to provide comprehensive care, including managing symptoms, monitoring kidney function, and coordinating with other healthcare providers as needed.

Dr. Mariselis Rosa-Sanchez is one such pediatric nephrologist who is committed to raising awareness and preventing kidney disease in children. She holds board certifi-

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Legal Update

Update on House Bill 837

The Law Firm of Lubell & Rosen is closely monitoring the progress of House Bill 837. If HB 837 passes, it will have sweeping effects on doctors attempting to collect their medical bills against insurance companies. The bill contains a provision eliminating attorney's fees on such cases. If this bill passes, attorneys will no longer have any incentive to pursue these claims, which are usually over amounts too small to be taken on a contingency.

As of March 14, 2023, HB 837 is still on a fast track to become law in the State of Florida. Political insiders have indicated the law will be on Governor DeSantis' desk in less than 10 days, and all indications are that he will sign the bill. The latest version has offered a few concessions worthy of note. In its most recent form, the proposed legislation only will still allow attorney's fees in a small subset of cases. These are in the situation in which a carrier claims there is no coverage and the insured is required to sue to prove coverage exists. These are known as coverage disputes. But coverage disputes are rare. A coverage denial is the exception, rather than the rule for most insurers. Most commonly, physicians are being denied for reasons relating

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BY RYAN SANDERS, ESQ.,
AND STEVEN LUBELL, ESQ.



Betsy Johnson

HIMpros: Helping to Bridge the Gap in Hospital Registries and HIM Departments

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Finding ways to recruit and retain top talent in healthcare has never been more critical three years after a worldwide pandemic. However, with a heavy emphasis on recruiting and retaining the best talent, Florida-based HIMpros is well-equipped to help healthcare companies navigate this challenging market.

Founded by Betsy Johnson, the small, woman-owned, and minority-certified healthcare staffing company specializes in recruiting before a position becomes available, ensuring a solid pipeline of candidates and offering options for potential staff to hire.

HIMpros is dedicated to providing top talent to its clients and resources for consultants to continuously improve and grow within the organization. Johnson understands that flexibility, retention, and resilience are critical to maintaining and hiring top talent in this environment.

Two of their specialized areas include cancer registries and trauma registries.

Cancer registries are maintained by trained cancer registrars, who collect, analyze, and report cancer-related data

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Education

Miami Dade College's Health Sciences Program: Preparing Students for the Future of Health Care

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

An Associate in Science (AS) degree in Health Services Management is a program designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to manage health care facilities. This program is becoming increasingly popular due to the growing demand for health care professionals in various settings.

Miami Dade College (MDC) will soon be offering a new AS Degree in Health Services Management. The program will be available in a blended format starting in Fall 2023. This program is designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to manage health care facilities and is unique in its approach to education.

The AS in Health Services Management program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive and advanced understanding of the health care field. Students will learn about legal and ethical responsibilities within the health care system, current issues in



Dr. Alwyn Leiba

Continued on page 16



TRANSPLANT CENTER

April is Donate Life Month

Thinking about what happens to your body once you're gone may not be pleasant, but knowing that you'll be saving lives is rewarding. There are more than 100,000 people on the national transplant waiting list, and every 9 minutes another person is added.



An average of 17 people die each day because the organ they needed was not donated in time. Becoming a donor will have an enormous impact on the lives of many. In fact, up to eight lives can be saved through the organ donation of just one donor, and many more lives enhanced through tissue, bone and eye donation. Cleveland Clinic Florida answers some frequently asked questions below to help you make this important decision.

What standards are in place for organ distribution?

Transplant patients are registered with the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS), to be placed on the national waiting list. Organs are matched by blood and tissue typing, organ size, medical urgency, waiting time and geographic location.

What is the criteria to become a donor?

There are no age restrictions, but if you're under 18 it will require parental consent. Regardless of your medical history you can be considered.

If involved in an accident, will being a donor reduce my chances of being saved?

When admitted to a hospital the first priority is to save your life. Every effort will be made, regardless of whether you're a donor or not.

How will becoming a donor affect my family?

Sharing your decision with family can help prepare them in advance. Including donation in your advanced directives, living will and end of life documents, will avoid questions regarding your wishes.

Does being a donor prohibit an open casket funeral?

Organs are carefully recovered and there should be no outward, visible signs.

How do I become an organ donor?

You can register at donatelife.net or when you renew your driver's license.

Cleveland Clinic Florida launched its transplant program with kidney and liver transplant services in 2013, and the following year expanded the program with the addition of heart transplant. But the life-saving procedure of transplantation cannot occur unless people are willing to be an organ donor. Becoming a donor is giving the gift of life. Please consider registering as an organ donor today.

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Publisher's Note

Oops I Did It Again ...



Just when Carol thought it was safe to continue rehabbing and my caregiver duties had lightened up "just a bit," I got the itch — the bucket list itch. In my mind surely the last 3 months of intensive nursing and household chores equaled our dream car — a PT Cruiser convertible. And no sooner had I rationalized this purchase and I was on the hunt for the perfect 2007 model.

Many years previous, Carol and I had been talking about "what ifs," and amazingly we both landed on a PT Cruiser convertible. Well they don't call me a bloodhound for nothing, because pretty soon I was dragging her around test driving any PT Cruiser model I could find. And much like "Goldilocks," Carol found something wrong with each one. The first one was too shaky, the second smelled smokey and the third was the wrong color, a bright flashy blue. At this point I was beginning to suspect that Carol was just finding excuses NOT to find the right car, but amazingly #4 checked all her boxes:

- ✓ smoother ride;
- ✓ clean, no smoking interior; and
- ✓ perfect vanilla body color with the dark brown top.

Yes, I know it's no Lamborghini or Ferrari, but for me and Carol I'd say it's just right.

Charles Felix



*You can reach Charles Felix at
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Let's Connect:
ACHE of South Florida Spotlight



ACHE of South Florida Member Spotlight: Jorge J. Garcia, Pharm.D., MS, MHA, MBA, FACHE

BY VANESSA ORR

As the assistant vice president at Baptist Health overseeing system oncology and infusion pharmacy services, Jorge J. Garcia, Pharm.D., MS, MHA, MBA, FACHE, has been at the forefront of how quickly healthcare has evolved over the past few years. As a member and Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), he has been able to stay on top of these changes, as well as prepare for what is to come.

"Being a pharmacy leader, during COVID I initially went through bringing vaccinations to the community, and later tried to increase patients' access to the prophylactic and treatment options available," he explained. "During this time, healthcare began diversifying sites of care to provide patients with the ability to get infusion therapy at home as well as at other non-hospital-based areas."

"This has transformed the way we care for patients," he continued. "While this process was accelerated because of the pandemic, it did prove to us that patients could stay home and get a level of care there."

In addition to making care more accessible to patients, this transition to home or non-hospital-based care has other advantages as well, because it is more cost-effective for payors, he noted. Garcia added that he has also seen a transformation as it relates to payer benefits around oncology and rare disease medications.

As these changes have taken place, Garcia has been able to stay abreast of the ever-evolving healthcare landscape by networking and learning from other healthcare leaders.

"As a pharmacist, being in ACHE is my avenue to the rest of healthcare," he explained of the multidisciplinary organization that includes all facets of healthcare leadership. "The organization helps me understand how my pharmacy strategy fits into the overall healthcare strategy nationally. It allows me to connect with the bigger picture to make sure that my pharmacy strategy is complementary to the rest of health care."

Garcia gives the example of a presentation at ACHE's national meeting last year which focused on how primary care was becoming linked with pharmacies—for example, CVS and Walgreen's have begun offering more comprehensive healthcare services to patients.

"I also learned about how the management of chronic conditions was decreasing the overall cost of care, and how pharmacies play a key role in providing access to chronic medications as an effective way to keep costs low," he said. "The meeting gave me an opportunity to see the role that pharmacy plays with chronic condition management, increased quality of care and quality of outcomes, and how to achieve cost savings for healthcare in general."

In addition to providing information that can help in his own field, as a Fellow of ACHE, Garcia believes that earning the credential helps to pave the way for peer-to-peer interaction.

"I think my own organization is gaining an increased awareness of the importance of the FACHE designation, but at other places, it is hardwired into the leadership process," he explained. "I am a clinician by training, and having this designation helps me better identify among peers who are healthcare executives. We speak one united language, and it makes a big difference that we are able to collaborate from both a clinical perspective and also a leadership perspective. It reconciles the conversation in a very supportive way, and that has been a huge benefit in my career."



Jorge J. Garcia





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Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick Delivers Support for MorseLife Health System Workforce Training in the Glades

Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick recently met with graduates of MorseLife Health System's Building Better Communities workforce training program in the Glades and presented MorseLife leadership with confirmation of \$500,000 in FY23 Community Project Funding.

"In June of last year, we began collaborating with Victory Nursing to offer paid training 'earn as you learn' healthcare and hospitality courses in the Glades," said MorseLife President and CEO Keith A. Myers. "We are grateful Congresswoman Cherfilus-McCormick for obtaining this vital support that is changing people's lives. To date, more than 60 people have gone through the program and four dozen are currently employed by MorseLife."

A cost-free way for people to hone their skills, connect with mentors and explore employment options, the program offers participants clinical training classes to become certified nursing assistants, home health aides and medical technicians. The two-week hospitality course prepares participants for employment in housekeeping and as servers, porters and culinary hosts. Both programs provide a \$2,000 stipend and an offer of employment from MorseLife.

Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick spoke with program participants Shankeria Johnson and Tittiana Weatherspoon to learn more about their experiences. MorseLife Health System leadership including Chief Financial Officer Hong Chae, Board Chair Stephen A. Levin, Chair for Home and Community-based Services Board Terri Sriberg, Chair of Housing Corporation Stanley M. Katz, Chair of MorseLife Foundation Board David S. Mack, and Chair of MorseLife Health Center Carol Crawford thanked the Congresswoman for her support.



Evolving Opportunities in Healthcare

Over time, our healthcare system has worked through numerous challenges and survived in a stronger position. The post-pandemic environment is still another challenge we face that could change the course of the industry creating new opportunities. The external global environment suggests a global recession along with a shrinking of the world's gross domestic product. Inflation is a reality that cannot be ignored and will test the strength of many healthcare organizations. Historically, healthcare is recession proof but because of the pandemic, the healthcare sector must address both inflation and a potential recession. In a recession, healthcare consumers tend to delay elective medical interventions. These elective procedures are economically essential for many providers. Though healthcare will fair comparatively well during a recession, it must focus on financial performance which could influence the resource allocation process within these healthcare organizations. A significant challenge will be dealing with existing labor issues facing the industry that could cause a continued increase in labor costs and impact overall financial performance. Such labor cost increases could also negatively impact administrative expenses and reduce earnings.



BY SALVATORE BARBERA, DHA, MSM, FACHE

home for the delivery of care and services. In fact, in our current post-pandemic environment who does not provide telehealth services? Studying the history of telehealth technology is revealing and should be considered when looking at various opportunities for growth. This technology has been around much longer than we realize and serves as an example of the course of action expected with similar new advances in healthcare.

The pandemic provided an opportunity to promote telehealth as a potential service for healthcare consumers, all from within their homes. This option became attractive for healthcare providers as well. In addition to the boost provided by the pandemic in creating significant growth opportunities for telehealth, the availability and improvement in reimbursement was a formidable contributor to the subsequent use and availability of telehealth technology. The industry is following this trend and providing support for its continued advancement such as allowing a physician to provide a telehealth consult to a patient across state lines and within any geographic setting. Once again, primary care is receiving attention focusing on preventive care. This industry trend is growing due to consumer interest in convenience and unobstructed access to basic primary care needs. This trend is and will continue to provide opportunities within the industry as seen with the uptick in activity within the non-traditional players in healthcare such as Walmart, CVS, and Amazon. These new entrants will disrupt the primary care sector providing access enhancement for all healthcare stakeholders whether being a provider or receiver of care. There is not a better time to be in healthcare! Even though this rapidly growing activity suggests industry unrest and turmoil, opportunities will follow for both those receiving healthcare services and those seeking employment career paths.

The pandemic created many opportunities for healthcare organizations that should result in newly defined revenue streams through behavior changes within healthcare consumers. Many healthcare consumers used their community hospital for all healthcare needs and trusted them to look out for their best interests. These consumers would rely on their community hospital for ongoing education, wellness visits, routine laboratory, and imaging services, etc. However, in a post-pandemic environment, many of these same healthcare consumers have been successfully introduced to numerous healthcare related services that can be received in an outpatient clinic, laboratory, imaging center, and even their home. Prior to the pandemic, many healthcare consumers would not consider the use of telehealth technology. Now many embrace and prefer the technology and the safety and comfort of their

Dr. Salvatore Barbera, Associate Program Director, Health Administration Programs, College of Business, Florida Atlantic University, can be reached at (561) 297-4444 or Sbarber2@fau.edu.



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Current Trends and Issues in Healthcare Accounting and Finance

BY BARBARA R. FALLON

Whether you are a novice or a seasoned veteran of the health care accounting and finance environment you will be able to increase your awareness of the challenges you face and insights into those you can expect to hurdle in the future at the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA) 2023 Annual Health Care Industry Conference, according to Mia Thomas, CPA, CGMA, Sr Dir of Learning.

Specialists and decision makers in the field will provide a rich agenda of the latest data, resources, and insights that explore the most pressing issues facing the health care accounting and business community. Knowledgeable attorneys, CPAs, health care executives, FBI agents, cybersecurity advisors, analysts, tax specialists and government leaders will address hot topics including: political advocacy; network, cloud, mobile and application security threats; AI and new technology; health care fraud; the talent pipeline; employment retention tax credits(ERD); updates to 340B program; healthcare compliance; strategic planning and future challenges in health care finance and accounting policies and concepts, and MORE.

Expert Insight

For example, keynote speaker, Laura M. Dillon, Washington Council Ernst & Young LLP, will share an inside view of the dynamic federal health policy landscape including health policy priorities for the newly inaugurated 118th Congress and expected regulatory activity from the Biden Administration in 2023. This includes the latest on physician pay policies, the public health emergency, implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, and compliance and enforcement updates pertaining to surprise billing, transparency, interoperability regulations and more.

Participants will also have the golden opportunity to listen to FBI agent, Keith Givens, outline elements of federal health care fraud violations including what to do if you suspect health care fraud; measures to take to protect your organizations or clients and steps to take if you are a victim of health care fraud. Cybersecurity advisor, Sanjay Deo, will share expertise on how to deal with increasing frequency and sophistication of ransomware attacks that may threaten patient safety and outcomes, how to build proactive technology defense, and advice on ransomware negotiation and mediation.



Laura M. Dillon



Tommy Inzina



In addition, attendees can explore in-depth issues regarding Stark compliance guidelines in physician practice valuations, broad concepts of white-collar crime, legal issues in health care compliance and trends in long term care with hands-on authorities in the field.

Also, Florida fixture CPA Tommy Inzina, retired CEO of Baycare Health Systems, will open the conference and share his personal 40-year journey in the field and outline some common mistakes he navigated so attendees can avoid or, at the minimum, curtail the consequences along their career path.

As if up to 17 hours of CPE credits, a comprehensive wealth of new insights into professional trends and hurdles, career path advice, and future predictions aren't enough, attendees can network in the Solutions Center where one-on-one discussions with leaders and high-level colleagues in the field who need little or no introduction will be available to all.

Prime Venue

This year the May 25-26th FICPA annual conference has a new location - Loews Royal Pacific Resort, Orlando - offering premium educational networking opportunities for you and fun for any family you may bring along this holiday weekend.

For detailed conference information, registration and accommodations, visit <https://www.ficpa.org/event/health-care-industry-conference-hcc.-0>

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Tampa General Hospital's New Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapies Unit Saved a Palm Beach County Patient's Life

A Palm Beach County man was treated at TGH Cancer Institute locations on both of Florida's coasts, allowing the patient to receive cutting-edge, world-class care without leaving the state.

As part of its commitment to bringing world-class, innovative cancer treatment to patients across the state of Florida, the Tampa General Hospital (TGH) Cancer Institute has established an adult Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) and Cell Therapies Unit. The new, state-of-the-art unit specializes in treating patients with aggressive blood cancers, including leukemias, lymphomas and multiple myeloma, among other cancers.

Mauricio Perez, a Palm Beach County resident, is battling cancer for the second time in his life. He received a BMT and lymphoma treatment from the TGH Cancer Institute in October 2022. Perez was in the hospital for 10 days and was the first patient treated in the BMT and Cell Therapies Unit.

"They made me feel like I was the only patient there," Perez said. He headed off to TGH just 24 hours after his doctor, the same oncologist who treated him 10 years ago, told him of the state-of-the-art treatment available at the academic medical center. "It was very important that I be at TGH and all the doctors and nurses answered me right away."

BMT, also known as stem cell therapy (SCT), is a proven treatment for patients with cancers of the blood for whom the standard treatments have not been effective, or for those with a high risk of relapsing after traditional therapies.

The therapy involves taking stem cells from the bone marrow or peripheral blood from a cancer patient or from a donor. The stem cells are collected in special bags and stored in freezers specifically for that purpose. After the patient receives high-dose chemotherapy, the collected stem cells are thawed and given to the cancer patient through an intravenous infusion (IV) to produce blood cells and to reestablish a healthier immune system.

Dr. Ivan Borrello, a world-class translational investigator in the fields of multiple myeloma, BMT and cell therapies, joined the TGH Cancer Institute to lead the new BMT and Cell Therapies Unit. He previously served at Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he was the leader of the Myeloma Program, director of Cellular Therapies Core and a member of the Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program.

"Tampa General is at the forefront of the next generation of world-class academic medical centers and that's why I wanted to be a part of it," Borrello said. "Tampa General is marrying the nimbleness of the biotech world with the brain power of an academic medical setting to give physician-scientists the resources and support needed to – at a fast clip – develop groundbreaking and lifesaving therapeutic options for patients with complex cancers



Just a few months after a BMT at TGH, Mauricio Perez poses proudly with his children in front of the family business he founded more than 40 years ago, Perez Brothers Moving.

and to provide the most innovative and leading-edge care possible."

Borrello has been involved in the field of cancer immunology and immunotherapy since its infancy in the 1990s. He is internationally recognized for his many contributions to the treatment of multiple myeloma patients and for the development of innovative T-cell therapies using bone marrow-infiltrating lymphocytes (MILs).

"For many years, we have known of the lifesaving properties of stem cells. However, we are just beginning to realize the power of an emerging field known as cell therapies. In our BMT and Cell Therapies Unit, we aim to provide these therapies, as well as make groundbreaking contributions to the field through innovative research," said Dr. Eduardo M. Sotomayor, director of the TGH Cancer Institute and an internationally recognized pioneer in the fields of cancer immunology and immunotherapy, along with hematologic tumors. "As we continue to build a cancer institute that is at the forefront of innovative treatments for patients with complex cancers, the establishment of our state-of-the-art BMT and Cell Therapies Unit broadens the portfolio of groundbreaking and lifesaving treatment options for cancer patients in our state and beyond."

Due to the susceptibility of BMT patients to infection, the new unit at the TGH Cancer Institute features extra layers of infection control, including HEPA filtration, air exchanges and water filtration. Private inpatient rooms are beautifully designed with soothing, natural color palettes and artwork and have large win-

dows with waterfront views. Secure, digital Smart Boards in each room help with patient and family communication and small refrigerators allow for additional patient nourishment. Each room also includes an exercise bike to help patients build their strength and a couch converts into sleeping space for a family member to stay with the patient.

"Regardless of where they come from, TGH Cancer Institute patients enjoy an improved continuity of care through our program," said Dr. Abraham Schwarzbarg, executive vice president of Network Development, chief of TGH Cancer Institute and vice president of Clinical and Translational Research at TGH. Schwarzbarg is a practicing medical oncologist located in Palm Beach County and is treating Perez. "These therapies can significantly increase the chance of recovery from blood cancers and, hopefully soon, of patients with solid malignancies," he added.

The unit reflects the TGH Cancer Institute's philosophy of bringing together a range of multidisciplinary specialties that strongly emphasizes compassionate and personalized care, focusing on the whole patient. In addition to physicians who are hematology oncologists with advanced training in BMT and immunotherapy, the team includes specialized nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, counselors, spiritual services, physical and occupational therapy, dietary services and pharmacy.

To find a cancer specialist near you, visit [TGH.org/ThePalmBeaches](https://www.tgh.org/ThePalmBeaches).

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Legislative Session May Hold Good News for Florida Doctors

BY VANESSA ORR

During this legislative session in Tallahassee, Florida legislators will be looking at a number of bills including S.B. 1344, which will benefit those in the medical field. The bill, introduced in early March, aims to provide additional money for physicians who serve as expert witnesses, at depositions, or as expert witnesses who review medical records.

The bill seeks to increase pay for expert witnesses or those at depositions from \$200 per hour to \$300 an hour, and to increase the fee for expert witnesses who review medical records from \$200 a day to \$300 a day.

"This is a welcome increase for doctors, and though it's a large increase, the Legislature recognizes that it's past due," said Tom Murphy, Senior Vice President/National Health Care Practice, Danna-Gracey | Risk Strategies Company. "The current rates have been in place for quite some time."

The bill also seeks to increase the maximum reimbursement for physicians up to 200 percent of the allowable Medicare reimbursement. Under workers' compensation, for example, doctors typically get 110 percent of the Medicare maximum rate; that will increase to 200 percent. For surgical procedures, the amount will increase from 140 percent to 200 percent.

"It's a big jump, but we believe the bill will pass, which is good news for any physician who treats workers' comp patients," said Murphy, adding that the single largest expense for workers' comp claims—about 40 percent of the total—comes from physician expense.

From 2012 to 2021 in Florida, costs increased 15 percent on average for workers' compensation treatment provided by a family practitioner/generalist. "While these costs have increased over the past 10 years or so, interestingly enough, surgeon and radiologist expenses have decreased," said Murphy. "Unfortunately for those groups, governing bodies thought that their charges were higher than they needed to be and



Tom Murphy

were increasing too rapidly."

He added that things are looking up in the workers' comp world, where rates have decreased consecutively in Florida for the past eight years. "It's the one form of insurance in Florida where rates are going down while everything else is going up," Murphy said.

A Word of Caution About Payroll Companies and PEOs

Speaking of workers' comp, it's important that medical practices be made aware of a recent trend concerning payroll companies and professional employer organizations (PEOs) when they are looking for help with their human resources and payroll needs.

"We've recently received an increase in calls from our clients who are concerned that they've lost their dividends after hiring a new payroll company or PEO," said Murphy. "What they didn't realize is that some of these companies—including some of the larger ones that we will not mention by name—have had them sign an Agent of Record form, which makes that company the agent for their workers' comp policies with whatever insurance carrier they have."

One of the drawbacks to this, according to Murphy, is that clients who have dividend programs with their current agents will lose those benefits when they switch to a new agent, in addition to losing the level of service they receive from those with whom they have long-term relationships.

"These forms may be part of a stack of papers that the medical practice administrator or doctor has to sign, and they may not even realize that they've agreed to it," he added. "Oftentimes, when the insurance company advises us that their insurance is moving to a payroll company, we find that the client is completely unaware of it. Nine times out of 10 when a client calls us, they say that this is not what they intended to do and were not notified about the change."

For more information, call Tom Murphy at (800) 966-2120 or visit www.dannagracey.com.

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Physician of the Year Dr. Kayvan Amini Believes in Giving Back to Peers, Patients and Community

BY VANESSA ORR

When Kayvan Amini, D.O., FACC, was named the Physician of the Year by the Florida Osteopathic Association this past March, he was incredibly grateful—and surprised.

“Honestly, I was caught off guard when I got the call,” he said. “It was really quite shocking. But I recognize that the award is not about me—instead, it’s about all of those who have helped me on my journey. Those I learned from, admired, and partnered with along the way. I got here on the shoulders of others, and I stand among my peers who I believe should all be named physicians of the year.”

Dr. Amini has always believed in giving back to the medical community and especially enjoys mentoring and training the younger generation.

“I believe that we are only here for a very short time to make an impact on the scope of humanity and that the ultimate happiness is outside ourselves,” he said. “We are here to pass on our stewardship of love, knowledge and life—there is no end point goal. We protect it, nourish it and pass on.”



Dr. Kayvan Amini

A clinical assistant professor at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he earned his medical degree, and president of South Florida Cardiology Consultants, Dr. Amini is board-certified in cardiovascular disease. He completed his residency at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, University of Southern California, followed by a fellowship at Mt. Sinai Medical Center.

Dr. Amini came to America from Iran in 1983, when his family was forced to flee his home country. That chilling journey and the warm welcome that they received upon arriving in the U.S., along with the prestigious public roles of his parents, influenced his decision to embody public service, which he decided to do through a medical career.

“Immigrating from Iran to the U.S. was very challenging and we had to overcome a lot,” he said. “That experience, and my family, taught me the ideals of compassion, persistence, resilience and empathy, which is what a career in medicine offered. We are in the business of compassion; every day, we see people suffer-

ing and we do our best to alleviate their pain and suffering or heal them.”

Dr. Amini noted this resilience firsthand during COVID when physicians were able to remain adaptable in the face of extreme challenges. “We had to go through so much just to do what we do,” he said. “It was a truly transformative process for healthcare delivery and mentality, watching people showing bravery and heroic efforts no matter what the constraints.”

“It’s just special, being able to go to work every day and make a difference in one person’s life,” he added. “No matter how much we move toward ‘population care,’ we must not forget that it is all about the individual. It’s still someone’s mother, grandmother, parent or child and you can never forget that.”

Dr. Amini gives back to his patients and his chosen career by serving with numerous associations and boards, including the Florida Drug Utilization Review Board and Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee, Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, and Broward County Medical Association, among others.

“There are two ways to handle situations in life,” he said. “Become engaged and participate, or wait and watch. I’d

rather be there to advocate for my community, peers and my patients.”

He encourages all of the students that he mentors to become engaged and participate in state and local organizations in order to create the future that they want to see. “Their voices and thoughts matter,” he said. “Soon, they’re going to be running the show and taking care of us. That’s one of the reasons that I do so many events that bring medical students and faculty together to talk about the basic principles of humanity; I want them to understand the value of participating.”

Despite the challenges faced by healthcare practitioners over the past few years, Dr. Amini said that he is confident that the future of healthcare is bright.

“With the stress of COVID, we became more efficient and figured out how to reach people through technology that we couldn’t otherwise reach,” he explained. “Although I believe that technology, AI, and further advances will create more efficiency, accountability of self-care, access and cost control, my main concern is that these transitions in medicine must not forget the individual patient relationship.”

“Taking care of people is a privilege and that can’t be taken for granted,” he added.



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When It Comes To Patient Care, Focus on Staff Engagement

I was recently asked to speak to a large group of doctors in Columbus, Ohio, on how to drive better staff engagement and patient experience. I started my talk by asking the assembled what was the most important to them - profit, patients, growth or staff? To no one's real surprise, patients was ranked first by about 2/3 of the participants, Staff was a distant second at just under 1/3. A few folks did rank profit or growth as number one. After mulling over the responses, I candidly looked at the audience and asked, 'Do you really think the patient will ever be happier than the person taking care of them?' Look the argument is simple, without patients, there will be nothing for the staff to do. However, without an engaged staff, who is going to care for the patients? The statistics are alarming. About 56% of healthcare professionals who voluntarily resigned their position in the past 18 months cited job burnout as the key reason for leaving. Alarming, the vast majority quit their jobs without having a new one lined up. This group was confident that they would find new employment quickly if they needed to. People are talking with their feet. Now with all this doom and gloom and scary statistics, what is the remedy? The solution is to hold on to your great people by taking their engagement to the next level. Involve your people to own their results. Look for ways to get everyone to love coming to work every day. For those of you who think this is impossible, the simple response is, how hard are you really working at it? What programs do you and the leadership team currently have in place to have employees for life? When pressed, most leaders can only cite a few outdated initiatives. Look for new ways to engage the team. You will see patient referrals tick up, staff turnover drop, and be amazed at how growth and profits improve every month moving forward. Have a great 2023!



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.

One Year!

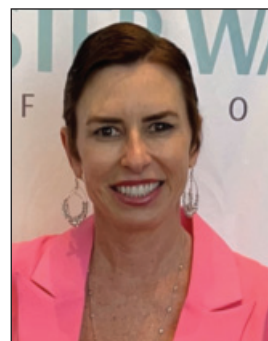
One year! It's now been one year since I received that phone call and heard the words that have forever changed my life.

I have so many emotions as I look back on the past year. Some people may look at being diagnosed with cancer as a curse, and originally I may have felt a little bit that way, but I no longer view being diagnosed with cancer that way, I now look at it as a challenge, and you know what they say about challenges in life ... if something doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you, and we grow the most when we are being challenged.

I have learned so much about myself during my cancer journey. I have changed so much, and in many ways I am grateful for my cancer journey. That might sound weird, but cancer has been the craziest gift I've ever been given.

Cancer taught me that we are so much stronger than we think we are, and we have no idea how strong we are until being strong is the only choice we have!

Cancer taught me that sometimes we have the privilege of preparation in life. Almost 5 years ago I became a certified health coach and made many healthy lifestyle changes. Little did I know the huge role those lifestyle changes would play during my recovery from surgeries and treatment. When I went into my diagnosis, I was healthier and stronger than I



BY DEIDRE FERENC

had ever been in my adult life, that mattered! Cancer wasn't fun, but I thrived during treatment, and I attribute that to my healthy lifestyle habits.

Cancer taught me that although our world can seem disappointing and scary at times, there are so many good people in it! The love and support that I received during my journey was at times almost overwhelming, but I could not

have gotten through it all without it. People can be amazing!

Cancer taught me not to sweat the small stuff as much. Things like traffic, waiting in lines, house projects, kids' spills, no longer bother me like they used to. I also feel like I appreciate the small moments in life more. I sit back and try to soak them in. Everything just seems a little more special after you have cancer... sunrises and sunsets, rainbows, butterflies and rainstorms. Life is pretty beautiful when you view it through a "cancer lens."

Another thing cancer has allowed me to do is connect with so many other warriors. Becoming part of the breast cancer community is like joining the best club you never wanted to be in! These women have helped me so much along my journey and now I am getting to do the same for others who are being newly diagnosed. My hope is to show others that cancer changes your life, but it doesn't have to ruin your life!



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Trayvon Martin Foundation, Dade County Medical Association, Ross University, and NFL Sisters in Service Graduated Students from the First Edition of the STEM Program

Over thirty students graduated from the Trayvon Martin Foundation's STEM Program in collaboration with Dade County Medical Association, Ross University, and NFL Sisters in Service. The graduation took place at the Atlantis University facilities.

Among other things, participants learned from assisted medical symposiums and hands-on training in CPR, heart attack and stroke symptom recognition, how to deal with blood pressure and blood sugar levels, maternity care, and how to clear an airway, and much more at Ross University School of Medicine and Chamberlain University facilities. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about financial literacy information and education, gowns, and supplies.

Dr. Carmel Barrau, DCMA President-Elect, mentioned that "it is important to support this kind of Community Project because not only are we impacting these communities, but we are also contributing to developing the future talent of these industries, particularly in the health care industry."

The collaboration between the Trayvon Martin Foundation, DCMA, and Ross University began as a dream at the time of the installation of the first African American female president of the DCMA in 2018, Dr. Barbara Montford. "The vision to support Trayvon Martin Foundation was my desire to affirm to African American males that they matter despite the message conveyed by the decision not to find anyone guilty in Trayvon's death. I want all children, especially my nephews, to know that they matter," said Dr. Montford, creator of the initiative.

A message from Sybrina Fulton, President and Founder of the Trayvon Foundation and Trayvon's mother was presented. "Your parents and guardians have ensured that you had this opportunity, and we share their pride in each of you. Today you have



Representatives of the Dade County Medical Association, Trayvon Martin Foundation, NFL Sisters in Service, and Mentors of the STEM Program.

accomplished the first step toward careers as doctors, nurses, surgeons, and other health care professionals. Regardless of your chosen field, we know that you will change your communities, families, and lives through your talents and service."

During the graduation, the participating mentors (doctors, nurses, medical professionals, and other fields) committed to the students to continue mentoring those in need, as they are evidence of having grown up in communities in need and how challenging it is to gain a foothold in these male-dominated industries.

Thanks to the contribution of DCMA, Ross University, and NFL Sisters in Service, the program was fully funded for the participants.

For more information about the STEM program or how to participate, please send an email to stephanie@NFLSistersinService.org

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Solving the Workforce Crisis Requires a Focus on Retaining and Supporting Hospital Personnel

As lawmakers meet in Tallahassee, one of the hospital industry's core messages is that they are community infrastructure. They are just as foundational to societal and economic flourishing as roads, bridges, utilities, and schools. Indeed, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security includes the health care sector in the list of 17 key infrastructure sectors in its National Infrastructure Protection Plan.



BY MARY MAYHEW

Recent studies indicate that 44% of nurses reported experiencing physical violence and 68% reported experiencing verbal abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is unacceptable.

Fortunately, lawmakers can take an unequivocal stand against these incidents by passing Senate Bill 568, by Sen. Ana Rodriguez and House Bill 825 by Rep. Berfield, to strengthen

criminal penalties against perpetrators of violence against hospital personnel, no matter where in the hospital they work. Passage of SB 568/HB 825 will send a strong signal both to those who would commit assault or battery against health care workers that such incidents will not be tolerated and to health care workers themselves that, collectively, we value them and their work.

Second, lawmakers can demonstrate meaningful support for health care workers and help make Florida the best place in the country to be a health care professional by supporting housing initiatives.

The Hometown Heroes Housing Program originally launched in June 2022 to help law enforcement officers, first responders, nurses, and others who dedicate themselves to serving their communities with a first-time home purchase. Authorized in the 2022 state budget, the program since has provided more than \$65 million to nearly 4,500 qualifying individuals to help with down payments and closing costs for home purchases. SB 102 and HB 627, as introduced, would create a similar program in statute, ensuring the continued ability to give back to the individuals who serve their communities every day.

Solving the health care workforce crisis requires a multi-faceted response. Recruitment support and growing the workforce education pipeline are critical. Just as critical is supporting and retaining the experienced and dedicated workforce who have given so much to our communities and our state. There are two good opportunities this legislative session to show meaningful support and help hospitals retain the workforce they need to deliver the very best patient care every time.

Mary Mayhew is President and CEO,
Florida Hospital Association

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Memorial Rehabilitation Institute Partners with Luna to Expand Access to Outpatient, In-Home, In-Person Physical Therapy Services

Patients who need physical therapy (PT) find in-home therapy a great option and support to help them complete their course. Responding to this need, Memorial Rehabilitation Institute recently partnered with Luna to expand access to outpatient, in-home PT services, making this option available to all new and existing patients from Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. This new venture, known as Memorial Physical Therapy at Home, powered by Luna, will start taking appointments in April 2023.



Luna, the leading provider of in-home, in-person physical therapy, will serve as an extension of the Memorial Healthcare System outpatient PT program.

Unlike remote or virtual care, Luna's licensed physical therapists provide 1:1 hands-on care from the convenience of the patient's home. The service is covered by most major insurances with the same co-pay cost as facility-based care.

Through Luna's intuitive online portal, patients can access a network of therapists – based on specialty, geography, timetable, and other factors – to conveniently schedule and receive physical therapy in the comfort of their homes or another convenient location. Luna will match patients with local therapists at the time and location of the patient's choosing. For consistency of care, the same therapist will treat the patient for the entirety of the treatment plan. Additionally, patients and therapists can communicate and discuss care needs between visits using the Luna platform.

"Luna's partnership with Memorial Healthcare System reduces barriers to access physical therapy for all patients in South Florida," said Palak Shah, co-founder and head of clinical operations at Luna. "This will allow more patients to complete their treatment regimens at a place and time that works best for them."

A Great Doctor Is More Than a Grade

During the last few years, there has been a dispute regarding what attributes a physician must possess to excel in the practice of medicine. Beginning in medical school, students develop and expand their knowledge base as well as perfect their ability to think deductively. Mastering these skills will significantly increase the probability of being an effective physician. This concept is reinforced by the challenging examinations, including the National Boards, as well as the experiences received while rounding on patients and at educational conferences. This concept is further reinforced as one advances in their training and perpetuated not only by the medical education system but also imposed by the expectations set by the community. It has also been shown, however, that there is more to being a successful physician than having an incredible memory to regurgitate information and extraordinary ability in deductive reasoning. There are other areas that are no less important but are not learned in science books that significantly contribute to becoming a successful physician.



BY RAFAEL J. FERNANDEZ, JR., MD

describe as "system citizenship." The concept is defined as having critical thinking skills and the mindset to contribute to the holistic needs of patients and the health system in order to achieve the best outcomes. In management, this is called "system perspective."

The characteristics they describe in their "system citizenship" are as follows:

- Generous, selfless, humble, adaptable, and resolute.
- Express values that drive behaviors "above and beyond"

their colleagues' expectations.

- Are intentional about – and expert at teaming.
- Be calm in the "eye of the storm."
- Employ a wide array of creative systems thinking skills to solve problems.
- Have exemplary interpersonal and communication skills.
- Teach systems-based practice as part of clinical care.
- Capable of identifying personal and professional mentors as key for professional development.

Physicians view the practice of medicine as a journey driven by a commitment of lifelong learning. Articles like Ms. Murphy's identify other characteristics which may help physicians succeed in a healthcare system which is driven by technology, data, and deadlines within a labyrinth of bureaucracy. I never forgot my Residency Director's message at graduation "to be successful, you need to be able, affable, and available, but do not forget to be compassionate to the human being you are treating because there are conditions which need more than science to be successfully healed."

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

An article written by Brenda Murphy for the AMA stressed what traits they believe makes physicians successful. A survey conducted by Dr. Ami L. De Waters and a team of educators from Penn State, Virginia Tech, Kaiser Permanente, Allegheny Health Network, and Geisinger concluded that to be successful, physicians, should in addition to their knowledge of medicine, possess eight (8) characteristics, which they

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2022: A Milestone Year for Liver Transplantation

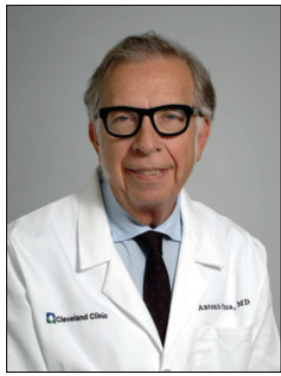
Last year the United States surpassed 200,000 liver transplants, according to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN), which began tracking organ transplantations in 1988. The past decade, in particular, has seen a consistent rise in liver transplantation in the U.S., in part due to an increase in split-liver and living donor liver transplantations as well as efforts to use more deceased donor livers.

Cleveland Clinic's Liver Transplant Program in Florida has contributed to the count, having completed 414 adult liver transplants since the program's launch in 2013. It is part of Cleveland Clinic Florida's Transplant Center, which performs adult heart, liver and kidney transplants.

"We celebrated a few important milestones in 2022, including our team's first split-liver transplant and a very rare altruistic living donor liver transplant," says Antonio Pinna, MD, Director of the Abdominal Transplant Center and the Living Donor Liver Transplant Program at Cleveland Clinic Florida.

Two lives saved

First introduced in the 1980s, the split-liver transplant involves dividing a donor liver from a deceased adult



Dr. Antonio Pinna

between a pediatric and adult recipient. Typically the child receives a smaller left lateral lobe graft (segments 2 + 3) while the adult receives a larger extended right lobe graft (segments 1 + 4-8). In some cases, when the left lobe is too large, two adult recipients will receive hemiliver grafts, consisting of a left lobe (segment 1-4) and a right lobe (segment 5-8).

"Cleveland Clinic plant last year in which the deceased donor liver was shared by a child recipient treated in Orlando and our adult patient here in Weston," says Dr. Pinna. He notes this is the most common scenario because pediatric patients are the priority for split-liver transplants.

Living donor transplantation

Around the same time surgeons developed techniques for split-liver transplantation, these approaches were used to perform living donor liver transplants. "The splitting procedure and vascular reconstruction of the grafts are very similar," Dr. Pinna explains.

While deceased donor liver transplantation is still the most common option, living donor liver transplantation is slowly gaining a foothold. In 2022, 603 living donor liver transplants were per-

formed in the United States, accounting for approximately 6% of liver transplants, according to OPTN data.

Cleveland Clinic Florida's Transplant Center is currently the only center in the state approved to perform living donor liver transplantation, and the abdominal transplant team has completed nine since 2021. "Last year we had an altruistic donor give the left lobe of their liver to an unknown recipient, and both are doing very well today," adds Dr. Pinna.

He also points out that while most living donor liver transplants involve removing the right side of the donor liver, Cleveland Clinic's transplant programs in Florida, Ohio and Abu Dhabi (UAE) have shifted to removing the left lobe of the donor liver, when appropriate.

"We've found it presents less risk for complications and a shorter recovery for the donor," says Dr. Pinna. "Today about half of living donor liver transplants performed across the Cleveland Clinic system now involve the left lobe."

Liver cancer applications

According to Dr. Pinna, the technical skill and technology used to perform split-liver and living donor liver transplants has allowed the surgical team at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital to apply their experience to caring for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and other forms of liver cancer.

"For some patients with HCC, a liver

transplant is their only hope, but they may not meet the U.S. guidelines for eligibility that focus on the size and number of tumors," he explains. "We can be more surgically aggressive with certain patients to resect diseased tissue and push the cancer back. By downstaging the patient, they may become a transplant candidate."

Dr. Pinna says removing a patient's left lobe can be comparable to a major liver resection for cancer and requires many of the same steps to promote liver regeneration. In both cases, the team uses sophisticated imaging and 3D reconstruction for surgical preplanning; modifies blood flow to the liver and avoids high pressure in the venous system to control bleeding; and uses ultrasonic dissection to delicately remove tissue around blood vessels.

"Our patients with liver cancer definitely benefit from the transplant expertise of our hepatology and gastroenterology specialists," he adds.

Cleveland Clinic Florida's Transplant Center is the largest provider of solid organ transplantation in Broward County and serves as a main referral center for southern Florida, including Naples, Fort Myers, and the Treasure Coast, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean.

For inquiries or to speak with a representative, call (954) 659-5133 or email transplantfla@ccf.org.

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VITAS® Healthcare Expands Quality End-of-Life Care at Broward Health Coral Springs



VITAS Healthcare invited Broward Health hospital staff to tour the new facility following the grand opening ceremony.

Broward County residents now have easier access to quality end-of-life care with the expansion of the VITAS Healthcare Inpatient Hospice Unit (IPU) at Broward Health Coral Springs. The nation's leading provider of end-of-life care completed construction in late January 2023, increasing its capacity from eight to 12 patient beds to provide high-acuity care to patients with serious illness. The new VITAS hospice wing expects to serve more than 350 patients each year.

"Broward Health Coral Springs is dedicated to all stages of healthcare, including easing the concerns of our patients in need of palliative and end-of-life care," said Michael Leopold, chief operating officer for Broward Health Coral Springs. "The additional space enhances our ability to provide more patients with easier transitions to the specialized care they deserve."

The Miami-based hospice provider began serving patients at the Coral Springs hospital in January 2021 in a temporary eight-bed IPU.

The facility is located on the North 3rd floor of the hospital at 3000 Coral Hills Drive in Coral Springs, convenient to area restaurants, lodging, churches and other amenities. The 12-bed IPU features rooms with televisions and internet access, private bathrooms, a shared kitchen and family gathering area. It is open to visitors 24/7, with service animals welcome at all times and VITAS Paw Pals® friendly pet visits upon request.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was hosted by VITAS in February to commemorate the official opening of the wing. The event was attended by Broward Health leadership and clinicians who were invited to tour the new home-like center.



The VITAS Inpatient Hospice Unit at Broward Health Coral Springs features comfortable rooms in a home-like environment with overnight accommodations for visiting loved ones.

Cover Story: Miami Dade College's Health Sciences Program: Preparing Students for the Future of Health Care

Continued from page 1

health care, health care management concepts, health care quality management, and human resources. Graduates will be well-prepared for entry-level careers in hospitals, physicians' offices, clinical departments, medical practices, and medical insurance agencies.

The benefits of pursuing an AS in Health Services Management include acquiring an in-depth understanding of the healthcare industry, developing skills in legal and ethical responsibilities, gaining knowledge of healthcare quality management, and preparing for entry-level careers in healthcare management. With a focus on providing a comprehensive education that prepares students for the ever-changing healthcare industry, an AS in Health Services Management is an excellent choice for those seeking a career in this rewarding field.

Dr. Alwyn Leiba, Dean of MDC's School of Health Sciences, explains that the program was created in response to the growing need for health care professionals in Miami-Dade County and Monroe County, as well as the shortage of health care workers during the pandemic.

"We saw there was a need for health care workers, and our community partners also expressed their needs for this profession," says Dr. Leiba. "Therefore, we conducted

research and found out that there is an expected growth of 14.4 percent, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunities in Workforce Development Area 23, which is Miami-Dade County and Monroe County."

One of the unique features of MDC's Health Sciences program is its partnerships and collaborations with the health care community. Dr. Leiba emphasizes the importance of supporting community needs and states that MDC developed this program in response to our community partners' needs. These collaborations ensure that MDC students are well-prepared for the demands of the health care industry.

As the health care industry continues to evolve and adapt to changing demands, Dr. Leiba notes that MDC's Health Sciences programs will remain at the forefront of education. "With a large population of the baby-boomers reaching an advance age and individuals living longer and remaining active later in life, there will be an increased demand for health care services personnel," he says. "Hence there will be a greater demand for physicians, health care workers, medical procedures, and health care facilities. As a result, there will be a greater need for managers to supervise the various health care settings."

For more information, visit www.mdc.edu/health-sciences/

What's Next?

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

Alexander Fernandez Joins VITAS® Healthcare as Executive Vice President and CFO

VITAS Healthcare has appointed Alexander Fernandez to its leadership team as executive vice president (EVP) and chief financial officer (CFO).

Fernandez comes to VITAS from Broward Health, where he served nine years in executive finance roles, most recently as senior vice president and CFO, and also as CFO for Broward Health Medical Center and Salah Foundation Children's Hospital. His prior finance leadership includes chief roles with Tenet Healthcare at Good Samaritan Medical Center and North Shore Medical Center. He began his career as an accountant for St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Fernandez earned his master's degree in business administration from Florida Atlantic University and dual bachelor's degrees in accounting from Florida Atlantic University and finance and multinational business from Florida State University.

Fernandez is a licensed CPA in Florida and Georgia. He serves as a member of the Board of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Broward College Foundation, South Florida Health and the Broward Regional Health Planning Council, FSU Healthcare Executive Advisor Group, South Florida Hospital Association, Broward Regional Emergency Medical Services Council, and is a member of the Leadership Florida Cornerstone Class 40.



Alexander Fernandez

Lee Health Announces Board of Directors Officers for 2023, Welcomes New Members

Lee Health is pleased to announce the newly elected officers of its Board of Directors for 2023.

Officers Donna Clarke (chair), Therese Everly, (vice chair), and David F. Collins (treasurer) will all retain their positions. Dane Allen was elected as the new board secretary. They will join newly elected members David Klein, Daniel Adler and Allen, who were recently sworn in.

Clarke has been re-elected as board chair for 2023. She has previously served as board vice chair and board treasurer. She is a former Florida State Representative and has served as an adjunct math professor with the State College of Florida.

Everly has been re-elected as vice chair. She is the Regional Executive Director for Community Assisted & Supportive Living. She previously was the executive director of the Lee County Homeless Coalition.

Collins has been re-elected as treasurer. He has been a mortgage banker for more than 30 years and has served as a board member for the PACE Center for Girls of Lee County, and as treasurer for the PACE Capital Campaign.

Allen has been elected as secretary. He is currently Assistant General Counsel for The Hertz Corporation and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Lee County 50+ Men's Tennis League.

Klein is a nationally-recognized health care executive. His career includes 41 years of service with BlueCross BlueShield with 10 years as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. Klein is also a director of United Way.

Adler is the current Director of Legal Compliance for Millennium Physician Group and had previously served as a Special Assistant General Counsel for the White House.

Coming in May in *South Florida Hospital News and Healthcare Report...* **Salute to Nurse's Issue and National Hospital Week**

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This program has been developed and is presented locally by ACHE of South Florida, an independent chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).
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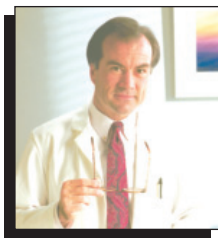


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Cover Story: HIMpros: Helping to Bridge the Gap in Hospital Registries and HIM Departments

Continued from page 1

to various organizations, including hospitals, government agencies, and research institutions. The data collected in cancer registries is vital in helping to improve cancer care and prevention efforts.

Like cancer registries, trauma registries are maintained by trained trauma registrars, who collect, analyze, and report trauma-related data to various organizations, including hospitals, government agencies, and research institutions. The data collected is vital in helping to improve trauma care and prevention efforts.

Johnson emphasizes a high demand for qualified individuals who can abstract cancer and trauma records and those who can perform inpatient and outpatient coding.

"We offer contract work for healthcare staffing, mostly placing people who can code cancer records, trauma records, inpatient outpatient coding, QA auditing, and clinical documentation improvement," she explains. "We look for hospitals that need help with their registry or HIM Department and then place qualified people on contract to do the work."

Johnson mentions that HIMpros is trying to create a supportive and positive work culture, recognizing the value of their employees and consultants.

"We want to show that we truly appreciate them by sending out little cards and thank yous and spotlighting our consultants who are doing a great job," she says. "We want to create a work environment like a big family, where everyone works, plays, and respects and appreciates each other."

To help promote her business and reach out to cancer registrars, Johnson and her team plan to attend the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) annual conference in San Diego in May this year.

The four-day event provides a unique opportunity for cancer registry professionals and other healthcare professionals to explore the latest innovations and challenges facing the cancer registry field today. The conference also provides education opportunities, with speakers from the American College of Surgeons and other organizations and access to continuing education credits. The meeting is typically attended by about 1,500 people from hospitals and physician groups nationwide, says Johnson.

Attending the NCRA annual conference offers many advantages for vendors such as HIMpros. It provides an opportunity to connect with cancer registrars and potential clients, showcase products and services, participate in educational sessions and workshops, explore exhibitors, and stay up to date with industry trends and advancements.

According to Johnson, the conference is an excellent opportunity for those involved in cancer registry to come together and promote excellence in data collection, analysis, reporting, and quality management of cancer patients and survivors.

Johnson notes that HIMpros will participate as an exhibitor, seeking cancer registrars to work for them and potential clients who need their help. HIMpros will also set up a virtual booth for those planning to attend virtually.

As HIMpros continues to grow, they hope to positively impact the healthcare industry and the lives of those they work with. They are committed to recruiting and retaining top talent in healthcare and creating a supportive and positive work culture that recognizes and appreciates their employees and consultants' value.

For more information, visit thehimpros.com.



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VITAS® Healthcare Partners With WellSky® to Accelerate Innovation in Hospice & Palliative Care

WellSky, a leading health and community care technology company, announced a new partnership with VITAS Healthcare. VITAS will leverage WellSky technology to streamline its operations, allowing clinicians to focus on high-quality patient care delivery. The two organizations also will collaborate to advance innovations within the WellSky Hospice & Palliative solution and to accelerate VITAS' efforts to scale into new markets.

Fueled by a drive for innovation, this partnership will support VITAS in its efforts to serve even more patients in need of compassionate, high-quality end-of-life care. This transition to WellSky's electronic health record (EHR) technology will eliminate the need for paper-based documentation and will help to improve operational efficiency for the organization.

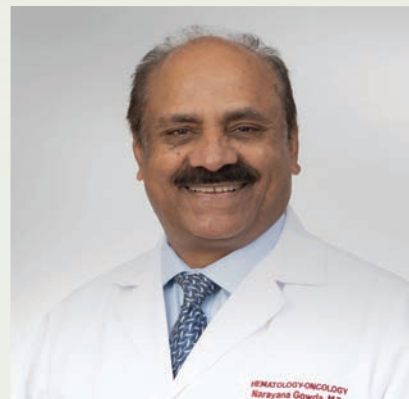
"In selecting a technology partner, it was critical to find an organization that could help enable improved workflow and clinical coordination while streamlining burdensome administrative tasks for our team members," said Nick Westfall, president and CEO at VITAS. "Achieving this goal will allow our clinicians more time at the bedside fulfilling their mission of delivering the highest quality of care for both our patients and their families. We are thrilled to have found that partner in WellSky and are confident that WellSky's purpose-built technology will be a critical component in our effort to expand and evolve hospice care."

The partnership between WellSky and VITAS will allow both organizations to serve a pivotal role in the advancement of hospice and palliative technology to deliver smarter, more connected and more data-driven care to communities in need.



(l-r) Chief Executive Officers Bill Miller of WellSky and Nick Westfall of VITAS Healthcare

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Narayana Gowda, M.D.
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Universal Health Services Breaks Ground for Alan B. Miller Medical Center in Palm Beach Gardens

Universal Health Services recently held a celebratory groundbreaking ceremony for the new full-service hospital to be located on Pasteur Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens. The new state-of-the-art hospital is expected to open in 2025 and will join UHS' growing regional network of healthcare operations which includes Wellington Regional Medical Center, the ER at Westlake (an extension of Wellington Regional Medical Center), Wellington Physicians Urgent Care and other healthcare services and access points.

The name of the new hospital is the Alan B. Miller Medical Center, named after the Founder and Executive Chairman of UHS.

The Alan B. Miller Medical Center will feature 150 private patient rooms, a medical office building and a helistop. Upon completion of the initial phase of the project, the hospital campus will include 365,000 square feet of hospital and medical office space. The Alan B. Miller Medical Center will offer comprehensive medical services including Emergency Care, Orthopedics and Surgical Services, Labor and Delivery, Neonatal Intensive Care, Oncology, Cardiovascular and Neurosurgical services. In addition, the campus will be home to medical office buildings that will provide outpatient services.

During construction, the project will create an estimated 1,500 jobs indirectly and when fully open, the hospital will provide an estimated 800 new healthcare jobs. The Alan B. Miller Medical Center will improve access to healthcare, offer more choices for patients, and serve as an extension of the quality care already offered within the Palm Beach Gardens region.

"Our purpose at UHS is to take care of patients and do so with excellence, integrity and by employing committed, talented individuals," said UHS Founder and Executive Chairman Alan B. Miller. "We will carry out our duties with superior quality and by making decisions with patient care in mind at all times."

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Hospital News and **HEALTHCARE REPORT**

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Three VITAS® Healthcare Medical Directors Earn Fellow Status from AAHPM

Of the 67 new Fellows of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, or FAAHPM, VITAS Healthcare is proud to be the employer of three:

- Agron Ismaili, MD, MBA, FACP, FAAHPM, FASAM, DABPM, CMD, regional medical director for VITAS in Northern Florida
- Lauren Loftis, MD, FAAHPM, ABFM, HMDC, medical director for VITAS in Brevard County, Florida
- Marcella Scaccia, MD, FAAHPM, medical director for VITAS in Volusia, Flagler and Putnam counties, Florida

Dr. Ismaili joined VITAS in 2008 as a team physician in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was promoted to medical director. Since 2022, he has been serving as regional medical director over Northern Florida, including Citrus County and the Nature Coast, Pensacola, Panama City and Jacksonville.

Dr. Loftis joined VITAS in 2022 and serves as medical director in Brevard County.

Dr. Scaccia joined VITAS in 2011 as a team physician and was promoted to associate medical director. Since 2020, she has served as medical director for Volusia, Flagler and Putnam counties.



Nima Sharifi, MD, Recruited to Direct Translational Science at Desai Sethi Urology Institute and Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Nima Sharifi, M.D., has been named scientific director of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Desai Sethi Urology Institute, a role in which he will collaborate with Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center to drive translational science focused on prostate and other genitourinary cancers.

Currently the director of research on genitourinary cancers and endowed chair for prostate cancer research at Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Sharifi will bring members of his research group with him to Miami and recruit others to build a translational science team of investigators focused on bridging laboratory research on prostate, kidney and bladder cancers to human studies.

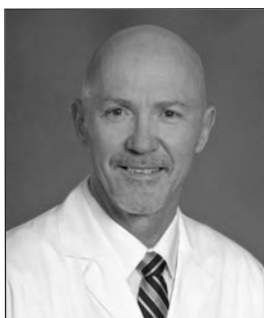


Dr. Nima Sharifi

Dr. Richard Follwell, General and Bariatric Surgeon, Joins Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group

Richard Follwell, D.O., FASMBS, a general and bariatric surgeon joins the Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group (PBHNPG) and opens his bariatric and general surgery practice in Palm Beach Gardens with plans to expand to Port St. Lucie in 2023. In addition, Dr. Follwell is on-staff at Good Samaritan Medical Center in West Palm Beach. Dr. Follwell rejoins Good Samaritan Medical Center where he was Medical Director of the Bariatric Center at the hospital and had a Tenet Florida Physician Services office adjacent to the hospital from 2013-2015.

Prior to joining the Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group, Dr. Follwell worked at the Cleveland Clinic, Martin Health (CCMH) Family Health Center in Stuart, FL, where he served as Chief of Surgery and Director of the Cleveland Clinic Center of Bariatrics and Weight Management. In addition, Dr. Follwell served as Department Chair, Bariatric & Minimally Invasive Surgery at CCMH. Dr. Follwell is also a preceptor for medical students at Florida State University and assistant professor for physician assistant students at Lincoln Memorial University located in Harrogate, Tennessee. He is also a preceptor in health education at the Clark Advanced Learning Center, Indian River State College, Stuart, FL.



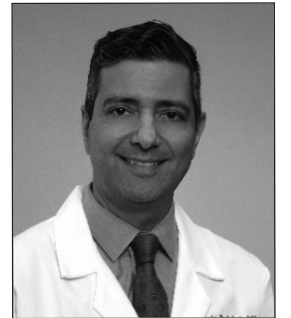
Dr. Richard Follwell

Cleveland Clinic Florida Welcomes Dr. Amir Behdad

Cleveland Clinic Florida welcomes Amir Behdad, M.D., MBA, as Regional Institute Chair, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and Department Chair of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at Weston Hospital.

Upon earning his medical degree at Shahid Beheshti University in Iran, Dr. Behdad completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at Harvard Medical School, followed by a general surgery internship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He completed his anatomic and clinical pathology residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He went on to complete two fellowships at the University of Michigan, in hematopathology and molecular genetics pathology.

Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Florida, Dr. Behdad was staff at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago where he also served in a variety of leadership positions including Director, Cancer Molecular Diagnostics, and Medical Director, Referred Testing. In his ongoing dedication to teaching, Dr. Behdad was also Associate Professor of Pathology and Medicine (Hematology and Oncology) and Program Director for Hematopathology Fellowship at Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine.



Dr. Amir Behdad

Dr. Jonathan Turkish Joins Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group and Good Samaritan Medical Center in West Palm Beach

Jonathan Turkish, M.D., FACOG, an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN) joins the Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group and opens his OB-GYN practice in West Palm Beach.

Prior to joining the Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group, Dr. Turkish worked this past year as an OB-GYN at Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale. Previously, Dr. Turkish worked at Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay, Perth Amboy, NJ. From 2003-2017, Dr. Turkish owned OB-GYN Group of Perth Amboy. Additionally, Dr. Turkish serves as assistant clinical instructor of OB-GYN residency at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, located in New Brunswick, NJ.

For his education and training, Dr. Turkish completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and an internship in gynecology from Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, Bronx, NY. Dr. Turkish graduated medical school from the Ross University School of Medicine in Plantation, FL.

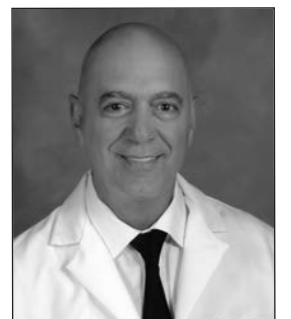


Dr. Jonathan Turkish

Surgeon Joins Holy Cross Health Medical Group

Francisco G. Bermudez, M.D., has joined Holy Cross Health Medical Group.

Certified by the American Board of Surgery, Dr. Bermudez specializes in general, laparoscopic, vascular and trauma surgery. Prior to joining the Holy Cross Health Medical Group, Dr. Bermudez was an attending general and vascular surgeon at Holy Cross Health and Broward Health Imperial Point. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from Instituto Superior de Ciencias de La Habana in Havana, Cuba and did his residency in general surgery at Hospital General "Salvador Allende" in Havana and Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia.



Dr. Francisco G. Bermudez

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital Welcomes Dermatologist Dr. Kathryn Anderson

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital welcomes dermatologist Kathryn Anderson, M.D., FAAD.

After earning her medical degree at Florida Atlantic University, Dr. Anderson completed the dermatology residency at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in North Carolina. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital, Dr. Anderson was on staff of Florida Medical Clinic in Zephyrhills and Wesley Hill.



Dr. Kathryn Anderson



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Surgical Directors at Cleveland Clinic Florida's Transplant Center Recognized

Cleveland Clinic Florida's Transplant Center, based in Weston, expanded the abdominal transplant team in 2022 with the appointment of Hannah Kerr, M.D., as Surgical Director of the Kidney Transplant Program. She will also serve as the Program Director for the new ASTS Kidney Transplant Fellowship, which will welcome its first surgical fellow in 2024. Dr. Kerr served as a member of Cleveland Clinic's transplant team at the Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute's Center for Renal and Pancreas Transplantation in Ohio before joining the Florida team.

Fellowship-trained in kidney and pancreas transplantation, Dr. Kerr was Surgical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, NM, where she established the pancreas transplant program. She made medical history by performing the state's first-ever kidney/pancreas transplant and was instrumental in increasing DCD organ procurement and kidney utilization.

David J. Reich, M.D., FACS, joined Cleveland Clinic Florida's Transplant Center as Surgical Director of the Liver Transplant Program and Chief of the Innovative Technology and Therapeutics Program. He previously headed the Division of Multiorgan Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia.

An internationally recognized leader in organ transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery, Dr. Reich is a pioneer in the modern use of DCD organ transplantation and has shepherded widespread, international adoption of DCD. More recently, his research has focused on dynamic organ preservation and reconditioning, using machines to pump hypothermic or normothermic oxygenated perfusion fluid with nutrients through DCD and other donor organs to improve them before transplantation.



Dr. Hannah Kerr



Dr. David J. Reich

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital Appoints G. Dean Harter, MD, Medical Director for Orthopaedic Surgery

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital welcomes G. Dean Harter, M.D., as Medical Director for Orthopaedic Surgery. After earning his medical degree at West Virginia University, Dr. Harter completed the orthopaedic surgery residency at Geisinger Medical Center in Pennsylvania, and the pediatric orthopaedic surgery residency at Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children in Delaware.

Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital, Dr. Harter was Clinical Associate Professor at West Virginia University and Chief, Geisinger Shoulder and Elbow Institute at Geisinger Medical Center.



Dr. G. Dean Harter

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital Welcomes Orthopaedic Surgeon Peter J. Brooks, MD

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital is pleased to welcome orthopaedic surgeon, Peter Brooks, M.D., FRCSC.

After earning his medical degree at University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Brooks completed the Orthopaedic Residency Program at Harvard in Boston, MA. He went on to complete a Fellowship in Total Joint Replacement with Emphasis on Revision Surgery and Allografts at Toronto General Hospital and Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital, Dr. Brooks was Chief of Surgery at Cleveland Clinic Euclid Hospital in Ohio and Director of the Cleveland Clinic National and International FDA Approved Training Center for Hip Resurfacing.



Dr. Peter J. Brooks

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Cover Story: Treating Kidney Disease in Children: The Comprehensive Approach of Pediatric Nephrologist Dr. Mariselis Rosa-Sanchez

Continued from page 1

cation in pediatrics and pediatric nephrology from the American Board of Pediatrics. Her clinical interests include hypertension, dialysis, and kidney transplantation. Since 2016, she has been affiliated with the pediatric nephrology department of KIDZ Medical Services.

"Kidney disease is a major public health issue affecting millions of children and adults who are at risk, many of whom are unaware of their condition," she says. "One way to address kidney disease prevention and treatment is by emphasizing early detection and education during childhood."

Dr. Rosa-Sanchez's approach to care is unique in several respects. First, she focuses on preventive care, as many kidney problems can be prevented by addressing factors such as diabetes and hypertension.

Second, she offers her patients 24/7 communication, which is not typical in traditional medical practices. Her desire to reach a broad population led to her success as an Influencer on Instagram, where she is @KidneyLovers. As a result, her Instagram account has gained international attention, with people worldwide seeking her advice and asking her questions.

"Social media enables me to educate patients and others on ways to protect their kidneys, including posting recipes and discussing different factors that can impact kidney function, such as alcohol, cigarettes, and obesity," she explains.

Finally, Dr. Rosa-Sanchez is studying to become a plant-based chef. She is incorporating this knowledge into her practice by teaching patients about the significance of diet in protecting their kidneys.

"I encourage patients to consume more fruits and vegetables, which have been shown to slow the progression of kidney disease," she says.

As part of her ongoing effort to educate and promote kidney health, she intends to develop a plant-based menu for renal health for patients and their families.

In her practice locations in South Miami and Boca Raton, Dr. Rosa-Sanchez sees many common illnesses, including urinary tract infections, electrolyte abnormalities, and various kidney-related issues.

Hypertension is another common illness she sees frequently. Since it's often called a silent disease with no symptoms, checking blood pressure on a regular basis is crucial.

"We offer 24-hour blood pressure monitoring at the clinic to detect hypertension early, especially in cases of white coat hypertension," she says.

White coat hypertension is when a person's blood pressure increases when measured in a medical setting, such as a doctor's office or hospital, but is otherwise normal when measured outside of that setting. This can happen because some people may feel anxious or stressed in a medical environment, which can increase blood pressure.

"By monitoring blood pressure throughout the day, including during sleep, we can get a more accurate diagnosis," she notes.

While the American Academy of Pediatrics does not recommend checking blood pressure in patients under three years old, Dr. Rosa-Sanchez emphasizes the importance of monitoring blood pressure in high-risk patients, such as those born prematurely or with renal malformations, those with urinary tract infections or taking medications that can increase blood pressure, and those with cancer or undergoing chemotherapy. She believes it's necessary in these cases to check blood pressure regardless of age.

Dr. Rosa-Sanchez places a significant emphasis on monitoring the kidney function of premature babies at a higher risk of developing chronic kidney disease later in life. Premature babies are particularly vulnerable due to their underdeveloped kidneys and the fact that they often require medical interventions, such as mechanical ventilation or medication, that can damage the kidneys. In addition, the long-term complications include chronic kidney disease, hypertension and protein in the urine.

Therefore, it's crucial to closely monitor kidney function in premature babies to detect any signs of kidney disease early and take proactive steps to prevent its progression. By implementing these preventative measures, Dr. Rosa-Sanchez is helping to ensure that her patients have the best possible outcomes in the long term.

Dr. Rosa-Sanchez's dedication to her patients and her passion for preventing kidney disease are evident in her approach to care. She notes that education is the key to preventing kidney disease, and she continuously seeks new ways to teach her patients and the community how to protect their kidneys.

*For more information or to make an appointment, visit
bit.ly/DrRosa-Sanchez.*

Cover Story: Update on House Bill 837

Continued from page 1

to the way a bill was coded, medical necessity, or exhaustion of benefits. Accordingly, even with this concession, insurers will be permitted to deny and underpay claims by physicians with relative impunity.

The Florida Senate recently amended its version of the bill (Senate Bill 236) to provide a similarly narrow exception to the abolition of attorney's fees in actions against insurers. However, in addition to narrowing the exception for attorney's fees to cases involving coverage disputes, the Senate would eliminate any actions for attorney's fees that are predicated upon an assignment of benefits. Thus, categorically, any medical provider, even in a case involving a coverage dispute, who sues pursuant to an AOB, would not be permitted to recover their attorney's fees.

The legislature is clearly grappling with how to control frivolous litigation while at the same time providing a realistic avenue for aggrieved individuals to bring a case against big insurance. Unfortunately, these amendments to both the House and Senate bills fall short of striking the appropriate balance. The reality is that the appellate courts provide the best mechanism for determining what is frivolous, and which cases lack legal merit. Additionally, the abolition for second-tier certiorari review has fast tracked the resolution of complex issues for both sides. Furthermore, medical providers are already required to give insurance carriers a 30 day pre-suit demand. This gives carriers an opportunity to cure any mistake or error with no penalty. Attorney's fees only come into play in the situations where carriers continue to deny the claim improperly despite

two chances to pay the bill.

At present, attorneys are compensated for their time when they bring litigation involving a good faith legal dispute, that is one that has not previously been ruled upon adversely at the appellate level. Given the speed at which appellate issues are being resolved, there is simply no need to curtail litigation over non-coverage issues. It seems clear that special interests are more concerned with creating an uneven playing field that will give unfettered discretion to big insurance to the detriment of the average medical provider and their attorney. Even with the threat of attorney's fees, carriers deny or underpay valid medical bills. Without the threat of attorney's fees as a penalty, insurance carriers will deny a higher percentage of bills and medical providers will have little to no recourse against such abuse.

Lubell & Rosen is continuing to closely monitor this litigation and will provide more updates as they become available.

*If you would like more information on this pending legislation,
contact Ryan Sanders at Lubell & Rosen at (954) 880-9500.*

Ryan Sanders & Steven Lubell are partners at the firm Lubell & Rosen, with its main office in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The firm represents hundreds of doctors throughout the state of Florida. Areas of practice include PIP collection, out-of-network medical bill collection and medical malpractice defense litigation. For more information about the authors of this article or Lubell & Rosen, please visit www.lubellrosen.com.

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

HCA Florida Woodmont Hospital Opens All-New Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center

HCA Florida Woodmont Hospital is proud to announce the all-new Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center and has partnered with a team of dedicated specialists in the field of wound care and hyperbaric medicine. Located just next door to the hospital campus, the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center offers advanced modalities including negative pressure wound therapy, bio-engineered skin substitutes, mechanical and enzymatic debridement, total-contact casting, multi-layer compression therapy, and tissue infection management. In addition, the center is currently home to two hyperbaric oxygen therapy chambers. HCA Florida Woodmont Hospital has appointed Safia Ali, M.D., and Han Pham Hulen, M.D., UHM/ABPM as the center's Medical Directors.

St. Mary's Medical Center First Hospital on East Coast to Treat Stroke Patient With pRESET® Device



Dr. Ali Malek and team

St. Mary's Medical Center is the first hospital on the East Coast and the second in the country to use the innovative pRESET® (phenox Inc.) thrombectomy device to treat a stroke patient since its FDA approval. The pRESET Thrombectomy Device is a minimally invasive device known as a "stentriever" which is a tubular mesh snare that is inserted through the femoral artery in the leg or radial artery in the wrist and navigated to the blood clot in the artery in the brain that is causing the acute stroke. The faster the clot can be removed, the greater the likelihood that the patient will have a better outcome.

Dr. Ali Malek was the neurointerventionalist at St. Mary's Medical Center who performed the procedure on the stroke patient using the pRESET thrombectomy device. He was pleased with the results and was hopeful that the addition of this technology to the stroke treatment armamentarium will help improve outcomes in even more stroke patients.

Palm Beach Children's Hospital Attains National Verification from the American College of Surgeons Children's Surgery Verification Quality Improvement Program

Palm Beach Children's Hospital has been verified as a Level II Children's Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Children's Surgery Verification (CSV) Quality Improvement Program, an established verification and quality improvement program designed to optimize the delivery of children's surgical care. The distinction recognizes the commitment of Palm Beach Children's Hospital — the first children's hospital to obtain Level II verification from the program — to provide the highest standards of care for children undergoing surgery. Across the country, 54 other children's hospitals have obtained Level I verification through the CSV program.

"It brings us great pride that Palm Beach Children's Hospital/SMMC, the historically go-to hospital for the sickest of children in Palm Beach County, is now recognized as delivering care commensurate with the standards of excellence set by the American College of Surgeons. This verification underscores our commitment to the quality and multidisciplinary approach to the care of the children of our community, who can be assured that we are consistently pushing to provide the best outcomes to our pediatric surgical patients," said Dr. Anne Fischer, M.D., Ph.D., FACS, Medical Director of Children's Surgery at Palm Beach Children's Hospital. "We chose to become verified because our hospital's mission is to deliver the highest quality healthcare services to our community which includes our pediatric surgical patients and their families. The ACS ensures that the hospital's resources and pediatric-focused care correlate best with continually improving the outcomes for children with surgical needs."

13th Annual Holy Cross Health Golf Classic Raises Nearly \$200,000 for Breast Cancer Program



(l-r) Sandy Harrington, Sheri Whittington, Terry Gunther, Maryann Uznis

The 13th annual Holy Cross Health Golf Classic presented by The Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation was a huge success, raising nearly \$200,000 for the Partners in Breast Health Program at the Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center.

The Partners in Breast Health Program at the Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center is committed to promoting early diagnosis of breast cancer so that patients can receive timely and appropriate care. The funds raised during the Holy Cross Health Golf Classic benefit this program, ensuring that underserved and uninsured women in Broward County have access to breast health education, health assessments and mammograms.

"Studies show that underserved and uninsured women are more likely to die from breast cancer due to lack of screenings and late-stage diagnoses. Our Partners in Breast Health program is about reversing those statistics," said President and CEO of Holy Cross Health Mark Doyle. "We are truly thankful for the efforts of our sponsors, volunteers and golfers. Together we are making a difference in the lives of so many women in our community."

The success of the 13th annual Holy Cross Health Golf Classic is a testament to the dedication and generosity of the many individuals and organizations who participated. The Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation, Stiles Construction, Goldman Sachs, Gunther Motor Company, Doug and Alice Donn, Dave and Bette Lauer, John and Priscilla Oughton, Il Mulino, Matt and Katherine Lee, Sandy and John Harrington and Sheri and Don Whittington were among the many sponsors who helped to make the event a success.



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Salute to Volunteers



HOLY CROSS HEALTH

Paul Kimelman

Paul Kimelman began as a volunteer in the Infusion Department at the Holy Cross Health Bienes Comprehensive Cancer Center in Spring of 2015. Since then, he has served nearly 3,000 hours and is a constant, calming, caring presence every Tuesday. Paul is known to and beloved by both patients and staff and is devoted to providing the highest level of personalized patient care. Paul takes the time to get to know patients, what they like, even how many blankets they want. When he is off, patients ask for him by name. Known for dressing in the latest fashion, Paul is described by staff as very kind and caring. Infusion Department Manager Carrie Byrnes says that Paul is an important member of the team. “He identifies opportunities to better the comfort and care of our patients,” Byrnes said. “He is part of our family.”



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Sharna Gooden

With a heart for hospice and philanthropy, Sharna Gooden, Volunteer Services Manager, is passionate about service to those in need. She launched the Celebration of a Meaningful Life program in Miami-Dade to provide personalized legacy gifts to loved ones of hospice patients. As a leader, she is inspired by her co-workers' devotion to exceptional job undertakings. “Their passion for patients and families fuels mine to create an environment that equips them to continue being excellent,” she says. With VITAS for 12 years, Sharna previously worked with the United Nations. “The human experience of being present with the dying led me to VITAS.”



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Accolades Accolades Accolades Accolades

Cleveland Clinic Weston New Pancreas Center Named Center of Excellence for Pancreatic Cancer and Pancreatitis

Cleveland Clinic Weston's Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, part of the Ellen Leifer Shulman and Steven Shulman Digestive Disease Center, has established a Pancreas Center for personalized pancreatic care treatment and frontline research for every type of pancreatic disorder.

The Pancreas Center includes a multidisciplinary team of specialists such as gastroenterologists, pancreatic surgeons, radiologists, oncologists, nutritionists, and a genetic counselor who provide personalized pancreatic care for patients. The team works together to treat patients with conditions such as acute pancreatitis, chronic pancreatitis, and pancreatic cancer.

In recent years, Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital has been recognized for excellence in treating patients with pancreatic diseases. The hospital has been named a Center of Excellence for Pancreatic Cancer and a Center of Excellence for Pancreatitis. The new Pancreas Center brings additional specialists together to elevate pancreatic care to an even higher level.

Cleveland Clinic Weston Ranked Highest Hospital in South Florida by Newsweek

Newsweek has ranked Cleveland Clinic Weston as the highest ranked hospital in South Florida and 45th best in the nation, as part of its Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals 2023 analysis. The Weston Hospital also ranked 2nd in Florida.

Cleveland Clinic is ranked as the No. 2 hospital in the world again and No. 2 in the United States.

Rodolfo J. Blandon, MD, MBA, President of Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital added, "We strive for excellence in patient care and it is an added bonus to be recognized by our peers for the work that we do. I am proud of our caregivers and the incredible outcomes they achieve for our patients every day."

Palm Beach County Hospital Exec Named One of Nation's Leading Healthcare Leaders

Ashley Vertuno, FACHE, chief executive officer of HCA Florida JFK North Hospital in Palm Beach, has been named to Modern Healthcare's prestigious list of the Top 25 Emerging Leaders for 2023.

In November 2020, then 32-year-old Ashley Vertuno became HCA Healthcare's youngest hospital CEO. Since then, she has expanded HCA Florida JFK North Hospital's service lines and recruited new physicians while maintaining the hospital's accredited status as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center.

"I suppose healthcare is just a part of my DNA," she says. "Here at JFK North, we're committed to the care and improvement of human life. That drives me every day."

In addition to serving as the hospital's top executive, Vertuno is chairperson for the 2023 Palm Beach County Go Red for Women.

Vertuno also mentors others through her involvement in the American College of Healthcare Executives and various professional associations.



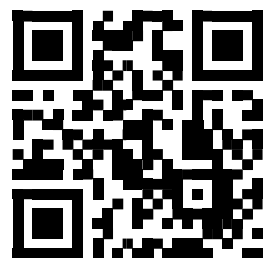
Ashley Vertuno

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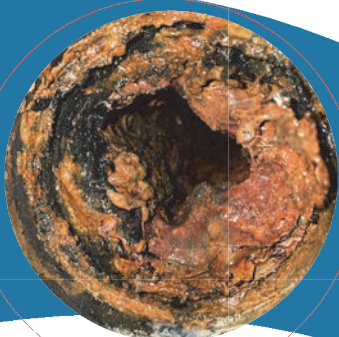
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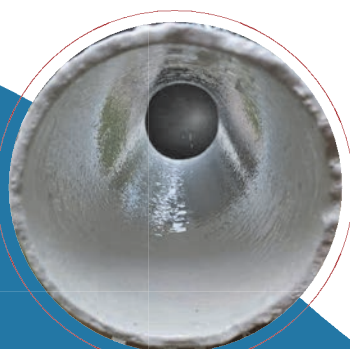
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A message from our President

Major Healthcare Changes Coming Out of the Pandemic

Readers of these articles know that I often like to take a moment and look back to see what history has taught us. And, parenthetically, if we are listening. In this article, now that the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis is in our rearview mirror, I wondered what advancements we are enjoying as a result.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to several medical advancements and breakthroughs. Here are a few examples:

1. **COVID-19 vaccines:** The development of COVID-19 vaccines was a major medical achievement, with several vaccines being approved and made available to the public within a year of the pandemic's emergence. This is a significant accomplishment, as the development of vaccines typically takes years or even decades.

2. **Telemedicine:** With the need for social distancing, telemedicine became more widely adopted as a way for patients to consult with doctors and receive medical advice remotely. This has the potential to improve access to healthcare, especially for those who live in rural or underserved areas.

3. **Rapid testing:** The pandemic also led to the development of rapid testing methods that can provide results within minutes or hours. This has been crucial in controlling the spread of COVID-19 and could have broader applications in diagnosing other infectious diseases.



Jaime Caldwell

4. **Collaboration and data sharing:** The global response to COVID-19 has involved unprecedented collaboration between scientists, researchers, and public health officials around the world. This has led to the sharing of data and knowledge that has helped to advance our understanding of the virus and develop effective treatments.

Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of medical research and innovation and has accelerated the development of new technologies and approaches that could have far-reaching benefits for public health. Further, I believe that this new/old threat (pandemics) has hastened the changing of the traditional medical practice paradigm that is going to bring ever changing healthcare dynamics with market disruptors figuring out how to build that mouse trap just a little better.

Healthcare is going to change so dramatically over the next decade that, in one sense, it is so amazing and in another, a bit scary. We are all on the train of change, holding on for our dear lives, while at the same time admiring the view!

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