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TO PHYSICIANS**

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# Hospital News<sup>TM</sup> and HEALTHCARE REPORT

Volume 20 • Issue 9 • \$5.00 March 2024

THE REGION'S MONTHLY NEWSPAPER FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS & PHYSICIANS  
OUR 20TH YEAR SERVING THE HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY!

## Charting the Course: Broward Health's Transformational Journey

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

In South Florida's ever-evolving healthcare landscape, Broward Health is taking action to ensure it meets the community's needs today and well into the future. That includes welcoming two key additions to its corporate leadership team: healthcare veterans Bernardo "Bernie" B. Fernandez Jr., M.D., and Aurelio Fernandez III.

Aurelio Fernandez, a name synonymous with healthcare excellence in South Florida, brings an unparalleled depth of knowledge and experience to the table. With a career spanning over four decades in various healthcare settings, the former president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Memorial Healthcare System in Hollywood is now serving as an executive in residence for Broward Health after stepping in to serve as interim CEO for its flagship hospital, Broward Health Medical Center.

"I am enjoying leading special initiatives that are already making a positive impact on the community by optimizing operational matters and ensuring we are provided the most advanced care and best patient experience," he said.

Dr. Bernie Fernandez, who formerly served as CEO of Baptist Health Medical Group and Cleveland Clinic Florida, is now Broward Health's corporate physician executive. He complements this leadership mosaic with his rich medical practice and



Dr. Bernardo B.  
Fernandez Jr.



Aurelio Fernandez III



Shane Strum

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Edward Dabdoub

## Dabdoub Law Firm Provides Guidance, Court Expertise to Physicians With Disability Insurance Claims

BY VANESSA ORR

It is difficult enough to be faced with a disability, and it's even more challenging when the person dealing with the disability has to pursue a case against an insurance company to get the benefits they deserve. For the past 20 years, Dabdoub Law Firm, a nationally recognized disability insurance law firm headquartered in Coral Gables, has been helping clients, including physicians, through the maze that is the disability legal field.

"The biggest hurdle for our clients is knowing how to navigate the process with the insurance company; it's extremely cumbersome," explained founder and attorney Edward Dabdoub. "In many of these cases, federal law governs the process of submitting a claim for

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## SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

### KIDZ Medical Services Co-Founder Talks Growth and Family

BY VANESSA ORR



Dr. Albert Tano with his daughter, Dr. Sara Tano

When neonatologist Albert Tano, M.D., launched KIDZ Medical Services with co-owner Jorge E. Perez, M.D., in 1988, he had no idea how large the South Florida physician-owned healthcare network would grow—or that it would become a family affair.

Now a pediatric multispecialty practice employing nearly 200 physicians, approximately 70 allied health professionals, and dozens of team members, Dr. Tano is proud of the group's evolution. And now his daughter, Sara Tano, M.D., a pediatric emergency medicine physician, is part of its legacy.

"Growing up in our household, medicine was always part of our day-to-day conversations," she said. "I saw how exciting this career was, so I started taking pre-med classes and it took off from there. It was always a dream of mine to work for the group."

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# Publisher's Note

## Our Doc-Tastic Physicians



Once upon a time in a land filled with stethoscopes, white coats and a myriad of ailments, there existed a tribe known as “Doctors.” These brave individuals embarked on a journey every day, armed with prescription pads and an insatiable appetite for patients needing both physical and emotional caring.

In the realm of medicine, change is constant, and language often takes on a life of its own. I remember a story of one doctor who attempted to explain the concept of “inflammation” to a patient, only to have them nod and calmly ask, “So Doc, what you’re saying is ... I’m on fire?”

And then there are the infamous cases of constantly changing EMRs. Doctors everywhere can relate to the frustration of the ever-changing electronic medical record systems. As one doctor put it, it’s like all the instruction manuals have a direct line to the Bermuda Triangle.

But the journey of a doctor is not merely one of acquiring knowledge and skills; it is a lifelong commitment to service and sacrifice. From the grueling years of medical school to the demanding hours spent in hospitals, clinics and medical offices, doctors undergo rigorous training to equip themselves with the expertise needed to confront the daily challenges of healthcare. Yet, despite the immense pressure and responsibility they bear, most doctors approach their work with unwavering determination and compassion.

Speaking from the personal experiences of both Carol and myself (especially this past year), we’ve met with physicians from almost every South Florida hospital system and specialty. And we have found, with rare exceptions, it is their humanity that truly sets them apart. They have not only treated and healed, but served as empathetic listeners and sources of comfort when we’ve needed them the most. But it is important that we all never forget these people are human beings first, not magicians or robots, who deserve our respect, civility and patience.

So, here’s to the doctors not just on National Doctors Day (March 30), but every day. May your stethoscopes never dangle, your handwriting remain somewhat legible, and your sense of humanity never desert.

Charles Felix



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## Speakers

**Manmeet Ahluwalia, M.D.,**  
**MBA, FASCO**  
Miami Cancer Institute

**John P. Diaz, M.D., FACOG, FACS**  
Miami Cancer Institute

**Don Dizon, M.D.**  
Brown University

**Rohan Garje, M.D.**  
Miami Cancer Institute

**Petros Grivas, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Fred Hutch Cancer Center

**Shilpa Gupta, M.D.**  
Cleveland Clinic

**Ian Krop, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Yale School of Medicine

**Reshma Mahtani, D.O.**  
Miami Cancer Institute

**Ingo Mellinghoff, M.D., FACP**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

**Joyce O'Shaughnessy, M.D.**  
Texas Oncology

**Rachna Shroff, M.D., MS, FASCO**  
The University of Arizona  
Cancer Center

**Leslie Randall, M.D.**  
VCU Health

**Brian Slomovitz, M.D.**  
Mt. Sinai Medical Center

**Neeta Somaiah, M.D.**  
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

**Vamsi Velcheti, M.D.**  
New York University

**Everett Vokes, M.D.**  
University of Chicago

**Patrick Wen, M.D.**  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**Robin Zon, M.D., FASCO, FACP**  
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HOW HARD WILL YOUR MED MAL CARRIER FIGHT FOR YOU?

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

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



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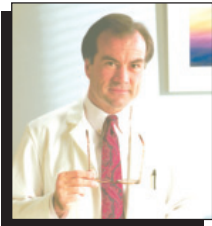


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2024 Legislative Fly-In  
Advocating for Physicians  
in Miami-Dade County

As physicians we have the responsibility and the obligation to look for the best quality of service to our patients. We are entitled to ask and protect the sacrosanct relation between patients and physicians.

One way to accomplish these goals is trying to be part of the solution when circumstances are negatively affecting those goals. It is through advocacy that physicians can educate and send out the message to the community, policy makers and elected officials on how we can achieve better outcomes with the correct actions.

During the 2nd week of the Florida Regular Legislative Session (January 16-18, 2024) a delegation of physicians from Dade County Medical Association (DCMA) went to Tallahassee to advocate on behalf of physicians in Miami-Dade. A total of 12 physicians carried out 25 meetings with senators, representatives, and legislative aides to educate them regarding some of the issues that were part of the legislative priorities of the DCMA. The priorities are as follows:

1. Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists - SB 810 by Ingoglia & HB 257 by Giallombardo - Oppose
2. Health Services: ID Card & Dispute Resolution - SB 584 by Harrell & HB 659 by Abbott - Support
3. Health Care Services - HB 1475 by Berfield & SB 1574 by Jones - Support

However, there were other issues that were attended during our visit such as: HB



BY CARMEL J. BARRAU, MD

1549 by Rep. Grant and SB 7016/7018 by Health Policy - Live Healthy; Budget Request: Physician Medicaid to Medicare Rate Increase; SB 362 by Bradley & HB 161 by Daley - Medical Treatment in Workers' Compensation; SB 248, SB 310 & SB 442 - HB 77 & HB 129 - Damages Recoverable in Wrongful Death Actions; SB 458 by Brodeur & HB 11 by Rudman - Restrictive Covenants, among other issues that popped up during our visit.

This is why it is so important to be part of the DCMA and to participate in the annual Fly-In to Tallahassee. It is the way to be part of the solution, being at the right place at the right time.

Having said that, it is with great pleasure that we (DCMA) helped to temporarily postpone two scope of practice expansion bills - nurse anesthetist (HB 257) and psychiatric nurses (HB 771). Nonetheless, we know that they are going to be filed again next year.

That is why we need all physicians (employed and private practice) to get together through organized medicine to fight against all attempts to destroy the relation between physicians and patients or moreover, lower the quality of service patients are receiving.

The ball is in your court. We can either be "at the table" as a guest of honor, or be "on the table" as an item on the menu. The choice is ours to make. JOIN THE DCMA!

Dr. Carmel Barrau is President, Dade County Medical Association, Inc

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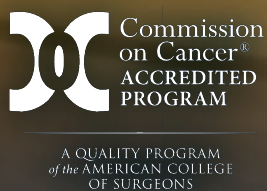


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# The Importance of Teamwork in Retaining Nurses in the ICU



BY MICHELLE  
VILLAFLORES, BSN, RN

I have been an ICU nurse for close to two decades now. In the different hospitals that I have worked for and with colleagues that I have worked with, workload has always been one of the factors why nurses stay, go someplace else or quit the profession entirely.

In a February 2017 article made by Spencer Sutherland for RNnetwork.com, a survey among nurses showed that a good 27% cited feeling overworked as their reason for leaving nursing.

Fast forward to a February 2023 article by Jack Flynn on www.zippia.com, a similar survey conducted among nurses showed feeling overworked as the main reason for leaving the profession for good.

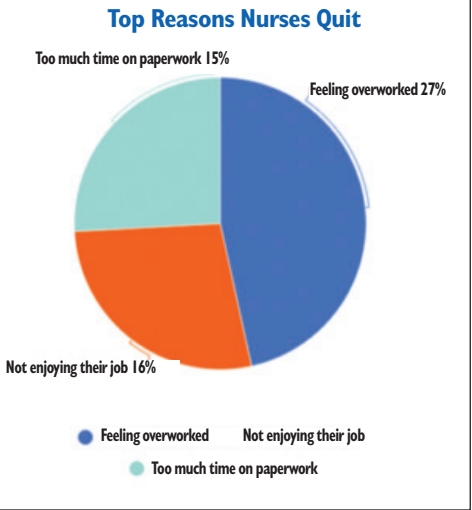
On both pie graphs pictured, one would also see that the next reason cited by nurses for leaving is too much paperwork which still falls on the realms of workload.

With the graphs pictured, I am in the opinion that teamwork can be something that can address the problem of nurses leaving.

## Teamwork Makes Everything Work!

Teamwork in nursing as defined in an article by Darby Fabion, BSN, RN, for NursingProcess.Org is “a patient-centered approach focused on shared goals among nurses. The concept uses each nursing team member's unique strengths and skills to promote the delivery of high-quality, effective nursing care and promote positive healthcare outcomes for all patients.”

As I understood the term to mean from the definition, it is tapping the skills of different nurses to make patient care better. In the process, workload, not to mention accountability, is also shared.



In my capacity as an ICU nurse, I have personally experienced having teamwork work wonders especially as the load on the floor heightens. There is no escape from being tired or fatigued, but the notion that you are not alone or that somebody has your back definitely helps assuage the situation. On the other hand, I have also been in instances before when I felt like quitting the next day because of the pile of work I have had to do alone since there was no one to help me. Physically, it was already exhausting. However, it also drained me mentally and emotionally. I reckon that this is probably the same with other nurses. We give our all at all times and sometimes, we reach a point where there is no more left to give. During these moments, the presence of colleagues in one's team comes in handy.

In the same article by Darby Fabion, BSN, RN, for NursingProcess.Org, it was mentioned that there are 5 reasons why teamwork is so important in nursing. As I understood it, it includes professional relationships among nurses being built and nurses being satisfied with their jobs. It fosters sharing of best practices and sharing of workload.

These, in my own opinion, make teamwork important in efforts to retain nurses in the ICU. True, a nurse has the responsibility to always be ready to give his/her 100% in the discharge of duties. But at the end of the day, we nurses are humans too. It should not be frowned upon that we get overwhelmed or disenchanted by our work occasionally. And whether we like it or not, the care that we give emanates from how much energy we have left. If we are doing things alone most of the time, we are surely spending more energy and accomplishing less.

Teamwork makes it possible for everyone to synergize and be of aid to one another and finish more goals in the end. As in many aspects of life, sharing the load makes it bearable for everyone. And in the grand scheme of things, harnessing teamwork may just prove to be an effective tool to retain nurses not only in the ICU but in hospitals in general.

*Michelle Villaflores is currently employed as an ICU nurse in the Medical/Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at the Memorial Regional Hospital.*



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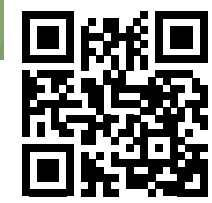
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# Training Tech Savvy Healthcare Providers

BY CAROL NEWMAN

Using a 3D printer to create a custom assistive device for physical therapy or having students in Miami interact with nursing home residents in New Jersey via telehealth exemplify the mindset that defines rehabilitative health sciences education at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences' (USAHS) Miami campus.

"We leverage the latest technology and emerging trends to prepare students for future success and as leaders of their professions," says Miami-based Vivian Sanchez, Chancellor of USAHS, a national institution with five campuses including one in Miami. "The future of physical therapy and occupational therapy integrates technology with direct patient care. We want students to appreciate the many ways they can influence patient outcomes."

Coursework in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program includes designing custom orthotics for the upper extremities. Occupational therapy students use virtual reality to experience their patient's environment remotely and better understand the person's challenges. Creating finger gutters for a patient or navigating the patient's kitchen using the magic of virtual reality, challenges students, in a tangible manner, to explore how they can help their patients.



Vivian Sanchez, USAHS

Sanchez, who oversees campuses in three states, says this culture of innovation sets USAHS apart. Each campus has a state-of-the-art clinical practice simulation center where students are immersed in inpatient and outpatient scenarios using the healthcare technologies of the future. The sim centers, along with community clinical partnerships and pro-bono clinics, provide invaluable experience and expose students to a

wide range of patient populations. Students on the Miami campus conduct weekly pro-bono clinics to enhance mobility for Parkinson's patients. Research by USAHS faculty indicates that interventions to prevent falls doesn't slow the progression of the disease but it can mitigate some of its debilitating effects and improve a person's quality of life.

Born and raised in Miami, Sanchez is a product of Georgetown University's renowned School of Foreign Service and holds an MBA from Harvard. She had a successful career in international finance before turning her sights on higher education.

In 2004, lured by the opportunity to effect positive change in the community she loved, she joined Florida International University (FIU) as Chief Financial Officer & Senior Vice President for Administration. Sanchez played a pivotal role during a transformational time in FIU's history, including the creation of a medical school.

Inspired by the lasting impact of higher education, Sanchez moved on from FIU to serve in various executive leadership roles including overseeing a network of universities across Latin America followed by a global coalition of internationally renowned universities.

Sanchez says her corporate toolkit has served her well for the past 20 years, complementing the valuable skills that academics bring to the table. "They understand what it takes to be a great scholar and I understand what it takes to formulate a strategic vision, implement it effectively and operate efficiently," she says.

According to Sanchez, viewing students, and in turn their patients, as consumers is a game changer within higher education. "The organizations that sustain themselves are the ones that continue to create value for their consumers and are deeply driven by purpose. Organizations must have clarity of purpose," she said. Sanchez ensures that USAHS' purpose is front and center, and that each faculty and staff member is driven by a common goal of developing exceptional clinicians who in turn will transform health care and the communities they serve.

USAHS opened 45 years ago as the Institute for Physical Therapy, the first independent school to confer a graduate degree in physical therapy. Today, the



University has campuses in California, Texas, and Florida, where the school is investing over \$73 million to relocate the St. Augustine campus this year to a retrofitted historic building.

The Miami campus opened in 2016, and after a multi-million dollar retrofit, is housed at the historic Douglas Entrance in Coral Gables. Under Sanchez' leadership, enrollment has tripled and campuses in five thriving cities are poised to fill critical workforce gaps in those regions. Becoming the nation's largest degree-granting institution in graduate rehabilitation programs, USAHS alumni are estimated to be treating more than 500,000 patients each week across 50 states and 21 countries.

"Our national expansion has been purposeful. We look for market gaps that the university can fill and tap into a student body that will evolve into a diverse workforce reflective of the communities they serve," said Sanchez. "The future of healthcare must include practitioners who reflect the communities that they serve."



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# Seven Reasons Why Physicians Should Consider an Employed Medical Group

Since 1993, Holy Cross Medical Group has been providing compassionate care to the South Florida community. Over the last 31 years, our physician employed group has expanded to 39 locations throughout Broward County. More than 140 physicians and 35 advanced practice providers (APPs) offer primary care services and many specialties including orthopedics, cardiology, neurology, gastroenterology, oncology, endocrinology, rheumatology, obstetrics and gynecology, pulmonology, general surgery, infectious disease and critical care.

The physician employed medical group model is beneficial to physicians, hospitals and patients. Here's why.

Data within the healthcare industry shows that the number of providers who are in private practice continues to decrease year-over-year. There are several main drivers as to why physicians are opting to join medical groups instead of opening or remaining in a private practice.

- Medical groups help practitioners build a practice and patient panel size quicker. If you're a specialist in an ever-growing medical group, patients are delivered to your practice with warm transfers through referrals from other doctors within the group. In building a highly efficient, highly accessible, clinically integrated network, care coordination is paramount to success of a medical group. Providing great, high-quality care and access to care ensures a patient's desire to stay in your network.
- Medical groups also have the power to negotiate better rates with insurance providers and provide more affordable payment options to self-pay patients. This takes the burden off the physician and their office staff, freeing up their time and attention to focus on providing quality care to patients and working to top of their license.
- When employed by a medical group, physicians and their support staff receive a comprehensive benefits package that can include medical insurance and employer sponsored retirement benefits. A group can secure a more competitive rate than a private practice shopping for an insurance plan for a relatively small staff.
- When in private practice, physicians do so much more than provide care to



BY TOM HATHAWAY

patients. They are also entrepreneurs and responsible for leasing office space, paying utilities, hiring staff, human resources, employee relations, purchasing office supplies, payroll, insurance, taxes and so much more. Those added responsibilities are handled by an administrative staff when working for an employed medical group. It not only allows doctors to focus on being care providers, but it also provides better work-life balance for them, freeing up their time from focusing on running a private business.

- I am seeing more and more private practice physicians who are nearing retirement join an employed group to reduce the weight on their shoulders and have a succession plan in place for their patients to easily transition to a new physician.

Medical groups also offer laboratory services and imaging, making it very easy for physicians within the group to order tests and receive results quickly. It enables them to speak directly to the lab and radiologists if they have questions about the interpretation of the results.

Holy Cross Medical Group is part of a larger parent company, Trinity Health System, one of the largest nonprofit health systems in the country. With that comes capital and fundraising power to support innovation, growth and scaling the health system to reach more patients in the community than a private practice physician may not be able to afford.

Holy Cross Medical Group frequently adds new physicians to our roster. Some of these new hires are brought on board once they complete our fellowship and resident GME programs in partnership with University of Miami. This provides us with a constant pipeline of talent who are already familiar with our facilities and core values. We do continue to work with physicians in private practice within the community who are a part of our Holy Cross Physician Partners, which is a clinical integrated health care provider network that unites independent and employed physicians in a program that drives improvements in efficiency and health outcomes.

*Tom Hathaway is President of Holy Cross Medical Group.*



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# Early Success Leads to Hospital Care At Home Expansion

After launching Cleveland Clinic Hospital Care At Home (HCAH) in April 2023 to serve patients requiring acute hospital care at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital in Vero Beach, Cleveland Clinic has expanded the program to Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Martin North Hospital and Cleveland Clinic Martin South Hospital. Cleveland Clinic is now exploring the next phase in the multihospital expansion.

"The way we deliver care today is not how we will deliver care tomorrow," says Richard Rothman, MD, Chief Medical Operations Officer for Cleveland Clinic in Florida and Vice Chief of the Integrated Hospital Care Institute for Cleveland Clinic. "Cleveland Clinic Hospital Care At Home is a glimpse into the future of healthcare delivery."

## Model of care

Patient eligibility to be hospitalized at home is based on a complete medical evaluation and determined in either the Emergency Department or within one of the hospital's inpatient units. "Individuals who meet the criteria are offered the choice to receive hospital-level care at home or in a traditional hospital setting," says Dr. Rothman, noting they must live within a 30-mile radius of the hospital to participate.

Once admitted, patients are set up at home with technology to enable transmission of biometric data, bidirectional communication, and coordination with the hospital's Clinically Integrated Virtual Command Center (CIViC) located in Vero Beach. The CIViC team is comprised of physicians, advanced practice providers, and nurses who are responsible for directing patient care.

"Our specially trained caregivers are supported by a technology platform that organizes the patient's data and care plan into actionable real-time information shared by the patient's entire medical team," Dr. Rothman explains. "We also have a network of internal and external clinical service providers who deliver care within the patient's home."

## Early success

Cleveland Clinic Hospital Care At Home admitted 27 patients in its first month, double the average of validated peer benchmarks. By the end of its first 10 months, nearly 700 patients had been admitted. "That represents the elimination of nearly 2,000 brick and mortar hospital days since April," says Dr. Rothman. "Following the opening of the virtual hospital at Indian River Hospital, the daily census averaged seven patients."

Today, the virtual hospital census ranges from 17-20 patients and admission volumes exceed 120 per month. These patients had reduced readmission rates to the hospital and an improved patient experience. "The patient feedback has exceeded the already high bar we set for the virtual hospital," says Dr. Rothman. "Our Press Ganey patient experience scores surpassed those for in-hospital care while having similar medical illness severity levels, and the readmission rate trends are to-date significantly lower for Hospital Care At Home than the brick and mortar hospital (9.6%

versus ~13%)."

The HCAH team cares for patients with exacerbations of their chronic conditions such as chronic heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and diagnoses such as sepsis, cellulitis, pneumonia, influenza, COVID-19 and diverticulitis, among other conditions.

## Enterprise expansion

Having completed the rollout of Cleveland Clinic Hospital Care At Home at Tradition Hospital in Port St. Lucie, and Martin North Hospital and Martin South Hospital in Stuart, the Cleveland Clinic is evaluating further expansion in Florida and Ohio.

## Key learnings

Cleveland Clinic Hospital Care At Home is part of a larger national movement that includes nearly 300 hospitals across the country. Developed in the United States in the mid-1990s, the care model gained traction when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the Acute Hospital Care at Home program in November 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Conor Delaney, MD, PhD, President, Cleveland Clinic Florida Market, the tripartite goal for Hospital Care At Home is to improve outcomes for patients, provide a better care environment for caregivers, and create a more sustainable healthcare delivery model for all.

"Our hospitalist-led approach has demonstrated positive early results, an indication we are on the right path," says Dr. Delaney. "I have to commend our hospital medicine and nursing teams for guiding the successful implementation of Hospital Care At Home."

While two years of planning with key clinical, operational, financial, and information technology stakeholders preceded hospitalizing the first Cleveland Clinic patient at home, Dr. Rothman notes the team still encountered foreseen and unforeseen obstacles that required them to be adaptable and "to think big." Drs. Rothman and Delaney published these key learnings in the *Journal of Hospital Medicine* dated February 7, 2024.

Dr. Rothman shared some of the key learnings from the launch that may guide others ready to implement this model of care.

- Build trust among hospitalists, consultants, and ancillary staff by being transparent about the rationale of changing the standard of care for hospital medicine and continuously sharing quality data.

- Work with stakeholders to create well-defined home-based acute care pathways equivalent to those for common diagnoses managed in brick-and-mortar settings.

- Standardize patient screening practices and encourage clinicians to introduce the option of hospitalization at home early in care planning discussions.

- Communicate the value of the care model for frontline caregivers, including the patient-centeredness of care that promotes more meaningful interactions, a better understanding of patients' needs, a rebalancing of the caregiver's day, and overall improved job satisfaction.



Hospital Care At Home patients are set up at home with technology to enable transmission of biometric data, bidirectional communication, and coordination with the hospital's Clinically Integrated Virtual Command Center (CIViC) located in Vero Beach.

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**The effective rollout date was July 1, 2023.**

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## Let's Connect: ACHE of South Florida Spotlight

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## ACHE OF SOUTH FLORIDA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Juan Awad

BY LOIS THOMSON



Juan Awad

It hasn't taken Juan Awad long to become excited about his new job. Having been named a Market Leader just last April by Florida Blue, the state's Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan, Awad is already saying, "It's exceeded my expectations!" In his position, Awad is responsible for developing, leading, and executing Florida Blue's local strategy in Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast. The strategy includes the local execution of analytics, products, sales, provider networks, care programs, and local marketing and community relations.

For more than 20 years prior to joining Florida Blue, Awad served in various healthcare leadership positions, mostly for Baptist Health South Florida, and for the past two years as hospital CEO at Ochsner Health, a leading integrated healthcare system in Louisiana. The job at Florida Blue, therefore, is a departure from what Awad had been accustomed to. "I was on the hospital side for about 20 years, and then I came to the payor side. It's different, but I really love it. With Florida Blue we do a lot of great community work; we're more than just a health insurance company, we are a health solutions company." In that regard, Awad said Florida Blue has community centers where both members and nonmembers can come in and meet with a community specialist (social worker), nurses, licensed agents, and receive answers to questions regarding coverage, insurance, and the like.

Awad said he was aware of Florida Blue's reputation, but "did not expect my role to be as complex as it is, or as rewarding. What I enjoy the most is the community work." He said as a CEO he had an opportunity to do that type of work, but what he's being exposed to here is a different level. "It's working with community leaders and nonprofits to address some of the community gaps."

Awad credits parts of his career success to his association with ACHE – the American College of Healthcare Executives. A member for 20 years, Awad first learned about the organization when he was in college, working on his Bachelor's Degree. His mentor recommended looking into ACHE, saying they do great work in helping to develop and further careers – whether through networking or educational opportunities. "I joined as an undergrad, then through ACHE partnership I learned about hospital fellowships. I got my first job in hospital administration through one of those fellowships."

He acknowledged ACHE's role in his existing position as well, saying another member helped facilitate the interview with his current boss. "That connection, that networking, and being involved, being part of the board, building relationships – that's what got me the job I'm in today."

When Awad first joined ACHE, he volunteered to help board members find venues or keynote speakers to be part of their educational programs. That resulted in the members asking him to join the board. "I said OK, and the next thing I knew I was being elected for office. I started as a member-at-large, then became networking chair. I was a board member for eight years until I left and moved to New Orleans. Upon returning, the board members reached out to me and said, 'We want you back,' and that's how I'm back on the board this year."

Awad said he would "100 percent" encourage others to join. "That's part of what I do as a board member, I advocate for the great work that the chapter does. It's truly the only reason why I came back to the board, because (I'm) working with great leaders who are very passionate and really care about what we're trying to do here."



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## Broward Italian Delegation Tours Broward Health North



(l-r) **Todd D. Moritz, Director, Strategic Planning & Business Development, Broward Health North; Eng. Silvio Cravero, Executive Clinical Engineer, ASST Fatebenefratelli Sacco – Milan; Prof. Francesco Bof, Executive Master in Public Healthcare Procurement and Coordinator of the Italian Delegation, University of Parma; Eng. Davide Goldoni, PhD Student, Università degli Studi di Brescia, ASST Spedali Civili Brescia**

BY LOIS THOMSON

Members of an Italian delegation that were visiting from Milan, Italy to participate in a conference in South Florida, received more than they were expecting. The representatives were attending a conference sponsored by the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development.

Charles Felix, publisher of South Florida Hospital News & Healthcare Report, was also in attendance. He explained that the delegation was representing the Italian healthcare systems and universities. "They presented information about their healthcare system. They also learned about advance technologies used within Broward County that they may be able to use in Italy."

Felix said, he was sitting with the delegation before the conference and asked if anyone had arranged for them to tour a hospital in the area. When they said no, Felix said, "you should see one of the premier hospitals in South Florida, and that's when I arranged a tour with Broward Health North".

Upon arriving at the hospital, the delegation was shown the Emergency Department and the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. Leaders from the hospital discussed the variety of services offered by Broward Health North and how they benefited the community. There were also conversations regarding initiatives that focused on common themes, such as customer service and patient care.

Matthew Garner, CEO of Broward Health North, said, "It was a privilege to have the Italian delegation tour our facility and give Broward Health North the opportunity to showcase the quality of care available at our hospital."

"I think they really appreciated it," said Felix, and Broward Health North's leadership agreed.

"There are many people visiting South Florida, wanting to learn more about the great hospitals in our area, and the work we are doing as it relates to advanced care," said Garner. "South Florida is emerging as an industry leader in healthcare, and Broward Health North is proud to be part of a dynamic healthcare environment that drives international interest and attention."

## Broward County Medical Association Co-Hosts Boot Camp for Business of Medicine

The Broward County Medical Association Foundation and the NSU Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine co-hosted the Boot Camp for the Business of Medicine held on February 3, 2024 at the Signature Grand. The Boot Camp provided opportunities for physicians, residents, and medical students to explore the business skills needed to be successful in the ever-changing landscape of Medicine. Topics ranged from starting and entering a new practice, Employment Contracts, Claims processing, Coding, Artificial Intelligence, and Preparing for Retirement.

The Keynote Speaker was Mr. Scott Wester, President/Chief Executive Officer, Memorial Healthcare System. Mr. Wester provided a Perspective on the Future of Healthcare.

Following a day of education, the Broward County Medical Association held their 97th Annual Inauguration and Dinner. The following officers were installed: for the second term as President, Dr. Antonio H. Wong; President Elect, Dr. Kayvan Amini; Vice President, Dr. Jennifer Capezzuti; Treasurer, Dr. Jason Kelly; and Secretary, Dr. Ann Marie Font. The Chair of the Board of Trustees will be past president, Dr. Shahnaz Fatteh.



# Miami Dade College's Medical Campus Annual Community Health Fair: A Beacon of Wellness for South Florida

Miami Dade College's Medical Campus is gearing up once again to host its highly anticipated Annual Community Health Fair on March 2, 2024, a beacon of hope for some of South Florida's most medically underserved and economically disadvantaged residents. As Florida's largest institution of higher education, Miami Dade College takes pride in its critical role in improving the health and education of the community. The Community Health Fair, a signature event, stands as a testament to the college's commitment to raising awareness about health matters and addressing disparities in healthcare access.

The annual Community Health Fair is not just an event; it's a gateway to health education for the local community. Designed to be free and open to the public, the fair provides a unique opportunity for residents to access a wealth of health-related information. From informative sessions on preventive care to workshops promoting healthy habits, the event aims to empower attendees with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their health.

One of the primary objectives of Miami Dade College's Community Health Fair is to bridge the gap in healthcare access for those who are medically underserved. South Florida is home to diverse communities facing various economic challenges, and the health fair plays a crucial role in providing access to basic healthcare screenings. By doing so, the event helps to ensure that everyone, regardless of their economic background, has the opportunity to receive essential medical information.

The event serves as a platform to address prevalent health matters affecting the community. From chronic diseases to mental health awareness, the health fair covers a wide range of topics, offering attendees valuable insights into maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The fair contributes to creating a healthier and more informed population. Year after year, the Miami Dade College Community Health Fair has proven to be a community treasure, positively impacting the lives of thousands.

With more than 2,000 people served annually, the event goes beyond being a one-day affair; it becomes a lifeline for many. Miami Dade College's Medical Campus Annual Community Health Fair is a shining example of how education and healthcare can come together to create positive change. By offering free access to health education, and screenings, the health fair becomes a beacon of wellness for South Florida, empowering individuals and communities to prioritize their health. As the college continues to play a critical role in improving community health and education, the annual health fair stands as a testament to the institution's commitment to making a lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most.

## When It Comes To Patient Care – Build Culture

I have only worked professionally for two companies, but I have worked with 1,000's of organizations in my career. Not to overly simplify, but what separates the great organizations from the good or poor ones comes down to two simple things: Culture and Leadership and from my perspective, the latter drives the former.

So how do you develop a world class culture. Most organizations have a clear set of values or operating principles, but in many places, they are not real. Employees think about them rarely because they are not reinforced daily.

So how do you reinforce the values you wish to uphold? Something we do at our company is Ripples. The concept of a ripple was first popularized by Robert Kennedy in his "Ripple of Hope" speech. The idea being that if you throw a small pebble into a pond, the wave ripple extends outward in distances well beyond the initial impact. In our company, a ripple is a story about something that happened in the last few days that directly relates to the culture we are trying to create. It is essentially an easy way to reinforce the culture daily. Every meeting, every huddle, and many debriefs start with a ripple at the beginning.

Some outsiders may view this as a waste of time, but this establishes and reinforces the norms that we desire. For example, one of our core values is safety (like many organizations). Having someone tell a story to start a meeting around an event that resulted in making the company a safer place, is strengthening the culture we are trying to create. Start by teaching everyone the behaviors you want from day one. Then use stories, or ripples to emphasize the lessons. If you want to be great at patient care, set the expectation and strengthen it every day. Your referrals will go through the roof. Have a great week.

Jay Juffre is Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, ImageFIRST. For more information on ImageFIRST, call 1-800-932-7472 or visit [www.imagefirst.com](http://www.imagefirst.com).



BY JAY JUFFRE

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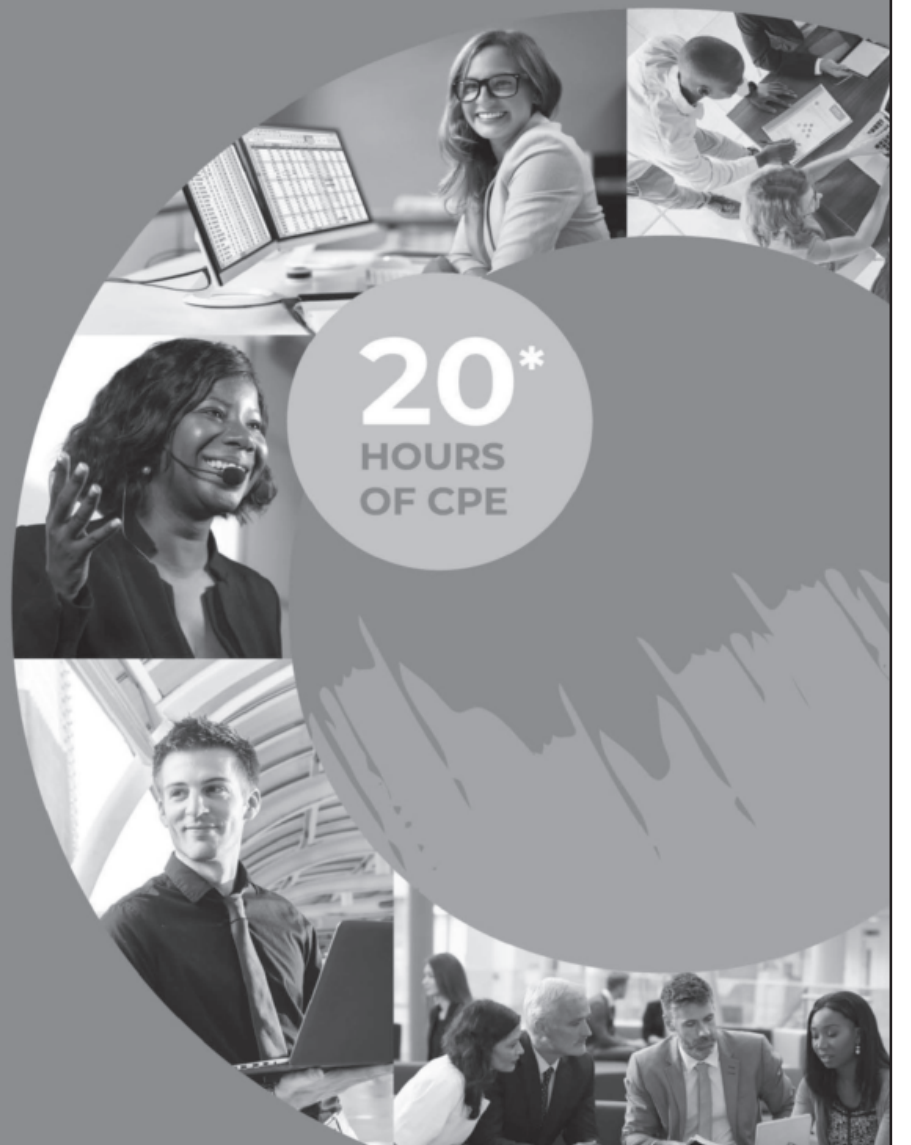
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## When It's Time to Leave the Hospital: Ensuring Post-Acute Care Access

Achieving superior health care outcomes depends on delivering the right care at the right time in the right setting. Whether that's a primary care clinic, hospital emergency department (ED), inpatient unit, or post-acute facility, patients' outcomes depend on getting timely, medically necessary care appropriate for their condition and needs.



BY MARY C.  
MAYHEW

Unfortunately, today, too many patients remain unnecessarily hospitalized because of delays in securing appropriate post-acute placement. These are placements in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, home health, hospice, long-term acute care settings, behavioral health units, and rehabilitation facilities.

Patients who no longer require a hospital level of care because of their medical status or needs are staying hospitalized because of delays in transitioning to another, more appropriate care setting. The results for patients are avoidable hospital days and impediments in progressing in their healing journey. The results for hospitals are operational inefficiencies and increased costs. The result for the health care system ... and for anyone needing to be hospitalized ... is a potential lack of inpatient capacity to admit in a timely manner patients from the emergency departments. With ED boarding times steadily increasing, getting patients from the ED to a medical/surgical unit, if necessary, is critical for patient care and operational efficiency. That cannot occur if patients medically ready to be discharged from the hospital cannot do so.

Statewide, patients with an average hospital stay of less than 10 days before being medically ready for discharge remain in the hospital for an average of 3.5 more days while hospital staff try to secure post-acute placement, according to a survey by the Florida Hospital Association. Patients whose length of stay before being ready for discharge exceeds 10 days remain in the hospital for an average of 27 more days before

being successfully transitioned to post-acute care. More than 50 percent of these patients waiting for more than 10 days are awaiting discharge to a skilled nursing facility. This means patients are staying in hospital beds longer than necessary for their medical needs.

The estimated cost to hospitals of keeping patients hospitalized after they are medically ready for discharge is more than \$540 million a year. These are avoidable costs. But avoiding

them requires additional post-acute capacity and more streamlined authorization requirements from health plans. A quarter of patients are not being timely transitioned to care because of payer prior authorization issues, according to the FHA survey. Twenty percent are facing discharge delays because of bed or staffing shortages at the post-acute facility.

With one of the country's largest growing elderly populations, Florida is likely the tip of the spear for addressing this challenge. FHA is working with the South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association (SFHHA), which represents hospitals and post-acute providers, to collaborate on needed, workable solutions. Together, FHA and SFHHA convened a Long-Term Care Roundtable last month to bring together regional providers in Southeast Florida to explore all aspects of long-term care, including barriers, proven solutions, and alternative options. The Roundtable focused on policy changes that would truly move the needle toward closing the gaps in care for this population.

The causes are multi-faceted. Solutions will need to be as well. But, with a commitment to ensuring no patient stays in a hospital bed longer than necessary for their medical needs, Florida can lead the way in identifying strategies and solutions to accelerate care transitions so that every patient can continue their healing journey without delay, impediment, or setback.

*Mary C. Mayhew is the Florida Hospital Association President and CEO.*

## What's Next?

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**BDO**



# Tampa General Hospital Leads in Living-Donor Liver Transplants in Florida

Tampa General Hospital (TGH) is leading the way in living-donor liver transplants in the state of Florida. In 2023, the academic health system performed five lifesaving living-donor liver transplants, the most of any hospital in the Sunshine State.

The first of these occurred in May 2023, when Derek Sanz gave his mother, Patty, the ultimate Mother's Day gift — half of his liver. After nearly a year, mother and son report they are doing well, and express gratitude that the TGH Transplant Institute offers a living-donor option. Without it, Patty might have waited anywhere from 30 days to five years for a deceased donor's organ. Livers are the second-most in-demand organ for transplants (behind kidneys). About 10 percent of individuals on the national transplant waiting list are waiting for a liver.

Receiving a donation from a living donor shortens a patient's wait time and lessens the chance the liver's condition will worsen. "Living-donor liver transplant is another avenue to save more lives of patients with liver disease in our community," said Dr. Kiran Dhanireddy, vice president and chief of the TGH Transplant Institute and surgical director of the Comprehensive Liver Disease & Transplant Center. "The profound generosity of living donors circumvents the need for extended periods of time to gain access to lifesaving transplantation."



Derek Sanz with his mother, Patty

With a living-donor transplantation, a healthy person volunteers a portion of their liver to someone whose liver is failing from end-stage disease or cancer. After doctors remove the donated portion, the donor's remaining liver regrows close to its full size and capacity within a couple of months. The transplanted liver also grows, restoring normal liver function to the recipient.

There are many benefits to living-donor transplantation, and more could be performed with increased public awareness and participation. The advantages include:

- **Timing:** A transplant can take place quicker when a living donor is available, rather than waiting for organs from

deceased donors.

- **Convenience:** Hospitals schedule transplants based on the recipient's and donor's availability.

- **Better Outcomes:** Research shows that recipients of organs from living donors have better outcomes than those who receive organs from deceased donors.

TGH is a top 5 transplant center by volume in the United States and is ranked one of the Nation's Best Hospitals by U.S. News & World Report in 2023-2024. The living-donor liver transplant program "is a prime example of Tampa General continuing to drive innovation to deliver world-class health care," said TGH President and CEO John Couris. "This program opens up additional access to patients in need of a liver transplant, and has the potential to transform the lives of patients and their families in the Tampa Bay region, Florida and across the United States." Over the past year, an increasing number of Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast patients have been referred to TGH's expert transplant team.

Both Patty and Derek Sanz have shared their experiences to encourage others to consider a living-donor liver transplant if they have a family member in need. "It worked for us and that's why we want to get the word out there so that many more people can be saved," said Patty.

Founded in 1974, TGH's transplant

program continues to strive to meet the increasing demand. The TGH Transplant Institute performed 756 transplants in 2023, setting a new record for the academic health system and making TGH the No. 4 hospital in the nation for transplants by volume.

The 756 transplants performed at TGH last year represent an increase of 11% over 2022. TGH performed 459 kidney transplants in 2023 and is now ranked top 5 in the nation for kidney transplants by volume. TGH also performed 209 liver transplants in 2023, making the hospital top 5 in the nation for liver transplants by volume. The academic health system also performed heart, lung and kidney/pancreas operations.

"This is a tremendous achievement for our organization that reflects the clinical expertise of our team and their commitment to excellence and leveraging technology to drive innovation. It's also a testament to the exceptional quality of care patients find at Tampa General Hospital," said Couris. "As one of the top 5 centers in the nation for transplants by volume, Tampa General performs hundreds of transplants each year. More transplants lead to greater proficiency, which produces better patient outcomes."

For more information about the TGH Transplant Institute, or to refer a patient, please call (561) 739-4TGH.



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## BROWARD HEALTH NORTH

### Evan L. Boyar, MD

Dr. Evan L. Boyar is a board-certified emergency physician who has practiced at Broward Health North since 2010 and currently serves as the hospital's chief of staff. He is also the regional medical director of emergency medicine for Broward Health North. He was previously the chair of Broward Health North's Emergency Department during the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooting.

Originally a civil engineer, Dr. Boyar decided to become a doctor when he came to realize the human body was the perfect form of engineering.

"I specialized in emergency medicine because it incorporates so many aspects of medicine," said Dr. Boyar. "As emergency physicians, we take pride in serving our community any time of the day and any day of the week."

Dr. Boyar earned his medical degree at the University College of Dublin and completed his residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.



### Carlos Casas Reyes, MD

A board certified neurosurgeon with the Broward Health Physician Group, Dr. Carlos Casas Reyes practices out of Broward Health North.

While he addresses various aspects of neurosurgery and intracranial and spinal pathology, his primary focus is the intricate management of spinal conditions, from complex adult degenerative and deformity to tumors and trauma.

"I feel fortunate to be part of Broward Health's esteemed Department of Neurosurgery and for the opportunity to use advanced navigational systems and minimally invasive techniques that enable precise spinal surgeries," said Dr. Casas Reyes.

Fluent in English and Spanish, Dr. Casas Reyes received his medical degree at the Universidad de la Sabana School of Medicine in Colombia. His postgraduate training includes an internship in general surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital, a residency in neurosurgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, and a fellowship in comprehensive spine and radiosurgery at Stanford University School of Medicine.



## BROWARD HEALTH IMPERIAL POINT

### Milica Bogdanovic-Starcevic, MD

Dr. Milica Bogdanovic-Starcevic is a Broward Health Physician Group doctor who is board certified in internal medicine.

"My desire to become a medical doctor was driven by a desire to help others and make a difference in people's lives," said Dr. Bogdanovic-Starcevic. "It's an honor to be trusted with another human being's health and well-being. By providing good medical care I feel like I have the opportunity to have an impact on others. For me, this is a key aspect of fulfillment in life."

Fluent in both English and Serbo-Croatian, Dr. Starcevic received her medical degree at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Medicine in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She completed residencies in internal medicine at Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., and with the University Clinic of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## BROWARD HEALTH IMPERIAL POINT

### L. Fernando Narvaez, MD

Board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, L. Fernando Narvaez, M.D., is a primary care physician with the Broward Health Physician Group who serves as chief of staff at Broward Health Imperial Point, where he provides guidance and leadership to medical staff and serves as a liaison with hospital administration.

"I discovered a passion to help people early in my life that I've carried on in my profession," said Dr. Narvaez. "My commitment to treating patients with respect, empathy and consideration has positively impacted my practice."

Dr. Narvaez enjoys travel, saying it not only enriches his personal life but enhances his ability to provide culturally sensitive medical advice.

Dr. Narvaez is bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish. He went to medical school at the University of Valle, Cali in Colombia, and completed his residency in family medicine at the University of Florida Health Science Center in Jacksonville.



## BROWARD HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER

### Ann Marie Mojica, MD

Dr. Ann Marie Mojica is a pediatric hematologist-oncologist with the Broward Health Physician Group.

Her journey in medicine was greatly influenced by her brother's diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia when she was a child.

"Pursuing a career in pediatric hematology oncology was my way of paying it forward, and being there for our patients and families the way my brother's care team was there for me and my family," said Dr. Mojica.

Dr. Mojica's dedication to her patients is unwavering. Currently, she is leading the development of a multi-disciplinary clinic for patients with vascular anomalies.

"My patients and families motivate me every day," Dr. Mojica said. "The bonds and relationships fostered in this particular field are unmatched."

Dr. Mojica earned her medical degree from Texas A&M University College of Medicine. She completed her residency in pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, and her fellowship in pediatric hematology-oncology at the University of Utah.



## BROWARD HEALTH CORAL SPRINGS

### Tatiana Pestana, MD

Dr. Tatiana Pestana is an internist and pediatrician, currently serving as the chief of staff at Broward Health Coral Springs.

Dr. Pestana recognized she could make a broader impact by caring for adults and children.

"I find it amazing that I can follow a patient's care from childhood into adulthood," Dr. Pestana said.

The board-certified doctor is passionate about promoting wellness and prevention.

"I love educating my patients, I stress that following habits that include a healthy diet, exercise, sleep, stress reduction, and strong interpersonal connections can help to reduce the need for medication, and development of disease," Dr. Pestana said.

She represents the medical staff at the 250-bed hospital and serves on committees that contribute to the improvement of quality in the hospital, physicians, and patient care.

Dr. Pestana received her medical degree at Albany Medical College. She completed her residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Tulane.



### Jorge Rocha, MD

Dr. Jorge Rocha, an orthopedic trauma surgeon at Broward Medical Center, discovered his true calling after a near-fatal motorcycle accident at age 19.

"I spent a significant portion of the following year at the hospital, undergoing multiple surgeries and months of physical therapy to regain my mobility," Dr. Rocha said.

It was during this time that Dr. Rocha discovered his professional purpose. He continues to be driven by his own experience and dedicates his professional life to paying it forward, helping patients regain their mobility and providing comfort during their most challenging moments.

"My motivation stems from my commitment to delivering the highest standard of care to a vulnerable population," Dr. Rocha said.

Dr. Rocha received his medical degree from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He completed his orthopedic surgical residency at the University of Pittsburgh and his fellowship in orthopedic trauma surgery at Ryder Trauma Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital.



### Mahreen Siddiqui, MD

Dr. Mahreen Siddiqui is a pediatric intensivist, serving as the chair of pediatrics at Broward Health Coral Springs.

With 15 years of experience, Dr. Siddiqui is motivated by the unique health challenges her patients present daily and the intricate interplay within the human body.

"I was drawn to the field of critical care by the opportunity to save lives through critical thinking in a hospital-based environment," Dr. Siddiqui said.

For Dr. Siddiqui, every patient interaction is an opportunity to make a profound impact during their most vulnerable moments. "It's rewarding seeing a child recover from a critical illness, and being able to make a difference during their weakest moment is unmatched," Dr. Siddiqui said.

Dr. Siddiqui earned her medical degree from Baqai Medical University in Pakistan. She completed her residency in pediatrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center and her fellowship in pediatric critical care at Nicklaus Children's Hospital.



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# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## Why Physicians Need Organized Medicine

**"If you want to walk fast, walk alone.  
But if you want to walk far, walk together."**

- Ratan Tata

As a busy Family Physician, practicing Family Medicine for over 3 decades in South Florida, I always wondered why Physicians should get involved in organized medicine and what can organized medicine do for you. This is why I think all Physicians (in training and seasoned) should get involved.

The only constancy in healthcare is change. Healthcare for physicians changes constantly, and healthcare for our patients changes just as rapidly. Being involved in a medical association allows physicians to focus on caring for our patients while feeling reassured that those we trust are advocating for our shared interests and concerns. Medicine can be better. It should be better for our patients, for ourselves, for all involved in the health delivery system.

### **How does organized medicine affect the practicing physicians and future in training physicians?**

Policies are being signed into legislation constantly that affect the way we practice today and in the future. Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, Scope of Practice, Tort Reform, and Payment, all affect health care utilization and the care that we



**BY ANTONIO H.  
WONG, MD, FAAFP**

can provide to our patients. The outcome of these legislations directly impacts all physicians, those who are currently practicing and those in training to become future physicians. Unfortunately, these policies tend to be written and created by those who do not have much experience of the financial, emotional, and physical struggles that Physicians face on a daily basis.

As Physicians, we chose medicine to care for patients, but much of our clinical day is spent struggling with insurance companies, worrying about liability concerns, and drowning under ever increasing clerical duties. Antitrust hamstrings our ability to effectively negotiate with payers, and ethically we cannot abandon our patients to go on strike. These issues affect all physicians daily. The

most effective way to be heard is through organized medicine. We are more powerful when we speak with a united voice to advocate for our profession, which allows us to achieve our most important mission, to protect public health and defend the practice of medicine.

For all Physicians, especially, the future young physicians, it is imperative to join physicians' associations to share their voices and represent the future of medicine. Without Physicians, especially young physicians, there will be a significant loss in the membership and momentum created by those who will retire in the coming years.

*Dr. Antonio H. Wong is President,  
Broward County Medical Association.*



## OUR PHYSICIANS ARE TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

At Jupiter Medical Center our distinguished team of physicians utilize the latest technology and innovative treatments to provide the highest level of quality, safety, and patient experience. Our highly experienced professionals are setting the bar for care in the region and are the fundamental force behind our numerous recognitions and awards.

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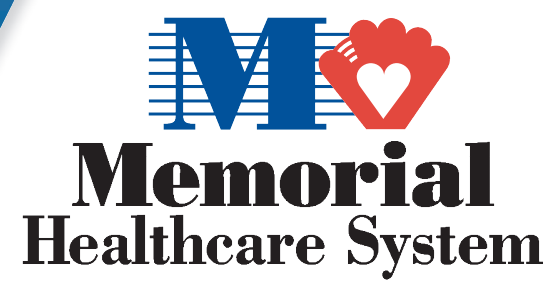
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**DOCTORS' DAY 2024**



# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HEALTH SYSTEM

### Estelamari Rodriguez, MD

A triple board-certified hematologist and oncologist at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center in Miami, Dr. Estelamari Rodriguez is a driving force behind Sylvester's lung cancer screening program. She is a tireless advocate of proactive screening for people at particular risk for lung cancer, the No. 1 cause of cancer deaths for both men and women in the United States, and has helped establish Sylvester's multidisciplinary care approach that works with patients from initial screening through post-diagnosis treatment and support.

Dr. Rodriguez's passion for health equity prompted Amgen, a prominent biotechnology company, to name her a spokesperson for its Representation in Clinical Research (RISE) educational campaign that promotes the value of clinical trials to Hispanic and Latinx communities in the U.S. "This is a journey," Dr. Rodriguez says. "It's important that patients are seen by a multidisciplinary team and are being monitored throughout their lives."



### Teshamae Monteith, MD

As she assumes the presidency of the Florida Society of Neurology, Dr. Teshamae Monteith's first priority is to develop programs that improve access to equitable, high-quality neurological care for Florida patients. She is chief of the Headache Division at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and has led research to elucidate the benefits of novel, real-world technologies that prevent migraines and introduce innovative treatments to people with migraines, the most disabling condition in the U.S. for people younger than 50.

Appointed to the International Headache Society Board of Trustees in 2021, Dr. Monteith has earned subspecialty certification from the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties, recognition that acknowledges the significant role she plays in defining the standards of competence for practicing neurologists in the U.S.

"Our goal is to make Florida one of the best places in the country for patients with neurologic disease," Dr. Monteith says.



## ILUMED

### David Priscal, MD

Dr. David Priscal has more than two decades of dedication to clinical excellence. As Chief Medical Officer of ilumed, an ACO REACH organization helping care for Medicare patients across the country, he coordinates with everyone from practices to plans, assuring the quality of services to all patients under the ilumed umbrella. Dr. Priscal is always looking for ways to evolve care systems for the benefit of the patient. He has full medical oversight at ilumed, owning high-level strategies that result in revolutionary care systems and offering expert coordination across the healthcare industry to bring unprecedented access to value-based models proven to increase quality outcomes. Previously, he served as CMO and Regional VP of Health Services at Humana.



# We Salute Our Physicians!



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# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER

### Lee A. Fox, MD, MA

Dr. Lee A. Fox is in his second term as Chief of Staff at Jupiter Medical Center where he provides leadership and guidance to the over 700 physicians and 250 advance practice providers on the medical staff as well as oversight of the Medical Staff Peer Review and Quality committees. Dr. Fox joined Jupiter Medical Center in 2004 and previously served as the Chief of Radiology. Dr. Fox is fellowship-trained and board-certified in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology. He earned his bachelor's degree in Neurobiology from Duke University in Durham, NC. This was followed by his Medical Doctorate and master's degree in biomedical Imaging from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. Dr. Fox continued his medical training as a Resident in Diagnostic Radiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital / Harvard Medical School, followed by a Fellowship in Vascular and Interventional Radiology at the Miami Cardiac and Vascular Institute.



### Craig D. Vogel, DO, FACC, FACP

Dr. Craig D. Vogel is fellowship trained and board certified in clinical cardiology. He completed a 7-year medicine program with undergraduate at The New York Institute of Technology and medical school at The New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, NY. He continued his medical training with an Internal Medicine residency and Cardiology fellowship at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY. Dr. Vogel has been in practice since 1997, moving to Florida in 1997 and is now a member of the Jupiter Medical Center Cardiology Group. His areas of interest include clinical cardiology, echocardiography, and nuclear cardiology. He is a Fellow in the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Physicians, and a member of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. A career highlight was participating in a rescue mission in the Bahamas as a volunteer with the Palm Beach County Medical Society right after Hurricane Dorian.



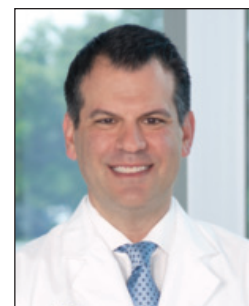
## JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER'S ROBSON HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE

### David S. Weisman, MD, FHRS

Dr. David Weisman is a board certified, fellowship trained, cardiac electrophysiologist and medical director of clinical cardiac electrophysiology at Jupiter Medical Center's Robson Heart and Vascular Institute. He is an integral part of a multidisciplinary team of experts utilizing leading-edge technology to provide personalized treatment plans for each patient.

He received his medical degree from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY, completed his residency at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC, and his fellowship training at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Weisman is experienced in a variety of minimally invasive procedures. He was one of the first in the country to develop a technique offering patients ablation procedures without fluoroscopy. He believes it is of the utmost importance to limit radiation during cardiac procedures and has made this the cornerstone of his practice.



### Vivek Patel, MD, FACS

Dr. Vivek Patel is a board certified, fellowship trained, cardiothoracic surgeon at Jupiter Medical Center's Robson Heart and Vascular Institute. He believes in utilizing the newest techniques and minimally invasive procedures to allow his patients to live to their best potential.

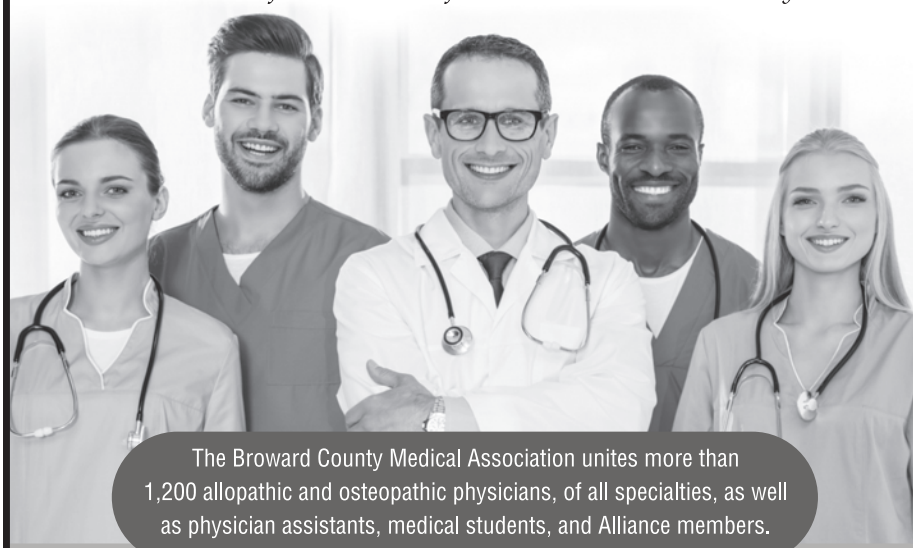
He received his medical degree from Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute in Chennai, India, his cardiothoracic surgery training took place at Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY and his fellowship in aortic surgery took place at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA. Prior to joining Jupiter Medical Center he served as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at UT Health East Texas and Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Dr. Patel is experienced in the minimally invasive treatment of a variety of cardiothoracic disorders as well as robotic surgery procedures. He believes his primary responsibility is to protect his patients and provide care that will improve their quality of life.



## The Broward County Medical Association salutes and honors the Physicians of Broward County and South Florida

*for their continued efforts to ensure high quality and cost-effective  
medical care for all citizens of our South Florida community.*



The Broward County Medical Association unites more than 1,200 allopathic and osteopathic physicians, of all specialties, as well as physician assistants, medical students, and Alliance members.



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## PALEY ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE INSTITUTE AT ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER

### Tom Minas, MD, MS, FACS, FRCS(C)

Dr. Tom Minas is a renowned expert in knee joint preservation and cartilage repair. As the Director of the Cartilage Repair Center at the Paley Orthopedic & Spine Institute at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, he is committed to providing advanced treatments for patients with cartilage damage due to deficiency or arthritis. In 2018, he joined the Paley Orthopedic & Spine Institute after a distinguished 30-year career at Harvard Medical School, where he holds a designation as Professor Emeritus of Orthopedic Surgery.

Dr. Minas is a founding member of the International Cartilage Repair Society (ICRS) and currently serves as its Vice President. Since 1995, he has been offering autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI) as a treatment for articular cartilage defects of the knee. He is known for innovating surgical techniques to address osteoarthritis in patients of all ages, and for his development and patenting of customized knee replacements tailored to individual patients.

Specializing in cartilage repair and preservation, cartilage transplants, meniscal repair, osteotomies, and joint replacement, Dr. Minas has made significant contributions to the field. His focus on developing tissue-preserving implants and instrumentation for knees, aimed at joint resurfacing, has been instrumental in advancing knee surgery techniques.

Dr. Minas' pioneering work in patient-specific knee replacement has led to the introduction of a family of tissue-preserving, customized implants. These implants are based on patient-specific imaging data, allowing for the restoration of native articulating geometry and improved outcomes for patients.

He brings an unparalleled level of care to the local West Palm community and patients worldwide, ensuring that each individual receives the highest standard of treatment and attention.





# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE INSTITUTE, PALM BEACH HEALTH NETWORK PHYSICIAN GROUP, DELRAY MEDICAL CENTER

### Pedro A. Piza, MD

Dr. Pedro Piza is a distinguished orthopedic surgeon with over 25 years of expertise in shoulder, hip, and knee reconstruction, alongside sports medicine. Dedicated to enhancing patients' quality of life post-injury, Dr. Piza is renowned for his adeptness in orthopedic procedures such as hip, knee, and shoulder replacement, as well as shoulder and knee arthroscopic repair. For nearly two decades, he has been an integral member of the orthopedic trauma team at Delray Medical Center, excelling in complex fracture repair. Serving the Palm Beach and Broward Counties communities for 18 years at Delray Medical Center and West Boca Medical Center, Dr. Piza's commitment to excellence extends globally as an Associate Master Instructor for the Arthroscopy Association of North America. His collaborative efforts with industry professionals drive innovation, with notable contributions including pioneering rotator cuff repair techniques and shoulder anchors, advancing surgical efficacy and outcomes. Dr. Piza's unwavering dedication to patient care and surgical innovation sets him apart as a leader in his field.



## GOOD SAMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER, PALM BEACH HEALTH NETWORK PHYSICIAN GROUP

### Kimmerle Cohen, MD

Dr. Kimmerle "K.C." Cohen is dedicated to helping patients with a diverse variety of malignant and benign diseases. In fact, Dr. Cohen has a unique perspective and special interest in skin malignancy not only from a professional standpoint but from a personal one as well. After being diagnosed with melanoma twice herself she has dedicated herself to the evaluation and treatment of skin cancers using an oncologic, compassionate, and cosmetic approach. Dr. Cohen is an experienced oncological and general surgeon with expertise in skin cancer detection and treatment, surgical critical care, complex gastrointestinal (GI) surgery, laparoscopy and robotic surgery with areas of interest in pancreas, liver and bile duct care. In addition, Dr. Cohen provides complex skin cancer resection and reconstruction with node biopsy, hernia repair, abdominal wall reconstruction, palliative cancer surgery, breast cancer surgery and general surgery. Dr. Cohen completed fellowships in hepatopancreaticobiliary surgery at Florida Hospital Tampa, as well as trauma and surgical critical care at East Carolina University. Dr. Cohen also completed a general surgery residency at Palmetto Health Richland Memorial Hospital, University of South Carolina and internship at Atlanta Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Center in Atlanta. Dr. Cohen has been practicing medicine since 2005 including the last 10-years as a surgical oncologist with Tenet Healthcare. Dr. Cohen is also on-staff at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center.



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NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY 2024

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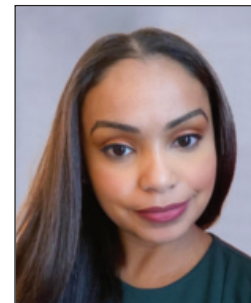
## SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

VITAS® HEALTHCARE, PALM BEACH

### Leonalba Martinez, MD

As associate medical director for VITAS® Healthcare, Dr. Leonalba Martinez ensures her palliative care and hospice patients receive excellent end-of-life medical care. She strives to gain the trust and confidence of culturally diverse patient populations while working collaboratively with members of her multidisciplinary teams.

Board certified in hospice and palliative medicine and internal medicine, Dr. Martinez earned her medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles. She also completed a Hospice and Palliative Care Fellowship Program at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Martinez is fluent in Spanish.



VITAS® HEALTHCARE, MIAMI

### Rik Balakrishna Smith, MD

Dr. Balakrishna Smith, medical director for VITAS® Healthcare, leads the hospice and palliative clinical teams in Miami-Dade, Florida. Drawing on his expertise in end-of-life care, he seeks to continually improve care and enhance quality of life for patients and their families.

Dr. Balakrishna Smith is board certified in hospice and palliative medicine and earned his medical degree from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles. Previously, he served as chair of the chiefs of continuing care for Northern California Kaiser Permanente Region and as hospice medical director at Kaiser Permanente Hayward in California.



VITAS® HEALTHCARE, BROWARD

### Dulce Zunilda Taveras Uceta, MD

Dr. Dulce Zunilda Taveras Uceta supervises clinical care for patients nearing the end of life as a medical director for VITAS® Healthcare. "My passion is patient care, treating each patient as a unique individual with a unique plan of care according to their wishes and values," says Dr. Taveras Uceta.

Board certified in hospice and palliative medicine and internal medicine, she earned her medical degree from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. She completed her residency at Saint Barnabas Hospital, an affiliate of Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University and the New York-Presbyterian Hospital of Medicine.



VITAS® HEALTHCARE, DADE-MONROE

### Angelica Torres Morales, MD, FACP, HMDBC

As associate medical director for VITAS® Healthcare, Dr. Torres Morales is dedicated to the care of hospice patients. "We are in a unique position to help patients and their families with intensive symptom management and emotional support through their toughest times," she says.

Board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, and hospice and palliative medicine, Dr. Torres Morales earned her Doctor of Medicine Diploma from the Universidad Panamericana School of Medicine in Mexico City, Mexico. She also served as chief resident and junior attending physician in internal medicine for Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach.



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# ON NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY

We thank you for putting patients first — time and again.



On this March 30th, and every day of the year, we celebrate the physicians who work tirelessly to better lives in South Florida and around the world. At the **University of Miami Health System, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**, we recognize their commitment to healing, educating, and advancing medicine — and extend our utmost appreciation for all they do to keep us healthy.



[UMiamiHealth.org](https://UMiamiHealth.org)

# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## CLEVELAND CLINIC INDIAN RIVER HOSPITAL

### Abhiman Cheeyandira, MD, FACS, FASMB, MRCS

Dr. Abhiman Cheeyandira has joined the medical staff at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital. Dr. Cheeyandira earned his medical degree from Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore, India. He completed basic surgical training in the United Kingdom, and is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Dr. Cheeyandira completed his general surgery residency at Hahnemann University Hospital, in Philadelphia, where he also served as chief resident. He completed a fellowship in advanced laparoscopic GI/MIS at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital, Dr. Cheeyandira was a bariatric and general surgeon at Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic Nazareth Hospital in the Philadelphia area.

"Bariatric surgery is not just about weight loss, it also helps patients lead a healthier, longer and better quality of life," said Dr. Cheeyandira. "We offer the best resources and technology to provide excellent care for bariatric patients."



### Alex Mejia Garcia, MD

Dr. Alex Mejia Garcia is a board-certified hematologist at the Scully-Welsh Cancer Center at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital. Dr. Mejia Garcia specializes in treating chronic lymphocytic leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

Dr. Mejia Garcia completed a fellowship in cancer drug development at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center. During that time, he directed the early-phase drug development for a hematological malignancies program at that institution. He also holds formal and specific training in clinical pharmacology and early phase drug development from Thomas Jefferson University, and he has served as the conducting principal investigator in several national clinical trials and in industry-sponsored trials for new lymphoma drugs. His research has been featured in numerous peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Mejia Garcia takes a holistic, team-oriented and patient-centered approach to cancer treatment. He considers not only the disease state, but also each person's overall health, social support network, culture and treatment goals. He utilizes the latest in cancer research to provide the best possible treatment options and is passionate about making a positive impact in the lives of his patients and their families.



## CLEVELAND CLINIC WESTON HOSPITAL

### Daniel Klein, DO

Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital has added Dr. Daniel Klein to its medical staff. Dr. Klein completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Florida and earned his medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, FL. He did his internal medicine residency at Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, where he also served as Chief Resident. He completed a dual fellowship in nutrition support and obesity medicine at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA, followed by a gastroenterology fellowship at HCA Florida Bayonet Point Hospital in the Tampa Bay area.

Dr. Klein maintains board certifications in internal medicine, gastroenterology, nutrition support, and obesity medicine. In addition to general gastroenterology, Dr. Klein has an interest in malabsorptive disorders that often require alternative means of nutrition.

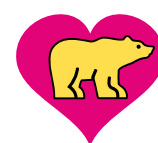


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Where Your Child Matters Most





# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## CLEVELAND CLINIC WESTON HOSPITAL

### Leopoldo Arosemena, MD

Dr. Leopoldo Arosemena is a transplant hepatologist who joined Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital in December 2023. He graduated from the University of Panama School of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. He then pursued a fellowship in hepatology and liver transplantation at the Miami Institute of the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Arosemena previously served as the Medical Director of the liver transplant center at Broward General Medical Center. He is a frequent speaker at local and international conferences on topics related to liver diseases and transplantation, and has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

"One of the most challenging aspects of hepatology is managing the care of patients after liver transplantation, as well as managing patients with decompensated cirrhosis," says Dr. Arosemena. "These patients require a multidisciplinary approach and close follow-up to prevent complications and improve their quality of life. I enjoy being part of their care team and helping them achieve their goals."



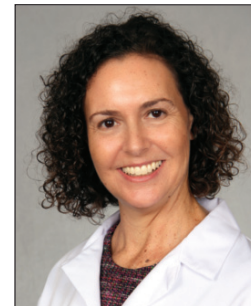
## MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

### Debra Linzer, MD

Dr. Debra Linzer is a board-certified radiation oncologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center with over 20 years of experience. She specializes in various advanced radiation therapies, including therasphere, intraoperative radiation therapy, high dose rate brachytherapy, stereotactic body radiation therapy, and stereotactic radiosurgery.

Dr. Linzer's dedication to healthcare extends beyond her clinical practice. She participated in a five-day humanitarian mission to Israel following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks by assisting individuals and groups who were affected. Motivated by both her professional calling and familial ties, she helped citizens displaced from their homes and organized meals for soldiers at army bases. Dr. Linzer's commitment to serving others is evident in her approach with her patients and her involvement within the community.

"I was compelled to participate in this trip because I knew I needed to do something," Dr. Linzer explains. "This mission was meant to show solidarity and give comfort to people."



### Steve Xydas, MD

Dr. Steve Xydas is Chief of the Columbia University Division of Cardiac Surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center. He also serves as the co-director of South Florida's only Aortic Center, at Mount Sinai, leading a multidisciplinary team cardiac and vascular surgeons specializing in complex aortic conditions.

Beyond his clinical work, Dr. Xydas has been involved with the Marfan Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes the research and treatment of Marfan syndrome and other related disorders, since 2017. He has served as Medical Co-Chair for the Foundation's South Florida Walk for Victory, raising awareness and funds of more than \$1 million for genetic aortic and vascular conditions. In 2019, he initiated the MSMC Marfan Symposium as a vital platform for patients and families to access support and information. Dr. Xydas' commitment to advancing patient care and community advocacy exemplifies his leadership in both medicine and in the community.

"Our partnership with the Marfan Foundation has been very fulfilling, seeing more and more Marfan patients and families seek out Mount Sinai for their family's medical care needs," Dr. Xydas explains. "It is very gratifying to see the difference you can make as a surgeon and physician when the magnitude of your impact is amplified across an entire family of affected individuals."



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# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## LECOM Osteopathic Medical Students Demonstrate a Strong Aptitude and Appetite for Business Curriculum

BY CAROL NEWMAN

The Healthcare industry in the U.S. currently represents 20% of the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is increasing with our aging population. Physicians, in addition to delivering patient care, also provide the majority of healthcare requests for diagnostic testing, lab orders, patient care plans, pharmaceutical scripts, home health care, specialty care referrals, facility admissions and major procedure authorizations. Yet surprisingly, very few medical schools offer their students any formal education in understanding “the business of healthcare.”

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), the largest medical college in America by number of enrolled students, realized this shortfall and integrated an innovative healthcare business curriculum into their third- and fourth-year medical students required education. Courses are delivered on-line using the Canvas learning management system to accommodate all geographic areas where students may be rotating.

This 3-course series is spread out over



Dr. Timothy Novak

a total of 15 weeks and was designed and delivered by LECOM's School of Health Services Administration. The business series serves as a foundational work to develop practical skills in operations management for rising health care leaders and physicians. Concepts reviewed in the text tend to highlight operational issues particular to the hospital provider organization with

examples presented in the text that can generally be applied to other health care provider entities.

The issues of efficient production of patient care services, management of labor costs and supply chain, pharmaceuticals, and translation of operational performance improvement to financial sustainability are no different in a physician clinic, home health agency, community health center, or ambulatory care facility. Basic introductory content on items such as the third-party payment system, the physician as the patient agent for purchase of health care services, and the general definition of an output in the health care system are presented but aimed at facilitating correlation of the operations management discipline with other parts of the health care man-

agement milieu.

Also, a review of basic health system concepts is provided as a means of setting forth a motivation for the students new to the field of health care operations management to understand its value in the management of a successful health care provider organization.

Since the program's implementation in 2016, over 4,600 LECOM Osteopathic Physician graduates have completed this business education. Dr. Timothy Novak, Dean of the LECOM School of Health Services Administration, created and has served as course director since inception. “Our medical students have and continue to demonstrate a tremendous aptitude for healthcare business curriculum with nearly a 90% overall didactic testing performance since the program began,” states Dr. Novak. He continues, “It is often said that ‘physicians are not good businesspeople’ which is incorrect at its core ... we have simply failed to teach them the business of healthcare!”

Dr. Novak notes that the medical students enrolled have also shown a strong desire to learn and understand the business side of the profession they are entering. “Over the past seven years and the many thousands medical students taught, I have not received a single student complaint or question as to why

business curriculum is being taught, which I find amazing and inspiring.”

It is essential that our healthcare providers are good fiscal stewards, as there is a diminishing pool of financial resources available to care for the rapidly growing and aging population. LECOM has taken a bold step to formally integrate business knowledge and skills education during medical school, so it can be applied during medical residency and beyond.

For those medical students interested in earning a more formal business degree while in medical school, they may enroll as a concurrent student in one of the four LECOM School of Health Services Administration master's degree programs during the final two years of their medical education. The offerings include: Master of Health Services Administration, Masters in Public Health, Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics and Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics.

The LECOM School of Health Services Administration offers four separate master's degrees and one doctorate program in the field of healthcare administration.

For more information, visit <https://lecom.edu/school-of-health-services-administration/>.

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# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## PALM BEACH GARDENS MEDICAL CENTER

### Shivam Upadhyaya, MD

Shivam Upadhyaya's journey to become a spine surgeon took him from South Florida, where he grew up, to some of the most prestigious academic institutions in New England, where he completed his medical degree and most of his clinical training, before returning to South Florida to practice medicine.

Dr. Upadhyaya, who joined the Orthopedics and Spine Program at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center in 2022, earned his undergraduate and medical degrees in the Boston University School of Medicine's seven-year accelerated medical program. He completed his internship at Massachusetts General Hospital and his orthopedic surgery residency at Harvard Medical School, both in Boston. He went on to complete further specialty training in spine surgery in the orthopedic/neurosurgery fellowship program at the Norton Leatherman Spine Center in Louisville, Kentucky. His favorite part of the job is using his hands to help his patients heal and get back to doing what they love.



### Matthew Klein, MD

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



## DELRAY MEDICAL CENTER

### Lloyd Zucker, MD

Dr. Lloyd Zucker is a highly experienced neurosurgeon with over 35 years of experience, including 29 years in the Palm Beach Health Network. He is currently on staff at Delray Medical Center, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, and Good Samaritan Medical Center as well as Boca Regional. He is Chief of Surgery and Director of Neurosurgical Services at Delray Medical Center. Dr. Zucker obtained his medical degree from Rutgers Medical School and completed his neurosurgical residency at the University of Connecticut. He also completed a spine fellowship at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Zucker's favorite part of his job is being able to provide his patients with the best possible care during the most challenging times of their lives. He takes pride in offering his patients empathy and encouragement, as well as utilizing the most advanced technologies available to ensure they receive the best opportunity for a cure. Dr. Zucker is committed to providing care for patients with both brain and spine problems within the community, so they do not have to travel far from their support network.



## GOOD SAMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER

### Zachary Grabel, MD

Dr. Zachary Grabel is a board-certified spine surgeon at Hospital for Special Surgery (FL) and also serves as the Chief of Spine Surgery at Good Samaritan Medical Center. Graduating summa cum laude from the University of Florida with a B.S. in 2011, he demonstrated exceptional academic prowess with a GPA of 3.99. Dr. Grabel continued his academic journey at Brown University, earning his M.D. in 2015 and being inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. During his residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at Emory University, he received the Thomas Moore Sr. Outstanding Chief Resident Award. Dr. Grabel completed his fellowship in Combined Orthopaedic and Neurosurgical Spine Surgery at the renowned Cleveland Clinic, solidifying his expertise in his field. His favorite part of his job is getting to know his patients and helping them reclaim their quality of life.



## ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER

### Edward Davidson, MD

Dr. Edward Davidson is a board-certified plastic surgeon fellowship trained in craniomaxillofacial surgery, and joined Palm Beach Health Network in 2024 on staff at St. Mary's, Palm Beach Gardens and Good Samaritan medical centers.

He studied medicine at the University of Cambridge and Imperial College London, trained at the world-renowned Plastic Surgery Residency Program at the University of Pittsburgh, and completed Craniofacial Fellowship at Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland.

Dr Davidson has been board certified in Plastic Surgery since 2018 and has over a decade of hospital-based plastic surgery experience. He has held prestigious positions, including as a Division Chief of Plastic Surgery and Chair of multiple national educational programs and is a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, the American society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, and the International Society of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery, and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As a craniomaxillofacial plastic surgeon, Dr. Davidson specializes in both cosmetic and corrective surgery of the face. His expertise spans a comprehensive range of procedures, including cleft care, craniofacial surgery, and treatment of other treatment of congenital facial difference as well as jaw surgery, facial trauma reconstruction, and cosmetic surgery including facelift, blepharoplasty, and rhinoplasty. He believes in an unwavering commitment to excellence and providing an unparalleled patient care experience.



## WEST BOCA MEDICAL CENTER

### Erika Nourishirazi, MD

Dr. Erika Nourishirazi is a breast surgical oncologist on staff at West Boca Medical Center and with GensisCare. She earned her Medical Degree from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in Miami, FL, before her residency in general surgery at the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, TX. She went on to earn her fellowship in breast surgical oncology from the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, TX.

Dr. Nourishirazi holds a particular interest in oncoplastic surgery, showcasing proficiency in concealed scar procedures. She provides her patients with advanced options such as skin-sparing and nipple-sparing mastectomies. Alongside her focus on breast surgery, she continues to practice general surgery. Certified by the American Board of Surgery, Dr. Nourishirazi maintains active membership in the American Society of Breast Surgeons.

She is fluent in both Japanese and English.

Her favorite part of being a breast surgical oncologist is being able to care for patients from the beginning to the end of the breast cancer journey and working closely with the multidisciplinary team to help patients.



### Lauren A. Huntress, MD

Dr. Lauren A. Huntress is a vascular surgeon on staff at West Boca and Delray Medical Centers. She has been with the Palm Beach Health Network since 2023, joining the Prime Vascular Institute, a vascular and endovascular surgery practice founded by Dr. Joseph Ricotta, with offices in Delray Beach and Boca Raton. Dr. Huntress graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry & Hispanic Studies from Boston College and earned her Master of Biomedical Sciences from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. In 2018, she graduated from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School earning her Doctor of Medicine, where she also completed her Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency.

Dr. Huntress has authored and co-authored numerous research papers in the field of vascular surgery and has won multiples awards for presentations. In 2021, she obtained her Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) certification in vascular ultrasonography and she is currently Board Eligible by the American Board of Vascular Surgery. Dr. Huntress' favorite part of being a vascular surgeon is providing comprehensive care for a wide variety of complex pathologies and giving patients back their quality of life.





# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## MEMORIAL COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY PROGRAM

### Alan J. Herline, MD, FACS, FASCRS

Dr. Alan Herline is chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at Memorial Healthcare System and focused on building a world-class program to serve South Floridians with cancer, diverticulitis, Crohn's, colitis, and other diseases of the colon and rectum. That includes a personalized approach for each individual that stresses the quality of the interaction over the quantity of encounters. "We deliver outstanding technical care and outcomes, but also treat each patient and their family with a lot of heart," said Herline, a fellowship-trained physician that is also an instructor in Memorial's Graduate Medical Education program.

A former engineer, Herline leads a Memorial's Colon and Rectal program team whose specialists all perform robotic and minimally-invasive operations. The approach and an enhanced recovery after surgery initiative has enabled their patients to avoid more than 700 days in the hospital in the last three years.



### Michael E. Dolberg, MD, FACS, FASCRS

Dr. Michael Dolberg is a colorectal surgeon in Memorial's Colon and Rectal program that specializes in the care of patients with colon and rectal cancer, benign anorectal, and inflammatory bowel diseases. "I'm especially proud to perform all my surgeries robotically, often sending patients home the same day," said Dolberg, who received fellowship training in colon and rectal surgery at the University of South Florida's College of Medicine. "It's extremely uncommon to do these procedures on an outpatient basis, but the ultra-minimally-invasive approach we utilize makes an overnight stay unnecessary, and for many patients it's the right choice." Dr. Dolberg has had dozens of cases that were appropriate for the outpatient approach and says the accomplishment was made possible, in part, by Memorial Healthcare System investing in the latest technology. "We've been given the equipment and supplies to build the colorectal program, with these advancements enabling work to be done fully inside the patient's body and significantly decreasing the time it takes to recover."



## MEMORIAL DIVISION OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY AND SPORTS MEDICINE

### Alexander H. Nguyen, MD

Dr. Alexander Nguyen is a non-operative, primary care sports medicine specialist for Memorial Healthcare System. He received fellowship training at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center prior to joining Memorial 18 months ago.

Dr. Nguyen primarily focuses on overuse and sports injuries, muscle strains/sprains, tendon injuries, joint pain, and arthritis. "I primarily utilize ultrasound guided injections, regenerative, and lifestyle medicine, but have found it's especially helpful to work in a multi-specialty system like Memorial that I can refer patients within for surgery, if that's what their injury requires," said Nguyen.

Dr. Nguyen received a military scholarship and served in the U.S. Air Force for four years, including nearly half that time in Turkey and Afghanistan. "Those are tough situations, being so far from home, but I value the experiences I had. Serving in those conditions, I learned I was capable of a lot more than I had previously thought I was."



### James MacKenzie, MD

Dr. James MacKenzie is a fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist within Memorial Healthcare System. Whether working with professional or recreational athletes, his goal is to get patients and their bodies back to the level of functionality they had prior to injury.

Despite his surgical specialty, Dr. MacKenzie doesn't recommend that approach for everyone. "Physical therapy after surgery is critical, especially with ligament injuries, but it isn't easy. If a patient isn't willing or able to invest in that aspect of the rehabilitation process, I steer them towards other treatment options, like strengthening the muscles around the ligament to compensate for an unrepaired tear." Dr. MacKenzie became interested in orthopedic surgery while attending the University of Arizona's College of Medicine. Following an internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he relocated to South Florida. In addition to traditional and arthroscopic surgeries, MacKenzie also offers nonsurgical solutions for injuries to the knees, shoulders, ankles,



and elbows.

## MEMORIAL NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE

### Buse Sengul, MD

Dr. Buse Sengul is a neurologist and neuroimmunologist that joined Memorial Healthcare System in 2023, in part to direct its Graduate Medical Education neurology resident program.

"It's important the next generation of neurologists understand it's critical we approach patients with a 360-degree view of the whole person that includes not just their disease, but also aspects of their lifestyle and wellness," said Dr. Sengul, who received fellowship training at the University of Florida's College of Medicine. "Physicians need to be caring and compassionate, and make sure to educate patients and families about specific issues."

Dr. Sengul, who primarily works with those with multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunologic disorders, says Memorial's program makes resources available for both doctors and patients, including pharmaceutical and physical therapy treatments. A native of Turkey whose medical school education in that country emphasized research and problem-based learning, Dr. Sengul is hoping to start conducting exercise-based research for MS patients in the time to come.



## MEMORIAL PRIMARY CARE

### Perla Del Pino-White, DO

Dr. Perla Del Pino-White is a trusted primary care physician and associate medical director at Memorial Primary Care. She has extensive experience caring for patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, thyroid disorders, mental health concerns, and more.

Dr. Del Pino-White takes a whole person-centered approach when addressing patient needs, since depression, anxiety, and social determinants can affect physical problems. "We're discussing sensitive issues that can include the loss of a job, an abusive relationship, or taking care of an elderly relative. Those are all stressors that may impact current diagnoses or create new physical ailments, so it's important to recognize and understand these connections as we care for patients."

Dr. Del Pino-White's compassion and diligence for patients stems from a love for her community. Born and raised in Miami-Dade County, she understands the ever-growing and culturally changing dynamics of South Florida. A graduate of American Senior High School in Hialeah, Dr. Del Pino-White continued her educational pursuits at the University of Miami and is currently an active volunteer for environmental and youth empowerment-related



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# SALUTE TO PHYSICIANS

## HEALTH CARE DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

### Courtney Phillips, MD

Dr. Courtney Phillips is the Vice President and Chief of Behavioral Health and Clinical Innovations for the Health Care District of Palm Beach County where she leads efforts to expand mental health and substance use disorder crisis services, as well as enhance the continuum of outpatient mental healthcare services. She is certified in General Adult Psychiatry (ABPN) and board certified in addiction medicine (ABPM).

Dr. Phillips attended medical school at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, MI. She completed her internship and residency in general adult psychiatry at the University of Michigan Health System/VA Ann Arbor.

Dr. Phillips was most recently the Director of Behavioral Health for the District's community health centers where she oversaw the psychiatric, behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs.



### Joshua Adametz, DMD, MPH, MA

Dr. Joshua Adametz is the Dental Director for the Health Care District's community health centers where he oversees the dental providers and services, establishes protocols and procedures to ensure quality of care for all dental patients and treats adult and pediatric dental patients.

Dr. Adametz received his Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry at Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health in Mesa, AZ. He received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Florida State University, a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences from Midwestern University and a Master of Public Health from A.T. Still University of Health Sciences.

Previously, Dr. Adametz was Dental Director for the Florida Community Health Centers. He is a member of the American Dental Association.



## HEALTH CARE DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY (TRAUMA AGENCY)

### Lawrence Lottenberg, MD, FACS

Dr. Lawrence Lottenberg is the Trauma Physician Advisor for the Health Care District's Trauma Agency where he coordinates trauma plans with the state, reviews quality improvement of injured patients in Palm Beach County and supports the District's research efforts in trauma. He is board certified in general surgery with added qualifications in surgical critical care.

Dr. Lottenberg trained at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, and completed his residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

With more than 40 years of surgical experience, Dr. Lottenberg is currently the Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Interim Program Director and Director of Surgical Simulation at the Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University.



## C. L. BRUMBACK PRIMARY CARE CLINICS – BELLE GLADE/LAKESIDE MEDICAL CENTER

### Patrick J. Regan, DO

Dr. Patrick Regan is a board-certified general surgeon who performs surgeries at the Health Care District's rural, acute care teaching hospital, Lakeside Medical Center and provides pre-op and post-op care services to patients at the Health Care District's Belle Glade Community Health Center.

Dr. Regan received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, PA and completed his general surgery residency at Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, OH.

Dr. Regan has more than 25 years of diverse medical practice experience including trauma, critical care, and pediatric, acute care and general surgery and is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Florida State University. He is a member of the American Medical Association.



## C. L. BRUMBACK PRIMARY CARE CLINICS – WEST PALM BEACH

### Jose Hernandez Garcia, MD, FAAP

Dr. Jose Hernandez Garcia is a board-certified pediatrician with the Health Care District's West Palm Beach Community Health Center, part of the Health Care District's Federally Qualified Health Centers which serve all patients, regardless of ability to pay.

Dr. Hernandez Garcia completed his medical education at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM) in the Dominican Republic, followed by a pediatric medicine residency at BronxCare Health in Bronx, NY. His experience as the attending pediatric supervisor for family medicine residents at the Center for Family Health for Henry Ford Jackson Hospital in Jackson, MI, further enriched his clinical skills.

Dr. Hernandez Garcia is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is fluent in English and Spanish.



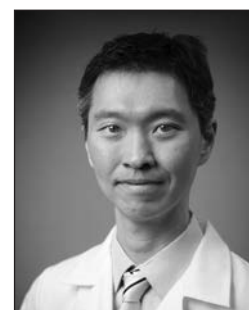
## C. L. BRUMBACK PRIMARY CARE CLINICS – JUPITER

### Michael Zhang, MD, MPH

Dr. Michael Zhang is an adult primary care physician with the Health Care District's Jupiter Community Health Center. He is board certified in preventive medicine and board eligible in occupational medicine.

Dr. Zhang received his medical training at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. He completed an internship in internal medicine at Texas Medical Center in Houston, TX, a residency in preventive medicine at Southern Nevada Health District in Las Vegas, NV and an occupational and environmental medicine residency at the University of California – San Francisco. He holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Nevada.

Dr. Zhang is a member of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American College of Preventive Medicine and the Florida Association of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.



## C. L. BRUMBACK PRIMARY CARE CLINICS – DELRAY BEACH

### Claudia Isabella Tussey, MD, MPH

Dr. Claudia Isabella Tussey is a board-certified family medicine physician with the Health Care District's Delray Beach Community Health Center treating adult patients.

Dr. Tussey completed her medical training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. She completed a residency in family medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA and an obstetrics fellowship at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, WA. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the UNC Chapel Hill Gillings School of Public Health.

Before joining the Health Care District, Dr. Tussey was an attending physician at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, NC for five years.

Dr. Tussey is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She speaks English, Spanish and French.



### Ana Bernard, DDS

Dr. Ana Bernard is a dentist at the Health Care District's Delray Beach Community Health Center treating adult patients. Dr. Bernard received her Doctor of Dental Surgery from Indiana University School of Dentistry in Indianapolis, IN. Prior to joining the Health Care District, she was a dentist for a private practice office in Kingsland, GA for nine years. Previously, she served as Dental Director for a community health center in Anderson, Indiana and was a dentist for the Florida Department of Health in Saint Augustine, FL, where she treated pediatric patients, and HIV+ adult patients as part of the Ryan White program. Dr. Bernard is a member of the American Dental Association and the Florida Dental Association. She speaks English, German and Romanian.





# Master of Occupational Therapy Program Targets OT Assistants

## OTA to MOT pathway requires practical experience but not a Bachelor's

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) in Miami has added a unique hybrid immersion pathway for Occupational Therapy Assistants without bachelor's degrees who are ready to grow professionally and obtain a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT). Students with bachelor's degrees are also eligible for the hybrid immersion MOT. The priority deadline for 2024 Summer and Fall applications is March 15, 2024.

Starting in May 2024, the hybrid immersion format is the latest addition to USAHS Miami's pathways to an MOT degree. One of a handful of universities in the country dedicated to graduate studies in rehabilitative sciences, USAHS has a track record of innovative formats that include full-time studies as well as hybrid options that blend online learning with in-person lab work. Rolling admissions and a trimester structure add flexibility. Founded in St. Augustine, Florida in 1979, the University now has five campuses in California, Florida, and Texas.

Administrators hope the flexibility of online classes combined with three to five days of lab immersions every trimester make the program a viable option for students who can't commit to attending classes full-time at the University's campus in Coral Gables. As an added incentive, the inaugural cohort of the MOT in Miami will receive a tuition discount of \$18,000. Some students will be able to earn their MOT in as little as two years.

Students will complete their lab work at the Miami campus, which features an inpatient, outpatient and home care Simulation Center with an 8-bed hospital setting and assessment rooms.



Visit [www.usa.edu](http://www.usa.edu) for more information about the MOT at USAHS Miami.

## Cover Story: KIDZ Medical Services Co-Founder Talks Growth and Family

Continued from page 1

The elder Dr. Tano laughed as he spoke about his medically inclined family, which also includes Dr. Tano's wife, Debbie, a nurse. "Three out of our four children are doctors, and one is applying now, so hopefully we'll be four for four."

### A History of Caring

KIDZ Medical Services—which provides specialized neonatal, pediatric, and obstetrical healthcare throughout South Florida—was born when Dr. Tano and Dr. Perez were working at South Miami Hospital. The hospital did not have a neonatal unit at the time, so the two started developing one. "Before you know it, we had a 62-bed, Level 3 NICU. Shortly after we started, we became the first group of physicians to do in-house 24-hour care," Dr. Tano said.

In addition to neonatology, the group now covers all pediatric subspecialties, including cardiology, neurology, nephrology, genetics, infectious diseases, hema-

tology/oncology, and pulmonology. KIDZ also runs neonatal ICUs in 16 hospitals, as well as pediatric ICUs and pediatric emergency rooms.

According to Dr. Tano, the practice has continued to grow organically in response to community needs, and this led to academic affiliations with Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University, the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine at NSU Florida, and others.

The organization also maintains a longstanding relationship with several allied health professional universities and has established nurse practitioner training programs at South Miami Hospital and St. Mary's.

### A Progressive Approach

To meet its goal of providing cost-efficient, high-quality care for women, infants, and children, KIDZ takes a progressive and innovative approach. Dr.

Tano explained that they eventually became program builders, both by nature and by enthusiasm. "Wherever we find voids in care and service, we work to meet the need," he said. "We very much enjoy building programs and improving the quality of care alongside our hospital partners."

Dr. Tano also notes that because medicine is ever-changing, what they did 30 years ago is nearly obsolete today. "When we first started, there were no neonatal nurse practitioners, so we established a training program at South Miami Hospital and now it's a standard practice."

KIDZ was also the first group in South Florida to introduce physician assistants into the NICU setting, but Dr. Tano credits part of KIDZ's success to its less than a one percent physician turnover rate. "Our 'secret sauce' is that we're such a collaborative group," he explained. "To have that many physicians working together for more than 35 years with very

little turnover allows us to not revisit old practices—we're always moving forward."

This progressive and collaborative approach is what attracted Dr. Sara Tano to join the practice, despite having options to practice medicine elsewhere. "I really enjoy the environment at KIDZ, as well as the fast-paced life of the ER," she said. "I treat both general and higher-acuity pediatric patients of all ages, and so every day is different and exciting."

She also enjoys running into her father on the hospital campus. "He'll always be my dad first, but I consider myself fortunate to be able to call him a colleague as well. I've learned a tremendous amount from him as a physician and as a person."

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, Dr. Albert Tano believes KIDZ Medical Services will continue to grow with it. "We'll continue pushing the envelope to ensure our community gets the great care it deserves."

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

## Good Samaritan Medical Center Names Colleen Thielk Chief Nursing Officer

Good Samaritan Medical Center appoints Colleen Thielk, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC, as their new Chief Nursing Officer (CNO).

Thielk is an experienced operational executive and transformational leader with more than 25 years of expertise across various levels and fields in both healthcare delivery and management. She previously served as the Regional Vice President of Operations for Intuitive Health's Florida and Delaware Markets.

Thielk's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Millikin University, as well as a Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Business Administration from Lewis University.



**Colleen Thielk**

## Sinai Residences Announce Senior Promotions

Toby & Leon Cooperman Sinai Residences Boca Raton, a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community, announces promotions on its senior leadership team.

Katie Mitchell has been promoted to Chief Financial Officer. Mitchell has served an integral role at Sinai Residences since 2015, during which she built a top performing finance department and information technology program.

Cameron Gordon-Forbes has been promoted to Executive Director of the Health Center at Sinai Residences. Under his leadership, in 2023, the Health Center was recognized by the U.S. News & World Report as a top 50 nursing home in Florida.



**Katie Mitchell**



**Cameron Gordon-Forbes**

## HCA Florida JFK North Hospital Welcomes Tessie Bowmaker as the Newest Leader of the Critical Care Unit Nursing Team

HCA Florida JFK North Hospital proudly welcomes Tessie Bowmaker, a seasoned Registered Nurse, as the newly appointed Director of the Critical Care Unit. Bowmaker brings a wealth of experience in patient care and staff management, recently serving as Nurse Manager IV at Cox Health in Springfield, Missouri.

A retired U.S. Army Reserve Captain, Bowmaker led the ICU and intermediate care ward operations at the 325th Combat Support Hospital in Kuwait from September 2011 to September 2012. Her leadership has consistently guided teams in delivering top-tier care to critically ill patients.

With a Master of Science in Nursing specializing in Advanced Practice Forensic Nursing from Duquesne University, a Master of Health Administration with a concentration in Healthcare from Missouri State University, and a Certified Nurse Manager and Leader credential from the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, Bowmaker is well-equipped for her role.



**Tessie Bowmaker**

## VITAS® Healthcare Promotes Four Leaders to Executive Team

Professional growth continues to transpire at VITAS Healthcare as four tenured leaders ascend to vice president roles.

Kathleen Coronado, RN, Associate VP of Hospice Operations

From bedside nurse to executive leader, Coronado's promotion marks 18 years at the hospice provider. She joined in 2006 as a nurse in home care and held additional roles, including team manager, inpatient unit manager and patient care administrator before serving in various general manager positions within South Florida. Currently, she is the senior general manager at VITAS in Broward County.

Anthony Cosma II, VP of Hospice Operations

A 12-year VITAS veteran, Cosma now oversees VITAS hospice teams in Southern Florida serving Broward County, Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast. He joined the company in 2012 as a VITAS representative in Jacksonville, FL. He was promoted to senior director of market development and rose to regional leadership.

Mario De La Rosa, VP of HME Operations

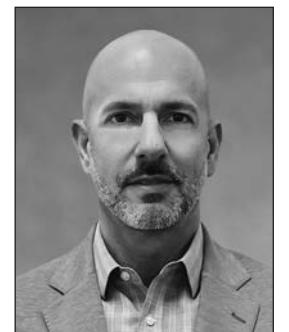
Following two decades at VITAS, De La Rosa now leads the Home Medical Equipment (HME) division for the national hospice provider. He began as a medical service technician in 2004 and has continued to grow and hold various positions, including warehouse supervisor, national operations manager and director of customer service. Most recently, he served as associate VP of HME operations.

Angela Hamrick, VP of Hospice Operations

An award-winning hospice leader in her third year at VITAS, Hamrick has been promoted to oversee hospice teams throughout Northern Florida. She joined VITAS in 2021 as the general manager in Gainesville. She was quickly promoted to senior general manager for Citrus County and the Nature Coast.



**Kathleen Coronado**



**Anthony Cosma II**



**Mario De La Rosa**



**Angela Hamrick**

## Cathleen Ward Joins Health Care District Board as Newly-Appointed Member

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County's newest board member, West Palm Beach Commissioner Cathleen Ward, was recently appointed by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. Ward's diverse government and legal experience underscore her commitment to public service and community engagement in Palm Beach County. She is the West Palm Beach City Commissioner for District 1 since March 31, 2022. She is also a partner at Ward Damon in West Palm Beach, focusing on commercial lending, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, contracts, and general corporate law.

Ward earned her Juris Doctorate from St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami Gardens, FL and her Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. Before joining the Health Care District Board, Ward served on several boards, including the West Palm Beach Planning Board, Northend Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc., Neighborhood Renaissance, Inc., Community Alliance of Palm Beach County, and as a member of the Emerging Leaders of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County.



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## Around the Region... Around

### VITAS President and CEO Nick Westfall Joins Transitional Board for New Care-at-home Trade Association

President and CEO Nick Westfall of VITAS Healthcare has joined a proposed transitional board of directors that will serve as a guide for a merger between the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). Westfall has been a member of the NHPCO board of directors since 2020.

As executive leader of the healthcare provider that offers hospice and palliative care to more than 19,000 patients and families daily in 14 states and the District of Columbia, Westfall is joined by 19 other executives from hospice and palliative care providers and healthcare organizations across the nation. According to a joint release, the transition board will oversee the merger to a new, consolidated organization once both associations' boards of directors ratify the agreement for the merger, which is scheduled to occur in early 2024.

Since 2012, Westfall has led the field operations of VITAS, becoming its chief operating officer in 2015 and its president and CEO in 2016. In his previous role at Chemed Corporation, the parent company of VITAS, he was director of information, technology and operations. Prior to joining Chemed, he was a senior manager for Deloitte.



Nick Westfall

### Tom Hathaway Promoted to President of Holy Cross Medical Group

Tom Hathaway, MPA, has been promoted to President of Holy Cross Medical Group. He was previously VP of Operations.

A member of the Holy Cross Health leadership team, Hathaway has brought a servant leadership approach and collaborative leadership style to improve Holy Cross Medical Group's patient access, operational efficiency and healthcare delivery.

Hathaway graduated from Fairfield University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and earned a Master of Public Administration with a specialization in health finance from New York University Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and Healthcare Leaders of New York.



Tom Hathaway

### VITAS® Healthcare Continues Its Pathway of Success and Promotes Two Key Operations Executives

Two executive leaders at VITAS Healthcare have been promoted to top operational roles. Joel Wherley now serves as president and chief operating officer (COO) and Bryan Wysong as executive vice president (EVP) of operations for the nation's leading end-of-life care provider.

In recognition of the ongoing contributions to VITAS and parent company Chemed Corporation, Nick Westfall has been named as VITAS chairman and chief executive officer. This primary responsibility is in addition to his continually expanding duties as EVP of Chemed Corporation.

Wherley has been an integral part of VITAS since 2016 when he joined the organization as senior vice president of operations. A year later, he was promoted to EVP and COO. Before joining VITAS, Wherley held executive-level positions at prominent healthcare companies such as American HomePatient, Hospice Advantage and Gentiva. He also serves on the board of directors of the South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association and was honored as an inaugural advisory board member for The Home Care Innovation + Investment Conference (HI2) in 2022.

Wysong's journey with VITAS began in 2014 as an internal management consultant. He swiftly rose through the ranks to hold various leadership positions, culminating in his recent role as senior vice president of operational performance. Prior to joining VITAS, he held senior leadership positions at Capital One and Deloitte. He has served on multiple committees and work groups for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, including current service on the Quality and Standards Committee.



Joel Wherley



Bryan Wysong

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# Cover Story: Charting the Course: Broward Health's Transformational Journey

*Continued from page 1*

healthcare management background.

"The fact that Broward Health wants the voice of the physician at the table is motivating," said Dr. Fernandez. "Shane and the executive team have built respect among the physicians and nurses. Having clinical people bring the voice of care to administrative decisions, I think that's a win."

Combining the experience and talent of these new leaders with that of the system's already robust executive team, including President and CEO Shane Strum, creates a powerful trifecta of leadership as Broward Health ushers in a new era marked by a fresh mission, a dynamic vision, and a reinvigorated brand identity.

"Aurelio and Bernie bring a tremendous amount of wisdom and experience and have bolstered our emphasis on creating an A-plus executive team," said Strum, whose own leadership is characterized by an unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and an acute awareness of the healthcare landscape's complexities. "It's an exciting time at Broward Health. We are not only creating a new vision, but we're making things happen."

Under Strum's leadership, Broward Health has embarked on a significant rebranding initiative that goes beyond cosmetic changes. The new mission,

vision, and logo are the harbingers of a cultural transformation that touches every aspect of the organization. The strategic process behind this rebranding was comprehensive and inclusive, involving extensive market research and consultations with various stakeholders, from physicians to community leaders.

"For 18 months, our Marketing Department conducted market research and talked to physicians, community leaders, patients and our clinicians," Strum said. "This collaborative approach ensured that the new brand resonated with the internal team and the broader community Broward Health serves."

The organization's new mission and vision were crafted to be succinct yet powerful, guiding Broward Health's actions and decisions. The redefined core values now serve as a compass for the organization, ensuring that every initiative, every interaction, and every decision aligns with these principles. This strategic pivot is not merely about changing perceptions, but is a fundamental shift toward enhancing patient care, fostering innovation and strengthening community ties.

"We are rebranding our organization from the inside out, with a cultural shift that fosters and celebrates excellence and the passion, spirit and tenacity of our great employees," Strum explains, highlighting

one of the multifaceted reasons behind the recent shifts at Broward Health. "That's why a big part of the new brand campaign celebrates our dedicated workforce and shares their inspiring stories."

At the core of Broward Health's plans for its next chapter are strategic initiatives that harness the power of advanced technology and foster deeper connections with the communities served, as well as a culture shift toward greater openness and collaboration.

Technological advancement will continue to be a key pillar of Broward Health's strategy, with investments in state-of-the-art medical equipment and digital health solutions. The introduction of the new stereotaxis system, a rarity in Florida, and the DaVinci SI surgical system's adoption are two recent examples of Broward Health's commitment to leading the way in medical innovation.

Community engagement is another focal point of Broward Health's strategic initiatives. The leadership team understands the importance of building and maintaining strong relationships with the community. By actively seeking input from community leaders, patients, and their families, Broward Health ensures its services are responsive to the community's needs. This engagement is facilitated through various channels, including community health programs, education-

al workshops, and partnerships with local organizations. The goal is to make healthcare accessible to all population segments, improving overall community health.

All three leaders expressed appreciation for having a Board of Commissioners that is committed to the organization and supportive of the initiatives being pursued by Broward Health leadership.

"Our board of commissioners is phenomenal," said Strum. "They know our organization and our community and want us to be successful. When a board and an executive team work well together, they can move mountains. We're very fortunate."

As Broward Health looks to the future, Strum signaled the additional expansion of the health system's geographical footprint as it creates additional access points to meet the needs of a growing community.

"The system is well positioned and committed to evolving and advancing care, delivering the right care at the right time through collaboration with its physicians, its employees and the community it serves," said Strum. "The next generation of healthcare is here."

For more information, visit [www.browardhealth.org](http://www.browardhealth.org)

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

### HCA Florida JFK Hospital Introduces Innovative Brain Tumor Treatment

In a pioneering move, HCA Florida JFK Hospital is now offering GammaTile® Therapy, an FDA-cleared, Surgically Targeted Radiation Therapy (STaRT), for brain tumors. Neurosurgeon, Dr. Yehuda Herschman, and radiation oncologists Dr. Georges Hatoum, and Dr. Silvio Garcia successfully performed the first treatment on a patient in Palm Beach County earlier this month.

GammaTile Therapy, a cutting-edge approach to treating aggressive brain tumors, aims to delay tumor regrowth while safeguarding healthy brain tissue. "I am excited to offer this new treatment for brain tumor patients and look forward to partnering with local physicians for those who may be good candidates for this treatment," expressed Dr. Herschman.

With over 200,000 annual diagnoses of aggressive brain tumors in the U.S., this surgically treated radiation therapy addresses the challenge of recurrence in resistant tumors. The FDA-cleared treatment is suitable for newly diagnosed malignant brain tumors, recurrent gliomas, glioblastomas, meningiomas, and brain metastases.

The postage-stamp-sized tile, embedded with small radiation sources, is implanted during brain tumor removal surgery, immediately targeting potential recurrence areas. This novel treatment improves local tumor control, potentially extending patients' lives.

"We are proud to be the first in Palm Beach County to offer this innovative technique, providing new alternatives for patients fighting brain cancer," remarked Dr. Hatoum.



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

## West Palm Beach VA Announces the Mako Robot

The West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System (WPBVAHCS) is excited to announce the new Mako Robot to surgical options at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center!

The robotic-assisted surgery represents the newest major technological advancement in hip and knee reconstructive surgery. With the skilled experts and savvy robot, the procedure significantly enhances the precision of both the necessary bone cuts and the placement of the prostheses in their ideal anatomic landmarks to a degree not possible with the conventional methods.

Veterans now experience improved post-operative pain in the short-term, a faster recovery, an earlier discharge from the hospital, and a decrease in risk for revision surgery compared to the conventional methods.

## Jupiter Medical Center Unveils Partnership with My Gene Counsel to Support Cancer Genetic Counseling and Testing Program

Jupiter Medical Center (JMC) announced it will begin providing patients with continuously updated genetic counseling data through an innovative new partnership with My Gene Counsel, a digital health company specializing in scaled genetic counseling and testing. This collaboration marks a pioneering step for Jupiter Medical Center, as it becomes the first clinical site in the region to integrate digital tools for all current and past patients who have been seen for genetic counseling.

The initiative will begin serving all patients at Jupiter Medical Center. My Gene Counsel's Living Lab Report will provide JMC patients with updated genetic counseling information as new disease details are discovered, precision medicines are developed, guidelines evolve, and genetic variants are reclassified.

Rogelio C. Lilenbaum, MD, FASCO, SVP and Chief Physician Executive and Director of The Anderson Family Cancer Institute emphasized the importance of this program: "This project is not just a step forward in cancer care; it's a leap. By integrating My Gene Counsel's Living Lab Report, we are poised to transform the standard of care, offering more patients the option to pursue genetic counseling and testing and supporting them for years with updating information relevant to their condition. Our commitment to equity and expanding access to these critical services reflects our dedication to the health and well-being of our community as well as our long-term commitment."

## Organ Transplants Reached Record Levels at Cleveland Clinic in 2023, Saving More Lives Using Teamwork and Innovation

Cleveland Clinic performed 1,232 organ transplants in 2023 – including heart, intestine, kidney, liver, lung, and pancreas transplants from deceased donors – as well as living donor transplantation for kidney and liver. That is up 17% from the number of organ transplants performed at Cleveland Clinic in 2022.

Cleveland Clinic's transplant sites are located at its main campus in Cleveland, Ohio; Weston Hospital in Florida; and Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

With innovative approaches and teamwork, Cleveland Clinic's global transplant programs continue to grow to save more lives.

- The liver transplant programs in Ohio and Florida use new technology to preserve and assess donor organs before transplantation. Normothermic machine perfusion preserves the donor organ in a warm, oxygen-and nutrient-rich environment. As a result of using this organ preservation technology, more donated organs can be assessed and safely preserved, resulting in more usable organs and less time waiting to receive a lifesaving transplant.

- Cleveland Clinic's Organ Repair Centers in Ohio and Florida perfuse some of the donated organs so they can undergo viability assessment prior to transplantation.

- Living donation makes more transplants possible at Cleveland Clinic's global transplant programs.

- Colleagues from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi and Cleveland Clinic in the U.S. conducted three robot-assisted kidney transplants for the first time in the UAE.

- To provide additional treatment options for patients, Cleveland Clinic researchers showed that patients who need both heart surgery and a liver transplant can benefit from a lifesaving combined treatment.

- To continue to improve organ allocation, Cleveland Clinic researchers developed a new model for prioritizing lung transplant candidates.

## Palm Beach Health Network Announces New Campaign to Unite Hospitals

Palm Beach Health Network (PBHN) is excited to introduce its new tagline. This transformation underscores PBHN's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional healthcare services to the communities it proudly serves.

PBHN's comprehensive network encompasses six area hospitals: Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, St. Mary's Medical Center, Palm Beach Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Delray Medical Center, and West Boca Medical Center. In addition, the network includes free-standing emergency rooms, imaging centers, surgery centers and a dedicated team of physicians.

The essence of PBHN's rebranding effort is captured in the powerful tagline, "Stronger Together. For You." This phrase embodies the Network's collective dedication to providing lifesaving care and enhancing the health and well-being of the community.

Maggie Gill, Group President for Tenet Healthcare, expressed her excitement saying, "We are thrilled to unveil our new tagline, 'Stronger Together. For You.' This mantra represents our continued commitment to provide the highest quality, most comprehensive healthcare services in Palm Beach County. We are proud of our long-standing role as a pillar in the community. The PBHN is able to care for all community healthcare needs from simple to the most complex."

## ImageFIRST Unveils Exciting Addition to Product Line: The New Wink INDY Scrub Collection

ImageFIRST® is thrilled to introduce an exciting new addition to its product lineup: the premiere Wink INDY™ Scrub collection. This innovative line of medical scrubs is set to redefine comfort, style, and functionality for healthcare professionals. Ensuring both staff and patient safety, these retail-inspired scrubs are hygienically cleaned before delivery to medical facilities and feature a retail fit with an industrial laundry-friendly fabric.

Designed with the modern healthcare workforce in mind, the Wink INDY scrub line combines 4-way stretch, fashion fit, and a wide range of styles to offer professionals the ultimate comfort and performance. Whether in a bustling hospital environment or a private clinic, these scrubs are engineered to enhance the daily work experience of those on the frontline of patient care while enhancing your brand. Notable for its retail-friendly reputation, the Wink INDY scrub line stands out as a choice that not only prioritizes functionality but also aligns with infection prevention standards healthcare professionals require.

**Key Features of the Wink INDY Scrub Collection:**

- **Unparalleled Comfort:** Crafted from premium fabrics, the Wink INDY scrubs provide a soft, breathable feel that keeps healthcare providers comfortable throughout their demanding shifts.

- **Functional Design:** The scrubs boast an array of functional features, including 4-way stretch, strategically placed pockets for easy access to essential tools, badge loops for identification, and side hem vents for movement.

- **Modern Styles:** With a variety of modern and timeless styles, the Wink INDY collection allows healthcare professionals to express their personal fashion while adhering to uniform policies.

- **Durability:** Designed to withstand the rigors of daily use and industrial laundering, these scrubs maintain their quality and color even after multiple washes, ensuring a long-lasting and professional appearance.

- **Infection Prevention:** Through industry-leading sanitizing standards, ImageFIRST delivers robust infection prevention solutions. With Triple BioShield Protection® healthcare professionals are sure to maintain a safe and sanitized environment.

"This partnership represents a significant step forward in our commitment to enhance the staff experience for our customers," says ImageFIRST Chief Revenue Officer, Bill Roberts. "Caregivers have requested a 4-way stretch scrub, and by collaborating with the creators of Wink INDY, we can now provide it with an enhanced level of safety for both staff and patients."



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## Chirag Choudhary, MD, MBA, Appointed New Vice President at Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital

Chirag Choudhary, MD, MBA, has been selected to be Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital. He most recently worked as an ICU intensivist at Cleveland Clinic's main campus in Ohio and had leadership roles in critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Choudhary's impressive background includes 15 years of dedicated service in healthcare leadership at Cleveland Clinic. He served as Chief Medical Officer of Euclid Hospital in 2022. Additionally, his leadership positions at Cleveland Clinic include Director of Critical Care for the Ohio East Region from 2018 to 2022; Associate Medical Director of ICU Operations for Ohio and Florida from 2016 to 2022; Medical Director of Respiratory Therapy at Marymount Hospital from 2013-2018; Medical Director of the ICU at Marymount Hospital from 2013-2018.

Dr. Choudhary earned his medical degree from Mysore University in India. He completed his residency in internal medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and his fellowship in pulmonary critical care at Cleveland Clinic. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Case Western Reserve University.



**Dr. Chirag Choudhary**

## Antonio E. Puente, PhD, Appointed Chair of Albizu University's Board Of Trustees

Albizu University proudly announces Dr. Antonio E. Puente's appointment to the Board of Trustees. As the 125th president of the American Psychological Association, Dr. Puente brings extensive experience as a mental health advocate, clinician, educator, and researcher. His commitment to bridging psychology with real-world concerns such as health-care policy, social justice, and education is evident in his work as founder and director of Cape Fear Clinic, a bilingual health center for low-income and underinsured individuals. Born in La Habana, Cuba, and immigrating to the U.S. in 1960, he earned his BS from the University of Florida and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and has been at the University of North Carolina Wilmington since 1981. Dr. Puente's research focuses on the intersection of culture and neuropsychology, as evidenced by his extensive publications and editorial contributions. His role at Albizu University reflects his dedication to nurturing the next generation of mental health professionals.



**Dr. Antonio E. Puente**

## Cleveland Clinic Florida Welcomes Juan Pablo Umaña, MD, Chair, Division of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery

Cleveland Clinic Florida is pleased to announce that Juan Pablo Umaña, M.D., has joined the organization as Chairman of the Division of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery. He is based at Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital. Dr. Umaña is also an Associate Staff Surgeon at Cleveland Clinic's Main Campus in Cleveland, OH.

Upon earning his medical degree at the University of El Rosario in Bogota, Colombia, Dr. Umaña completed the general surgery residency program at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. He continued his advanced training at Stanford University School of Medicine in Stanford, CA, where he completed the cardiothoracic surgery residency. With a passion for research, Dr. Umaña completed two fellowships: one in liver transplantation research in Birmingham, England, and the other in mitral valve repair research at the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons.

Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Umaña was the Director of Cardiovascular Surgery, Fundacion Cardioinfantil (Children's Heart Foundation), in Bogota, Colombia. He developed the largest aortic valve repair program in Latin America and established the Latin-American Cardiovascular Surgery Conference in association with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery.



**Dr. Juan Pablo Umaña**

## Thoracic Surgeon Erik Sylvén, MD, Joins Holy Cross Medical Group

Thoracic surgeon Erik Sylvén, M.D., has joined Holy Cross Medical Group.

Prior to joining Holy Cross Health, Dr. Sylvén was an attending physician with Florida Heart and Vascular Center at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, FL. He was previously an attending physician at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Pennsylvania and at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian.

As an undergrad at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, Dr. Sylvén played in four NCAA tournaments as a member of the varsity baseball team. He then earned a Master of Science in Biological Science, before earning his medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. He completed his residency in general surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian / Columbia University Irving Medical Center in Manhattan. Dr. Sylvén also completed his fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, an additional fellowship in robotic thoracic surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan and a research fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY.



**Dr. Erik Sylvén**

## Sylvester Appoints Prominent Oncologist-Researcher to Lead Transplantation and Cellular Therapy

Prominent oncologist and researcher Damian Green, M.D., has joined Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University Miami Miller School of Medicine to lead its transplantation and cellular therapy services.

Green will serve as chief of Sylvester's Division of Transplantation & Cellular Therapy, as well as assistant director of Translational Research. He joins Sylvester from Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, where he built a distinguished track record in research and clinical practice treating blood cancers.

At Fred Hutch, Green served as a professor in its translation science and therapeutics division, and an associate professor at the University of Washington (UW) School of Medicine. He also was deputy director for myeloma at the Seattle Translational Tumor Registry.

Prior to joining Fred Hutch, Green attended medical school and completed his residency in internal medicine at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, where he was chief resident in 2004. He completed his medical oncology fellowship at Fred Hutch and UW in 2007.



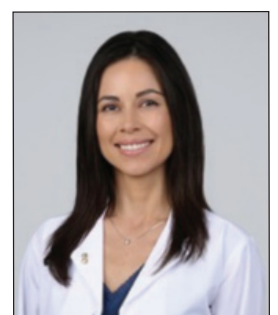
**Dr. Damian Green**

## Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist Gina Landinez, MD, Joins Baptist Health

Diagnostic and interventional radiologist Gina Landinez, M.D., has joined the clinical teams at two of Baptist Health's premiere service lines: Miami Cancer Institute and Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute.

Prior to joining Baptist Health, Dr. Landinez served as an assistant clinical professor of clinical radiology at the University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. Landinez completed a general surgery internship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston followed by a diagnostic radiology residency at that same institution. She went on to complete an interventional radiology fellowship at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.



**Dr. Gina Landinez**



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# Admirals Cove Foundation Gifts Jupiter Medical Center With \$5 Million Donation

Admirals Cove Foundation has announced a gift of \$5 million to support Jupiter Medical Center's Center for Imaging. Often referred to as the lifeblood of the hospital because it is essential for all clinical departments, the Center for Imaging assists Jupiter Medical Center's world-class physicians in diagnosing, preventing and treating diseases. The Center for Imaging provides imaging scans to nearly 100,000 patients annually and features state-of-the-art imaging technology. With this announcement, it will now be referred to as the "Admirals Cove Foundation Center for Imaging."

"We are grateful to the Admirals Cove Foundation for their commitment to advancing the world-class health care we provide at Jupiter Medical Center," said Amit Rastogi, MD, MHCM, President and CEO of Jupiter Medical Center. "Imaging is a critical step in the detection, prevention and treatment of diseases, and we are proud to provide the highest quality testing in our region, and with this gift, we always will."

The Admirals Cove Foundation Center for Imaging features a full range of state-of-the-art diagnostic radiology services, including 3T MRI, PET CT, CT, ultrasound, x-ray, mammography and coronary CT angiography. Notably, Jupiter Medical Center is one of only a few facilities in the region to offer the most advanced 3T MRI, which operates at a strength twice as powerful as a traditional MRI and offers more scanning options to help with the difficult diagnosis of complex conditions. The Center's highly skilled team includes diagnostic radiologists, vascular and interventional radiologists, and neuro-interventional radiologists.

"Jupiter Medical Center was built for the community and by the community," said Traci Simonsen, Chief Philanthropy Officer of Jupiter Medical Center Foundation. "We are grateful for our neighbors, especially those who make up the Admirals Cove Foundation, who have supported our growth over the years. Their continued support ensures we will always be able to provide world-class care."

"Admirals Cove Foundation is deeply committed to making an impact on education, health and social services in Palm Beach County," said Rebecca Divine, Executive Director of the Admirals Cove Foundation. "We are proud to support Jupiter Medical Center as they continue to grow and ensure that best-in-class care is close to home. We hope this gift reminds the community about Jupiter Medical Center's available services, especially those in the Imaging Center, which can help prevent diseases."



**FIRST ROW (l-r): Charles Ezrine, Margot Lessans, Rebecca Divine, Nancy Bush, Ashley Costa**  
**SECOND ROW (l-r): Joe McCart, Erica Scherzer, Andy Kahn, Jill Riehl, Suzanne Carroll**  
**PHOTO CREDIT: TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY**

## Hanley Foundation Hosts Sold Out 19th Palm Beach Dinner

Hanley Foundation held its 19th Annual Palm Beach Dinner on February 15 at the Sailfish Club in Palm Beach. Chip James and Elizabeth Matthews served as event Chairpersons, welcoming a sold-out crowd of more than 300 guests in support of Hanley Foundation's 40 year anniversary of saving lives.

Notable attendees included Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, who has demonstrated his unwavering support of Hanley Foundation's mission to eliminate addiction, and State Attorney for Palm Beach County Dave Aronberg, a longtime crusader of safe and effective recovery initiatives.

The 19th Annual Palm Beach Dinner raised more than \$500,000 for Hanley Foundation's Lifesaver Scholarship Program, which provides financial scholarships to individuals who otherwise would not be able to afford treatment.

A highlight of the evening, Hanley Foundation announced a \$1 million dollar gift from the Stacy and Keith Palagye Foundation for Hanley's Mothers and Babies Program, which is an element of their Campaign for Recovery, designed to help pregnant women struggling with addiction.

"This event allowed us to commemorate the four decades Hanley Foundation has dedicated to creating a world free of addiction," said Dr. Rachel Docekal, CEO of Hanley Foundation. "We are incredibly grateful to our supporters who have helped us reach this milestone, and we are extremely enthusiastic about expanding our programs and services – and now facilities – to fill the treatment gaps and help more families in need."

The event celebrated the recent kickoff of Hanley Foundation's \$35 million capital campaign initiative, unveiled in early February. The Campaign for Recovery was launched to raise funds for capital improvements to the recently reacquired Origins Behavioral HealthCare facility, (previously known as the Hanley Center), to include new and upgraded treatment pavilions, the addition of specialized treatment programs for pregnant women, first responders, and veterans, as well as vocational and life skills training programs.

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## The Diabetes Research Institute Honors North America's Building Trades Unions With the NABTU Regenerative Medicine and CGMP Center

The Diabetes Research Institute (DRI), a world leader in research focused on finding a cure for type 1 diabetes, and North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), a long-standing and sustaining partner of the DRI, have joined forces to unveil the NABTU Regenerative Medicine and CGMP Center at the DRI headquarters in Miami.

NABTU, a consortium of more than three million tradesmen and women across 330 local organizations, has been a steadfast supporter of the DRI since 1984 when, together with DRI leadership, they launched the Blueprint for a Cure initiative, an effort aimed at creating pathways of scale across local organizations to raise funds for a cure for type 1 diabetes.

"Through our enduring partnership with the Diabetes Research Institute, we have had the privilege of supporting remarkable progress in the fight against type 1 diabetes," said Sean McGarvey, President, North America's Building

Trades Unions. "The dedication of this new laboratory is an honor that underscores NABTU's commitment to advancing vital cutting-edge research and finding a cure."

The building that houses the DRI today was made possible by the generous support of NABTU and its local organizations. Since its inception, the Blueprint for a Cure initiative has facilitated annual fundraising drives, including the Highway Holdup, Dollars Against Diabetes (D.A.D.s Day), and Labor of Love. Collectively, these efforts have raised more than \$75 million to support diabetes research and innovation.

"We are deeply grateful for the unwavering dedication and generosity of North America's Building Trades Unions," said Michael Burton, CEO, Diabetes Research Institute Foundation. "Their continued support has been instrumental in advancing our mission to find a cure for type 1 diabetes, now, and improve the lives of millions worldwide."



Dr. Camillo Ricordi, Chief of the Division of Cellular Transplantation & Director Emeritus of the DRI at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, gives Sean McGarvey, President of North America's Building Trades Unions, a tour of the NABTU Regenerative Medicine and CGMP Center.

### The **MUSTY MENACE...** **MOLD!**

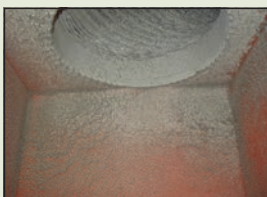
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## Cleveland Clinic's Parkland Office Marks Milestone with Physical Therapy Expansion



*Vice Mayor Jordan Isrow, Parkland City Commissioner Ken Cutler, Dr. Ross, Dr. Higuera, Mayor Richard Walker, Broward County Commissioner Michael Udine, Alex Espinosa, Tracy Smith*

Cleveland Clinic's Parkland location recently celebrated a significant milestone with an expansion to include additional physical therapy space. The occasion was marked with a successful ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Speakers included Dr. Scott Ross, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Cleveland Weston, Alex Espinosa, Executive Director of Operations, Cleveland Clinic Weston, and Parkland Mayor Richard Walker.

The journey began on January 2, 2018, with the opening of the Parkland Office, featuring primary care, neurology, and physical therapy. The expanded facility now offers increased physical space and a more robust team of 10-12 therapists daily. The Parkland location offers specialists in Pelvic Health, General Neurology Rehabilitation, Vestibular Rehabilitation, and Sports Rehabilitation.

## Mount Sinai Medical Center to Open New Freestanding Emergency Center in Westchester



Mount Sinai Medical Center of Florida will be expanding their network of high-quality care in Miami-Dade County with the construction of a freestanding emergency center and specialty offices in Westchester. Opening in the Fall of 2025, the state-of-the-art four-story building boasts over 110,755 square feet of total free space.

The new Westchester emergency center and specialty care building is both expansive and extensive and will feature 24 exam rooms to accommodate the community's needs. Additionally, dedicated ultrasound, MRI, CT scans, and X-ray rapid imaging services will be available - all with minimal wait times. The emergency center will accept both walk-ins and patients transported via ambulance, while the specialty care offices will increase patients' accessibility Mount Sinai's healthcare services.

The new location will serve as Mount Sinai's third freestanding emergency center, in addition to their Hialeah and Aventura locations.

"We are incredibly pleased to expand access to excellent medical care to yet another community in need in South Florida," explains Mount Sinai President and CEO Gino R. Santorio. "This project solidifies our unyielding commitment to providing high-quality health care to our diverse communities, enhanced through teaching, research, charity care, and financial responsibility."

The new building aims to remove common barriers like transportation issues and heavy traffic so that area residents can receive the treatment they need, when they need it.

Construction on the new building will likely begin in the Fall of 2024.

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## Forecast 2024

Well, any forecast has to include a look at The 2024 Old Farmer's Almanac. For 2024, it looks like a winter warmer than normal, summer with normal temperatures and a little less rain and temperatures the hottest late-June and July. Hurricane watch (I will talk about that later) and an October that is cooler and dryer than normal.

News on the hurricane front is that forecasters are calling for our current El Niño to fade away toward late spring to eventually be replaced by a La Niña which is not good news for us. A La Niña means less strong upper level winds and the potential for hurricanes is greater. Let's hope this part of the forecast is wrong!

### The economy.

The Federal Open Market Committee just met and the economic news is good. "Recent indicators suggest that economic activity has been expanding at a solid pace. Job gains have moderated since early last year but remain strong, and the unemployment rate has remained low. Inflation has eased over the past year but remains elevated." It appears that the economic stimulus provided by the federal government over the last two years has allowed the economy to bounce gently and move steadily forward.



Jaime Caldwell

### Healthcare.

Let us just talk about a few items. Telemedicine will continue to flourish. The discovery of more and more appropriate uses makes this technology valuable (needless to say, the march toward digital transformation will be in lockstep).

As much as many would like to see it go away, the move to value will continue with many new market influencers (health tech start-ups) figuring out how to deliver that value (with or without hospital help).

Lastly, one area that I am going to keep my eyes on is the growth of personalized medicine. Advances in genomics, precision medicine, and AI will drive personalized treatment approaches. Targeted therapies based on individual genetic profiles will become more common, leading to better outcomes and reduced adverse effects.

I think that 2024 will be an amazing year in terms of the advancement of healthcare. And, yes, somewhere in this whirlwind of activity will come the divisive rhetoric now associated with political campaigns. Next month we will look at the differences in policy positions taken by Democrats and Republicans as they talk about healthcare; pretty dramatic differences.

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## Cover Story: Dabdoub Law Firm Provides Guidance, Court Expertise to Physicians With Disability Insurance Claims

Continued from page 1

disability benefits to insurance companies, and there's an entire appeals process that the client has to go through with the insurance company that denied the claim before they can even file a lawsuit.

"Most attorneys don't even understand how that process works, much less a layperson or a person struggling with a physical or cognitive disability," he added. "On the other hand, the insurance company is very well aware of the process and what should be done. There's very little transparency in any of this."

He adds that disability claims can be especially difficult to win for physicians, as most insurance companies either don't understand or refuse to understand the unique nature of the physician's occupation.

"Especially in a surgical practice, for example, instead of looking at how important certain procedures are to the occupation as a whole, the insurance company analyzes CPT billing code information and makes decisions on the importance of these duties based on a cold mathematical review while ignoring the qualitative importance of duties that define these medical specialties," said Dabdoub.

He gives the example of a recent case in which he represented one of the top liver transplant surgeons in the country who had a wrist injury that made the surgeon unable to perform liver surgeries longer than five hours, though he was

able to continue teaching and performing some other surgeries. Because the plaintiff was able to perform other aspects of his job, the insurance company denied his claim for total disability coverage.

"There are certain procedures that are so unique that they define that physician's occupation even if those procedures are not done in volume," said Dabdoub, who won the case, providing the client with full coverage for his disability. "For physicians especially, you cannot get more granular than that in terms of the type of attorney you need; finding someone who understands the medical specialty and how to present the occupation in order to win these cases."

In addition to seeking out an attorney who specializes in handling physician disability insurance claims, Dabdoub also advises doctors to make sure that any attorney they are vetting has won these types of cases in court.

"That's how you figure out who the real McCoys are," he said. "The majority of disability cases settle out of court, in part because that's the business model that insurance companies follow. They deny a bunch of claims, then settle the majority of them if they're going to end up in court."

"They still don't end up paying out 100 percent of what they owe," he added. "And that's where having the right attorney comes in. This is a very niche, small practice area, and all of the attorneys on

the plaintiff side and defense side know each other. If the defense attorney knows that the plaintiff's attorney isn't going to litigate or win, it will drive down the settlement percentage."

If an attorney has a reputation for winning these types of cases, it changes the calculus for the insurance company. "They will put more money on the table to avoid the alternative of having to deal with a plaintiff's attorney who will try and win the case," said Dabdoub.

No matter what the profession, Dabdoub suggests that those who have disability claims call an attorney as quickly as possible.

"The sooner you call, the better," he says. "Successful disability claims—those that get approved—are the ones where we prepare ahead of time even before the person stops working. Far too often, we get a call from someone who stopped working a year ago and the insurance company is dragging things out with a barrage of requests, and now the person has decided to get legal advice."

"For physicians especially, do not start changing your practice without consulting an attorney that specializes in this area," he added. "You may unintentionally redefine your occupation."

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