

Malpractice Insurance:
HB6017 Expected to be Vetoed by Governor
page 6



Cleveland Clinic Models Standard for Primary Care Access
page 21

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Real Estate



Pierre Monice

Holy Cross Health's Broward County Expansion Plans in 2025 and Beyond

BY PIERRE MONICE

Holy Cross Health is fully invested and committed to expanding our reach to communities throughout Broward County. By increasing our footprint, we can provide access to quality healthcare to the growing population now and for generations to come. Here's a roundup of what we've recently opened and what's coming soon.

Jon and Helaine Ayers Rehabilitation Center

Thanks to a transformational \$2 million gift from Jon and Helaine Ayers, the Center located at the main hospital has undergone a complete renovation and now features state-of-the-art physical rehabilitation equipment and advanced technology to support patient recovery.

The Jon and Helaine Ayers Rehabilitation Center provides expert outpatient care for individuals with neurological, oncologic, vestibular, and complex orthopedic conditions. Designed to foster healing in a warm and welcoming environment, the Center ensures an exceptional rehabilitation experience for both patients and their families.

Continued on page 18

Hurricane Preparedness

Wayne Brackin Shares Thoughts on New Challenges Coming This Hurricane Season

BY VANESSA ORR

According to models from AccuWeather and Colorado State University, the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season is predicted to be above average, with more storms and hurricanes than the 30-year average. While an active season is nothing new in Florida, this year the state is facing other issues, including the current administration's cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Weather Service (NWS) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

More than a dozen positions have been cut at NWS offices across Florida, which is responsible for weather forecasts and warnings when there are storm threats. Approximately one-third of FEMA's staff has been let go or have accepted buyouts. This could not only affect the timeliness and accuracy of forecasts, but also any assistance communities may require after a natural disaster.

"We've been paying close attention to what's happening with NOAA and the NWS and FEMA, all of which are under some form of duress from these changes," said

Continued on page 12



Wayne Brackin

Honoring Service, Advancing Science: Dr. Candy Wilson on Women Veterans Recognition Day

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

For Dr. Candy Wilson, retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and associate dean for nursing research and scholarship at Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, June 12—Women Veterans Recognition Day—is both personal and profound.

"The fact that women can serve our country is such an honor," Dr. Wilson says. "I have been stationed and deployed with women with amazing grit and drive to protect our great nation."

Wilson, who served 30 years in the Air Force before retiring in 2022, says she never imagined her military journey would span three decades.

"My family and I would stay in as long as I was 'having fun,' and then the day came that I reached high year tenure and had to retire," she shares. "I honestly thought I would last four years, but to make it to 30 years is unreal."



Nurses who served during Vietnam in front of the WWII memorial in Washington DC.

Continued on page 20



Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero

Honoring the Power of Physician Leadership — and Progress

BY DR. PATRICIA ARES-ROMERO

On June 14, 2025, the Dade County Medical Association (DCMA) will host its 115th Presidential Inauguration, a moment that not only celebrates continuity in physician leadership but also marks a historic step forward in the representation of women in medicine. It is with immense pride that I invite our members, partners, and sponsors to join us for this extraordinary evening as we welcome Dr. Adriana Bonansea-Frances as the next DCMA President.

Dr. Bonansea-Frances will become only the third woman — and the first female physician from Argentina — to lead the DCMA since its founding in 1903. As I pass the baton after having the honor to serve, I reflect on the importance of this milestone and what it signals for the future of organized medicine in Miami-Dade and beyond.

Our physician community is more diverse than ever, and leadership should reflect that. Women now make up nearly half of all medical school graduates nationwide, yet we are still underrepresented in many leadership roles. Supporting women in these positions is not just about equity; it's about strength, perspective, and progress. When female physicians lead, our communities benefit from inclusive, patient-centered advocacy and a broader vision for healthcare policy and practice.

Continued on page 9

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Publisher's Note

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Non-perishable food: Canned goods, protein bars, and every flavor of Chef Boyardee you pretended to like as a kid.

Manual can opener: Because your electric one will laugh at you when the power goes out.

Flashlights & batteries: You will definitely find your old batteries are dead. Replace them now.

Battery-powered or crank radio: For official updates or to vibe '80s hits when the Wi-Fi dies.

Power banks & chargers: Charge everything. Charge your mom's iPad. Charge your dog if it has Bluetooth.

Toilet paper: Not because you'll run out—because everyone else hoards it like gold.

First aid kit: Because hurricane prep shouldn't involve duct tape and hope.

Trash bags: For actual trash, and in a pinch, waterproof storage, or makeshift ponchos.

Home Prep (AKA Turn Your House into a Fortress)

Bring in lawn furniture: Or risk seeing your flamingo yard statue airborne on the 6 o'clock news.

Check roof & gutters: Because you don't want your neighbor's shingles in your living room.

Fill your tub: Not for bathing—for flushing when the water's off. Fancy, right?

Evacuation Readiness (a.k.a. "Plan Z")

Know your evacuation zone: Hint: If you're near water, it's Zone A (a.k.a. GET OUT).

Fill up your tank: Gas is like concert tickets during hurricane week—gone fast.

Go-bag ready: Clothes, meds, IDs, snacks, and that is one sentimental thing you never actually use.

Pet stuff: Don't forget food, leashes, and your pet's anxiety vest (and one for yourself).

Car charger: For GPS and TikTok scrolling when stuck in evacuation traffic.

Mental Prep (Let's Be Real)

Wine/Comfort snacks: For weathering the storm... or your relatives who stayed over.

Board games/cards: Power's out. Your Uno skills better be sharp.

Zen mode: Breathe. You're a Floridian. You were born for this chaos.

Stay safe and remember: if Jim Cantore shows up in your neighborhood... run like hell.

Charles Felix



You can reach Charles Felix at
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Healthcare Staffing Shortages and the Impacts on Provider Reimbursement

The healthcare industry is facing a critical staffing crisis, with workforce shortages reaching unprecedented levels across hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities. This strain has far-reaching implications – not only on patient care and operational efficiency, but also on provider reimbursement.

While much attention has been placed on the lack of physicians, nurses, and other frontline providers, a less visible – but equally impactful – crisis is unfolding behind the scenes: the shortage of qualified registration, coding, billing, claims management specialists.

When providers are understaffed in these critical revenue cycle roles, it can result in errors, delays in claim submissions, and consequently, a surge in denials – all of which negatively impact cash flow and the overall financial health of the provider. A recent report from the American Hospital Association (AHA) outlining the key trends impacting hospital financial stability in 2025 underscores the issue. According to the AHA, labor remains the single largest category of hospital spending.¹ In 2024, total compensation and related expenses accounted for 56% of overall hospital costs.² Billing professionals, like their colleagues on the clinical side, require heightened levels training, education, and qualifications for their staffing. Shortfalls in these areas undoubtedly lead to diminished reimbursement metrics and performance benchmarks.

Unsurprisingly, these financial pressures disproportionately affect rural hospitals that are increasingly strained by the onerous authorization and payment systems implemented by Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, which are rapidly expanding nationwide.³

A report by the Kaiser Family Foundation highlighted that prior authorization requests in MA rose to nearly 50 million in 2023 – a 43.9% jump from 2020.⁴ Despite this increase, hospitals are encountering more clinical denials and delayed payments for medically necessary services, often forcing them to rely on costly temporary staff or reduce service availability. The Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General concluded that MA plans incorrectly denied up to 85,000 prior authorization requests in 2019 and rejected about 20% of properly billed and reimbursable claims.⁵

The average cost incurred by providers fighting denials is \$43.84 per claim. Annually, this equates to an estimated \$20 billion.⁶ To illustrate the staffing crisis in perspective, that number does not include the costs associated with clinical labor, which the American Medical Association estimates that staffing expenses add \$13.29 per claim for a general inpatient stay and \$51.20 to the claim-resolution cost of inpatient surgery.⁷

Staffing becomes even more difficult for rural facilities with limited technology and billing resources as MA burdens grow. Between 2020 and 2025, nearly 80% of rural



BY TREVOR BIGLIN

providers reported higher levels of payor-related administrative tasks. Of those, half labeled the increase in workload as high or extremely high.⁸ These figures highlight how staffing deficits can disrupt the entire revenue cycle, preventing rural hospitals from providing prompt, high-quality care. In light of this, hospitals are required to offer increasingly competitive wages to retain and recruit staff. The AHA warns that without intervention, administrative staffing shortages could cost the industry billions in lost or delayed revenue.

As staffing challenges persist, proactive legal guidance is essential to ensure that your reimbursement strategies remain sound and sustainable. At Abril Law, we work closely with healthcare providers to mitigate the legal and financial fallout of these staffing issues. Whether it's addressing denials, navigating underpayments, or advising on regulatory compliance, our team is equipped to help providers adapt and protect their revenue in this evolving landscape.

For more information on how Abril Law can assist you or your practice, contact us today at (305) 373-0901. Trevor Biglin, Associate, Abril Law, can be reached at tbiglin@abrilaw.com.

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Malpractice Insurance

EXPERT ADVICE

HB6017 Expected to be Vetoed by Governor

BY VANESSA ORR

In 1990, Florida passed what is commonly known as the “free kill” law, coined by the plaintiff bar, which strictly limits who can file lawsuits when the victim is 25 years old or older. The law specifically blocks adult children from recovering compensation for emotional and psychological damages in a wrongful death or medical malpractice suit on behalf of a deceased parent. Under Florida law, only the deceased spouse or children under 25 can recover damages. Parents of adult children killed by medical malpractice are prohibited from recovering damages for pain and suffering as well.

The law was originally passed with the goal of preventing doctors from leaving the state due to high medical malpractice insurance rates.

This past March, HB6017 was introduced in the Florida Senate with the goal of repealing that law. The bill, which passed the House by a vote of 104-6 and the Senate by a vote of 33-4, repeals the 1990 exception and provides that, where a wrongful death occurs as a result of medical negligence, a decedent’s adult children may recover noneconomic damages if there is no surviving spouse. It also provides that the parents of an adult decedent may recover noneconomic damages if there is no surviving spouse or surviving minor or adult children.

Simply put, survivors of a person who dies as a result of medical negligence have the same right to recover noneconomic damages as the survivors of a person who dies from any other form of negligence.

The bill is now headed to the desk of



Kyla Murphy

Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has publicly said that he will veto its passing, believing that it will drive up medical malpractice insurance costs for health care providers and lead to a flood of lawsuits, ultimately causing health care costs to increase.

“Even though the Senate approved the bill in March, there was a lot of opposition and it took 24 hours for the decision to be made to pass the bill,” explained Kyla Murphy, AVP National Healthcare Practice, Risk Strategies.

“During the debate, it was also proposed that a \$1 million cap be put on the bill, essentially ensuring that the plaintiff in every malpractice case that included the death of a parent or an adult child over 25 could not be awarded more than \$1 million. That was declined 19 to 18.”

Some of the biggest concerns, according to Murphy, is that Florida is already facing a slew of nuclear verdicts (exceptionally high verdicts, typically exceeding \$10 million), rising malpractice insurance costs and a shortage of physicians.

“If the governor were to accept this bill, it would definitely affect malpractice insurance rates,” she said. “Premiums would go up because there would be more claims; parents would seek compensation for pain and suffering for the malpractice death of adult children or vice versa, and there is a good chance that the shortage of physicians would increase as fewer people would choose to pursue a medical career in Florida.”

For more information, contact Kyla Murphy at Kyla.murphy@risk-strategies.com or call 800-966-2120.

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Healthcare Margin Improvement Framework for Financial Resilience

Margin improvement requires a long-term strategy that prioritizes stabilization and fosters patient and employee loyalty and retention. While cost-cutting measures may offer short-term financial gains, they often fail to build a robust financial foundation. Instead, adopting a holistic margin improvement strategy allows providers to implement structural changes that ensure long-term results and stability, with the flexibility to accelerate timelines when necessary.

To facilitate this effort, BDO recommends using a holistic checklist to guide the development of a tailored plan and implementation roadmap, focusing on the following areas:

Phase I: Identifying Cost and Revenue Opportunities

- Benchmark your costs at line item against industry standards.
- Assess your revenue cycle management to identify gaps and inefficiencies.
- Review your patient access, demand, and capacity management to identify gaps and inefficiencies.
- Assess the profitability of each of your service lines.

Phase II: Reviewing Balance Sheets

- Identify priority strategic initiatives and determine the capital requirements to support them.

- Conduct property, plant, and equipment (PP&E) assessment to determine if any assets should be sold, leased, or disposed.
- Identify opportunities to deploy or reinvest working capital.
- Reevaluate your debt structure to assess your organization’s current financial risk level.
- Determine whether you have any unclaimed property and, if so, review your state’s regulations around reporting and refunds ahead of balance sheet transactions.
- Assess your management of assets like technical systems and medical equipment to identify gaps and inefficiencies.
- Identify opportunities to capitalize on R&D tax credits.

Phase III: Accelerating Digital Enablement

- Leverage data and machine learning to reduce preventable readmissions and offer expanded consumer-centric self-service tools with a side benefit of shifting work



BY SABINA KOTELNIK

into the hands of patients.

- Assess your EHR platform to determine if it is properly integrated with your other systems and can support data-driven predictive analytics.

- Prior to introducing new technology systems, evaluate their potential impact on and disruption to clinicians and administrative staff.

Phase IV: Exploring Partnership Opportunities

- Consider opportunities to partner and collaborate for functions such as IT, contact centers and supply chain purchasing agents.
- Explore outsourcing and managed service arrangements to achieve efficiencies in core business operations.
- Critically evaluate mergers and integration opportunities to ensure they are patient-centric and focus on improving care at lower costs.

Phase V: Developing Your Workforce

- Consider how you can enable remote work opportunities to expand your talent pool.
- Invest in continuous learning to promote employee retention and satisfaction.
- Integrate advanced practice providers (APPs) across service lines.
- Invest in recruiting and training licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and medical assistants (MAs).

Phase VI: Concurrently Addressing Payers/Managed Care Strategy

- Assess state of payer contracting and conduct a readiness assessment for VBC preparedness.
- Review gaps in care, issues with care retention/capitation & referral leakage, and develop access expansion to satisfy network and managed contracting goals to achieve contract compliance and risk revenue return.

Implementing these solutions will help your organization optimize healthcare services, enhance revenue performance, and improve cost efficiency, driving bottom line results.

Sabina Kotelnik, Assurance Principal, BDO, can be reached at 954-989-7462 or skotelnik@bdo.com

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Let's Connect: ACHE of South Florida Spotlight

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ACHE of South Florida Member Spotlight: Paul Hakimata

BY LOIS THOMSON

Paul Hakimata is a problem solver. Hakimata currently works in Precision Care at the Molecular Genetic Pathology Lab at Memorial Regional Hospital South and is also a principal investigator for the Memorial Cancer Institute and Florida Atlantic University collaborative. As a specialist in molecular genomics, he explained, "What we do is very complex testing; we look at the DNA and RNA of patients, and we look at mutations and try to match targeted drugs to them."

He said those in the lab try to determine what the mutations mean, and the information then goes into databases where the drugs are listed, and are matched with the particular drug – if one is available. "My role is to implement new tests, develop protocols to troubleshoot, and streamline the turnaround time."

Hakimata pointed out that normal turnaround time is about 30 days, whereas most other lab tests are done in a day. "As a field we're far behind, but simply because it's very complex and the work flow itself is very difficult. I come up with strategies to streamline so the patients can actually get their medications faster. That's something I took on myself, and it influences everything we do."

Because he likes to problem solve, Hakimata enjoys this work and admitted, "I get bored very quickly if every day is the same thing, so I let my team focus on what they do best, and let all the problems come to me so I can enhance my team's performance."

His current work wasn't Hakimata's first choice. "I've been in this field for 25 years now, always in research, but right after my wife's passing (nearly 10 years ago) I decided to move into the clinical world to see where I could help."

While working in this new area, Hakimata decided to study for his MBA in 2019, because he wanted to move into leadership. "I saw there's a need for leadership in this



Paul Hakimata

particular field, because this field is so different from everything else."

An additional bonus while studying for his MBA came when he was auto-enrolled into becoming a member of ACHE, the American College of Healthcare Executives. He recalled that he went to one of the networking events, and one thing he noticed when comparing that event with others he had been to was, "It's a very friendly group of people, everyone is open to talk with each other; you feel like you're a part of family. That was unique to me, because I never experienced that anywhere."

Hakimata also appreciates the opportunity to interact with others in all areas of leadership. He said you have a chance to talk with people from every area that touches healthcare, even those from other entities or departments, for example, those who provide valet parking. "People don't even think about how valuable that is for patients. And there are

the people who run insurance companies, or the electricity providers – they are involved in making sure hospitals run with all the electrical requirements.

"It's very different from running a shoe store. There, if the power goes out, you close for the day, no one is truly affected. In healthcare that's not possible, everything needs to keep going 24 hours a day. There are so many people involved in healthcare who are ancillary, so you get a really good picture of the complexity." He said one of his goals with ACHE is to talk with people and better understand their work to help him develop understanding for how to navigate his own healthcare system.

Hakimata also said he would absolutely encourage others to join ACHE because he believes the education aspect is becoming more and more important. "People will join a networking group or professional entity to not only make connections, but also to understand what people do – to learn the particulars of everyone's job and learn from them, and provide help. You need to give back."

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Tampa General Experts Emphasize Collaboration at Head & Neck Oncology Symposium

The power of academic medicine was on full display Saturday, May 3, as medical experts from across Florida gathered in West Palm Beach for a Head & Neck Oncology Symposium.

Hosted by the Tampa General Hospital (TGH) Cancer Institute and the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, sessions explored cutting-edge, team-based approaches to treating complex head and neck cancers. Topics ranged from breakthrough uses of HPV DNA and immunotherapy for skin cancer to the latest in transoral robotic surgery (TORS). Sessions also included a primer on parathyroid gland surgery, the management of sinonasal malignancies and the latest techniques in radiation therapy. The symposium featured faculty from the TGH Cancer Institute and the TGH Ear, Nose & Throat Institute —both recognized among the nation's best by *U.S. News & World Report* 2024-2025.

The TGH Ear, Nose & Throat Institute is a world-class center of excellence offering a full spectrum of services for patients with conditions impacting the entire head and neck region. Leveraging its affiliation with USF Health, the institute has grown into a comprehensive care and research hub.

Matthew Mifsud, M.D., FACS, vice-chair of the USF Health Department of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery and chief of the Division of Head & Neck Oncology/Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery, was one of the symposium's organizers and presenters. He said the



TGH Cancer Institute and USF Health Morsani College of Medicine Head & Neck Oncology Symposium faculty (l-r): Dr. Douglas E. Politz, Dr. Marshall Posner, Dr. Tara Mokhtari, Dr. Mark Tabor, Dr. Heyoung McBride, Dr. Matthew Mifsud

symposium was particularly important because most head and neck cancers are not well understood. "Getting out into the community and increasing physicians' awareness of the various types of cancers and how to treat them is important."

Dr. Mifsud also stressed that the treatment of head and neck cancers has changed over the past 15 or 20 years, noting that care is much more multidisciplinary. "If you are a community provider treating patients with these cancers, you must think about it collaboratively — working with a surgeon, a medical oncologist or other specialists. It's crucial to consider when to mix and match treatments," he said. "Our symposium demonstrates how we're thinking about these cancers now, which helps

guide physicians to the best possible treatment options for their patients. Of course, Tampa General is an available resource when patients may need more complex care."

Dr. Mifsud founded the Head & Neck Tumor Board at Tampa General and USF Health, integrating advanced surgical techniques, evidence-based medicine and cutting-edge technology to ensure optimal patient outcomes.

"The tumor board is a vehicle that places all the team members in one room at the same time," said Dr. Mifsud. "This is normally hard to do, so TGH offers this advantage." The tumor board meets weekly to review and strategize personalized treatment plans for each patient. This collaborative approach ensures

comprehensive patient care, addressing every aspect — from initial diagnosis to treatment and follow-up.

Marshall Posner, M.D., a medical oncologist, presented information about both the evolving roles of HPV DNA for the management of oropharyngeal cancers and immunotherapy for the management of nonmelanoma skin cancer of the head and neck. A world-renowned research scientist, Dr. Posner recently joined the TGH Cancer Institute | Cancer Center of South Florida practice in Palm Beach County. In addition to caring for head and neck cancer patients, he serves as the medical director of the Cancer Center Clinical Trial Office, which will offer cancer patients in the Palm Beaches and on the Treasure Coast expanded access to groundbreaking cancer trials.

Dr. Posner felt the symposium offered a great overview of the resources available at Tampa General. "As a medical oncologist, I don't work in isolation. For instance, I work very closely with ENT surgeons, nasal surgeons and radiation oncologists," he said. "TGH offers resources that help me with patients, especially those needing complex care. It's important to have access to peers with different perspectives. You'll invariably learn something new and this ultimately leads to better patient outcomes."

For more information about the Ear, Nose & Throat Institute at Tampa General Hospital, visit [TGH.org/ENT](https://www.tgh.org/ENT).

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Expanded Medicare Coverage Creates Pathway to Independence for K2 Amputees

Studies show that K2-level users of lower limb prostheses experience significant benefits from using microprocessor-controlled knees (MPKs), including **increased fall prevention** and **improved quality of life**.

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Gina Melby Takes the Helm of Alan B. Miller Medical Center: A Vision for Innovation, Community, and Excellence

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

With a distinguished career spanning over two decades, Gina Melby, MMM, is no stranger to building high-performing healthcare organizations. Now, she steps into her latest role as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Alan B. Miller Medical Center, a new 156-bed hospital currently under construction in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Effective April 1 of this year, Melby takes charge of the seven-story acute care facility expected to open in Spring 2026. The hospital, named after the founder and executive chairman of Universal Health Services (UHS), is set to bring cutting-edge technology, high-quality care, and hundreds of jobs to the region. For Melby, the opportunity represents more than just another executive role.

"I'm drawn to the opportunity to lead this organization because of its commitment to the community and very patient care focus," Melby says. "I have the opportunity to build a new hospital from the ground up, integrating new technology and building and establishing a culture of excellence. I'm passionate about creating a healthcare environment prioritizing safety, quality and strong physician relationships."

Building from the Ground Up

Melby's immediate focus is on laying the foundation for the hospital's operational success. That starts with people.

"My immediate priorities are going to be assembling a high-performing leadership team, recruiting top talent across all departments, and establishing key opera-



Gina Melby

tional protocols," she explains. "We're creating a collaborative, innovative culture that sets the foundation for our hospital's success."

Her experience at JFK Medical Center and Northwest Medical Center – both in South Florida – provides her with a strategic blueprint for launching a successful facility from day one. Melby previously

served as CEO at both hospitals, delivering measurable results in hospital quality, physician partnerships and patient safety.

"My experience teaches me the importance of strategic planning, operational excellence and strong community relationships," she says. "I bring these lessons to Alan B. Miller Medical Center, focusing on building a culture of continuous improvement and high standards of care to serve this thriving and growing community."

Tech-Driven, Patient-Focused

As a brand-new facility, the Alan B. Miller Medical Center offers Melby the rare opportunity to integrate the latest medical innovations from the ground up fully.

"I'm excited about integrating advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies, AI-driven imaging systems, and robotic-assisted surgery," she shares. "These innovations enhance our ability to provide precise and effective care, which leads to strong patient outcomes."

The hospital is already being designed to accommodate future growth, with shell space for an additional 150 beds. When fully operational, it will employ more than 800 individuals.

Physician Partnerships at the Core

Melby's reputation for building physician relationships is well known in South Florida. At Alan B. Miller Medical Center, those connections become central to establishing and growing key service lines, including emergency medicine, cardiology, orthopedic and general surgery, oncology, and neurology.

"Leveraging my relationships with physicians in a collaborative environment ensures that our service lines are not only comprehensive but also very innovative and patient-focused," she says.

Deep Roots in the Community

Beyond the hospital walls, Melby has long been a leader in community engagement, serving on boards including the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, the Economic Council, and the American Heart Association's Executives with Heart. She now brings that same civic energy to her new role.

"I plan to engage the Palm Beach Gardens community through outreach programs, health education initiatives, partnerships with local organizations, and by actively participating in community events," she notes. "I want to address the specific health needs of the area and build trust."

Looking Ahead

With the hospital's grand opening on the horizon, Melby already has a bold

vision for its role in the region over the next five years.

"The vision for Alan B. Miller Medical Center is to become a leader in healthcare innovation and quality in this region," she states. "We aim to expand our service lines, attract top medical talent, continuously improve patient outcomes, and become a trusted healthcare provider for the community."

And at the heart of that vision? People. "Focusing on our employees is absolutely critical," Melby emphasizes. "We're building a culture with engaged, motivated staff. Recruiting top talent is going to be a key differentiator."

Melby also underscores the critical role of employees in shaping the hospital's success.

"Employees are the heart and soul of a hospital," she notes. "Creating a great culture that fosters quality care and supports their well-being will be one of our top priorities as we grow."

She envisions a workplace where staff feel valued, engaged, and empowered to deliver exceptional care.

With a patient-centered philosophy, deep local ties, and a forward-thinking approach, Melby is poised to guide Alan B. Miller Medical Center into a new era of healthcare excellence in South Florida.

For more information, visit abmmmedicalcenter.com.

Cover Story: Honoring the Power of Physician Leadership — and Progress

Continued from page 1

I have seen firsthand the value of organized medicine. DCMA stands as a vital, physician-led institution that advocates for our profession and our patients on the local and state levels. From addressing scope of practice and prior authorization reform, to fighting against corporate interests that threaten the integrity of our profession, the work we do is critical. But we cannot do it alone.

That is why I urge you to not only attend this year's Inauguration but to support it. Your sponsorship is an investment in the leadership pipeline for physicians — especially women and international physicians who bring rich experiences and insights to the table. It is also a show of support for an organization committed to preserving the practice of medicine by physicians, for physicians.

This year's event will be both a celebration and a call to action. We will honor the physicians who have given their time, passion, and advocacy to strengthen our med-



Dr. Bonansea-Frances

ical community, and we will look forward with optimism as Dr. Bonansea-Frances takes the helm. Her dedication to health equity, public service, and medical excellence will undoubtedly guide DCMA into its next chapter with strength and grace.

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Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero is President of the Dade County Medical Association.

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DATE	Saturday, June 2, 2025
TIME	8:00 am - 2:00 pm
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TOPIC	Population Health
DATE	Thursday, June 5, 2025
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Nicklaus Children's and Florida International University Seal the Deal with New Partnership



(l-r) Dr. Juan C. Cendan, dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and senior vice president for health affairs, FIU; Jeanette M. Nuñez, interim president, FIU; Matthew A. Love, president and CEO, Nicklaus Children's Health System.

Nicklaus Children's and Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine have officially launched an academic partnership that will expand pediatric training opportunities, enhance patient care, and strengthen research in South Florida and beyond.

The collaboration, recently celebrated at FIU's Earlene and Albert Dotson Pavilion, brings together South Florida's top public research university and its leading pediatric hospital to address a shared mission: improve child health

outcomes through education, innovation, and clinical excellence.

"This partnership represents a powerful opportunity to innovate, educate and lead in the academic healthcare space," said Matthew A. Love, president and CEO of Nicklaus Children's Health System. "Coming together as the leading pediatric hospital and the leading research university in South Florida, the possibilities of changing the healthcare landscape are endless and will reinforce our commitment to making sure no child has to leave Florida for care."

The two organizations plan to increase the number of physicians by expanding graduate medical education programs like residencies and fellowships and help attract highly specialized physicians who will lead groundbreaking research to treat and cure childhood illnesses.

"This partnership unites two cornerstone institutions, FIU as Miami's public research university and Nicklaus Children's as the region's top pediatric hospital, with a shared purpose: to improve the health and well-being of our community's children," said Jeanette M. Nuñez, interim president of FIU.

"By combining our strengths in education, research, and clinical care, we are creating a pipeline of future physicians and groundbreaking discoveries that will

transform pediatric care in South Florida and beyond."

The collaboration between FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and Nicklaus Children's will help address the anticipated nationwide pediatric physician shortage of nearly 13,000 doctors by 2037, by encouraging medical students to pursue careers in pediatrics, training the next generation of pediatricians, and recruiting world-class experts to live and practice in South Florida.

"We believe that when a public university medical school joins with a children's hospital, we can do more than educate doctors, we can create cures and train pediatricians who understand our neighbors and their special needs," said Dr. Juan C. Cendan, dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

"Through our shared vision and expertise, we can offer hope to families who may have once been told there was none."

FIU medical students are already embedded in the pediatric care environment at Nicklaus Children's. As part of their third-year requirements, all medical students complete a pediatric clerkship at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. On average, about 120 students rotate through the hospital each year, reflecting the college's full class size.

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University of Miami to Offer Novel Oncology Certificate for Nurses

Oncology Nursing Society President Jessica MacIntyre, DNP, MBA, APRN, NP-C, AOCNP, will lead the accredited program

BY ROBIN SHEAR

In Fall 2025, the School of Nursing and Health Studies at the University of Miami will be rolling out one of this nation's few accredited Post-Master's Certificate in Oncology programs. The program is the brainchild of the Oncology Nursing Society's current president, Jessica MacIntyre, an alumna of the school. "This is a unique program," said Dr. MacIntyre, assistant vice president of advanced practice providers at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, South Florida's only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center. "Through our collaboration as a school, cancer center, and health system, we are poised to transform patient care and enhance its quality by offering this post-graduate certificate program."

The 18-credit hybrid program not only offers much-needed specialized education and training for advanced practice nurses to care for cancer patients and assist their families; it prepares graduates to pass the national board certification exam for advanced oncology certified nurse practitioners (AOCNP) as offered by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation. In addition to Dr. MacIntyre, prestigious faculty from the school, including Drs. Debbie Anglade, Carmen Presti, and Deborah Salani, will teach the curriculum with a focus on evi-



Dr. Jessica MacIntyre

dence-based, patient-centered practices, including management of physical, psychological, and social problems from cancer; prevention, early detection, current treatments, survivorship, and end-of-life issues; cellular and biological changes; genetics, the immune system, and lifestyle choices; epidemiology, pathology, and more.

"This school is truly forward-thinking," said MacIntyre. "Being one of the few in the nation to offer this program sets us apart. Plus, we have an incredible network of experts here at Sylvester and across the country to provide guest lectures."

MacIntyre's own passion for oncology nursing came from witnessing the high

level of care and compassion her grandmother received. "I was drawn to oncology even before nursing school because my grandmother had metastatic breast cancer," she said. "Watching the nurses care for her, especially during the end of her life, I realized that was my calling—to build that kind of connection with patients and support them through difficult times. I wanted to make a difference in cancer care."

When MacIntyre earned her B.S.N. 25 years ago from the University of Miami and became a registered nurse, there were zero educational programs like this one, so she worked on an oncology floor for a couple of years and earned her master's degree in nursing before getting a nurse practitioner position at Sylvester, part of the UHealth - University of Miami Health System. At Sylvester since 2002, she was promoted to director of clinical operations in 2015, executive director of clinical operations in 2018, and her current role in 2024, the same year she began her ONS presidency.

MacIntyre established Sylvester's Cancer Survivorship Program with its director, Dr. Frank Penedo, and served on an expert panel to develop National Standards for Cancer Survivorship Care with the National Cancer Institute's Office of Cancer Survivorship. Additionally, she created Sylvester's first oncology fellowship program for

advanced practice providers, which incorporates simulation exercises at the school's S.H.A.R.E. Simulation Hospital Advancing Research & Education®.

"Nurse practitioners are bridging gaps in oncology care, making specialized education and training essential," said MacIntyre, an AOCNP with a dual D.N.P./M.B.A. degree. "Oncology nurses and nurse practitioners forge unique bonds with patients, their families and caregivers. We are present for every phase of a patient's care, from diagnosis through survivorship and end-of-life care, becoming an integral part of their extended family."

She credits Dean Hudson Santos (University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies); Dr. Stephen Nimer, Dr. Frank Penedo, and Lazara Pagan (Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center); Drs. Elizabeth Smith, Jeannette Garcia-Slanker, and Douglas Houghton (UHealth); and nurse scientists Drs. Cindy Toftagen and Cindy Munro "for making this collaborative program a reality."

Call (305) 284-2508 or email BeACaneNurse@miami.edu for more information, or visit sonhs.miami.edu/academics/certificate-programs/post-masterscertificate-in-oncology-nurse-practitioner. Go to <https://nursingcas.org> to apply.

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Cover Story: Wayne Brackin Shares Thoughts on New Challenges Coming This Hurricane Season

Continued from page 1

Wayne Brackin, president and CEO of KIDZ Medical Services, and former Baptist Health South Florida executive who's been recognized for leading hospital and health system hurricane and emergency preparedness efforts.

"What's going on with FEMA is still a moving target, so no one can speak with absolute certainty yet. But if the FEMA staff was 6,000 people and 2,000 are no longer there, it's safe to say we can expect to see some impact downstream.

"Unfortunately, we're not going to know the full impact of all of these cuts and reorganizations until we actually need these services," he added.

"Every year since 2018, Florida has received approximately 25 percent of FEMA's U.S. disaster funding, which is a massive percent. Any cuts to that budget could end up disproportionately affecting the state."

Just as they do every year, hospitals and health systems throughout Florida are preparing for the season. For example, KIDZ Medical Services, a South Florida multispecialty practice that cares

for neonatal, pediatric and women's health patients across 15 office locations and 19 hospital partner sites, is making plans to close outpatient centers and to consolidate staff at hospitals to deal with the influx of patients.

"Most of the activity occurs in the hospital setting, so the majority of stand-alone facilities in the community will close. This is done to better concentrate resources at select strategic locations to provide the best response," said Brackin.

He notes that hospitals are often inundated with people even before storms hit, making it more difficult to meet the needs of everyone who requires care.

"Two things happen in big buckets: prior to a storm, patients who have certain medical needs come to the hospital—those who are oxygen dependent, moms in the last stages of pregnancy, and people who are homebound but fragile," he says, noting that while many of these patients could go to hurricane shelters, they choose the hospital instead.

"This presents some challenges because hospitals need to be available for

more acute care, and there are times that individual hospitals or emergency rooms get overwhelmed with these patients seeking shelter.

"Post-storm, it's a lot of what you would expect: people with relatively minor injuries who tried to fix roofs or pull trees off houses, or who ran generators incorrectly without the proper ventilation," he added.

While more storms are predicted this year, Brackin is less concerned with that forecast than with what each storm may do.

"The hurricane prediction business falls back on the total number of storms, but all that really matters is if you get hit with one," he said. "The worst storm in our collective existing memories is Andrew in '92, and it's the only hurricane that happened that year. It came later in the season, when everyone thought it was over."

The good news, he added, is that the use of telemedicine grew during the pandemic, which makes it much easier for patients to be seen in post-disaster scenarios. "The one silver lining of the pandemic is that people not only learned to use telemedi-

cine, but in many cases prefer it, which is beneficial not only for day-to-day care but in a post-storm situation."

How to Prepare at Home

While hospitals will be at the ready to care for patients during the storm, it's important that people prepare ahead of time to stay safe in their homes.

"Many people these days have multi-generational families living together, especially in South Florida where the cost and availability of housing is such an enormous problem," said Brackin. "Having many people under one roof — of different ages and health circumstances — requires additional preparation.

"People should be able to sustain themselves for at least a week—to have enough water, food and medicine," he added. "Historically, things have come back on line relatively quickly except in the most extreme storm cases, so if families are prepared to take care of themselves for a week, that should keep them out of the ER and reduce any unnecessary physician visits."

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Proactive and Prepared During Hurricane Season

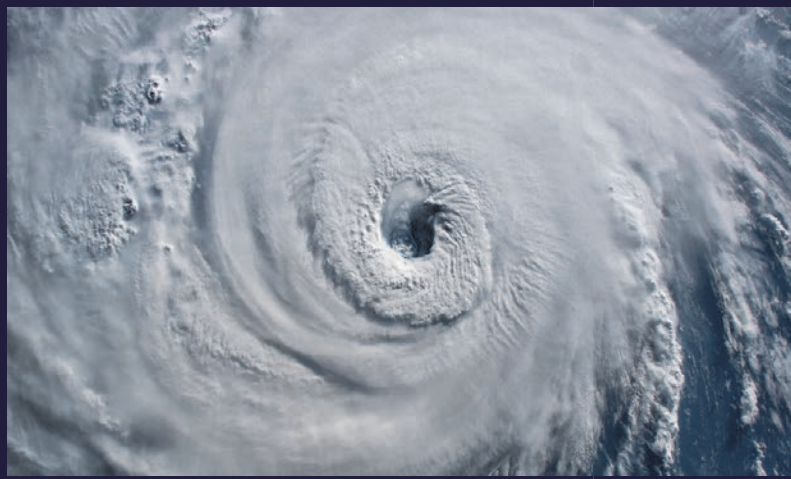
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Get Ready for Storm Season with FPL's Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

At **Florida Power & Light Company (FPL)**, safety is the cornerstone of our commitment to customers and employees. It is not a matter of if, but when the next hurricane will hit our state, which is why it's important to be proactive in planning for the six-month-long hurricane season. FPL urges Floridians to be prepared for this storm season and to be aware of potential safety hazards at all times. Below is a checklist of important details to consider before, during and after a storm. For more tips, visit [FPL.com/storm](https://www.fpl.com/storm).



Create an Emergency Plan with your family

- Determine if your home or business is in a flood and/or evacuation zone and review evacuation routes.
- Determine your backup power source or make arrangements to relocate if a storm warning is issued.
- The **Division of Emergency Management** recommends keeping gas tanks at least half full during hurricane season. For electric vehicles, make sure to maintain a 50%-80% charge at all times.
- Contact your local emergency management office if you or anyone you know has special needs, in case of evacuations. Apply online for our **Medically Essential Service** if someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining medical equipment.

Prepare your Home

- Turn off and unplug any unnecessary electrical equipment, including pool equipment.
- If your roof or windows leak, water in your walls and ceiling may come into contact with electrical wiring. Immediately turn off your circuit breakers, disconnect all electrical appliances that are still plugged in and turn off all wall switches. Never stand in water while operating switches or unplugging any electrical device.
- DO NOT attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near any overhead power lines. Only hire specially trained line-clearing professionals to trim trees and other vegetation near power lines. Visit [FPL.com/trees](https://www.fpl.com/trees) for more information on our tree trimming policies.
- Look up and note the location of power lines before you begin working on a ladder. Be sure that ladders or scaffolds are far enough away so that you – and the ends of the tools you're using – don't come within 10 feet of main or neighborhood power lines.



Stay Safe and Informed

- If you use a portable generator, read and follow all the manufacturer's instructions. Be sure to set it up outside – not in your home or garage – and connect appliances directly to it. Do not wire your generator directly to your breaker or fuse box, because the power you generate may flow back into power lines and cause injuries.
- Bookmark [FPL.com](https://www.fpl.com), download the **FPL Mobile App** and save **1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243)** to your cell phone to report and check the status of your restoration.
- Stay far away from and do not touch any downed power lines or flooded and debris-laden areas that may be hiding downed power lines. Call **911** and **1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243)** if you see downed power lines or damaged electrical equipment.
- Follow local news and [@insideFPL](https://twitter.com/insideFPL) for updates on storm conditions and heed warnings.



Hospital Hurricane Preparedness in South Florida: A Focus on Resiliency Amidst Changes at FEMA

In South Florida, hurricanes aren't a matter of if, but when. For healthcare facilities, comprehensive preparation can mean the difference between continuing critical care operations and catastrophic failure. As we face the 2025 hurricane season with recent changes in FEMA leadership that may impact resource availability, hospitals must emphasize self-reliance and resiliency more than ever before.

The traditional hurricane preparation checklist—securing supplies, testing generators, and reviewing evacuation plans represents only the starting point of true preparedness. The reality is that hospitals rarely face singular challenges during disasters.

The most dangerous mindset in emergency preparedness is assuming you'll only deal with one crisis at a time. Hurricane Milton in 2024 is a recent example where unprecedented tornado activity impacted several communities across Florida. This complexity necessitates functional exercises that simulate



BY ATTILA J.
HERTELENDY, PHD

multiple concurrent events a practice too often overlooked in favor of simpler tabletop drills.

While tabletop exercises have value for initial planning, functional exercises provide the robust testing that hospital systems require. These exercises involve actual response activities where personnel perform their emergency response functions in a simulated environment. For South Florida hospitals,

functional exercises should include scenarios such as:

- Complete power loss coinciding with generator failure during patient surge
- IT system compromise occurring during evacuation operations
- Staff shortages combined with supply chain disruption and facility damage
- Communication system failures while managing critical care patients

These exercises must involve all departments, from clinical staff to facilities management, security, and administration working together under realistic pressure. Several studies have identified the impor-

tance of CEOs being actively involved in these drills in order to improve organizational resiliency.

The key to valuable functional exercises lies in their design and execution. When designing your exercises either internally or hiring an external consultant, consider the following:

1. Create realistic scenarios based on historical hurricane impacts specific to Florida.
2. Introduce unexpected complications midway through exercises (it's very important to simulate multiple incidents occurring simultaneously) such as a cyberattack or mass casualty incident occurring at the same time a hurricane is making landfall.
3. Deliberately restrict resources to force innovation and alternative procedures.
4. Include actual equipment deployment and physical tasks.
5. Rotate leadership positions to build depth in emergency response capabilities and redundancy.

Most importantly, establish a structured after-action review process that leads to concrete protocol improvements. Document these improvements and ensure they become standard operat-

ing procedure before the next hurricane season.

With recent changes in FEMA leadership this hurricane season potentially impacting funding streams and resource distribution, hospitals must develop enhanced self-reliance capabilities.

Self-reliance begins with hard questions: Can your facility maintain operations for 7-10 days without external support? Have you established redundant communication methods? Are critical supplies stockpiled beyond minimum requirements?

This self-reliance extends to staff preparedness. Hospitals should establish comprehensive personal preparedness programs for all employees, ensuring they can report to work while knowing their families are secure.

Hospital resilience also depends on integration with community resources. Establish memoranda of understanding with nearby facilities for patient transfers, resource sharing, and staff support.

Create relationships with local suppliers who can prioritize hospital needs during recovery. Work with municipal emergency management to ensure your facility's needs are understood before dis-

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Continued from previous page

aster strikes.

As FEMA undergoes leadership transitions, local coordination becomes increasingly vital. Infrastructure improvements represent a critical investment in hurricane resilience. Modern building standards, redundant power systems, and water management solutions can dramatically improve a facility's ability to maintain operations. Consider technological solutions that enhance disaster response such as:

1. Implement remote monitoring for critical systems.
2. Deploy portable medical technology that functions during infrastructure disruptions.
3. Establish satellite communication backups.
4. Utilize predictive analytics for resource management during extended events.

As Florida hospitals prepare for the 2025 hurricane season amid FEMA leadership transitions, prioritizing functional exercises and self-reliance will distinguish those facilities that merely survive hurricanes from those that continue providing essential care throughout disasters. True preparedness isn't demonstrated during planning meetings, it emerges during the chaos of actual emergencies when multiple systems are stressed simultaneously.

Dr. Attila J. Hertelendy, CEO, Great White Emergency Medical Solutions, LLC, can be reached at ceo@greatwhiteems.com.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center Completes Emergency Department Renovation to Enhance Patient Care



Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center completes its newly renovated emergency department, designed to improve patient care by enhancing efficiency and streamlining assessments.

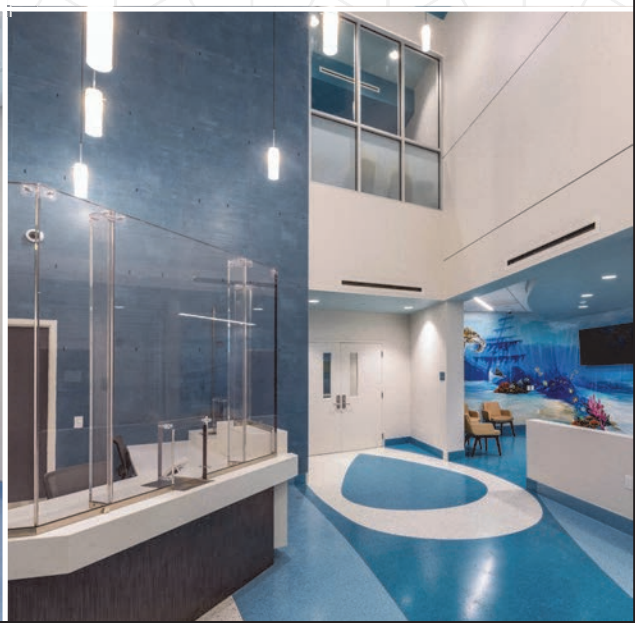
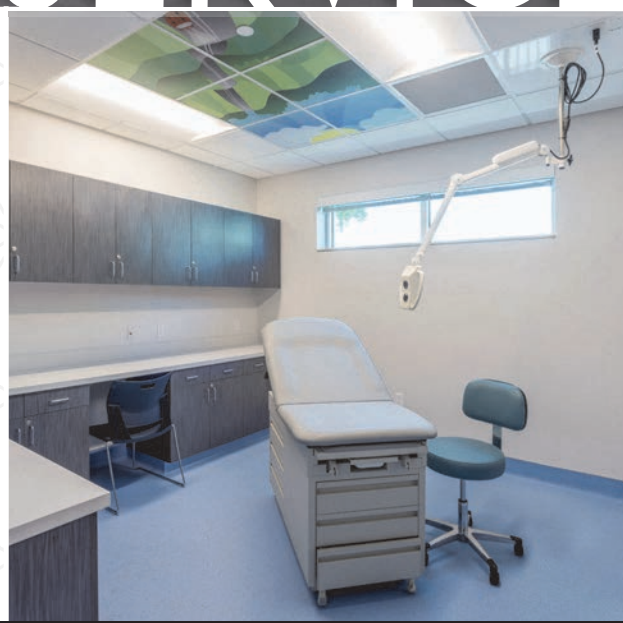
The updated emergency department features 24 beds and a reconfigured admission and triage area to allow for faster patient evaluations. These improvements are part of the hospital's ongoing commitment to providing exceptional emergency care with short ER wait times.

The newly designed triage area allows medical staff to assess patients more efficiently, ensuring those in need of urgent care are seen quickly. The enhanced layout also optimizes patient flow, supporting better care coordination and improving overall experiences for patients and their families.



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Mount Sinai Medical Center Warns About Emergency Department Trends Seen Most During the Summer

As summer approaches, South Florida residents are gearing up for sunshine-filled days on the beach, boat rides, backyard barbecues, and a host of other outdoor activities. But along with all the fun comes a seasonal spike in emergency department visits—many of which are preventable with proper awareness and precaution.

At Mount Sinai Medical Center, we are sounding the alarm about common trends our emergency departments—and others in the area and even the country—see every year as temperatures rise. The sharp increase in injuries and incidents related to summer activities, especially among children, is easily preventable, with the right knowledge.

Drowning is among the most serious and frequently reported emergencies during the summer. These incidents occur both in pools and open bodies of



BY FRAYDA KRESCH,
MD

water and can happen in a matter of seconds. While children are most at risk, adults are also vulnerable—particularly when alcohol is involved during water-based activities. Another frequent issue is severe sun exposure. Extended time outdoors without proper protection often leads to sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion, and in some cases, heat stroke.

Other common cases include dehydration due to insufficient water intake, sports and recreational injuries, severe insect bites and allergic reactions, and burns caused from grilling or misuse of fireworks.

With all that in mind, below are some tips to help families enjoy a safe and healthy summer, and avoid the emergency department altogether:

1. Secure pool areas with fences, alarms, and safety covers to prevent accidental drownings in both children and

adults.

2. Supervise children closely when near any body of water, even if lifeguards are present.

3. Avoid drinking alcohol when swimming or boating.

4. Wear protective sun gear—such as lightweight, breathable clothing, wide-brimmed hats, and sunglasses—and apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. Reapply every two hours, especially after swimming or sweating.

5. Stay hydrated by drinking water consistently throughout the day. Adding electrolytes can also help balance fluid levels and support nerve and muscle function.

6. Recognize the signs of heat exhaustion, such as dizziness, nausea, or confusion. Seek shade, rest, or immediate medical attention if symptoms worsen.

At Mount Sinai, we are not only committed to educating the community about summer safety but also to ensuring access to expert medical care when emergencies do happen. With three emer-

gency centers located throughout Miami-Dade County, Mount Sinai makes it easier for residents and visitors to receive high-quality care without the need to travel far—an especially vital service during the busy and often unpredictable summer season.

These modern, fully equipped emergency rooms are staffed by a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, and technicians, ready to handle a wide range of urgent medical needs—from heat-related illnesses and water injuries to burns and allergic reactions.

A final word of caution: While summer is meant for making memories, it's also a time to stay vigilant. Many summer emergencies are preventable with just a few simple precautions. By staying informed and taking action, families in South Florida and beyond can enjoy everything the season has to offer—safely and confidently.

Dr. Frayda Kresch is Vice Chair, Emergency Department, Mount Sinai Medical Center.

E-mail Your Editorial Submissions to editorial@southfloridahospitalnews.com



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All of us at Nicklaus Children's extend our heartfelt thanks to the emergency professionals, doctors, nurses, and EMTs who dedicate their lives to keeping our community safe and healthy. Your tireless passion and commitment to your calling inspire us all. This Emergency Medical Services Week—and every day—we thank you for your service.



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With Strategic Investments in Real Estate, Broward Health is Expanding to Meet Community Needs

Broward Health has launched a strategic and transformative expansion to better meet the evolving healthcare needs of the community. Embarking on the first major construction projects in more than 25 years, Broward Health is expanding with the development of new facilities, strategic real estate acquisitions and enhanced community partnerships.

Through these initiatives, Broward Health remains committed to increasing access to care, improving health outcomes and addressing specific healthcare challenges facing the region.

New Freestanding Emergency Departments

Broward Health to build a new freestanding emergency department in Sunrise. Residents will have access to adult emergency care provided by Broward Health and pediatric emergency care provided by Memorial Healthcare System's Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital. When completed, the facility is expected to serve approximately 15,000 patients annually starting in 2026.

"Sunrise has long been considered a medical desert, lacking necessary medical services for the residents who call that city home," said Shane Strum, Broward Health President and CEO. "We explored a number of ways to mitigate the gap in healthcare and are proud to be teaming up with Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital to bring high-quality emergency care to adults and children who call Sunrise home."

In February 2025, Broward Health celebrated the groundbreaking of the first freestanding emergency department in Lighthouse Point. The two-story, state-of-the-art facility will have 10 exam rooms and will be supported by an additional nine exam rooms on the second floor alongside medical office space. Offering the same level of care as a hospital-based emergency department, including specialized adult treatment, the new facility is expected to treat approximately 18,000 patients annually.

"This facility will not only enhance emergency wait times but also bring peace of mind to families of Lighthouse Point knowing that high-quality healthcare is available close to home," said Lighthouse Point Mayor Kyle Van Buskirk.

In Fort Lauderdale, Broward Health will soon break ground on a freestanding emergency department in Holiday Park. Complete with full emergency services, including on-site imaging, lab work, CT scans and X-rays and 12 exam treatment areas staffed by board certified emergency physicians, the facility will be adjacent to a new 46,000-square-foot YMCA that will serve more than 25,000 children and families.

The YMCA will offer a full-service health and wellness facility, including an aquatics center with a six-lane pool, indoor basketball court, state-of-the-art fitness center, youth sports, summer camps, after school programs, health and wellness programs and community rooms. Broward Health will also occupy 2,000 square feet on the wellness floor of the new YMCA. Together, Broward Health and the YMCA will deliver community health programs designed to improve the quality of health and lives of residents.

Acquiring Land to Develop New Medical Complexes and Physicians Offices

Broward Health recently acquired properties in Fort Lauderdale, Deerfield Beach and Parkland to develop new medical complexes and physician office buildings.

A major milestone was reached with the recent demolition of an aging commercial building on Andrews Avenue. In its place, Broward Health will construct a new eight-story, 188,000-square-foot medical office building on 1.7 acres of land, directly across from Broward Health Medical Center. The facility will feature 160 exam rooms with capacity for an additional 268 rooms if needed, and offer specialized services in cardiol-

ogy, pulmonology, gastroenterology, neuroscience, women's health and primary care. This will be the first new Broward Health facility built in more than 25 years.

"We are excited to announce for two new medical office buildings, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services and expanding our physician practice and specialty care," said Dane Ficco, CEO of the Broward Health Physician Group. "This expansion not only highlights our growth as a trusted healthcare provider, but also reinforces our dedication to improving patient care with the most advanced facilities."

On Broward Health North's 35.23-acre campus in Deerfield Beach, a 114,000-square-foot, six-story medical building with 84 examination rooms is planned. The building will have capacity for an additional 132 rooms, if needed. Clinical services will focus on cardiovascular, neuroscience and orthopedics.

"These projects represent our continued investment in operational excellence and innovation, ensuring our facilities are equipped with cutting-edge technologies and designed for maximum efficiency while embracing the environment in which we live and serve," said David Clark, senior vice president of operations for Broward Health. "This expansion is a pivotal step in strengthening our ability to meet the growing healthcare demands of our community."

Broward Health has secured a seven-acre parcel in Parkland and is currently in negotiation for an adjacent 10-acre parcel for a total of 17-acres for the future development of an outpatient center and other medical facilities. This expansion will address the healthcare demands of the growing Parkland community and enhance access to outpatient services in the area.

Additionally, a three-story building with 16,000 square-feet and 120 parking spaces was recently purchased in Oakland Park for the renovation of a new medical office building — a significant investment that will serve as a key driver of Broward Health's physician recruitment strategy and service lines for primary care, multi-specialty and OB/GYN care.

For more information, visit BrowardHealth.org.



Sunrise



Lighthouse Point



YMCA



Broward Health North

Correction

With sincere apologies to the Nursing Consortium of South Florida for the omission of two important photos which should have accompanied our May cover article "Uniting for the Future: How the Nursing Consortium of Florida Is Shaping the Profession Statewide"



Ralph Egües, Executive Director, Nursing Consortium of South Florida



Vicki D. Caraway, Chief Nursing Officer at the Miami Cancer Institute, and president-elect of the Nursing Consortium of South Florida

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Preparing for the 2025 Hurricane Season: How South Florida Hospitals Are Adapting

As the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season begins, South Florida hospitals and healthcare systems are stepping up their preparedness efforts, implementing new strategies informed by recent experiences and shifting environmental conditions. With the increasing frequency and intensity of tropical storms—partly driven by climate change—medical facilities must not only revisit their emergency protocols but also adapt to new technological, regulatory, and logistical challenges.

One of the most significant changes in hurricane preparedness this year is the integration of advanced climate forecasting tools. Hospitals are looking closely at meteorological services that use artificial intelligence and high-resolution satellite data to provide more precise, long-range storm forecasts. This allows facilities to initiate critical planning and resource



BY CHARLES
MICHELSON, AIA,
ACHA, LEED AP

allocation sooner than in previous years.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic left a lasting imprint on disaster response planning. Healthcare systems have permanently restructured their emergency operations centers (EOCs) to support simultaneous public health crises. Hospitals are maintaining larger stockpiles of personal protective equipment (PPE), securing mobile isolation units, and

ensuring that telehealth infrastructure remains robust to reduce in-hospital exposure risks during and after storms.

Infrastructure resilience has also taken center stage. Many South Florida hospitals have invested in hardening their campuses with flood-resistant materials, elevated mechanical systems, and redundant power sources including solar microgrids and battery storage systems. The goal is to maintain uninterrupted critical services even during prolonged

power outages or flood conditions.

Another notable shift is the emphasis on regional coordination. Health systems are working closely with local emergency management, other hospitals, and eldercare facilities to ensure community-wide continuity of care. These collaborations include joint evacuation plans, resource-sharing agreements, and interoperable communication systems.

Staffing strategies have evolved as well. Recognizing the mental and physical toll of prolonged emergency activation, hospitals are prioritizing workforce wellness. This includes shorter emergency shifts, on-site mental health support, and accommodation for family members of essential staff.

Finally, hospitals are addressing digital security alongside physical readiness. With the rise in cyberattacks on health-

care infrastructure, IT departments are strengthening data backup systems and cybersecurity protocols to ensure patient records remain accessible and protected during a storm.

In sum, South Florida's healthcare providers are not just preparing for the next hurricane, they are future-proofing their institutions. By leveraging new technology, reinforcing physical and digital infrastructure, and deepening community partnerships, they aim to protect both patients and caregivers no matter what this hurricane season may bring.

Charles Michelson is President of Saltz Michelson Architects. For more information, visit www.saltzmichelson.com.

Cover Story: Holy Cross Health's Broward County Expansion Plans in 2025 and Beyond

Continued from page 1

Holy Cross Health Family Health Center

This month, the Holy Cross Health Family Health Center will celebrate its grand opening on the first floor of the Holy Cross Medical Plaza located at 5601 N. Dixie Hwy. in Oakland Park. The 15,000-square-foot facility will address the diverse needs of the local community and serve as a centralized hub for a wide array of healthcare services for patients of all ages, as well as job-readiness programs for adults.

Services will include primary care, annual wellness check-ups, immunizations, social services, pediatric therapy, community education and support, infectious disease management, laboratory services, culinary medicine classes and therapeutic counseling. It will be the only healthcare facility in eastern and northern Broward County to provide pediatric occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language therapy under one roof. The office will feature a low stimulation room for pediatric patients with sensory sensitivities, such as individuals on the autism spectrum. Feeding therapy will be available for infants and toddlers who have trouble swallowing, and patients can learn how to feed themselves using adaptive utensils.

In addition to healthcare services, the Family Health Center will also host workshops for resume writing and interviewing skills labs to assist adults with gaining employment. It'll initially be

open Monday to Friday during normal business hours but will eventually include some evenings and weekends. There are also plans for the Family Health Center to provide on-site dental services and a specialty pharmacy.

The Family Health Center was made possible entirely through philanthropic support, thanks to the generosity of The Jim Moran Foundation, The Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation, S. Donald Sussman, Aetna, Jeffrey Kusch, the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation and many other valued donors.

Holy Cross Health Center with Free-Standing Emergency Department

On the horizon for early next year is the \$41 million Holy Cross Health Center in Deerfield Beach. The new 25,000-square-foot Center will offer comprehensive emergency services, including advanced diagnostic imaging such as X-rays, ultrasound and CT scans and will also have a fully functional on-site laboratory. There will be private treatment and exam rooms, as well as a dedicated ambulance bay for fast and efficient emergency response. The Center's free-standing emergency department seeks to reduce patient wait times and will be open 24/7, making emergency services convenient and accessible to residents of Deerfield Beach and the surrounding communities.

Pierre Monice is President and CEO, Holy Cross Health.

Kindred Hospital South Florida

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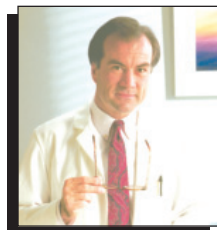


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Camp Southern Ground Offers Help and Healing to Veterans

BY LOIS THOMSON

The dream of a 14-year-old boy has resulted in a place where those who serve their country can receive help and healing.

That 14-year-old boy was Zac Brown, Grammy-Award winning songwriter and musician, and co-founder and lead singer of the Zac Brown Band. However, he is also the founder of Camp Southern Ground in Fayetteville, GA.

Attending camp as a kid growing up in Georgia was where Brown, according to Lacy Gunnoe, fell in love with the experience and grew up wanting to have a camp of his own. The inclusive Camp Southern Ground hosts children ages 7-17 during the summer months for week-long residential camps. They come from all backgrounds, races, and religions, and include typically developing children alongside those with non-typically developing neurodivergent differences.

"Zac worked with his teams to create the Summer Camp inclusion model," Gunnoe said. When asked about the availability of the camp in the fall and spring seasons, Zac responded with, "I want to serve veterans."

As a result, the camp offers three programs for veterans: Warrior Week, Warrior PATHH, and Warrior Family Camp. Gunnoe is Wellbeing Director of the Warrior Week program, which he said focuses on transitioning service



Lacy Gunnoe

members – "those service members who are approaching transition, those in transition, and those who have transitioned but are still not fulfilled with their work. We help them find meaningful careers and purpose-driven work outside of the uniform."

He said they use CliftonStrengths to define the talents that are unique to a person, which are not attached to their former rank or position in the service – these strengths are used to determine how the person is wired to engage in fulfilling work. "We help transitioning veterans find their purpose using their strengths. We use a Gallup-based, holistic approach focused on each area of their overall wellbeing. We use the Warrior Week experience to move the needle in each of those areas."

Additionally, Gunnoe, who assists with the other programs as well, said the intent is to make sure veterans are a part of the community where they live. "I believe that when veterans transition to civilian life, they should be leaders, be citizens, not just civilians."

Warrior PATHH (Progressive Alternative Training for Helping Heroes) is a more intense program designed to aid with post-traumatic growth among combat veterans struggling with PTSD and/or combat stress. "It really helps those veterans who have experienced trauma in different forms, whether during childhood or through their time in the military. It helps them shift forward to growth, which is important to their lives and family."

The Warrior Family Camp is a weekend program where veterans and their families can come in on Friday and leave on Sunday. All family structures – blended, adopted, or unique – are welcome. Gunnoe related that during the weekend, "The veterans are heavily encouraged to use the time as an opportunity to play, have fun connecting around a campfire, and enjoy reconnecting as a family. They have a great time with their kids." This weekend experience offers activities for the children and for the parents. Families interact, share meals, which results in creating a community of support for each other.

Gunnoe pointed out that, "There is no

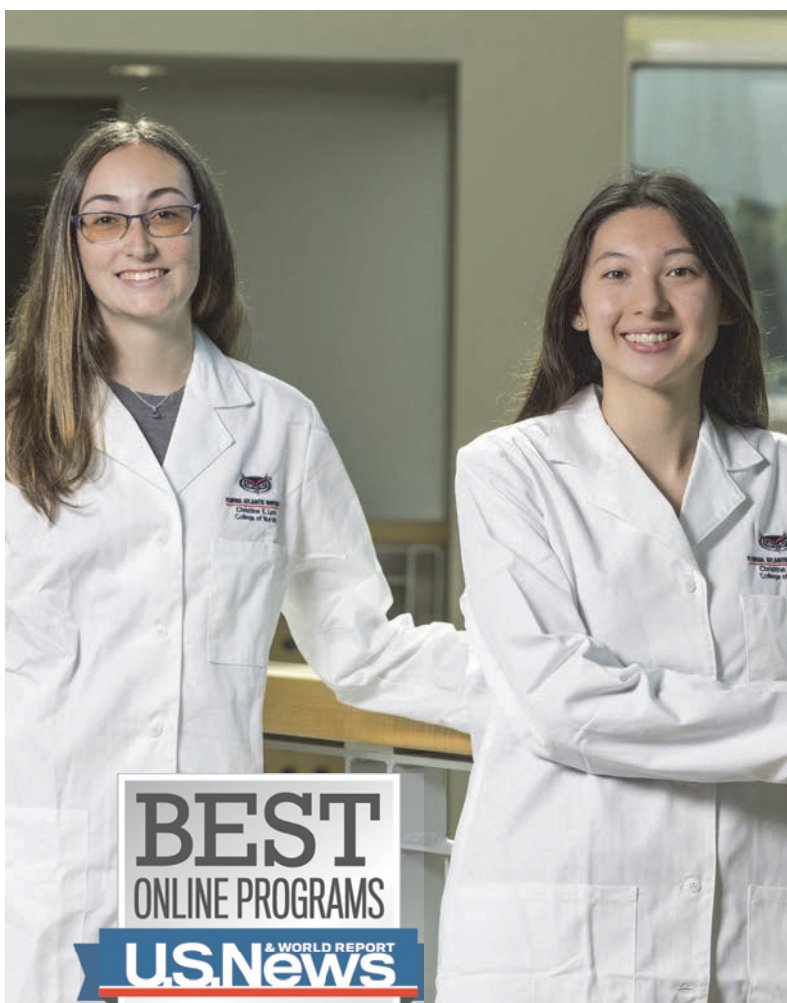
cost to the veteran to attend Warrior Week or Warrior PATHH, we fly them in from anywhere in the world. They get to stay in the lodge and experience that for free." The Warrior Family Camp experience requires a refundable deposit of \$200 that each family decides if they would like to donate to the mission or have placed back in their account.

Gunnoe himself is a 22-year veteran Air Force pilot who retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. The first Warrior Week took place in 2018, and he was part of it from the beginning. "It is such a blessing to have been a part of the very first Warrior Week and to be here now to help deepen the impact of the program."

He explained that some of his friends were starting the camp for Zac Brown and reached out to Gunnoe. He originally came in as a speaker, and as he approached retirement, they asked if he'd like to apply to the Director position. "I thought it was a great transition plan and to go back to something close to my heart. I felt called to do it, and my family feels called to be here."

Sixteen Warrior PATHH Programs are available each year, along with eight weeks of Warrior Programs and five Warrior Family Camps. Eight children's camps run throughout the summer.

More information and registration can be found on the website at www.campsouthernground.org.



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The baccalaureate, master's and DNP programs at Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Cover Story: Honoring Service, Advancing Science: Dr. Candy Wilson on Women Veterans Recognition Day

Continued from page 1

Dr. Wilson reflects on the unity forged through military service.

"Having served alongside some of the most amazing men and women, who do not see gender but another well-trained service member committed to the mission, is truly an honor," she adds.

Nurses in Uniform: History and Hurdles

Women have served or supported every major U.S. conflict, most often as nurses. But their path has rarely been free of challenges.

"Serving in the military is a matter of heart, not gender," Dr. Wilson explains. "The challenges I faced as a woman in the military, particularly when it came to going to war, was from my parents and community at home."

She recalls her father's concern. "My father was not supportive of his little girl going to war. He even said, 'You have a PhD, why would they send you?' But my response to him was, 'This is what I trained for, this is what I do.'"

Support was also limited for military spouses, particularly her husband, raising their children during deployments.

"As a service member, we are only as good as our family is. The family sacrifices too," she emphasizes.

Research with a Mission

At Florida Atlantic University, Dr. Wilson leads several groundbreaking research initiatives focused on active-duty service members and women in uniform, particularly those in the reserves and National Guard.

"I am collaborating with a colleague at the University of Colorado, where we are identifying research gaps that provide medical evidence for supporting women in the reserve and guard," she explains.

This study builds on earlier research that contributed to the landmark decision by the Secretary of Defense to open all military jobs to women. Other projects include the development of a mobile app for reproductive health tailored to military environments, and studies on eating behaviors and pain management interventions for military personnel.

"While on active duty, the final 16 years of my career were focused on research. I secured over \$22 million while active duty for clinical research that helped inform commanders and leaders with the best evidence to support ALL under their leadership, men and women."

Addressing Gaps in Care

When it comes to healthcare disparities, Dr. Wilson points to one area in particular. "I would say the greatest disparity is the



lack of research evidence to support women in the reserve and National Guard," she says. "Women serving in these capacities uproot their lives and careers, often in a moment's notice. This will take time to remedy through funding and designing research to identify the differences in health outcomes."

Educating for Impact

Dr. Wilson believes academic institutions have a vital role in improving veteran healthcare, especially through education and advocacy.

"At the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, we educate nurses at all levels to be good consumers of research and generate the evidence to inform practice," she

says. "This skill is needed in any population."

Through military and veteran support services, universities can also ease the transition into civilian life and recognize the value veterans bring to the classroom.

"Other ways are to see veterans as individuals with special key skills that often provide real-life experiences that enhance college knowledge," she notes.

A Message to Those Who Served

When asked what she wants women veterans—and the public—to remember on June 12, Dr. Wilson keeps it simple.

"Women veterans are honored to serve their country."

And while she hears "thank you for your service" often, her reply reflects humility.

"This statement is very humbling for me. My usual response is, 'Thank you for your support.'"

She adds that the strength of service-women is deeply tied to the encouragement they receive.

"Women serving in the military are only as good as the support we have from the public."

For more information, visit health.fau.edu.

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

Lee Health Foundation Hires Jason Grill as Director of Development

Jason Grill has been hired as director of development at Lee Health Foundation to provide donor relations in the Naples community, fundraising for Lee Health and Golisano Children's Hospital initiatives, and assisting with Lee Health Foundation sponsored events to support the organization's lifesaving mission.

Grill has previous experience working with nonprofits, managing development efforts across individual giving, grants and corporate sponsorships. He graduated from Duke University in 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Studies.



Jason Grill

Broward Health's Melida Akiti Recognized as one of Modern Healthcare's Leading Women

Broward Health is proud to announce that Melida Akiti, Corporate Transformation Executive, was recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of the Leading Women for 2025. This prestigious, national recognition acknowledges and honors women executives from all sectors of the healthcare industry for their contributions to care delivery improvement, health equity and policy in healthcare leadership. "Enhancing access to care and improving health outcomes, especially tackling pressing primary and maternal healthcare needs, is my passion," said Akiti.

"This is an incredible honor, and I'm humbled to be recognized along with this incredible class of leading women in healthcare." In her role, Akiti collaborates with executive management and oversees strategic planning and partnerships for Broward HealthPoint, ACO/Population Health, Weston Urgent Care and Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center. Akiti feels her years of experience culminated with the launch of Better

Together, a new collaboration between Broward Health and Memorial Healthcare System that will address remaining health deserts and communities impacted by health disparities by creating brick and mortar, mobile and virtual health delivery models for primary and maternal services.



Melida Akiti



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Cleveland Clinic Models Standard for Primary Care Access

There are many patients who, for many reasons, may need to switch or establish a new primary care provider (PCP). This puts an undue burden on patients trying to navigate their care and tends to divert them to other care settings – like emergency rooms – for non-emergent care, straining the health care system.

In 2023, Cleveland Clinic Florida launched an innovative model, including a Clinical Access Team (CAT) program, to overcome these access barriers, bridge care gaps and get patients the timely care, follow ups and annual wellness visits they need.

Within the first year of the CAT program, Cleveland Clinic Florida reduced wait times by 66 percent across its five hospitals for new patients seeking primary care appointments.

Regionally, the wait time for primary care appointments went from 67 days, as an average, to 30 days today. At the start of this initiative, we saw primary care patients an average of 1.7 times per year. Now, an average patient is assured 3.2 visits a year, almost double where we found ourselves at the start, and double the national average. This means more patients get access to annual wellness visits, where they can talk about chronic disease management and receive preventive screenings.

Paths to Care

To reduce the wait times, we divided our work around traditional pathways and innovation.

The traditional pathways involved hiring more primary care doctors. We needed to recruit 40-50 primary care clinicians. We also needed to manage the flow of patients and bundle visits creatively. High value visits, such as wellness visits and hospital transition care visits, were also important.

Recruitment gives way to onboarding and managing the flow of patients. We also implemented “permissive bundling” of visits and focused on high value visits. We managed our templates, which involved creating an efficient parking lot system for patient appointments.

The last bucket of work was innovation, where the Clinical Access Team (CAT) came in.

At Cleveland Clinic, we believe models like CAT should be the standard for primary care. This model pairs a physician with two advanced practice providers (APPs) to ensure patients have timely access to primary care services during episodes of acute need. These teams are embedded across Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Weston Hospital, Martin Health and Indian River Hospital.

To help physicians manage the digital work, each of Cleveland Clinic’s Florida markets have two designated “In-Basket Captains” who support prescription refills, form management and monitoring MyChart communications. These individuals support the digital workloads to free up time for clinicians providing direct patient care. This additional layer of support also helps during time off, as physicians return to



BY SURENDRA P. KHERA, MD, MSC

empty in-baskets and know their patients continue to have their medical needs met in a timely manner.

Additionally, Weston Hospital and Martin Health have Express Care teams consisting of nurse practitioners and physician assistants providing walk-in care services. They ensure Cleveland Clinic patients have same-day access to care for common medical issues, such as cold and flu symptoms, urinary tract infections and digestive complaints, among others.

By working in a collaborative care model along with APPs, we formalize the relation between a physician and APP to manage a segment of the population together. We’ve also grouped together complex cases to better help patients who either

have more than five active conditions or take more than five to seven high-risk medications. We prioritize their visits and allow them to follow-up with the primary care physician.

Bringing stability to access

Our physician turnover rate has dropped significantly. The work we have done in creating access, offloading them, creating clinical access teams, in-basket support, and enhanced onboarding is paying off. Better support for physicians has brought stability to patient access.

Using the CAT program model, we also find that patients are empowered to use the MyChart portal to take control of their scheduling, increasing their chances of seeing a physician or APP sooner, including telemedicine appointments.

A key point is that sometimes we choose efficiency over reimbursement. Even if it would be more reimbursable to have a patient see a physician over an APP, Cleveland Clinic decided that our APPs would see new patients. We also allowed illness and wellness visits bundling. That means not only do I see you for your wellness visit, but I’ll also address your hypertension or diabetes – making visits more efficient for patients.

We ended 2024 at 74% annual wellness visits completion. And we were invited to present at the National ACO Convention because that number is a national high.

Early feedback indicates that administrative teams have also benefited from improved workload management, allowing more resources for assisting patients in need and making positive improvements in clinician burnout. The program’s blueprint is scalable to other regions facing similar access and care challenges in Florida and beyond. In addition, the program contributes to value-based care and long-term cost savings initiatives, benefiting both the health care system and patients throughout Florida.

Visit consultqd.clevelandclinic.org to learn more about the Primary Care Institute’s Clinical Access Teams.

Dr. Surendra P. Khera is Vice-Chief of the Primary Care Institute at Cleveland Clinic Florida.

Health Care District of Palm Beach County Launches Operation: COAST

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County, alongside local law enforcement partners, recently announced the latest community mental health partnership to combat the cycle of crisis, Operation: COAST (Crisis Outreach and Support Team). Operation: COAST is a mental health partnership with local law enforcement partners in Palm Beach County that:

- Deploys peer responders and therapists alongside the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office in response to mental health-related 911 calls.
- De-escalates situations that otherwise would have resulted in unnecessary Baker Acts or incarceration.
- Alleviates overutilization of the 911 system as a mental health resource.
- Provides law enforcement partners an appropriate place to take those in crisis to get specialized and immediate outpatient psychiatric care at the Health Care District’s Community Health Center in northeast West Palm Beach. Currently, over 80% of COAST drop-offs are complete in 20 minutes, allowing critical front-line law enforcement to efficiently protect and serve.
- Gives patients a medical home through the Health Care

District for continued comprehensive and psychiatric outpatient care to prevent additional crises and support overall wellness.

“Before Operation: COAST, law enforcement only had two tools in their toolbox when responding to crisis calls: hospitalization or jail. Within six months, less than 2% of Operation: COAST patients transported to our Community Health Center required a Baker Act,” said Darcy J. Davis, President and CEO of the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. “Together, we’re strengthening crisis response and making mental health care more accessible and upstream - before situations become emergencies.”

“Over 300 patients have been served through Operation: COAST,” said Courtney Phillips, M.D., Vice President of Behavioral Health at the Health Care District. “That’s 300 people who could have been another unnecessary Baker Act, hospitalization, or incarceration. To put that into perspective, that’s how many people were Baker Acted over three times in a 180-day period in Palm Beach County between 2023 and 2024. The evidence is clear. By joining forces with our law enforcement partners under Operation: COAST, this is just the beginning of a sustainable and monumental program that is already saving lives.”

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Podiatrist Amanda Allen, MPA, DPM Steps into New Role at Holy Cross Medical Group

Podiatrist Amanda Allen, MBA, DPM, has joined Holy Cross Medical Group.

Most recently, Dr. Allen was with Orthopaedic Associates of Miami Lakes and Memorial Hospital Pembroke-Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Pembroke Pines.

Board-certified by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine and by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery in foot surgery, Dr. Allen is also a fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgery and a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association.

Dr. Allen earned her Bachelor of Arts in Biology with minors in chemistry and business from the University of Denver in Colorado and her Master of Business Administration with a health services administration focus and Doctor of Podiatric Medicine from Barry University in Miami Shores. She then completed her postgraduate training with a three-year foot and ankle surgical residency at Memorial Healthcare System in Hollywood, serving as Chief Resident during her final year. Following her residency, Dr. Allen continued on to the Westside Podiatry Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Fellowship at Westside Hospital in Plantation, where she focused on foot and ankle surgery, trauma and reconstruction.



Dr. Amanda Allen

Neurological Institute at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital Welcomes New Site Director

Cleveland Clinic welcomes Christopher Deline, M.D., as Site Director of the Neurological Institute at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital. He earned his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Miramar, Florida, and completed his residency and fellowship in neurology and vascular neurology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. Board-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in both neurology and vascular neurology, Dr. Deline has a special interest in cerebrovascular disease and provides deep expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of complex neurological conditions. In his leadership role, he is dedicated to delivering world-class, patient-centered care and advancing the scope of neurological services available in the Vero Beach community.



Dr. Christopher Deline

Neurosurgeon Joins Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital

Vicente Coelho, M.D., is a board-certified neurosurgeon at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital in Vero Beach. Certified by the Brazilian Board of Neurological Surgery, he brings extensive training and experience in complex spinal and brain procedures. Dr. Coelho earned his medical degree from the Federal University of Ceará in Brazil, completed his neurosurgical residency at the Clinics Hospital of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo, Brazil. He completed fellowships in neurosurgery and spine oncology at The Ohio State University and in minimally invasive spine surgery at Rush University Medical Center. Dr. Coelho specializes in minimally invasive and endoscopic spine surgery, spine and spinal cord tumor removal, kyphoplasty and brain tumor surgery.



Dr. Vicente Coelho

Broward Health Physician Group Names Edward A. Perez, MD, Chief of Orthopedics

Edward A. Perez, M.D., an orthopedic trauma surgeon with more than 20 years of experience, has been named chief of orthopedics and orthopedic trauma for the Broward Health Physician Group. Before he joined the Broward Health Physician Group in 2019, Dr. Perez served as the service chief of orthopedics at Regional One Health in Memphis, TN, and was a professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Tennessee/Campbell Clinic. Dr. Perez received a bachelor's degree from Creighton University in Omaha, NE, and his medical degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago, IL. He completed a residency in orthopedic surgery at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. He then completed a fellowship in orthopedic trauma at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, MD.



Dr. Edward A. Perez

Baptist Health Foundation Installs Michael J. Zinner, MD, as Endowed Chair at Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute

Baptist Health Foundation hosted a ceremony and dinner at The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami in celebration of the Michael J. Zinner, M.D. Endowed Chair in Cancer Care. The chair will support the work of Michael J. Zinner, M.D., CEO and executive medical director of Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute and Baptist Health Cancer Care. More than 120 guests attended the event, which was highlighted by the formal presentation of the chair to Dr. Zinner.

Funding for the chair was spearheaded by Miami Cancer Institute Governing Board chair Sherrill W. Hudson and Board member Michele Kessler, who along with several other donors, helped raise \$3 million in support.

Funds from the endowment will support cancer research, research associates and new unfunded or underfunded programs at Miami Cancer Institute.



Michael J. Zinner

Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute Names Sarbajit Mukherjee, M.D., MS, Chief of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology

Board-certified gastrointestinal medical oncologist Sarbajit Mukherjee, M.D., MS, has been named chief of gastrointestinal medical oncology at Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute. Dr. Mukherjee specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of cancers of the gastrointestinal tract. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology.

Prior to joining Miami Cancer Institute, Dr. Mukherjee was an associate professor of oncology and associate professor of immunology and served as co-leader of the gastrointestinal translational research group at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, NY.

Dr. Mukherjee earned his medical degree at Nilratan Sircar Medical College, West Bengal University of Health Sciences in India. He gained experience in translational research and clinical trial design through a master's program in clinical and translational science at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. His clinical training includes an internal medicine residency at Saint Joseph Hospital in Chicago and a hematology-oncology fellowship at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.



Dr. Sarbajit Mukherjee

World-Renowned Cardiologist Dr. Shyam Sathanandam Joins Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute as Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine

Globally recognized pediatric interventional cardiologist Dr. Shyam Sathanandam has joined Nicklaus Children's Hospital as chief of cardiovascular medicine and co-director of the renowned Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute.

Dr. Sathanandam brings to Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute extensive experience in pediatric cardiology and interventional catheterization. He served since 2017 as the director of the catheterization lab at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN. During this tenure, he was instrumental in strengthening the Pediatric Cardiology and Interventional Cardiology Program and also launched the International PDA Symposium in 2018, the first multispecialty global conference dedicated to advancing the management of PDA in preterm newborns.

Dr. Sathanandam is a leader in pediatric cardiology research and has served as principal investigator on numerous national clinical trials, several of which have resulted in FDA approval of life-saving devices for newborns and infants. He has pioneered groundbreaking procedures, including bedside transcatheter PDA closure in extremely premature infants in the NICU, pulmonary flow reduction in neonates with complex congenital heart disease, and stent therapies for infants.



Dr. Shyam Sathanandam



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A message from our President

Panacea: Glucagon-like Peptide 1 Receptor Agonists (GLP-1 RAs)

Over the next decade, GLP-1 RAs could reshape the trajectory of chronic disease in the U.S., potentially improving millions of lives and reducing downstream healthcare costs. However, the scale and equity of impact will hinge on pricing, policy decisions, and access strategies. For hospitals and healthcare providers, the shift may require rethinking care delivery models—from managing complex chronic patients to promoting upstream prevention.

Driving in South Florida has become for me a time when I am able to listen to various podcasts. While listening to podcasts talking about the Florida State Seminoles might rate very high, as I was recently driving to a meeting in Fort Lauderdale I listened to a podcast featuring Dr. Eric Topol.

For those of you who have not read or heard about Dr. Topol, he is a prominent American cardiologist, geneticist, and digital health advocate known for his visionary leadership in the convergence of medicine and technology. A professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research and founder of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, Dr. Topol has been a pioneer in promoting precision medicine, artificial intelligence in healthcare, and the democratization of medical information.

“While the three researchers —Daniel Drucker, Joel Haebner and Jens Juul Holst—who discovered GLP-1 have been widely and appropriately recognized for this groundbreaking work, it was developed exclusively for the treatment of diabetes.” It has been an uphill battle (two decades) getting this drug recognized as a treatment for obesity. Now, the possibilities have opened up in terms of new uses for this family of drugs such as semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro, Zepbound).



Jaime Caldwell

Parkinson's Disease?

In several, but small, randomized clinical trials using lixisenatide, a GLP-1 drug, participants who received the drug experience no change in their Movement Disorder Scale-Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale. In a couple of studies using exenatide, "There is a strong indication that GLP-1 receptor agonists may have a useful role in future treatment of Parkinson's disease." Of interest, lixisenatide and exenatide are much weaker GLP-1 drugs compared with semaglutide.

Obesity/Weight Loss?

In nine clinical trials of both injectable and oral administrations, average weight loss ranges from 15 to 25 pounds. Also noted are significant reductions in overall inflammation preceding weight loss.

Heart Failure?

“More than half of patients with heart failure have preserved pump function, as quantified by ejection fraction. Their heart failure symptoms and physical limitations are due to impaired filling and relaxation of the left ventricle.”

Neurological Disorders?

EVOKE and EVOKE+ Trials: These studies are investigating semaglutide's potential in treating early-stage Alzheimer's disease. Preliminary findings suggest that GLP-1 RAs may slow cognitive decline by addressing multiple pathological processes involved in Alzheimer's.

The list seems endless. I haven't mentioned use of semaglutide in treating addictive disorders or even sleep apnea. This is just one family of drugs that hold great promise. With the use of AI, what other advances will be seeing in the near future?

Coming next month in **South Florida Hospital News and Healthcare Report...**

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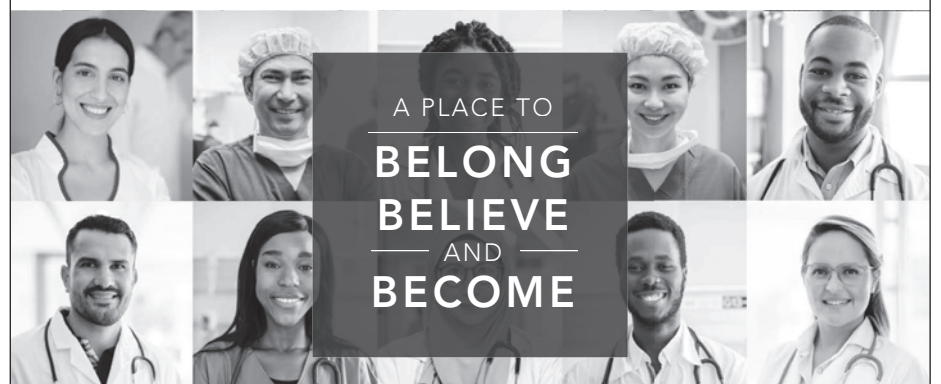
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WHAT'S NEW...WHAT'S NEW...WHAT'S NEW...

The Pap Corps Champions for Cancer Research Donates \$3.4 Million to Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center



(l-r) Jayne Sylvester Malfitano, Susan Dinter, Sally Berenzweig and Dr. Antonio Iavarone

The Pap Corps Champions for Cancer Research presented a \$3.4 million check to Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at their annual May Breakfast at Broken Sound Country Club. The event in Boca Raton brought together hundreds of enthusiastic Pap Corps volunteers, prominent sponsors, and Sylvester leaders, who celebrated the organization's 73-year commitment to funding vital research at South Florida's only NCI-Designated Cancer Center.

Dr. Antonio Iavarone, Deputy Director of Sylvester, underscored the significance of the nonprofit, stating, "The tools at our disposal come from research ... and The Pap Corps is our essential partner. We could not survive without you!"

The May breakfast marks the culmination of a year-long fundraising effort by The Pap Corps' over 20,000 members across nearly 50 South Florida chapters, bolstered by the generous support of individual and corporate sponsors dedicated to their critical mission.

"I am so proud of our amazing members," declared Sally Berenzweig, CEO of The Pap Corps. "Their creative fundraising efforts throughout the year foster a unique bond, all driven by the desire to bring hope for a future to those diagnosed with cancer."

The event also featured the recognition of top donors, the honoring of retiring chapter presidents, and the welcoming of new leadership.

"It is with such joy that we gather today to celebrate our members and the unique role our organization plays in advancing lifesaving cancer treatments," said Susan Dinter, Pap Corps Chair of the Board. "While we look forward to a world without cancer, The Pap Corps remains steadfast in its support until that goal is achieved."

Haller Foundation's Gift to Broward Health: A Legacy of Service and Vision

In a world where philanthropy is often seen as a financial transaction, the Henry E. Haller Jr. Foundation is redefining what it means to give. With a deep-rooted commitment to service leadership, Linda Haller and her family foundation recently made a significant investment in the future of Broward Health – a \$5.2 million gift announced at the 12th Annual Broward Health Ball. This funding will leave a lasting impact on the community as it will be used to build two new labs at Broward Health Medical Center in downtown Fort Lauderdale, both with cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology capabilities and equipped with Siemens Artis Icono systems.

"These labs will help us meet the growing needs of our community by expanding our capacity to treat cardiac patients, whether they come to us for scheduled or emergency care," said Jenna Merlucci, vice president of heart and vascular services at Broward Health. "We're excited about the precise imaging and emphasis on safety and efficiency that the advanced technology enables when used to treat conditions, including cardiac arrhythmias, coronary heart disease and structural heart disease."

The gift to the Broward Health Foundation is not merely a donation; it is an investment in the future of healthcare in South Florida. "We believe in leaving a legacy," said Linda Haller. "A lasting impact is never forgotten, and donors with true vision see opportunities to make a difference beyond themselves."

The Haller Foundation operates with a guiding philosophy: true philanthropy requires active engagement, a clear vision and a commitment to long-term transformation. Haller explained, "We are keenly aware that everything we do should be in service to others. Honor, hard work and public service are values that have guided us, and we believe that effective philanthropy means rolling up our sleeves and being involved."



Broward Health CEO Shane Strum with Linda Haller

Tampa General Hospital and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County Outline Vision for Lakeside Medical Center at Community-Wide Town Hall

Tampa General Hospital and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County recently welcomed residents of the Glades to the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center in Belle Glade to discuss their new partnership at Lakeside Medical Center.

Before nearly 200 attendees, Tampa General president and CEO John Couris outlined the shared vision for the region's safety net hospital, including expanding services and targeted initiatives to recruit and retain a strong workforce of physicians and health care providers.

"Lakeside Medical Center represents a true partnership – one that combines the best of the Glades community with the expertise and quality care of one of the nation's leading academic health systems," said Couris. "Hearing from the community this week gives us a much better sense of what residents want to gain from their local hospital. Together, we will elevate the level of care available in this region, increase access to specialists, and leverage technology and research findings to improve health outcomes for Glades residents with the most complex conditions."

Darcy J. Davis, president and CEO of the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, discussed why the District sought a strong partnership with an academic health system to enhance Lakeside Medical Center, which the Health Care District owns and operates.

"Community engagement is critical to our mission at the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. This Town Hall was a tremendous success and allowed us to be transparent and honest about the future of Lakeside Medical Center alongside Tampa General," Davis said. "Together, we will keep care local, keep it strong and keep it innovative for generations of Glades residents."

Tampa General Hospital and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County reached a Management and Administrative Services Agreement on Feb. 1 for Tampa General to provide administrative leadership, operational management and strategic support for Lakeside Medical Center, the only rural teaching hospital in Florida.

The joint mission of this partnership is to:

1. Advance access to high-quality health care close to home
2. Improve community health by supporting better outcomes
3. Enhance clinical services and innovation at Lakeside Medical Center



Darcy J. Davis and John Couris

Hospice Choices: VITAS® Healthcare Is Now Serving Marion County, Florida

Residents of North Central Florida now have easier access to high-quality, compassionate hospice services from the nation's leading provider of end-of-life care. VITAS Healthcare recently began accepting hospice-eligible patients in Marion County and delivering expert comfort care that improves patients' quality of life wherever they call home.

"In Marion County, there is a clear need for high-acuity hospice care that VITAS is uniquely equipped to provide," said Jennifer Nygaard, senior vice president of operations for VITAS in North Florida. "Our teams are experienced in managing complex medical needs—whether it's IV therapies, ventilators, high-flow oxygen, cardiac infusions or specialized equipment—and we're equally committed to supporting families through challenging dynamics. We're proud to bring our compassionate, can-do approach to this community and help fill a critical gap in care."

At VITAS, every hospice patient receives care from a team of specially trained healthcare professionals who ensure that they live their remaining months, weeks and days in comfort and with dignity. The interdisciplinary team includes a physician, hospice nurse, hospice aide, social worker, volunteer, chaplain and bereavement specialist.

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

Tampa General Hospital Enhances Heart Care with Cutting-Edge Imaging Technology



Tampa General Hospital celebrated the addition of two GE Healthcare Revolution APEX 512-Slice computed tomography (CT) scanners which leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies to deliver faster, clearer and more precise scans.

Tampa General Hospital (TGH) is raising the bar for heart care with the addition of two GE Healthcare Revolution APEX 512-Slice computed tomography (CT) scanners. The advanced scanners leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies to deliver faster, clearer and more precise scans, refining diagnoses and treatments of cardiovascular diseases.

The purchase of the scanners was made possible thanks to a generous gift by the Ferman family to the TGH Foundation. One is located at the TGH Ferman Family Imaging Center in Tampa General Hospital Diagnostic Imaging on the Davis Islands campus; the other is being used for inpatient examinations within the hospital itself.

"This technology is a game-changer for cardiac imaging at Tampa General," remarked Dr. Shone Almeida, director of the Cardiac CT program at Tampa General and a faculty member of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. "With sharper images and faster scan times, we can diagnose heart disease with greater confidence, allowing cardiologists to make better treatment decisions and improve patient outcomes."

The 512-slice CT scanner is a cornerstone of the TGH Cardiometabolic Disease Prevention Program, providing highly detailed images of the heart and coronary arteries. The program focuses on early detection, risk assessment and personalized interventions to prevent the progression of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases such as diabetes and obesity-related heart conditions.

The Revolution APEX CT scanner leverages advanced AI to enhance image quality and enable rapid scanning with motion correction — providing exceptional precision for complex cardiac and routine cases. Its ultra-high resolution is ideal for detailed visualization of cerebral blood vessels and musculoskeletal structures. By capturing larger areas of the body in a single rotation, the system helps to reduce the need for multiple scans and improves diagnostic accuracy with sharper, more precise, images. Additionally, faster scan times and dose-reduction technologies enhance patient safety and comfort, contributing to a more positive overall patient experience.

Baptist Health Expands Proton Therapy Capabilities at Eugene M. & Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute

Baptist Health South Florida is proud to announce a significant milestone in the expansion of its proton therapy capabilities at the Eugene M. & Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute. On April 8, the Cyclotron, critical to delivering precise and targeted cancer treatment, was successfully delivered to the Institute. The Gantry, another essential component of the proton therapy system, arrived shortly after, with installation now underway.

This marks the second proton therapy system within Baptist Health Cancer Care, reinforcing the organization's commitment to expanding access to advanced cancer care throughout South Florida. Once operational, the Lynn Cancer Institute's Proton Therapy Center will offer patients in Boca Raton and surrounding communities' access to one of the most innovative treatment options in radiation oncology without the need to travel far from home.



Holy Cross Health Surgeon Michael Perez, MD, Performs Milestone 1,000th Robotic Surgery Using da Vinci Xi Surgical System



Dr. Michael Perez with his team

Holy Cross Health general surgeon Michael Perez, M.D., has completed a milestone 1,000 laparoscopic surgeries using the da Vinci Xi™ Surgical System.

By enabling efficient access throughout the abdomen or chest, the da Vinci Xi System expands upon core da Vinci System features, including wristed instruments, 3D-HD visualization, intuitive motion and an ergonomic design. As with all da Vinci models, the surgeon completely controls the robotic arms, allowing for smaller, more precise placement of tiny instruments inside the patient's body. The magnification capabilities allow surgeons to get a clear and enlarged view of the area being operated on. Benefits of this minimally invasive technology may include significantly less pain, less blood loss, fewer complications, less scarring, a shorter hospital stay and a faster return to normal daily activities for the patient.



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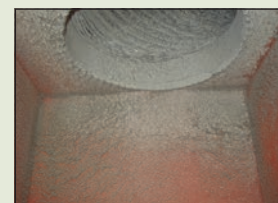
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“Steady PACers” Helps Seniors at Mount Sinai Eldercare Stay Connected, Healthy, and Fit

Mount Sinai Medical Center is committed to staying at the forefront of healthcare, whether that is using new and evolving technology, introducing innovative health-care models, and incorporating the latest treatments. As part of this mission, Mount Sinai Eldercare—a licensed CMS Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)—has launched Steady PACers, a fitness program designed to engage program participants to take charge of their health and fitness goals and prevent health decline.

Over the past few months, this individualized program has brought together physical, occupational, and recreational therapists to aid seniors with activities of daily living, functional mobility, strengthening, health decline prevention, contracture management, and improving overall quality of life.

As people age, their skeletal muscle function tends to decline, according to a study in the BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine. Mount Sinai Eldercare’s new fitness concept is designed to counteract this decline by promoting optimal physical, mental, and psychosocial functioning.

“While we have provided occupational, physical, and recreational training to our program participants since our inception, this branded program takes the best of each specialty, offering a synergistic and all-encompassing approach to fitness and movement,” explains Lynda Barcelo, Vice President of Managed Care and Population Health at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

All individualized programs are participant-specific based on cognitive and physical function. Prior to signing up for the program, participants will undergo evaluation by our physical and occupational therapists to determine their program type, per PACE guidelines. The Steady PACers program will also extend beyond the 30-minute customized exercise sessions to include educational seminars, group therapy classes, and more.

Mount Sinai Eldercare is home to an interdisciplinary team of health care professionals who work with patients and families to provide comprehensive care to each participant. This nationally recognized health care model is designed to aid individuals in avoiding or delaying their placement in a skilled nursing facility.

In addition to Steady PACers, Eldercare services include, but are not limited to, adult day care, primary and specialty medical care, rehabilitation and therapy services, nursing support, medications, diagnostic tests (laboratory and imaging), nutritional counseling and meals, home care services, and transportation to and from the center and medical appointments.

“Eldercare is aimed at allowing our participants to continue living safely within the communities they know and love,” explains Gino R. Santorio, President and CEO of Mount Sinai Medical Center. “Our program allows us to deliver comprehensive, high-quality care, while ensuring that some of the most vulnerable individuals we care for have the opportunity to live healthy, independent lives.”

Mount Sinai’s Eldercare location occupies more than 12,000 square feet of space, which includes a dedicated clinic, exam rooms, and the newest diagnostic equipment. The expansive activity and dining area allows individuals to engage, socialize, relax, and participate in a variety of activities and meals.

“We are pleased to offer access to our brand of high-quality care, with this exciting program aimed at providing all-encompassing services to elders in the Miami community,” says Santorio. “This multidisciplinary approach to care aligns with Mount Sinai’s mission and vision and essentially offers program participants access to the care they need, all in one place.”

Conceptualized and designed to engage and inspire participants, Mount Sinai Eldercare offers unmatched care, support, and compassion for those who qualify.

MARCUS NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE LAUNCHES GUIDE PROGRAM TO ENHANCE DEMENTIA CARE

Marcus Neuroscience Institute, part of Baptist Health South Florida, located at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, is proud to announce its participation in the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model, a nationwide initiative designed to assist in the management of dementia care. The GUIDE program aims to significantly improve the quality of life for individuals living with dementia while also easing the burden on their caregivers through comprehensive, coordinated services.

The GUIDE Model focuses on several areas, including care coordination, implementing a standardized approach to dementia care and management; support for caregivers, giving them much-needed relief, training, and support; and community integration, which aims to help individuals with the disease to remain in their homes for as long as possible.

“Participating in the GUIDE program is a testament to Marcus Neuroscience Institute’s commitment to delivering exceptional care to our patients and their families,” said Peter Gliabus, M.D., director of cognitive and behavioral neurology at Marcus Neuroscience Institute, part of Baptist Health. “We are dedicated to not only improving the lives of those living with dementia but also supporting the caregivers who are so crucial to their well-being.”

Skilled Nursing Center Receives National Awards as 2025 Best Nursing Home

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County’s Skilled Nursing Center (formerly Healey Center) has earned three prestigious distinctions for nursing home excellence:

- *Newsweek’s* “America’s Best Nursing Homes 2025”
- *U.S. News & World Report’s* highest honor for both short-term rehabilitation and long-term care
- 2024 Silver National Quality Award from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL)

The Health Care District’s Skilled Nursing Center is home to a younger adult population than most nursing facilities, with an average resident age of 65, many of whom have experienced traumatic injuries, strokes, or debilitating illnesses. The center’s healthcare team is dedicated to helping residents achieve and maintain optimal levels of physical and social function. With five hours of nurse staffing per resident per day, significantly exceeding the state average of three hours and 52 minutes and the national average of three hours and 46 minutes, the center ensures a high level of care. Research shows that higher nurse staffing levels are linked to improved safety and better overall health outcomes for residents.



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Florida Atlantic University is home to the 15-month Executive Master of Health Administration (EMHA) program designed for working professionals looking to enhance their career. The program offers the convenience to complete the master's degree in a structured 15-month cohort program offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The EMHA program will expand student's qualifications for challenging leadership positions in various healthcare sectors. Students are given the tools to help foster change in a dynamic, ever-changing environment. Call (561) 297-6000 or visit www.business.fau.edu/emha.

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE - MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS

Students at the Medical Campus learn as they build their experience in state-of-the-art facilities. Students practice their skills on human patient simulators - manikins capable of mimicking more than 200 illnesses and conditions. The Campus offers a variety of disciplines in nursing and allied health. There are more than 20 options, including bachelor's degree programs and training certificates that can put you on the fast track to an exciting career in healthcare. For more information, contact 305-237-4141 or visit <http://www.mdc.edu/medical/academic-departments> for more information.

SOUTH UNIVERSITY

South University is a nonprofit institution offering educational opportunities for intellectual, social and professional development. With a 120-year story, our community is one where you can belong, believe and become. Providing excellent student services since 1981, the beautiful West Palm Beach Campus, with its landmark Clock Tower, is ideally located in the Palm Beaches of Florida. Regardless of pursuing an associate degree, baccalaureate, masters, or doctorate, our campus offers something for all. South University - West Palm Beach (561) 273-6500 • Toll-free 1-866-242-1840 www.southuniversity.edu/westpalmbeach

HEALTHCARE ACCOUNTING AND ADVISORY

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BDO, one of the nation's leading accounting and advisory firms, understands the unique accounting, financial, and advisory requirements that deserve experienced attention in the healthcare sector. The BDO Center for Healthcare Excellence & Innovation brings together healthcare professionals with the knowledge, expertise and necessary resources to help organizations of all kinds navigate risk, make informed investment decisions, and seize opportunities. With offices in South Florida and across the U.S., we stand ready to deliver fresh insights and help you prosper in this ever-changing healthcare environment. For more information, visit bdo.com or contact Angelo Pirozzi, apirozzi@bdo.com.

HEALTHCARE STAFFING

SAFEGUARD HEALTHCARE

Safeguard Healthcare, a hospital and healthcare staffing company based in South Florida, provides contracted healthcare personnel resources, as well as contract-to-hire, and permanent placements. Areas of Support include: Information Technology, Medical Records, Business Office, Nursing, Clinical Departments, Central Supply and Food Services. Email gthompson@safeguard-healthcare.com, (954)412-2075, or visit www.safeguardhealthcare.com

HOMECARE SERVICES

MORSELIFE HOME HEALTH CARE

MorseLife, a recognized leader in exceptional healthcare, housing and support services for seniors in Palm Beach County, delivers home health care catered to individual needs enabling people to live as independently as possible. Assistance with personal care, homemaking, neighborhood errands and companionship is offered from one hour visits to 24/7 in-home, hospital, rehab centers, nursing homes and independent/assisted living settings. License #HHA21179096. Visit <https://morselife.org/home-health-care/> or call (561) 599-5770.

HOSPICE

VITAS® HEALTHCARE PATIENTS AND FAMILIES COME FIRST

When someone you love is seriously ill, there are so many decisions to be made. VITAS helps you make care transitions that make sense: From hospital to home. From focusing on the disease to focusing on the patient. From coping on your own to being part of a team. We have served Dade-Monroe, Broward and Palm Beach counties since 1978. For information or referral, call 800.723.3233 or go to VITAS.com.

INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

RISK STRATEGIES

Danna-Grace, the largest independent medical malpractice insurance agency in Florida, dedicated to providing insurance coverage placement for doctors and other health care providers over the past 20 years, is now a part of Risk Strategies. Risk Strategies is a leading national specialty insurance brokerage and risk management firm offering comprehensive risk management advice and insurance and reinsurance placement for property & casualty, and employee benefits risks. With more than 30 specialty practices, Risk Strategies serves commercial companies, nonprofits, public entities, and individuals, and has access to all major insurance markets. For more information, contact Matt Gracey at matt@dannagracey.com or (561) 276-3553.

MARITAL & FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY

NEAVE FAMILY LAW, P.A.

Neave Family Law, P.A., provides legal services in the area of marital and family law. When family law matters must be decided by the legal system, the process can be complicated by heated emotions and financial turmoil. It is the goal of Neave Family Law, P.A., to guide you through the legal process and remove as much financial stress as possible. For a consultation, please call (954) 981-2200 or visit www.divorcelawyerfortlauderdale.com.

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS BOARDROOMPR

BoardroomPR is a full-service PR and integrated marketing agency, leveraging the skills of our staff of former journalists, PR and marketing pros and multimedia specialists to provide visibility across numerous platforms to our healthcare clients. We combine PR with digital and branding campaigns to build brand and business. For more information, contact Don Silver at donsil@boardroompr.com.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Dade County Medical Association (DCMA) – "The voice of Physicians in Miami Dade County." Supporting its members in all aspects of the practice of medicine; to serve physicians and their patients by establishing and promoting ethical, educational and clinical standards for the medical profession, and to advocate the highest principle of all, the integrity of the patient/physician relationship. For more information: visit the website www.miamimed.com or please call Angel Bosch at (305) 324-8717 or email Angel at abosch@miamimed.com

PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE

CANO HEALTH - PRIMARY CARE

Cano Health is a high-touch, technology-driven healthcare company committed to delivering personalized, value-based primary care. Founded in 2009 and headquartered in Miami, Florida, Cano Health is redefining the healthcare experience by providing primary care that meaningfully enhances the health, wellness, and quality of life for its patients and the communities it serves. Through its network of state-of-the-art medical centers and affiliated providers, Cano Health is leading a transformative approach to accessible, outcome-focused care. For more information, please contact: mediarelations@canohealth.com

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