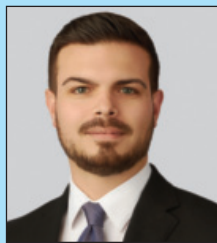




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Volume 20 • Issue 12 • \$5.00 June 2024

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



Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero

An Interview with Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero: Sixth Female President of Dade County Medical Association Since 1903

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

On Saturday, June 1st, 2024, Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero will become the sixth female president of the Dade County Medical Association, since 1903, the year of its foundation.

South Florida Hospital News & Healthcare Report conversed with Dr. Ares-Romero on her goals and challenges as she gets started in a new leadership role.

Dr. Ares-Romero, congratulations on your new role as the President of the Dade County Medical Association. Can you tell us about your goals for your term as president during 2024-2025?

Thank you so much. As a psychiatrist by training, one of my primary goals is to address mental health concerns, both within our community and among healthcare providers. The burnout and stress levels among physicians have increased significantly, especially after COVID-19. We need to create a supportive environment where discussing mental health issues is normalized and not stigmatized.

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Emergency Medicine ... Trauma Medicine

Broward Health Unveils New Field Hospital to Enhance Community Disaster Preparedness

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Broward Health has made significant strides in its emergency management capabilities to address the growing threats from natural disasters and health emergencies. Thanks to a substantial \$1 million appropriation from the Florida legislature and Governor DeSantis and under the leadership of Broward Health President & CEO Shane Strum, the health system has added a new 8,100-square-foot inflatable field hospital to Broward Health's arsenal of emergency response equipment. The temporary structure is fully equipped to handle a range of scenarios, from hurricanes to large community events.



Innovative Design for Rapid Response

The concept of the field hospital was born out of the urgent needs highlighted by recent natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. Erick Pena, director of emergency management for Broward Health, explains the journey of conceptualizing and launching the field hospital, stating, "The demand for an adaptable hospital environment became clear through our experiences on both coasts of Florida with natural disasters."

The field hospital, which consists of three trailers for command, medical facilities and equipment, can be deployed quickly to provide medical services outside of tradi-

Continued on page 16



Mark Kent

The Future of Cano Health

BY VANESSA ORR

Since becoming CEO of Cano Health in August 2023, Mark Kent, FACHE, FACMPE, has taken steps to restructure operations to better position the organization for long-term success. One of his goals was to achieve \$290 million in cost savings and business optimization initiatives in order to bring the corporation out of bankruptcy.

According to Kent, in May of this year, the organization filed its disclosure statement and reached an agreement between the company, the ad hoc committee and the unsecured creditors committee (UCC) in support of its plan to move forward. The judge agreed, and by July, Cano Health is expected to emerge from bankruptcy.

"Things are tracking along very well—we've accomplished over \$250 million in cost savings to date and believe we will slightly exceed our \$290 million goal," said Kent.

"We're very much looking forward to exiting bankruptcy, primarily to ensure that our patients, employees, health plan partners, and vendors fully understand how economically sound we are as a company," he added. "We will have the right capital structure to put us on a very sound and solid footing."

In 2024, which Kent calls a "transformative year," the company reduced its footprint, leaving other states and focusing only on operations in Florida. Within the state, it concentrated on specific markets and having the right number of medical centers in those geographies. Unfortunately, these changes often required difficult decisions, including reducing the company's number of

Continued on page 23

KIDZ' CEO Offers Preparedness Tips for Upcoming Hurricane Season

BY VANESSA ORR

While hurricane season isn't anything new to Floridians, this year it's even more important to be prepared as overall hurricane activity is predicted to be more than twice that of an average year. NOAA's 2024 prediction is for an 85 percent chance of an above-average hurricane season in the Atlantic, which is their most aggressive forecast on record. This not only means that individuals and families must be ready to survive a storm, but that healthcare facilities and hospitals must also prepare for the worst.

"We're already seeing rising sea level issues creating flooding—sometimes severe—during random times of the year, and the superheating of the water is also relatively new," said Wayne Brackin, president and CEO of KIDZ Medical Services, of evolving weather conditions. "In 2004, four storms made landfall Florida; really significant hurricanes. And I'm wondering if



Wayne Brackin (R) with Raj Maragh (L), who's currently serving as Director of Emergency Preparedness at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Continued on page 14

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Publisher's Note



The Yin and Yang of Emergency Care

Emergency rooms (ERs) are the bustling hearts of hospitals, a place where life's unpredictability is met with a blend of frantic energy and calm expertise. And for better or worse, I've visited quite the cross-section of facilities. Let's take a humorous journey through the Yin and Yang of ERs, where chaos and calm, drama and dullness coexist in an endless loop (kind of a mixture of *Days of Our Lives* and *Romper Room*.)

I guess the Yang would be the high-octane hustle on the ER stage where every day is opening night. The curtain rises, and in rush the actors: patients with ailments ranging from the mundane to the bizarre. There's Mr. Drama King (whose name might be Charles Felix according to Carol), convinced his mild indigestion is a heart attack, or that his dislocated big toe is a sure prelude to amputation. The Yang of the ER is powered by these dramatic entrances, where every symptom is a grand performance, and every patient expects an Oscar for their suffering. Carol is convinced I've merited several awards.

ER professionals are the adrenaline junkies of the medical world. They thrive on the pulse-pounding action, the kind that would make even a seasoned action movie star buckle. Whether it's a high-speed ambulance arrival or a sudden code blue, they spring into action with the speed and precision of a superhero squad. Their secret? A steady diet of caffeine and a penchant for solving life-or-death puzzles faster than you can say "ER."

In the Yang realm of the ER, innovation is key. A pen can become a tracheostomy tube, a paperclip transforms into a surgical tool. ER staff are the MacGyvers of medicine, using whatever's at hand to patch up patients. They're part doctor, part magician, turning chaos into care with a sleight of hand and a dash of duct tape.

And then there's the flip side, the Yin of the ER: the waiting. The eternal, soul-sucking waiting. This is where patients and their families experience the Zen of patience, or rather, the lack thereof. In the Yin corner, you'll find the "sitting ducks," those who came in with minor complaints and are now embroiled in an epic saga of waiting-room boredom. They've memorized every poster about hand hygiene and can recite the hospital's Wi-Fi password backwards. Where the concept of triage in any trauma situation is vital, the idea of waiting (whether it be 5 minutes or 5 hours) is abhorrent.

While the Yang is all about action, the Yin is about serenity. Amid the flurry of activity, there are moments of profound calm. Nurses soothing a frightened child, doctors reassuring anxious families, and even the comforting hum of medical equipment creates a backdrop of peace. It's like a Zen garden, but with more syringes and fewer raked sand patterns.

The Yin of the ER is also about the unsung heroes: the custodians who clean up the aftermath of medical mayhem, the technicians who ensure machines beep properly, and the administrative staff who decipher insurance gibberish. These folks are the glue holding the ER together, working quietly in the background while the spotlight shines elsewhere.

But the true magic of the ER lies in balancing these opposing forces. It's a place where the frenetic energy of crises (Yang) is tempered by the soothing presence of routine (Yin). Nurses may sprint to a trauma bay, only to spend the next hour filling out paperwork. Doctors might perform life-saving surgery, then patiently explain the importance of rest and hydration to a moderately-ill flu patient.

In the end, the Yin and Yang of the ER create a dynamic, ever-shifting environment where life's most intense moments are met with equal parts chaos and calm. It's a place where drama queens and invisible heroes coexist, where adrenaline junkies find their fix, and where, amid the storm, there's always a pocket of Zen waiting to be discovered. So, as Carol parrots every time we have to pay a visit to the local ER, it's all about balance, my dear.

Charles Felix



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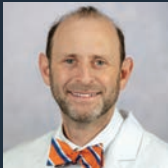
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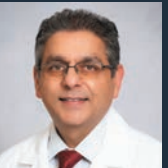
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PART 2

Last month we looked at how top health-care providers are utilizing technology to drive patient satisfaction. We are continuing to explore what the best of the best are doing right now to differentiate themselves from the competition.

One huge trend is the idea of personalized medicine. Now this concept takes on two forms and they both can have a huge impact on overall patient care and outcomes. The first is, shall we call it, technical. It is a type of medicine that uses information about a person's genes or proteins to prevent, diagnose, or treat disease. Having this ability in your organization can be a game changer. It allows you to have a proactive approach to treating patients and produces a quicker diagnosis.

Now, I know many of you may be thinking, 'our organization is not there yet'. So what can you do right now? Well, there lies the second aspect and much less technical part of personalized care. It's called getting to know your patients on a personal level.

For example, every time I go to see my Primary Care physician, she always goes out of her way to ask me how my two kids are doing. A nurse or PA may ask me if I am still playing hockey or ask about my favorite sports team. This all may seem like small talk, but these folks are taking the time to ask questions and then remembering the conversations at my next visits to ask follow up questions. All of this makes the experience more personal and less transactional.

This produces loyalty. These are the little things that make a patient more comfortable with your organization and more likely to return for additional appointments and treatments. It is obvious they have a process for the team to capture that data.

So, no matter if you are on the cutting edge of genetic programming or are more traditional in your approach, take the time to make the experience more personal. Your patients will truly appreciate your efforts.



BY JAY JUFFRE

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

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A message from our President **18th Annual SFHHA Summit on** **June 12: “Optimizing Patient Access”**

While the theme for this month's article will be “patients” (keeping them, finding them, responding to their needs), I also want to share a resource that I have been enjoying for several days.

If you are having a stressful day, put a life size aquarium on your computer screen. The City of Pompano Beach just installed an underwater video camera at their fishing pier (<https://www.pompanobeachfl.gov/webcams>) and when you find your stress level growing throughout the day, click over to the pier and see what our fish friends are doing to relieve their stress! Like you, many of them are also fighting the current!

The South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association's 18th Annual Healthcare Summit [Linda S. Quick Memorial Lecture Series] will be held on June 12th at the Charles F Dodge City Center in Pembroke Pines. The sponsorship opportunities and registration link is <https://www.sfhha.com/events-page/#!event/2024/6/12/sfhha-annual-healthcare-summit-the-linda-s-quick-lecture-series>.

The theme of this year's Summit is “Optimizing Patient Access,” and our moderators and panelists will be talking about the challenges that every healthcare provider has in convincing new and existing patients to purchase healthcare services from them.

Our opening keynote session will include Scott Wester, CEO, Memorial Healthcare System, Dr. Scott Ross, CMO/CEO Cleveland Clinic Weston, Melida Akiti, Corporate Transformation Executive, Broward Health, Alex Romillo, CEO, Health Choice Network, David Wagner, Market CEO, Florida Blue, and David Francis, Partner, BDO. These leaders will discuss how hospitals and other healthcare leaders are taking on non-traditional roles like improved community outcomes, preventive care, reduction of health disparities, and community health and well-being.

Meanwhile healthcare providers are working to improve patient satisfaction, remain



Jaime Caldwell

fiscally viable by attracting more patients, and providing a broader range of services (thus increasing revenue streams), in addition to maintaining other traditional roles such as public health preparedness.

How providers are responding to these challenges are by streamlining appointment scheduling, extending operating hours, expanding telemedicine, community outreach and education, transportation assistance, culturally competent care, financial assistance, patient navigation services, utilization of technology, and monitoring and improving access metrics. The Summit will also include breakout sessions such as “Tech Transformation: Optimizing Patient Access” and “Balancing Act: How Optimizing Patient Access in Healthcare Impact HR/Labor Challenges.” The

Summit will end with a joint session entitled, “Financial Implications for Optimizing Patient Access.”

In this final session of the day, the discussion will revolve around the financial benefits associated with improved efficiency such as efficient scheduling systems leading to reduced appointment cancellations. Other improvements such as expanding hours of operation or shifting hours of operation to better mesh with patients' work schedules, opportunities for upselling and cross-selling (identifying additional hospital services of treatments that may benefit patients), and expansion of referral networks as positive patient touchpoints increase.

Evidence of success in any of these areas will be demonstrated by reductions in lost revenue (appointment no-shows), patient volume improvements leading to increased revenue, operational efficiency leading to cost savings and increased revenue, increases in revenue per patient resulting from up- and cross-selling, and improved referral networks leading to increased revenue through consultations and procedures.

It will be a full day and we look forward to seeing everyone there!



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Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist with Board and Committee Meeting preparation and administration
- Create and implement plans to attract and retain members
- Coordinate communications and social media campaigns with communication staff
- Act as a liaison between members and the association leadership
- Work with Managing Director to develop new member outreach through meetings and events.
- Serve as primary staff liaison to committees as assigned.
- Conduct other job responsibilities as assigned.
- Develop appropriate correspondence such as member recruitment and thank you letters.
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- Previous experience working within health care is a bonus

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Dr. Carmel J. Barrau: Pioneering Progress and Partnership at the Helm of the Dade County Medical Association

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

As Dr. Carmel J. Barrau prepares to step down from his role as President of the Dade County Medical Association (DCMA), it is clear his tenure has been marked by significant achievements and formidable challenges. Under his leadership, the association has seen legislative successes, educational advancements, and increased collaborative efforts that have profoundly impacted the healthcare landscape in Miami-Dade County.



Dr. Carmel J. Barrau

Achievements and Challenges

Dr. Barrau, an Internal Medicine specialist, is also Past President of the Haitian Medical Association Abroad (AMHE), a former member of the Florida Board of Medicine, and a founding member of the Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

Reflecting on his term at the Dade County Medical Association, Dr. Barrau highlights several key accomplishments: "The implementation of my inaugural speech addressed many important aspects of the profession," he states.

These aspects include the Arts and Science of Medicine, featuring numerous Continuing Medical Education (CME) presentations and student presentations; the Politics of Medicine, which saw the largest DCMA delegation visit to Tallahassee of recent times, contributing to the passage of crucial health care bills; and the Business and Legal aspects of Medicine, which included insights from leading businessmen and legal figures, and the creation of a forthcoming podcast series on the business of medicine.

Dr. Barrau is particularly proud of a pivotal agreement: "All three aspects of the profession, culminated in the signing of a letter of understanding with the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at FIU, integrating their medical students and future residents as DCMA members."

The tenure of Dr. Barrau has not been without its difficulties, especially the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. "Dealing with the tail-end of the COVID-19 pandemic involved tackling misinformation and suspicion toward vaccination among minorities," Dr. Barrau explains. His strategy centered on continued education and balancing individual beliefs with public health needs.

Lessons and Leadership Philosophy

Throughout his presidency, Dr. Barrau embraced a leadership style deeply root-

ed in collaboration and strategic advocacy. His tenure underscores the critical importance of teamwork and legislative acumen in advancing the interests of the medical community.

"Leadership has been fundamentally about understanding the strength that lies in unity and concerted effort," Dr. Barrau reflects. "As President, I learned to trust and depend on the leadership team at the DCMA,

recognizing that the collective expertise within our association is our greatest asset in navigating challenges."

This philosophy extended into legislative engagement, where Dr. Barrau led a group of physicians who spearheaded efforts to influence health-related legislation. The work of the association was instrumental in advocating for laws that supported the medical profession and protected patient care, while also rigorously opposing legislation that posed risks to the health sector.

"Our approach to legislation was twofold: actively supporting bills that would bring positive change and improve public health, and fiercely contesting proposals that threatened to undermine the quality of healthcare," he explains.

Under his leadership, the DCMA not only responded to immediate legislative challenges but also continued working proactively to shape policy discussions, ensuring that the voices of healthcare professionals were heard in the corridors of power. This strategic legislative engagement was critical in securing victories that benefited both the medical community and the wider public.

Dr. Barrau's tenure highlighted the delicate balance required in leadership roles—balancing assertiveness with receptiveness, guiding with serving, and leading change while preserving the core values of the profession. His legacy is one of a leader who directed and inspired, setting a higher bar for those who follow.

Advice for Future Leaders

Offering advice to his successor, Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero, and future leaders, Dr. Barrau emphasizes the value of team collaboration and trusting one's instincts. "Work as a team, delegate tasks suited to each person's qualifications, and trust your instinct and judgment," he advises.

Dr. Barrau believes his efforts have fostered broader collaborative endeavors across political, financial, and legal spheres, enhancing the practice of medicine in Miami-Dade County. As he steps down, his plan is to remain active at the DCMA: "I am not done yet. As the Immediate Past President, I will continue to advise the new Board and

Executive Committee."

Dr. Barrau expresses gratitude to his colleagues and urges continued engagement from the medical community: "To physicians, residents, fellows, medical students, and international graduates of Miami-Dade County, please join the organization and make your voice heard. Together, we can maintain and enhance our Leadership Position in Health Care."

Dr. Barrau's presidency may be con-

cluding, but his influence on the DCMA and the broader medical community in Miami-Dade County will undoubtedly endure. His commitment to enhancing health care through collaborative leadership and education is a testament to his dedication and vision.

For more information about how to support the Dade County Medical Association and become a member, visit www.miamimed.com.

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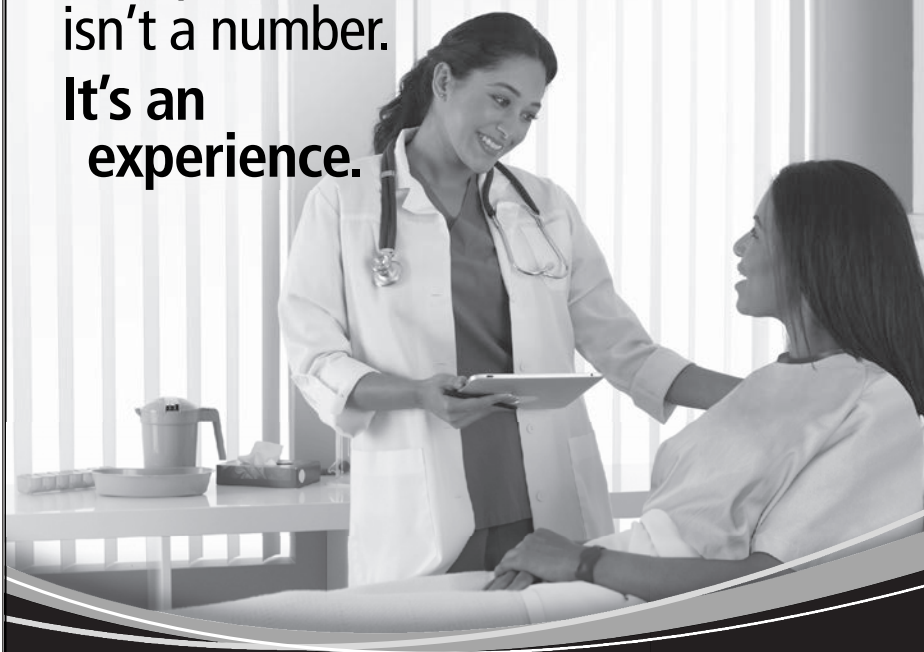
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The United States Department of Education classifies research doctoral degrees such as the Doctor of Health Administration as equivalent to a Ph.D. The Ph.D. is just one of the many degree titles associated with research doctoral degrees. A difference between the DHA and Ph.D. is that the DHA's dissertation allows for an applied approach rather than a strictly theoretical approach. The Doctor of Health Administration was first introduced in the U.S. in the late 1990s as an advanced professional doctorate focused on professional knowledge, applied research, health administration and leadership.

Congratulations to the nine graduates of the LECOM DHA Class of 2024!

Ashley Taylor

Title of Research: Exploring Barriers to Accessing Mental Health Resources in the Erie School District

Ashley Matejka

Title of Research: Charting the Course: Exploring the Health and Wellness Programming for Coast Guard Service Members and their Families

Darya D. Sahebzamani

Title of Research: Building a Culture of Competence, Collaboration, and Consistency In Processes among Nurse Leaders and Environmental Service Leaders

Daniel P. Ireland

Title of Research: The Impact of Employee Engagement on Patient Satisfaction

Christina E. Quan

Title of Research: The Impact of Provider Burnout on the Quality of Healthcare Services

Daniel A. Nick

Title of Research: Cognitive Challenging Card Games: An Opportunity for Improved Senior Care Outcomes?

Kelvin Brannon, Jr.

Title of Research: Evaluating the Factors that Increase the Likelihood of Success in Advance Care Planning

Nicole Santiago

Title of Research: Leadership Styles, Demographic Factors, and Their Relationship to Burnout Among Healthcare Administrators

Seth M. Herrick

Title of Research: Dynamics of Generational Workplace Values: Implications for Job Satisfaction and Nursing Employment Stability in Rural Healthcare

For information about joining the LECOM DHA cohort starting in July 2024, please email DHA@lecom.edu or call (941) 405-1533. Classes are now forming.

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Amid a setting of sutures and stethoscopes, bandages and blood pressure cuffs, medical successes and sometimes setbacks, Hudson Santos found his calling at the tender age of 9: nursing.

His mother, unable at times to arrange childcare for her young son, would sometimes bring him along to the hospital in northeastern Brazil where she cared for patients on her rounds as a licensed practical nurse. "Her professionalism was imprinted on me at a very early stage of my life," Santos recalled. "She inspired me, and nursing became our shared passion."

So he followed in his mother's footsteps, becoming a nurse and caring for marginalized groups at clinics in Brazil and in the United States before conducting nursing-related education and research as an internationally renowned academician.

Now, Santos, vice dean for research at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies, has earned



Hudson Santos

what he says is "the greatest honor of my professional career." He has been named the next dean of the University's School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Santos joined the University of Miami faculty two years ago as a tenured professor and the inaugural Dolores J. Chambreau Endowed Chair in Nursing. He was formerly the Beerstecher-Blackwell

Distinguished Term Scholar and a tenured associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, where he led the Biobehavioral Laboratory and was the founder and director of the Health Resilience and Omics Science Hub for identifying genetic risk factors affecting the neurodevelopment of children. He was also the Director of Training and Mentorship Division for the Institute for Environmental Health Solutions at the Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Over the past 15 years, he has conducted

extensive research on families, studying how early life stressors affect perinatal health and child developmental outcomes in high-risk populations as well as across socioeconomic status levels and racially and ethnically diverse communities.

Santos is spearheading an ambitious \$23.57 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) study examining how social and economic inequities as well as other stressors experienced by parents can biologically and psychologically impact their children. As part of that seven-year grant, the largest ever awarded to the Coral Gables Campus, the School of Nursing and Health Studies joins the NIH's Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program and will enroll a racially and ethnically diverse group of some 1,250 pregnant mothers from Miami-Dade County, following their offspring from birth to age 7.

Through his leadership, the School of Nursing and Health Studies has risen dramatically in national rankings—from 24th to 16th in NIH funding—nearly doubling its research footprint from \$3,396,294 in FY 2022 to \$6,061,945 in FY 2023.

Santos is passionate about diversity and inclusion, a philosophy deeply rooted in

his own background as a Latino male nurse, a first-generation college student, and an immigrant to the United States. Born into poverty in Brazil, he and his siblings were confronted with severe adversity. "Survival was an achievement for us and thriving seemed beyond reach," he said. "Yet, I discovered the transformative power of education in lifting individuals out of poverty."

As dean he will lead a nursing school that is home to the five-story Simulation Hospital Advancing Research and Education (S.H.A.R.E.) with on-site virtual and extended-reality simulation opportunities in a variety of clinical, research, and educational settings.

Among his goals are to enhance the relationship of the nursing school with UHealth and Jackson Health System, expand the school's strong national and international presence, and amplify its visibility by promoting innovative education, research and scholarship, he said.

Santos currently serves as president of the International Society of Nurses in Genetics and is also a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, where serves as chair-elect of the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science National Advisory Council.



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ACHE of South Florida Spotlight

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ACHE of South Florida Member Spotlight: Dionne Blackwood

BY LOIS THOMSON

Dionne Blackwood, FACHE of Memorial Healthcare System, began her 30-plus-year career in healthcare in IT, moved into finance and more than 20 years in leadership. It wasn't until she went to Jackson Health System that she found that her passion was not in finance, but in using her experience in finance to provide patients with access to healthcare resources.

As she explained, "I was able to use my experience in finance to enter Jackson Health System and advance my career where I was an administrator for mental health and community services."

Dionne's passion is her current position as Vice President, Memorial Primary Care and Ambulatory Services, in which – among other responsibilities – she oversees 15 primary care practices, OBGYN, Podiatry, Sickle Cell Medical Home, and three Urgent Care Centers. She points out, "It's not just primary care; I'm responsible for the health of the community." She went on to say, "We are so successful because of our focus on the whole person, not just when we see our patients in the office." She is very proud of the value-based care program that allows access to all in the South Broward Community. In her spare time, she volunteers as the Vice Chair of the Memorial



Dionne Blackwood

Financial Credit Union and is a Member of the Broward County Homeless Continuum of Care.

Along with her passion in healthcare, Dionne is proud about being a member of ACHE (American College of Healthcare Executives) South Florida Chapter. She has been a member for more than 20 years, but admitted that when she joined, "It was the only professional, and most prestigious, organization in healthcare. I maintained my membership throughout the years as I knew one day I was going to become a Fellow."

During her career, she realized that many of her mentors were Fellows in ACHE. Dionne inquired and was able to receive guidance from a colleague through the application process, and she became a Fellow earlier this year.

As Dionne attended ACHE events in working toward her fellowship, she began to realize the benefits of being involved in the organization. "It's not just networking opportunities, and the great educational and professional development. What's impressive is the number of CEOs, COOs who attend and are willing to give their time to individuals who want to be mentored and to grow in their career."

Thanks to an active South Florida ACHE Chapter, Dionne states, "I've encouraged others to join and pursue their Fellowship."

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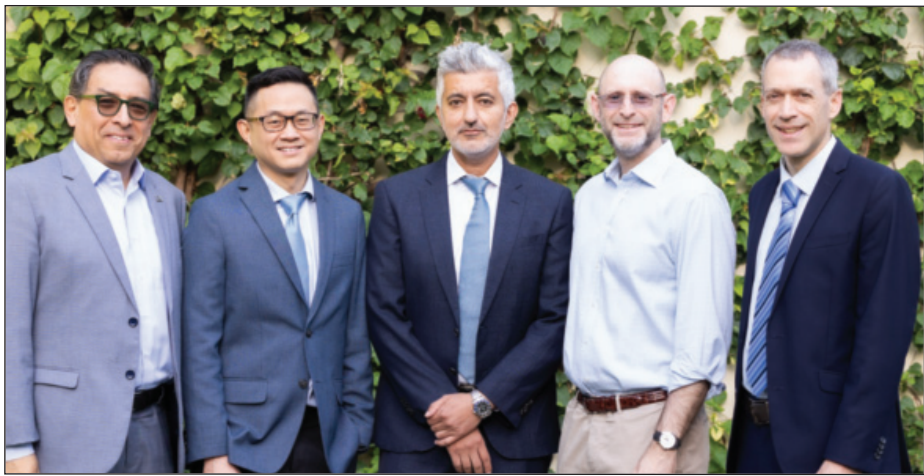


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Tampa General Hospital & Mass General Brigham Host Oncology Symposium Focused on Multidisciplinary Approach to Cancer Care



Dr. Kevin Oh of Mass General Cancer Center (left) and Dr. Richard Tuli (center) of Tampa General Hospital welcome guests to the 2024 Oncology Symposium hosted by the TGH Cancer Institute, the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Mass General Cancer Center, a member of the Mass General Brigham health care system.

On a recent Saturday in April, nearly 100 physicians and other medical professionals gathered in West Palm Beach for a robust exchange of ideas and information surrounding the future of oncology treatment. Doctors from across the state of Florida, and as far north as Georgia, listened intently to case studies featuring the latest pioneering research and treatments for cancer.

The 2024 Oncology Symposium, presented jointly by the Tampa General Hospital (TGH) Cancer Institute, the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Mass General Cancer Center, a member of the Mass General Brigham health care system, represented a new milestone in the growing collaboration between TGH and Mass General Brigham, which strives to provide high-quality and innovative care to patients in the southeastern United States.

Dr. Eduardo Sotomayor, vice president and executive director of the TGH Cancer Institute, welcomed symposium guests. “Today, we’ve gathered some of the best and brightest medical, radiation and surgical oncologists to share and discuss innovative, multidisciplinary strategies for cancer care.”

Next, remarks from Dr. Richard Tuli, professor and chair of radiation oncology at the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and deputy director of the TGH Cancer Institute, and Dr. Kevin Oh, clinical director of radiation oncology at Mass

General Cancer Center, further set the multidisciplinary tone of the symposium. “Cancer is one of our biggest challenges,” said Dr. Oh. “We can only solve it through teamwork in an atmosphere of warmth, humility and selflessness.” Dr. Tuli added, “Our collaboration is rooted in our institutions’ mutual strengths.”

Expert physicians from the TGH Cancer Institute, the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Mass General Cancer Center co-presented case studies focused on early detection and the future of oncology; advanced bladder cancer; pancreatic cancer; and thoracic cancer.

As one of Florida’s leading academic health systems, Tampa General is dedicated to pioneering breakthrough treatments, conducting game-changing clinical research and training the next generation of health care professionals through its partnership with the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. So the collaboration on this symposium with Mass General Brigham made perfect sense.

“We’re placing a major emphasis on improving access to high-level cancer care throughout the state of Florida,” said Dr. Sotomayor. He noted that the TGH Cancer Institute has assembled a team of passionate, compassionate and nationally recognized cancer specialists. The TGH Cancer Institute is ranked in the top 3 percent of cancer hospitals in the United States, according to Newsweek’s 2023 list of “America’s Best Cancer Hospitals.” The



Dr. Kevin Oh of Mass General Cancer Center (left) and Dr. Richard Tuli of Tampa General Hospital welcome guests to the 2024 Oncology Symposium hosted by the TGH Cancer Institute, the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Mass General Cancer Center, a member of the Mass General Brigham health care system.

TGH Cancer Institute also holds accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC).

Dr. Sotomayor added that thanks to support from Mass General Brigham, the TGH Cancer Institute recently established the Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapies Unit, offering stem cell transplants and chimeric antigen receptors (CAR) T-cell infusion therapy for complex cancers.

Indeed, not only will the collaboration have a profound impact on cancer care delivered across Florida’s West Coast, but it will also fill a critical need on the state’s

East Coast. Over the past several years, TGH has been creating a framework of state-of-the-art services for patients specifically in Palm Beach and Martin counties.

“Together, we have the power to redefine the future of health care innovation on Florida’s East Coast. This will be a game changer for our patients and families,” said Dr. Abraham Schwarzbarg, executive vice president, chief of oncology, president of the Tampa General Provider Network (TGP), and vice president of clinical and translational research for the TGH-USF Health Joint Office of Clinical Research.

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TITLE	Disruptive Innovation in Healthcare Delivery
DATE	Thursday, June 20, 2024
TIME	5:30 - 6:30 pm....Registration and Networking 6:30 - 8:00 pm....Education Program
LOCATION	Baptist Health South Miami Hospital Conference Center 6200 SW 73rd Street, Miami, FL 33143
REGISTRATION INFORMATION	https://www.acheofsouthflorida.org/events.php

Moderator.....William (Bill) Duquette, *South Miami Hospital – Baptist Health* - CEO
Panelist.....Peter Serio, *GuideWell and Florida Blue* - Vice President, Chief Customer Officer
Panelist.....Sohail W. Azeem, MBA, MPH, FACHE, *MedSys Health* - Chief Executive Officer
Panelist.....Thinh H. Tran, MD, MBA, *HOPCo Network Solutions* - Chief Executive Officer
Panelist.....Cristina Rubio-Delgado, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, *University of Miami Health System* - Asst. Vice President, Connected Care

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A Salute to the Emergency Department

As physician assistants entrenched in the heartbeat of emergency medicine, we are compelled to offer a heartfelt tribute to the sanctum of the Emergency Department (ED). Here, amidst the controlled chaos and relentless urgency, we witness the profound impact of our work on the lives of countless individuals. As the frontline warriors in the battle for human health, these hubs of medical activity play a vital role in safeguarding the well-being of millions. With over 139.8 million patients treated annually in the United States alone, the sheer magnitude of their impact cannot be overstated (CDC).

Each day, the doors of the ED swing open to a diverse array of individuals, each with their own tale of distress. From minor injuries to life-threatening emergencies, the spectrum of conditions that flood these halls knows no bounds. It is within this dynamic environment that the true essence of emergency medicine shines brightest.

One of the most remarkable facets of emergency care is its unwavering commitment to accessibility. Unlike other medical facilities that adhere to rigid schedules, the ED stands as a round-the-clock service. Day or night, weekday or holiday, the



BY MAXIME BENLULU, MSPA, PA-C, AND
MONIQUE JAQUITH, DMSC, PA-C

doors remain open, ready to embrace those in need with open arms. This perpetual state of readiness embodies the very essence of dedication and selflessness that defines the healthcare profession.

Within the confines of the ED, healthcare providers navigate a maze of challenges with unmatched dedication. Each case presents a unique puzzle, many that require swift and decisive action. Whether it's stabilizing a trauma victim, managing a chronic condition flare-up, or providing compassionate care to the most vulnerable, emergency physician assistants, physicians, nurses, and staff are equipped with the skills and expertise to rise to the occasion.

Consider these statistics: Of the 139.8 million annual ED visits, 18.3 million

result in hospital admission, with 2.8 million requiring admission to critical care units. Remarkably, 41.8% of patients are seen within 15 minutes of arrival, and 13.1% of visits result in hospital admission, reflecting the ED's efficiency and critical role in patient care. Additionally, 2.4% of visits result in a transfer to another hospital for specialized care, underscoring the collaborative nature of emergency medicine (CDC).

Yet, beyond the fast pace and adrenaline-fueled moments, the impact of emergency medicine extends far beyond mere treatment. EDs serve as pillars of reassurance and solace for patients and their loved ones. In moments of crisis, they provide not only medical intervention but also crucial emotional support, guiding individuals through the darkest of hours with empathy and compassion.

Moreover, the ED serves as a beacon of innovation, constantly pushing the boundaries of medical science to new heights. From pioneering treatment protocols to cutting-edge technologies, emergency medicine remains at the forefront of medical advancement, continuously striving to enhance patient outcomes and quality of care. Consider the role of emergency departments in rapidly adopting new technologies and protocols to improve patient care. From advanced imaging techniques to developing new treatment protocols for a novel virus, the

ED is often where new medical innovations are first implemented.

As we reflect on the invaluable contributions of emergency departments, let us not forget the unsung heroes who labor tirelessly within their walls. Their dedication and selfless commitment to the well-being of others serve as a testament to the noblest ideals of the medical profession. The daily work of ED physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, and staff involves not just medical care but also extensive communication with patients and families, collaboration with a diverse medical team, and continuous learning to stay abreast of the latest medical advancements.

In summary, the ED is not just a place of medical intervention; it is a sanctuary of hope, healing, and humanity. The tireless efforts of those who work within its walls are a testament to the highest ideals of the medical profession. Let us offer a resounding salute to the emergency department—a bastion of hope, healing, and humanity in an ever-changing world. May their tireless efforts continue to inspire us all, reminding us of the profound impact that compassion and dedication can have on the lives of others.

Maxime Benlulu is Assistant Professor at South University. Monique Jaquith is Assistant Professor, Chair of Admissions, South University.



Paying tribute to our heroes

We deeply appreciate the invaluable contributions of our emergency professionals, doctors, nurses, and EMTs. Your unwavering dedication to safeguarding and nurturing our community is truly commendable. Your passion and commitment serve as a beacon of inspiration to us all. As we commemorate Emergency Medical Services Week, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you, not only this week but every day.



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Ready for Hurricane Season

Floridians are resilient. We have experienced many challenges, and we continually emerge stronger and better prepared. While some challenges are hopefully infrequent and rare, that is, of course, not the case for weather events in the Sunshine State. June 1 marks the start of the Atlantic hurricane season. Running through November 30, this season is predicted to be one of the most active on record, according to forecasters at the Colorado State University, with 23 storms, 11 of which will become hurricanes and five of which will reach Category 3 status or stronger.

Knowing this potential forecast and season of storms is simply another reminder about the importance of vigilance and preparedness. For Florida's hospitals, it is a laser beam focus on protecting life and safety, preserving critical health care infrastructure to ensure access before, during, and after a storm. For years, hospitals have been hardening their facilities to withstand hurricane-force winds and making critical investments to support physical plant operations in response to flooding and surge.

All Florida hospitals, no matter their size or location, have an operational, comprehensive, and all-hazards emergency management plan to govern emergency response before, during, and after a storm with the goal of maintaining a safe care environment for patients and staff. These plans reflect regulatory changes and requirements and new best practices in emergency response as well as lessons learned from the management of previous crises. County emergency management officials review these plans annually for comprehensiveness and accuracy, and hospitals conduct at least two exercises a year to test, drill, and practice their plans to identify any areas of needed improvement and to ensure their teams understand how to operationalize the plan in an actual emergency.

When hurricanes threaten, communities have a small advantage of foreknowledge. Hospitals activate their emergency response. They mobilize around-the-clock command centers to communicate and coordinate with local officials and inform critical decisions governing patient care and continued operations.

With patient and staff safety at the forefront of all decision-making, hospitals eval-



BY MARY MAYHEW

uate whether evacuations ahead of storm landfall are necessary. The purpose of the hardening and critical improvements is to avoid, when possible, patient evacuations, which are disruptive to patients, and to preserve hospitals' operations to respond to the needs of the community.

When hurricane Ian hit in 2022, it was the loss of the public water supply that threatened operations at hospitals in Lee County. Hospitals around the state immediately responded to support any needed patient evacuations. Local hospitals in the region most affected by Ian continued to care for all their patients, responded to significant demand in their emergency rooms, and secured alternative water supplies while working with local officials to restore the public water supply.

Each storm presents hospitals with an opportunity to evaluate their emergency response plans in real-time and real-world scenarios, identifying areas for refinement. Hospitals often resort to paper and manual processes, face communication disruptions, and test new flood wall designs, among other areas of focus. Looking ahead, hospitals have identified key areas to strengthen for future preparedness, response, and recovery activities, including external communications, emergency operations coordination, and facility and plant equipment management. The proactive approach of hospitals in improving their response plans immediately after a storm is a testament to their commitment to the community's safety.

Every year, Floridians are asked to "make a plan" for hurricane season. Preparedness is the key to weathering any storm safely. Florida's hospitals share that commitment to preparedness, and they invest in people, infrastructure, technology, and procedures to minimize any disruption in their 24/7 operations to the greatest extent possible.

This year's hurricane season is predicted to be significant. Make a plan, be prepared, follow local and state guidance, and trust that your local hospital is doing everything it can to remain a trusted port in whatever storm comes ashore.

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

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Cover Story: KIDZ' CEO Offers Preparedness Tips for Upcoming Hurricane Season

Continued from page 1

we're going to have another year like that."

To this end, hospitals are doing everything they can to get ready.

"Broadly speaking, hospitals in South Florida have well-thought-out plans and people who are used to deploying them," said Brackin. "These plans are pretty granular; as things escalate from watches to warnings, you go through specific steps of preparation, and historically, we've done a good job with it."

"When you exist in regions prone to natural disasters, over time, you gain some pretty good institutional knowledge and have preparations in place," he added. "There's also the repetition of having to deal with these issues on an ongoing basis."

One change to this year's hurricane preparation at KIDZ Medical is a text-based emergency communication system called SimpleTexting. "With nearly 500 people in 30 hospitals and offices in six Florida counties, we need to communicate instantaneously with not

only the entire organization but to also give precise guidance to subgroups depending on geography," said Brackin.

"As a storm's path becomes clear, the message to Naples will differ from Palm Beach or Homestead. SimpleTexting allows us to do that."

One of the big issues facing health-care facilities is the fact that when there is a busy season, it can be exhausting for staff because they have to do everything to get ready whether the storm comes or not. Brackin adds that these storms—even if they miss the area entirely—can take a huge financial toll on doctors and healthcare systems that have to cancel patient appointments and elective surgeries, as well as go on an emergency schedule, often two or three times in a given month.

With the influx of new residents into Florida, there is also a concern that some people will not know how to prepare for hurricane season.

"In the last several years, a significant number of people relocated to South Florida, and that includes hospital staff as well as members of the wider commu-

nity," said Brackin. "People from the East Coast and Midwest are used to dealing with snowstorms—not hurricanes."

Because KIDZ Medical provides services to many different hospital locations, they coach their staff on how to prepare for hurricane season, both at work and at home. "If people haven't done what they need to do at home, it creates an entirely different issue about their availability to work," said Brackin.

Some of the things that KIDZ recommends are to have a family communication plan so that loved ones can stay in touch with each other, and to also have default methods of communication in case cell towers go down. Families should have an agreed-upon place where they will meet, and ideally, if they have friends or family in a more inland location, make that the gathering place.

"We always counsel people to have a week's worth of supplies, including food and water," said Brackin. "If you can last a week, the power will come back on and there will be enough relief available to help. We also advise people to prepare now for hurricane season, which begins

June 1, so that we can avoid everyone flooding into Publix at the last-minute emptying shelves. Try to avoid being involved in that madness to help lower everybody's stress level."

He notes that in general, the hard part of a hurricane is not the storm, but the aftermath and recovery.

"The storm may last a few hours, or a day or overnight, but the recovery can go on for weeks or months," he said, adding that this year may be especially difficult as the state's insurance crisis has forced many people to "go bare," so they no longer have insurance on their homes.

"From a healthcare provider standpoint, the preparation that needs to happen for a storm is relatively straightforward, but the real difficulty is managing damage to healthcare infrastructure in the post-storm environment and the ability to retain staff," he added.

"In my view, that's when you find out whether you've done a good job maintaining morale and keeping people engaged in the purpose of the organization—seeing how things go in the aftermath."

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

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Miami Dade College Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program

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BY FABIO
NASCIMENTO, MHA

The Paramedic program at Miami Dade College's Medical Campus spans three semesters and requires 42 credits for completion. Students are trained to deliver advanced medical and trauma care in pre-hospital environments. Paramedics perform critical on-scene emergency treatments, life-saving stabilization, and transport patients to acute care facilities. They also offer direct patient care in emergency rooms, clinics, and through ambulance services. Upon successfully passing the State board examination, students are awarded a Florida Paramedic license. This program is accredited by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP). The Paramedic program is available every semester at the Medical Campus.

Fabio Nascimento is Chairperson, School of Health Sciences, Miami Dade College – Medical Campus. For more information, visit www.mdc.edu/medical

Palm Beach Health Network Shows Appreciation During National Emergency Medical Services Week

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of National Emergency Medical Services Week (May 20-25), we would like to recognize the men and women who commit their lives to providing critical, life-saving services and compassionate care to our patients and our community.

We are so appreciative of the around-the-clock dedication and extraordinary care they provide as expressed by the national theme of, "Honoring our past. Forging our future." They begin the journey of compassionate care for our patients. We thank them for their commitment to each life in our community in their time of need.

"Emergency Medical Service professionals play an incredibly important role in the health care for our community. They are the first responders of care for patients as they are transported to our hospitals. These brave people are first to answer the community's call for help twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week," Maggie Gill, group president for Tenet Healthcare's East Coast region. "We're proud to take this opportunity to show them how much we appreciate their dedication."

Since 1974, hospitals across the country have celebrated National Emergency Medical Services Week and invited their communities to recognize and thank the dedicated first responders who provide quality care throughout the year. We encourage everyone to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency so that EMS can provide immediate care and transport you safely and quickly to the hospital.



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Cover Story: Broward Health Unveils New Field Hospital

Continued from page 1

tional hospital settings. With 50 beds available, this portable hospital is an essential asset for emergency situations. It ensures that emergency responders and physicians can offer help to the community right where and when it's most needed.

"The design is very effective," Pena says. "It inflates quickly and has built-in LED lighting, air conditioning hookups and generators. It can rapidly deploy, which is crucial early during a disaster when traditional medical facilities may be compromised."

The field hospital is also built to withstand significant weather challenges. It can sustain winds up to 50 miles per hour, with gusts up to 70 miles per hour, making it a reliable asset in unpredictable conditions.

Funded by a generous state appropriation exceeding \$1 million, the field hospital has advanced medical tools, generators and air conditioning systems spread across three trailers, including an incident command center.

Strum details the collaborative effort that made this initiative possible: "This was a cooperative effort with the Florida legislature, the Department of Emergency Management and the Governor's office, which all saw the potential impact such a facility could have on our community."

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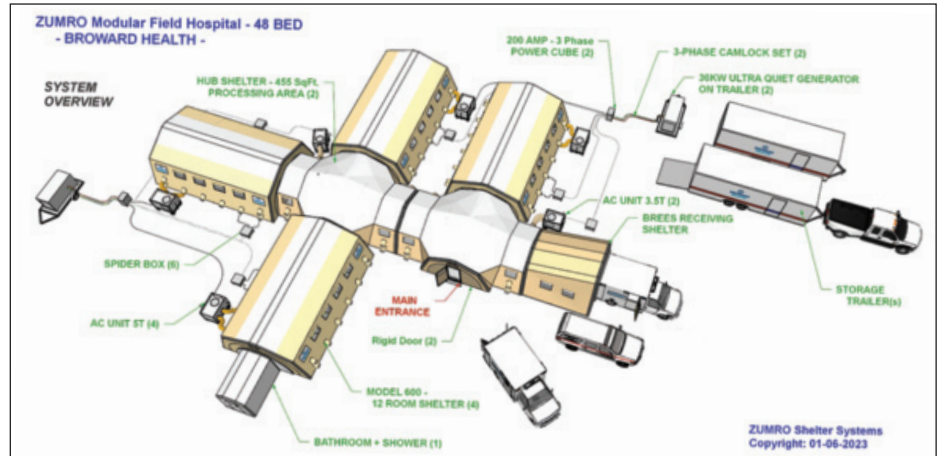
Beyond disaster response, the field hospital is intended for use at community events, such as marathons and concerts, demonstrating Broward Health's commitment to community engagement. Its modular design can be scaled up or down depending on the need of the event.

"Whether responding to a natural disaster or supporting a community event like the Tortuga Music Festival, this hospital can be rapidly deployed to provide essential services," Strum says. "Its design allows for quick adaptation to different scenarios, from functioning as a temporary ICU to rendering basic medical care at public gatherings."

Training and Preparedness

Preparation and training are key components of the field hospital's success. James Roach, D.O., district chief of emergency medicine emphasizes the comprehensive training programs in place for handling hazardous materials, disaster management and infectious diseases, ensuring that the staff is well-prepared for various scenarios. "The field hospital builds upon decades of training initiatives," he explains.

Integrated within Broward County's



broader emergency medical and trauma care networks, the field hospital enhances the region's capacity to manage mass casualty events and other incidents where local hospitals may face overwhelming demands. "It extends our capacity to manage emergencies directly in the community or wherever the need arises," Strum adds.

"In events like Hurricane Ian, where hospitals were damaged, this field hospital could be set up quickly in a parking lot to manage patient overflow," Pena says.

Strum elaborated on the community's involvement and collaborative efforts, adding, "We regularly engage in field exercises with local fire rescue services and health systems to ensure everyone is prepared and well-coordinated."

Long-term Goals and Community Impact

Looking ahead, Broward Health aims to utilize the field hospital for emergency

responses and as a proactive tool in community health initiatives. "Our goals are centered around disaster preparedness, infectious disease emergencies and positive community event support," says Dr. Roach.

Strum agrees, "We aim to instill confidence in the community, knowing that comprehensive medical support is readily available in times of need."

Conclusion

Broward Health's new field hospital represents a forward-thinking approach to healthcare delivery, emphasizing rapid response, versatility and community integration. The focus of the new field hospital is clear: enhancing emergency response capabilities and improving overall community well-being. This innovative project positions Broward Health as a leader in emergency preparedness and solidifies its commitment to serving and safeguarding the community in times of need.



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HEALTHCARE REAL ESTATE,

Broward Healthpoint and Community Care Plan Unveil New Maternity Care & Heart Community Resource Center



Broward HealthPoint and Community Care Plan are proud to announce the grand opening of the Maternity Care Center & Heart Community Resource Center in Lauderdale Lakes. This collaboration aims to address health disparities in maternal care identified in central Broward County.

Broward HealthPoint, an affiliate of Broward Health, and Community Care Plan strategically positioned the new center to fulfill the unmet OB-GYN needs of women in Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise and Oakland Park, particularly in the 33311 and 33313 zip codes. The data indicates that women in these areas have limited access to prenatal and postpartum care, which is a critical component of maternal health and positive birth outcomes.

Aiming to bridge the gap, the new center will provide convenient and reliable healthcare services to women in the Lauderdale Lakes area while putting more maternal and gynecological care providers on the ground locally so women can access pre-natal care.

Wraparound services available at the center include nutrition, exercise, financial and health literacy classes, job training programs, public Wi-Fi and more services aimed at assisting members of the community in all aspects of their lives. The center also offers a playroom where children whose parents participate in the programs offered are supervised.

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Cleveland Clinic Martin Health Primary Care Institute Names New Medical Director

Claude Jones, D.O., has been appointed as the medical director for the Primary Care Institute at Cleveland Clinic Martin Health. With a distinguished career in healthcare, Dr. Jones brings a wealth of experience to his new role. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Addiction Medicine Healthcare Quality with fellowship training in Addiction Medicine. His academic pursuits have earned him a Master of Public Health and a Master of Science in Law and Policy from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Jones has a strong background in public health, having served as Medical Executive Director of the Lake and Putnam County Health Departments in Central Florida, where he provided oversight in various medical and health areas. Prior to his current role, he was the President and CEO of Care Alliance Health Center, where he focused on social determinants of health and health equity. His commitment to public health is further demonstrated by his appointments to the National Advisory Council for the National Health Service Corps by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Health Professionals Advisory Board by the Florida Surgeon General.



Dr. Claude Jones

Neuroendovascular Surgeon Joins Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital

Farah Fourcand, M.D., has joined the medical staff at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital. Dr. Fourcand graduated from Florida International University, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine in Miami, and completed a residency in neurology at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. She completed fellowships in endovascular surgical neuroradiology; neurocritical care; and vascular neurology at Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center in Edison, NJ. Dr. Fourcand focuses on the latest advances in care to treat adult patients. Her areas of interest include acute stroke management, neurological emergencies, preventive neurology, neuroplasticity and translational research, and she is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.



Dr. Farah Fourcand

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital Adds Neurologist

Board-certified neurologist Dalwyn M. Sealy, M.D., has joined the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital Neuroscience team. Dr. Sealy completed his medical education at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC, where he also completed a residency in neurology. He then pursued a fellowship in EEG/epilepsy at Long Island Medical Center in New Hyde Park, NY. Dr. Sealy's specialty interests include epilepsy surgery monitoring, continuous video EEG for inpatient and outpatient settings, and performing and interpreting electro-diagnostic studies such as NCV, EMG, VEP and SSEP.



Dr. Dalwyn M. Sealy

Baptist Health Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute Names Mehrdad Ghoreishi, MD, Co-Director of Aortic Surgery and Medical Director of Cardiac Surgery Research

Baptist Health Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute has named board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon Mehrdad Ghoreishi, M.D., co-director of aortic surgery and medical director of cardiac surgery research. Prior to joining Baptist Health, Dr. Ghoreishi was co-director for the Center for Aortic Disease at the University of Maryland Medical System and associate professor of cardiac surgery. Dr. Ghoreishi earned his medical degree and completed a general surgery residency at Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran, Iran. After finishing his general surgery training, he joined the Cardiac Surgery Research Fellowship Program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He was successfully matched in the Integrated Cardiothoracic Surgery residency program at this university and was the first immigrant in the U.S. to get matched in this competitive training track. He served as chief resident during his cardiothoracic surgery residency and was awarded the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Denton A. Cooley Fellowship.



Dr. Mehrdad Ghoreishi

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health Adds Gastroenterologist

Gastroenterologist João Serigado, M.D., has joined the medical staff at Cleveland Clinic Martin Health. Dr. Serigado completed his medical education at the Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa in Portugal. He then moved to the United States and completed his residency in internal medicine at the Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. He further pursued postgraduate training with a fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Dr. Serigado has extensive experience in diagnosing and treating various gastrointestinal conditions and performing endoscopic procedures. He has special interest in inflammatory bowel disease, gastroesophageal reflux disease and motility disorders.



Dr. João Serigado

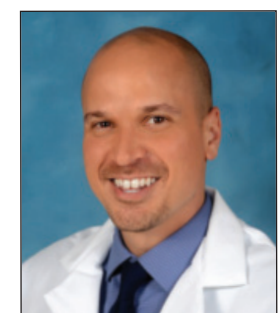
Holy Cross Medical Group Welcomes Rheumatologist Konstantin Urazov, MD

Rheumatologist Konstantin Urazov, M.D., has joined Holy Cross Medical Group.

Prior to joining Holy Cross, Dr. Urazov was an associate physician at South Florida Rheumatology in Hollywood, FL.

While earning his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Stony Brook University on Long Island, NY, Dr. Urazov was a pharmacy technician at a local CVS. He then pursued a medical degree from Xavier University School of Medicine in Oranjestad, Aruba, graduating with honors. During med school, he served as a keynote speaker at an educational conference and clinical ambassador who provided feedback to the New York State Accreditation Board. He's also volunteered at community events in Aruba and New York, providing free health screenings to attendees.

Dr. Urazov returned to New York for his internal medicine residency at Long Island Community Hospital in Patchogue, serving as chief resident, and relocated to Florida for his rheumatology fellowship at Larkin Community Hospital Palm Springs Campus in Hialeah, where he was chief fellow.



Dr. Konstantin Urazov

Internal Medicine Physician Rachel J. Pyngolil, MD, Joins Holy Cross Medical Group

Internal medicine physician Rachel Pyngolil, M.D., has joined Holy Cross Medical Group.

Previously, Dr. Pyngolil was with Citrus Health Network, Inc. in West Kendall, FL and also worked and served as a family practice team lead for Jessie Trice Community Health System in Miami. She graduated from University of South Florida in Tampa where she earned a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences, M.S. in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences, MPH in Global Health Practice with a certificate in infectious disease control and an M.D. with a medical education scholarly concentration. From 2008-2014, she volunteered at the university's student-run free clinic, Building Relationships and Initiatives Dedicated to Gaining Equality (BRIDGE), in various capacities serving a largely medically underserved population. She subsequently went on to serve as a National Health Service Corps Scholar.

Dr. Pyngolil's international experience also includes providing medical care in an 80-bed ward during a physician shortage at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya; she also spent time at the Hospital Regional José María Cabral y Báez in Santiago, Dominican Republic; and has also worked on public health initiatives independently and with the International Health Service Collaborative in Panama.



Dr. Rachel Pyngolil

Dr. Shannon Fox-Levine Receives 2024 Heroes in Medicine Award from PBC Medical Society

The Palm Beach County Medical Society (PBCMS) announced Dr. Shannon Fox-Levine, pediatrician and owner of Palm Beach Pediatrics, as the organization's 2024 Heroes in Medicine Award Recipient in the Physician Hero category. PBCMS is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to uniting physicians to serve the common interest of the profession, developing and maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards of the medical profession, advocating the interests of physicians and their and collaborating with others to improve the community's health.



Dr. Shannon Fox-Levine

Abril Law Firm: Focus on Healthcare Reimbursement

BY BARBARA R. FALLON

The good news is surgery was successful, the medical plan was effective, rehabilitation complete and the patient has returned to normal activities of daily living. The bad news is the provider's payment is outstanding and either lingering on the books or moving to bad debt due to complexities of the reimbursement system. Worse yet, payment was outright denied due to contractual, clinical, third-party liability, ERISA irregularities, workman's compensation or other medical/legal disputes.

Abril Law, headquartered in Miami, is a boutique law firm with a major focus on healthcare reimbursement. The experienced firm, founded by Jorge Abril, has focused on the healthcare revenue cycle for more than three decades, to avoid and resolve reimbursement disputes.

Engaged and Knowledgeable Team

Managing Partner Jorge Abril's passion for health care began as an undergraduate student working for critical care physicians. That exposure as a college student was the genesis for opening Abril Law in 1991 to concentrate on healthcare reimbursement, managed care litigations, and post-judgment remedies. Since then, the firm has successfully advocated for local, regional and national clients remedying revenue cycle matters.

Abril is a recognized authority on consumer protection and patient privacy statutes, and a frequent lecturer on related issues including the Fair Debt



Trevor Biglin

Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and its state counterparts.

Trevor Biglin is an Abril Associate with primary focus on the healthcare reimbursement sector representing acute care, rehab, physician and behavioral health providers. He described the benefits of a boutique firm in terms of size and specialty expertise.

"We are on a first name basis with our clients, their revenue cycle teams and in-house counsel. They benefit from our niche focus of the revenue cycle environment and our personal familiarity with their particular provider specialty whether they are a single practitioner or multi-site facility. We know the law as it applies to their specific needs," he explained, "and practice with a breadth and depth of knowledge."

The firm regularly provides counsel on timely filing of claims, coding errors, clerical processing or prior authorization policies that trigger potential denial

and litigation red flags.

According to Biglin, "With guidance on internal policies and procedures we can help clients - and their patients - avoid missteps that can result in litigation or help them attain a more timely resolution."

Because South Florida is a geographic draw, tourism mecca, and academic medical hub with a diverse multicultural international core, there are some unique aspects patients present that need to be addressed to smooth the compensation process and avoid claim denials for clients. This may include analysis of a variety of insurance contractual terms, advice on social security documentation status, language barriers and out of network provider technicalities.

Experience and Expertise

The Abril Law team attorneys and on-call resources all have experience with the challenges and advantages of healthcare reimbursement in the sunshine state to assist clients during the early stages of the patient in-take process. Early intervention can avoid unnecessary claims aging resulting in lower collection rates and denials.

Like the firm's founder, Biglin had his personal interest in helping others instilled at an early age from family members who were social workers. Initially he studied business administration and marketing and worked in the corporate world for several years. His desire to practice law motivated him to earn his JD from University of Miami where he graduated cum laude. His business skills support interpretation

and communication of the 'non-clinical realities' of the clinical practice landscape (not often addressed in medical school) and cultivate an informed business-based guide in his clients best interests.

The Abril practice strategy is based on an understanding of business challenges and revenue needs.

"Our clients can rely on a responsive and collaborative relationship with the revenue offices in rural, urban or hospitality-based settings. We analyze contractual arrangements ranging from national managed care organizations to CMS guidelines and international travel insurance carriers in efforts to ensure correct coding and claims procedures up-front.

This can reduce bad debt and avoid labor intensive litigation that can drag on and be detrimental to the bottom line. Also, from experience negotiating with self-pay medical debtors we are aware of and sensitive to their situation. We help providers draft clear documents to effectively enable future patients to better understand payment procedures and financial obligations," Biglin explained.

Finally, the boutique firm has a strategic recruitment pipeline to attract a reservoir of qualified legal talent to help manage specific legal issues to build and maintain the firm's reputation for championing the intricacies of healthcare reimbursement.

For more information, email tbiglin@abrilaw.com or call (305) 373-0901.

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Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital Conferences

Save the
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Future of Stroke Care: Stroke and Cerebrovascular Conference November 9-10

Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital is excited to host an innovative symposium dedicated to the advancements and future directions in stroke care. Titled "Future of Stroke Care," this symposium aims to bring together leading minds in neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, rehabilitation and technology to foster an environment of learning, collaboration and innovation.

Through this symposium, we aspire to spotlight the latest updates in management of the entire array of cerebrovascular diseases and to improve patient outcomes through interdisciplinary collaboration and integrating innovative practices in clinical care. The symposium will highlight the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on the prevention and diagnosis of stroke. There will be seven sessions spanning over the course of two days, November 9-10. Each of the five sessions will include an interactive panel discussion with questions and answers, allowing for an interdisciplinary approach to optimize patient care.

Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort, Hollywood, Florida
Register online at ccfcme.org/stroke2024

Advanced Practice Provider Conference Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital October 19-20

Do you find that the challenge of your daily clinical practice leaves you little time to stay up-to-date with current healthcare trends and topics? If so, this educational activity is designed for you.

This hybrid course provides the PA, APRN, AA and CRNA with a general review

of the most current knowledge in internal medicine, subspecialties and surgical specialty topics and offers both virtual livestream and in-person options. Network with your colleagues from across the area or join from the comfort of your office or home.

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 - Tendinopathy
 - Urinary Stone Disease
 - Monitoring Depth of Anesthesia & Regional Anesthesia Options
 - Opioid Crisis
 - Cardiology Updates
 - Updates in Hernia Repair
 - Treating Stroke Patients in the ED
 - Preoperative Clearance
 - Overview of Interventional Radiology
 - Wound Care Management
 - Abnormal Uterine Bleeding
 - Medical Ethics
 - And more

Register at ccfcme.org/APP2024

Cover Story: An Interview with Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero: Sixth Female President of Dade County Medical Association Since 1903

Continued from page 1

Another key priority is advocating against the cumbersome process of prior authorizations. This often results in unnecessary delays in patient care due to a lack of transparency and timely communication from insurance companies. I aim to push for legislative changes that would streamline this process and ensure that denials are handled promptly and fairly, allowing us to have meaningful discussions with peers in the same specialty.

What specific initiatives or projects do you plan to prioritize, and how do you foresee these impacting the association and the broader medical community?

I am dedicated to making the DCMA more accessible and supportive for our medical community. One major initiative is increasing advocacy for physicians' rights and the quality of patient care. We've seen how the corporate state of medicine has eroded our ability to make autonomous decisions, unlike other professions where only practitioners can own practices. I want to give physicians their voice back and help them regain control over their practices to ensure better patient care.

We will also focus on enhancing the value of DCMA membership. This includes providing more robust support for self-employed physicians and those employed by hospitals or clinics who might not see the immediate benefits of membership. We plan to revamp our educational offerings, including seminars on contracts and practice management, and enhance our podcast to make it a valuable resource for our members.

What are some of the biggest challenges facing the DCMA today, and how do you plan to address them?

One of our biggest challenges is membership retention and growth. Physicians often question the tangible benefits of joining the DCMA, especially those employed by larger institutions who might feel they already have sufficient support. To address this, we will emphasize the unique advantages we offer, such as advocacy on critical issues, educational resources, and networking opportunities. We aim to show how being part of the DCMA can enhance their professional lives and contribute to better patient outcomes.

We also need to tackle the bureaucratic hurdles that hinder our practice, like the outdated workman's compensation rates and the financial constraints on physicians accepting Medicaid. These are issues that require strong legislative advocacy, which I am committed to pursuing.

Can you share some insights into your professional journey that led you to this leadership position?

I am double-boarded in psychiatry, preventive medicine, and addiction. Over my 20

years of practice, I have been part of the University of Miami, moved into private practice, and then returned to Jackson Health System, where I served as medical director and later as chief medical officer. These roles highlighted the importance of physician-led leadership and sparked my interest in advocacy.

My involvement with the DCMA began as a resident in 1999. After returning to Jackson Health, I realized the broader impact I could have through leadership and advocacy. This led me to engage more deeply with the DCMA, including trips to Tallahassee to advocate for our profession.

How else do you plan to advocate for policies that affect medical professionals and healthcare in Miami-Dade County?

We have an annual meeting where we focus on bills to present to our legislators. Last year, we worked on a bill to give Medicare rates to Medicaid patients, and we are looking to expand that initiative this year. Many good physicians are opting out of Medicaid due to financial constraints, which impacts our most vulnerable patients. Similarly, we are pushing for updates to the workman's compensation rates, which haven't changed in about 20 years. These changes are crucial for ensuring that our first responders and other workers receive timely and adequate care.

What motivates you personally to take on this challenging role at this point in your career?

My motivation comes from a passion for teaching and supporting the next generation of physicians. I frequently train residents and speak to medical students, and I want to create a healthcare environment where they can thrive without being bogged down by bureaucracy. It's essential for us to focus on providing excellent patient care and not let administrative burdens diminish our passion for medicine. I love what I do, and I want other physicians to feel the same fulfillment in their careers.

Thank you for sharing your vision and goals with us. Are there any final thoughts you would like to share?

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the DCMA for this incredible opportunity. I also would like to thank our immediate past president, Dr. Carmel Barrau, for his outstanding leadership, and all former presidents whose legacy I am honored to continue.

For more information about how to support the Dade County Medical Association and become a member, visit www.miamimed.com.

Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital Achieves Magnet® Recognition

Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital has attained Magnet® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), which is the highest honor an organization can receive for its professional nursing practice.

"I am incredibly proud of this team," said Kerry Major, MSN, NE-BC, chief nursing officer of Cleveland Clinic's Florida region. "They live and breathe quality patient care. This designation is a reflection of their hard work and I am honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with these amazing caregivers who are dedicated to our patients, each other and to their profession."

"Achieving Magnet status for the first time is a tremendous milestone for a hospital," said Meredith A. Foxx, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC, APRN, executive chief nursing officer at Cleveland Clinic's Stanley Shalom Zielony Institute for Nursing Excellence. "This recognition reflects the nursing caregivers' dedication to professional practice, ongoing education, and achieving excellence through certification. I am so proud of the nursing caregivers and leadership team at Weston Hospital for their commitment to providing the highest quality of care and reaching this remarkable accomplishment."

To achieve Magnet recognition, organizations go through an extensive review and systematic evaluation of their nursing practices by the ANCC. The process includes the review and documentation and a site visit by ANCC professionals who evaluate the hospital against numerous quantitative and qualitative standards that represent excellence in nursing services, clinical outcomes and patient care delivery.

The ANCC team cited several areas in which the Weston Hospital excelled including:

- Outperforming national benchmarks for in-patient engagement
- Outperforming national benchmarks for in-patient care coordination



- Outperforming national benchmarks for in-patient hospital acquired pressure injury
 - Outperforming national benchmarks for in-patient falls with injury
 - Outperforming benchmarks for surgical errors in the ambulatory setting
- "Achieving Magnet recognition is a well-deserved honor," said F. Scott Ross, vice president and chief medical officer of Cleveland Clinic's Weston Hospital. "It reinforces our belief that our nursing team is exceptional. I am proud of the work they do and proud to congratulate them on this accomplishment."

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Yesenia Blanco, MSN, RN

Professor Yesenia Blanco serves as a faculty member teaching in the Associate of Science in Nursing program. She is the most recent recipient of the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurse Educators honoring nursing faculty that make significant contributions to the future of nursing. Many of the Benjamin Leon School of Nursing students face challenges such as multi-generational families and the need to work while completing a rigorous curriculum. Professor Blanco is recognized by faculty and students for her ability to teach medical-surgical nursing so that difficult concepts can be understood by novice nursing students. She excels in her ability to integrate the theory into the clinical setting facilitating clinical judgement to recognize the dynamic health care environment. Professor Blanco not only excels in her role as an educator with students; she also served as the Faculty Success Coaches mentoring new faculty to ease their transition from practitioner to educator.



Roxana Orta, DNP, MSN/Ed, AGNP-BC, PMHN-BC, APRN

Dr. Roxana Orta was the 2023 Joan K. Stout RN Endowed Teaching Chair, Professor of Nursing at MDC, Benjamin Leon School of Nursing. She is the Program Coordinator of the RN to BSN Program where she ensures students meet national program outcomes. Dr. Orta is recognized in the academic community as an expert educator with years of extensive dedication to student professional development and academic excellence. This year she has received the prestigious "Florida Nurses Association South Region, Nurse Educator Award" and "FNA South Region, Distinguished Nurse of the Year Award". This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Orta and her commitment to providing an exemplary education to her students. She takes great pride and dedication in teaching the next generation of baccalaureate-prepared nurses.



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HCA Florida JFK Hospital Announces Promotion of New Assistant Chief Nursing Officer

HCA Florida JFK Hospital is proud to announce the promotion of Sarah Gille to the position of assistant chief nursing officer. For the past three years, Sarah has served as the director of clinical informatics at JFK Hospital.

An HCA Healthcare veteran of more than 12 years, Sarah first joined the organization as a staff nurse at HCA Florida North Florida Hospital. From there, she moved to South Florida and joined the JFK Hospital family as a staff nurse on 5 South. Her path to leadership began shortly after when she became the clinical nurse coordinator for both day and night shift on 5 South. Sarah also worked in the pre-operative department and participated in many projects for the informatics department.

Sarah holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth, FL. She holds two national certifications in informatics nursing and medical-surgical nursing through the American Nurses Credentialing Center.



Sarah Gille

Tampa General CEO John Couris Appointed to Florida's Health Care Innovation Council

Florida Senate President Kathleen Passidomo has appointed John Couris, president and CEO of Tampa General Hospital, to serve as a member of the Health Care Innovation Council, a statewide volunteer organization established this year to advance innovation in health care as part of the Senate's priority Live Healthy initiative.

"Florida can serve as a national model in delivering high-quality health care to all Floridians. With support from Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and other leaders on the state level, we can make strategic investments in innovation that have the potential to revolutionize the way we deliver care in the Sunshine State," said Couris. "I'm honored to be a part of the new Health Care Innovation Council, where we will focus on dynamic and strategic solutions that can increase access, cut costs and improve patient outcomes."



John Couris

Baptist Health South Florida Names New Chief Digital and Information Officer

Baptist Health South Florida announced the appointment of Sha Edathumparampil as chief digital and information officer, responsible for leading all functions of the Technology & Digital (T&D) division.

Edathumparampil joined Baptist Health three years ago from American Century Investments, where he was chief data officer and vice president of technology. He has also held technology and digital leadership roles at BMO Financial Group, The Walt Disney Company, Sabre Inc., and Fidelity Investments.

Edathumparampil is a graduate of Birla Institute of Technology & Science in Pilani, India, with a degree in engineering.



Sha Edathumparampil

30th Anniversary Trauma Reflection Dedication

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Lee Health Trauma Center, Vision Ace and Lee Health joined forces to create a trauma reflection space.

The location right outside of Gulf Coast Medical Center is open to all needed a space of peace and quiet as they face and support those receiving life-saving care at the facility.

The dedication was the final celebration commemorating Trauma Awareness Month and the 30th anniversary.



A PASSION FOR HEALING AND LEADERSHIP

A Passion for Healing and Leadership

The Memorial Foundation and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation recently recognized five individuals and a family foundation at its 24th annual Circle of Friends luncheon. Each was honored at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for professional excellence, community service, and a commitment to Memorial Healthcare System.

Melida Akiti, Dr. Daniel B. Chan, Yochanon Klein, Dr. Diana Martinez, and Dr. Juan C. Martinez were presented with Spirit of Healing awards. The Levitz Family Foundation was honored with the Wasie Philanthropic Leadership award.

"All the award winners have had a positive impact on their profession, our community, and Memorial Healthcare System," said Kevin Janser, president of the Memorial and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundations. "Their unselfishness and generosity have improved more lives than can be counted."

Melida Akiti, a Davie resident, was a leader within Memorial Healthcare System for 12 years, most recently as chief community officer. She was a driving force in the transformation of its primary care initiative and championed delivering the same high levels of service and care for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Akiti also helped establish programs to provide individuals the resources to overcome social determinants of health, increased access to maternal health services for women in black and brown communities, and was instrumental in creating the "One City at a Time" initiative to bring healthcare directly to underserved communities at locations convenient for them.

Daniel Chan, MD, of Fort Lauderdale, is chief of the Memorial Orthopaedic Institute, chief of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine, and medical director of Orthopaedic Trauma Services at Memorial Regional Hospital, a Level 1 trauma center. He is also the medical director of Joint Replacement at Cypress

Creek Outpatient Surgical Center, the highest-volume orthopaedic ambulatory surgical center in South Florida. Dr. Chan was also responsible for the establishment and subsequent growth of Memorial's orthopaedic surgery department. "What gives me the most satisfaction is seeing patients back in the office after surgery and witnessing the dramatic change in their quality of life," he said. "Whether they are recovering from an accident or joint replacement surgery, seeing that improvement and the change in their overall disposition, hearing about how they can now play with their families, return to work, and do all the activities they love, that makes my day."

Yochanon Klein, along with his wife, Esther, founded Hollywood-based Healing Hearts, a nonprofit that helps families during times of medical crisis by providing meals, housing, referrals, counseling, and other support services. The organization was born after the Kleins faced cancer in their own family and saw how overwhelming those circumstances can be. Additionally, Rabbi Klein volunteers as a chaplain at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Miami Children's Hospital, Jackson Memorial Hospital, and Mount Sinai Hospital.

Diana Martinez, MD, a Pembroke Pines resident, joined Memorial Healthcare System in 2013 and became chief of Pediatric Neurology two years later. Since that time, she has more than doubled the number of full-time physicians in the department and added five advanced practice providers. "I have an amazing team of professionals, and there is not one person that I would not trust with my own child," she said. Under Dr. Martinez's leadership, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital has opened an epilepsy program with three epileptologists dedicated to caring for children, especially those with intractable epilepsy, through monitoring, medications and/or surgical procedures. She has also hired a pediatric neurologist specializing in fetal neonatal neurology, a rare specialty many children's hospitals don't offer, and is currently



focused on developing a neurodevelopmental program for children with autism and other developmental disorders.

Juan C. Martinez, MD, has dedicated his career, including the last 21 years at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, to caring for children with lung-related ailments and conditions, striving tirelessly to enhance the comprehensive care they receive. The Davie resident is the pediatric facility's chief of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonology, medical director of its sleep disorder and cystic fibrosis centers, and chief of staff. Under Dr. Martinez's leadership, the cystic fibrosis center has earned national accreditation, and its pulmonary team continues to care for patients as they transition into adulthood. The program was twice awarded the Outstanding Partner Award by the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is active in CF research. For more than a decade, the native of Cuba has also been an affiliate clinical assistant professor of Clinical Biomedical Science at Florida Atlantic University.

The Boca Raton-based Levitz Family Foundation was founded in 2011 to make a difference in the lives of people around the world. Today, the foundation works with more than 50 local, national, and international nonprofit organizations to support children, families, veter-

ans, athletes, and animals.

The Levitz Family Foundation has provided philanthropic support to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation as it expands the Conine Clubhouse, a home away from home where families can stay for free while a child is hospitalized. In addition to helping children and families in times of medical crisis, the nonprofit assists with dog rescues and adoptions, supports local food banks, contributes to scientific research, provides scholarships and mentorship to students, built eight schools in Jamaica and Honduras, and flown veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built in their honor. It has donated more than \$12.5 million to support the missions of organizations that include the Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation, ARC Broward, Humane Society of Broward County, Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida, USA Wrestling, and the United States Paralympic Team, among many others.

The Memorial and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundations raise funds philanthropically to assist patients, families, and to underwrite the cost of programs, facilities, and equipment within the Memorial Healthcare System. To learn more or make a donation, please call 954-265-3454.

Cover Story: The Future of Cano Health

Continued from page 1

employees.

"We took a very methodical, data-driven approach to identifying the markets we needed to close," said Kent, adding that the company also right-sized its cost structure while strengthening its operational and financial performance, and enhanced the way that it approaches and manages patient care.

"We're starting to see the fruits of our labor," he noted. "In the first quarter of the year, I'm proud to say that we're tracking to our goal and our budget. And we'll be emerging from bankruptcy as a private company."

According to Kent, 86 percent of the company's lenders that supported its plan will be the new owners of the company.

"The management team and I are looking forward to engaging with new owners, patients, vendors, and employees as this new entity," he added.

Future Plans

According to Kent, the Cano Health that emerges from this process will be focused on strategic and smart growth.

"Within our existing footprint, we want to improve the services we provide patients in our medical centers, and we want to retain the patients we have today," he said. "We want to get back to basics, if you will, which means caring for our associates and patients as warmly as we do our own individual families. That's what made Cano great to begin with, and we want to return to that in a smarter, more structured way."

"As I've traveled around to all of our medical centers, I've had numerous patients tell me that they felt that Cano had lost its way when it became a publicly traded com-

pany," he continued. "What had made Cano great was gone. I want to ensure that all of our patients experience our caring nature and that we treat them like family when they're here."

Kent cites some already successful programs that put patients at the forefront. The care management team at Cano at Home, for example, has successfully identified high-risk members and enrolled them in programs that are critical to their long-term care, as well as important to the financial success of the health system.

He notes that 2025 should turn out to be a very profitable year for Cano Health.

"We are taking a very measured, disciplined approach to our three-year plan, and so far, it is tracking along very nicely with our goals," he said. "I am very proud of the work of our management team, inclusive of the advisors that have helped us through this restructuring process. They have been phenomenal to get us where we are today, and to help us sharpen our long-range plan to realize results."

An entrepreneur at heart, Kent says that he's pleased to see the changes that Cano Health has undergone.

"Despite the challenges we've faced as an organization, it's the people that have always kept me at Cano Health," said the former nurse and builder of three healthcare companies.

"When you engage with the employees here, you see their dedication and sense their caring," he added. "It's been a great honor for me to lead the company during a very troubling time in its history and through this transformation—this time, the right way."

For more information, go to www.canohealth.com

Caring for the Caregiver

BY JAIME JOSHI ELDER

Caregiving has been a central feature of every society since the days of the Mesopotamians and with the aging American population anticipated to expand substantially by the year 2050 - the number of Americans ages 65 and older is projected to increase from 58 million in 2022 to 82 million by 2050 which is a 47% increase - taking care of the caregiver has become a vital and pressing concern.

Caregiving can be split into two categories - formal and informal. A formal caregiver is a paid care provider who either lives in one's home or in a residential facility and an informal caregiver is an unpaid individual such as a partner, family member or friend who helps with the activities of daily life and medical tasks.

Visiting Angels of the Palm Beaches recognized this need for both formal and informal caregivers and answered the call with an expansive vision and investment - the creation of Visiting Angels University at Palm Beach Gardens.

The first of its kind in Southeastern Florida, Visiting Angels University at Palm Beach Gardens will serve as a resource center and educational facility and will also host support groups and serve as a meeting space for local non-



profit and community organizations. As a caregiver resource center, Visiting Angels University provides caregivers a chance to continue their education and

improve their skills and knowledge on topics as essential and varied as customer service, infection control, privacy and confidentiality and palliative care.

While this educational component applies more to formal caregivers, Visiting Angels wants to ensure that the needs of informal caregivers are met and that their voices are heard as well.

According to a paper by Steven H. Zarit, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Human Development and Family Studies at the Pennsylvania State University, 40% to 70% of family caregivers have clinically significant symptoms of depression and of these caregivers, approximately a quarter to half of them meet the diagnostic criteria for major depression.

Visiting Angels University will start hosting support groups in Spring 2024 and plans on creating groups for caregivers, clients and families. In addition to creating safe spaces where people can experience reduced stress by talking and embracing the encouragement, support and advice of others, Visiting Angels University will also create dedicated support groups for Parkinson's Disease,

Family Caregiving Dynamics, Bereavement and Alzheimer's and Dementia.

The latter is crucial as approximately 40% of family caregivers of people with dementia suffer from depression. According to the Alzheimer's Association, this is a significant increase compared to 5-17% of non-caregivers of similar ages.

As the severity of cognitive impairment of the person with dementia increases, so do the rates of depression for the caregiver.

In addition to the support groups, Visiting Angels University is dedicated to being a resource for the entire community and not just staff, clients and their families. They will be hosting a series of public seminars on the topics of health, aging and care.

With the creation of Visiting Angels University, Visiting Angels is furthering their mission and cementing their legacy of providing non-medical home care and restoring hope through the assistance of healing the emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of the South Florida families they serve.

Kindred Hospital South Florida

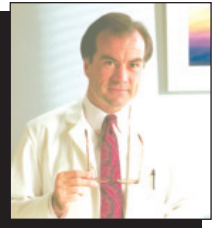
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WHAT'S NEW...WHAT'S NEW...WHAT'S NEW...

Golden Angels Gala Raises \$6 Million Milestone for Jackson Health System

Jackson Health Foundation hosted its annual Golden Angels Gala on April 27 at Ice Palace Studios in Miami. The gala recognized Jackson Health System's critical contributions to the community, and celebrated the Golden Angel Society, the Foundation's premier giving group, for their significant philanthropic impact in supporting Jackson's mission.

The event brought together more than 750 guests, including corporate partners, philanthropists and community leaders, for a memorable evening dedicated to honoring generosity. The community tastemakers present included Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Jose L. Dotres, City of Coral Gables Mayor Vince Lago, among others. Six million dollars were raised through the generous contributions of the attendees.

The gala highlighted the success of the Foundation's One Day for Jackson, a new annual day of giving campaign that brought the community together in support of Jackson – a nonprofit academic medical system and the only public healthcare system in Miami-Dade County. One Day for Jackson raised more than \$550,000 on April 4, 2024.

"We are overwhelmed with the generous contributions from our donors who continue to support Jackson to fulfill its mission to provide a single, high standard of quality care for the residents of Miami-Dade," said Carlos A. Migoya, president and CEO of Jackson. "Their dedicated efforts and generosity have allowed Jackson to remain competitive with state-of-the-art facilities and technology to help us optimize what we do best – provide world renowned medical care."

In addition to celebrating the success of One Day for Jackson, VUMI Group, a leading international healthcare company, announced a major \$4 million gift to support the exceptional care being delivered at Jackson Memorial Hospital and José Milton Memorial Hospital at Jackson West Medical Center.

Jupiter Medical Center Receives \$10 Million Donation

Jupiter Medical Center is pleased to establish the "Elliott Family Center for Cardiac Electrophysiology." The donation comes from Jupiter-based donors Hugh and Nancy Elliott. The funds will help to expand the not-for-profit hospital's existing Electrophysiology (EP) Lab from one lab to two and support future growth and expansion needs. Between fiscal year 2022 and 2023, Jupiter Medical Center saw a nearly 40 percent increase in demand for electrophysiology procedures.

JMC's Elliott Family Center for Cardiac Electrophysiology will be part of the hospital's award-winning Robson Heart & Vascular Institute, which features an AFib Center of Excellence. Since launching in 2020, the hospital's heart program has rapidly expanded to meet the growing demand for its services, including a Structural Heart Program. Like all specialties, the hospital employs a multidisciplinary approach to heart care, and the ever-increasing team of cardiac specialists is experienced in a wide range of treatments, including pharmaceutical, minimally invasive and surgical.



Nancy and Hugh Elliott

Photo credit: Tracey Benson Photography

11th Annual Broward Health Ball Raises \$1.4 Million



(l-r) Commissioner Paul Tanner, Alexis Yarbrough, Jodi Tanner and Shane Strum

The 11th annual Broward Health Ball returned to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood with more than 1,100 community and philanthropic leaders gathered for a remarkable evening in support of Broward Health.

The "Starry Night" event was held on April 20 and raised \$1.4 million to further enhance patient care and services at Broward Health. The night included cocktail lounges, silent and live auctions, followed by dinner and dancing. It was emceed by WSVN reporter Alex Miranda.

"We are immensely grateful for the support of our donors and sponsors, whose contributions assist Broward Health in advancing our vision of being a champion for a healthier community," said Shane Strum, President & CEO of Broward Health. "Their generosity enables Broward Health to deliver exceptional healthcare to all those we serve."

In addition to the auction and entertainment, the Broward Health Foundation introduced the Stella Award to honor a donor or volunteer who, like a star, is a singular source of light but also works as part of a collective body of stars to evoke change for the Foundation, Broward Health, and the greater Fort Lauderdale and Broward County community. This year's inaugural recipient of the Stella Award was Linda Haller, executive director of the Haller Foundation.

"Linda was a natural choice for the Stella Award," said Strum. "In the past year, she has not only served on the Broward Health Foundation board of directors, but also launched a new philanthropic initiative, Friends of Broward Health, which is rallying local leaders to support specific causes for the health system. She's also active in other non-profits, enhancing healthcare locally and nationally."



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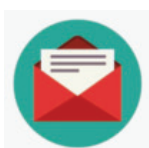
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Accolades Accolades Accolades Accolades

Area Agency on Aging of Broward County CEO Honored as a Leader in Healthcare

The Area Agency on Aging of Broward County's (AAABC) CEO, Charlotte Mather-Taylor, has been inducted as a 2024 Inspiring Women of Health by the Health Foundation of South Florida. She earned recognition for her 30 years of senior and healthcare advocacy alongside 11 other extraordinary community leaders at the Inspiring Women of Health Awards Luncheon in March.

As CEO, Mather-Taylor oversees the nonprofit umbrella organization charged with planning, coordinating, monitoring, providing, and funding programs designed to meet the needs of almost half a million Broward County senior residents. Throughout her career, she has been keen to monitor the pulse of her community to better understand its needs and to put forth viable solutions. Inspired by firsthand accounts of seniors struggling with isolation during COVID-19, she spearheaded AAABC's Senior Technologies Programs. Recent initiatives like the Tailored Caregiver Assessment & Referral Program (TCARE) to support family caregivers at risk of burnout, collaboration with Intuition Robotics to add ElliQ, an AI care companion, and partnership with Amazon Ring have greatly benefited seniors, promoting independence and well-being.



Charlotte Mather-Taylor

Lee Health First Healthcare System in Florida to Be Recognized with the Governor's Sterling Award

Lee Health is honored to be the first healthcare system in Florida to be recognized with the Governor's Sterling Award, granted by the Sterling Council.

The Florida Sterling Award is a prestigious recognition bestowed upon organizations in Florida that demonstrate exemplary performance in several key areas including leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, measurement, analysis, knowledge management, workforce focus, operations focus, and results.

To receive the Florida Sterling Award, organizations must complete an application detailing performance, initiatives, and results, along with supporting documentation. A team of performance excellence experts then reviews the application and conducts further evaluation, which includes site visits, interviews with leadership and employees, and examination of documentation and evidence provided by the organization.



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West Palm Beach VA Recognized for International Health Standards

The West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System (WPBVAHCS) is proud to share the Blind Rehab Center (BRC) located at the central hub of the medical center has received full CARF Accreditation.

The Accreditation recognizes the highly trained competent employees, performance measurement improvements and education affiliations to enhance the care offerings to Veteran patients.

"The CARF Accreditation is a testimony to the dedication and pride our team holds in all that they do to empower Veterans in taking back their independence," says Assistant Director Thomas Orr. "As professionals they provide more than just their skillset, but also their passion in serving with distinction to support Veterans in regaining confidence and living a fulfilling life."

Good Samaritan Medical Center Achieves Accreditation from the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program®

Good Samaritan Medical Center's bariatric surgery program has been accredited as a Comprehensive Center by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP®), a joint Quality Program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS).

The MBSAQIP Standards, Optimal Resources for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, ensure that metabolic and bariatric patients receive multidisciplinary medical care, which improves patient outcomes and long-term success. MBSAQIP-Accredited centers offer preoperative and postoperative care designed specifically for patients with obesity.

Good Samaritan Medical Center's commitment to quality care begins with expertly trained staff and the leadership of an experienced bariatric surgeon. The program is tasked with continuous review of surgical data to ensure the highest quality care is provided to all metabolic and bariatric patients.

West Palm Beach VA Receives Award for Going Green

The West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System (WPBVAHCS) is proud to announce the recognition of the Partner for Change Award, the nation's leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in health care.

This honor recognizes the organization's ongoing commitment to improving environmental performance and efforts to build sustainability and resiliency into both operations and culture.

The environmental efforts of great strides include but are not limited to an enhanced Laundry Plant serving South Florida VA facilities to electrical government issued vehicles, these actions of change allow efficient operations in decreasing the carbon footprint within the local community.

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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

PARKING SYSTEM SOLUTIONS

WORLD CLASS PARKING

World Class Parking is a parking solutions company, utilizing innovative technology systems to provide world class care for your patients and visitors. Whether you are building new facilities or adapting existing parking/valet systems, World Class Parking management has more than 30 years of experience in patient management, transport, concierge services, and 24/7 customer support. Let World Class Parking solutions bring value to your business. For more information, contact Ray Lainez at sales@worldclassparking.net; (786) 452-7153.

PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE

CANO HEALTH - PRIMARY CARE

Cano Health is a high-touch, technology-powered healthcare company delivering personalized, value-based primary care to approximately 310,000 members. Founded in 2009, with its headquarters in Miami, Florida, Cano Health is transforming healthcare by delivering primary care that measurably improves the health, wellness, and quality of life of its patients and the communities it serves through its primary care medical centers and supporting affiliated providers. For more information, contact: (786) 206-3322 ext. 7559 or mediarelations@canohealth.com

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