

ABRIL LAW:
Florida
Providers'
Surprise to the
No Surprises
Act page 6



FINANCIAL:
KIDZ CFO Lindsay
Mendiola Excels
in Facing Healthcare
Challenges Head-on
page 19

PSRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Palm Beach, FL
Permit #4595

Hospital NewsTM and HEALTHCARE REPORT

Volume 21 • Issue 1 • \$5.00 July 2024

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

Legal Profiles



Linda Epstein

Navigating the Complexities of Healthcare: Linda Epstein's Leadership at Broward Health

BY CAROL NEWMAN

Linda Epstein, Esq., leverages her background as a former nurse in her current role as General Counsel for the North Broward Hospital District, operating as Broward Health. This unique perspective enriches her leadership within one of the nation's top ten largest public hospital systems. Under her guidance, Epstein and her legal team ensure the health system adheres to all legal and ethical standards while maintaining exceptional patient care in the community.

"We occupy a unique position as an in-house legal team due to our distinctive operational environment as a Florida Special District," said Epstein. "Our interactions and navigational strategies differ significantly from those of attorneys for non-district hospitals and systems because of the laws applicable to special districts."

Epstein's department is solution driven. Their focus is on what "can" be done by providing options or alternatives rather than what "can't" be done. Epstein credits several factors for her team's success:

Emphasis on Education: Broward Health places a strong emphasis on continuous education. Epstein and her senior

Continued on page 19

Advances In Telemedicine

Remote Patient Monitoring and Telehealth Services Positively Impacting Maternal Health Outcomes

BY TAMMY SCOTT REESE, MBA, BSN, RN

Despite advances in healthcare, 700 women in the U.S. die during pregnancy or from complications of childbirth within a year. Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women. Even worse, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 80% of these deaths are preventable.

That's why my colleagues and I at Memorial Primary Care created programs to ensure our patients get the assistance they require, both pre- and post-partum. By combining remote monitoring and telehealth, we've been able to positively impact maternal health outcomes in South Florida.

A Dangerous Situation

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a common cause of complications during pregnancy, with preeclampsia a related issue that poses a significant danger to mothers. It accounts for nearly 15% of maternal deaths worldwide.

I know first-hand how problematic these situations can become. At age 30, and pregnant with my third child, my blood pressure rose. Doctors delivered the baby immediately and treated my hypertension.



Tammy Scott Reese

Continued on page 16

University of Miami Advanced Nursing Programs Open Career Horizons

Flexible, affordable master's, certificate, and doctoral nursing tracks rank among nation's best, rate high with graduates

BY ROBIN SHEAR

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) offers a wide range of graduate nursing programs, and for many current students, graduation day is fast approaching.

On track to complete her M.S.N. program this August, Anna Mudrytska, an oncology nurse at Baptist Hospital, returned to SONHS for an advanced nursing degree after



(l-r) Josh Boyd, Anna Mudrytska, and Chantelle Jones

successfully completing the school's 12-month

Continued on page 18



Dr. Neil Miransky

Enhancing Sickle Cell Care: Dr. Neil Miransky's Comprehensive Approach

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Few conditions require as much specialized knowledge and dedication in family medicine as sickle cell disease. Dr. Neil Miransky, a seasoned physician at Baptist Health, has devoted over two decades to treating patients with this complex blood disorder.

His expertise in palliative care has significantly shaped his approach to managing sickle cell disease, focusing on improving patients' quality of life. In this interview, Dr. Miransky shares his insights, the challenges patients face, and the innovative care strategies employed by the new Sickle Cell Program at Baptist Health South Miami Hospital.

Dr. Miransky's passion for palliative medicine began during his medical school years when he was mentored by a physician who dedicated her career to alleviating suffering.

"The art of medicine is the art of caring for another human being using one's skills, knowledge, and talents," says Dr. Miransky.

He explains that palliative medicine addresses and alleviates suffering in its various forms, focusing on the total experience of the patient's disease while addressing the underlying cause.

"Sickle cell disease is a genetic condition that significantly burdens those affected,"

Continued on page 22

Partners in Elevating Care

Every day, KIDZ clinicians and staff work alongside hospital-based teams to deliver exceptional care for infants, children and moms.

Our joint commitment to quality and safety, patient satisfaction, and seamless continuation of care never wavers—and it's a testament to our longstanding partnerships with some of the region's top hospitals.

Our physicians also hold positions of leadership at local health systems and academic institutions. Their innovative approaches have helped establish some of Florida's leading healthcare services and high performing institutes, while training the next generation of providers.

Together with our hospital partners, we change outcomes for the better.



MEDICAL

CARING FOR
Infants,
Children
& Moms
SINCE 1988

Miami-Dade • Broward
Palm Beach • Saint Lucie
Lee • Collier

KIDZMEDICAL.COM

Publisher's Note

When a Shadow Isn't Just a Shadow ...



I'd been away on business for several days, leaving Carol to her own devices. Little did I know, our living room TV had a surprise waiting for me.

After unpacking my severely over-packed car, I settled into my favorite spot on the couch with Loki, only to notice something odd about the TV. The screen seemed ... off. Only two-thirds of the picture was visible. The right side of the screen was perfectly fine, but the left side was just a mysterious shadow. My first thought was, of course, the TV was broken. But my second thought was, how had Carol not noticed this?

"Uh, honey, do you see anything wrong with the TV?" I asked, trying to keep my tone neutral.

Carol glanced at the screen, her face the picture of contentment. "Nope! It's been working just fine all week. No blips or freezing."

I stared at her in disbelief. "You don't think there's something ... missing?"

Carol squinted at the TV. "I don't know what you mean. Everything looks perfectly normal to me. There's just a shadow because the blinds are all open."

"But the left side of the screen is a complete shadow – you can't even see the HULU menu. We're only seeing half of the picture!"

She shrugged nonchalantly. "Oh, that. You'd have to close all the blinds to keep the sun off the screen. Sure, it's hard to find shows without the menu, but you just figure it out after a while." I could hardly believe my ears – she'd been watching TV for at least 4 days on half a screen and didn't think it had anything to do with the TV.

"It was kind of fun," Carol continued. It made me use my imagination to fill in the blanks. Like, in a detective show, I figured the killer was hiding in the dark part."

Suffice it to say, Carol is big on "making do," and rarely sees the need to upgrade our equipment, considering all proactive technological advances frivolous. A trip to Best Buy for Carol is equivalent to walking the plank. So, I couldn't help but laugh and quickly lowered all the blinds just to show her the real culprit was the TV.

As I fiddled with the settings to no avail, I marveled at how Carol's unique perspective turned a technical glitch into a week-long adventure of creative interpretation. But on the bright side, I knew a trip to Best Buy and a brand new 75" TV was in our future.

Charles Felix



You can reach Charles Felix at
Charles@southfloridahospitalnews.com

When **legal strategy** matters, contact us for a free consultation.



- ▲ Compliance, Stark, False Claims Act, HIPAA
- ▲ Physician Agreements and Hospital Privileges
- ▲ Medical M&As and Real Estate Transactions
- ▲ ACOs, MSOs, JVs, and Operating Agreements
- ▲ Provider Collections from Payors, Audits and Litigation



Ben Assad Mirza
Esq., LL.M., CPA, MPHA, CHC
Call/Text: (954) 445-5503
BAM@MirzaHealthLaw.com

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

MirzaHealthLaw.com
FORT LAUDERDALE | FLORIDA





TRUSTED UROLOGIC CARE

NOW BACKED BY THE POWER OF ACADEMIC MEDICINE

Urology Group of Florida is now TGH Urology Group of Florida
— bringing the strength and resources of academic medicine
to urology patients in Palm Beach County.

Through this partnership, patients will continue to receive compassionate care from the same Palm Beach County-based urologists they know and trust — but with the academic resources, cutting-edge tools and research protocols that make Tampa General Hospital **one of the Nation's Best Hospitals for urologic care**. And patients needing complex care at Tampa General will enjoy a seamless experience with convenient pre- and postoperative follow-up at our three locations across Palm Beach County.

For a consultation, call:

Delray Beach
(561) 496-4444

Lake Worth
(561) 964-1212

Palm Beach Gardens
(561) 833-5594



TGHUrologyGroupFL.com

Florida's Leading Academic Health System For Over 50 Years



HOSPITAL-LEVEL CARE



**When you feel sick,
you might prefer the comfort
of your own home.**

Cleveland Clinic's Hospital Care At HomeSM provides in-home hospital care for congestive heart failure, COPD, pneumonia, kidney infections and other conditions.

Hospital Care At Home is designed to let you stay at home while staying in touch with your Cleveland Clinic care team — all day, every day. With Hospital Care At Home, we deliver technology that allows doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals to treat and monitor your health so you don't need to be in the hospital.

**We bring hospital care
to the place where you feel most
comfortable: your home.**

ClevelandClinicFlorida.org/CareAtHome

Six Steps for Strengthening Healthcare Margins and Organizational Health

The 2024 BDO Healthcare CFO Outlook Survey presents a cautiously optimistic view of the future for healthcare. Despite facing inflation, margin pressures, and elevated labor costs, 79% of CFOs reported an improvement in profitability in 2023. This positive change is attributed to the easing of supply chain issues and revenue enhancements.

However, the path forward is not without its hurdles. Regulatory pressures, COVID-era funding clawbacks, and strict bond and loan covenant agreements pose significant challenges. Even as profitability begins to show signs of recovery, diligent cost management is essential.

Healthcare leaders are advised to pursue comprehensive strategies that enhance the organization's resilience and long-term stability. These six steps can help identify and execute opportunities that drive margin performance and ensure sustainability:



BY ALFREDO CEPERO

1. Execute cost and revenue strategies that can differentiate you from the competition and drive margin improvement.

Example: Implementing digital strategies that transfer work into the hands of patients and satisfy their patient experience demands.

2. Advance consumer centric strategies that address the unique needs of your market.

Example: Introducing a patient loyalty program that rewards patients for healthy behaviors, repeat visits, and referrals, which encourages ongoing engagement with your healthcare system and addresses the desire for value-added services in the patient community.

3. Reinvest cost savings in talent development and retention, innovation, and performance improvement.

Example: Allocating funds saved from operational efficiencies to create a comprehensive employee training program focused on emerging healthcare technologies and patient care techniques, thereby improving service quality and employee job satisfaction.

4. Leverage digital technologies and functionality through your Electronic Health Record (EHR) and Revenue Cycle Management (RCM) systems, proceed cautiously with AI investments and focus on data driven analytics.

Example: Integrating advanced analytics into EHR and RCM systems to predict patient health trends and outcomes, enabling proactive care while cautiously exploring AI tools for diagnostic purposes, ensuring they complement rather than replace human judgment.

5. Prioritize "collaboration and partnership" business models including outsourcing and managed services to achieve operational efficiencies.

Example: Working with a third-party logistics company to manage inventory and distribution, allowing the business to focus on core competencies and reduce overhead costs associated with warehousing and transportation.

6. Identify balance sheet opportunities to achieve additional financial flexibility.

Example: Refinancing existing debt to secure lower interest rates, thereby reducing interest expenses, and improving cash flow, or leasing equipment instead of purchasing it outright to preserve cash and improve liquidity ratios.

*Alfredo Cepero, Principal, Assurance Market Leader,
can be reached at (305) 420-8006 or acepero@bdo.com.*



Free Webinar on August 21 EMPOWERING EMPLOYED PHYSICIANS

- FTC Ruling on Non-Compete Agreements
- Healthcare Fraud and Abuse Primer for Physicians
- How to Navigate Hospital Medical Executive Committees, Peer Reviews, Investigations, and Bylaws

Register today!



Let's Connect: ACHE of South Florida Spotlight

ACHE of South Florida
An Independent Chapter of



American College of
Healthcare Executives
for leaders who care®

ACHE of South Florida Member Spotlight: Kenneth Jones

BY LOIS THOMSON

Kenneth Jones' grandmother was a nurse, and because of that, he said he's always had an interest in healthcare. Now, as Chief Executive Officer of HCA Florida NW Hospital, he finds himself in healthcare, but in a different capacity than he expected. "I really didn't know about healthcare administration until later in my undergraduate progression," he said, pointing out, however, that he had participated in leadership activities while growing up, including for student government, and served on numerous committees for professional organizations. He said being CEO at the hospital "is really a good mixture of healthcare and business and leadership; it kind of melded two of my passions."

Jones credits part of his progression with becoming a member of ACHE – the American College of Healthcare Executives – in 2001. He said the graduate school program at the University of Minnesota encouraged students to participate, and he joined because he wanted to take advantage of the organization's resources – conferences, literature, mentoring opportunities, scholarships. "I wanted to develop my overall leadership skills, and I really have used those resources to become a better healthcare executive."

He is now putting that leadership into action by handling the day-to-day operations of this 289 bed, full-service facility. Since being named CEO three years ago, Jones said his focus has been on the culture, the patient experience, workforce and physician engagement, and growth and overall market share in core service lines.

Regarding the workforce, he said, "Particularly coming out of the pandemic, we spent quite a bit of time stabilizing the 'people' part of our work." This was done by physician engagement surveys and patient experience surveys. "A lot of it is listening to the voices of our patients and our staff and being more responsive to their needs."

For example, Jones said staff has indicated they want a relationship, they want to



Kenneth Jones

know that leadership cares about them as people. "We have more than 1,000 colleagues who work at the organization, but we want to seem small and have our leaders and staff and physicians feel like they're part of the core family. It's the attribute we try to develop here at Northwest."

Also important is recruiting and hiring new residents for key positions. "We want

to continue to grow our workforce and our leaders so they can continue to do great things in and expand the services we offer to the community."

One way to increase that growth is by encouraging up-and-coming leaders to join ACHE. Jones said he urges them to participate at the local level, whether on committees, volunteering at events, or being on panels. "Everyone can participate in some way. It helps them to personally grow." Prior to coming to South Florida, Jones was the region leader of ACHE of the Chicago area.

Along with recruiting and growth, Jones said the biggest challenge of his work has been the tremendous disruption that has come from inflation, whether for supplies, purchase services, utilities, workforce costs – "All of that comes with unique challenges that we have to overcome. In each of those areas we had to be open to new ways of doing things, whether our school affiliation from a nursing standpoint, or our resiliency efforts around our supply chain, or creating alternatives from a purchase services standpoint."

Jones said that above all else is remembering that "healthcare is about people serving people; so we have to make sure our people have the resources they need and remove barriers so they can be successful and responsive." He said a patient doesn't go to the hospital every day, so when they DO go, it's important to be empathetic. "We have to try our best to solve their problems and remove or reduce their anxiety."

In summarizing, Jones said, "All things really lead to an environment where our staff and our patients would want to recommend our hospital as a place for others to work and for others to receive care."

When It Comes to Patient Care - Benchmark the Best

PART 3

When it comes to your approach to delivering high quality patient care, how is your organization viewed by the community, your patients, or your team? Would the general response be "Dynamite" or "Dinosaur"? The best of the best are continuously looking at their processes and on an obsessive quest to get better every day. These folks objectively look to enhance patient outcomes, safety and overall satisfaction. This is done by regularly looking at the metrics, analyzing current approaches, seeking patient and staff feedback, and facing reality when it comes to execution. It is easy to say we have a culture of continuous quality improvement, but it is much more difficult to make it a reality. Here are some ways to approach this. First of all, make sure there is a "find a better way, everyday" mentality at every level in the organization. Obviously, there needs to be an organized approach to implementation, but encourage the team to recognize opportunities to improve patient experience and make space to allow these ideas to be presented. For example, imagine your team starting every meeting, debrief, or huddle with the question, "anybody have any new ideas on how we can improve patient care?" Secondly, be willing to take a hard look at every process you currently have which impacts patients? Ask questions like, "How good is this process?", "How well do we execute it?", "How can we improve?" A final suggestion would be to listen, really listen to the voice of the patient. Too often, we are too busy to really hear what they are saying they would like to see improved. Before jumping to conclusions like there is nothing we can do about that or that's the way it has always been, take to heart what they are saying and look for ways to make progress in the areas of concern. When it comes to patient care, having an organization that is never satisfied with the status quo will make you stand out in the crowd!



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.

ACHE July Event

1.5 in-person
ACHE Credits

TITLE

Ensuring Your Community's Successful
Emergency Preparedness

DATE

Thursday, July 18, 2024

TIME

5:30 - 6:30 pm....Registration and Networking
6:30 - 8:00 pm....Education Panel

LOCATION

Broward Health
201 E Sample Rd, Deerfield Beach, FL 33064

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

<https://www.acheofsouthflorida.org/events.php>

Moderator.....Jessica Royer-Colborn RD, LDN, Aramark
Panelist.....Natasha Stokin, Memorial Healthcare System
Panelist.....Erick Pena, Broward Health
Panelist.....Mckenley Romeo, Florida Power & Light
Panelist.....Luis Collado, MBA, MS, Baptist Health South Florida

ACHE of South Florida
An Independent Chapter of



American College of
Healthcare Executives
for leaders who care®

To learn more about ACHE and ACHE of South Florida, please visit
www.ACHEofsouthflorida.org

30 YEARS+
of trusted
healthcare
experience

boardroom PR®
boardroomPR.com

ENROLLING NOW

FALL & SPRING ADMISSIONS

NURSING PROGRAMS

Associate in Science in Nursing (ASN)
Nursing-R.N. (Generic Full-Time)
Nursing-R.N. (Generic Part-Time)
Nursing-R.N. (Transition Full-Time)
Nursing-R.N. (Transition Part-Time)
Nursing-R.N. (Accelerated)
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN)

Miami Dade College - Medical Campus
950 N.W. 20th St.,
Miami, FL 33127
Visit www.mdc.edu/nursing

To learn more, call
305.237.4101



Florida Providers' Surprise to the No Surprises Act

On January 1, 2022, Provider Business Offices across the country scrambled to adapt to the enactment of the No Surprises Act. Primarily aimed to benefit patients, the No Surprises Act protects individuals from "surprise" bills for emergency services from out-of-network providers without prior authorization; out-of-network cost sharing on emergency (and some nonemergency) services; and out-of-network charges and balance bills for supplemental care, like laboratory services and anesthesiology, by out-of-network providers that work at an in-network facility. While the Act invariably eases the mind of healthcare consumers, out-of-network providers were left with one major question: "Who is going to pay for this?"

Pursuant to the No Surprises Act, Providers are forbidden from balance billing patients enrolled in group health plans or individual health insurance coverage. Instead, Providers disputing denials and/or underpayments for their out-of-network services are to initiate a federal independent dispute resolution ("IDR") process with the patient's health plan to pay for its claim.

The IDR proceedings are governed



BY TREVOR BIGLIN

by a "baseball-style" arbitration process, in which the Provider and the plan present competing arguments as to the compensable value of the Provider's services based upon the "qualifying payment amount" ("QPA"), and the arbitrator decides which party's calculations apply. While the QPA is determined by a variety of factors, many of which are currently being challenged

in federal court, it is generally assumed that the QPA reimbursement rate is the median contracted rate for the same or similar item or service.

Unbeknownst to many Florida Providers, the federal No Surprises Act would have little effect on their existing billing procedures. Shortly before the federal bill was enacted, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services affirmed Florida's pre-existing laws for nonparticipating provider reimbursement.

In 2016, the Florida Legislature enacted its own statutes prohibiting out-of-network Providers from balance billing patients enrolled in health maintenance organizations and set standards for determining the proper reimbursement on disputed claims arising from circumstances the No Surprises Act set forth. According to

Florida Law, an insurer is solely liable to reimburse a nonparticipating Provider of covered nonemergency services provided to an insured.

Further, the Florida out-of-network reimbursement for these items and services are based upon the following factors weighed by the factfinder: the provider's charges; the usual and customary provider charges for similar services in the community where the services were provided; or the Medicaid rate.

Finally, although the independent dispute resolution process is a large component of the No Surprises Act, existing case law in Florida allow for insurers, and the dispute resolution servicers themselves, to decline participation in the dispute resolution process altogether, thus leaving nonparticipating Providers no recourse but to file suit in their local jurisdiction.

While it is reassuring that Florida was on the cutting edge of healthcare reform, its Providers may still feel overwhelmed with the everchanging landscape of the industry and their ability to obtain the statutorily protected reimbursement rate for services that may no longer be balance billed to patients.

Trevor Biglin, Associate, Abril Law, can be reached at tbiglin@abrilaw.com or call (305) 373-0901.



UNIVERSITY of ST. AUGUSTINE
for HEALTH SCIENCES
MIAMI



ADVANCE AS AN OT, RIGHT HERE.

Study from anywhere in our Hybrid Immersion Master's of Occupational Therapy. New at our Miami Campus, this innovative program only requires that you travel to campus two times per term.

usa.edu



Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero Sworn in as President of the Dade County Medical Association



Dagmar Llaudy, Esquire, administers the Oath of Office to Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero, in the presence of Fraser Cobbe, Executive Director of the Dade County Medical Association. Dagmar Llaudy is also Dr. Ares-Romero's sister-in-law.

On June 1st, 2024, Patricia Ares-Romero, M.D., F.A.S.A.M., became the sixth female president of the Dade County Medical Association since its founding in 1903. The date was proclaimed Dade County Medical Association Day by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners.

"As we look to the year ahead, I am proud to announce that 2024 will be The year of Mental Health and Addiction Awareness at the DCMA", said Dr. Ares-Romero. "With my background in mental health and addiction medicine, I am acutely aware of the pressing need to address these issues with compassion and urgency, and I am committed to making them a top priority in Miami-Dade during my presidency, encouraging and promoting the DCMA Physician Wellness program as part of the Mental Health awareness initiative offered to our members."

TGH Neuro-Oncologist Balances Clinical Expertise with Compassionate Care

It is nothing short of a miracle that Constantinos “Gus” Kontodaskalakis is alive today.

In 2021, the retired Pratt & Whitney engineer from North Palm Beach was diagnosed with a glioblastoma. The average survival rate for an individual with this deadly brain cancer is eight months. Having survived nearly three years, Gus credits the treatment he’s received from Tampa General Hospital (TGH) Cancer Institute neuro-oncologist Dr. Sajeel Chowdhary with prolonging his life.

“I truly believe if it wasn’t for Dr. Chowdhary, I wouldn’t be here today,” said Gus.

A nationally recognized clinical investigator, Dr. Chowdhary was recently appointed the medical director of neuro-oncology at the TGH Cancer Institute. As an expert in his field with an impressive academic track record, Dr. Chowdhary has played a vital role in guiding more than 30 clinical trials focused on glioblastoma and other brain cancers. He also serves as a professor in the Department of Neurology and the Division of Neuro-oncology at the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida. Additionally, Dr. Chowdhary has supervised residents and mentored the next generation of medical professionals in neuro-oncology.

Dr. Chowdhary earned his medical degree and Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from King Edward Medical University, Lahore, Pakistan, and his Bachelor of Science from the University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his internship at Thomas Jefferson University, Frankford Hospital, Philadelphia, and his residency in neurology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio and Weston, Florida. At the University of Calgary, Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Dr. Chowdhary did a fellowship in neuro-oncology.

Along with his clinical expertise, Dr. Chowdhary is committed to giving his patients compassionate and comprehensive care. Gus experienced this firsthand. Having started chemo and radiation treatment with Dr. Chowdhary at another hospital in Palm Beach County, Gus followed the neuro-oncologist to the TGH Cancer Institute when he moved to Tampa.



Dr. Sajeel Chowdhary

“Dr. Chowdhary is accessible whenever we need him,” said Gus. “He takes our calls after hours and we’re able to text him with any questions or concerns 24/7.”

Telemedicine appointments coupled with TGH’s growing framework of services on Florida’s East Coast enable Dr. Chowdhary to continue monitoring Gus’ progress from his

Tampa office. Dr. Chowdhary collaborates with Palm Beach County medical oncologist Dr. Sujal Shah at the TGH Cancer Institute Cancer Center of South Florida to implement a long-range treatment approach using the drug Avastin. This strategy has helped Gus survive his brain cancer for nearly three years.

“Normally, Avastin therapy is discontinued after a year,” said Dr. Chowdhary. “Because TGH fosters an atmosphere of collaboration and innovation, we’ve been able to keep Gus on the drug long term. It is helping prolong his life.”

According to the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS), the average length of survival for glioblastoma patients is eight months. “Less than 10 percent of glioblastoma patients survive as long as Gus has,” noted Dr. Chowdhary.

Avastin starves a tumor of the blood it needs to survive. The NBTS states that around 12,000 glioblastoma cases are diagnosed each year in the United States. Dr. Chowdhary notes that it is the same cancer that claimed the lives of President Joe Biden’s son Beau and Senator Edward Kennedy. Since glioblastoma recurrence is common, Dr. Chowdhary said that as an academic health system that normally handles complex patient care, TGH has access to other cutting-edge treatments that can benefit Gus if his cancer returns.

With his cancer in remission, Gus is grateful for the care he’s received. Although his treatment can be taxing, he is making the most of each day. He likes to stay active, taking regular walks and tending to his flower garden.

“We take every day as a blessing,” said Gus’ wife, Gorgonia. “I tell my husband that I’m glad he’s here.”

Since 2020, TGH has been creating a framework of state-of-the-art services for patients in Palm Beach and Martin counties, with the expertise and innovation of a preeminent academic health system.

For more information, visit TGH.org/ThePalmBeaches.

NEAVE | FAMILY LAW

When you are facing a divorce that will impact the rest of your life, you need a knowledgeable family law divorce attorney on your side.

At Neave Family Law, we have extensive experience guiding clients through difficult life-altering situations. Trust our firm for thorough preparation, attention to detail and if needed, aggressive representation.

- Divorce
- Paternity
- Relocation
- Alimony

- Child Support
- Modifications
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Collaborative Divorce

Angela R. Neave
Esquire
SHAREHOLDER

(954) 981-2200 | 2400 E Commercial Blvd., Suite 826 | Fort Lauderdale 33308

INSURANCE

FOR SOLE PRACTITIONERS, PHYSICIAN NETWORKS, HOSPITAL SURGEONS AND GROUP-BASED SURGEONS

What if...

The “old time” specialty disability contracts for surgeons were back?

What if they included the following features and benefits:

- **Family Care Benefit Rider** protects your lost income if you must provide for a parent, spouse, domestic partner, or child. (Brand new rider exclusive)
- **Own Occupation Rider** protects you if you can’t work in your medical specialty and pays you your benefit even if you work in another profession or job. (You can collect your disability benefit and earn additional income from anything, not in your specialty).
- **Enhanced Residual Disability Benefit** protects you from a partial loss of income.
- **Automatic Increase Benefit Rider** bumps up your coverage.
- **Benefit Increase Rider** allows your benefit to increase at specified times automatically.
- **Indexed Cost of Living Rider** protects you from inflation.
- **Non-cancelable Policy** protects you from company increases and cancellation policies.
- **Loan Rider** protects you by paying off your student loans if you become permanently disabled.
- **Portable, and you own your policy.** You can take this policy with you even if you change your specialty or career. (Your policy follows you with the same benefits)
- **No lab (blood, urine) is required.** Exceptions may apply.
- **You ARE covered for mental/nervous/stress-related disorders.** (most have limitations)

These policies are available for sole practitioners, physician networks, and hospital and group-based surgeons. Discounts and guarantee issues are available on a case-by-case basis.

The effective rollout date was July 1, 2023.

Look for more information exclusively showcased at South Florida Hospital & Healthcare News.

For more information, email howard@lifeinsureassure.com

**To Subscribe to...
SOUTH FLORIDA HOSPITAL NEWS
& HEALTHCARE REPORT today!**

**Email [carol@
southfloridahospitalnews.com](mailto:carol@southfloridahospitalnews.com)**

Supporting Florida's Children on Pathways for Success

One of the single most effective ways to build a healthy future for Florida's children is to support a strong foundation from the beginning that contributes to great health and educational success. Parents and families are largely responsible for this foundation and pathway. However, there are many government and nonprofit resources that have been established to complement and support our shared vision for healthy, happy, and thriving children.

While there are many factors that contribute to a child's healthy and happy future, timely access to high-quality healthcare, developmental and mental health services from birth is essential. It is well understood that children should be kindergarten ready by age 5 and reading proficiently by the end of third grade to support future educational success. Educational success is one of the most effective pathways to reducing poverty, to creating successful independent adults and supporting strong and stable families and thriving communities.

We also fundamentally understand that the love, nurture and support a child receives from birth are essential components to achieving our shared goals for children in our country and state.

In Florida, 66% of all children receive their healthcare through the state's Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Medicaid covers most of these children, making Medicaid a significant factor in children's and adolescents' physical and mental health. Medicaid also covers more than 43 percent of all births in the state.

A healthy child is a learning child. And a learning child is significantly more likely

to perform better academically, finish high school, go on to higher education, and maximize economic opportunities.

From well-child visits, preventive care, management of chronic illnesses, such as asthma and diabetes, to early intervention and treatment of mental health needs, Medicaid has a significant responsibility to ensure our children can access timely medical and behavioral health care services. Children do not always have mental health crisis between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., so the system needs to be financially supported to meet their needs 24/7.

Even though many children have a Medicaid coverage card, if physicians, dental offices, or other providers do not accept that coverage because reimbursement rates are extremely low then we aren't supporting the goals of timely access to these critical healthcare access and improved health outcomes.

Achieving that timely access requires:

- Ensuring comprehensive provider networks by Medicaid Managed Care Plans
- Driving accountability of the role of private Medicaid insurance companies to support vital wrap around services that recognize the need for case management, social workers and other social services that support improved health outcomes
- Fair payments to physicians and other healthcare providers
- Reasonable administrative procedures and reporting requirements that do not create undue burden and cost for providers
- Maximizing available federal funding for Medicaid-covered services

Progress is being made on several of these fronts. During the last legislative session, lawmakers appropriated significant

funds to enhance Medicaid provider payments, including \$134 million to increase Medicaid payments to support moms and babies during labor and delivery and an additional \$86.2 million to support pediatric behavioral health care services (\$43.1) and pediatric physicians (\$43.1) caring for children in Medicaid.

Lawmakers also amended the state budget to add language requiring increased transparency for the private insurance companies that have contracts to administer the state's \$34 billion Medicaid program that, as of May 2024, supports 4,423,280 Floridians, including 2,268,824 (just over 50%) children.

This transparency is intended to drive greater focus on evaluating whether the Medicaid program and the insurance companies are structuring networks of providers, incentivizing models of care, and providing reimbursements that support the best possible outcomes for vulnerable individuals who depend on Medicaid for timely access to healthcare services.

Additionally, the state legislature authorized reimbursement for collaborative care models for behavioral health services that support integrated care of primary and behavioral health services. This is important for families who need access to community-based pediatricians and other pediatric specialists, including behavioral health. To build on this progress, the state should also take advantage of available federal Medicaid funding for behavioral health services to support the increasing number of children and adolescents who are struggling with behavioral, psychological, and emotional challenges, hindering their ability to maximize their potential, live their life to the

fullest, and embrace their opportunities.

The statistics tell a powerful story. Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14. Children with serious mental illness could have their lifespans shortened by 25 years. There are over 400,000 Florida children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and developmental issues, but only about half can access services.

We can and should do more. And, given Medicaid's integral financing role in health care for such a large number of Florida's children and adolescents, it needs to have a leading role. Supporting Medicaid reimbursement of certified community behavioral health centers and continuing to support the integration of behavioral health services in primary care settings with appropriate Medicaid reimbursement will significantly improve access, long-term health outcomes, and reduce the economic burden on the families and providers.

Medicaid is a partner for many Florida families in ensuring their children and adolescents have the care and support they need. The state can strengthen this partnership by holding managed care plans accountable, ensuring fair payment, and seeking Medicaid reimbursement for established behavioral health models of care. Our children deserve nothing less.

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



BY MARY MAYHEW

Your patients' satisfaction isn't a number. It's an experience.



Everything we do is to help you with your #1 goal: quality patient care. From the gown patients put on before they receive care, to our vast array of high-quality products and remarkable services. ImageFIRST is your partner for all of your healthcare linen rental and laundry needs.

ImageFIRST
HEALTHCARE LAUNDRY SPECIALISTS

www.imagefirst.com



Call 800-932-7472 or email info@imagefirst.com to find out more.

Choose World Class Parking for your Valet Services



SERVICES

- ✓ Patient Transport
- ✓ Concierge Services
- ✓ Patient/Employee Shuttle Service
- ✓ Patient Sitting Service
- ✓ Transportation Management

At **World Class Parking** we pride ourselves on being **world class**. We recognize that the valet parking service is the first and last impression an establishment leaves on their guests and we strive to make it a professional and enjoyable experience.

WE OFFER:

- Affordable Ticketless Technology Systems
- 24/7 Customer Support
- Rapid Retrieval Time

As the **premier** valet parking and parking management company in South Florida, we offer tailor-made solutions to solve our clients needs.

World Class Parking delivers a VIP parking experience with every encounter.



WorldClassParking
Providing World Class Service

www.worldclassparking.net • sales@worldclassparking.net • (786)452-7153
2100 West 76th Street Suite 405 • Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016

Sunshine State Fights Back Against Nuclear Verdicts

BY VANESSA ORR

Since 2012, nuclear verdicts—those with judgements in excess of \$10 million—have skyrocketed, both in Florida and across the country. Thermonuclear verdicts have also increased, resulting in plaintiffs receiving awards in excess of \$100 million, and sometimes more than \$1 billion.

“Prior to 2012, you rarely saw verdicts in excess of \$10 million, but that’s much more commonplace now,” explained Tom Murphy, SVP National Healthcare Practice, Risk Strategies. “But Florida has begun taking steps to rein in these nuclear verdicts and will continue taking legislative action to cut back on these awards.”

To this end, in March 2023, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed bill HB 837 in order to make it more difficult for homeowners to file frivolous claims and to limit the time they have to file the claims. It also limits attorney fees.

“Everyone in Florida who owns property knows where the property insurance market has been in the last 5-10 years, with carriers going bankrupt and leaving the state and premiums skyrocketing,” said Tom Murphy. “A good portion of this problem is related to frivolous homeowner claims and attorney fees.”

“Between regulatory issues and costs passed down to us, look at what we’re paying for homeowners’ insurance,” he added. “It’s not because the carriers are gouging us, but because they’ve had to pay out large sums. Florida has almost 80 percent of all property lawsuits in the entire country.”

According to Kyla Murphy, AVP National Healthcare Practice, Risk Strategies, Missouri, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Washington were the states with the largest number of verdicts in 2023, while Florida, historically the No. 2 state for nuclear verdicts, dropped to seventh place. Still, between 2009-2023, carriers paid out in excess of \$33 billion in Florida as a result of these verdicts.

“Part of the reason for these huge judgements has been credited to jury members being swayed by social media and television shows that have desensitized them to large numbers,” she said. “Juries think that there is no harm in giving people ‘free’ money.”

“Jury pool demographics have also changed, resulting in a younger generation that is



Tom Murphy



Kyla Murphy

more pro-plaintiff and less trusting of corporations,” she added. “The term for this new dynamic is social inflation.”

Since becoming law, HB 837 has cut back on a number of these lawsuits, requiring homeowners to file claims in a certain period of time and also trimming back on attorney’s fees, freeing up the property and casualty market.

Physician malpractice carriers may benefit from the new law as well. “While we haven’t seen any rate adjustments yet, anytime you cut back on nuclear verdicts, it shows carriers that there is a glimmer of hope,” said Tom Murphy. “Nuclear verdicts keep insurance executives up at night.”

In addition to HB 837, some members of the Florida Legislature are now working on reenacting medical malpractice tort reform, similar to what was in place in the early 2000s. Though voters overwhelmingly approved tort reform with a 67 percent popular vote when it was a ballot initiative in 2011, the Supreme Court overturned that initiative as unconstitutional in 2014.

“As the legislature is working to reform the medical malpractice statute, it’s important to notice the trickle-down effect that occurs from these nuclear verdicts,” said Kyla Murphy. “These verdicts are creating higher rates for doctors, reduced capacity in the marketplace and limited coverage.”

“As these verdicts are reduced, it results in lower rates for doctors, more carriers in the marketplace and more coverage options,” she added.

Legislators are currently molding physician tort reform legislation in the hopes of getting it on the March 2025 legislative schedule.

“It’s very difficult in Florida with the strength of the plaintiff bar to pass legislation like this, so it will be an uphill battle,” said Tom Murphy, noting that there are more attorneys in Florida than anywhere else in the country besides Washington, D.C. “But the legal atmosphere has to change; the pendulum has to swing back the other way, and we’re on track with the current legislature.”

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



L|E|C|O|M
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION / ON-LINE GRADUATE DEGREES

LECOM is the largest medical college in the U.S. and teaches the business of healthcare. Programs are licensed, accredited, designed for busy working professionals seeking to elevate their careers.

Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA), Masters in Public Health (MPH), Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE), Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) and Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) terminal degree.

(941) 405-1533 SHSA@lecom.edu
<https://lecom.edu/school-of-health-services-administration/>

BE IN DEMAND

Two Key Considerations for Physician Disability Insurance Claims

Disability insurance is a complex area of the law. It is even more complicated when it involves an occupation specific definition of “disability,” like many physician disability insurance policies do. Two important aspects physicians should understand and keep in mind when thinking about disability insurance claims are: understanding the own occupation definition in your policy and knowing when to cut back versus stop working in your specialty.



BY EDWARD
DABDOUB

Understanding “Own Occupation” in Your Disability Insurance Policy

One of the most important considerations of a disability insurance policy for physicians is the “own occupation” clause. In an individual disability policy, total disability is often defined by the physician’s ability to perform the “substantial and material duties” (or some similar terminology) of their own occupation. And own occupation is often uniquely defined to the specialty they are performing before they became disabled. So, this provision ensures that if a physician becomes disabled and is unable to perform the specific duties of their medical specialty, they will receive benefits even if they are capable of working in another occupation.

This is particularly important for physicians, whose skills and income potential are closely tied to their ability to perform highly specialized duties or duties that define their medical occupation. For example, in a case my law firm won a few years ago, our client was a liver transplant surgeon who injured his wrist in a fall and could no longer perform transplant surgery. His claim for total disability benefits was denied by his insurance company. The denial hinged on the interpretation of his specialty own occupation definition and how his occupation as a liver transplant surgeon is performed.

While he continued to perform other important job duties, including other types of general liver surgeries, it was agreed that he was unable to perform liver transplant surgery. Nevertheless, his insurance company claimed that he was not totally disabled from being a liver transplant surgeon because he could perform other duties, particularly nontransplant liver procedures.

We argued that liver transplant surgery is a unique medical specialty in that transplant surgeries do not occur every day and the majority of other duties make up other aspects of that occupation. Thus, it is customary for transplant surgeons to perform other types of general surgeries. But once a

liver transplant surgeon can no longer perform liver transplant surgeries, they are disabled from that specialty. The court fully agreed and found our client totally disabled from his liver transplant occupation.

This legal reasoning can be applied to many other medical occupations and specialties, depending, of course, on the specific facts involved. But the main take away here is that insurance companies seek to broaden the scope of medical occupations to defeat claims for total disability whenever the physician continues to work in some capacity. Knowing how to navigate the claims process and framing the occupation therefore becomes incredibly important to securing the benefits the disability insurance policies were meant to provide.

Should I cut back at work or stop working entirely?

Timing is everything with disability insurance claims. Your occupation is defined by the duties you were performing just prior to leaving work due to your disability. For this reason, it is important not to erode your occupation by cutting back hours or reducing the number of procedures or surgeries you perform.

I often see situations where a surgeon, for example, knows her hands are becoming less functional, so she continuously scales back on the longer and/or more complex surgeries in the months (or sometimes even years) before she actually stops working. By the time she is

ready to submit a total disability claim, the insurance company is looking at her surgical schedule and CPT codes in the months just prior to her last day at work to determine the nature and scope of her occupation.

A once thriving surgical practice that dominated the surgeon’s time and revenue generation may have dwindled down to a small fraction of a radically different looking job. In such a scenario, the insurance company may take the position that the material and substantial duty of her occupation was not how she performed her occupation over many years, but how she performed it just before she stopped practicing. Thus, this erosion of her occupation from surgeon to something else may result in a denial of disability benefits.

As a law firm specializing in disability insurance claims, we have represented physicians with this precise problem with successful outcomes. Still, the advice remains the same: get the timing right. If faced with a medical condition that impacts your ability to do your own occupation and deciding whether you should cut back on certain duties or stop working all together, it is important to consider how it will impact your disability claim and the presentation of your own occupational duties.

Edward Dabdoub is Founding Attorney of Dabdoub Law Firm. For more information, visit www.longtermdisability.net or call 1-800-812-0393.

CANO HEALTH IS HERE FOR YOU!

Some things change.

Our commitment to caring for you isn’t one of them. Despite recent changes, we continue to be driven by one thing: **our patients.**



Thank you for always trusting us with your health needs. We are still Cano Health, and we are still here for you.



To learn more, visit our website : CanoHealth.com

Offer your team HMO and PPO plan options at an affordable price.



Invest in quality health plans that fit your employees' needs and budget. Florida Blue group coverage features exclusive member support and tools that make enrollment simple.

Benefits include:



\$0 preventive screenings and checkups



\$0 copays for virtual visits provided by Teladoc¹



Up to \$100 in rewards² to use for doctor visits, prescriptions and more



Talk to an exclusive Florida Blue agent today.

Call 1-866-711-BLUE

or scan the QR code to visit

FloridaBlue.com/GroupHealthSolutions

Florida Blue  
Your Health Solutions Partner

¹Teladoc is an independent company contracted by Florida Blue to provide physician visits via phone or online video to members with non-emergent medical issues. Teladoc is only available in the U.S. Teladoc® is a trademark of Teladoc, Inc. ²Better You Strides Rewards is available to eligible members and their covered dependents over the age of 18. Reward is a prepaid gift card, subject to the reward's program terms and conditions. Health benefit plans have limitations and exclusions. Florida Blue is a trade name of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., and Florida Blue HMO is a trade name of Health Options, Inc. These companies are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. 117429 0424

Men's Health: Five Things to Know

From Florida Blue – Your Health Solutions Partner

Men's health is a topic often overshadowed by stereotypes of toughness and fortitude, but it's a crucial aspect of overall well-being that deserves attention and awareness. From physical to mental well-being, here are five essential things to know about men's health:

1. Preventive Care is Key: Many men tend to neglect routine check-ups and preventive screenings, but early detection of health issues can be life-saving. Regular visits to health care providers for check-ups, blood pressure screenings, cholesterol tests, and other screenings are essential for maintaining optimal health. Proactive prevention can identify potential health concerns, allowing for earlier interventions and better health outcomes.

2. Mental Health Matters: Mental health is just as important as physical health, yet it's often overlooked. Men may be hesitant to seek help for conditions like stress, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse due to stigma or societal expectations of masculinity. However, it's crucial to prioritize mental well-being and seek support when needed for overall health, resilience, and quality of life.

3. Healthy Lifestyle Habits Make a Difference: Adopting healthy lifestyle habits can significantly impact health and well-being. Regular exercise, a balanced diet, adequate sleep, and stress management are foundational pillars of good health. Avoiding tobacco use, limiting alcohol consumption, and practicing safe sex are also important. Small, sustainable changes in daily habits can lead to significant improvements in overall health and vitality.

4. Know Your Numbers: Understanding key health indicators, such as blood pressure, cholesterol levels, body mass index (BMI), and waist circumference, is essential for monitoring health status and identifying potential risk factors for chronic dis-



eases. Being aware of these numbers and working with health care providers to maintain them within healthy ranges can help reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and other serious health conditions.

5. Community Support is Vital: Building a strong support network of friends, family, and health care professionals is crucial for men's health. Having a supportive community can provide encouragement, accountability, and resources for navigating health challenges and making positive lifestyle changes. Whether it's joining a fitness group, participating in men's health forums, or seeking guidance from health care providers, community support plays a vital role in promoting men's health and well-being.

Need help getting started? Our Florida Blue Center teams can help do blood pressure checks, offer health coaching, and help

you find care, like a low- or no-cost clinic or other resources that may be available nearby. They also host events online and in person that are open to the community. You can find the Florida Blue Center nearest you and a listing of upcoming events at FloridaBlue.com/Center or call 1-877-352-5830.

At every stage of life, men's health can enhance overall quality of life. Prioritizing preventive care, addressing mental health concerns, embracing healthy lifestyle habits, fostering healthy relationships, balancing work and personal life, and keeping an eye on vital health indicators are all key. Also, seeking community support. By taking control of your health, you'll be paving the way for a vibrant and fulfilling life. Remember, investing in your health today will pay dividends for many years to come.

Florida Blue is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



HOW HARD WILL YOUR MED MAL CARRIER FIGHT FOR YOU?

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

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

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

- Your insurer's record on fighting cases vs. just settling
- The financial strength of your insurer
- How experienced is the claims-defense team in Florida courtrooms?
- Do you have the right to consent to any settlement or will they settle against your will?

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



Med Mal • Workers' Comp • Cyber • EPLI • Medical Directorship • D&O

MDC Medical Campus Hosts Randy Boaz Competition



(l-r) Victoria Diaz de Villegas, Rim Abdala and Maria Furlan
PHOTO CREDIT: MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

Miami Dade College's (MDC) Medical Campus recently hosted the 2024 Randy Boaz Memorial ALS Competition, an annual event where teams of paramedics and emergency medical technicians face off in various emergency scenarios under the clock. The competition featured local, state, national and international teams. The competition also featured the first ever all-female team of Victoria Diaz de Villegas, Rim Abdala and Maria Furlan.

The Randy Boaz Memorial ALS Competition reinforces best practices and techniques, which help enhance the teams' daily service to the community. It also provides an opportunity for participating agencies to collaborate and share information about advanced treatment procedures.

Since 2001, MDC Medical Campus has organized and hosted the competition honoring the life and legacy of the late Randy Boaz, an MDC instructor and one of the first paramedics in the United States with a career that started in the 1960s. Revered in the paramedic community, Boaz taught many of the specialists who have been part of the competition, although he passed away several years before the event was launched.

To learn more, visit www.mdc.edu/randyboazcompetition.



ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

Advancing Healthcare Education: Inside Miami Dade College's Simulation Hospital

BY DR. DEBORAH PAPA

The Miami Dade College Simulation Hospital stands as a state-of-the-art educational facility that meticulously models a hospital setting. Within its walls, aspiring healthcare professionals gain invaluable hands-on experience, bridging theory with practice. One of the main areas of focus is the birthing suite which houses advanced simulation technology. Meet VICTORIA S2000, designed by Miami-based medical training company, Gaumard Scientific. VICTORIA is a top-of-the-line, fully comprehensive birthing simulator with a full range of obstetrical scenarios. From early pregnancy complications to high-risk deliveries and postpartum emergencies, she is a complete solution developed for the education and obstetrical experience.

Miami Dade College is committed to high standards and student experiences, moving forward with new technology. We eagerly anticipate the launch of its cutting-edge Immersive Interaction Room, powered by Echo Healthcare. This innovative space will transform healthcare education and training, creating fully immersive learning environments for faculty and learners. Within the walls, learners will step into realistic scenarios, experiencing sights, sounds, and even tactile sensations. Faculty and students can explore life-like simulations, bridging theory with hands-on practice.

Stay tuned for the grand unveiling, a collaboration that promises to enhance patient care, improve outcomes, and shape the future of healthcare education. Welcome to Miami Dade College, a new era of immersive learning experience!



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

*Profiles in Leadership
& Administration*

*Healthcare
Professionals
Associations*

*Education Update –
New Programs in
Healthcare Education*

Outsourcing Update

*Using AI in Diagnosis
& Patient Data*

*For more information on
advertising and editorial
opportunities,
call (954) 605-4785 today!*



Transforming
Healthcare
Together

**Safeguard Healthcare is here to
revolutionize your staffing solutions.**

Safeguard Healthcare provides a tailored approach, matching you with the most skilled professionals in the industry.

We support Information Technology, Clinical Resources, Nursing, Accounting, Medical Records and Materials Management.

We ensure that your institution operates at maximum efficiency, delivering top-notch care to every patient who walks through your doors.

Let's transform healthcare together.

safeguard-healthcare.com

**Safeguard
Healthcare**

**Where Excellence
Meets Compassion**

**No Hire. No Fee.
Call Now (954) 412-2075**

Specializing in
**Physician's
Disability Insurance
Claims, Appeals &
Litigation**



P: 888-812-0393

W: longtermdisability.net

Representation across Florida
Office in Coral Gables, FL

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

**Profiles in Leadership
& Administration**

**Healthcare
Professionals
Associations**

**Education Update –
New Programs in
Healthcare Education**

Outsourcing Update

**Using AI in Diagnosis
& Patient Data**

*For more information on
advertising and editorial
opportunities,
call (954) 605-4785 today!*



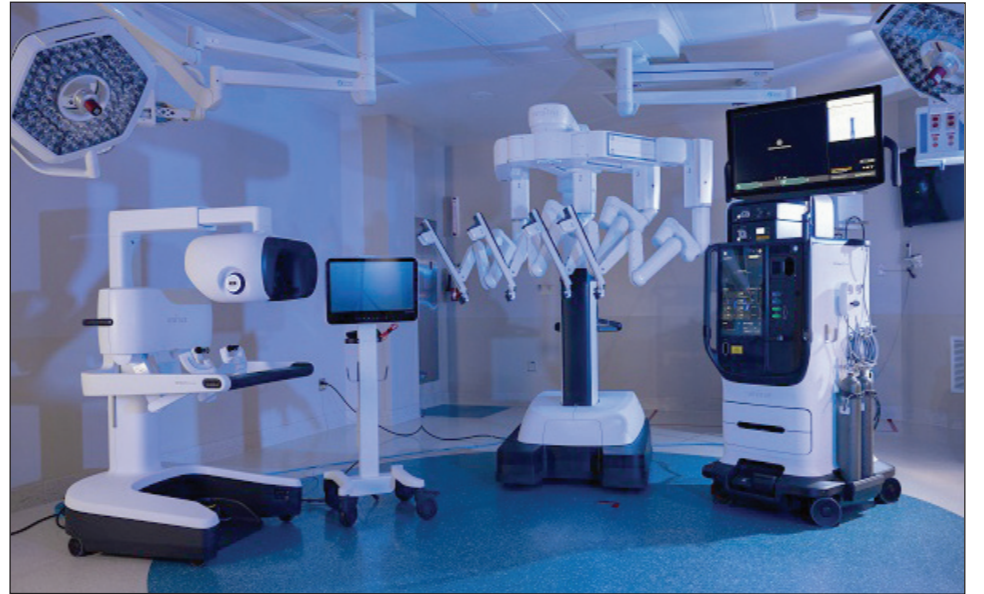
ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

Jupiter Medical Center Completes Inaugural Operation with da Vinci 5 Surgical Robot

Jupiter Medical Center proudly announces a groundbreaking milestone in minimally invasive surgery. The Johnny and Terry Gray Surgical Institute at Jupiter Medical Center has successfully performed the first robotic surgery utilizing the cutting-edge da Vinci 5 Robotic Surgical System. Jupiter Medical Center is one of the first 10 locations in the country to acquire the da Vinci 5.

The new da Vinci 5 is Jupiter Medical Center's sixth surgical robot and epitomizes the pinnacle of robotic surgical systems. It offers enhanced precision, flexibility, and control far beyond traditional surgical methods with 10,000 times more computing power and innovative analytics. The da Vinci 5 is designed on a future-ready platform, promising the most advanced capabilities today and options for AI integration in the future.

Dr. K. Adam Lee, Medical Director of the Thoracic Surgery & Lung Center of Excellence, performed the first procedure and expressed his enthusiasm for the future of robotic surgery at Jupiter Medical Center. "This is a new generation of robotic surgery. I performed the first four-arm robotic lobectomy over 20 years ago and have witnessed the evolution of robotic surgery technology. Integrating the da Vinci 5 into our operating rooms is a transformation for both our surgical team and our patients. It enables us to perform complex procedures with a level of precision that was previously computing software power unattainable. I am honored to be a part of such a historic milestone," said Dr. Lee.



Advanced Treatment for Cancer-Causing Polyps Without Surgery

Removing polyps from the colon is standard practice to reduce the chance of colorectal cancer. But for polyps that are large or hard to reach, their removal during a colonoscopy is a challenge.

Though many patients have traditional surgery for these "complex polyps," Cleveland Clinic gastroenterologists are using new tools and techniques that require no stitches or long recovery times. It's a procedure called "endoscopic mucosal resection," or EMR. An endoscope is a thin flexible tube with a tiny camera, through which small surgery tools are passed. "Mucosal" refers to the tissue of the colon, and "resection" means surgical removal.

"Many patients and physicians may not be familiar with EMR or do not have access to it locally, so these polyps are often removed using traditional surgery," says Cleveland Clinic gastroenterologist Tolga Erim, D.O., who specializes in advanced endoscopy techniques. "But EMR gives patients another choice. With experienced specialists performing it, there is low risk of bleeding and perforation, and there is minimal recovery time compared to surgery. There is no pain and it feels like just another colonoscopy to the patient."

During the procedure, Cleveland Clinic physicians employ several standardized procedures to reach and remove the polyps. "For example, by injecting saline into



Dr. Tolga Erim

the tissue, they can raise the polyp in order to resect it completely," says Dr. Erim. "In addition, newer snares, or metal loops, and tools to cauterize (seal) blood vessels make removal very efficient."

According to reports from the National Institutes of Health, patients with large or complex polyps should be referred for EMR to a specialty facility such as Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital, so they can avoid unnecessary surgery.

"We've treated patients from as far away as South America," says Dr. Erim. "Because of our expertise and experience with EMR, this is the appropriate place to

come for hard-to-treat polyps. We've become a referral center for it."

Once the procedure is over, the patient should avoid strenuous activity that day and can resume normal activity and exercise the next day. The patient will need to eat soft foods and drink fluids the day following the procedure and have a follow-up appointment six to 12 months afterward.

*To schedule an appointment with
Dr. Erim or another
gastroenterologist at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital,
call (877) 463-2010 or visit
ClevelandClinicFlorida.org/Access.*

Visit us on the web at www.southfloridahospitalnews.com



ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

Holy Cross Health's Catherine Yardley Comprehensive Pulmonary Center Helps Patients Breathe Easier with New State-of-the-Art High Altitude Simulation Test

Certified in pulmonary function technology (CPFT), the team at the state-of-the-art Pulmonary Function Lab at Holy Cross Health's Catherine Yardley Comprehensive Pulmonary Center is prepared to diagnose and treat the full spectrum of lung disorders.

The center recently added the High Altitude Simulation Test (HAST) to determine the need for supplemental oxygen when flying on an airplane or traveling to a higher altitude. The HAST is a safety test for patients who suffer from lung and/or heart disease who may not have the capacity to compensate for the lower oxygen levels experienced while traveling in an airplane and when in mountainous geographical areas like Colorado.

Many patients with underlying pulmonary disease travel by air each year and are therefore at risk for significant cardiopulmonary effects of induced hypoxia at higher altitudes. This includes patients



BY HELEN VISCO,
BSRT, RRT-NPS, CPFT

who have severe obstructive disease such as COPD or poorly controlled obstructive airways disease, symptomatic restrictive chest wall condition or respiratory muscle weakness, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension and lung cancer, as well as patients who have been hospitalized for a respiratory incident within six weeks of intended air travel.

The HAST provides a simple way to identify those patients at risk by simulating conditions encountered at high altitude. It is an inexpensive diagnostic test in which a trained Respiratory Therapist (RT) can effectively calculate a patient's supplemental oxygen needs for traveling at high altitude. The patient's vital signs are initially taken at baseline and continuously throughout the procedure. These may include, but are not limited to, their oxygen saturation in arterial blood, heart rate, blood pressure, respira-

tory rate/depth and skin/mucosal color. A face oxygen mask is then placed on the patient. The mask is fed with a special gas mixture that simulates the lower oxygen level at high altitudes. During this time, the RT continuously observes, assesses and monitors the patient's oxygen saturation. If it drops below 90%, a nasal cannula is applied and adjusted to a level that raises the oxygen saturation back up to 90% or greater. This oxygen level is documented along with all other vital signs, and it is reported to the ordering physician.

Our pulmonary function lead, Victor Falcon CPFT, RRT, takes an active role in maintaining quality standards that produce precise test results. Board-certified pulmonologists interpret the results to provide accurate diagnosis for effective treatment.

The HAST can determine the amount of supplement oxygen needed during air travel. Identifying this prior to flying can reduce the chance of an incident occurring during travel, thus allowing the patient to feel safe and enjoy their trip.

Holy Cross Health's Catherine Yardley Comprehensive Pulmonary Center

added the HAST to provide a comprehensive diagnostic menu of tests to best diagnose lung impairment. I believe we are the only facility in Broward County to offer this and the only other one that I know of is in Miami.

In addition, we offer Methacholine Challenge testing, Mannitol Challenge testing and Fractionated Exhaled Nitric Oxide testing (FeNO) to better diagnose and treat asthma, as well as a smoking cessation program. By offering an array of tests we can determine the condition of your lungs, resistance of airflow, lung volumes, the ability of your lungs to absorb and release oxygen and CO₂, and how well your airways respond to breathing medications.

To start breathing easier, call
(954) 542-2440 or visit
Holy-cross.com/lungs.

Helen Visco is Clinical Manager of the
COPD Clinic at Holy Cross Health's
Catherine Yardley Comprehensive
Pulmonary Center.



**BEST
ONLINE PROGRAMS**
U.S. News & World Report
GRAD NURSING
2024

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
CHRISTINE E. LYNN COLLEGE OF NURSING

Experience caring in action



Advance Your Nursing Career

Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing is recognized for its highly-ranked programs by *U.S. News & World Report*.

RN-to-BSN (Online)

- Master of Science in Nursing**
 - Advanced Holistic Nursing (Online)
 - Nurse Administration and Financial Leadership (Online)
 - Nurse Educator (Online and In-person once a year intensive)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)**
 - Online, part-time post-master's program with classes held one weekend day per month
 - Choose a full-time BSN to DNP program in family, adult/gerontological, or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**
 - Online, with classes held one weekend day per month
- Certificate Programs**
 - Telehealth
 - Dermatology CE Program
 - Telemetry/Progressive Care
 - Compassionate Care of Older Adults at Risk for or Experiencing Dementia

SCHOLARSHIPS, TRAINEESHIPS, AND ASSISTANTSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE.
561-297-3887 nursing@fau.edu www.nursing.fau.edu

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





ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

Novel Stereotactic Radiosurgery Technology Zaps Brain Tumors at Baptist Health

Using a novel stereotactic radiosurgery technology, experts at Miami Neuroscience Institute and Miami Cancer Institute, both part of Baptist Health, now have another option to treat patients with a variety of brain tumors and disorders painlessly and without cutting through the skull. The therapy is only available at a handful of locations worldwide.

From its appearance, the gyroscopic linear accelerator could almost be mistaken for a futuristic space capsule or a napping pod, but it delivers highly precise radiation with hundreds of angled radiation beams directed at the target in the brain, sparing nearby vital tissues. Its innovative, self-shielding design requires no expensive, heavily shielded vaults that house other types of radiation equipment, and the healthcare team can

be at the patient's bedside safely.

"Because we have every stereotactic radiosurgery modality in one location, we can individually match the patient to the technology that is best suited for them," said neurosurgeon Michael McDermott, M.D., chief medical executive of Miami Neuroscience Institute. "It's giving patients better access to the care they need." Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) is a non-invasive established treatment for many brain tumors.

The new technology requires most patients to undergo one to five treatments. Some conditions, such as trigeminal neuralgia may only need one session.

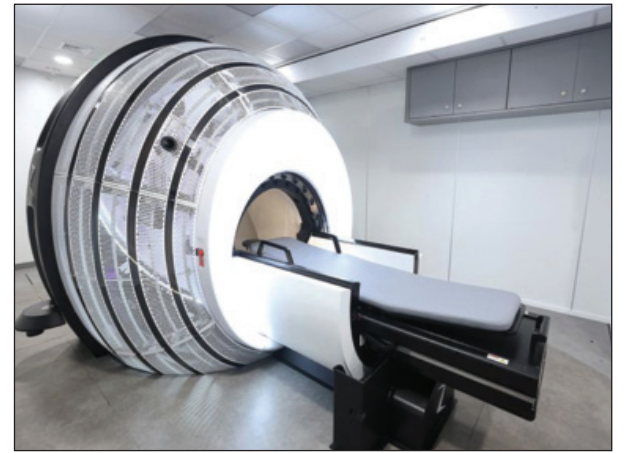
"Normally there are doors that weigh a couple of thousand pounds between us and our patients. Here, we can sit right next to them, and we can treat benign

and malignant brain tumors, primary or metastatic, in usually a few short treatments," said radiation oncologist Rupesh Kotecha, M.D., chief of radiosurgery and director of the Central Nervous System Metastasis Program at Miami Cancer Institute.

To prepare for the first session, patients undergo imaging studies that include MRI and CT scans. They are also fitted with a custom-made, pliable mesh face mask that helps keep their head in place during treatment. In addition, a simulation session ensures that everything is a go.

Among the conditions that can be treated with the new SRS platform are:

- Glioblastomas and gliomas
- Acoustic neuromas
- Meningiomas
- Cerebral arteriovenous malformations
- Brain metastases
- Trigeminal neuralgia
- Pituitary adenomas



Cover Story: Remote Patient Monitoring and Telehealth Services Positively Impacting Maternal Health Outcomes

Continued from page 1

But once I got home, an agonizing cough, which I attributed to catching a cold, made it difficult to breath when lying down. I was losing weight and finally went to the ER some weeks later. When the doctor said I needed to be admitted to the hospital, I protested, feeling it was more important to take care of the baby. I'll never forget what came next. "If you leave this hospital, you may not make it back alive," the doctor said.

I didn't have a cold. It was congestive heart failure, a postpartum effect of preeclampsia.

Increased Access to Care

Memorial's hypertension navigator program works to prevent others from going through what I did by having moms monitor their blood pressure with cuffs we provide them. The clinical team contacts the mom every three days to discuss results, while also coordinating

care visits, connecting to additional services, and educating about what they are experiencing. If there are troubling indicators, navigators will warn the woman to look for symptoms that can include abdominal pain, blurry vision, swelling in the legs, and throbbing headaches, all potential signs of a larger health issue.

Our three family birthplaces (at Memorial Regional Hospital, Memorial Hospital West, and Memorial Hospital Miramar) and all six of our hospital's emergency departments immediately notify a navigator if a pregnant woman presents with a blood pressure of 140 over 90 or higher. Since January 2023, we've received more than 3,300 referrals for expectant and new moms whose numbers put them at risk and enrolled nearly 1,500 in the program.

At the same time, however, we knew incorporating telehealth would be the next step to further impact the overall health and well-being of these women.

Making Connections

The Severe Maternal Mortality Telehealth (SMMT) program began last September to increase and enhance the care provided to high-risk, maternal patients. Utilizing a grant from the Florida Department of Health, the program funds blood pressure cuffs, diabetic accu-check machines, and the technology required to complete a telehealth visit, such as a tablet or internet-connected phone.

Post-partum appointments can now be conducted using an online link, with blood pressure and glucose readings monitored by portable devices in the home submitted to the medical team through secure messaging. Providers then review and make real-time changes to the plan of care, including an assessment of the need for further attention and/or medication management.

To date, we've enrolled nearly 500 women in the SMMT program, with more than half supplementing telehealth visits

by actively using equipment that enables self-monitoring of vital signs.

While the hypertension navigators and telemedicine have had early success preventing blood pressure-related conditions from elevating to crisis levels, we're continuing to inform, advocate, and educate local communities to affect change.

Our message to expectant and new moms is that if they have concerns about their blood pressure, it's imperative to consult a doctor right away. If they don't have a health care provider, and want to connect with us, we can help identify a Memorial Healthcare System physician, provide equipment, and make telehealth arrangements.

Their health, and that of those that need them most, depends on it.

Tammy Scott Reese is a nurse and director of care coordination and population health management at Memorial Primary Care.

What's Next?

www.bdo.com/healthcare

Alfredo Cepero
305-420-8006 / acepero@bdo.com

Angelo Pirozzi
646-520-2870 / apirozzi@bdo.com

Accountants and Advisors

@BDOHealth

© 2021 BDO USA, LLP. All rights reserved.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CREATIVE GRAPHIC DESIGNER FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

- Banner Designs
- Website Designs
- Flyer Designs
- Post Card Designs
- Business Card Designs
- Letter Head Designs
- Logo Designs
- Social Media Designs

- Brochure Designs
- Email Designs
- 3D Mockup Designs
- Post Card Designs
- Video Designs
- Booklet Designs
- Presentation Designs
- And More!

561-618-0759

info@dorrondesigns.com

dorrondesigns.com

Scan QR Code To View Work



ADVANCES IN TELEMEDICINE

Into the Future Artificial Intelligence Initiatives Augment Personalized Care at Mount Sinai Medical Center

As healthcare systems across the globe continue to implement artificial intelligence (AI) into various aspects of their operations, Mount Sinai Medical Center leads the charge with technological advances and AI implementation across multiple service lines including Labor & Delivery, Internal Medicine, Cardiology, and more.

The medical center is nationally recognized for providing world-class obstetric and gynecologic medicine from a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, neonatologists, and anesthesiologists, ensuring the best outcomes possible for mother and baby.

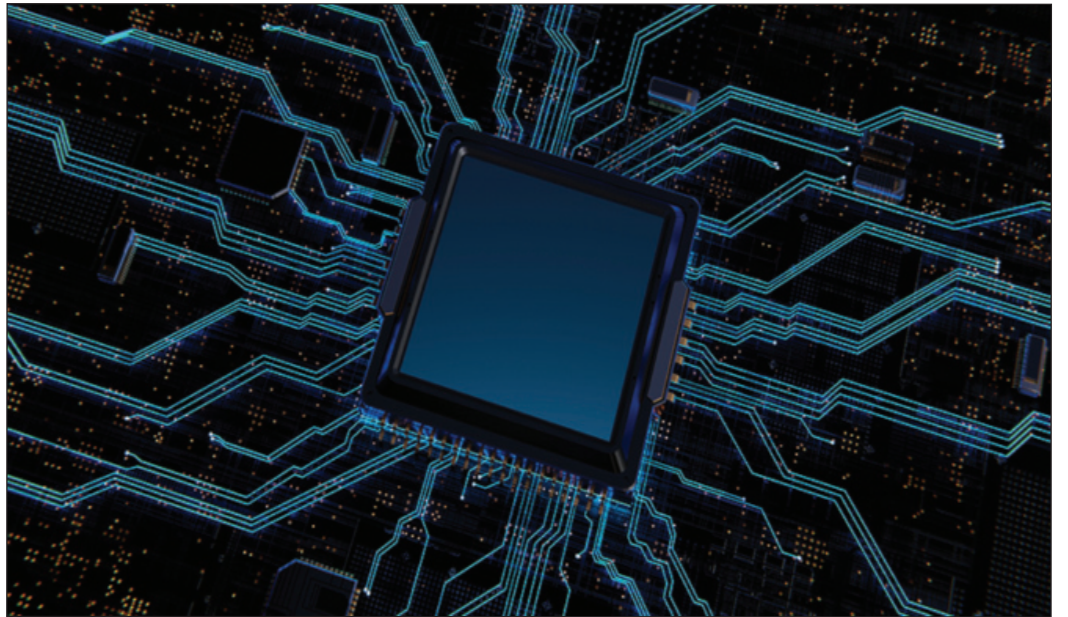
In fact, the Labor and Delivery unit is the only one in the area to use PeriGen, a system that uses AI to analyze each patient's vitals and data constantly. With PeriGen, physicians, nurses, and other allied health professionals receive a visual indication of the patient's current and previous conditions allowing clinicians to focus on patient care instead of chart documentation.

Mount Sinai's Aortic Center recently integrated state-of-the-art software from Cydar Medical. Cydar's platform generates a 3D map of the patient's vascular system, utilizing AI to update the map throughout the patient's journey, guaranteeing surgeries are completed with great precision and success. The benefits include significantly decreased radiation exposure, simplified workflows, and increased clinician confidence.

Artificial intelligence is also used to streamline note-taking processes for various physicians. Service lines like Internal Medicine are utilizing Abridge within Epic, cutting down on time spent documenting and increasing time spent with patients.

What's more, Mount Sinai recently announced a new Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) and Chronic Care Management (CCM) partnership with HealthSnap, a leading virtual care management platform.

Mount Sinai's dedication to implementing innovative technologies across clinical specialties and in operations allows for increased optimization, better outcomes, and a more personal experience for patients.



Optimizing Telehealth for Hospice Patients and Their Families

Available 24/7, VITAS® Healthcare's Telecare services leverage the power of telehealth in real time to:

- Connect VITAS advanced illness clinicians with home-based patients who are experiencing a disease exacerbation and their loved ones/caregivers
- Conduct real-time multifaceted symptom assessments for patients at home
- Train caregivers on alternative routes of medication administration when patients become unable to swallow
- Collaborate with loved ones instantaneously when immediate input is required
- Remain present with concerned caregivers while a clinician is on the way
- Ensure continuous access to VITAS physicians for assessment, management, and education
- For hospitals, innovative services like telehealth consultation can prevent the likelihood of an ED visit or hospital visit, especially after hours

Trust VITAS to connect with your patients in the communities we serve.

Download the VITAS



VITAS
Healthcare

To refer a patient, call 800.93.VITAS
or refer online at vitas.com/referrals
[in](#) [f](#) [i](#) [g](#) | Since 1980



Cover Story: University of Miami Advanced Nursing Programs Open Career Horizons

Continued from page 1

Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 2021. "From the beginning of my time with SONHS, I have been impressed with the UM experience," she said. "The professors and quality of instruction truly are second to none."

SONHS offers master's, post-master's certificate, and B.S.N.-D.N.P. options in the following specialties: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, and Family Nurse Practitioner. The School also offers a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate. Among hundreds of graduate nursing programs ranked by U.S. News & World Report, the M.S.N. and D.N.P. programs at SONHS rank 27th and 31st, respectively.

"SONHS is focused on developing the nursing workforce of the future," said Dr. Hudson Santos, the School's Dean and Dolores J. Chambréau, RN Endowed Chair in Nursing. "Our faculty guide students to the correct path through programs that blend state-of-the-art class-

"The professors and quality of instruction truly are second to none."

-Anna Mudrytska

room and simulation learning with extensive clinical practice. As a result, our graduates master the skills they need to improve patient outcomes, excel on their specialty certification examinations, and become leaders in the health care community."

Nurse practitioner Chantelle Jones completed her B.S.N. and M.S.N. degrees at SONHS in 2017 and 2020, respectively. She works in the Harvard University Health Services' urgent care unit and says being a nurse practitioner opens up competitive salaries and strong job prospects.

"As someone who graduated from the Acute Care program at UM, I can say that

it stands out for several reasons," she said. "First, it offers a comprehensive educational experience with a strong emphasis on hands-on training. Students are likely to be placed in their preferred clinical settings, utilizing sites that provide a variety of practice environments. This allows them to gain real-world experience and understand the responsibilities of their roles early on. The preceptors are exceptional educators, and the course material is thorough and expertly taught."

The School's state-of-the-art, five-story Simulation Hospital Advancing Research and Education (S.H.A.R.E.®), added Jones, supports "comprehensive skills education in suturing, EFAST bedside ultrasonography, chest tubes, central lines, A-lines, paracentesis, and intubation. This is an opportunity many other programs do not offer." In addition, she said, the Barkley review course is provided to help graduates prepare for their certification exams.

Josh Boyd, an emergency department charge nurse at Doctors Hospital,

enrolled in the M.S.N. program at SONHS last year, after his significant other began the B.S.N.-D.N.P. Nurse Anesthesia program at SONHS. "Everything the acute care program offered has lived up to expectations," said Boyd, "from clinical rotations being assigned to us and having fair input on where we want to be placed, to our intubation and airway rotations, to our central line skills, to being able to work on skills in the simulation hospital."

Like Mudrytska, Boyd looks forward to graduating this August. "Everything they said on paper has been true and authentic, and I feel very lucky and blessed to be a part of this program," he said. "I truly believe it is going to make me a stronger, better practitioner compared to those who have gone to other programs."

For more information about UM nursing programs, tuition aid, scholarships, and more, call (305) 284-3666 or visit www.sonhs.miami.edu/academics/masters-programs/gradrfl/index.html.

Kindred Hospital South Florida

Specializing in Medically Complex Patients

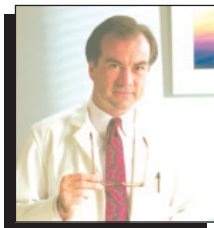


Kindred Hospitals are owned by Kindred Healthcare, Inc., a national network of Long Term Acute Care Hospitals (LTACH's).

Kindred Hospitals provide specialized, high quality care for acutely ill patients. For more than a decade, we have fine-tuned the art of medically complex care.

Our services range from complex catastrophic illnesses that require intensive care, post-surgical medical rehabilitation to patients suffering from chronic diseases requiring respiratory and rehabilitative therapies. Kindred Hospitals provide outcome-oriented cost effective care for patients with a wide spectrum of medical conditions.

Admissions to Kindred Hospitals may be recommended by physicians, acute-care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, managed care providers, case management companies or by the patient's family. In all cases family tours are encouraged.



Kindred Hospital Fort Lauderdale
1516 East Las Olas Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
954-764-8900, ext. 5136
www.khfortlauderdale.com

Kindred Hospital Hollywood
1859 Van Buren St.
Hollywood, FL 33020
954-920-9000
www.khsfhollywood.com

Kindred Hospital Coral Gables
5190 Southwest Eighth St.
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-448-1585
www.khcoralgables.com

Kindred Hospital The Palm Beaches
5555 West Blue Heron Blvd
Riviera Beach, FL 33418
561-904-8451
www.khthepalmbeaches.com

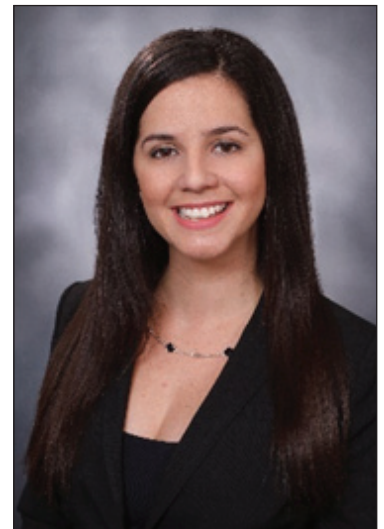
BROWARD HEALTH

Adlin Tuya General Counsel

Adlin Tuya, a seasoned healthcare attorney with more than a decade of experience, serves as Associate General Counsel at Broward Health, one of the largest public healthcare systems in the U.S. Her professional focus is on transactional, contract, and regulatory law, primarily supporting Broward Health Medical Center. Adlin provides essential legal guidance, addressing complex issues such as risk management, patient rights, privacy, billing compliance, and licensure. She is instrumental in negotiating and drafting various agreements, including physician employment and hospital-based provider contracts.

Previously, Tuya was a Regional Compliance Manager in Broward Health's Compliance and Ethics Department, overseeing regulatory compliance, internal investigations, training, policy development, and conflict of interest matters. She collaborated closely with hospital leadership to enhance compliance policies and procedures.

Tuya holds a B.A. in history from Dartmouth College and a J.D. from Stetson University College of Law.



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

KIDZ CFO Lindsay Mendiola Excels in Facing Healthcare Challenges Head-on

BY VANESSA ORR

Providing healthcare services has become even more challenging since the pandemic; not only are organizations still trying to recover from revenue losses, but technology and talent challenges continue to impact day-to-day operations. The good news from a medical practice perspective is that these challenges can be overcome - but it takes foresight and flexibility.

"You have to be nimble and proactive. In healthcare, there's always potential for a new fire," said KIDZ Medical Services Chief Financial Officer Lindsay Saelinger Mendiola, CPA, MBA, CMPE. "But when you put your people and patients first, it becomes much clearer where you need to prioritize."

Mendiola has seen her share of challenges since joining KIDZ in 2021. The South Florida multispecialty practice, which cares for neonatal, pediatric and women's health patients across 15 office locations and 19 hospital partner sites, has had to work through a number of issues, including a recent cyberattack that shut down one of its claim and payment processing partners, Change Healthcare's, data highway.

Change Healthcare acts as a clearing house for 15 billion medical claims each year - accounting for nearly 40 percent of all claims.

"This impacted claims submission and payment processing, leaving physician groups and hospitals with serious cashflow problems and threatening patients' access to care. It also meant that physicians couldn't place electronic orders for prescriptions to many pharmacies," said Mendiola. "It was probably the biggest cash crunch challenge I've navigated in my career so far; we received 50 percent or less of our regular revenue stream for nearly two months."

KIDZ worked with its EMR partner, Athenahealth, to find different routes for claims submissions and is still working to ensure that systems, processes and cash flow are rebounding after the cyberattack. "Even though the data highway is now back online, there's a huge backlog of claims, so things aren't back to normal yet," said Mendiola. "Thankfully, we have a strong balance sheet and were able to cover all ongoing operations. This single attack was incredibly impactful on healthcare eco-



Lindsay Saelinger Mendiola

nomics in the U.S."

Another challenge facing KIDZ - and just about every healthcare practice - is attracting and retaining physician talent.

"It kind of defies gravity when you look at compensation surveys and the median pay by specialty - the vast majority have gone up year after year. The specialists we employ are in high demand and short supply, so the competition is steep. And while higher salaries help employees keep up with inflated costs of living, it's a massive challenge from the employer perspective," Mendiola said, noting that as costs continue to go up, payors continue to reduce reimbursement.

South Florida's current housing crisis doesn't help, as it affects young physicians looking to relocate to South Florida to work for KIDZ. "After fellowships, physicians want to live in a nice community where they can afford a home and maybe raise a family. Even for well-compensated physicians, this is difficult in our current market," Mendiola added.

It's clear that the pandemic put a huge strain on the healthcare system nationwide, with a number of specialties seeing a major decline in volume. There has also been a reduction in births at a number of hospitals that KIDZ supports.

"Due to these challenges, a number of our hospital partners closed or reduced their labor and delivery service," said Mendiola. "We're still seeing a lot of disruption."

KIDZ continued to press on during these disruptions, while learning to be more efficient. The organization maintained telehealth as an ongoing patient visit option, which continues to comprise 10-15 percent of its patient volume. "We are also working to leverage more advanced documentation accelerators in our EMR to help save our providers documentation time, and we are exploring other technologies that incorporate patient self-service and AI," said Mendiola.

"Documentation is a primary pain point for most physicians, so anything we can do to ease that burden makes their work a little less stressful and frees them up to care for more patients," she added. "Our team has transformed our IT and analytics processes in a short time period and I'm really proud of that."

This includes the "big lift" of switching KIDZ' EMR and billing systems, creating one system for the organization's 200 physicians and 30-plus locations. "Before, it was very cumbersome to pull information together from disparate data systems; now we have more data insight and can evaluate challenges more proactively," she said.

Mendiola has also taken the lead in implementing technological and operational enhancements in revenue cycle, practice management, human resources, accounting, financial management, credentialing and patient experience, and played a pivotal role in the launch of MOMZ - KIDZ' outpatient OB/GYN division.

"As a mom myself, I'm really pleased that we are able to provide a full range of OB/GYN services in our Homestead office and at Baptist Health Homestead Hospital," said Mendiola. "There is a huge need in that community, and so far, MOMZ has received very positive feedback."

While there will always be challenges in healthcare, Mendiola looks forward to continuing to help KIDZ meet them head-on. "KIDZ touches so many people across so many communities. It's rewarding and fulfilling to help grow and continuously improve the organization so we can continue to provide outstanding care and touch the lives of children and families," she said. "Plus, there are some very exciting things in the works; we've got a lot more to do."

Cover Story: Navigating the Complexities of Healthcare: Linda Epstein's Leadership at Broward Health

Continued from page 1

staff are committed to mentoring newer attorneys and fostering a culture of cross-training, collaboration, and professional growth. The department boasts subject matter experts in healthcare law who guide incoming attorneys, ensuring a high level of expertise and responsiveness. "We educate the senior leaders, clinicians and other employees on current, new or amended laws that impact Broward Health's operations so that we remain in compliance," said Epstein.

Team Longevity and Collaboration: A significant factor in the team's effectiveness is their longevity and cohesion. Epstein has cultivated a collaborative environment where team members are deeply invested in their work, eager to take on new challenges, conduct thorough research, and learn from one another.

Effective Communication: Navigating the ever-changing landscape of healthcare regulations requires continual communication. Epstein's deep industry knowledge allows her to anticipate regulatory changes and their impact on Broward Health. Her team prioritizes transparency, accountability, integrity, and proactive communication, establishing themselves as the "department of 'know,'" not the department of 'no,'" said Epstein. This

approach leads to trust and encourages strong partnerships with internal stakeholders, ensuring operational success.

Managing Outside Counsel: Epstein's team carefully manages external law firms, particularly for litigation. They maintain strict financial oversight and cultivate strong working relationships with their law firm partners, ensuring a clear understanding of Broward Health's expectations.

Strong Leadership and Teamwork: Effective teamwork is driven by strong leadership. She consistently acknowledges and praises her staff, emphasizing that their collaborative efforts are central to the department's success. "I couldn't ask for a better group of lawyers to work with," said Epstein. "Our success is a collective achievement, made possible by each team member's dedication to excellence."

In addition to her legal acumen, Epstein possesses sharp business insights, making her an invaluable member of Broward Health's executive team. She provides guidance on legal matters and broader business strategies, contributing to the organization's success. Under Epstein's leadership, Broward Health's legal team exemplifies how effective in-house counsel navigates the complexities of today's healthcare environment while ensuring compliance and high patient care standards.



A B R I L
L A W

Jorge M. Abril, Esq.
jmabril@abrilaw.com

Trevor M. Biglin, Esq.
tbiglin@abrilaw.com

Maximize Your Healthcare Reimbursement

For over 30 years, Abril Law has been dedicated to helping providers obtain adequate compensation for their medically necessary care.

- Out-of Network Denials
- Contractual Denials/Underpayments
- Clinical Denials
- Self-Pay Patient Recovery
- Third-Party Liability Disputes
- And More!

Call for a Free Consultation:
(305) 373-0901

DCMA Announces Inauguration of Patricia Ares-Romero, MD

The Dade County Medical Association (DCMA) is proud to announce the inauguration of its new president, Patricia Ares-Romero, M.D., F.A.M.S.A. The transition of leadership took place on Saturday, June 1st, 2024, during the 114th DCMA Presidential Inauguration Gala, held at the JW Marriott-Miami on Brickell.

The event celebrated the accomplishments of the immediate past president, Dr. Carmel J. Barrau, M.D., and welcomed Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero, M.D., as the sixth female president in the association's 121-year history. Dr. Ares-Romero's presidency marks a significant milestone in the DCMA's ongoing commitment to diversity and excellence in medical leadership.

Dr. Ares-Romero brings a wealth of experience and a passion for advancing medical practice and patient care in Miami-Dade County. As a Fellow of the American Medical Society Association (F.A.M.S.A.), Dr. Ares-Romero has been a prominent figure in the medical community, advocating for healthcare improvements and physician support.

2024-2025 Executive Committee:

Adriana Bonansea-Frances, M.D., President-Elect

Jorge Luis Marcos, M.D., Vice-President

Julie Kantor, M.D., Secretary/Treasurer

Carmel J. Barrau, M.D., Immediate Past President

2024-2025 Board members:

Veronica Alvarez-Galiano, M.D.

Jefry Biehler, M.D.

Enrique Fernandez, M.D.

Eugene Fu, M.D.

Damaris Mafut, D.O.

Estela Rodriguez, M.D.

Audrea Vaughan, D.O.



Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero

Jupiter Medical Center Physician Group Welcomes Patrick Tenbrink, MD

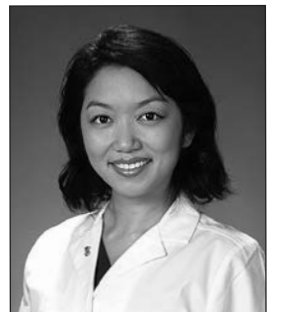
Patrick Tenbrink, M.D., is Board Certified in Urology and specializes in adult general urology and urologic cancers. As medical director of the Joe & Barbara Charles Center for Urology, he leads a multidisciplinary care team offering the expertise to provide patients with preventative, diagnostic, management, and surgical care including minimally invasive and robotic procedures/techniques.



Dr. Patrick Tenbrink

Xiaojuan (Joy) Zheng, MD, Joins Baptist Health Primary Care as a Family Medicine Physician

Board-certified family medicine physician Xiaojuan (Joy) Zheng, M.D., has joined Baptist Health Primary Care. Prior to joining Baptist Health Primary Care, Dr. Zheng was a family medicine physician at Charles B. Wang Community Health Center in New York City, where she provided physicals, chronic disease management and urgent care to an underserved population. Dr. Zheng earned her bachelor's degree at Harvard University and her medical degree at the University of Florida College of Medicine. She completed her internship and residency in family medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.



Dr. Xiaojuan Zheng

Dr. Alwyn Leiba Named Interim President of Miami Dade College's Medical Campus

Dr. Alwyn Leiba has been named interim president of Miami Dade College's (MDC) Medical Campus. He began his journey at MDC years ago as a student at the Medical Campus and later returned to teach. Throughout his tenure at the college, Dr. Leiba has held various pivotal roles, including associate professor, chair and most recently dean the School of Health Sciences, where he successfully implemented numerous allied health programs to meet critical workforce demands. In his current capacity, Dr. Leiba is dedicated to fostering student success through personalized attention, transformative learning experiences, and enhancing overall student engagement.

His extensive leadership extends beyond academia, notably as the first African American president of the Florida Dental Hygienists' Association and South Florida Dental Hygienists' Association. He also serves as chair of the Association of Florida Colleges Healthcare Education Commission. Dr. Leiba holds a doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from Northcentral University, an MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Management from American Intercontinental University, a bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene from Saint Petersburg College and an associate in Dental Hygiene from MDC.

His professional accomplishments include becoming a Fellow of the American Dental Hygienists' Association and completing the MDC President's Leadership Academy. Recognized for his outstanding contributions to healthcare leadership, Dr. Leiba received the Champion in Healthcare award from the Global Innovative Foundation in 2024 and was honored by the ICABA World Network in 2022 as part of their ICABA Salutes Men who Lead initiative. He was also the recipient of the 2021 *Legacy Magazine* Black Leaders of Today and Tomorrow Award.



Dr. Alwyn Leiba

Weight Management Specialist at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital

Grettel Rodriguez Garcia, M.D., is a member of the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital medical staff. An internist specializing in bariatric medicine, she focuses on the treatment and care of obese patients. Dr. Rodriguez earned a medical degree from the Universidad Iberoamericana UNIBE in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and completed her residency in internal medicine at Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center in Bronx, NY. She further specialized in geriatric medicine through a fellowship at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Obesity Medicine, reflecting her comprehensive expertise in both general and specialized care for obesity-related health issues.



Dr. Grettel Rodriguez Garcia

Cleveland Clinic Taps Dr. Claude Jones to Lead Primary Care Institute

Claude Jones, D.O., was recently appointed 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, and Healthcare Quality. In addition to his medical degree, his academic pursuits have earned him a Master's Degree in 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 joining Cleveland Clinic, he was the President and CEO of Care Alliance Health Center in Cleveland Ohio, where he focused on high-quality, patient-centric care. During his time at Care Alliance, he boosted productivity by 10% and improved patient and caregiver satisfaction by more than 90%. The organization saw a reduction in employee turnover from 40% to less than 4% during his tenure.



Dr. Claude Jones

Dr. Maria Abreu Becomes President of the American Gastroenterological Association

Maria T. Abreu, M.D., director of the Crohn's and Colitis Center and professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, has assumed the role of president of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA).

While Dr. Abreu, the first Latina to take the AGA's helm, has worked her way to this pinnacle position in the specialty, becoming the Association's president is no small accomplishment. Founded in 1897, today's AGA has more than 16,000 members worldwide who engage in the science, practice and advancement of gastroenterology. And with more than 13,000 attendees, 4,300 oral abstract and poster presentations and 400 original lecture sessions, DDW is the world's premier gathering of gastroenterology clinicians, researchers and industry.



Dr. Maria Abreu

A message from our President

Time to Come Together

I just got finished reading an article published in *Stat News* (www.statnews.com) entitled, "Unnecessary insurance claim denials compromise patient care and provider bottom lines." At our last Board meeting of the year, we take a moment to review with our Board members what the critical issues for the next year will be. In 2023, our Board suggested that patient access and insurance denials would be those issues in 2024.

I am not writing this article from one perspective. I know that hospitals try their best to produce a "clean claim" in the hopes that these claims will navigate insurer payment systems with little delay. Hospitals and all health care providers are depending on these reimbursements to fund continued operations.

I also know that insurers, representing the interests of their members and wanting to keep those members for the long term, want that process to work in a way that protects the interests of those members by providing the needed due diligence to ensure that, in this world fraught with bad actors, legitimate claims are paid timely.

While there is nothing new about this age old challenge of competing interests, it seems that in this time of increasing use of technology to assist in the both the preparation of these claims and the processing of the claims by insurers, we seem to be getting further off the "rails." Health care providers are growing increasingly frustrated with the numbers and economic impact of these denied claims and many are resorting to more extreme measures to exact payment.

Who wins in this battle, I do not think anyone. The patient does not win as they are now brought into the fray. The provider does not win, as they have to invest more and more resources leading to successful adjudication of the claim. The insurer does not win as they try to explain to their members why the claim for services, which the member received, is not paid. And, certainly the courts



Jaime Caldwell

don't win as their docket of cases multiplies. Let us take a moment and briefly talk about this challenge to the health care system.

In the article mentioned above written by Michael J. Alkire. He surveyed hospitals to get a picture of claims for 2022 and the returned data was weighted by the acute bed capacity of the hospital. I am not attesting to either the accuracy of the method or even the derived results. What is helpful is to see these results as one tool used to help identify the size of the challenge.

In summary, the author suggests that, overall, 15 percent of all claims submitted for payment are denied. He then looks at the type of payer and determines that Medicaid managed care plan have the highest denial rate, followed by Medicare Advantage, Managed Medicaid, Commercial, and, last, Medicare. He also looks at the average dollar threshold above which receiving a denial is more common.

There are also studies that cut similar data in a way that allows the reader to see those denials by insurer. You can look those up and see for yourself as I see the publishing of that information here as counterproductive. What we do see in the growing weight of data is that there is a disconnect between medical providers and insurers that needs to be repaired. Again, no one wins if we continue down this path.

Therefore, we have listened to our Board and we are in the planning stages for a program to be held in early November that looks at this challenge and with the intent that attendees will leave the program with additional tools to put into their toolbox that will move us forward in the discussions between healthcare providers, insured, and insurers. To continue to do what we are doing today is not sustainable and invites federal and state oversight. Those types of political solutions rarely get us to a win-win.

MAKING ROUNDS...MAKING ROUNDS...MAKING ROUNDS...MAKING ROUNDS...MAKING ROUNDS...

Cleveland Clinic Names Sarah Vogler, MD, Chief of Staff for Florida Market

Sarah Vogler, M.D., has been appointed Chief of Staff for the Florida market. Dr. Vogler had been serving as interim Chief of Staff since February 2024.

Dr. Vogler joined Cleveland Clinic in 2019. She served as vice chair of operations for the Department of Colorectal Surgery and section chief of Pelvic Floor Disorders at Cleveland Clinic's main campus in Ohio. She is board-certified in colon and rectal surgery, and general surgery.

In 2021, Dr. Vogler joined Cleveland Clinic's Florida market as associate chief of staff and regional director of colorectal pelvic floor care. She has held several leadership roles, including president and medical director of Cleveland Clinic Florida Integrated Health, (an accountable care organization), physician director of surgical operations, and physician champion of physician alignment and service line profitability.

Dr. Vogler received her medical degree and master's degree in business administration from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. She completed a residency in general surgery at the University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics in Salt Lake City, and a colon and rectal surgery fellowship at the University of Minnesota.



Dr. Sarah Vogler

Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital Adds Obesity Medicine Specialist

Manisha Chand, M.D., has joined the staff at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital. Dr. Chand is board certified in family medicine with a particular focus on Obesity Management. She holds a certification as an American Board of Obesity Medicine diplomat, reflecting her commitment to addressing the complexities of obesity and its related conditions.

Appointed in 2023, Dr. Chand can be seen at the Krupa Center in Weston, FL. Her specialties include Obesity Management, Bariatric Medicine, Health and Wellness, and Nutrition Counseling, with a particular emphasis on Preventive Medicine and Weight Management.



Dr. Manisha Chand



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

Palm Beach County Medical Society and Services Heroes in Medicine Awards Luncheon



(l-r) Dr. Vicki Norton, Heroes in Medicine Co-Chair; John James, Director of Disaster Services, PBCMS; Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Mobile Integrated Health Medical Social Workers Lauren Young-Work, Lillian Sheldon-Reece, Courtney Draine, and Juliette Louis.



(l-r) Dr. Ivy Faske, Past President, PBCMSS; Dr. Shannon Fox-Levine, President, Palm Beach Pediatrics; Dr. Vicki Norton, Heroes in Medicine Co-Chair

The Palm Beach County Medical Society (PBCMS) and Services held its 21st Annual Heroes in Medicine Awards Luncheon, on Thursday, May 23, 2024. More than 100 guests enjoyed an elegant afternoon at Benvenuto Restaurant & Banquet Facility honoring the 2024 Heroes. Jean Acevedo of Acevedo Consulting and Dr. Vicki Norton of Baptist Health served as Co-Chairs, and Dr. Alan Pillersdorf served as honorary chair.

The event raised \$22,000 to help support PBCMS and Services programs, including Project Access, the Healthcare Emergency Response Coalition (HERC), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Health Worker Care Coordination training through the PBCMSS Institute for Learning, the Physician Leadership Academy, Physician Wellness, and the Opioid Task Force.

Heroes in Medicine awards spotlight those individuals and organizations in Palm Beach County that provide outstanding service to meet the needs of people in local, national, and/or global communities. Nominees complete a rigorous review process and are selected by community leaders and volunteers. Heroes in Medicine is made possible by the generous support of South Florida Hospital News & Healthcare Report.

2024 Heroes in Medicine Award Winners

Physician Hero

Shannon Fox-Levine, MD, president of Palm Beach Pediatrics

Bruce Rendina Professional Hero

Mahyar Nouri-Shirazi, DVM, PhD, professor at the Florida Atlantic University Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine.

Community Hero

Palm Beach State College (PBSC)

Health Care Provider (non-physician) Hero

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Mobile Integrated Health Medical Social Workers: Lauren Young-Work, Lillian Sheldon-Reece, Courtney Draine, and Juliette Louis.

Medical Student Hero

Project Grow Medical Students at Florida Atlantic University Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine: Sara Burgoa, Shannon Gallup, Madison Goon, and Samantha Hicks.

South Florida Hospital News[®] and HEALTHCARE REPORT

South Florida's
Monthly Healthcare Newspaper
www.southfloridahospitalnews.com

CHARLES FELIX, CAROL FELIX
Publishers

NANCY LAMMIE, Editor

JUDY GRAMM

Editorial Manager & Webmaster

JMC GRAPHICS

Art/Production
lammienancy@aol.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Daniel Casciato, Barbara Fallon
Vanessa Orr, Lois Thomson

TO REACH US FOR ADVERTISING OR EDITORIAL

Call (954) 605-4785 or e-mail
carol@southfloridahospitalnews.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

One Year \$40 , Two Years \$60
Three Years \$75

To subscribe, call (954) 605-4785
or subscribe online at
southfloridahospitalnews.com.

*All rights reserved. Reproduction
in whole or part without written
permission prohibited. Copyright © 2024*

Cover Story: Enhancing Sickle Cell Care: Dr. Neil Miransky's Comprehensive Approach

Continued from page 1

says Dr. Miransky. "Palliative medicine is proportionally beneficial to individuals based on the gravity of suffering or burden their disease presents; as the severity of the disease increases, so does the benefit from palliative care. The focus of each intervention from a palliative perspective is to improve the patient's quality of life and level of function. The unique skill set that palliative physicians bring to their patient's pain and other symptom needs helps the patient live their life to the fullest."

Patients with sickle cell disease face numerous challenges throughout their lives.

"The disease is very intrusive, and sickle cell crises interrupt daily plans, goals, and dreams," states Dr. Miransky.

These crises can occur unpredictably, causing significant disruptions in a patient's life. For instance, a patient may miss important events or lose their job due to frequent hospitalizations. Additionally, managing severe pain often requires opioid analgesics, but the ongoing opioid epidemic has made it difficult for patients to receive adequate pain management.

The new Sickle Cell Program at Baptist Health South Miami Hospital aims to alleviate these burdens by providing comprehensive, specialized care.

"Our care team is experienced and knowledgeable about the disease and the complex management these patients need," says Dr. Miransky.

The program offers a treatment home where patients can receive primary and preventive care, treatment for acute flares, and referrals to Baptist Health's entire specialty network. The hospital's pharmacies support the program by providing appropriate medications without delay, ensuring patients have timely access to the necessary treatments.

One of the program's unique features is the Sickle Cell Care clinic, which offers ongoing prevention and disease management.

"We provide acute sickle cell crisis management and infusion

of disease-modifying medications in the Sickle Cell Care Infusion Center," explains Dr. Miransky. Each patient receives a customized symptom management plan tailored to their specific needs. The program facilitates smooth transitions to hospital care if necessary, with the admitting and treating teams having access to all prior treatment records without delay.

Dr. Miransky's extensive experience in hospice and palliative care deeply influences his approach to treating patients with sickle cell disease. He notes that sickle cell disease can be profoundly painful, often exceeding the pain experienced by many cancer patients. "My experience helps me meet patients where they are and accompany them on their journey," he says. He draws on his knowledge of treating complex clinical presentations and symptom burdens to provide empathetic and effective care.

Regarding healthcare delivery advancements, Dr. Miransky is passionate about bringing patients the best, most current treatments and partnering with them to design personalized care plans.

"We provide great care when these two come together," he states. "The future is bright. We have new treatments that offer, for some individuals, an effective cure for the disease. As we learn more and continue to improve these techniques, we will expand the number of patients for whom these curative treatments will be effective."

Dr. Miransky's dedication to treating sickle cell disease highlights the importance of compassionate, comprehensive care. The Sickle Cell Program at Baptist Health South Miami Hospital offers innovative solutions and unwavering support for patients, aiming to improve their quality of life and overall well-being.

With a bright future ahead, Dr. Miransky and his team continue to make significant strides in advancing the care and treatment of those affected by this challenging condition.

For more information, visit baptisthealth.net.

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

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County Welcomes New Leaders and Announces Promotions

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County proudly announces the addition of two distinguished healthcare leaders and the promotion of three other veteran leaders.

Julia Francioni, MBA, BSN, RN, joins the Health Care District as the Assistant Vice President of Nursing at Lakeside Medical Center, the Health Care District's acute care teaching hospital in Belle Glade.

Ali-Reza Force, M.D., a board-certified psychiatrist, joins the Health Care District as the Director of Behavioral Health for its community health centers. Prior to joining the Health Care District, Dr. Force was a psychiatrist at Banyan Treatment Centers and Jessie Trice Community Health Center.

Courtney Phillips, M.D., has been promoted to Vice President and Chief of Behavioral Health and Clinical Innovations for the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. Previously, Dr. Phillips was the Director of Behavioral Health for the District's community health centers. From 2022 to 2023, she served as Statewide Director of Opioid Recovery for the Florida Department of Children and Families in coordination with the Florida Department of Health.

Marisol Miranda has been promoted to Associate Vice President, Support Services for the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. Miranda most recently served as the Director of Clinic Operations. Miranda joined the Health Care District in 2015 as a practice manager and was promoted to Director of Practice Management before assuming the Director of Clinic Operations role. Previously,

Jay Mazzone has been promoted to Associate Vice President, Transportation and Director of Operations – Trauma Hawk at the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. He also serves as Deputy Director of Operations for the District's Air Carrier certification. Before his promotion, Mazzone was the District's Director of Aeromedical Transportation.



Julia Francioni



Dr. Ali-Reza Force



Dr. Courtney Phillips



Marisol Miranda



Jay Mazzone

MorseLife Hospice and Palliative Care Names New Business Development Director

MorseLife Hospice and Palliative Care has named Dominique McDonald as business development director.

McDonald comes to MorseLife with nearly 25 years of healthcare experience with a focus on seniors, including 16 years dedicated to hospice. Most recently, she served as Director of Concierge with Liberty HealthCare.

Active in the community, McDonald is a board member of the American Association of Caregiving Youth and previously served on the Board of the YWCA. She holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Barry University and is a certified Six Sigma Green Belt.



Dominique McDonald



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

Nursing Consortium of Florida Announces New Directors



The more than 70 member organizations of the Nursing Consortium of Florida have elected four new directors, and re-elected one, for a new two-year term. The newly elected members of the Consortium's Board of Directors are: Cape Coral Hospital's Interim Chief Nurse Executive and Vice President Operations Rebekah Jernstedt, MSN, RN; HCA Florida Woodmont Hospital's, Chief Nursing Officer Caren J. Bock, MBA, MSN, RN, LSSBB; Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing's Associate Dean of Academic Programs Joy Longo, PhD, RNC-NIC, CNE; Memorial Regional Hospital South Director of Clinical Education and Organizational Development Lauren K. Oates, MSN, RN; and Nova Southeastern University, Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing's Graduate Nursing Faculty Associate Professor Joanne Masella, EdD, MSN, RN. RN. The newly elected directors will begin their terms in July 2024.

Cynthia Peterson Transitions to a Consulting Role at Broward County Medical Association

After three decades of dedicated service, Cynthia Peterson, Chief Executive Officer of the Broward County Medical Association, has announced she will now transition to a new role as consultant. Peterson's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the association's mission and impact since she assumed the CEO role in 1990.

For three decades, Cynthia Peterson directed and coordinated all programs and major activities of the Broward County Medical Association, including oversight of their Foundation and Political Action Committee. Additionally, she has served as CEO of the Broward County Society of Plastic Surgeons and the Broward County Pediatric Society since 1996.

Cynthia Peterson's commitment to community service has extended beyond her professional responsibilities. She has served on the boards of various community organizations, including American Lung Association of SE Florida, Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County, and the United Way of Broward County's Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention Board of Governors.

Following Cynthia Peterson's announcement, the Broward County Medical Association will continue its operations under Cobbe Management Consulting. Angel Bosch-De Leon will assume the role of Managing Director.



Cynthia Peterson

SOUTH UNIVERSITY
West Palm Beach, Florida

NURSING PROGRAMS FOR EVERY STAGE IN YOUR CAREER

A PLACE TO BELONG BELIEVE AND BECOME

SOUTHUNIVERSITY.EDU | 855-209-0347

South University, West Palm Beach, University Centre, 9801 Belvedere Rd., Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411. © 2022 South University. All rights reserved.

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

Powerful Conclusion of the Third Annual Black Health Summit Hosted by the Health Foundation of South Florida



A “dream team” of health equity advocates, including Daniel Dawes, JD, and NBA Hall-of-Famer Alonzo Mourning, led Summit attendees in a pledge to support the health and well-being of Black men.

The Health Foundation of South Florida is pleased to announce the powerful conclusion of its third annual Black Health Summit, which took place on June 4, 2024, at Florida Memorial University. The Summit, which aims to drive improvements in Black health disparities, convened a diverse A-list of local and national health equity experts, community leaders, and advocates to address critical issues and root causes of the significant gaps in Black health outcomes in South Florida.

The Summit featured engaging presentations and dynamic discussions. Key themes of this year's Summit, highlighted by keynote speaker Daniel Dawes, JD, Founding Dean of the School of Global Health at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, were the Political Drivers of Health and Black men's health. Other experts from health systems, communities, and public and private sectors convened to discuss the “Big P” policy environment and “little p” organizational and institutional practices as the Health Foundation continues to build strategies and solutions for reducing health disparities in South Florida.

“The Health Foundation of South Florida is proud to have brought together such a formidable slate of thought leaders and community-based leaders for an essential discussion about Black health equity. The Summit's aim to engage participants in identifying solutions for progress was evident in the rich discussions and actionable insights shared throughout the day,” said Health Foundation of South Florida President and CEO Loreen Chant.

The Summit concluded with audience engagement and a “dream team” of experts convened by the Health Foundation of South Florida. These eight Black men stood together and invited everyone to join in a pledge to Black men's health and well-being. The diverse audience's commitment to co-creating a more equitable future for South Florida was palpable.

City of Doral Declares May 9 as A Safe Haven For Newborns Day: Celebrating a Legacy of Saving Lives

Vice-Mayor Oscar Puig, on behalf of the entire City of Doral Council, delivered a proclamation declaring May 9th as A Safe Haven For Newborns Day in the City of Doral. This significant establishment honors the legacy of Nick Silverio, the founder of A Safe Haven For Newborns, and aims to raise awareness about the critical importance of preventing infant abandonment and supporting mothers in need.

The establishment of A Safe Haven For Newborns Day serves as a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to ensure the well-being of vulnerable newborns and their families. It is an opportunity for the community to come together, celebrate the organization's achievements, and commit to supporting this vital cause.

A Safe Haven For Newborns is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization dedicated to ending infant abandonment. In a 23-year partnership with the hospitals, fire stations, and EMS, A Safe Haven For Newborns is making a positive impact and saving two lives, the mother's and the infant. All services are provided at no cost to the expectant mother while protecting her right to privacy.



City of Doral Councilwoman Maureen Porras, Founder of A Safe Haven For Newborns Nick Silverio, and City of Doral Vice-Mayor Oscar Puig

Holy Cross Health Dedicates and Unveils The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation Surgical Suites

Holy Cross Health recently hosted a dedication ceremony to unveil the newly renovated, newly named Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation Surgical Suites.

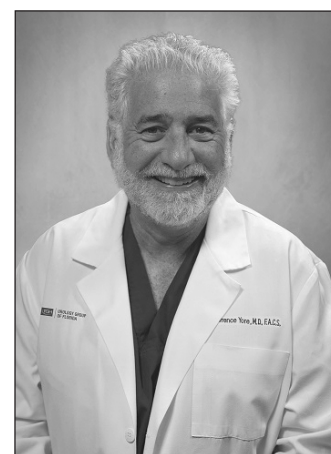
The generous \$5 million gift from the Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation funded the renovation of seven operating rooms, the storage room and a portion of the area where instruments get sterilized.

“This contribution from The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation revolutionizes patient care and surgical outcomes by outfitting seven operating rooms with state-of-the-art equipment,” said Mark Doyle, President and CEO of Holy Cross Health. “We are blessed to have the support of The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation as we continue to provide our patients and the community with the highest level of quality care and an exceptional experience in our hospital.”

Palm Beach County-Based Urology Group of Florida Joins Tampa General Hospital

Urology Group of Florida, which has been delivering high-quality urologic care to Palm Beach County since 2011, has partnered with Tampa General Hospital (TGH) as part of the academic health system's initiative to serve more patients across the state. The new affiliation will be known as TGH Urology Group of Florida.

TGH Urology Group of Florida is staffed by seven top Palm Beach County-based urologists: Lawrence M. Yore, M.D.; Edward M. Scheckowitz, M.D.; Emanuel E. Gottenger, M.D.; Murray G. Goldberg, M.D.; R. Neill Borland, M.D.; David Weinstein, M.D.; and David Meinbach, M.D. The practice will continue serving patients from its locations in Delray Beach, Palm Beach Gardens and Lake Worth, and is now matched with the world-class resources and specialists at TGH, Florida's leading academic health system for more than 50 years. TGH Urology Group of Florida will be an integral part of connecting more residents in Palm Beach and Martin counties to the complex urologic care they need.



Dr. Lawrence M. Yore, urologist and president of TGH Urology Group of Florida

HCA Healthcare Announces HCA Healthcare Foundation's \$1 Million Grant to the Consortium of Florida Education Foundation

HCA Healthcare, Inc. announced that the HCA Healthcare Foundation, through its Healthier Tomorrow Fund, will donate \$1 million over the next three years to the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (Consortium) to help fund its Career Pathways to a Healthier Florida program. The Career Pathways to a Healthier Florida program aims to help create and expand healthcare career pathways for underserved high school students across the state of Florida.

The Florida Chamber Foundation's Workforce Needs Study estimates there to be a shortage of approximately 463,000 healthcare workers by the end of 2024. Through the Career Pathways to a Healthier Florida program, the Consortium will develop and manage a grant process which allows local education foundations to apply for grant funds in support of local projects that foster healthcare career pathways. The program will fund 15 local education foundations in Florida over the next three years, focusing on activities that lead to nursing or allied health tracks and include work-based learning, healthcare career exploration activities and industry certifications.

The Career Pathways to a Healthier Florida program grant is funded through the Healthier Tomorrow Fund, a community impact fund focused on addressing high-priority community needs and health equity. Since its launch in 2021, the Fund has committed more than \$20 million in communities where HCA Healthcare has a presence and made grants to 90 nonprofit organizations.

**Visit us on the web at
www.southfloridahospitalnews.com**

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

Delray Medical Center Opens Renovated Sterile Processing Department



Delray Medical Center recently celebrated the grand opening of their newly renovated Sterile Processing Department. This \$10 million investment doubled the square footage of the department to 4,000 square feet, tripled the capacity of sterile instruments and features a state-of-the-art cart washer with a pure water system that cleans and sanitizes the OR carts for a faster turnaround time.

University of Miami Health System Opens New Dermatology and Concierge Medicine Practice in Miami Beach

The University of Miami Health System (UHealth) is proud to announce the opening of its new state-of-the-art dermatology and concierge medicine practice in Miami Beach.

UHealth at Miami Beach conveniently offers expert dermatology services, concierge medicine, and executive physicals. Patients will benefit from the expertise of world-class dermatologists and highly trained specialists who are dedicated to delivering personalized and comprehensive medical care.

Through UHealth at Miami Beach, patients have access to dermatologists who specialize in treating disorders of the skin, nails, and hair. These experts are not only skilled clinicians but also respected researchers and educators.

UHealth at Miami Beach also features concierge medicine and executive physicals designed to meet the health and wellness goals of patients with the utmost convenience. The UHealth Executive Physical provides an all-inclusive, one-day comprehensive health evaluation that results in a personalized plan for optimal health.

Accolades Accolades Accolades Accolades

Nicklaus Children's Renews National Association of Epilepsy Centers Level 4 Accreditation

Nicklaus Children's Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, part of the hospital's renowned Brain Institute, has been reaccruited as a level 4 epilepsy center for 2024-2025 by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC). Level 4 epilepsy centers provide the highest level of medical and surgical treatment for children and adolescents with complex epilepsy.

The hospital has held this accreditation since 1987 and was among the first pediatric hospitals in Florida to receive the recognition.

"It is always an honor to renew our NAEC accreditation," said Dr. Trevor Renick, Director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center. "Our commitment to maintaining the stringent standards associated with this prestigious accreditation is one more reason why we are the hospital where children matter most™."

Good Samaritan Medical Center Awarded Spine Surgery, Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement, and Shoulder Replacement Certifications

Good Samaritan Medical Center (GSMC) has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement, Shoulder Replacement and Spine Surgery certifications by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

The certification, offered in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, focuses on the pre-surgical orthopedic consultation to the intraoperative, hospitalization or ambulatory surgical center admission, rehabilitation activities, and follow-up visit with the orthopedic surgeon.

Good Samaritan Medical Center Attains National Accreditation from the ACS National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancer

Good Samaritan Medical Center (GSMC) announced that it has received accreditation under the American College of Surgeons (ACS) National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) for the 13th year in a row.

As an NAPBC-accredited institution, GSMC also becomes an ACS Surgical Quality Partner. Being a Surgical Quality Partner signifies an institution's dedication to consistently improving procedures and approaches, while maintaining a critical eye on process at every step. The Surgical Quality Partner designation lets patients know GSMC is dedicated to quality and relentless self-improvement and has been verified or accredited by the ACS. Patients can trust that the care they receive at Surgical Quality Partner hospitals adheres to the most rigorous standards in surgical quality.

Accounting, Tax, and Consulting Services for the Healthcare Industry



- Serving the health care community with over 30 years of public accounting and industry experience
- Maintenance services, including bookkeeping/accounting support and financial statement preparation
- Compliance services, including preparation of tax returns, informational returns, and Medicare home health agency cost reports
- Advisory services, including tax planning, entity planning/setup, and tax reduction strategies
- Industry expertise in preparation of AHCA clinic financial affidavits for licensure

754.301.2183 | www.egortcpa.com | marc@egortcpa.com



E-mail your submissions to:
editorial@southfloridahospitalnews.com

Life Is What You Bake It!

USAHS Miami faculty and students bake to teach activities of daily living to young adults who have aged out of post-secondary transition programs.

BY CAROL NEWMAN

At age 22, young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Florida are no longer eligible for the state and federal programs that exist to help them transition from high school to their next life stage, including postsecondary education, employment or independent living. Such a group gathered recently on the Coral Gables campus of the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in Miami (USAHS Miami) to make chocolate pudding dirt cups.

Given the gap in services at this critical transition period, Christina Bertran, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCP, CAS, an assistant professor at USAHS Miami, and her colleague Arlenys Loffredo, OTD, MS, OTR/L, created Life Is What You Bake It to develop meal preparation and life skills for individuals with different abilities.

Participants work on activities of daily living such as meal preparation, bilateral coordination, and safety with equipment.

"By engaging in cooking activities such as practicing how to turn the stove and oven on and off safely are



critical skills," says Dr. Bertran. "Our OT students work with the younger adults to follow a recipe and practice these life skills in a real-world environment while promoting an opportunity for social interaction."

Florida law mandates that a student's individual educational plan (IEP) team must start planning for a student's transition out of high school

at 14 years of age or sooner. In 2007, a study of special and remedial education in Florida indicated a lack of support, resources, and guidance for these transition services and preparing these young adults for independence.

Since lack of access to transport and other resources for those with disabilities can lead to isolation, socialization is big component of the baking group

gatherings.

"Often times, these younger adults find themselves no longer qualifying to continued occupational therapy services, much less group sessions that instill social participation and promote independence" says Dr. Loffredo.

"Life is What You Bake It" takes place at least twice each term at the USAHS Miami campus. It is one of several pro-bono clinics at USAHS Miami that serve the community and help students enhance their experiences with different patient populations.

"Occupational therapy students get the opportunity to work hands on with this underserved population. Students have reported how meaningful it is to them and how they appreciate giving back through their future profession" says Dr. Bertran.

Dr. Bertran's brother has participated in multiple baking classes, along with his mother and peers from the community. Lily Bertran shared that "this group is a blessing, allowing me to see my daughter's profession of occupational therapy provide support and care to her own brother."

Advanced Risk Assessment and Screening for Women at Increased Risk for Breast Cancer

Women who are at an increased risk for breast cancer benefit from high-risk breast surveillance and assessment. Women who may be at an increased lifetime risk of developing breast cancer include those with a close family history of breast or ovarian cancer, a genetic predisposition based on an inherited gene mutation (ex. BRCA 1/2 mutations), dense breasts, previous breast biopsies resulting in abnormal or atypical cells and/or prior chest radiation therapy between 10-30 years of age.

A woman at high risk for breast cancer is noted to have a Tyrer-Cuzick lifetime risk calculation of 20% or greater. In these cases, high risk surveillance could be indicated which includes clinical breast exams (CBE) every six months and mammograms once a year, as well as



BY ALEXANDRIA W. DIEGO, DNP, APRN, AOCNP

annual breast MRIs with intravenous contrast. Breast imaging is usually started at age 40, unless a patient's doctor requests the patient begin at an earlier age.

Patients at high risk for breast cancer are also educated regarding breast awareness for new breast symptoms or issues and lifestyle changes such as exercise, smoking cessation, moderation of alcohol consumption, weight management, prophylactic breast surgery and risk-reducing medications. It is imperative that the medical community understand the importance of screening women for breast cancer, and referring women who are at an increased risk for specialized breast evaluation.

Currently at Holy Cross Health, within the Surgical Oncology department, there

is an established high risk breast clinic that is open for appointments. Women who are determined to be at an increased risk for breast cancer in the high-risk breast clinic will have a risk assessment completed as well as counseling and education regarding recommendations and interventions at the initial and subsequent visits.

Genetic screening and testing are offered to women who meet criteria according to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). Patients who are determined to have an increased risk for breast cancer related to a genetic predisposition are also followed for high-risk surveillance and may also be evaluated by a breast surgeon in the office to discuss surgical risk-reducing options.

At another one of Holy Cross Health's facilities, the Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center, the Partners in Breast Health program provides outreach education, clinical breast

exams, screening mammograms and diagnostic procedures to lower income and minority women ages 40 and older who lack access to healthcare services. The program also provides services to symptomatic women who are younger than 40.

Committed to providing patients with quality care, The Michael and Dianne Bienes Comprehensive Cancer Center at Holy Cross Health maintains accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a quality program administered by the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

The Center can be reached at (954) 542-6700.

Alexandria W. Diego is a nurse practitioner at Michael and Dianne Bienes Comprehensive Cancer Center at Holy Cross Health. He is a Certified GCRA Specialist, Certified Breast APP.

Subscribe to...

SOUTH FLORIDA HOSPITAL NEWS & HEALTHCARE REPORT today!

Email carol@southfloridahospitalnews.com

BUSINESS/RESOURCE DIRECTORY

ACCOUNTING & ADVISORY SERVICES

MARC EGORT, CPA, P.A.

Marc Egort, CPA, P.A. is a South Florida CPA firm of dedicated accountants who work closely with our clients providing accounting services as well as tax preparation and bookkeeping. We offer value-added services in areas of assurance, CFO services, and other areas of compliance. Our philosophy is client focused service that addresses the needs of our personal and corporate clients whether they are considered a startup venture or a seasoned organization. For more information, visit egortcpa.com or call (754) 301-2183.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT

SALTZ MICHELSON ARCHITECTS

Saltz Michelson Architects (SMA) is an award winning architectural design firm founded in 1976 specializing in healthcare facilities. The firm's experience ranges from hospital design to traditional medical offices of all specialties and outpatient facilities such as women's centers, outpatient diagnostic centers, outpatient surgery centers, MRI centers, urgent care facilities, walk-in clinics, oncology centers, artificial kidney centers, and pediatric facilities. Our hospital experience includes renovation and modernization projects encompassing all areas of a hospital facility. Contact Charles A. Michelson, AIA, Principal, at (954) 266-2700 or email cmichelson@saltzmichelson.com or visit www.saltzmichelson.com

ATTORNEYS

ABRIL LAW

Thirty-plus years of experience advocating on behalf of healthcare providers for maximum reimbursement of their medically necessary services. Our dedicated attorneys will work with your revenue cycle team to evaluate your claim denials and exhaust all available remedies to collect from payors. We share the risk; our Contingency Fees mean we only recover if you are properly reimbursed. For a free consultation and analysis of your dispute, call us at: (305) 373-0901 or visit www.abrilaw.com.

DABDOUB LAW FIRM

Dabdoub Law Firm specializes in physician disability insurance claims, appeals, and litigation. Dabdoub Law has a track record of success in helping physicians get paid disability benefits. This includes winning a case for a liver transplant surgeon with their own occupation policy who was no longer able to perform liver transplants. Dabdoub Law Firm has successfully represented physicians against all major insurance carriers with individual own occupation policies and group disability policies. Call 888-812-0393 today.

MIRZA HEALTHCARE LAW PARTNERS, LLC

Does your team need access to a healthcare attorney to solve legal issues that arise regularly? Are you an inhouse counsel who needs to get assistance on specialty matters or have occasional overflow of work? A majority of our clients choose an affordable monthly plan, have access to "Counselor On-Call" 24/7 and an extensive library of document templates that are readily available. Our clients enjoy a full range of services including: physician employment contracts, leases, collection demands, subpoenas, licensing, investigations, M&A, medical staff privileges, HIPAA, Stark and False Claims Act issues. When you are ready: call/text (954)445-5503 or email Ben@HealthcareAttorney.Net; Ben Assad Mirza, JD, LLM, CPA, MPHA, CHC. Visit www.HealthcareAttorney.Net

DISABILITY INSURANCE

LIFEINSUREASSURE

A NEW way to buy life insurance

Our simple three-step process:

- 1) Go to lifeinsureassure.com
 - 2) Go to quote engine and shop
 - 3) Contact Howard with what works for you
- Shop 40 best-in-class companies with confidence and confidentiality. That's correct; we don't track, contact, or market to you. We are consultants; YOU, not the insurance company, are our clients. For more information, contact Howard at lifeinsureassure.com

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES **FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY** **MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION / ON-SITE**

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

LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF **OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE SCHOOL OF** **HEALTH SERVICES** **ADMINISTRATION /** **ON-LINE GRADUATE DEGREES**

LECOM is the largest medical college in the U.S. and teaches the business of healthcare. Programs are licensed, accredited, designed for busy working professionals seeking to elevate their careers. Masters in Health Services Administration (MHSA), Masters in Public Health (MPH), Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics (MSBE), Master of Science in Medical Cannabinoid Therapeutics (MS MCT) and Doctor of Healthcare Administration (DHA) terminal degree. BE IN DEMAND (941) 405-1533, SHSA@lecom.edu, <https://lecom.edu/school-of-health-services-administration/>

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE - **MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS**

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

SOUTH UNIVERSITY

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

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE **FOR HEALTH SCIENCES**

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) in Miami offers graduate degrees in physical and occupational therapy. The state of the art clinical simulation lab, on-site clinics, and a statewide network of fieldwork and clinical partners, provide valuable hands-on learning for students to succeed in today's healthcare workforce. Rolling admissions and a convenient trimester schedule offer flexibility. Founded in St. Augustine, Florida in 1979, USAHS has five campuses in California, Florida, and Texas. For more information visit usa.edu or call 1-800-241-1027

HEALTHCARE ACCOUNTING AND ADVISORY

BDO

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

HEALTHCARE STAFFING **SAFEGUARD HEALTHCARE**

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

HOMECARE SERVICES **MORSELIFE HOME HEALTH CARE**

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

HOSPICE **VITAS® HEALTHCARE** **PATIENTS AND FAMILIES COME FIRST**

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

INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

RISK STRATEGIES

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

MARITAL & FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY **NEAVE FAMILY LAW, P.A.**

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

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS **BOARDROOMPR**

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

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION **DADE COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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

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

If your organization or business wants to reach more than 50,000 healthcare professionals every month AND enjoy the value-added benefit of a weblink on southfloridahospitalnews.com, then our Resource and Business Directory is right for you! Call (954) 605-4785 today!



Prepare to Shape the Future of Healthcare

Take your career in
healthcare delivery and
management to the next
level with advanced
education and training



A Life-Changing Career Move

REGISTER FOR EMHA OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday, July 17 @ 6:45PM
In Person or Live Virtual
Boca Raton Campus**

**FAU.EDU/EMHA
561.297.6000**

