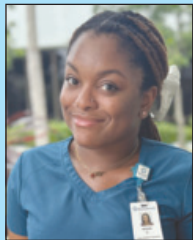




**SALUTE
TO
EMERGENCY
ROOM
NURSES**

page 28



**SALUTE
TO CASE
MANAGERS**

page 33

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Hospital News[™] and HEALTHCARE REPORT

Volume 21 • Issue 4 • \$5.00 October 2024

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

Around the Region



Shane Strum

Shane Strum Appointed Interim CEO of Memorial Healthcare System

The North and South Broward Hospital Districts Boards of Commissioners, d/b/a Broward Health and Memorial Healthcare System, have unanimously voted to appoint Shane Strum the Interim CEO of Memorial Healthcare System while remaining President & CEO of Broward Health.

Continued on page 9

Oncology... Oncology... Oncology... Oncology...Oncology... Oncology...

Treating Breast Cancer at Memorial Cancer Institute

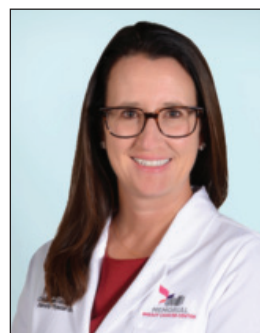
BY NATASHA RUETH, MD, AND CHRISTINE FENG, MD

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer diagnosis among women and the second leading cause of cancer-related death. While it most frequently affects post-menopausal women, it's important to recognize that younger women are also at risk.

The numbers speak for themselves: this year alone, the American Cancer Society estimates more than 310,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed, along with an additional 50,000 cases of ductal carcinoma in-situ (DCIS), an early, non-invasive form of the disease. These statistics, while sobering, only tell part of the story.

What's missing from the numbers is the progress we've made. We are now diagnosing breast cancer earlier than ever before, thanks to advancements in

Continued on page 24



Dr. Natasha Rueth



Dr. Christine Feng

NCH Survivorship Program Helps Children Move On from Cancer

BY VANESSA ORR

Over 80 percent of children diagnosed with cancer will be cured, though more than 70 percent of these childhood cancer survivors will have a chronic condition as a consequence of the therapy they received. Survive & Thrive—The Survivorship Program at the Helen & Jacob Shaham Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute at Nicklaus Children's Hospital (NCH), was created to provide support and follow-up care for childhood cancer survivors.

Medical Director Matthew Ramirez, M.D., works to help pediatric cancer survivors optimize their health and quality of life. A childhood lymphoma cancer survivor himself, he became interested in the survivorship program as a result of his own experiences.

"I didn't have any survivorship follow-up after treatment; it didn't exist," he explained. "Doctors would just say, 'Oh, you're a lymphoma survivor. Are you doing okay with that?' and move on to the next thing."

While screening guidelines had been created in the early 2000s by the Children's Oncology Group—



Dr. Matthew Ramirez

Continued on page 20

Healthcare Education... Healthcare Education... Healthcare Education... Healthcare

Navigating the Digital Health Revolution: A New Certificate Program at FAU

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve with the rapid advancements in digital technology, Florida Atlantic University (FAU) has launched a Certificate in Digital Health to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate this ever-changing field. Dr. Ravi Behara, course facilitator and full-time Faculty member at FAU's College of Business Executive Education, offers insight into the program, its focus on cutting-edge technologies, and how it prepares healthcare professionals for the future.

Continued on page 12



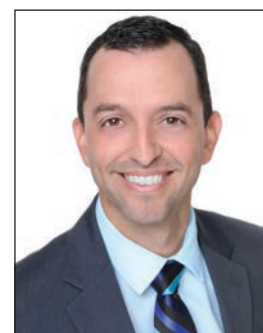
Dr. Ravi Behara

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences: A Pathway to Success in Healthcare Education

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Located in the vibrant city of Coral Gables in Miami, the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) is carving out a reputation as one of the premier institutions for healthcare education. With a broad range of programs emphasizing hands-on experience and innovative learning models, USAHS is preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals to excel in their fields. Dr. Gabriel Somarriba, Program Director for the Physical Therapy program and Campus Director for USAHS Miami, and Yaneisy Hurtado, a current student in the Doctor of

Continued on page 11



Dr. Gabriel Somarriba

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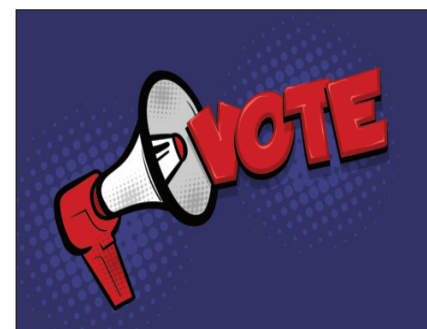
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Publisher's Note

Voting Is Like Eating Your Vegetables ...

You know you should do it; you sometimes begrudge doing it, but it's essential for your long-term well-being. If democracy is a giant buffet of options, voting is how we choose what's on the menu. Sure, you might not always get your favorite dish (looking at you, broccoli casserole), but imagine showing up to the buffet and finding out they're only serving liver and onions because you didn't cast your vote! Yeah, that's democracy without your participation.



Let's be real: voting is one of the few times the average person gets to feel like a powerful decision-maker. One minute you're binge-watching Netflix in your pajamas, and the next, you're a crucial cog in the wheel of democracy. You have the power to decide whether the city builds a new park, fixes those potholes that have swallowed half your car, or even who becomes the next president. That's an impressive leap from your typical daily decisions like "What should I have for lunch?"

Some folks think their vote doesn't matter. They've said something like, "What's one vote going to change?" Well, imagine if everyone had that attitude. It'd be like being at a karaoke bar where no one wants to get on stage—soon, it's just the one guy who really *shouldn't* be singing, belting out off-key power ballads. The same goes for elections. If you don't show up, the loudest voices (often not the most pleasant ones) get all the attention. And nobody wants democracy to sound like bad karaoke.

But let's also acknowledge the absurdity. Sometimes voting feels like being handed a multiple-choice test where all the answers are "meh." You're sitting there thinking, "Do I pick the person who says they'll lower taxes but wants to ban ice cream, or the person who promises free ice cream but doesn't know the difference between a cone and a sundae?" It's not always glamorous, but that's the point. Democracy is messy, imperfect, and much like your favorite Netflix show, it often leaves you yelling at the screen in frustration. But just like you still binge-watch every season, you should still vote.

There's also a hidden bonus to voting, it's one of the few civic duties that come with *stickers*. You don't get an "I Filed My Taxes" sticker, and jury duty doesn't come with swag. But vote? Slap that "I Voted" sticker on your shirt and walk around like the informed citizen you are. It's like a badge of honor that says, "Yes, I participated in this grand experiment called democracy." And let's face it, we all enjoy a little extra validation, even if it comes in the form of a small adhesive circle.

So, while voting might not be as thrilling as a theme park ride or as satisfying as winning an argument online, it's arguably the most important thing you can do to influence the world around you. Your vote is your voice, and unlike karaoke night, no one is going to judge your performance. Just show up, make your choice, and enjoy the fact that you're helping decide what's on the buffet—hopefully, something better than liver and onions.

Charles Felix



You can reach Charles Felix at
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Freddy, who had a stroke, with **Caroline**, his occupational therapist

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Hospital Care At HomeSM

After launching the Hospital Care At Home (HCAH) pilot in April 2023 to serve patients requiring acute care at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital in Vero Beach, this care delivery model has expanded to all five Cleveland Clinic hospitals in the Florida region.

The Hospital Care At Home program was designed to admit patients to the comfort of their own home while staying in touch with their Cleveland Clinic care team – all day, every day.

A new model of care

Patients needing hospital admission are evaluated in the Emergency Department or the Medical/Surgical Inpatient Unit to determine eligibility. “Individuals who meet the criteria are offered the choice to receive hospital-level care at home or in a traditional hospital setting,” says Irene Rahman-Garcia, M.D., Medical Co-Director of Hospital Care At Home. “It’s a whole new way of looking at patient care.”

“The HCAH team cares for patients with many different medical conditions ranging from acute illnesses, infections or breathing issues to the management of flare ups of other chronic conditions affecting the heart or lungs,” says Samantha Daniel, M.D., Medical Co-Director of the program. “We are caring for patients with complex conditions that are often compounded by other chronic diseases.”

“We deliver bedside technology that allows Cleveland Clinic hospital medicine physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals to treat and monitor patients

remotely, so they don’t need to physically be in one of our hospitals,” explains Dr. Daniel. “Our patients are able to contact us in real time with the push of a button.”

Patients are provided with:

- A computer tablet for video visits with nurses and physicians
- A telephone that connects directly to their care team
- A personal emergency response bracelet
- Vital signs monitoring devices
- Backup power supply

The patient experience

Danielle Crow, R.N., nurse manager for the HCAH program, notes that patient feedback has been very positive. “The patients really love it,” she says. “One patient told me she would never want to stay in the hospital again after her experience, given the choice to receive care at home. Being at home allows our patients to rest in a comfortable setting, be around their loved ones, and reduce their anxiety and stress, which is essential for healing, giving us caregivers a chance to focus on their recovery.”

Danielle describes another patient living in a group home who could hang out with his housemates once he felt better. “He didn’t experience the isolation that some patients do when they are in the hospital,” she says.

An opportunity to transform care delivery

The initial goals of the HCAH program were to improve quality, clinical outcomes



and the patient experience.

Studies have shown that the hospital care at home model can result in shorter care episodes, lower readmission rates and fewer complications than traditional inpatient care. Surveys also demonstrate higher levels of patient and family member satisfaction than with traditional care.

“Since the time we launched Hospital Care at Home in April 2023, we have grown and learned so much from our experiences by listening to our patients and caregivers,” says Dr. Daniels. “We have emerged as leaders in the field with the number of patients for whom we provide care.”

According to Dr. Rahman-Garcia, patients can get more personalized care

through Hospital Care at Home, with interactive teaching and counseling and plan of care discussions with their doctors daily. “The patients can include their family into these discussions in real-time, regardless of where they live – whether in their home or halfway across the country, she said. “As their hospitalists, we also get an opportunity to spend more time with them and really get to know them. We get to understand their living environment and expectations when discharging them home, tailoring to a more holistic approach to care.”

Visit ClevelandClinicFlorida/CareAtHome to learn more.

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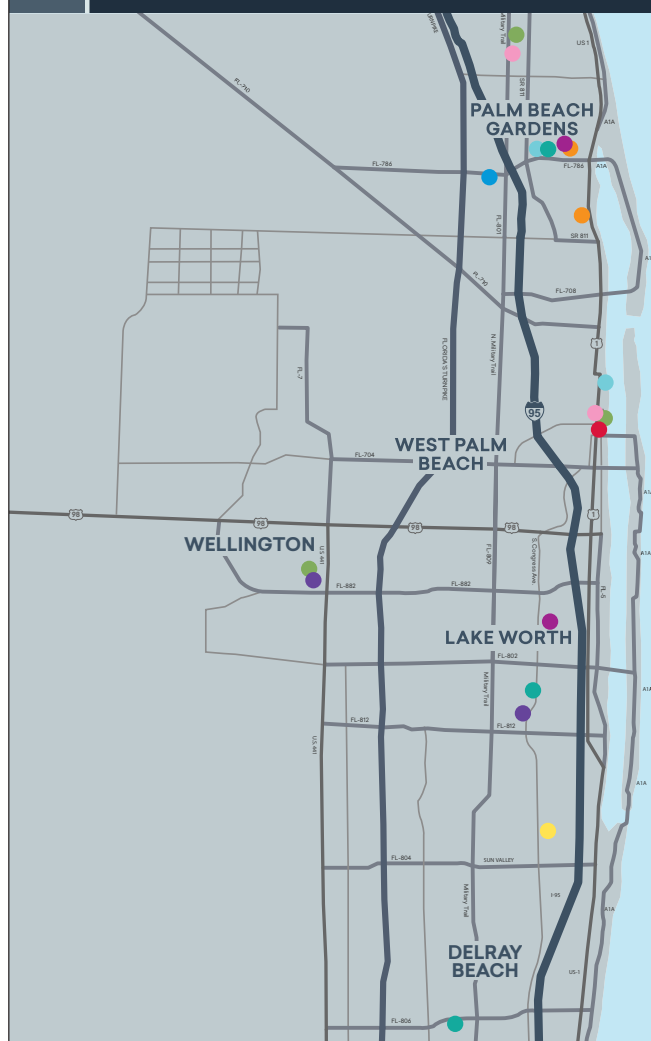
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Progress on Addressing the Healthcare Workforce Shortage

There are few issues as essential to hospitals' missions as a healthy, resilient, and supported workforce. From the frontlines to the back office, every hospital team member contributes in a unique and indispensable way to the patient experience and to patient outcomes. Florida hospitals have some of the most advanced technologies, practices, and therapies in the world, but all would be rendered useless without the caring and skilled people who come to work in our institutions every day.

While machines, beds, equipment, supplies, medications, and technology are vital to modern health care, it's healthcare professionals and support staff – the people -- who diagnose, treat, and deliver the high-quality care and compassion to patients during some of the happiest and most difficult moments of their lives that define the standard for care.

Today, the worst days of the pandemic are in the rearview, but it hasn't been that long since the hospital workforce was almost completely upended. Turnover rates, vacancy rates, and labor costs reached new highs, forcing a



BY MARY C. MAYHEW

wholesale reevaluation of strategies to recruit, retain, support, and grow the health care workforce.

Florida's hospitals took on that challenge. We are turning the tide on workforce turnover and vacancies -- key measures of the effectiveness of retention strategies and supply of hospital nurses and allied health professionals to meet the demand for care -- but we cannot let up.

After an unprecedented high of a 21 percent vacancy rate for registered nurses in 2022, through the unceasing efforts of hospitals to support the healthcare workforce supply, establishing "earn while you learn" programs, partnering with nursing schools, providing scholarships and tuition reimbursement, the vacancy rate has been reduced by over 62 percent to 7.8 percent as of August 2024.

Similarly, as hospitals evaluated all aspects of the workplace environment and revamped onboarding programs, leveraged technology to reduce administrative burdens, evaluated new approaches to staffing schedules, supported team models of care delivery, and expanded professional development

opportunities, the turnover rate for registered nurses declined by over 45 percent from an unprecedented high of 32 percent in 2022 to 17.6 percent in 2024.

Hospital efforts have been further supported in Tallahassee as lawmakers both prioritized meaningful legislation to take a zero-tolerance stand against violence against our health care heroes and made significant investments to grow the workforce.

Such appropriations include \$380 million over several years to support critical health care workforce initiatives like Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) and Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) programs. These programs award grants to technical career centers, colleges and universities to scale up programs that teach and train nurses, support student scholarships, recruit and retain faculty, and fund equipment and simulation centers.

Today, Florida's population continues to grow every single day -- at one point nearly 1,000 individuals a day were coming to our great state. Many of these individuals are over the age of 65, which further contributes to the increasing need for healthcare in the Sunshine state.

As the third-largest state in the country, we must lead with worldclass care

close to home. Building on our healthcare workforce efforts is critical to maintaining progress and ensuring Florida has the workforce it needs today and into the future to continue delivering timely, superior patient care for all.

The projected shortage of nurses in Florida by 2035 is 59,100, in large part because the supply is not keeping up with population and demographic trends. In addition, we need to expand state educational funding to support other critical allied health and behavioral health professions.

Florida is a world-class destination for students, families, retirees, and visitors. And, it is consistently ranked among the best states to live. Those are the reasons for the state's strong economy, but it creates strain on the health care system particularly when the time required for education and training of health care professionals is lengthy.

Floridians expect and deserve the best health care. To deliver on this expectation today, tomorrow, and well into the future, we must continue to tackle the health care workforce shortage of physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals to support our vision of world-class care close to home.

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



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Over 16% of amputees fall during the acute post-surgical hospital stay, leading to costly revision surgeries and extended length of stay.

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*3 x \$30,000 per revision surgery. **100 cases x \$300 per AmpuShield® with 50% of cases billed to Medicare

Ten Critical Focus Areas for Navigating the Shift from Fee-for-Service to Value-Based Care

In the face of an evolving economic climate characterized by tightening margins and escalating costs, healthcare leaders are increasingly recognizing the imperative shift from traditional fee-for-service payment models towards value-based care. This transition, expected to drive transformational change within the next three years, is not merely a shift in financial models but a comprehensive reevaluation of care delivery, measurement, and improvement.

Successfully navigating this shift requires a thorough assessment of an organization's readiness to bear risk and the development of a strategic path that encompasses enhanced risk contracting or an introduction to value-based care strategies and implementation.

As organizations navigate the complexities of this transition, BDO recommends concentrating on ten key capabilities to enhance readiness for value-based contracting:

1. **Data Analytics and Management:** Utilize data to make strategic decisions and improve operations.
2. **Quality Measurement and Improvement:** Continuously enhance care quality using metrics and feedback.
3. **Financial Management and Risk Analysis:** Develop strategies to manage financial performance and risks.
4. **Care Coordination and Retention:** Create seamless care pathways and keep patients engaged.
5. **Patient Access, Engagement, and Education:** Improve patient access to care and provide education to support their health.
6. **Population Health Management:** Implement strategies to improve community health through prevention and chronic disease management.
7. **Medicare Advantage and Medicaid Capabilities:** Focus on risk coding, Stars optimization, and adapting to state Medicaid changes.
8. **Regulatory Compliance and Effective Contract Management:** Proactively manage compliance and contracts to navigate the regulatory landscape.
9. **Technology, Infrastructure, and Partnership Development:** Invest in health IT systems and form strategic partnerships.
10. **Leadership and Change Management:** Strong leadership and effective change management are essential for transitioning to value-based care.

By focusing on these ten areas, healthcare organizations can better prepare for the transition to value-based care, positioning themselves for success in a value-driven healthcare environment.

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



BY ALFREDO CEPERO

West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System Announces New Multi-Specialty Clinic in Vero Beach

The West Palm Beach VA Healthcare System (WPBVAHCS) is pleased to announce the awarding of a contract for the first ever multi-specialty clinic in Vero Beach, FL. This new clinic is set to open its doors in March 2025.

"This expansion reflects our unwavering commitment to providing Veterans with the highest quality of care when and where they need it," said WPBVAHCS Director Cory Price. "This is the first of many efforts to expand services and sites of care."

Spanning 20,000 square feet, the Vero Beach Multi-Specialty Clinic will significantly enhance healthcare accessibility for Veterans in the Treasure Coast region. The clinic will offer a wide-ranging range of services, including Audiology, Cardiology, Chiropractic, Dental, Dermatology, Neurology, Optometry, Physical Therapy, Prosthetics, Podiatry, Pulmonology, Urology, and Laboratory services.

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AmpuShield®: Reducing Fall Injury and Optimizing Outcomes for Amputees

Falls among amputees are a serious concern. Studies show that over 16% of amputees experience a fall during their acute post-surgical hospital stay, and almost a third of patients experience a fall sometime during their inpatient rehabilitation. 1-4 These falls often lead to costly and time-consuming revision surgeries and can lengthen acute stays, which can strain hospital resources.³



BY MATTHEW KLEIN

Post-Operative Limb Protection with AmpuShield®

Over 40 years of clinical studies have documented the advantages of removable rigid dressings (RRDs), such as Hanger Clinic's proprietary line of AmpuShield® below-knee and above-knee limb protectors.¹⁻⁴ Some proven benefits include wound protection, faster healing times, earlier ambulation, easy access to wounds for inspection, edema control, contracture prevention, and reducing the risk of costly revisions due to falls.

AmpuShield is appropriate for transtibial and transfemoral amputation patients and is clinically proven to optimize patient outcomes and reduce the length of hospital stay. It was intentionally designed with a rigid yet comfortable plastic that, in conjunction with the strapping system, provides compression to reduce swelling and shapes limbs for a more effective transition to a prosthesis. A 3-inch foam pad at the distal end of the device helps protect the limb and wound during recovery and rehabilitation. Both custom and off-the-shelf options are available, including softer or more rigid materials, depending on the patient's needs.

Connect With Us

AmpuShield is available from your local Hanger Clinic office and is measured and fit the same day it's ordered for most patients. With over 45 locations in Florida, we aim to meet patients where they are, close to home. Contact Hanger Clinic at (954) 731-8000 or visit HangerClinic.com/clinics/FL to find a location near you. To learn more about AmpuShield, visit HangerClinic.com/AmpuShield.

Matthew Klein, CPO, is the Hanger Clinic Area Director.

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When It Comes To Patient Care, Benchmark the Best Part 5

There is an old saying, always listen to what the doctor says, and this is a very important adage; however, the leading healthcare organizations are realizing, in a day of increasing patient demands, looking for new ways to enhance communication and engagement between providers and the patient, is the way of the future. This approach is designed to foster stronger relationships, provide shared decision-making, and instill greater confidence in the care being provided. The goal is to have the patient see themselves as an active participant in the journey. I remember experiencing this firsthand years ago while undergoing chemotherapy. The doctor explained the treatment options, gained agreement with me on the right course of action, listened to my concerns, and shared information proactively along the way. The treatment was not easy, but I developed a great deal of confidence in his approach and felt like I was a true partner in the process because he took time to communicate and engage. To this day, he calls me a great patient and I would recommend him to anyone who was diagnosed with blood cancer. I'm sure for this oncologist, the approach was nothing special. This is how he approaches every patient. And thankfully there are probably tens of thousands just like him. The key is taking what he does so well and scaling it across the entire organization. The great thing is we know what success looks like, we can assess where we are, and then we can work on how to get there. The leading providers are currently looking at ways they can drive communication and engagement to new heights. Continue with the old approach of one-sided, top-down communication which leaves people and their families feeling disconnected and you may find yourself on the outside looking in.



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.

Let's Connect: ACHE of South Florida Spotlight



ACHE of South Florida Member Spotlight: Drew Tyrer

BY LOIS THOMSON



Drew Tyrer

Drew Tyrer's father was a hospital administrator and his mother was a physical therapist. It's only natural, then, that he would end up with a career in healthcare, right? Well, yes, but not right away.

Tyrer, chief executive officer at HCA Florida Westside Hospital, admits, "I grew up in a hospital. My dad was passionate about supporting the hospital in our community where I grew up in Frankfort, Kentucky, which was an HCA hospital." He said throughout his life he realized that he's very comfortable being in that atmosphere. "I enjoy it, I thrive on the energy and expertise that all of our providers and staff bring to the table."

That's why he began his career as a ... college golf coach. "I played golf in college and thought I wanted to be coach and eventually an athletic director," he said. "I loved it, I still love those four years of my life."

However, practicality set in, and Tyrer said he began to realize that as a father with a young family, traveling 50 nights a year as a coach "was not as attractive as it once was." In addition, he said he wanted to be challenged. "I was missing something that had meaning and purpose."

He discovered that purpose when he talked with a family friend who worked at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, and made a plan to go back to graduate school for hospital administration at Xavier University. A series of moves over the next several years brought him to his current position.

Tyrer joined Westside earlier this year, and said he has already developed great appreciation for the Westside team. "Their focus and commitment to quality and safety, being around hundreds of doctors and colleagues who are truly focused on providing the safest and best care every day – to me it's very inspiring." He added that as a former coach, "I like being part of a team. As I tell our directors and our executive team, as leaders we are coaches; we're in the game all day long and we've got to coach our teams through it."

About the time Tyrer chose to make the career switch, he also decided to join ACHE, the American College of Healthcare Executives. "I joined in 2008, when I was a grad student at Xavier studying healthcare administration. I felt it was a necessary commitment to make to the profession I was seeking for my career, so I wanted to increase my awareness of what's happening in healthcare."

He said he appreciates the networking aspects of ACHE, being able to stay connected with peers in the community, even if they're at competing hospital organizations. "I think it's important to stay connected with each other. COVID proved the importance of that."

Tyrer said healthcare professionals should be committed to remaining informed and involved in what's happening in healthcare on a broader level, "and I think ACHE is a great vehicle for that." He made an additional commitment by becoming a Fellow back in 2017. He said a division president and mentor encouraged him to do that to further his advancement in the profession.

Now, Tyrer is encouraging others to join, and said he has particularly noticed that the evolution of members has largely gone from hospital leaders to more medical group management executives, and third-party application vendors. "I think it's a good thing that our vendor partners want to know healthcare even better. For them to invest their time in being around executives and understanding the challenges of hospital administrators is important. It helps streamline the work going on in healthcare."

"My hat's off to other ACHE members of South Florida as we work to meet the needs of a growing community."

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Baptist Health Announces Jenny R. Waltzer as Chief Operating Officer of Baptist Health Cancer Care

Baptist Health is proud to announce the appointment of Jenny R. Waltzer as chief operating officer of Baptist Health Cancer Care, comprised of both Miami Cancer Institute and The Eugene M. & Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute. Waltzer brings over 17 years of experience in oncology and healthcare administration, most recently serving as vice president, Hematology and Oncology, Infusion and Surgical Oncology Service Line at The Mount Sinai Health System in New York.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jenny R. Waltzer to Baptist Health and sunny South Florida," shared Dr. Michael Zinner, CEO and Executive Medical Director of Miami Cancer Institute and Baptist Health Cancer Care. "Her extensive experience in oncology services and proven track record of operational excellence will be invaluable as we continue to provide world-class care to our patients at both Institutes."

Throughout her impressive career at Mount Sinai, Waltzer demonstrated exceptional leadership in overseeing the surgical services, infusion and other oncology services across the system's eight hospitals. Her responsibilities included strategic, financial, operational and personnel management, handling a budget of \$420 million for all cancer and infusion programs, and driving the financial health of the service line.

In addition to her financial acumen, Waltzer was instrumental in launching several critical initiatives. She played a key role in the design and implementation of The Tisch Cancer Hospital's five-year rollout plan, which includes a new 24/7 oncology immediate care center. She also successfully launched a Plasmapheresis Collection Center and Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Center during the COVID-19 pandemic, showcasing her ability to respond to urgent healthcare needs with innovative solutions.

Prior to her tenure at Mount Sinai, Waltzer held significant roles at Northwell Health's Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In these positions, she consistently demonstrated her capability to enhance operational efficiency, ensure regulatory compliance, and improve patient outcomes.

Waltzer holds a Master of Arts in Psychology from Hunter College and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a Minor in Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her background in psychology complements her robust healthcare management experience, enabling her to lead with empathy and a deep understanding of patient and staff needs.

"It is an honor to join the Baptist Health Cancer Care team and help advance the organization's standing mission of providing high-quality cancer care for those in need," said Waltzer. "The rapid growth of oncology care in South Florida is a true testament to the strong leadership and cutting-edge innovation found at both Lynn Cancer Institute and Miami Cancer Institute, and we are proud to be at the forefront of these advancements."



Jenny R. Waltzer

HCA Florida JFK North Hospital Announces Gianluca Salvatori as New Assistant Chief Financial Officer

HCA Florida JFK North Hospital is proud to announce the appointment of Gianluca "Luca" Salvatori as the new Assistant Chief Financial Officer (ACFO). With a distinguished 17-year career in healthcare finance and operations, Gianluca, also known as Luca, brings extensive experience in managing complex business models, process improvement, and strategic planning to his new role.

Luca joins HCA Florida JFK North Hospital from Kaiser Permanente, where he began his journey as a consultant and rose to the position of Director of Finance and Physician HR.

Luca's diverse career path began in the world of venture capital before he transitioned to the financial entertainment industry. He holds an MBA in Finance from the University of Redlands.



Gianluca Salvatori

Cover Story: Shane Strum Appointed Interim CEO of Memorial Healthcare System

Continued from page 1

"To ensure that health care across Broward County reaches new heights through collaboration and innovation, I've agreed to accept the interim role at Memorial during this time of transition while remaining the President & CEO of Broward Health," Strum says. "My primary objective is to make certain both systems remain strong and attuned to their goals of moving health forward."

"We are pleased that our two health systems can resume collaborative projects to enhance health care across South Florida," Christopher Pernicano, chair of the North Broward Hospital District Board of Commissioners, and Elizabeth Justen, chair of the South Broward Hospital District Board of Commissioners, said in a joint statement. "We are confident that under Shane's leadership we can forge a new path for our two health systems to work together while independently fulfilling our respective goals to create a stronger health care experience for all those we collectively serve."



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Cano Health Clinics Offer 'Family Environment'

BY LOIS THOMSON

You don't have to engage in a long conversation with Dr. Pablo Alonso to realize the heart he has for his patients. Dr. Alonso is chief medical officer of Cano Health, which caters to the senior population in its 80 medical centers throughout South Florida and other areas of the state, doing so in what he calls "a very warm and family-like environment."

Dr. Alonso said the care Cano Health provides is both individualized and personal. "All of us are individuals and all of us have different health needs that need to be addressed. The only way you can effectively address these needs and have good outcomes is by personalizing the care and tailoring it to that particular patient."

Patients can receive care at Cano Health just like at any medical center. As Dr. Alonso said, "We can handle all medical and chronic conditions; whatever the patient has, we can take care of it. Just like a doctor's office. We at Cano focus on health and prevention." Patients can be scheduled for mammograms and screenings for colorectal cancer. Diabetics can make sure their blood sugar is under control to help prevent the complications of diabetes. He added that if something cannot be treated at the medical center, the patient would then be referred to a specialist or scheduled for a procedure. "We coordinate the care for our patients, it's very comprehensive care."

So, while Cano medical centers function like doctors' offices, what's NOT like a doctor's office is the family-like atmosphere patients will experience. As Dr. Alonso explained, the human touch that occurs when a patient walks into a clinic is what makes Cano Health unique. "When you come into a medical center, you will see a warm, family environment. Even among ourselves, we are like family, and we take care of our patients that way."

To enhance the experience, Cano has established wellness centers, where patients can go to engage in various wellness activities. "We have people who come in to talk about nutrition, we do arts and crafts. Some of our doctors talk about the importance of vaccines, now that flu season is coming on, and the



Dr. Pablo Alonso

importance of pneumonia vaccines."

That's why Dr. Alonso is especially pleased with the wellness programs, because he points out that many seniors in the community are alone – their families might be working, or their spouses have passed away and their children live in another state. "Our medical centers become like a second home to them. We have these wellness centers

where we provide instructions on different aspects of keeping yourself healthy – and not just physical health, but also emotional health that is so important, because there's a lot of depression among the elderly."

In addition, Dr. Alonso said Cano Health is very culturally sensitive, with a tri-lingual staff that speaks English, Spanish, and Creole. "Because our communities are so spread apart in Florida, we have to make sure all of the patients who knock on our doors and want to be seen and want to be part of our family can communicate effectively."

The care even extends beyond the clinics. Dr. Alonso said Cano offers telehealth, as well as a support line where a provider is on call. Morning and evening hours are available during which patients without an appointment can contact a clinic. "We will accommodate them. We are here for that. We also have a special program called Cano at Home. For those patients who have pre-existing conditions that may prevent them from being able to come to the clinic – there are guidelines to follow, but we will send a doctor to the home who will be able to take care of them. It's an extension of our clinic into the home of the patient."

As chief medical officer, Dr. Alonso said one of the most important aspects of his position is to support the clinicians and the staff to ensure the clinical operations are of the highest quality, and that they provide the highest quality of care. "We want our patients to have the best experience possible when they come to see us, and we want them to understand the importance of preventive care and wellness – to ensure their long-term health. That is an extremely important part of my position."

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Cover Story: University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences: A Pathway to Success in Healthcare Education

Continued from page 1

Occupational Therapy program, share their perspectives on why USAHS stands out and how it supports students on their journey to successful careers.

A Comprehensive Approach to Healthcare Education

USAHS offers a variety of programs designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to excel in the healthcare industry.

"We're aligned through two colleges—the College of Rehabilitative Sciences and the College of Health Sciences," says Dr. Somarriba. "In the College of Rehabilitative Sciences, you'll find our occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech and language pathology programs.

The College of Health Sciences offers programs like the Doctor of Education, Master's of Health Administration, and our School of Nursing." Additionally, USAHS provides specialized continuing education opportunities, such as orthopedic residencies and fellowships.

What sets USAHS apart, according to Dr. Somarriba, is its focus on innovation and hands-on training.

"Our Clinical Simulation Laboratories are the hallmark of our campuses," he explains. "Students work with simulated patients and state-of-the-art equipment, replicating real-world healthcare settings. This allows our students to be prepared for clinical work even before they step into a hospital or any other setting."

A Unique Learning Model

At USAHS, education is designed to be flexible and tailored to individual students' needs. Dr. Somarriba emphasizes the university's commitment to innovation in education.

"We blend digital coursework with face-to-face learning opportunities, using ed-tech tools that students will encounter in the field," he says. This hybrid model allows students to learn at their own pace while still receiving hands-on, practical training.

Hurtado, a fourth-term student in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program, has found this approach invaluable.

"The hands-on experience is one of the most valuable parts of the program," she says. "Our professors are constantly asking for feedback and adjusting their teaching methods to make sure we're learning in the best way possible. They truly care about our success."

Student Success and Career Placement

USAHS prides itself on its strong track record of career placement for graduates. "Career support isn't something that begins after graduation—it's integrated

into the entire program," says Dr. Somarriba.

The university hosts on-campus and virtual career days, giving students the opportunity to connect with a network of clinical partners and potential employers. Tools like Handshake also keep students informed about job openings and career opportunities.

The diversity of opportunities available to students is a point of pride for USAHS.

"We have students who go on to open their own practices, specialize through residencies, or work in a variety of healthcare settings," says Dr. Somarriba. "It's incredibly rewarding to see the diversity and impact our graduates provide to the communities."

Hurtado's experience reflects this diversity. "I've had fieldwork placements at places like Rock Steady Boxing and Mercy Hospital, where I've worked directly with patients. It's exciting to create intervention plans and see them in action, especially with clients dealing with conditions like Parkinson's disease."

Faculty and Student Support

One of the key elements that makes USAHS stand out is its dedicated faculty.

"Our faculty are deeply embedded in the community and are always at the forefront of healthcare," says Dr. Somarriba. "Many of our faculty serve on our state board and present their scholarly work at national and international conferences, while bringing back the latest developments in the profession to integrate into our curriculum."

Hurtado adds that this support is invaluable. "I've never experienced a school where the faculty care as much as they do here," she says. "Each professor goes above and beyond to make sure we're learning not just for the exam, but for our careers."

USAHS also values diversity, with over 40% of its faculty identifying as non-white and 73% as women. The student body reflects this diversity as well, with 54% identifying as non-white and 72% as female. "This diversity allows us to provide a rich learning environment that prepares students to serve diverse populations," adds Dr. Somarriba.

Why Choose USAHS?

With its commitment to innovation, hands-on learning, and strong career development and placement support, the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences offers students a unique opportunity to thrive in the healthcare field.

"Our goal is to prepare healthcare practitioners who are ready to lead and innovate," says Dr. Somarriba.

For students like Hurtado, the decision to enroll at USAHS has been life-changing.



PT Students Studying in Library



OT Students at Anatomage Table

ing. "I would tell any prospective student to take advantage of every opportunity this school provides," she says. "Whether you're interested in pediatrics, neuro, or anything in between, USAHS offers the tools and support you need to succeed."

If you're considering a career in health-

care and want to be part of a community that prioritizes innovation, diversity, and student success, USAHS Miami may be the perfect place for you.

For more information, visit www.usa.edu.



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Cover Story: Navigating the Digital Health Revolution: A New Certificate Program at FAU

Continued from page 1

Meeting the Demand for Digital Transformation in Healthcare

The motivation behind developing the Certificate in Digital Health at FAU stems from the increasing demand for healthcare professionals to understand the rapidly advancing digital technologies shaping healthcare delivery. Dr. Behara explains, “Digital transformation in healthcare continues with technological advances and the need to improve costs, patient/provider access, experiences, and outcomes. Technologies, organizational issues, and the regulatory environment are evolving.”

The course addresses this need by offering students an in-depth understanding of how digital tools and technologies can transform healthcare, improve patient outcomes, and enhance the productivity of healthcare providers.

Equipping Professionals for the Digital Health Landscape

One of the primary objectives of the course is to prepare students for the complexities of the digital health landscape by providing them with hands-on experiences and insights. “Participants will gain a basic understanding of the related technologies and the associated emerging information standards, privacy and security, regulatory challenges, and other risks,” Dr. Behara says. The program also exposes students to real-world business case studies, simulations, and AI tools, allowing them to develop actionable insights that they can apply in their careers.

This approach ensures that students

not only understand the technology but also how to implement it effectively in healthcare settings to drive improvement in care delivery and operations.

Key Digital Technologies Covered

The program covers a wide range of digital technologies that are transforming the healthcare sector. Dr. Behara highlights some of the most impactful tools, including AI and machine learning (ML), the Internet of Medical Things, Software as a Medical Device, blockchain, digital twins, and more. These technologies are discussed in terms of their specific healthcare applications, such as clinical documentation, patient monitoring, and supply chain security.

“AI/ML tools, for example, are being used in clinical decision support, while blockchain ensures unalterable patient records and prevents counterfeit drugs in supply chains,” Dr. Behara explains. Other emerging technologies like 3D printing for implants and prostheses are also explored, demonstrating the wide range of possibilities in digital health innovation.

Balancing Innovation with Privacy and Security

With the rapid adoption of digital tools comes the challenge of maintaining patient privacy and data security. Dr. Behara notes that the program emphasizes this balance, discussing the inherent risks of using emerging technologies such as AI and cloud computing, as well as the regulatory challenges they present.

“Data privacy and security regulatory regimes will be discussed, specifically focusing on cybersecurity,” he says. The course also addresses the risks posed by generative AI, including potential biases and errors, known as hallucinations. Dr. Behara adds, “Current and emerging approaches to mitigate these risks will be addressed, ensuring students are prepared to implement secure digital health solutions.”

Driving Business Model Innovation

One of the unique aspects of the Certificate in Digital Health is its focus on business model innovation. The course encourages students to think beyond traditional healthcare models and explore new ways to deliver care through digital tools. Dr. Behara explains that existing models, such as value-based care, can be extended to home-based care through the use of remote monitoring, wearables, and data analytics.

“Students will gain insights into how current challenges are being addressed and will reimagine what is possible in the wellness space, as opposed to focusing on illness alone,” he says. This forward-thinking approach enables students to consider new healthcare models that integrate digital solutions for better patient outcomes and more efficient operations.

The Future of Digital Health

Looking ahead, digital health will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of healthcare. According to Dr. Behara, the full benefits of digital health

will be realized when the healthcare system operates like the financial system, where data and transactions are secure, and both providers and patients can engage in seamless, coordinated care.

“Digitizing our health data was only the first step. We will begin to see the benefits of digital health when the healthcare system starts to work like the current financial system,” he says, highlighting the potential for a more connected and efficient healthcare ecosystem.

Building a Coordinated Healthcare System

Dr. Behara leaves readers with a thought-provoking analogy: “The human body is a system of various specialized organs. We have built a healthcare system to reflect this by having various specialties and subspecialties. But what we need is a nervous system that helps coordinate and control our bodies. Digital health will be to the healthcare system what the nervous system is to the human body.”

By providing a framework for understanding and implementing digital health technologies, FAU’s Certificate in Digital Health is preparing healthcare professionals to play a central role in the future of care delivery. Through innovative solutions, privacy considerations, and business model innovation, participants will be equipped to lead the transformation of healthcare systems and improve outcomes for patients and providers alike.

For more information, visit ExecutiveEducation.fau.edu.

New Baptist Health Education Center Opens at Baptist Hospital

A new era has dawned for healthcare education and training with the opening of the Baptist Health Education Center at Baptist Hospital. The state-of-the-art, 38,000-square-foot facility provides a comprehensive, multidisciplinary learning environment for medical, nursing and other clinical professionals. With innovative simulation rooms running real-life scenarios, and procedures and skills labs, healthcare professionals will continue to perfect their skills and learn the newest technologies.

“The Education Center shows our commitment to attracting, educating and retaining the healthcare workforce that will best serve the community in the future,” said Ana Lopez-Blazquez, executive vice president and chief strategy officer, Baptist Health. “We are proud that the Center will bring together technology, subject matter experts and our partners for experiential learning that will elevate the skills of our medical professionals.”

The Education Center features 10 fully equipped surgical and medical simulation rooms, a robotics room, a virtual reality room, and specialized spaces such as an Emergency Department room, eICU, hybrid OR, trauma bay and outpatient exam rooms to replicate all types of medical scenarios and clinical events. The facility also includes dedicated debriefing rooms, procedural skills labs and classrooms.

“This is a significant investment in preparing our community for the healthcare needs of tomorrow,” said Samer Fahmy, M.D., chief medical executive, Baptist Health. “Every aspect of the building — from its detailed simulation rooms to the collaborative spaces — was tailored to foster quality, innovation and excellence in evidence-based standardized care.”

Located on the Baptist Hospital campus, the Center will serve as the cornerstone of

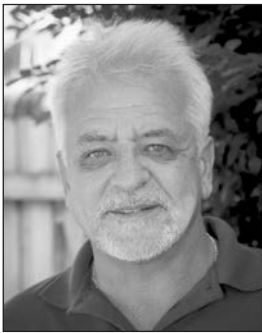


Baptist Health’s academic programs. It will be a destination for professional development for those within the community, throughout the United States and Latin America and across the world.

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The Musty Menace: Moldy HVAC Systems - Their Health Implications

After record breaking heat and humidity this summer, air conditioning systems become a vital refuge from oppressive temperatures. However, unwelcome odors emanating from these systems can sour the relief they provide. Musty odors, often indicative of mold and mildew growth within air conditioning units, not only compromise indoor air quality but also pose potential health hazards to occupants.



BY MICHAEL TEBOR,
ASCS, CIE, CMR –
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Understanding Musty Odors in Air Conditioning Systems

Musty odors in air conditioning systems are caused by the growth of mold and mildew. These fungi thrive in dark, damp environments, making the interior of an air conditioning unit an ideal breeding ground. Moisture from condensation, accumulated dust and organic matter within the system provides the necessary nutrients for mold and mildew to flourish. As air passes through the contaminated unit, it carries musty odors

into the occupied spaces, affecting indoor air quality and potentially causing discomfort and health issues for building occupants. Individuals with allergies, asthma, or other respiratory conditions are particularly susceptible to the airborne spores released by mold and mildew. Prolonged exposure to these spores can exacerbate existing respiratory issues and lead to the development of new ones. Common symptoms associated with exposure to mold and mildew include coughing, wheezing, nasal congestion, throat irritation, and exacerbation of asthma symptoms. In more severe cases, individuals may experience respiratory infections and other systemic health effects.

Furthermore, mold and mildew produce mycotoxins, which are toxic sub-

stances that can be released into the air. Inhalation or direct contact with mycotoxins can result in a variety of health problems, including headaches, dizziness, fatigue, and skin irritation. Long-term exposure to mycotoxins has been linked to neurological and immunological effects, although further research is needed to fully understand the extent of these implications.

Preventing and addressing musty odors resulting from moldy air conditioning systems is essential for maintaining a healthy indoor environment. Here are strategies to mitigate these issues:

Control Humidity: Managing indoor humidity levels is crucial for preventing mold growth. Using dehumidifiers and air curtains in areas prone to moisture accumulation, such as lobbies, and common areas, can help reduce the likelihood of mold formation. Additionally, ensuring proper ventilation in bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry areas can help expel excess moisture from indoor. Inspecting and adjusting the outdoor air/fresh air intakes for proper operation can also be crucial to maintaining proper indoor relative humidity levels.

What Can You Do to Stop Musty Odors: Have the HVAC system inspected

and cleaned by a certified professional. Scheduling annual inspections and maintenance of air conditioning systems will help identify and address potential mold growth before it becomes a pervasive issue. Cleaning, replacing or upgrading your air filters, ensuring proper drainage of condensate and minimizing ductwork leakage also can help reduce the conditions conducive to mold and mildew development. An Ounce of Prevention is worth a pound or cure!

Michael Tebor is Vice President of Air Duct Aseptics, a NADCA certified air duct cleaning company with more than 30 years' experience specializing in providing Certified Duct Cleaning and indoor air quality solutions to Florida's top health care facilities. Michael is a Certified Air Systems Cleaning Specialist (NADCA), a Certified Indoor Environmentalist (ACAC) and a Certified Mold Remediator (ACAC). He is also a state licensed Mold Assessor. The company's skill sets, experience and multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving sets it apart in the industry. Michael Tebor can be reached at 888-707-7763 or visit www.ADAflorida.com.



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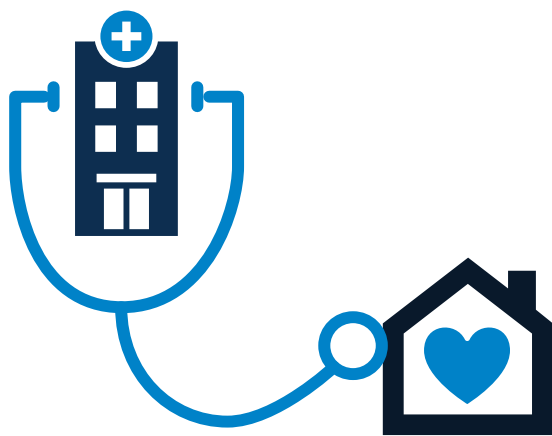
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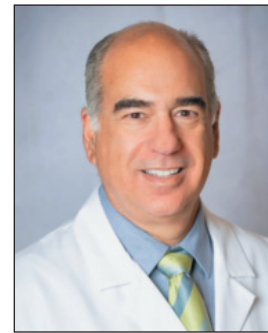


ClevelandClinicFlorida.org/CareAtHome



TGH Urology Group: One of Few in Region Offering Novel Prostate Treatment

For the first time in 10 years, Jim Grogan slept through the night. And, exactly for this reason, he is grateful to Dr. Emanuel Gottenger, a urologist with Tampa General Hospital (TGH) Urology Group of Florida. The physician used a newer urologic procedure called Aquablation to treat Grogan's benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). Dr. Gottenger is one of only a few urologists in the region to offer it.



Dr. Emanuel Gottenger

Grogan, a 66-year-old Boca Raton resident, was diagnosed with BPH more than 10 years ago. Over that period, he became more and more sleep deprived, struggling through his workdays. "I was up every two hours to use the bathroom," he said. "I was so sleep deprived that I could barely function during the day." Grogan works a stressful job, managing multimillion-dollar real estate transactions for a title insurance company. "I need to be sharp and on my game!" When he booked flights to visit family in Boston, he selected a seat closest to the restroom. Driving long distances was challenging because he would need frequent stops to relieve himself.

According to the Yale School of Medicine, about 50% of men between the ages of 51 and 60 have BPH. The number jumps to 70% among men aged 60 to 69, and to around 80% of men over the age of 70.

If left untreated, BPH can cause significant health problems, including irreversible bladder or kidney damage, bladder stones, and incontinence. In addition, BPH can have negative effects on men's everyday lives, impacting quality of sleep, limiting social activities and causing relationship challenges.

Grogan's regular urologist could offer only transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) as a possible relief option. Although TURP is considered the gold standard for treating enlarged prostates, it can come with severe side effects, including erectile dysfunction, retrograde ejaculation and painful urination.

Encouraged to research alternative treatments, Grogan discovered Aquablation, a minimally invasive procedure that uses real-time ultrasound imaging, a robotic arm for precision and

the Aquabeam (water jet) to precisely remove prostate tissue.

While searching for a provider, he learned that Dr. Gottenger offered Aquablation, and that his office was conveniently located nearby in Delray Beach. Born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, Dr. Gottenger is board certified by the American Board of Urology. While at the

Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach, he started its laparoscopic program, performing some of the first prostatectomies in Palm Beach County.

Following meetings and consultations with Dr. Gottenger, Grogan decided to move forward with the procedure. But they ran into a stumbling block. During a preoperative test, Dr. Gottenger discovered that Grogan had bladder stones caused by an infection. The stones would need to be removed prior to the procedure. After a 10-day recovery from that surgery, the Aquablation procedure was performed.

Although minimally invasive, Aquablation surgery does require an overnight hospital stay, and patients go home with a catheter to aid in urination while their urethra heals.

Grogan is thrilled with the results. "I went to bed at 10:30 p.m. and woke up at 6 a.m. It was the first time I slept through the night in 10 years!"

TGH Urology Group of Florida, which has been delivering high-quality urologic care to Palm Beach County since 2011, recently joined Tampa General as part of the academic health system's initiative to serve more patients across the state.

Since 2020, Tampa General 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. Tampa General is also the primary teaching affiliate of the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida, and is one of the largest hospitals in the nation.

For more information about TGH Urology Group of Florida, as well as other Tampa General practices treating patients in Palm Beach and Martin counties, please call (561) 739-4TGH (4844).

Baptist Health Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute Opens New Center for Aortic Care

Baptist Health Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute has opened a new center for patients with aortic disease. The Center for Aortic Care will have a multidisciplinary team of experts available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to treat the 11 segments in the aorta and to care for patients at risk of aortic aneurysms or aortic dissections. "Our new center for aortic care is dedicated to providing patients the highest level of expertise and innovative treatments for aortic conditions," said Tom C. Nguyen, M.D., chief medical executive, director of minimally invasive valve surgery, and Barry T. Katzen Medical Director Endowed Chair of Baptist Health Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute. "With an experienced team at the helm, we're equipped to address the most complex cases, offering hope and life-saving care to those dealing with aortic disease." The center offers a full range of options available at Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute, including open and traditional surgeries, endovascular treatment, or less invasive treatments that use small incisions.

Luxury Senior Living Meets Comprehensive Healthcare in Coral Gables: Baptist Health and Belmont Village Partnership

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

As the population of South Florida ages, both physical and cognitive decline present unique challenges for the region's seniors. To address these needs, Baptist Health and Belmont Village Senior Living have teamed up to launch a state-of-the-art senior living community in Coral Gables.

This all-encompassing community combines luxury living with innovative healthcare, offering residents not only a place to live but also comprehensive, on-site care.

A New Model of Senior Care

Dr. Andrew Forster, an internal medicine physician with Baptist Health Primary Care, recently transitioned from Baptist Health Primary Care in Miami Beach to the Coral Gables location. He underscores the importance of integrated healthcare.

"One of the common frustrations seniors face is fragmented care," he explains. "They see a cardiologist at one place, a pulmonologist at another, and it's difficult to ensure all these systems communicate."

At Belmont Village, this fragmentation is addressed head-on through Baptist Health's integrated system, allowing for seamless communication among healthcare providers. "I can instantly access records from other specialists within the Baptist system, giving patients a more comprehensive and efficient level of care," says Dr. Forster.

He also highlights how geographic accessibility is a key factor for seniors, particularly in a city like Miami, where distances and traffic can be a barrier.



Dr. Andrew Forster

"Many seniors no longer drive and rely on family members or public transport. Having a healthcare hub within the Belmont Village community allows residents to receive top-notch medical care without the inconvenience of long commutes."

A Holistic Approach to Health and Wellness

Patricia Will, CEO and Founder of Belmont Village Senior Living, emphasizes the importance of addressing not only physical health but also cognitive wellness and community engagement. "Aging is a gift," she says. "Our mission is to create an environment where seniors can thrive in every aspect of their lives."

Belmont Village offers a range of living options, from independent living to assisted living and memory care, all under one roof. This flexibility allows residents to age in place, a critical advantage for couples with differing care needs.

"We're licensed to the highest level of care throughout the entire building," says Will. "This means that as care needs evolve, residents don't have to move—whether they require more support or a memory care program, we have it all here."

One of the standout features of Belmont Village is its award-winning Circle of Friends® program, designed for residents with mild to moderate memory loss. Developed in collaboration with healthcare partners like UCLA and Vanderbilt, the program focuses on building cognitive reserve through small-group exercises and mental stimulation.

"We're not just trying to maintain memory," says Will. "Our goal is to help residents build cognitive reserve and live purposeful, engaged lives at every stage of aging."

The Role of Innovation in Care and Design

Beyond healthcare, Belmont Village Coral Gables offers a luxurious, thoughtfully designed environment. The community is located in the heart of Merrick Park, featuring Mediterranean-inspired architecture and a host of amenities including a fine-dining restaurant, a resort-style pool, a fitness center, and a full-service salon. These amenities are not just about aesthetics—they are integral to promoting the well-being of the residents. "Health and wellness go hand-in-hand with luxury at Belmont Village," Will says. "Our fitness center is equipped with senior-friendly exercise machines, and we offer regular classes like Tai Chi and chair yoga. Additionally, through our partnership with Baptist Health, residents have convenient access to physical therapy and primary care, which makes it easier for them to stay on top of their health."

Dr. Forster echoes the value of proximity. "We're just an elevator ride away. If a resident needs medical attention, they don't have to arrange for transportation or wait in traffic—they can see a doctor within minutes."

A Community Within a Community

One of Belmont Village's core values is creating a "community within a community," an ethos that extends beyond the walls of the building. Will explains how Belmont engages not only its residents but also the broader South Florida community. "We've hosted a variety of initia-

tives, from candlelight concerts to raise awareness for Alzheimer's to intergenerational activities with foster children," she shares. Belmont Village also plans to host a canned food drive this fall, benefiting local food banks.

This level of community engagement is not just about creating opportunities for socialization, but also about fostering a sense of purpose among the residents. "Social engagement is a key element to successful aging," says Will. "We design programs and events that provide residents with meaningful ways to contribute to the community and stay involved in the world around them."

A Vision for the Future of Senior Care

The partnership between Baptist Health and Belmont Village represents a new frontier in senior living, one that integrates luxury, healthcare, and community in a way that promotes not just longevity but quality of life. For Dr. Forster, the collaboration is about providing personalized care in a setting that makes healthcare accessible and effective.

"Having two experienced doctors on-site is a big plus for residents," he explains. "It allows us to deliver comprehensive care, quickly and conveniently, while helping them navigate the broader Baptist Health system."

As South Florida's population continues to age, Belmont Village Coral Gables sets a new standard for senior living—one that balances the needs of residents with the best that modern healthcare and community living have to offer.

For more information, visit belmontvillage.com/coralgables.

Caring for An Aging Population at the Benjamin Leon School of Nursing

As our population ages, the demand for skilled caregivers has never been greater. According to the Florida Hospital Association, "Florida's population is growing by more than 800 people a day, more than half of whom are over the age of 60, creating an increased demand for healthcare services. The aging population is projected to grow to 25.34 million in 2033, a 13.7 % increase. Florida is the third largest state in the nation, with nearly 20% of Florida's population aged 65 or older. A sufficient number of qualified healthcare workers is critical for meeting the needs of Floridians, and with a growing and aging population, this must be considered when planning healthcare capacity."

The Benjamin Leon School of Nursing (BLSON) is committed to preparing its students to care for an aging population at both the Medical and Homestead campus. With state-of-the-art facilities and expert faculty, the BLSON offers Licensed Practical Nursing, an Associate of Science in Nursing, and an RN-to-BSN program. These programs are intended to increase the number of nurses in Florida and equip students with the skills and credentials to provide high-quality care in hospitals, nursing homes, and private residences. These programs focus extends beyond the technical and theoretical aspects of nursing but also provides hands-on experience with advanced geriatric mannequins in our state-of-the-art skills lab. These mannequins are designed with physical features such as bed sores, skin tags, and other common signs of aging, helping students practice identifying both normal and abnormal conditions found in elderly patients. Students are also exposed to home health and hospice; they will be better prepared to support the workforce for this specialized population. With a focus on hands-on clinical experience and flexible learning options, students are fully prepared to meet the healthcare needs of Florida's growing elderly population.

For more information on our programs and how they prepare you to meet the growing demands of geriatric care, please visit www.mdc.edu/nursing/default.aspx.

Dr. Tommie L. Norris, DNS, RN, is an AACN Leadership for Academic Nursing Fellow, Miami Dade College, and Dean, Benjamin Leon School of Nursing.



BY DR. TOMMIE L. NORRIS, DNS, RN

KIDZ Medical Services at Forefront of Advances in Pediatric Oncology

BY VANESSA ORR

As more children continue to receive devastating cancer diagnoses, it's more important than ever that treatments continue to advance in order to find cures. Fortunately, the hematology/oncology specialists at KIDZ Medical Services are at the forefront of this effort in South Florida, resulting in more positive outcomes for the pediatric patients they serve.

"Pediatric oncology has very much improved in the last two decades because of advances in diagnostic technique and analysis, which has helped us learn more about tumors and how they behave, and what therapy we can provide in order to affect a cure," explained Dr. Ossama Maher, a KIDZ Medical Services board-certified pediatric hematologist oncologist practicing at the Helen & Jacob Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Dr. Maher serves as the medical director of the blood and marrow transplant program, and associate clinical director of the neuro-oncology program.

"Every child seen by our practice that is diagnosed with a solid tumor or even liquid malignancies, such as leukemia, are sent for advanced molecular testing on this tumor in order to allow us to learn more about it," he said. "This way, we can combine chemotherapy with precise medicine or targeted therapy, which can synergistically help to increase the tumor's cure rate."

Dr. Maher and his KIDZ Medical Services peers at Nicklaus Children's Hospital have also begun using immunotherapy as a front-line treatment for patients with advanced-stage Hodgkin's lymphoma, which was previously only used at the time of relapse. They are also using precise medicine for some brain tumors and delivering therapies in amounts adequate for children while avoiding overtreatment or increasing toxicity, reducing further harmful effects to the patient.

Advanced molecular diagnosis has improved the care of solid tumors such as neuroblastoma, which now involves multiple treatments of chemotherapy combined with immunotherapy and targeted therapy in order to treat tumors that often present-



Dr. Ossama Maher

ed in advanced and metastatic stages.

"Treatments have advanced a lot, and in some pediatric cancers, we have reached close to perfection on survival of certain types of tumors," said Dr. Maher. "But we are still desperately trying to find a cure for more aggressive tumors, such as some brain tumors or metastatic solid tumors. This is why it's so important to have clinical trials for these patients in order to assess new drug safety and efficacy for those tumors not responding to chemotherapy or radiation therapy."

Unfortunately, while clinical trials can help to advance pediatric cancer treatment, long wait lists and the fact that trials are not available in many hospitals makes it difficult for patients to enroll, according to Dr. Maher.

"It's a big challenge, and we need more clinical trials in each state to ensure shorter wait lists—when a child is very sick, time is of the essence in order to start them on treatment," he said.

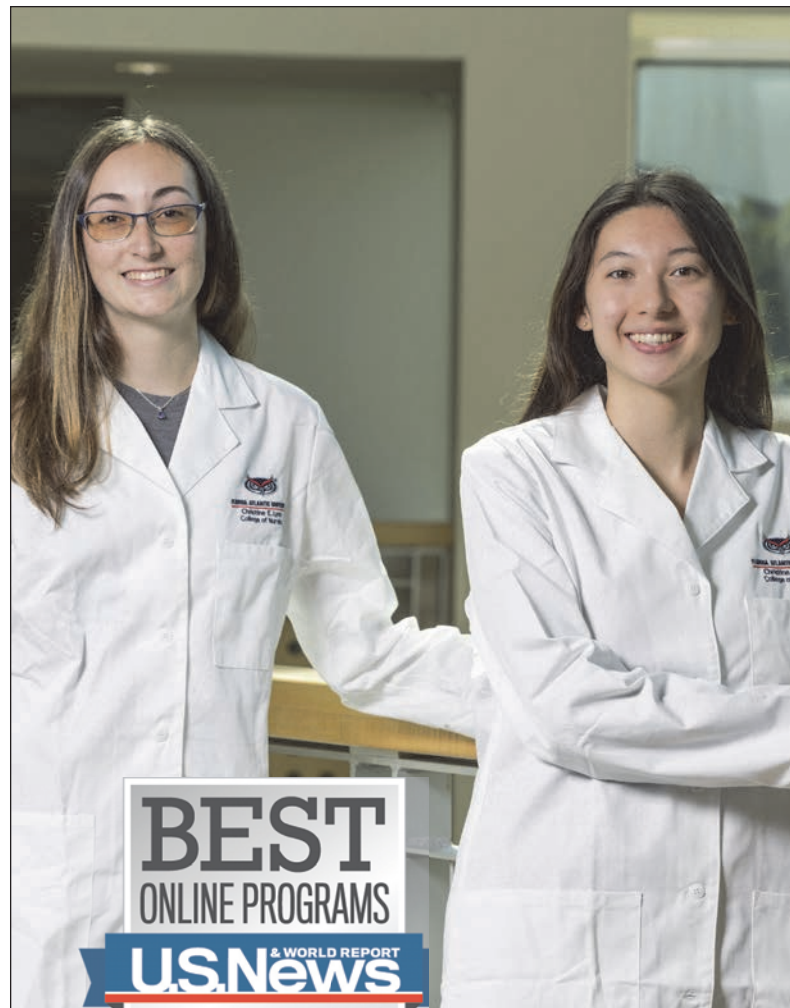
"Most clinical trials are also designed for adult cancers because of the numbers—there are more adults with cancer than children," he

added. "While many drugs that we use have been extrapolated from the adult experience, recently, more clinical trials have been dedicated to pediatric cancer, which can help us to improve treatment for these patients."

At Nicklaus Children's Hospital, KIDZ Medical Services has been involved in the EXVIVO Study in which doctors take a specimen of a tumor at the time of relapse and grow its cells in a dish, trying multiple drugs to see which is most effective.

"As a result, we make a treatment regimen for the patient using the most effective drug to treat their cancer, and so far, we've been very successful with this approach," said Dr. Maher, who predicts more changes coming in terms of new therapies and targeted therapies designed to improve cure rates of pediatric cancer.

"We are excited about immunotherapy, which has been shown to improve survival rates for refractory and multiple relapses leukemias," Dr. Maher said. "We are also excited that we will soon be offering gene therapy for some of the hematological diseases like sickle cell anemia and thalassemia, for patients when stem cell transplant is not a suitable option."



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Baptist Health Breaks Ground on AI and Jane Nahmad Women's Cancer Center

Baptist Health recently broke ground on the new AI and Jane Nahmad Women's Cancer Center. Located on the campus of Baptist Health Baptist Hospital, the Center is named in honor of AI and Jane Nahmad, longtime benefactors of Baptist Health, volunteers and advocates for women's wellness and care, who provided a transformational gift in support of Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute. Construction on the Center is slated to be completed by the end of 2026.

Spanning 155,000 square feet, the Women's Cancer Center will be housed in the new Keeley Pavilion. Once complete, the state-of-the-art facility will deliver high-quality cancer care for women, pioneering research and an exceptional patient experience, all in one unique location. The first of its kind in the region, the new building represents the system's standing commitment to honoring the needs of women, who make up 65 percent of Miami Cancer Institute's current patients.

"Losing a loved one to cancer is an experience that many of us unfortunately share, but now, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of AI and Jane Nahmad, women in our community will have access to a world-class team that will walk this journey with them," said Michael Zinner, M.D., chief executive officer and executive medical director of Miami Cancer Institute. "I am so grateful to the Nahmad family and to all those who have contributed to making this vision a reality. Together, we will provide the comprehensive, compassionate care that every patient deserves. The Women's Cancer Center will not only address the needs of current patients but will also help shape the future trajectory of female cancer treatment in which the disease is more widely prevented, detected earlier and treated more effectively."

The Center will allow the Institute to expand clinical teams, conduct more research trials and harness the world's most cutting-edge cancer-fighting technology to bring the best care to more patients in Florida — where demand for care is outpacing available resources — as well as patients from Latin America, the Caribbean and beyond.

AI and Jane Nahmad have been supporters and volunteers of Baptist Health for over 20 years. AI Nahmad was chair of Miami Cancer Institute's Operating Board during a time of rapid growth for the Institute, as it has transformed cancer care and research in South Florida since opening its doors in 2017.



David Posnack JCC Sunrise on Wheels Program Brings Joy to Pediatric Cancer Patients and Families

The David Posnack Jewish Community Center's (JCC) Sunrise on Wheels program is bringing the joy of childhood to kids with cancer and their siblings at local hospitals. Equipped with a large trunk filled with crafts, toys, games and activities, trained David Posnack JCC staff make routine visits to hospitals, spending time with children undergoing treatment and their families, striving to make challenging hospital days a bit brighter.

"Undergoing treatment and being in the hospital, these kids don't get to make their own choices often," said Douglas Pennington, Ambassador of Fun. "Showing up to the hospital with a trunk filled with crafts and games for them to choose from gives them that opportunity to make their own choice, bringing them joy."

The staff visit Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital three days a week and Nicklaus Children's Hospital and Salah Foundation Children's Hospital Broward Health once a week, bringing fun and activities to them. The program allows parents to take time for themselves while their children play with the staff whom they look forward to seeing each week.

"Sunrise on Wheels is a free program that began in October 2023," said Jackie Borenstein, Sunrise South Florida Programs Coordinator. "After spending so much time with these children and families, they've become a part of our family and we've become a part of theirs."

The Sunrise on Wheels program, a signature program at the David Posnack JCC, is associated with the national program, Sunrise Association. The program is made possible by grants from Children's Services Council of Broward County and the Florida Department of Health, along with support from generous donors.

The program has plans to expand its work with the Sunrise Day Camp program, bringing children who have finished cancer treatment and their siblings to the David Posnack JCC for an authentic day camp experience at no charge during Summer 2025.

Baptist Health Reaches Construction Milestone on New Proton Therapy Treatment Facility at the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute

Baptist Health announced that it has reached a new construction milestone on the highly anticipated proton therapy treatment facility at the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. The hospital celebrated the key milestone with a "topping-off" ceremony, bringing the system once step closer to helping deliver a new generation of radiation oncology to the Palm Beach and Broward County communities.

Once complete, the new proton therapy treatment facility will feature the most advanced form of radiation therapy using high-energy protons to treat tumors. This project represents the second proton therapy center for Baptist Health Cancer Care — comprised of Lynn Cancer Institute and Miami Cancer Institute — with the first having been installed at Miami Cancer Institute as South Florida's first proton therapy center.

On-site at the event, physicians, executives, board members and other staff signed and left messages on the final beam, making their mark on history before it was hoisted by a crane to the top of the building. The \$64 million dollar project was funded through generous gifts, including that of Barbara C. Gutin, long-standing Boca Raton Regional Hospital philanthropist, and the Estate of Richard Blackman. Christine E. Lynn, philanthropist and namesake of the Lynn Cancer Institute, was also in attendance to speak on the importance of the project.



Jan Krzysztof Rudzinski, MD, Msc, Frcsc, Joins Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute as a Urologic Surgical Oncologist

Urologic surgical oncologist Jan Krzysztof Rudzinski, M.D., MSc., FRCSC, has joined Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute.

Dr. Rudzinski is committed to ongoing surgical education, training and quality improvement to enhance patient care and oncologic outcomes. He earned his medical degree at the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine after earning a Master of Science in Cancer Sciences degree at the University of Alberta, both located in Alberta, Canada. He completed a urologic surgery residency at the University of Alberta and a two-year Society of Urologic Oncology-accredited fellowship at the prestigious University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He also completed a fellowship in advanced robotic surgery at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles.



Dr. Jan Krzysztof Rudzinski

JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER

Julian Berrocal, MD, FACS

Board certified, fellowship trained, in breast oncology, Dr. Julian Berrocal is an integral member of the multidisciplinary team of breast cancer experts at Jupiter Medical Center's Anderson Family Cancer Institute. Dr. Berrocal treats women, and men, facing breast cancer with skill and compassion. He specializes in the diagnosis and management of benign and malignant breast disease including elevated cancer risk.

Dr. Berrocal graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and completed his internship and residency, internship at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. His fellowship training took place at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Prior to joining Jupiter Medical Center, he served as the Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency for the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Regional Campus. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons, and the American Society of Breast Surgeons.



Saryleine Ortiz de Choudens, MD

Dr. Saryleine Ortiz de Choudens is a board-certified radiation oncologist and part of the multidisciplinary team of cancer experts at Jupiter Medical Center's Anderson Family Cancer Institute. She is experienced in treating all types of cancers and has extensive experience in stereotactic radio-surgery and brachytherapy, subspecializing in breast and gynecologic cancers.

She graduated Magna Cum Laude as a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Puerto Rico and went on to complete her radiation oncology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin, serving as Chief Resident in the Radiation Oncology Department. Dr. Ortiz de Choudens also served as an instructor in radiation oncology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Ortiz de Choudens has participated in clinical research studies and been published in peer-reviewed journals. She is a member of the American College of Radiology, the American Association for Women in Radiology and the American Society for Radiation Oncology.



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**Baptist
Health**

October 2024

Cover Story: NCH Survivorship Program Helps Children Move On from Cancer

Continued from page 1

the research group that studies children's cancer therapies—it directed survivors to their pediatricians for follow-up care. However, research later showed that pediatricians didn't have the time to do all of the monitoring and research needed, which resulted in the creation of survivor clinics.

Depending on the treatment and therapy drugs received, a survivor could have different late-effect conditions, such as lung and heart complications, hormonal disorders, secondary cancers, learning disabilities, vision and hearing problems, and infertility.

"If we know that a child was given anthracyclines, for example, we would screen for heart issues," said Dr. Ramirez. "Alkylating chemotherapy can affect hormones and puberty, so we monitor those areas more closely. Brain radiation may cause pituitary function problems and thyroid issues."

Even patients who do not need long-term follow-up, such as those who had surgery, are still provided with the information they need to move forward. A patient who has had a kidney removed, for example, will receive instruction on how to protect their remaining kidney, such as limiting NSAID medications, monitoring their salt intake and keeping their blood pressure under control.

"This may be a one-time visit, especially if the child is older, or a visit each year for



five to 10 years after surgery if a child is very young, just to remind them how they need to care for themselves as they grow older," said Dr. Ramirez.

Guidelines for survivorship screening start at two years after therapy, and there is no cap on how long patients can participate in the program. Adults can still take advantage of screenings, though they will be referred to adult physicians if an abnormality is found and more treatment is required.

While research has shown that cancer treatment can lead to late-effect conditions, it is not always easy to determine if a patient's issues are inherently tied to that treatment, according to Dr. Ramirez.

"We tend to find conditions that older people have; cancer treatments age children in a way," he said. "If a child isn't good at math, for example, I can't say if



Jennifer Ruano

that's because of the brain radiation, or if they would never have been good at math. I can't always find causality, though we know that exposure to radiation increases risk."

Even if causality can't be proven, having knowledge of these late effects is very powerful for parents. "If a child is having neurocognitive side effects and is struggling in school, we have identified through research that chemotherapy does result in neurocognitive side effects so we can get them testing, get a 504 plan in place, and provide help with counseling," said Dr. Ramirez. "Children who have decreased bone density as a result of steroids can be given calcium and Vitamin D to reverse the process; patients with hormonal issues can be treated with birth control to regulate periods."

He adds that being able to identify and treat the late effects not only helps survivor's physical conditions but provides psychological benefits as well, helping children "fit in" with their peers who have not had cancer.

According to Program Coordinator Jennifer Ruano, R.N., one of the most unique things about the survivorship program is the multidisciplinary approach taken to screenings and healthcare. "A family can see the oncologist, endocrinologist, cardiologist, psychologist, social worker and school liaison all in one visit," she said. "The whole team evaluates the patient and provides whatever education and screenings they need."

"If it is determined that a child may need to see the psychologist for more sessions, or if their labs raise some questions, we can set them up for return visits as well," she added. "They can continue to see these providers after the clinic visit, branching off to receive whatever follow-up care they need."

"With survivorship, we try to make the cancer experience like a speedbump on the road of life," said Dr. Ramirez. "If there's a late effect, like depression, we want to help the survivor overcome that through psychology or psychiatric therapy or medications. Once they get over that hump, they can put it behind them."

"Overall, our survivors are healthy, and we just try to keep them that way," he added.



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The Anderson Family Cancer Institute at Jupiter Medical Center Provides Renowned Breast Cancer Care

For more than 45 years, Jupiter Medical Center has been proud to serve our community by offering a comprehensive array of cancer services in Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast. In March of 2024, the award-winning hospital's Anderson Family Cancer Institute marked its fifth anniversary, celebrating the Institute's commitment to ensuring that cancer patients and their families have convenient access to world-class care, services and amenities that are integrated into one location.

This state-of-the-art institute provides patients access to some of the most renowned physician experts and advanced technologies available in the South Florida region, rivaling that of major academic medical centers around the country. While our team of multispecialty experts treats all types of cancer, we have specialty areas, including Comprehensive Breast Care, a Thoracic Surgery & Lung Center of Excellence, Gynecologic Oncology, Gastrointestinal Oncology and Urologic Oncology.

Where technology and compassion meet is the guiding principle for multidisciplinary care for patients with breast cancer. Our experienced team combines clinical excellence, state-of-the-art screening and diagnostic tools, innovative surgical techniques, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy treatment options. The Comprehensive Breast Care Program was the first program in Palm Beach and Martin counties to earn the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers designation; patients can be assured that we are committed to providing the highest quality breast care.

Our multispecialty team includes breast surgical oncologists,

medical and radiation oncologists, breast imaging specialists, and pathologists. Patients also have the opportunity to meet with a cancer genetics expert. Each patient is assigned a nurse navigator to help coordinate and facilitate specialist consultations and any additional workup. Nurse navigators play a crucial role in the process by helping alleviate some of the stresses newly diagnosed patients face and providing support, guidance and education to patients and their families throughout their cancer journey. From care coordination to emotional support to advocacy, nurse navigators offer expertise and compassion that help patients feel empowered and informed as they navigate the complexities of cancer care.

Multidisciplinary clinics allow patients to meet with a team of specialists in medical, surgical and radiation oncology, as well as support services, in one day, under one roof. This ensures patients and their families can enjoy the comfort and convenience of staying close to home without the unnecessary inconvenience of traveling to multiple locations for their cancer care. As a result, patients leave with a comprehensive treatment plan tailored to their individual needs.

Cancer care is intricate, and it keeps getting more complex. That is why the current standard of care is to work with a comprehensive, multi-treatment, multi-modality cancer team that focuses on helping patients not only survive the disease but thrive after cancer.

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Breast Cancer: A Call for Year-Round Awareness and Action

Breast cancer remains one of the most significant challenges in women's health, not just nationally but also in South Florida. According to recent statistics, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. The Florida Cancer Data System reports that over 19,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed annually in the state, with hundreds of those coming from our region. This staggering reality calls for constant vigilance, heightened awareness, and, most importantly, access to preventive care for all women, regardless of socio-economic status.

At the Dade County Medical Association (DCMA), women's health has always been a top priority. We are committed to advocating for policies and providing resources that enhance access to care for women, including breast health services. Breast cancer, while prevalent, is also one of the most treatable cancers when detected early, which is why we emphasize the importance of regular screening and education. Advances in diagnostic technology, targeted therapies, and surgical options have dramatically improved survival rates, but early detection remains key.

As a woman and a physician, I understand how deeply personal health decisions can be. I also know that many women, particularly those balancing the demands of work and family, sometimes put off their own health needs. But breast cancer does not wait. The best defense we have is vigilance—regular mammograms, clinical breast exams, and self-awareness of any changes in our bodies. These simple actions save lives.

In South Florida, there are numerous resources to help women access breast cancer screening and care. Some of the options available in the community include: the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, which offers free or low-cost mammograms to underserved women; the Miami Cancer Institute – Baptist Health South Florida;



BY DR. PATRICIA
ARES-ROMERO

the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami; and the Jackson Health System. These institutions provide comprehensive breast cancer screening and treatment services, and are equipped with advanced imaging technologies and dedicated teams of specialists who provide personalized care.

For women in underserved communities, access to these services can be life-saving. The DCMA continues to support initiatives that expand access to screening for women in economically challenged areas, ensuring that the burden of cost does not stand in the way of early detection. Local community health centers and mobile mammography units also play a crucial role in reaching populations that might otherwise fall through the cracks.

As we approach Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it is essential to remember that this fight is not limited to just one month. Awareness, education, and action should continue throughout the year. At the DCMA, we are dedicated to ensuring that women in our community receive the care they need, when they need it. Breast cancer awareness should be a continuous effort—not just in October, but every month.

To all the women reading this, as both a physician and a fellow woman, I urge you to take your health seriously. Schedule that checkup. Prioritize your wellness. Breast cancer is a formidable foe, but with early detection and the right care, it is one we can defeat.

Let's work together to ensure that every woman in South Florida has the tools and support she needs to stay healthy.

Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero is President, Dade County Medical Association, Inc.

**This editorial reflects the commitment of the DCMA to women's health and the critical importance of breast cancer awareness*

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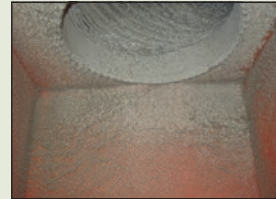
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Cover Story: Treating Breast Cancer at Memorial Cancer Institute

Continued from page 1

mammographic technology, and our treatment options have become more targeted and effective. For many women, an early diagnosis means breast cancer is more a treatable condition than a death sentence. With the right tools and a continued focus on early detection, we can continue to improve survival rates and help even more women beat the disease.

Mammograms are Key

Mammograms are a cornerstone of breast health and remain the only screening tool proven to reduce a woman's risk of dying from breast cancer. The importance of regular mammograms cannot be overstated, and most major health organizations, including the United States Preventive Services Task Force, now recommend that women begin annual screenings at age 40.

While guidelines may vary slightly among different medical bodies, the consensus among cancer experts is clear: annual mammograms are essential. Detecting even the smallest changes from year to year can lead to earlier diagnoses, significantly improving a woman's chances of survival.

In recent years, 3D mammography, or tomosynthesis, has emerged as a more advanced and reliable option compared to traditional 2D mammograms. This technology offers a more detailed view of

breast tissue, increasing the likelihood of detecting cancers early while reducing false-positive results. As a result, 3D mammograms are now widely recommended as the optimal screening method.

Another critical consideration is breast density. Approximately 50% of younger women have dense or very dense breast tissue, which can make cancer detection more difficult. Women with dense or extremely dense breasts should discuss their personal and family history with their doctor, as screening recommendations may need to be individualized if other risk factors are present.

It's also important to highlight the racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes. Black women are more likely to be diagnosed with aggressive forms of breast cancer and are at a higher risk of dying from the disease than non-black women. This makes regular screening and early detection particularly urgent for black women.

Mammograms, combined with a personalized approach to risk assessment and screening, give women their best chance at detecting breast cancer early and improving their odds of beating the disease.

The Role of Radiation

Radiation therapy has long been a key component of breast cancer treatment, and recent advancements have made it more effective, convenient, and less toxic for patients. Today, women can undergo shorter treatment courses, reducing hospital visits and allowing more time for daily activities. Enhanced imaging techniques and improvements in radiation delivery have increased accuracy and precision, minimizing damage to healthy tissues.

One notable advancement is the deep

inspiration breath hold (DIBH) technique, primarily used for treating left-sided breast cancers. By having the patient take a deep breath and hold it during radiation therapy, the heart is shifted away from the treatment area, significantly reducing the risk of heart disease in the long term.

Another improvement is the option of partial breast radiation for certain patients with early-stage breast cancer. This technique targets only the area where the tumor was removed, rather than the entire breast, helping to reduce side effects and the number of treatments needed. For some low-risk, early-stage breast cancer patients, radiation therapy can sometimes be safely omitted from the treatment plan. This decision, however, is highly personalized, depending on factors such as tumor characteristics, patient age, and overall health.

Ongoing research continues to explore new techniques and technologies to further enhance radiation therapy for breast cancer. These discoveries, along with developments in surgery and medical oncology, are improving outcomes for patients facing this all-too-common disease.

Treatment Location Matters

If you have a cancer diagnosis, it's important to be treated at a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary breast center where specialists work together to ensure the most up to date surgical care, medical treatment, and radiation therapy is provided. Additionally, patients should have access to genetic counselors, social workers, financial and nurse navigators, as well as supportive and integrative health services. This holistic approach allows individuals to focus on their mind, body, and spirit

during an undoubtedly stressful time.

Dr. Natasha Rueth is a surgical oncologist and chief of breast cancer services at Memorial Cancer Institute, where she specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with the disease.

Dr. Christine Feng is a radiation oncologist at Memorial Cancer Institute and chief of Pediatric Radiation Oncology at Memorial Healthcare System where she treats patients with a variety of cancers.

Memorial Cancer Institute (MCI) is one of the largest cancer centers in Florida, treating nearly 5,000 new cases each year. One of only seven programs designated by the Florida Department of Health as a Florida Cancer Center of Excellence, it offers diagnosis, integrated treatment, clinical trials/research, counseling, and support services customized for patients and families, in an environment close to home.

Part of Memorial Healthcare System, Memorial Cancer Institute recently expanded with a 125,000 square foot center in Pembroke Pines that includes disease-specialized oncologists, chemotherapy infusions, a full array of radiation oncology treatments, a dedicated breast center, the Moffitt Malignant Hematology and Cellular Therapy program, the Benign Hematology program, Integrative Medicine and social work, nutrition and navigation support services.

It also features a Center for Body, Mind and Spirit for prosthetics and salon services, conference center, private infusion bays, a rooftop garden, meditation sanctuary, and an on-site café, cementing Memorial's place as a home for world-class cancer treatment and high-quality patient and family-centered care.



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Pediatric Cancer Patients Leave Their Mark

Hyundai Hope On Wheels® and the South Florida Hyundai Dealers Association presented a \$100,000 Hyundai Impact Award grant to Dr. Kerice Pinkney and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation at a recent event in Hollywood. The dollars are earmarked to underwrite cancer-related needs at the pediatric facility.

South Florida children battling the disease participated in the program's signature handprint ceremony, where they dipped their hands in paint and added their prints to a white Hyundai SUV. Their colorful contribution to the Hope vehicle represents their cancer journeys, hopes, and dreams.

14-year-old Jaylin Pulido, a Pembroke Pines resident that survived Hodgkin's lymphoma, spoke about the care she received at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, her love for the caregivers, and how important services supported by Hyundai are to kids and families going through treatment.

"This grant is supporting our navigation program, which means that every child diagnosed with cancer will have a nurse navigator to help them through their whole journey, which can be very long, difficult, and challenging for the whole family," said Caitlin Stella, CEO of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. "It's like having a partner through your treatment, and those services are only available with grant support."

With the award, the hospital's nonprofit foundation will have received more than \$1.2 million in total lifetime funding from Hyundai's Hope On Wheels campaign, which began nationally in 1998. The initiative is supported by Hyundai and its U.S. dealers, including those in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, to help kids fight cancer.



Photo credit: Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation

Transforming Treatment Through Research

Clinical Trials Offer Hope for the Future of Gynecologic Cancer Treatment

Explore how groundbreaking clinical trials at Broward Health are transforming the treatment of advanced gynecologic cancers, offering new lifelines to patients in the fight for their lives. The health system is participating in clinical trials designed to provide new treatment options for patients with advanced and recurrent ovarian and endometrial cancer.

“At Broward Health, we are very passionate about gynecologic cancer research,” said Scott E. Jordan, M.D., FACOG, gynecologic oncologist with the Broward Health Physician Group. “We prioritize research in our practice model.”

The GLORIOSA Trial

The first trial, GLORIOSA, offers new maintenance therapy options for patients with recurrent platinum-sensitive ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer with high folate receptor-alpha expression.

“The world of ovarian cancer treatment is changing rapidly, and many former recurrence therapies are now first-line treatments, so we are working on new second-line options,” Dr. Jordan said. “We are hoping this trial will keep patients disease-free for as long as possible, and if they do experience a recurrence, they will hopefully respond better to chemotherapy.”

The Selinexor Trial

In the past two years, endometrial cancer treatment has changed completely.

“Where survival often used to be less than a year, we’re now seeing survival on the order of multiple years,” Dr. Jordan said. “Patients who we never thought would have

a chance of cure now have a very realistic chance of cure.”

Around 40% of endometrial cancer patients have mismatch repair deficient tumors. Adding immunotherapy to chemotherapy in these patients has greatly improved survival.

But for the patients whose tumors are not mismatch repair deficient, advancing treatment has stalled.

“This new study is looking at selinexor as a maintenance therapy once patients have responded to standard of care chemotherapy in either the metastatic frontline setting or the first recurrence,” Dr. Jordan said. “If they have the p53 wild type biomarker, which around 50% of endometrial cancers do, preliminary data shows about a greater than two-year progression-free survival advantage with this drug.”

Gynecologic Cancers affect the female reproductive system.

- Cervical cancer
- Endometrial cancer
- Gestational trophoblastic disease
- Ovarian Cancer
- Uterine sarcoma
- Vaginal cancer
- Vulvar cancer



Dr. Scott E. Jordan

Accolades Accolades Accolades Accolades

Tampa General Hospital’s John Couris Honored as One of Tampa Bay’s Most Admired Chief Executive Officers

John Couris, president and CEO of Florida Health Sciences Center (FHSC), which comprises a portfolio of organizations, including Tampa General Hospital (TGH), has been recognized as one of Tampa Bay Business Journal’s “10 Most Admired CEOs” in 2024. This honor, in its inaugural year, highlights Tampa Bay leaders who have steered their organizations to success while generating significant positive impact on the community.

A visionary leader and innovator, Couris has spearheaded the growth and transformation of Tampa General and reimagined the health care landscape of the region. He empowers the entire Tampa General team to continuously improve the quality of care, patient outcomes and care experiences. Since taking the helm of Tampa General, Couris has grown the system from 17 facilities to more than 150 care locations statewide, employing approximately 14,000 team members and providers spanning several counties statewide. Under his leadership, Tampa General Hospital has transformed its academic partnership with the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, fully embracing its role as the region’s only university-affiliated academic health system.



John Couris

Health Care District Among Top 10% Nationally - Community Health Centers Earn Gold Quality Award for Six Years Running

For the sixth year running, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County’s community health centers have been awarded the prestigious gold-level “Health Center Quality Leader” badge by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This national recognition places the Health Care District’s thirteen Federally Qualified Health Centers among the top 10% in the country, one of only 136 health centers to receive this distinction.

This gold-level recognition is based on various clinical quality measures (CQM). The Health Care District’s centers have excelled across several of them statewide, ranking second in Florida for dental sealants, fifth for both statin therapy and tobacco screening and cessation, sixth for depression screening, seventh for depression remission, eighth for colorectal cancer screening, and tenth for breast cancer screening.

“Our community health centers have proudly served as our front door to primary care for over a decade. Last year, we provided our more than 41,200 adult and pediatric patients with a medical home that focuses on prevention, a model of care that helps reduce healthcare costs in our community,” said Darcy J. Davis, CEO of the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. “We’re honored to be recognized by HRSA again this year as we continue to expand and enhance access to quality health care for all.”

Baptist Health South Florida Named a Best Place to Work for Disability Inclusion

Baptist Health South Florida was recently recognized as a Best Place to Work for Disability Inclusion after earning a top score of 100 on The Disability Equality Index®, a joint initiative of Disability:IN and The American Association of People with Disabilities.

In 2024, 542 corporations benchmarked their disability inclusion efforts using the Disability Equality Index, which measured: culture and leadership; enterprise-wide access; employment practices (benefits; recruitment; employment, education, retention and advancement; accommodations); community engagement; supplier diversity; and responsible procurement.

“We have a long-standing commitment to inclusion, and it is our priority to ensure that all of our employees feel welcome, supported and inspired to do their best work, just as they inspire others every day,” said Adriene McCoy, Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer at Baptist Health.

Baptist Health’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion department collaborates with external community partners and hiring leaders to create employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The healthcare system also has eight employee-led Business Resource Groups, including the Abilities Business Resource Group, which are comprised of individuals who are passionate about a particular shared background. They foster a diverse, inclusive workplace aligned with the organization’s mission, values, goals, practices and objectives.

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

Holy Cross Medical Group Welcomes Internal Medicine Physicians

Internal medicine physicians Shilpa Raval, D.O., and Rafael Gutierrez, M.D., have joined Holy Cross Medical Group.

Prior to joining Holy Cross, Dr. Raval completed her residency at Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale. During her residency, she gained valuable experience treating patients in the Intensive Care Unit in addition to overseeing a team of up to three interns caring for 20 patients at once.

Dr. Raval earned her Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She then received her Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia in Suwanee, GA.

Dr. Gutierrez recently completed the Holy Cross Health and University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Internal Medicine Residency Program and was elected as a class representative for the Graduate Medical Education Committee in 2022. He has served as a volunteer providing medical care to underserved populations at Light of the World Clinic in Oakland Park, FL and with Medical Volunteers of UC, a student organization run through the University of Cincinnati. He also served as a medical assistant at Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC.

Dr. Gutierrez earned his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Cincinnati. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in biology and associate of arts degree in biology.



Dr. Shilpa Raval



Dr. Rafael Gutierrez

Introducing Cleveland Clinic's Hospital Care At Home Co-Director

Irene Rahman-Garcia, M.D., serves as Cleveland Clinic's co-director for Hospital Care At HomeSM. She completed her medical education at Ross University School of Medicine in 2017 and a residency in Internal Medicine at Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center.

Dr. Rahman-Garcia's expertise in inpatient care and hospital-based care ensures patients receive the highest standard of medical attention even outside the traditional hospital setting. Appointed in 2021, she has quickly become an integral part of Cleveland Clinic's innovative approach to healthcare. Her work with Hospital Care At Home exemplifies this philosophy, as it allows patients to receive high-quality medical care in the comfort of their own homes, reducing the stress and inconvenience associated with hospital stays.

Dr. Rahman-Garcia's work in Hospital Care At Home is revolutionizing the way patients experience medical treatment, making healthcare more accessible and personalized than ever before. Her approach to care is patient-centric, focusing on the individual's overall well-being and long-term health. Dr. Rahman-Garcia is a proponent of Cleveland Clinic's model of care, which emphasizes patient satisfaction and quality of life as key indicators of successful treatment.



Dr. Irene Rahman-Garcia



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A message from our President **What Can We Do?**

First, mark your calendar for the morning of November 6th when the SFHHA will be hosting a program looking at optimizing the insurance claim process. This program will open with a presentation by Andy Brailo, Chief Commercial Officer, Premier, Inc., who will share the results of Premier's survey of their members looking at the impacts of health insurance denials, authorizations, and wrong payment amounts.

Why can't we find solutions that everyone can live with? I just received an informational brochure from the American Hospital Association (AHA) entitled, "Skyrocketing Hospital Administrative Costs, Burdensome Commercial Insurer Policies are Impacting Patient Care".

Understandably, representing the interests of hospitals, the brochure shares some concerning information. What I find most distressing is that while we talk about these issues, seemingly forever, I see little to no improvement. In fact, it is worse. "Between 2022 and 2023, care denials increased an average of 20.2% and 55.7% for commercial and Medicare Advantage (MA) claims, respectively." We know that in our area between 2019 and 2022 the absolute dollar amount of Medicare denials has increased significantly.

Something that we will talk about in our upcoming program is the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The AHA identified AI as one of the causes of this growth in denials. Citing the poor use of this technology leading to a growing number of automatic denials, the AHA contends that insufficient care was taken in setting up these programs. In fact, citing a report by the Department of Health and Human Services



Jaime Caldwell

(HHS) Office of Inspector General, "it is estimated that 75% of care denials are eventually overturned." More work for what reason?

So, in this struggle between providers and insurers, "where does this leave us?" In a recent study by McKinsey they "found that hospitals and health systems are conservatively spending an estimated \$40 billion annually on costs associated with billing and collections." The truth is that it is not only these two players who are impacted by this struggle.

This process affects patients in several ways. First, care is both delayed and denied thus leading to compromised patient care. Second, administrative costs associated with the claims denial process have to be recovered. So, when providers are negotiating contracts with insurers, the rates they seek will include these administrative costs. So, negotiated rates will be higher to reflect these costs and insurers will pass these new costs/rates on to their customers. Us.

So, why can't all the parties get together and agree to processes that increase efficiency for all parties and thus make healthcare less expensive? I am not sure. But couldn't the main parties get together and jointly build AI to make the processes more efficient, thus saving unneeded expense and compromises to care? I think, "Yes".

What it might take is our bringing together a larger group of stakeholders to have these discussions and then moving those discussions on to action.

Come and hear more on November 6th at the Memorial Regional Convention Center.
More information to follow. Registration will be available on our website October 1.

Holy Cross Medical Group Welcomes Breast Surgical Oncologist Anouchka Coste, DO

Breast surgical oncologist Anouchka Coste, D.O., has joined Holy Cross Medical Group.

Prior to joining Holy Cross Health, Dr. Coste was a breast surgical oncologist at Minimally Invasive Center for Women in Boca Raton, FL.

Dr. Coste graduated magna cum laude from the University of Central Florida in Orlando with a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Microbiology. She continued her education at A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Mesa, Arizona where she graduated as a member of the Sigma Sigma Phi honor society. She completed her general surgery training at New York Medical College Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn. During her residency, she was awarded a T-32 Research Grant and completed a research Fellowship in Surgical Oncology at Montefiore Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York. There, she conducted in vivo research with a multi-photon microscope to study metastatic breast and melanoma cancer and performed thoracic survival surgeries for murine models. She completed her breast surgical oncology fellowship at the University of California Los Angeles.



Dr. Anouchka Coste

Dr. Joseph Ricotta Selected to Newsweek America's Best Vascular Surgeons 2024 List

Newsweek and Statista are proud to announce that Dr. Joseph Ricotta, Chairman of the Vascular Surgery Program at Delray Medical Center earned a position on the America's Best Vascular Surgeons 2024 list. This is an exclusive list of only 200 doctors in the country.

Dr. Ricotta serves as National Medical Director of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Surgery for Tenet Healthcare and founded and directs the FAU Vascular Surgery Fellowship and is a professor of surgery at FAU School of Medicine. He is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in the field of vascular and endovascular surgery, earned his undergraduate degree at Yale University and his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. He completed his residency in general surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital and was a traveling scholar and specialist registrar in vascular surgery at Oxford University in England. In addition, he completed a vascular and endovascular surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, followed by an advanced endovascular surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic.



Dr. Joseph Ricotta

Drs. Luisa Brito and Joshua S. Jue Join Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group

Luisa Brito, M.D., has joined the Palm Beach Health Network Physician Group. She is on the medical staff at West Boca Medical Center.

Dr. Brito earned her medical degree at Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra in Santiago, Dominican Republic, where she graduated magna cum laude. She completed her residency in internal medicine at St. Barnabas Hospital in New York.

Joshua S. Jue, M.D., a urologic surgeon, has joined the Palm Beach Health Network urology team. He is a member of the medical staff at Good Samaritan Medical Center in West Palm Beach and Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center.

Dr. Jue, who has been practicing since 2018, earned his medical degree at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in Miami. He completed his internship in general surgery and his residency in urology at The Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. He is the first and only resident to be selected as the chief resident for 2 consecutive years in his program's history.



Dr. Luisa Brito



Dr. Joshua S. Jue

West Palm Beach VA Announces New Chief of Medicine

The West Palm Beach VA Health Care System (WPBVAHCS) announces the appointment of Dr. James B. Post, M.D., as the new Chief of Medicine.

Dr. Post joins the WPBVAHCS from the James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, NY, where his career began in 2003 specializing in Clinical Nephrology. Dr. Post served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Internal Medicine, where he played key roles in emergency management for the acute inpatient medicine service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

His portfolio includes a Bachelor of Science (BS) in biology from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and a Doctor of Medicine (MD) from Albert Einstein College of Medicine Bronx, NY. In addition to his education, Dr. Post was an Associate Professor of Medicine Nephrology Division and Associate Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY.



Dr. James B. Post

Jessie Trice Community Health System Welcomes Joseph A. Rodriguez, MD, to JTCHS Flamingo Medical Center

Jessie Trice Community Health System (JTCHS) is proud to announce the addition of Joseph A. Rodriguez, M.D., to its primary care team at the JTCHS Flamingo Medical Center in Hialeah, FL.

Dr. Rodriguez earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed his residency at Baylor College of Medicine. He brings an extensive background in family and addiction medicine, having held positions such as Assistant Medical Director at the Broward Addiction and Recovery Center (BARC) and serving as a physician in both outpatient and inpatient settings, including hospitals and community health centers across South Florida. His career also includes private practice.



Dr. Joseph A. Rodriguez

Urologist Rair J. Valero Carrion, MD, Joins Baptist Health Urology

Urologist Rair J. Valero Carrion, M.D., has joined Baptist Health Urology.

Prior to joining Baptist Health, Dr. Valero was a urologist at Hospital de Clinicas Caracas, in Venezuela. Dr. Valero earned his medical degree at Universidad de Carabobo Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, in Valencia, Venezuela. He completed a general surgery internship at Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, a urology residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and a Fellowship in Minimally invasive surgery in Urology at Global Robotics Institute, Orlando, Florida, and Institut Mutualiste Montsouris, Paris, France.



Dr. Rair J. Valero Carrion

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Holy Cross Health ER Nurses
Deliver Remarkable Care



BY EVELYN CLARK-KULA, MSN, RN, CEN

BY EVELYN CLARK-KULA, MSN, RN, CEN

For almost 70 years, Holy Cross Health has been delivering remarkable care to Fort Lauderdale and surrounding communities – and our team just keeps getting stronger.

In the Emergency Department (ED), ever mindful of patient flow, we regularly evaluate and revise processes to improve the patient experience and get patients seen as quickly as possible. What worked yesterday may not be as effective today.

Holy Cross Health nurses, physicians and patient access representatives work together to serve our customers with the customary excellence generations of South Floridians

have come to expect from Holy Cross Health.

This constant focus on the patient experience has contributed to Holy Cross Health's steady #1 rating for ED Patient Satisfaction across Trinity Health Emergency Departments. Holy Cross Health is a member of Trinity Health, one of the largest not-for-profit, faith-based health care systems in the nation, with a presence in 27 states that includes 101 hospitals.

To further enhance the member experience, we recently launched MyChart functionality that gives patients the option to self-register in the ED. When the ED is especially busy, self-registration allows less acute patients to check in faster and frees team members up to assist those requiring greater assistance.

Because Holy Cross holds Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA), our nurses strive to improve the care of older people presenting to the emergency department. We promote quality of care for older people through enhanced staffing and education, follow geriatric-focused policies and protocols and create an optimal environment in which seniors can receive care.



Holy Cross Health Emergency Department Nurses
Photo credit: Robert Mayer, Holy Cross Health

The dedication, compassion and fortitude emergency nurses display even in the most challenging times is commendable. Often treating patients on the worst days of their lives, our nurses consistently provide the best possible care.

Evelyn Clark-Kula, Nursing Director, Emergency Services, Holy Cross Health, may be reached at (954) 542-3260 or evelyn.clark-kula@holy-cross.com.
Learn more about Holy Cross Health Emergency Services at holy-cross.com.

RECOGNIZING THE BEST OF THE BEST IN THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY



The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Health Care Heroes® Awards Program; deadline is December 15. The 26th Annual Health Care Heroes® Awards Luncheon will take place May 15, 2025.

WHO IS A HEALTH CARE HERO?

An individual, organization, professional, student, volunteer or program, who, through their individual or collective actions have made an extraordinary impact in the South Florida health care community. Their acts of heroism represent a display of dedication to excellence in their area of expertise beyond the scope of their jobs. Through their commitment to their profession and community, they serve as an inspiration to others in an effort to improve the quality of health care and discover new ways to assist those in need.

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BROWARD HEALTH IMPERIAL POINT

Sebastien Abraham, RN

Sebastien Abraham began his journey with Broward Health in April 2017 as a paramedic at Broward Health Coral Springs right after he graduated from the fire academy. At the time, he only planned to work in the Emergency Department (ED) to gain experience before pursuing a fire rescue career.

But during his first year in the emergency department, he developed a passion for healthcare and emergency nursing.

"I decided to look into a career change to nursing and started the nursing program at Broward College, taking advantage of Broward Health's tuition reimbursement program," Abraham said.

After Abraham graduated with his nursing degree from Broward College and passed his nursing boards, he was hired at Broward Health Imperial Point to begin his journey at an emergency nurse, which he says has brought him great reward and satisfaction.



Tiffany Cronin, RN

Tiffany Cronin has worked for Broward Health since moving to Florida in 2002. Her career path has led her to work in all of Broward Health's hospital locations in different specialties. She most recently served as assistant nurse manager of the Emergency Department (ED) at Broward Health Coral Springs before being named regional manager of emergency services at Broward Health Imperial Point in August 2024.

Cronin enjoys the opportunity nursing provides to make a difference in people's lives and that nurse leadership allows her to mentor new nurses and to be part of their growth.

"My advice to anyone new to nursing would be to follow your heart," said Cronin. "I have had many opportunities to do this throughout my career and I love it just as much as I did in the very beginning."

Cronin received her bachelor's degree in nursing at Worcester State College in Massachusetts.



BROWARD HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER

Maria Voudy, RN

Maria Voudy's passion and perseverance led her to becoming an emergency room nurse at Broward Health Medical Center, a Level 1 Trauma Center.

"Ever since I was young, I wanted to work in the medical field," said Voudy. "I wanted to be a doctor but when I got married and started a family, I put that dream on hold. Today I am living my dream job and working in a profession I truly love."

Voudy and her family relocated to Florida in 1996. At age 39, she enrolled in Broward College where she earned her nursing degree. For the past 20 years, Voudy has worked as an RN also serving as a preceptor in the Emergency Department at Broward Health Medical Center.

"Being a nurse is more than just a job," said Voudy. "Going to work is like going to my second home because I consider my coworkers as family."



Marie Jean-Pierre, BSN, RN-CEN

An expert in rapid triage, assessment and treatment of a wide range of acute medical conditions, Marie Jean-Pierre is an integral part of the Emergency Department (ED) multi-disciplinary team at Broward Health Medical Center. Jean-Pierre, has been with Broward Health Medical Center for 34 years, which is one of only two Level 1 Trauma Centers in Broward County. Born in Haiti and tri-lingual in English, French and Creole, she has an innate ability to manage patient high-stress situations with precision and care.

She is motivated every day by her patients as they experience relief from a traumatic and painful experience. "It makes my day seeing their smile at the end of it all," she said.

Jean-Pierre received an Associate of Science in Nursing from Palm Beach Community College, now Palm Beach State College, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Florida Atlantic University.



BROWARD HEALTH NORTH

Courtney Bossle, RN

Courtney Bossle has been a nurse in Broward Health North's Emergency Department (ED) for more than three years after first serving as a paramedic in the unit for six years.

"I enjoy that my team is always willing to lend a helping hand and collaborate to make sure our patients have the best outcome possible," said Bossle, who transitioned to nursing in 2021. "I also like when my patients tell me stories about their lives. We have such a diverse population it's always interesting to hear the stories of those from all walks of life."

She encourages others interested in a career in emergency nursing to be ready for a fast-paced environment where you have to think critically, lead with compassion and experience high levels of emotions as you care for people on what can be the scariest day of their lives.

Courtney received her associate of nursing degree from Miami Dade College.



Jennifer Barreras, RN, MSN, FNP-C

Jennifer Barreras is an emergency nurse at Broward Health North who started her nursing career as a licensed practical nurse with the U.S. Army, where she loved taking care of a variety of patients.

After her military service, Barreras continued her education to become a registered nurse. She worked in different settings including a cardiac step-down unit, an infusion center and other emergency rooms before joining Broward Health in 2023. "I love getting to help people when they are facing the unknown," said Barreras. "You have to be flexible, you may go from taking care of a critical patient to someone who has an earache. All patients deserve the same compassion and care." Barreras received her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and a master's degree in nursing – family nurse practitioner from Chamberlain College of Nursing in Downers Grove, IL.



BROWARD HEALTH CORAL SPRINGS

Karen Michaelson, RN

A native Floridian, Karen Michaelson has been an Emergency Department (ED) nurse for 21 years. For the last eight years, she has been caring for patients in the ED department at Broward Health Coral Springs.

Inspired by her family, Michaelson knew early on she would become a nurse. "My mom was especially influential in my career choices," she said. "She passed away in 2020, but I try every day to make her proud by helping others."

Michaelson enjoys supporting new nurses as they learn and grow in their roles. Whether she is overseeing the emergency department or taking care of patients, she is always guiding and helping others.

"I love what I do," she added. "I am blessed to be able to help people and grateful for all the opportunities I have been given."

Michaelson earned an associate degree in nursing at Broward College and a bachelor degree in nursing at South University.



Michelle Tracy, RN

Michelle Tracy, R.N., is a pediatric Emergency Department nurse at Broward Health Coral Springs. She transitioned from education to nursing after being inspired by the care her grandfathers received during their illnesses.

"When I was deciding whether to change careers from education to nursing, both of my grandfathers became ill," Tracy said. "Seeing the incredible work nurses did in hospitals and nursing homes inspired me to make the switch."

With 16 years of experience at Broward Health, Tracy remains committed to providing excellent care while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

"I strive to do my best every day, both at work and in life, taking things as they come without stressing over anything," Tracy said.

Her passion and calm approach to patient care make her a valued member of the pediatric emergency team. Tracy pursued her nursing degree at Broward College, building a foundation for the impactful work she continues to do today.



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

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center Becomes First Hospital in Southeastern U.S. to Utilize SavvyWire® Technology in TMVR Procedure

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center is the first hospital in the Southeastern United States to successfully implement the SavvyWire® guidewire technology in transcatheter mitral valve replacement (TMVR) Valve-in-Valve procedures. The procedure was performed by Structural cardiologist Dr. Augusto Villa.

The SavvyWire® guidewire is the first-and-only sensor-guided Transcatheter valve replacement solution, designed to enhance procedural efficiency and effectiveness. By combining performance, pressure, and pacing capabilities into a single device, SavvyWire® replaces multiple traditional tools, including the TMVR guidewire, access kit, pacing lead, closure device, and transducer. This streamlining of the procedure reduces the number of devices required, minimizes the need for additional venous access, and enhances overall workflow efficiency.

"Using the SavvyWire® technology allows us to improve the efficiency and predictability of TMVR and TAVI procedures, with the goal of better outcomes for our patients," said Dr. Villa. "This innovation not only simplifies the procedure but also enhances patient safety by reducing complications and the need for multiple device exchanges."

Memorial Hospital Pembroke Launches First Medical Nutrition Therapy Comprehensive Center in South Florida

Memorial Hospital Pembroke has launched a comprehensive medical nutrition therapy program, which provides patients with medical nutrition therapy independent of specific health issues.

The Outpatient Nutrition Program offers personalized nutrition plans to address conditions such as weight management, heart health, diabetes, food allergies, celiac disease, and gastrointestinal issues. Available to individuals aged 18 and over, the program provides expert nutrition counseling from registered dietitians. Tailored, evidence-based plans help patients meet their health goals and make sustainable lifestyle change.

The program's approach focuses on educating patients and their families about advanced methods to enhance nutrition and well-being. By customizing nutrition education and counseling to each patient, the dietitian will provide patients with a comprehensive wellness strategy.



First Mobile MRI of Its Kind Unveiled at Nicklaus Children's Hospital's West Kendall Outpatient Center

Nicklaus Children's Hospital has installed a new, state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system, the Philips 1.5T Ambition X, at its West Kendall Outpatient Center, transforming healthcare delivery for children and their families. Nicklaus Children's is the first hospital in the nation to adopt a mobile version of the Philips 1.5T Ambition X, to replace an existing MRI machine to better serve children and their families.

Among its features, the cutting-edge system delivers high-quality images with more efficiency, enabling faster setup and exam time, allowing for potential reduction in the amount of time a child is sedated. The system also has interactive experience tools to help put children at ease during an MRI procedure. The immersive technology combined with lighting, visual themes and playful characters, as well as child-friendly music provide positive distraction during procedures. With this new device, Nicklaus Children's has expanded MRI offerings at its West Kendall location to include imaging of total body, long bones, kidney, and more.

The 1.5T Ambition X, the first mobile BlueSeal MRI in North America, a fully sealed magnet that is practically helium-free, never needing helium refilling, and can be discharged or re-energized quickly utilizing the EasySwitch solution, which allows for a controlled ramp down of the magnet, minimizing patient disruptions.

Winning Is Quitting When It Comes to Smoking

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability and death in the U.S., and according to Forbes Health, quitting smoking was the seventh most common resolution for 2024. Despite it landing on the list year after year, it's one of the most difficult resolutions to keep due to the addicting nature of nicotine. Oftentimes, people who make this resolution resume smoking before the end of January.

Fort Lauderdale resident Lois Robertson is just one of our many success stories at Holy Cross Health who beat those odds. She had been smoking since she was a teenager, but with our help she finally curbed her habit in February.

"I had to stop smoking," said the 57-year-old who suffers from COPD with asthma overlap. "If you really want to quit, you will quit. I knew I wanted to live. I had to want to do it for me."

With the help of the team at the Catherine Yardley Comprehensive Pulmonary Center at Holy Cross Health, she completed smoking cessation classes, breathing treatments and yoga classes as her wheezing subsided. She encourages others to get the support needed to overcome smoking addiction.

"The breathing exercises they give you are helpful," Robertson explained. "As you are walking, you can do the breathing. When you're sitting down, you can do the breathing. You've got to put that pride aside. You have to ask for help."

Holy Cross Health in Fort Lauderdale helps people put the butt out for good. In conjunction with Nova Southeastern University's Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program, Holy Cross Health offers evidence-based group smoking cessation classes on-site at the hospital in the COPD clinic and at the Women's Center. The Courage to Quit: Free Tobacco Cessation Program provides participants with the tools and techniques to quit and remain tobacco-free.

Robertson has encouraging words for others struggling with addiction. "Don't give up," she said. "I knew I wanted to live. Do you want to live? Do you love yourself? That's what it comes down to."

The free classes are designed to help develop a personalized quit plan and more than double the chances of success. Class topics include coping with triggers and withdrawal symptoms, managing addiction and preventing relapse. In partnership with Tobacco Free Florida, participants can receive a free full month's supply of nicotine replacement therapy, such as patches, gum or lozenges (if medically appropriate for those 18 years of age or older).

Fort Lauderdale resident Pilar Ward, now 66, also began smoking in her teens. Tired of the uncontrollable coughing and wheezing, she enrolled in Holy Cross Health's Courage to Quit: Free Tobacco Cessation Program last year. Initially doubtful the program would work for her, much to her pleasant surprise it did. She recently celebrated one year cigarette-free on August 20.

Anyone who wants to stop lighting up and start breathing easier can make an appointment at the Catherine Yardley Comprehensive Pulmonary Center by calling (954) 542-2440 or visiting Holy-cross.com/lungs. Helen Visco is COPD Clinic Manager, Holy Cross Health.



BY HELEN VISCO,
BSRT, CPFT, RRT

Delray Medical Center Is First Hospital in South Florida to Enroll a Patient in PICASSO Trial

Delray Medical is the first hospital in South Florida to enroll a patient in the PICASSO trial. The trial, which is in the critical third phase, is aimed at improving management for patients with tandem occlusions. This achievement is thanks to interventional neurologists Drs. Nils Mueller-Kronast and Dennys Reyes at Delray Medical Center, who are committed to improving stroke care through innovative research.

The enrollment of the first South Florida patient at Delray Medical Center is a critical step forward for the region's involvement in this important study. The findings from the PICASSO Trial have the potential to significantly impact how stroke patients with tandem occlusions are treated, providing clearer guidance for physicians and better outcomes for patients.

Tandem occlusions occur when a stroke in the brain is accompanied by a narrowing or blockage in the neck artery, limiting blood flow to critical areas. The PICASSO Trial, which has been enrolling patients across the country, is designed to determine the most effective way to treat this condition. The trial compares two distinct treatment approaches: stenting the artery to keep it open or performing angioplasty, a minimally invasive procedure that uses a balloon to restore blood flow.

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



USAHS Miami Faculty and PT Students Join Sabrina's Adaptive Beach Days

As Floridians, we take a day at the beach for granted, but for individuals with disabilities, it's an elusive pastime that becomes a reality only through a special program on Miami Beach.

"It's challenging trying to get the beach wheelchairs in and out of the water and then fighting with the waves. It takes a lot of muscle!" says volunteer Olivia D'Auria, a seventh-term student at University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) in Miami. D'Auria and others in the USAHS Miami Student Physical Therapy Association volunteered for this summer's Adaptive Beach Days, held monthly on Miami Beach by the Sabrina Cohen Foundation.

Professor Caprice Quinones, PT, DPT, introduces students in her Neuro classes to individuals with spinal cord injuries and Sabrina's Adaptive Beach Days to expose them to what she calls one of PT's niche practices.

"There are so many areas to explore in physical therapy. The majority of students start out saying they want to work as a sport PT, and by the end they want to go a totally different route," says Dr. Quinones, who has worked with patients with neurological disease in inpatient, outpatient, and home health settings. Her quest to "expand students' horizons" paid off with D'Auria.

A former dancer, D'Auria says she's always been "an ortho girl" but the Adaptive Beach Days were an eye-opening experience and introduced her to the possibilities in neuro.

Dr. Quinones also invites spinal cord patients to speak to her classes so students can appreciate the value of a holistic approach to PT.

"You get a different perspective when you hear someone speak about their condition from a psycho-social vantage point," says Dr. Quinones, who feels a responsibility, as an educator, to train PTs who are empathetic and versatile enough to work with a variety of patient populations.

"There is such a great need for PT's in outpatient and inpatient settings. I want to prepare students for as many options as possible. We would be doing our community a disservice if we did not build a pipeline of qualified PTs who graduate ready to go where there's the greatest need," says Dr. Quinones.

University of Miami Celebrates Students' NCLEX Success

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies NCLEX pass rates have consistently exceeded state and national averages, a trend that shows no signs of slowing. "I am thrilled to announce that our students have achieved a 100 percent passing rate on the NCLEX in the second quarter," said Dean Hudson Santos Jr. "This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the exceptional quality of our faculty, staff, and program. Their leadership, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the undergraduate nursing program has made this achievement possible."

In the first quarter of 2024, 92 of 94 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) graduates from the University of Miami passed the NCLEX-RN on first attempt. The next quarter, April through June, all 63 graduates who took the NCLEX-RN passed on first attempt. As a result, the school's first-time pass rate for the first half of 2024 stands at 98.73 percent. A near-perfect pass rate on the NCLEX is significant. Average first-time pass rates for the NCLEX, a standardized licensing exam administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., are commonly used as a metric in assessing overall nursing program quality. In addition to earning an accredited nursing degree, graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to obtain a registered nurse (RN) license.

Baptist Health Foundation Receives \$2M Gift from MG Developer to Benefit Baptist Health Doctors Hospital



(l-r) Diego Torrealba, MG Developer EVP; Lourdes Boue, CEO, Baptist Health Doctors Hospital; Alirio Torrealba, MG Developer CEO; Dorys Martin Torrealba; Andres Torrealba

Baptist Health Foundation announced that it has received a \$2 million donation from MG Developer, a residential property development company, in support of Baptist Health Doctors Hospital in Coral Gables.

MG Developer's generosity will help establish The Village at Coral Gables as a wellness-conscious community, emphasizing the importance of residents' long-term healthy lifestyles while supporting a nearby world-class hospital that meets their needs. "This is a truly remarkable collaboration between MG Developer and Baptist Health Foundation," said Alirio Torrealba, CEO of MG Developer. "We are proud to join them in supporting our Coral Gables community, as access to high-quality healthcare is an essential part of our local residents' quality of life."

"This gift will make a significant impact," said Lourdes Boue, CEO of Baptist Health Doctors Hospital. "From advanced diagnostic equipment to clinical development opportunities to patient support programs, our donors are helping us provide outstanding resources to our community. We are pleased to welcome The Village at Coral Gables residents with the exceptional care we have always been known for."

Scheduled for completion in Q2 2025, The Village at Coral Gables is a 48-residence collection of townhomes, lofts, villas, and flats nestled in the residential heart of the city. Paying homage to Coral Gables founder George Merrick in what's considered a continuation of his vision of themed villages throughout Coral Gables, the project evokes the aesthetic beauty and lifestyle of Seville, Spain, with a Mediterranean-revival style architecture.

Broward Health Again Decreases Millage Rate Reducing Tax-Assisted Revenues By More Than \$19 Million

Reflective of the exceptional year experienced by Broward Health in Fiscal Year 24 – running July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024 – the North Broward Hospital District Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to cut taxes. The millage rate reduction from 1.4307 to 1.3261 will result in \$19.7 million less in tax revenues for Broward Health and is greater than the county proposed rollback rate.

"Broward Health continues to make remarkable progress, increasing our patient volumes and revenues," said Shane Strum, President & CEO of Broward Health. "Despite increasing demand for uncompensated care, our growth has enabled us to offset public support."

Due to rising revenues and decreased expenses, the Board of Commissioners agreed that it was the appropriate time to make another cut to the millage rate. In 2023, the Board took similar action, saving Broward County taxpayers \$30 million.

"Moody's, S&P and Fitch all recognized Broward Health's financial performance this year with improved ratings," said North Broward Hospital District Chair Christopher Pernicano. "We continue to build upon the momentum achieved in 2023 and are confident that, based on numbers from Q1 of our current fiscal year, we will experience continued growth and success, thus we felt confident lowering the millage rate."

"Broward Health's performance is a result of our action to expand service lines, develop new facilities and continue to optimize operations," said Strum. "We are well positioned for the future and to fulfill our vision of being a champion for a healthier community."

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Salute to Case Managers...

LARKIN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Eduardo Coelho

Eduardo Coelho is the Director of Case Management for Larkin Community Hospital Palm Springs and Larkin South. Eduardo develops strategies to improve patient care, satisfaction, and outcomes. He also communicates with the physicians and nurses to understand what care options are available for the patients. He is acknowledged as an example of an exceptional case management leader for his quality performance, encouraging teamwork and a variety of initiatives that are above and beyond his job description and performance expectations. He is a mentor to new employees in the case management department. Eduardo dedication to Larkin Community Hospital is instrumental in maintaining multi-disciplinary rounds that has positively impacted customer service. He received his Associate of Science in Nursing and is continuing his education at Larkin University.



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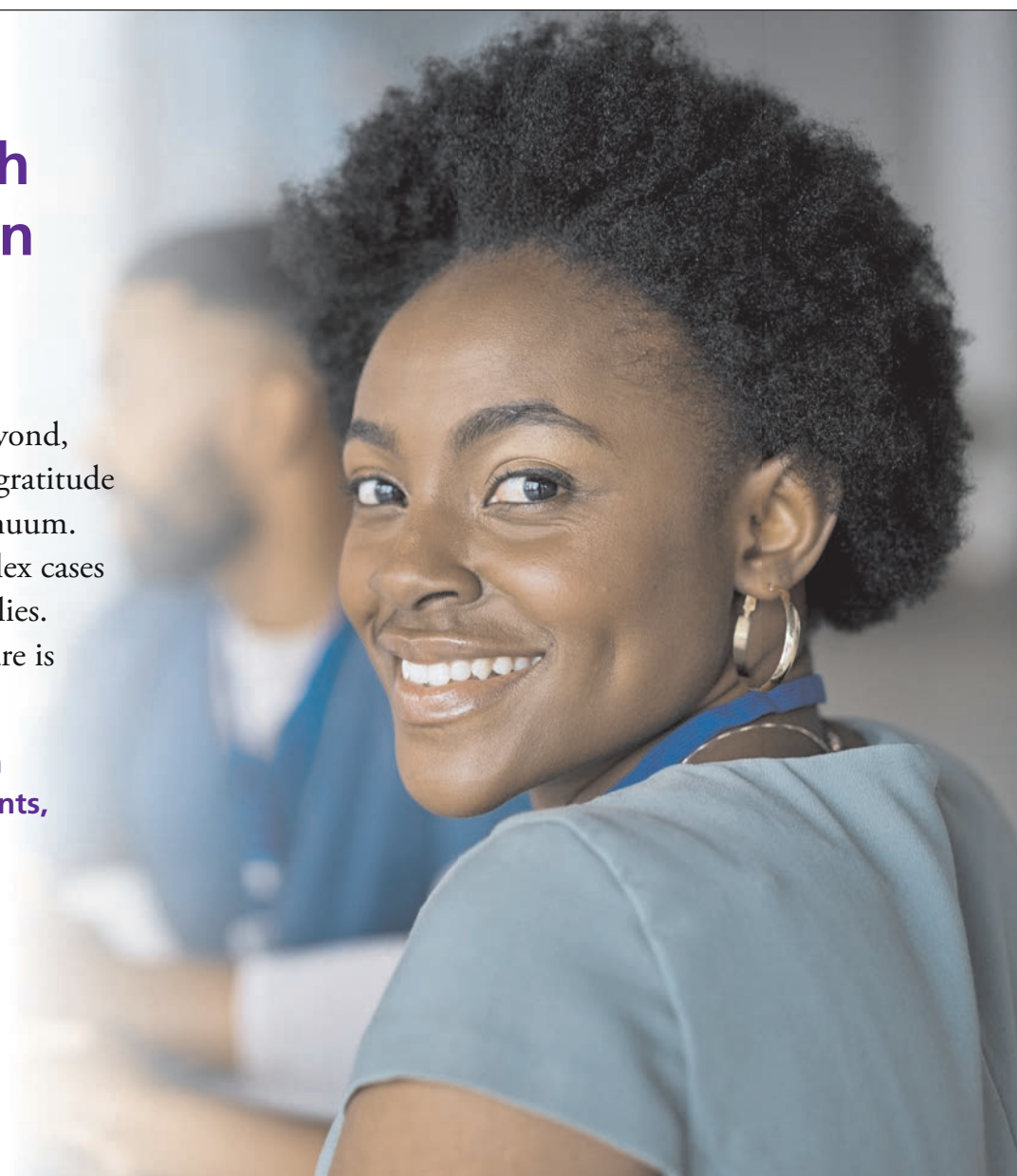
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Salute to Case Managers...

BROWARD HEALTH CORAL SPRINGS

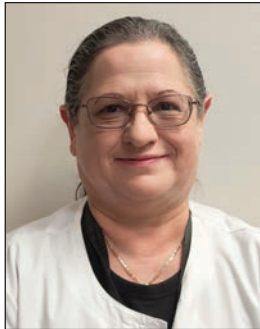
Lourdes Perez, RN

Lourdes Perez has been a devoted caregiver within the Broward Health for the past 41 years. She currently works as an acute care case manager at Broward Health Coral Springs where her primary responsibilities include discharge planning for patients under her care.

Born in Havana Cuba, Perez's mother was a nurse who compassionately cared for others and inspired her daughter to follow in her footsteps.

"My motivation is the ability to be able to come into work every day and help my patients in any way possible," said Perez.

She attended Broward College where she majored in nursing before starting her career as a charge nurse before being elevated to an Assistant Nurse Manager and has diligently served as a Case Manager since 1996.



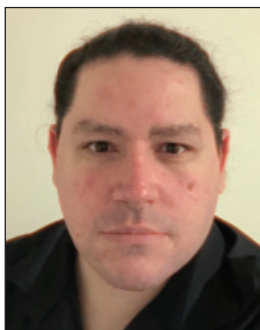
Paul Ziegler, RN

Paul Ziegler credits his grandmother for inspiring him to become a nurse. As a nurse, she was compassionate, dedicated and devoted to helping others, traits Ziegler believes he inherited from her.

For 10 years, Ziegler has gained extensive experience within Broward Health. Currently, Ziegler is the coordinator for case management at Broward Health Coral Springs where he assists with continuous monitoring for CMS guideline compliance and facilitates multidisciplinary rounds between staff, physicians and ancillary departments. He also provides additional support to the case management team.

"My motivation is helping patients throughout their continuum of care," said Ziegler. "Health care is a rewarding career knowing you've done all we can to ensure your patients have everything they need to succeed once they are discharged."

A native of Los Angeles, Ziegler graduated from Broward College with an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing.



BROWARD HEALTH IMPERIAL POINT

Jasmine Perez, MSW, LCSW

Jasmine Perez is a proud Mexican American who was born and raised in South Florida. Perez has always been drawn to a career in public service. Aspiring to utilize her professional training in a capacity where she could have a positive impact, she found a home as a social worker in case management at Broward Health Imperial Point. Perez enjoys working closely with patients, coordinating appropriate post-acute care services. She also finds it rewarding to collaborate with the hospital's multidisciplinary team to develop safe discharge plans.

"It's important as a case manager to become familiar with community resources so you can provide the highest quality, relevant care to patients and families based on their evolving needs," said Perez.

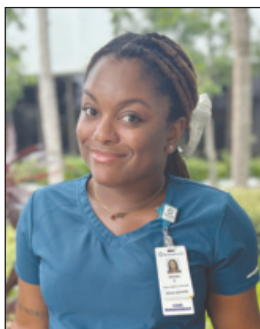
A licensed clinical social worker, Perez earned a master's degree in social work and bachelor's degree in Psychology from Florida Atlantic University.

Meghan Coote, MSW

Florida native Meghan Coote is an integral part of the social services team at Broward Health Imperial Point. She finds purpose and joy through meaningful interactions. Her positivity and bright smile provide encouragement and reassurance for patients during stressful times as she continuously strives to make their hospital stay as pleasant as possible.

"I always knew I wanted to use my master's in social work to help others but was initially unsure how and where to begin," said Coote. "When a family member was unexpectedly hospitalized at Broward Health Imperial Point, I witnessed firsthand the exceptional care and extraordinary compassion they experienced which inspired me to now provide that same high level of care."

Coote earned a Master of Social Work from Florida Atlantic University and is currently pursuing her license as a clinical social worker.



BROWARD HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER

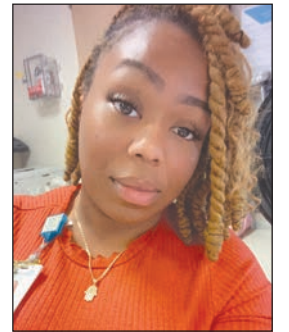
Kimberly Glenn, RN

Kimberly Glenn is an acute care case manager at Broward Health Medical Center, specializing in geriatric and cardiac care. While Glenn cares for patients on the hospital's progressive and intermediate care floors, she also has experience with patients in skilled nursing facilities and providing in-home patient case management.

"No matter what floor I might be working on, my day revolves around ensuring every patient under my care is safely and efficiently discharged - whether they're returning home or admitted to a rehabilitation facility," said Glenn.

Glenn finds immense joy advocating on behalf of her patients and is adept at identifying all available resources to best help them regain maximum independence.

This busy mother of two holds a Registered Nurse degree from Health Career Institute and is currently enrolled in Chamberlain University pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing with a focus on education.



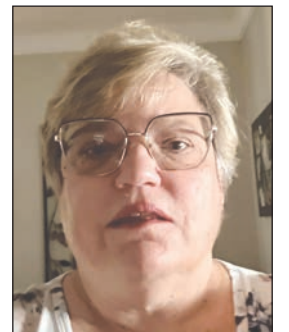
BROWARD HEALTH NORTH

Donna Johnson, RN, BSN, CCM

Donna Johnson is a nurse and case manager at the Broward Health Rehabilitation Institute at Broward Health North. A dedicated, compassionate registered nurse for 22 years, Johnson finds caring for others to be a very rewarding experience. In her position as a utilization review nurse and discharge planner in acute rehab, she compassionately advocates for patients and their families during their most vulnerable time of need. She ensures her patients have the care and motivation to successfully rehabilitate, as she continually helps to safely transition them to the next step in their recovery journey.

"What I love about nursing is how versatile it is," Johnson said. "Following an injury, I left the bedside and became certified in case management where my skills and knowledge as a critical care nurse continue to serve me well."

Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Villa Julie College, now Stevenson University, in Maryland.



Jessica Naylor, MSW

A social services counselor and case manager at Broward Health North, Jessica Naylor, enjoys working in a fast-paced hospital environment alongside her team where they share their knowledge and skills in bringing the highest level of care to patients. With 11 years of experience as a social worker, Naylor passionately advocates for vulnerable children, adults and families who cannot protect themselves. She sees it as a privilege to help others.

"I pride myself on being a team player and have been described as 'the calm during the storm' by my supervisors," said Naylor, who values person-centered therapy modalities and has extensive training utilizing practices such as motivational interviewing, nonviolent communication and narrative therapy.

Naylor earned a Master of Social Work from Temple University and a bachelor's degree in social work from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.



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Nicklaus Children's Expands Offering of Approved Gene Therapy for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Following FDA Decision

Nicklaus Children's Hospital is offering FDA-approved ELEVIDYS (delandistrogene moxeparvovec-rokl), the first gene therapy developed for patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) who have a confirmed mutation in the DMD gene. Developed by Sarepta Therapeutics, ELEVIDYS was approved last year by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in individuals ages 4 through 5 years old. In June of 2024, the FDA expanded approval of the drug to patients 4 years of age and older. The FDA granted traditional approval for ambulatory patients and accelerated approval for non-ambulatory patients.

"We are excited to offer this emerging treatment to patients who have been eagerly awaiting the FDA's decision on expanding availability to additional age groups," said Dr. Migvis Monduy, medical director of the Neuromuscular and Movement Disorders Program at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. "We are hopeful that the treatment will delay or halt the progression of DMD for all eligible children, giving them the best chance for a better future."

Duchenne is a rare, genetic disease characterized by progressive muscle damage



and weakness that occurs in approximately one in every 3,500-5,000 newborn males worldwide. It is caused by mutations in the dystrophin gene that lead to a lack of dystrophin protein. There is no cure for Duchenne, and the leading causes of death in individuals with Duchenne are respiratory or cardiac failure, which typically occurs when patients are in their mid-20s/30s.

Nicklaus Children's is one of only three hospitals in Florida offering the treatment and was among the first in the nation to offer treatment to a 5-year-old boy. He is now able to jog and jump a year after receiving treatment and is progressing well. Jacob now looks forward to his physical therapy sessions and will be celebrating his 7 birthday soon.

This decision from the FDA allows for more people living with Duchenne than ever before to access

the disease-modifying therapy with the potential to keep them living stronger for longer than the once certain trajectory of the disease.

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Kindred Hospital South Florida

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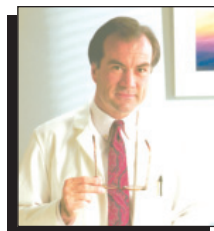


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Dade County Medical Association (DCMA) – "The voice of Physicians in Miami Dade County." Supporting its members in all aspects of the practice of medicine; to serve physicians and their patients by establishing and promoting ethical, educational and 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

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