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Hospital NewsTM and HEALTHCARE REPORT

Volume 21 • Issue 10 • \$5.00 April 2025

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Organ Donation



Dr. Damion Jackson

The Power of Organ Donation

BY DANIEL CASCIATO

Organ and tissue donation has the power to save and transform lives, creating profound connections between donors, recipients, and the healthcare professionals who facilitate these life-saving efforts.

Damion Jackson, EdD, MHS, ACHE, Senior Transplant Administrator at the Miami Transplant Institute (MTI) and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, has dedicated his career to advancing organ transplantation and advocating for increased awareness and education. Dr. Jackson teaches as an Adjunct Professor in the Executive Master of Health Administration program at Florida Atlantic's College of Business, Executive Education department. He shares his insights into the importance of organ donation, its challenges, and the future of transplantation.

A Passion for Advocacy

Jackson's passion for organ donation advocacy stems from firsthand experiences witnessing the transformative impact of transplantation.

"I have witnessed countless individuals, both donors and recipients, whose lives have been positively transformed by organ transplantation," he says. "The bonds formed between donor families, recipients, and healthcare professionals are truly inspiring."

Knowing that their loved one's gift provides others with a second chance at life is a source of comfort and motivation for donor families. Many become advocates, channeling their grief into aware-

Continued on page 10

Organ Donation

Tampa General Uses Technology to Broaden Scope of Viable Organ Donations

Tampa General Hospital (TGH) recently ranked No. 1 in the nation for transplants by volume, according to data from the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. With 889 transplants completed between January 1 and December 31, 2024, Tampa General also set a new national record for transplant procedures in one year.

Additionally, 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of the TGH Transplant Institute. Since 1974, the hospital's surgeons have completed more than 14,000 transplants. As a national leader in advanced organ disease treatment and transplant surgery, Tampa General is among a few dozen hospitals in the United States to reach that milestone, driving innovation to provide world-class health care to patients before, during and after transplant surgery. TGH is the only hospital in West Central Florida to offer all five organ transplants for adult patients.

Historically, Tampa General has some

Continued on page 10



A liver is prepared for transplant at Tampa General Hospital, using the OrganOx metraliver perfusion machine.

MOMZ Expands Homestead Office to Meet Growing Need for Services

BY VANESSA ORR

MOMZ, the obstetrical/gynecological division of KIDZ Medical Services — a private, physician-owned multispecialty healthcare organization dedicated to neonatal, pediatric, and women's healthcare — recently opened a new, expanded Homestead, FL office that will allow the practice to see more patients. This is especially important, as some OB-GYN practitioners have retired or left the area, leaving a dearth in women's care.

"Women in Homestead have had to travel outside to see physicians in Kendall or Palmetto Bay, spending two hours driving in traffic," said Dr. Jamell Walker, who joined the practice in 2023. "Now they can see physicians right here."

The new practice space includes four office rooms and one procedure room that



Dr. Jamell Walker



Dr. Dawn George

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Salute To Volunteers



Maria Hidalgo

Celebrate Life as a Hospice Volunteer

Why Hospice Volunteers Are Vital – And Why You Should Consider Becoming One

BY MARIA HIDALGO

Volunteers are the heart of every hospice organization. While doctors, nurses, and caregivers provide specialized care to patients, volunteers bring a unique element to the hospice experience.

The Crucial Role of Hospice Volunteers

Hospice care is one of the only areas of healthcare where volunteers are not just appreciated — they're required by law. Enacted in 1982, the Medicare law mandates that hospice organizations dedicate at least 5% of their total patient care hours to volunteers. Why? Volunteers bring an essential human connection and support that complements medical expertise.

But when people are looking for ways to get involved, hospice isn't likely to be top of mind. Common misconceptions about what hospice is — and isn't — may deter interest. But hospice employees, volunteers, and even patients and families, are quick to point out that hospice

Continued on page 19

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Publisher's Note

Salute to our South Florida Volunteers

Volunteers are the unsung heroes of the healthcare system—kind of like the sidekicks in superhero movies, but with less spandex and more comfortable shoes. Here are some key reasons why in April *South Florida Hospital News & Health Report* salutes the Women and Men who serve as Volunteers in Healthcare:



1. **The Ultimate Mood Boosters** – Hospitals can be stressful places, but volunteers bring the good vibes! Whether it's cracking jokes, offering a warm smile, or just knowing where the best coffee is, they make the experience a little less gloomy.

2. **Helping Healthcare Workers Keep Their Sanity** – Doctors and nurses are superheroes, but even superheroes need backup. Volunteers handle the little (but important) things—like directing lost visitors, fetching supplies, and keeping patients company—so medical staff can focus on saving lives instead of explaining, for the tenth time, how to find the cafeteria.

3. **Masters of Distraction** – Ever had a kid scream at the sight of a needle? Volunteers can swoop in with a funny story, a silly face, or a magic trick to turn that meltdown into a giggle fit. Crisis averted!

4. **The Walking, Talking GPS** – Hospitals are basically giant mazes. Volunteers are the friendly guides who stop you from wandering into the janitor's closet when you're just trying to find your grandma's room.

5. **Budget-Friendly Heroes** – Let's face it, healthcare costs a fortune. Volunteers give their time and skills for free, helping hospitals save money—because nothing says “team player” like working for smiles and an occasional free coffee.

6. **Disaster Response Ninjas** – When emergencies strike, volunteers step up like pros—handing out supplies, offering comfort, and generally being the calm in the storm while the rest of us panic over Wi-Fi outages.

7. **Future Doctors in Training** – Many volunteers are testing the medical waters, dreaming of one day wearing scrubs for real. Today they're handing out magazines; tomorrow they might be performing life-saving surgery. Talk about career glow-ups!

Without volunteers, the healthcare system would be way more chaotic, way less friendly, and a whole lot more confusing. So next time you see one, give them a nod, a thank-you, or, if hospital rules allow it, a high-five!

We Salute all of our Volunteers!!

-Charles Felix, Owner and Publisher



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Baptist Health Offers More Options for People With Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis (MS) often strikes in the prime of life. As an autoimmune disorder, it can cause fatigue, muscle weakness, vision problems, bladder and bowel issues, as well as cognitive changes. As it progresses, MS can leave patients wheelchair-dependent or unable to walk without assistance.

Although MS has no cure, experts at Baptist Health Brain & Spine Care are providing patients with hope and a wide range of treatment options. "The first medication for MS was introduced in the 1990s," says neurologist Luis Compres-Brugal, M.D., director of multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology at Baptist Health Miami Neuroscience Institute. "We have come a long way since then. Today, we have more than 20 medications. They are more targeted and effective at delaying disease progression and preventing new attacks. And every day we are learning more about this disease."

Dr. Compres-Brugal recently joined the Institute after completing a fellowship in multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology at the University of South Florida, supported by the National MS Society. He is leading the expansion of Baptist Health's MS program, a vital initiative as advancements in technology are allowing for earlier and more accurate diagnoses.

"MS can be particularly challenging to treat because it affects each person very differently," Dr. Compres-Brugal says.

Among the common symptoms are:

- Bladder and bowel changes
 - Cognitive problems such as difficulty with memory, attention and concentration
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle weakness, spasticity, stiffness and balance problems
 - Numbness and tingling in the limbs
 - Vision problems such as blurred or double vision, or even partial or complete vision loss in one eye
-



There isn't one single test to diagnose MS. Doctors typically order a brain and spine MRI to detect lesions, and/or a lumbar puncture, which can show abnormal signs of inflammation in the cerebrospinal fluid.

Treatment options include medications that modulate the immune system,

available as infusions, injections and oral medications. Physical, occupational, speech-language and cognitive therapies can also play an important role in improving quality of life. Managing symptoms and adopting a healthy lifestyle are essential for overall well-being and slowing disease progression.

"MS is a complex disease and it's crucial to be evaluated and treated at an experienced center," Dr. Compres-Brugal says. "At Miami Neuroscience Institute, we offer a comprehensive approach by bringing together a range of subspecialists under one roof. Additionally, we have infusion centers and a specialty pharmacy on-site to ensure seamless care for our patients."

For more information about the MS program at Miami Neuroscience Institute, visit **BaptistHealth.net/MultipleSclerosis** or call **786-596-3876** to make an appointment.



Baptist Health

Miami Neuroscience Institute

As Medical Careers Evolve, So Do Insurance Needs

BY VANESSA ORR

As a medical professional, you know how important it is to carry professional liability insurance. What you may not realize is that it's also imperative to have your policy reviewed regularly to ensure that it covers any changes that you've made in your medical career. After all, joining a new practice, offering new services, or taking on a new professional role can also mean taking on extra risk.

When starting out, it's understandable to try to save money by taking a do-it-yourself approach; however, hiring a professional consultant or healthcare attorney to review contracts and insurance policies will actually pay off in the long run.

"For new doctors coming out of residency, having a consultant or healthcare attorney review contracts and policies can save them from legal issues later on as well as set them up for success," said Kyla Murphy, AVP National Healthcare Practice, Risk Strategies.

For example, while an occurrence policy appears more expensive up front, it includes tail coverage. A claims-made policy increases in price every year up until the fifth year, but does not include tail coverage, which will have to be purchased if the medical provider cancels the policy, or changes practices, depending on what their contract says. This can be expensive, as tails can cost two to three times the price of the current premium.

"Retroactive coverage on a claims made

policy covers medical professionals backwards in time, based on the statute of limitations that allows patients to sue doctors or any other medical providers," said Tom Murphy, SVP National Healthcare Practice, Risk Strategies. "This is required across the board for all medical providers, regardless of their positions."

He notes that as providers approach the end of their careers, they should also try not to move their insurance coverage in the last two to three years, as they are probably already vested in a free retirement tail.

In the case of personal liability insurance, having an expert who understands carrier considerations, such as a carrier's financial stability, financial rating, and reputation for defense can safeguard a provider's career. A carrier should carry an AM Best A to A+ rating, which means that they are financially stable and can provide their clients with a proper defense.

"If a provider gets involved in a lawsuit, it is a direct assault on his or her reputation," said Tom Murphy. "When a provider is involved in a medical malpractice claim or lawsuit, it's important to have an insurance carrier that has the reputation and the backing to protect the doctor when the rubber meets the road."

It's also wise to understand the specific coverage involved to see if a policy is comprehensive and meets the required limits of liability.

"Certain states require liability limits that can be as high as \$1 million or \$3 mil-

lion, though Florida does allow a physician to practice bare if they can show proof that they can financially meet the needs of a judgment against them up to a certain limit," explained Tom Murphy.

As careers evolve, practice profiles can change, and insurance carriers need to be kept up to date on any changes that could affect the policy.

"For example, if a family practitioner decides to add aesthetic services, which in the past have typically been limited to dermatology and plastic surgery practices, their insurance needs may change," said Tom Murphy.

"It's all about the who, what and where," added Kyla Murphy. "What types of patients are you seeing, what services are you providing and where is your location? If you practice in Miami or Atlanta, that will affect your policy. If you're a practicing OB/GYN or orthopedic surgeon, you're in a higher-risk category."

Medical providers sometimes forget to notify agents or insurance companies about these changes, which puts them at higher risk. For example, if a doctor in a wellness practice does not mention on their application that they provide weight loss drugs, they may find that when there is a claim, they do not have coverage.

"It's no different than buying a Toyota Camry and putting it on your auto insurance policy, but forgetting to tell them that a year later, you bought a Rolls Royce," said Tom Murphy. "They aren't going to

cover the Rolls if you're in an accident. It's a common sense thing."

This is also the case when a medical provider takes on a new role as an expert witness or medical director, which are specifically excluded from medical malpractice policies. While some companies that hire expert witnesses or medical directors provide coverage for these roles, if not, it's up to the provider to seek separate coverage.

It's important to note that insurance premiums not only pay for protection, but also provide medical providers access to the carrier's resources, which can include advice on risk management and legal issues.

"For example, if you want to dismiss an aggressive patient, you need to do it in the legal and proper way," said Tom Murphy. "Your carrier will guide you through this, providing you with the right letter to do it properly. Carriers are a wonderful resources to help navigate different areas of your practice without spending extra money."

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



Kyla Murphy



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Honoring Physicians on National Doctor's Day



BY DR. PATRICIA
ARES-ROMERO

Every year on March 30, National Doctor's Day provides an opportunity to honor the dedication, sacrifice, and resilience of physicians across the nation. It is a day to reflect on the essential role doctors play in our society, and to recognize the challenges they face as they uphold the integrity of the medical profession while navigating an increasingly complex healthcare landscape.

The practice of medicine today is more demanding than ever. Physicians are confronted with mounting administrative burdens, declining reimbursements, and an expanding web of regulatory requirements that take time away from patient care. The rise of corporate medicine and technological advancements—while beneficial in many ways—also introduce challenges that threaten the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship. Artificial intelligence and automated systems are reshaping healthcare, but they can never replace the human touch, empathy, and critical decision-making that doctors bring to their patients. The essence of medicine remains deeply rooted in the personal connection between physician and patient, a bond that must be fiercely protected.

The Dade County Medical Association (DCMA), has advocated for physicians since 1903. The association actively engages in legislative efforts to address key issues affecting our profession, including prior authorization reform, scope of practice concerns, retroactive denials, medical liability reform, and Medicare reimbursement. It works to ensure that physicians are not only heard but that their ability to provide quality care is safeguarded. Advocacy efforts extend beyond policy; the association is committed to fostering a professional environment where physicians feel supported and valued in their roles.

For over a century, the DCMA has honored physicians through various initiatives, recognizing their contributions to the health and well-being of the community in Miami-Dade. From appreciation events to mentorship programs, it aims to support doctors in every stage of their careers. The association addresses physician wellness, understanding that to care for others, doctors must first take care of themselves. Through initiatives such as the Physician Wellness Program, it provides confidential resources to help physicians navigate the emotional and mental toll of our profession.

To the younger generation of physicians, residents, and medical students, I offer this message: remain steadfast in your passion for medicine. You are the future of healthcare, and your commitment to patient care will shape the direction of our profession. Though the challenges may be great, the privilege of serving as a physician remains one of the most fulfilling callings one can answer. Hold onto your ideals, advocate for your patients, and never lose sight of the humanity that defines the art of healing.

As we celebrate National Doctor's Day in Miami-Dade County, let us reaffirm the relevance of medicine and the respect it deserves. Physicians are pillars of strength in our communities, dedicated to preserving and improving lives. Today, and every day, we honor their commitment, their sacrifices, and the invaluable role they play in our society.

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

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Ending Health Care Workplace Violence - for Good



BY MARY C. MAYHEW

April marks Workplace Violence Awareness Month, a cross-industry month to increase awareness and enhance advocacy to ensure workplaces are free from violence, whether verbal abuse, threatening behavior, or physical and/or sexual assault. For health care workers, whose work is healing work, the imperative for a violence-free workplace is particularly urgent.

Health care workers are five times more likely to experience workplace violence than employees in other industries. In the last two years alone, 40 percent of health care workers experienced a violent incident, according to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

Putting into action zero tolerance of violence against health care workers requires an all-hands-on-deck approach from the highest levels of hospital board leadership to the front lines. It also requires support from

policymakers. Florida's Senate Bill 568, passed in 2023 and now state law, is a strong example of legislative leadership and signals that violence against health care workers is absolutely and unequivocally unacceptable. SB 568 strengthens the criminal penalties against anyone perpetrating an assault on a health care worker anywhere in a hospital.

At the federal level, the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees Act was introduced in the previous Congress and quickly garnered 126 bipartisan co-sponsors, including seven from the Florida delegation. A landmark piece of legislation, it proposed providing federal protections, similar to those in place for airport and airline workers, to appropriately punish those perpetrating acts of violence against hospital workers. Continuing to advocate for its passage amid a crowded federal agenda is a priority for hospitals and health care professionals alike.

Both the state and federal policies are essential because they convey in no uncertain terms that violence against health care workers will not be tolerated. But the penalties they enshrine are after-the-fact; they are deployed after a violent incident, after a health care professional is harmed.

Hospitals themselves aren't waiting for those incidents to occur. They are working to prevent incidents of violence, and to be proactive to protect their staff from any threatening behaviors so that the violence never occurs in the first place.

The Joint Commission released workplace violence standards for TJC-accredited hospitals in 2022. Following guidelines from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the standards delineate the elements of a hospital workplace violence prevention program: 1) a clearly written workplace violence policy statement; 2) establishment of a threat assessment team; 3) worksite hazard assessments (annual security & workplace violence assessments); 4) workplace hazard control and prevention (security measures); 5) training and education; 6) incident reporting, investigation, follow-up and evaluation, and 8) recordkeeping.

These standards provide both an expectation and essential flexibility for hospitals to develop and deploy programs responsive to their communities and circumstances so that an inflexible, one-size-fits-all program is not mandated. From overt security measures, including lockdown procedures and the use of metal detectors, to de-escalation techniques and mandatory reporting, there is no single or uniform policy or procedure to prevent and respond to workplace violence.

We need comprehensive, holistic, and all-hands programs that are regularly improved and enhanced based on new data, research, and best practices.

One violent incident against a health care worker is one too many. A violent incident of any form should not go unpunished, but, more importantly, should be prevented. Florida's hospitals, from the largest of academic medical centers to the smallest of rural critical access hospitals, are investing in tools, personnel, policies and procedures, technologies, and whatever it takes to keep their most essential resource – their workforce – safe.

This workplace violence awareness month, we mourn those who lost their lives to workplace violence, grieve with those who suffered trauma from workplace violence, and pledge to make Florida hospitals the safest of workplaces for Florida's treasured health care workforce.

Mary C. Mayhew is president and CEO, Florida Hospital Association.

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Let's Connect:
ACHE of South Florida Spotlight



ACHE of South Florida Member Spotlight: Geness LeBron Bump

BY LOIS THOMSON

When Geness LeBron Bump was considering a career, she definitely had an idea in mind: "I have always had passion for leadership, I wanted to be in a place where I was able to make a big impact. Being here has allowed me to do so." "Here" is All Star Healthcare Solutions, a healthcare staffing firm launched in 2003 that places professionals into locum tenens as well as permanent assignments within healthcare organizations.

At All Star, LeBron Bump is manager of the Cardiology and Internal Medicine Subspecialty divisions. In this role, LeBron Bump utilizes tools and reports to analyze and develop team members. She works closely with her teams to help members achieve their professional development targets. She is in charge of conducting analysis on the production, financials, and market trends to identify quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year trends, and developing strategies for the team. She also works closely on market trend analysis to uncover areas of opportunities for the team and helps to drive the team toward accomplishing the annual business plan. She explained that she works with team members to help them grow individually and drive them toward adding value to clients and providers. "When our consultants come out of training, I try to help them get the best skillset and knowledge to serve our clients to the highest standard."

LeBron Bump said the best and most fulfilling part of her work is getting to work closely with team members and seeing the results of that work. She gave examples of when the team's hard work hit home, mentioning a severely understaffed hospital that was on the brink of closing its Oncology Service line. "We were able to come in and fill the need to allow them to keep doors open so those in that community who would have had to travel could continue to receive cancer care." Another client had a similar situation in an area that didn't have cardiology services that patients were able to access. "We were able to staff a physician to whom they offered a permanent position. We were able to provide a higher level of cardiology care in their community, so it's super rewarding to know we had a part in that."

This is actually LeBron Bump's second time around at All Star. She originally joined the firm in 2018, then left as a result of her move to Jupiter, and during her time up there, she worked with Tenet Healthcare in its Business



Geness LeBron Bump

Development Department. "When I stepped back into the workforce (in October 2023), after taking some time to care for my youngest daughter, I remembered the culture at All Star was so incredible. It's like a big family, and I wanted to be at a place where I could lead through core values that resonated with me and be at a place where the culture was great

and where it felt like I was making a big impact."

In addition to her work at All Star, LeBron Bump is a member of ACHE – the American College of Healthcare Executives – where she currently serves as sponsorship chair-elect. She learned about the organization from a professor while earning her MBA in healthcare administration, and to gain more insight, she approached a hospital CEO who was a member. "I asked him, 'I'm a student, and you're in an amazing role. Would you recommend it and why?'" He said it was important to put yourself in a place where you feel stretched, and you feel people have more expertise and knowledge than you do." LeBron Bump said she "took his advice to heart," and in 2017 she joined, volunteered, and showed up for every event.

She added that the experience has exceeded her expectations. "When I joined, I hoped to have the ability to extend my network, to stay up-to-date with healthcare changes, and to learn how to move forward in my career. I've made lifelong friends and I've gotten more out of it than I ever would have imagined."

As sponsorship chair-elect, LeBron Bump said her main goal is to connect sponsors on an individual level with members of the local ACHE chapter, and help both sides find ways to benefit from expanding their network. "I want to be able to connect our members with key relationships with some of our sponsors who are some of the biggest healthcare companies in the community – help foster these relationships where there's mutual benefit on both ends."

LeBron Bump highlighted the benefits of becoming a sponsor, saying ACHE is the "premiere healthcare organization for healthcare executives in South Florida, so we're giving some of these larger – and up-and-coming – healthcare companies the opportunity for exposure and to network with our leaders and vice versa. Being able to connect people within our South Florida healthcare community means a lot to me and I feel fortunate to volunteer in a role where I can help do so."

ImageFIRST Expands into Manhattan with New Sales Office



ImageFIRST®, the leading national provider of healthcare linen and laundry services, is proud to announce the opening of its new sales office in the heart of Manhattan, NY. This expansion strengthens ImageFIRST's commitment to delivering superior service and solutions to healthcare providers throughout New York City.

The state-of-the-art sales office is designed to support the company's continued growth, equipping its sales team with the necessary resources to drive success. With routes throughout New York City and two Territory Business Managers (TBMs) onboarded and a third actively being recruited, the company is strategically expanding its footprint to meet increasing demand in the region.

As part of its long-term vision, ImageFIRST is focused on expanding existing service routes and adding additional routes throughout the year to accommodate increasing demand from healthcare facilities in Manhattan and beyond.

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A message from our President

Harnessing Predictive AI: The Future of Personalized and Proactive Healthcare

In a recent article in *MedCity News* (March 21, 2025), their headline was “Quest Diagnostics Strikes Generative AI Partnership with Google Cloud”. Working with Google Cloud, the plan is to, “deliver new AI capabilities — including predictive population health analytics, customized physician results reporting and individualized patient engagement.” Artificial intelligence is here to stay so, let’s talk about predictive AI.

Predictive AI is poised to transform healthcare delivery by making it more proactive, personalized, and efficient. By analyzing vast amounts of patient data, AI can identify patterns and risk factors that enable early disease detection and prevention, allowing providers to intervene before conditions worsen.

What is, to me, most exciting is that this capability extends to chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer, where early warnings can lead to lifestyle modifications or medical interventions that significantly improve patient outcomes. AI-driven insights will also personalize treatment plans by tailoring therapies based on a patient’s genetics, medical history, and lifestyle, reducing trial-and-error prescribing and improving the effectiveness of treatments, particularly in fields like oncology and precision medicine.

Beyond individual patient care, predictive AI will enhance hospital and healthcare system operations. It can forecast patient admission rates, optimize resource allocation, and prevent bottlenecks in emergency departments by anticipating demand.



Jaime Caldwell

Additionally, AI can reduce hospital readmissions by identifying patients at higher risk for complications after discharge and recommending timely follow-ups or home care interventions. In diagnostics, AI-powered tools will assist radiologists and pathologists in detecting abnormalities in medical imaging with higher accuracy and speed, reducing diagnostic errors and improving early detection of conditions such as cancer and neurological disorders.

On a broader scale, predictive AI can monitor public health trends to forecast disease outbreaks and guide interventions, as seen in COVID-19 surveillance and response efforts. It can also automate administrative tasks, such as appointment scheduling, insurance processing, and medical coding, alleviating the burden on healthcare staff and allowing them to focus more on patient care.

However, as AI becomes increasingly integrated into healthcare, challenges such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and regulatory oversight must be carefully managed to ensure ethical and equitable implementation. Ultimately, predictive AI will shift healthcare from a reactive model to a proactive, data-driven system that improves patient outcomes while optimizing the efficiency of healthcare delivery.

To learn more about AI in healthcare, the SFHHA is hosting an educational program on April 17 at the Renaissance Fort Lauderdale. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Severance MacLaughlin, Founder and CEO, Delorean AI. You can find out more by going to <https://www.sfhha.com/events-page/#!event/2025/4/17/ai-in-healthcare-keynote-by-delorean-ai>.

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The Role of Black Box Analysis in Healthcare Decision-Making

BY SABINA KOTELNIK

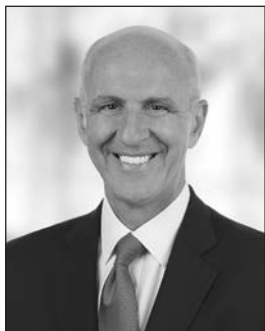
In pursuit of improved financial performance and stability, many healthcare organizations are exploring clinical alignment or integration deals to strengthen their financial foundations.

For these strategies to succeed, however, organizations need access to the right data and information to make informed business decisions. Otherwise, their efforts to strengthen or grow their businesses could fall short, resulting in disruptions to care in their communities and financial losses.

Black box data analysis is a key component of successful healthcare deals and partnerships that can help healthcare leaders ensure physician-organization alignment.



Sabina Kotelnik



Angelo Pirozzi

It's important that the analysis provides detailed information to support decision-making without violating the confidentiality of the information from each entity. Different firms take different approaches to providing this information while protecting confidentiality.

At BDO, we take the following approach when conducting black box analyses:

1. Productivity Analysis: We begin by analyzing specialty-specific productivity against industry benchmarks and comparing current provider productivity with performance standards for the acquiring entity.

2. Reimbursement Analysis: The second step is to carry out a comparative analysis of reimbursement

differences using contracted rates from each entity.

3. Compensation Analysis: At this stage, we analyze provider compensation models from each entity.

4. Data Modeling: The final step is to model data to evaluate the differences in reimbursement and compensation based on potential changes in productivity levels. By sharing the aggregate differences in reimbursement, compensation, and productivity, we can provide an in-depth analysis while maintaining the confidentiality of key financial information for each entity.

Do you need black box analysis?

If your organization is planning a deal, transaction, or partnership, you may benefit from black box analysis. Reach out to our team to learn how black box analysis can help you make the right decisions for your organization.

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Climate Scientist Faces New Challenge: A Large Brain Tumor

As a former snow and ice scientist in the cryospheric sciences laboratory at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Dorothy Hall studied climate change in cold regions. Her profession took her on numerous field expeditions in the northern U.S., Canada and the Arctic.

But in May 2024, Dorothy faced an unexpected journey when she was diagnosed with a large brain tumor. In addition to constant headaches, Dorothy experienced difficulty with walking, feeling unsteady and was dizzy at times. In recent months, her appetite and energy level had suffered as well.

Dorothy saw an ear, nose and throat specialist believing she may have a sinus condition. From there, she was referred to a neurologist who ordered an MRI. Upon reviewing the MRI results, the neurologist told Dorothy she needed to go straight to the nearest emergency room.

When Dorothy arrived at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital, she was seen by Hamid Borghei-Razavi, M.D., Neurosurgeon and Director of the Brain Tumor and Pituitary Center. Dr. Razavi delivered concerning news: Dorothy had a large meningioma, a common benign tumor of the brain.

"This was an emergency situation because Dorothy also had hydrocephalus, an accumulation of fluid on the brain due to the tumor," Dr. Razavi says. "The tumor was obstructing the fluid connections in the brain."

Disbelief fades to euphoria and gratitude

Dorothy was in a state of disbelief. "I'd never heard about meningiomas before this," she says. "I thought I'd have time to go home and study about it to learn more."

Instead, Dorothy was admitted to the hospital in order to have the advanced tumor removed as soon as possible.

"Most meningiomas are slow growing and we follow the patient closely over time," says Dr. Razavi. "In Dorothy's case, her tumor was large and symptomatic. It was critical to remove the brain tumor so we could improve her symptoms and quality of life."



Dorothy Hall (right) is grateful for the expert care of neurosurgeon Dr. Hamid Borghei-Razavi and the team at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital.

Following a small craniotomy (a surgical procedure that involves removing a portion of the skull to access the brain), Dorothy woke up feeling like a new person.

"It was a feeling I can't describe," she says. "I was euphoric at the outcome and very grateful for the competence and caring of Dr. Razavi and his team. All of my symptoms were gone and I recovered from the surgery quickly. My brain felt much clearer and my energy came back."

Before long, Dorothy returned to her daily routines, taking long walks every morning and evening without any problems.

"Dorothy has a very good prognosis," says Dr. Razavi. "We were able to completely remove the tumor and improve her fine motor function, controlling by her cerebellum which was under severe pressure by tumor."

"My brain felt much clearer and my energy came back," Dorothy says.

Dr. Razavi stresses the importance of taking chronic headaches seriously. "If they are constant, affect your quality of life or wake you up at night, then you need to see your physician," he says. "While meningiomas are commonly benign, once they start to grow, they might become symptomatic and can cause seizures, behavioral and cognitive changes and other deficits."

Dorothy is thrilled with the outcome, to be able to live a full life again. "I am very grateful for what Dr. Borghei-Razavi and his team have done for me."

What is black box analysis?

Black box analysis refers to an independent and confidential third-party comparison of two or more healthcare organization's reimbursement, productivity and compensation models.

This analysis is commonly used when health systems, academic medical centers, faculty practice plans, and medical groups are evaluating strategic physician-organization alignment models. It's a crucial part of due diligence, practice valuation, funds flow modeling, and strategic planning that supports growth and expansion strategies and tactics. Some of the activities black box analysis supports include:

- Acquisitions and divestitures
- Design of network development strategies
- Development of community practice and private practice network models

How does black box analysis work?

A black box analysis is based on information that is usually confidential from each entity evaluating a transaction. Examples of confidential information commonly used in these analyses include:

- Reimbursement rates
- Provider compensation models
- Productivity targets

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Cover Story: The Power of Organ Donation

Continued from page 1

ness efforts. Similarly, recipients and their families often promote organ donation as an expression of gratitude for the life-saving gift they received.

Jackson emphasizes that one person's decision to donate can save multiple lives and improve even more through tissue donation. As an administrator and educator, he finds fulfillment in sharing this message with students, many of whom pursue careers in transplantation.

Dispelling Myths and Breaking Barriers

Despite the life-saving potential of organ donation, misconceptions and barriers continue to prevent many from becoming registered donors. One of the most persistent myths is the fear that doctors will not work as hard to save a registered organ donor's life.

"This couldn't be further from the truth," Jackson explains. "Medical teams are committed to saving every patient's life, and organ donation is only considered after every life-saving measure has been exhausted."

Religious and cultural misunderstandings also pose challenges. While many major religions support organ donation as an act of compassion, some individuals remain uncertain about its alignment with their faith. Jackson believes that engaging faith leaders and facilitating discussions within diverse communities can help dispel myths and promote informed decision-making.

Education is key, and storytelling plays a pivotal role.

"Sharing real-life stories of donors and recipients humanizes the process and helps people understand the lasting impact of donation," he says.

Enhancing Support from Healthcare Professionals

Healthcare professionals play a pivotal role in supporting organ and tissue donation efforts. In the case of living donation, they serve as educators, advocates, and caregivers, guiding donors and recipients through the process.

"Recipients of living donor kidneys have better survival rates, shorter wait times, and a lower risk of organ rejection," Jackson notes. "It's vital that healthcare providers effectively communicate these benefits."

Increased education and communication can empower potential donors and their families to make informed choices. Professionals can encourage more individuals to consider this life-saving option by emphasizing the improved outcomes associated with living donation.

Success Stories That Inspire

Jackson highlighted a particularly moving transplant story involving a former Miami Hurricanes football player who donated a kidney to his longtime friend and teammate.

"Both of these gentlemen were good friends of mine during undergrad," he shares, underscoring the personal connections that often drive people to give the ultimate gift. (The full story can be read at jacksonhealth.org/former-miami-hurricanes-football-player-donates-kidney-to-longtime-friend-and-teammate.)

Addressing Challenges in Organ Donation

While organ transplantation continues to advance, ethical and logistical challenges remain. Jackson identified several key concerns:

Equitable Organ Distribution: While the organ allocation system prioritizes factors like medical urgency and compatibility, disparities persist due to socioeconomic status, healthcare access, and geographic proximity to transplant centers.

Informed Consent and Ethical Considerations: The U.S. follows an opt-in system,

requiring individuals to proactively register as organ donors. Some nations use an opt-out system, raising debates on whether such a shift in policy could increase donation rates.

Financial Barriers for Living Donors: Living donors face potential financial burdens, including medical expenses and lost wages. While direct financial incentives for organ donation remain illegal in the U.S., discussions continue on ethical ways to support donors, such as reimbursing expenses.

Organ Viability and Transportation: Transporting organs within strict time constraints poses logistical hurdles. "Organs have short viability windows, making coordination crucial," Jackson said. "Delays due to flight availability, weather, or miscommunication can result in lost opportunities."

Advancements like normothermic perfusion, which keeps organs functioning outside the body, are helping to extend viability, allowing for improved matching and broader distribution.

The Future of Organ Transplantation

The future of transplantation holds exciting possibilities, with innovations in artificial organs, gene editing, and xenotransplantation leading the way.

Artificial Organs: Developments in 3D bioprinting and bioartificial organs could reduce reliance on human donors by creating functional organs in laboratories.

Gene Editing and Stem Cell Therapy: Advances in genetic engineering could allow for the correction of genetic defects, potentially preventing organ failure altogether.

Xenotransplantation: The transplantation of organs from animals, particularly pigs, into humans has gained significant traction.

"Pig organs closely resemble human organs in size and function," Jackson explains. "At the Miami Transplant Institute, we are committed to advancing xenotransplantation research to address the ongoing organ scarcity crisis."

A Commitment to Saving Lives

As an advocate, administrator, and educator, Jackson remains steadfast in increasing awareness and improving access to organ transplantation. His work at the Miami Transplant Institute continues to drive innovation and expand opportunities for those in need.

"Organ donation is one of the most selfless acts a person can make," Jackson says. "By educating communities, dispelling myths, and embracing new medical advancements, we can save more lives and offer hope to countless individuals and families."

The message is clear for those considering organ donation: one decision can create a lasting legacy and offer the gift of life.

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Cover Story: Tampa General Uses Technology to Broaden Scope of Viable Organ Donations

Continued from page 1

of the most efficient transplant timelines in the country and in Florida, according to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients. Along with ensuring that patients receive proper care, the hospital is harnessing technology for the swift transport of organ donations to increase the likelihood of a successful transplant.

For example, in 2022, Tampa General adopted the use of organ perfusion technology, which allows donor organs to function outside the body in a machine while being continuously supplied with oxygen and nutrients. This cutting-edge approach not only preserves organs for longer periods but also enables medical teams to assess and improve organ function. In many cases, perfusion technology allows Tampa General to rehabilitate organs that otherwise would not have been viable for transplant, making them suitable for recipients. By leveraging this innovation, the hospital can retrieve organs from a wider geographical area, expand access to lifesaving transplants and take on some of the most complex cases. As a result, Tampa General has shortened patient wait times and enhanced quality transplant outcomes.

Specifically, Tampa General began using the OrganOx metra device for livers, performing more than 400 perfusion transplants to date. As a result, the liver transplant

program has seen a 33% increase in transplants from calendar year 2023 to 2024.

"This technology allows us to bring lifesaving liver transplants to patients who otherwise would suffer from their disease while waiting for an available organ," said Dr. Kiran Dhanireddy, vice president and chief of the TGH Transplant Institute. "It's also enabled us to innovate throughout all our solid organ programs. We're now recognized as international thought leaders in liver normothermic machine perfusion."

Access to complex care on Florida's East Coast

Since 2020, Tampa General has established a growing network of state-of-the-art services in the Palm Beaches and on the Treasure Coast, with convenient access to complex care in Tampa, when needed. Practices such as TGH Advanced Kidney Care and TGH Digestive Health Center often refer patients to Tampa General for transplants, while offering local presurgical and postsurgical care. In addition, TGH Digestive Health Center's Dr. Sonja K. Olsen is Palm Beach and Martin counties' only transplant hepatologist.

For more information about the TGH Transplant Institute, visit TGH.org/Transplant.



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Golden Heart Luncheon Celebrates Barbara Nicklaus and Raises Over \$1.1 Million for Children's Health Care

Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation raised more than \$1.1 million, a new record, for world-class pediatric care during its annual Golden Heart Luncheon. Held at The Country Club at Mirasol on February 28, the luncheon honored Barbara Nicklaus on her 85th birthday.

The sold-out event was filled with surprises and touching moments at every turn. Marie Osmond, singer-actress and co-founder of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, gave a heartfelt and inspiring speech. Christian Guardino, a Children's Miracle Network "Miracle Patient," a semifinalist on America's Got Talent, and a top contender on American Idol, delivered a soulful performance of several songs.

In a touching moment, Zachary "Lucky" DeTray, a former patient of the Nicklaus Children's Hospital, made a special appearance for his dear friend Barbara. The afternoon concluded with a surprise birthday cake and happy birthday wishes from friends, family members, and her husband, Jack Nicklaus.

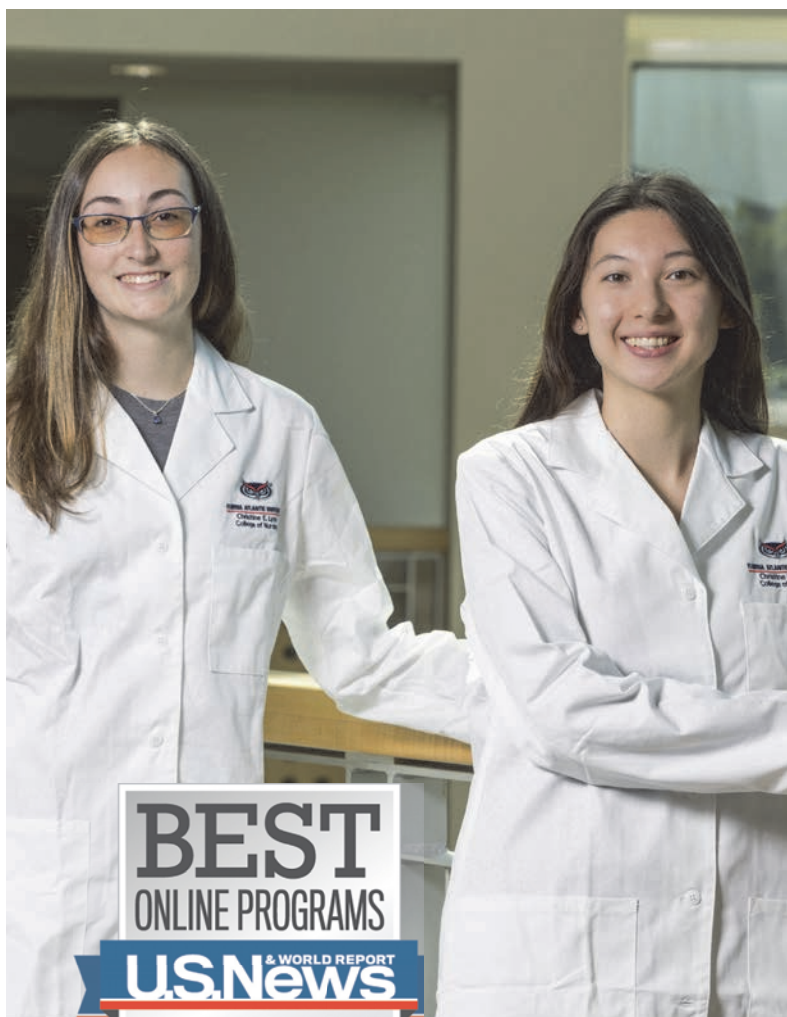
Jack and Barbara Nicklaus founded the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation in 2004. It was founded in an effort to provide families access to the best level of pediatric health care in Palm Beach County and beyond. Raising \$216 million to date, the Foundation supports Nicklaus Children's Hospital, which has helped children from every state in the union and 119 countries. The Foundation also gives back to many other children's health care organizations across the country and around the world.



(l-r) Jack Nicklaus, Marie Osmond, Barbara Nicklaus



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

Janine M. Boylan Named Executive Director of Development and Major Gifts for Tampa General Hospital Foundation

Seasoned fundraising professional and Palm Beach Gardens native Janine M. Boylan has joined the Tampa General Hospital Foundation as executive director of development and major gifts.

Boylan comes to Tampa General after a successful 14-year run at the Jupiter Medical Center Foundation. She most recently served as its director of donor relations, helping to raise \$300 million for the hospital's capital campaign. Additionally, she was instrumental in developing the foundation's donor relations program that emphasized cultivating meaningful, impactful relationships.

Boylan earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business and hospitality management from Florida State University and started her career in the food and beverage industry in Orlando, rising to the top of her field. With a desire to return to the Palm Beaches, she began consulting in the area and eventually moved back, where she transitioned to nonprofit fundraising.



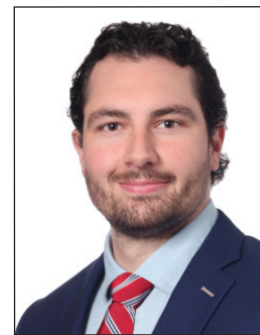
Janine M. Boylan

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

HCA Florida JFK Hospital is proud to announce the promotion of Brandon Barrett to the position of assistant chief financial officer.

Brandon has been an integral part of the hospital's finance team since June 2024, serving as controller at HCA Florida JFK Hospital. Prior to that, he was assistant controller at HCA Florida Lawnwood Hospital in Ft. Pierce for nearly two years. His career with HCA Healthcare began five years ago when he joined the Physician Services Group in Nashville, Tennessee, where he held multiple accounting roles that laid the foundation for his leadership in financial management.

Brandon holds a bachelor of science in finance from Florida State University's College of Business. In addition to his strong financial background, he brings the discipline and teamwork he developed as a former linebacker/defensive end for the Florida State Seminoles Football Team.



Brandon Barrett

Broward Health North Welcomes Michael A. Cornehl as New Chief Financial Officer

Broward Health North is pleased to announce Michael A. Cornehl has been named the hospital's new chief financial officer (CFO). Cornehl most recently served as CFO at Reston Hospital Center, part of HCA Healthcare, in Fairfax County, VA. His previous experience also includes serving as assistant chief finance officer at HCA Florida JFK Hospital in Palm Beach County and HCA Florida Lawnwood Hospital in Fort Pierce, FL.

Cornehl earned a master's degree in health education & behavior from the University of Florida in Gainesville and an MBA in complex health systems from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. He holds bachelor's degrees in human biology and in business administration from the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay and is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Michael A. Cornehl

Broward Health President and CEO Shane Strum Honored as a Great Healthcare Leader

Broward Health is pleased to announce that its President and CEO Shane Strum has been recognized as a top healthcare leader in the prestigious Becker's Hospital Review. This accolade highlights Strum's exceptional leadership in steering one of the nation's 10 largest public healthcare systems, comprising five hospitals and more than 50 locations, supported by an 11,000-member workforce.

Under Strum's visionary guidance, Broward Health has achieved remarkable financial milestones, including a substantial 50% increase in net operating revenue. These achievements have been complemented by improved credit ratings from Fitch, Moody's and S&P, underscoring the financial stability and growth of the organization.

Strum has also been instrumental in expanding critical services, notably in cardiology, and has successfully launched new residency programs. He has forged strategic partnerships with Florida Atlantic University and the University of Florida with the goal of introducing academic medicine to the county, enhancing the quality of care and educational opportunities in our community.

In Fall 2024, Strum broadened the scope of his responsibility by also assuming the role of Interim CEO for Memorial Healthcare System in Hollywood, Florida, while remaining the CEO of Broward Health.

In short time, he worked with the South Broward Hospital District Board of Commissioners to approve and begin construction of two new freestanding emergency departments and launch a collaborative initiative with Broward Health called Better Together that will create new brick and mortar, mobile and virtual care opportunities for primary and maternal care across health deserts in Broward County. Better Together has quickly received national attention from hospital systems and trade associations as a model that could be replicated elsewhere to mitigate gaps in care and enhance patient outcomes for communities impacted by health disparities.



Shane Strum

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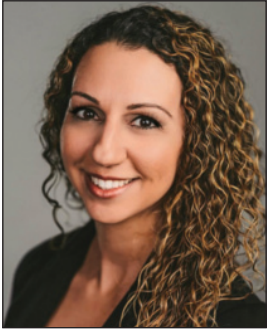
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Autism... Autism... Autism...

Hospitals and Health Care Facilities Can Lead the Way for Workplace Inclusion



BY JENNIFER SAINT LOUIS, PHD

Autism Awareness Month in April is an opportunity to shine a light on the contributions of hospitals and other health care facilities that are leading the way for workforce inclusion. In partnership with organizations like Arc Broward, they are opening doors to meaningful careers for individuals with autism and other disabilities. At the same time, there are almost limitless untapped opportunities for health care workplaces to solve critical shortages and diversify their workforce by opening their minds to employing adults with intellectual disabilities who have much to contribute.

Through its Workforce Services Division, Arc Broward has been fostering inclusive workplaces by providing high-quality education and intensive workforce supports, ensuring that individuals with disabilities and other life challenges can thrive on career paths that promote self-

sufficiency. From post-secondary certificate programs that provide career training and credentialing for animal care, culinary arts, and material handling to the School of Hire, which prepares eligible students ages 18 to 22 for a career after high school, both job seekers and employers stand to benefit from the range of programs and services currently available.

With an anticipated September launch, Arc Broward's newest post-secondary certificate will focus specifically on health care operations in response to the industry's critical need for trained employees across a variety of roles. Students already are earning entry-level culinary arts and material handling certificates that make them well-suited to fill food service and distribution roles in a variety of workplace settings.

Curriculum and training for the health care operations certificate program is carefully designed to address some of the most pressing employment needs for which program participants are a good match including: dietary and nutrition aides, food porters, café workers, cashiers and other food service roles; supply chain and material distribution. Additionally, environmental services education will train workers to properly clean and sanitize health care spaces. Students will also be trained for patient experience roles at hospital and assisted living facilities, including wheelchair transi-

tioning, customer service and clerical work using basic office software. They will get trained in CPR/AED and first aid to be able to respond in emergency situations, if necessary.

Past experiences have shown that program graduates shine in health care settings and are appreciated and valued by Arc Broward's partners. Arc Broward is fortunate to have health care partners who understand the mutual benefits of inclusive hiring. Memorial Healthcare System, which serves as an important training site for School of Hire students, was recognized as the 2024 Transition Program Training Site of the Year for providing School of Hire students with valuable exposure to health care careers. Broward Health and HCA will join Memorial to host students for externships as part of the new certificate program later this year.

There are a variety of ways in which health care employers can engage with Arc Broward's Workforce Services, from providing site visits and tours for students across programs to serving as externship sites for certificate program students, providing community-based instruction for the School of Hire, hiring Arc Works job seekers and more. Another way to get involved is to join other business leaders in identifying synergies between employers and graduates as a member of the Arc Works Business Advisory Council.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities represent a largely untapped pool of talent that can drive innovation, enhance productivity and strengthen workplace culture. Yet, misconceptions persist that hiring people with disabilities is costly or burdensome. In reality, the opposite is true – creating inclusive workplaces benefits individuals as well as the businesses and communities they serve. Working together, we can foster meaningful collaboration between South Florida's health care employers and Arc Broward's Workforce Services to lead to a better understanding of the mutual benefits of a diverse workforce that includes individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Jennifer Saint Louis, vice president, workforce services for Arc Broward, can be reached at jsaintlouis@arcbroward.com. For general information about Arc Broward's Workforce Services please call (954) 746-9400 or visit <https://arcbroward.com/arc-works-employer/>.



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Autism...

South Florida's Only Hospital-Based Adult Autism Clinic Champions Awareness and Specialized Care

BY KARINA WENSJOE

In 2017, the CDC found that an estimated 2.21% of adults in the United States have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In that same year, Mount Sinai Medical Center became the first hospital in South Florida to establish a sensory-friendly clinic dedicated to the needs of adults with autism. Fast forward to today, the clinic has seen remarkable growth and now serves many more patients. By providing a multidisciplinary approach, the Adult Autism Clinic works alongside primary care physicians and other specialists to treat individuals across the autism spectrum.

With many of the healthcare professionals at the clinic having trained with the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), the team's extensive experience in the field of autism care plays a pivotal role in enhancing the level of care Mount Sinai offers to its patients. Patients appreciate the clinic because they feel they are treated with patience and comprehensive care.

What sets the Adult Autism Clinic apart is its integrative model of care, which addresses not only the behavioral and mental health aspects of autism but also the physical health needs of patients. Led by board-certified internal medicine physician Dr. Elizabeth Kury-Perez and psychiatrist Dr. Yanko Enamorado from Mount Sinai's Behavioral Health Department, the clinic offers patients access to a diverse team of specialists, including cardiologists, gastroenterologists, and neurologists, and other subspecialties. The Adult Autism Clinic provides each patient aged 18 and older a well-rounded, individualized care plan that takes into account their unique needs.

Additionally, the clinic's close collaboration with Mount Sinai's Emergency Center and inpatient psychiatric teams allows patients in need inpatient care—whether due to a mental health crisis or other urgent medical concerns—to seamlessly transition between outpatient and inpatient care services.

The clinic offers an array of services



Dr. Elizabeth Kury-Perez

designed to support patients in all aspects of their lives. This includes referrals to community-based therapists who specialize in adult autism, medication management, mental health assessments, diagnostic screenings, and lab work. In recognizing the varied needs of adults with autism, the clinic tailors its services to accommodate everyone, from verbal to non-verbal patients. Plus, by fostering a calm, welcoming

environment, patients have ample time to settle before their appointments.

For follow-up appointments, patients receive 45-minute time slots, while new patients are allotted an hour and a half for initial evaluations. These patients need to have some awareness and preparation beforehand; otherwise, they may become anxious. This thoughtful approach not only supports the patients but also helps build rapport between them and their care teams.

While patient care remains the Adult Autism Clinic's top priority, Mount Sinai recognizes that the impact of autism extends to families. Supporting loved ones in their caregiving roles, the clinic offers comprehensive care management and resource support, empowering families to navigate the complexities of autism.

Although the clinic is based in South Florida, its influence stretches far beyond the region. Patients from Central Florida and beyond travel to Miami Beach, seeking the clinic's specialized services that are not readily available elsewhere.

As the Adult Autism Clinic continues to expand its patient-base, its impact speaks to a broader societal shift toward understanding and addressing the needs of adults with autism. Mount Sinai hopes to inspire others by remaining at forefront of this sector of healthcare, ensuring that those with autism receive not only the care they need but also the recognition and respect they deserve.

To learn more about Mount Sinai's Adult Autism Clinic, please visit https://www.msmc.com/medical_care/adult-autism-clinic/.



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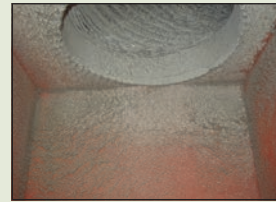
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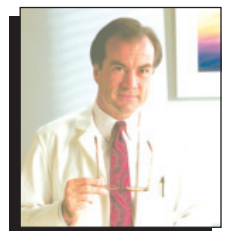


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Only 1 in 3 adults in the United States have a written advance directive¹.

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Apply this six-step communication framework to get the conversation started.

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Advance Care Planning Conversations



S

Setting
Choose a private, comfortable,
non-threatening setting



P

Perception
Uncover what patient & family think
is happening



I

Invitation
Ask patient what they would like to know



K

Knowledge
Explain disease and care options in
plain language



E

Emotion
Respect feelings, respond with empathy



S

Summarize
Recap and decide what's next

Source: Baile, W. F., Buckman, R., Lenzi, R., Glober, G., Beale, E. A., & Kudelka, A. P. (2000). SPIKES—a six-step protocol for delivering bad news: application to the patient with cancer. *The oncologist*, 5(4), 302-311.

¹ American Medical Association. Why talk to patients about advance directives? AMA Ed Hub. Retrieved from: <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/pages/why-talk-to-patients-about-advance-directives>

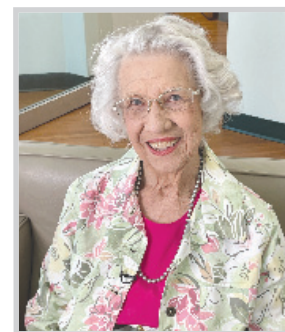
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Salute to Volunteers

HOLY CROSS HEALTH

Jean Ready, BSN, RN



Jean Ready, BSN, RN, began volunteering at Holy Cross Health in 2000. This was three years after the Department of Community Outreach was developed and Ready saw the need to create a support group for post-open heart surgery patients. She became the founder and president of the Mended Hearts Chapter at Holy Cross. Additionally, she provided the Department of Community Outreach with administrative and clerical services and continues to offer weekly volunteer services to her outreach family. She is reliable, punctual and precise. As one of the few individuals who knew Sr. Innocent Hughes and worked alongside the Sisters of Mercy, Ready also serves as a historian. She enjoys being active in her church and finds purpose by serving as a Faith Community Nurse.

Ready's history with Holy Cross dates back to the 1950s when she was hired as a nurse by Sr. Innocent. Her roles included working as a circulating nurse in the operating room and Director of Hospital Education, where she trained medical assistants. After enjoying an early retirement for one year, Sr. Margaret Bosse invited Ready to return on a part-time basis to create a healthy habit program, training thousands of preschool students and their care providers and teachers from 1990-2000. Ready graduated from Providence School of Nursing and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Miami.

JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER

Carolyn Obst



After leaving nursing school, Carolyn worked in a Philadelphia hospital, teaching and training nursing aides – a role that deepened her passion for caring for others. She then stepped away to raise her two wonderful children before finding joy in the jewelry industry, helping people choose treasures that hold special meaning. That same love of connection makes volunteering at the Thrift Shop's jewelry department so fulfilling today. Along the way, she also volunteered with Meals on Wheels, delivering not just meals but kindness and companionship. Each chapter of her journey has been about service, love and bringing a little light into people's lives.

In addition to the Jupiter Medical Center Thrift Shop, Carolyn volunteers in the Surgical Lounge, GI waiting room and the Volunteer Escort Desk. She has accumulated over 5,770 hours of service.

Karen Koski



Karen grew up in the Greater Boston area where she was taught the importance of helping others in need. After moving to Florida, she enjoyed feeding the homeless, volunteering for The Department of Children and Families in West Palm Beach, teaching Sunday School Classes to the inner-city children and assisting in music therapy for children and adults on the Autism Spectrum.

Karen began volunteering at Jupiter Medical Center in October of 2022, after her husband went through heart surgery at Jupiter Medical Center. When Karen arrived at the hospital to visit her husband, she was greeted by the kindest and most helpful volunteer greeters. Once her husband was fully healed, she knew it was time to give back to Jupiter Medical Center as a volunteer.

Karen volunteers in the Surgical Lounge; she is always willing to help out additional days as needed. She also serves on the Hospitality Committee and the Nominating Committee. She enjoys helping ease the stress of the patients and family members by assisting them in any way possible. Karen always says she is more blessed by helping the patients and family members.



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Salute to Volunteers

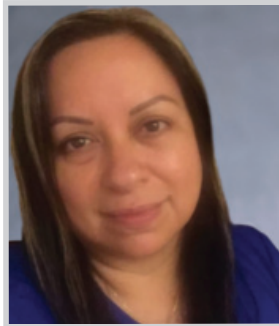
VITAS® HEALTHCARE, PALM BEACH

Amelia Carolina Sanchez-Norem

Amelia Carolina Sanchez-Norem has been a VITAS volunteer for nearly a year. As a proactive caller, she provides patients and their caregivers with schedule updates and ensures they receive the supplies they need.

Her former college professor, who was also a gerontologist, inspired her interest in the challenges seniors face in the community and the gaps in services they will experience as the U.S. population ages.

"My role as a proactive caller goes beyond a weekly call," she says. "I become the patient's voice to seek very much needed services."



Rob Carey

As a U.S. veteran of Vietnam combat, Rob Carey knows what it's like to serve on behalf of others. Since 2010, Rob has volunteered with VITAS, first in Texas and later in Florida.

From speaking engagements to in-service education to patient visits, Rob volunteers in many capacities. He now conducts interviews to assemble life biographies for hospice patients. As an ordained minister, he also responds with spiritual care.

"Telling them how much I appreciate them can make all the difference," he says. "I have met so many wonderful people—sharing laughter, tears, and loving them right where they are."



VITAS® HEALTHCARE, DADE

Shannon Harvey

Shannon Harvey, an attorney and web series creator, joined our volunteer team in 2014. Her personal loss and spiritual beliefs, inspired by Buddhist faith, motivates her.

Shannon wasn't at her mother's bedside when she died because she didn't realize the severity of her condition. The experience left her with a void, one she's filling as a volunteer. Shannon visits and provides support to patients in nursing homes. She notes that although volunteering can be emotionally challenging, it's worth it.

"The honor I feel being a part of their end-of life care always overpowers the sorrow," she says.

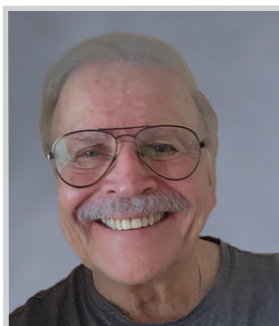


Theodore Janas

Theodore Janas, a cantor and choir/music director at Visitation Catholic Church in Miami, recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary as a member of the VITAS volunteer team. Like many volunteers, it was his personal experience with hospice that inspired his involvement.

"I was impressed with the care that VITAS provided my mom and the reassurance they provided me during a really difficult time," he says.

So, it's only natural that his goal now as a volunteer specializing in bereavement calls is to pay it forward - and bring comfort to patients and caregivers whose circumstances he knows well.



VITAS® HEALTHCARE, BROWARD COUNTY

Rosemary Blumberg

Rosemary Blumberg, a certified therapeutic recreation specialist and registered horticulture therapist, joined the VITAS volunteer team in 2022.

As part of the VITAS Paw Pals Program, Rosemary visits patients in assisted living facilities with her therapy dog, Toby. Pet visits can help improve mood, reduce pain and anxiety, and serve as a comforting reminder of home. The benefits often extend to the caregiver as well.

"I've always been drawn to the geriatric community and thoroughly enjoy sharing Toby with the elderly," she says. "It's so rewarding to see their smiles as they remember the dogs they've loved in the past."



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Salute to Nurses & Hospitals

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Salute to Volunteers

BROWARD HEALTH CORAL SPRINGS

Norman Parks

Norman Parks is a dedicated volunteer at Broward Health Coral Springs, marking his second year in his role as president of the Broward Health Coral Springs Auxiliary and boasting a decade of volunteer experience overall. Since retiring in 1998 from a 36-year career at Motorola, where he served as the director for international operations, Parks has immersed himself in giving back to the community.

"My journey into volunteering began after being impressed by the exceptional care my wife Bonnie received, following her stroke in 2015," Parks said. "This experience motivated me to apply to volunteer at the hospital immediately."

Parks' passion for service extends beyond healthcare; he has served on the board of directors for volunteers and was elected president, reflecting his leadership skills. At 85, he remains active and always tries to find ways to help others. A native Floridian and a Navy veteran, Parks loves flying alongside his pilot wife. He believes true volunteering requires selflessness and finds joy in helping others every day.



Gloria Rzeczycki

Gloria Rzeczycki, 79, has become a vital part of the gift shop at Broward Health Coral Springs, where she has volunteered for the past two and a half years. Her journey began when she met a volunteer office staff member, while waiting for her granddaughter after school and was inspired to join the volunteer team.

With over 23 years of experience as a store manager and training manager at Marshall's, Gloria brought a wealth of retail knowledge to her role. "Volunteering for this job has been very fulfilling," said Rzeczycki. "The staff at the hospital and volunteer office have made my experience very rewarding."

Gloria has transformed the shop into a welcoming space that offers comfort and joy to patients and families. Her commitment to service and her warm personality makes her a cherished member of the Broward Health Coral Springs community.



BROWARD HEALTH NORTH

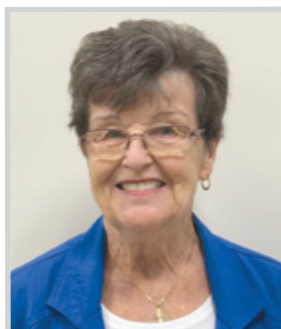
Barbara Etsy

Barbara Etsy, a Lighthouse Point resident and retiree originally from Maine, has generously given her time serving as a volunteer at Broward Health North for the past 19 years.

"I began volunteering because I wanted to keep active and help people," Etsy said. "I just enjoy helping out."

Over the years, Etsy has worked at various places in the hospital. She currently serves as a patient escort two days a week, helping those who come to the hospital for outpatient services like mammograms to reach the departments they are visiting. She also assists with putting patient information kits together.

Before retiring and moving to Florida, Etsy and her husband owned a 48-unit apartment complex in Maine, which she helped manage. Today, in addition to volunteering, Etsy enjoys playing dominoes and bingo.



Rose Marie Perdiletto

Deerfield Beach resident Rose Marie Perdiletto first started volunteering at Broward Health North when she was only living in South Florida for part of the year. At the suggestion of a neighbor, she attended a volunteer orientation meeting.

"It sounded like a good way to spend your time and to meet people," said Perdiletto.

She found she liked it, and 14 years later, she is still volunteering and enjoys helping the patients, visitors and staff.

She currently volunteers two days a week, serving as a patient escort for people who are being admitted for inpatient services and puts patient information folders together.

Originally from upstate New York, she became a permanent Florida resident in 2012. In addition to volunteering at the hospital, she enjoys going to bingo two days a week, where she serves as a caller most of the time.



BROWARD HEALTH IMPERIAL POINT

Sue Travis

Dog lover Sue Travis has a passion for bringing her pooch to spread cheer to patients, visitors and staff at Broward Health Imperial Point.

Thirteen years ago, after seeing how much visits with therapy dogs meant to her mother, who had Alzheimer's, she took her first therapy dog for certification with the Humane Society of Broward County.

"Some days, when she couldn't remember the names of family members, she could remember the names of those two little dogs," said Travis.

Today, she visits Broward Health Imperial Point every Wednesday with a golden retriever named Buddy. Her second dog, Ricky, is an education therapy dog who joins Buddy for work with other organizations, including children's camps.

"I always say visiting the hospital is my therapy. I always leave the hospital smiling," said Travis. "Focusing on the dogs, patients and staff is a nice mental break and it's great to do something nice for others."



John Graziano

For more than eight years, John Graziano has been a volunteer at Broward Health Imperial Point, where he's assisted with a variety of tasks such as welcoming visitors and new patients and helping nursing staff with tasks related to patient discharge. He also serves as a commissioner for the town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.

When asked about his community involvement during retirement, Graziano said he made a commitment to himself to be helpful to others.

Before moving to Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Graziano worked for the New York state government and founded a national association business his son runs today.

He has been married for 58 years and has three children, one who recently relocated to South Florida, and nine grandchildren.



BROWARD HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER

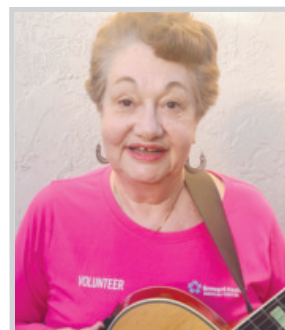
Mindy Lofgren

Philadelphia native Mindy Lofgren is a retired music teacher who has been volunteering at Broward Health Medical Center since January 2024. Lofgren volunteers twice a week, with one day always spent on the pediatric hematology-oncology inpatient unit, where she plays board games, paints or plays cards with kids.

"I love spreading joy around the hospital," Lofgren said. "Some patients are in their rooms for days, and it's rewarding to help them get a little distracted."

The Margate resident also volunteers in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of the hospital, where she is part of the cuddler program.

"Physical touch is crucial for NICU babies," said Lofgren. "I also engage with our tiny patients by singing to them."



Sathvi Gandra

Sathvi Gandra, 21, is a dedicated volunteer at Broward Health Medical Center, where she serves as a patient coordinator in the emergency department. Her passion for medicine was sparked at a young age, inspired by her grandfather.

"My goal is to help underserved communities by providing social and emotional support at their bedside," Gandra said.

Since May 2024, the Colorado native has volunteered across several departments at the 716-bed hospital, including the pediatric hematology-oncology outpatient clinic, where she worked with sickle cell and pediatric cancer patients. She has also volunteered in same-day surgery and, most recently, the emergency department.

"I enjoy uniting patients with their loved ones in the emergency department," Gandra said. "Being able to support my community during some of their most vulnerable moments is a privilege."

Gandra is currently a junior at Nova Southeastern University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in neuroscience and biology.



Salute to Volunteers

Cover Story: Celebrate Life as a Hospice Volunteer

Why Hospice Volunteers Are Vital – And Why You Should Consider Becoming One

Continued from page 1

brings hope. Hospice isn't just a way to manage end-of-life care; it's a way to celebrate life.

How Hospice Volunteering Helps Patients and Families

Hospice volunteers step in to provide relief and companionship in ways healthcare professionals can't always do — whether that's chatting with patients, assisting families, running errands, or even lending an ear as a patient reminisces about the past. Volunteer contributions enrich the end-of-life experience for both the patient and the family.

Regardless of one's culture, background, or personal interests, a wide variety of volunteer opportunities exist under the hospice umbrella. At VITAS, our trained professionals help match volunteers with opportunities that are meaningful to each individual.

- Someone with a love of animals may consider volunteering with Paw Pals®, a VITAS program where pet visits offer a welcome distraction for hospice patients.

- Someone involved in or with ties to the military may want to consider our veterans program and bedside salutes, a way to remind service members that we haven't forgotten their sacrifice.

- An interest in writing and storytelling is a perfect match for life bios, where volunteers spend time interviewing and memorializing stories that can be passed down for generations to come.

- Someone with limited time or someone who needs flexibility would be ideal as a proactive caller. A proactive caller connects with patients and families by phone to offer support and ensure their needs are being met.

Volunteers make a difference for patients and families in a variety of ways by:

- **Offering Companionship** – Volunteers provide patients with someone to talk to, read with, or simply share quiet moments with. This companionship can reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.

- **Supporting Caregivers** – For family members caring for their loved ones, a vol-

unteer stepping in for even a few hours can provide much-needed respite to rejuvenate or seek medical care themselves.

- **Bridging the Gap** – By helping with errands, running essential tasks, or documenting patient life stories, volunteers fill in important gaps in care.

Volunteers enhance every aspect of hospice care by offering their empathy and presence. It's these small, heartfelt moments that make the biggest impact.

How Hospice Volunteering Helps the Volunteer

Many hospice volunteers say the decision to give their time has been one of the most fulfilling choices of their lives. There is an undeniable personal growth and healing element that comes with this role. Volunteers benefit from:

- **Improved Mental and Emotional Health** – Studies show that volunteering leads to boosted self-esteem, lower levels of depression, enhanced mood, and reduced stress.

- **A Sense of Purpose** – Helping others, especially during such significant moments in their lives, leads to an enriched sense of fulfillment and clarity about the volunteer's own values and priorities.

- **Healing Through Giving Back** – Many volunteers join hospice programs after losing a loved one themselves, using the experience to channel their grief into helping others. For these individuals, the process becomes a way of honoring their loved one's memory while connecting with a caring community.

Become a Hospice Volunteer

If you're considering volunteering, check out the wide range of opportunities at VITAS.com/Volunteers. Our professionals will help educate, guide, and match you with patients and families close to you.

Maria Hidalgo is the volunteer manager for VITAS Healthcare in Miami-Dade. VITAS is the leading provider of end-of-life care throughout South Florida and nationwide.

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Holy Cross Health Nurse Ethel Rentas Recognized as February 2025 Colleague of the Month

Ethel Rentas, BSN, R.N., CCRN, a nurse at Holy Cross Health, was recognized as the hospital's Colleague of the Month for February.

Rentas is part of the cardiovascular intensive care unit team, where her responsibilities include the all-important task of ensuring that drip titration is at its optimum. She also communicates complicated problems, challenges and solutions with fellow nurses, physician assistants and physicians. She is known for her excellent bedside manner with patients and their families. She also trains nurses who are new to the unit to bring them up to speed with the intricacies of cardiovascular care.

A graduate of Mercy Hospital College of Nursing in Miami, Rentas has been dedicated to the nursing profession for 12 years. She joined Holy Cross Health six years ago, where she is a member of the Code Blue Committee, which is a team that's responsible for overseeing and improving the response in emergency situations. Rentas also belongs to the Broward Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).



Ethel Rentas

Two Holy Cross Health Nurses Recognized with DAISY Awards

Two extraordinary Holy Cross Health nurses, Devyn Losco, R.N., and Nicole Hedges, R.N., have received the DAISY Award, which recognizes and celebrates nurses who go above and beyond in their efforts to provide patients and families with excellent, compassionate care.

Devyn Losco, R.N., was nominated by the offspring of a 91-year-old patient, who expressed extreme appreciation for the level of care and devotion shown to their mother. The nominator called Losco "an angel of a nurse" and "godsend" adding that "she was respectful, patient and diligent and did an excellent job keeping the family informed. Her upbeat attitude and smiling face helped raise spirits and calm nerves." Losco even rescheduled her days off to continue taking care of this patient. Her dedication did not go unnoticed. She also kept the woman's room and bed clean, tidy and organized.

Nicole Hedges, R.N., from Pompano Beach was nominated by an associate she was training in the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit (NSICU). The associate praised Hedges' ability to teach and mentor and feels privileged to have worked with her. The nominator noted that Hedges patiently and thoroughly demonstrates and explains things to ensure those who are learning from her gain confidence and serves as a role model who inspires nurses to be just as passionate as she is about the profession. "Patients adore her, lighting up whenever she enters the room," the nominator said. Hedges has an innate ability to catch small abnormalities quickly. She makes patients feel safe under her compassionate care.



Devyn Losco



Nicole Hedges

Health Foundation of South Florida Celebrates Five Years of Honoring Inspiring Women of Health



In a powerful celebration of Women's History Month, the Health Foundation of South Florida proudly commemorated the fifth anniversary of its Inspiring Women of Health awards, recognizing 10 extraordinary women whose impactful contributions are transforming community health and well-being across Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties.

Honorees for 2025 included:

- Amy L. Halstead, MBA, CEO at Rural Health Network of Monroe County, Florida Inc.
- Caitlin Stella, MPH – CEO at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital
- Dr. Yvonne Johnson, Vice President & Chief Medical Officer at Baptist Health South Miami Hospital
- Felicia Hart, Chief Operating Officer at Broward Community and Family Health Centers
- Josefina Carbonell, Chief Advocacy Officer at Independent Living Systems
- Maria Hernandez, LCSW – Chief Program Officer at United Way of Broward County
- Pamela Africk, CEO at BestPractices USA, Inc
- Shameka Pierce, Peacemaker and Coordinator at Circle of Brotherhood
- Stephanie Berman-Eisenberg, President at Carrfour Supportive Housing
- Vicky Sabharwal, MBA, VP & CEO at Behavioral Health Hospital Jackson Health System and Community Mental Health Center at Jackson

"These honorees exemplify the leadership, resilience, and passion required to create real, lasting impact in our communities," said Loreen Chant, President & CEO of the Health Foundation of South Florida. "As we celebrate five years of this initiative, we honor not only their incredible achievements but also the collective progress they represent in advancing health equity. Their work serves as an inspiration and a call to action for all of us."



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Cover Story: MOMZ Expands Homestead Office to Meet Growing Need for Services

Continued from page 1

enables the doctors to treat more OB/GYN patients and perform low-risk minor procedures.

“Dr. Walker and I can now see patients concurrently because we have more exam rooms,” added Dr. Dawn George, who also joined MOMZ in 2023. “Now we have the opportunity to counsel and care for even more women.”

Dr. Walker adds that the Homestead office also has staff fluent in Spanish to help make communication between doctors and patients easier.

Both doctors provide a full range of outpatient OB-GYN services including prenatal and postnatal care and general gynecological care for women in the community. In addition to providing diagnoses and treatment for a wide variety of common health conditions including fibroids, polyps, vaginal infections, STIs, ectopic pregnancy, endometrial biopsy, pregnancy-related emergencies, fetal heart rate and miscarriage, MOMZ physicians deliver babies and perform both open and robotic surgery. They work closely with their laborist physician colleagues at Homestead Hospital to ensure that women can have seamless care when it comes time to deliver their baby.

The doctors are also able to offer some primary care services and make referrals for non-gynecological issues to ensure that they are taking care of a patient’s entire health.

In addition to appreciating the new space, Dr. George and Dr. Walker say that they enjoy working for KIDZ Medical at MOMZ because the company echoes their values.

“They make sure that we have what we need. They always ask how to make things better so that our patients get the best care they can possibly get,” said Dr. Walker. “I love that they trust us to do that.”

Even as children, Dr. George and Dr. Walker knew that they wanted to be doctors, but it wasn’t until their rotation in obstetrics and gynecology that they realized their true calling.

Dr. Walker first had plans to go into orthopedics. “I went through my ortho rotation and hated it,” she laughed, as she recalled her change in medical direction. “But in the first 10 minutes of my OB-GYN rotation, I delivered a baby and that was it. I was smitten. I was done.”

Dr. George explained why she decided to pivot to OB-GYN care from neurosurgery. “It wasn’t until I did my rotations in medical school that I realized that I wanted to take care of women; that neurosurgery wasn’t the career for me,” she said. “Who better to understand and treat women than a woman?”

“We are able to do what we were meant to do, which is listen to our patients and provide them with the care they need,” added Dr. George. “No matter why they come to us, or what issues we need to deal with, it feels good providing a service to women who need good, competent care.”

The Homestead MOMZ office is located at 925 NE 30th Terrace, Suite 102 in Homestead, FL. For more information, call (786) 404-6612.

Baptist Health Hosts Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Freestanding Emergency Room in Miami Lakes



Baptist Health recently celebrated the ribbon-cutting of its new emergency room (ER) in Miami Lakes, marking a significant expansion of emergency care in the community. The 19,700-square-foot facility, which will operate as a department of Baptist Health Doctors Hospital, is now open 24/7.

Nancy Batista-Rodriguez, CEO of Baptist Outpatient Services, led the ceremony, joined by Baptist Health leadership, city officials, and esteemed medical professionals. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the facility, featuring 20 exam rooms, a dedicated triage area, advanced imaging services, including CT scans, ultrasounds, and x-rays, as well as an on-site laboratory and pharmacy – all designed to streamline emergency care.

This state-of-the-art facility will bring exceptional, personalized care closer to home for this community, ensuring patients can receive convenient, high-quality treatment when they need it the most. This new location will complement existing Baptist Health services in the area, including Baptist Health Urgent Care and Baptist Health Virtual Urgent Care on the mobile PineApp.

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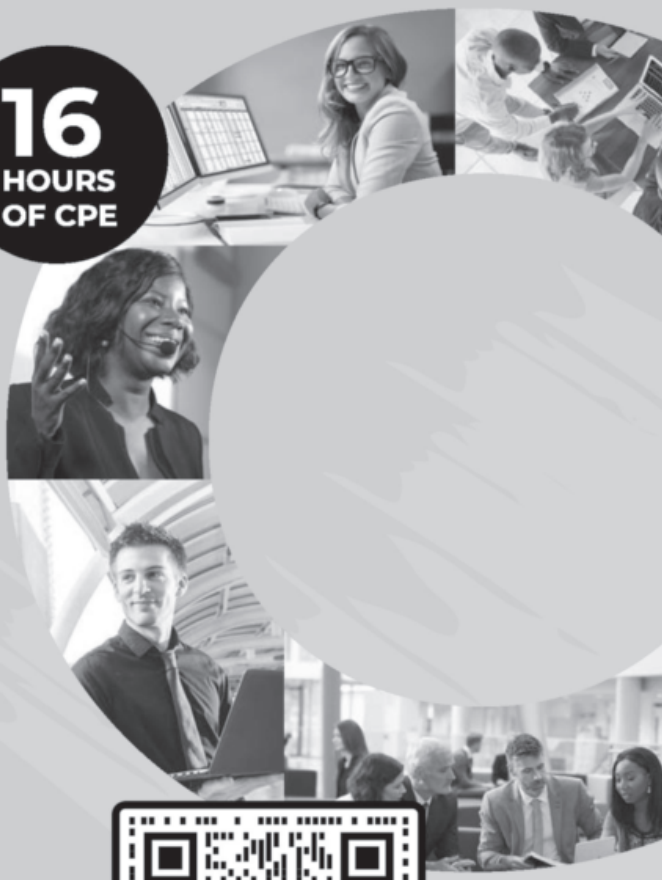


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Accounting and finance professionals seeking relevant CPE need look no further than the Florida Institute of CPA's (FICPA) Industry Insights Conference in Orlando on May 1-2. This multi-track event provides access to impactful keynote sessions like a CFO Panel and State of the Profession Updates and sessions specific to health care including:

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

Hyundai and Nicklaus Children's Hospital Continue Strengthening Child Passenger Safety in South Florida



Hyundai Motor America recently donated \$25,000 to Nicklaus Children's Hospital in support of its Car Seat Safety Program. This ongoing collaboration is part of the corporate social responsibility initiative, Hyundai Hope, which seeks to improve community well-being through health and safety. With this donation, Nicklaus Children's Hospital will expand access to child passenger safety education and provide more free onsite car seat safety checks and installations. "As the child safety and injury prevention authority in South Florida, Nicklaus Children's Hospital's priority is the safety of all children in our region and beyond," said Malvina Duncan, RN, CPSI, CPN, CLC, community outreach injury prevention coordinator, Nicklaus Children's Hospital and SAFE KIDS Miami-Dade County coordinator. "Thanks to Hyundai and their continuous commitment to our Car Seat Safety program, we are able to provide more families with the education and tools that meet their child's needs and ensure their children are safe on the road."

Nicklaus Children's Hospital is the lead organization for the Miami-Dade County SAFE KIDS Coalition, offering programs that prevent childhood injuries in the community. The hospital's robust Car Seat Safety Program offers free onsite car seat checks and installations, helping families ensure they are using the appropriate car seats according to their child's age and weight and installing the device correctly. The hospital also accommodates children with special needs by providing specialized car seats. The program installs and checks approximately 225 car seats per year and provides education on topics of child passenger safety, including vehicular heatstroke and rollover prevention, to over 500 caregivers and children. Since partnering with Hyundai Hope in 2024, Nicklaus Children's Hospital has expanded their reach through community events and provided an additional 100 car seat checks a year.

Cape Coral Hospital's Noninvasive Cardiovascular Services Lab Expansion Complete and Open to the Community

Lee Health's Cape Coral Hospital's Noninvasive Cardiovascular Services Lab has expanded to more than 7,500 square feet. It includes more access to noninvasive cardiovascular services, tests, and scans for the Southwest Florida community.

The expansion gives every resident and visitor in Cape Coral access to state-of-the-art noninvasive cardiovascular services and tools to help provide and ensure optimal heart health for all. "Cape Coral's population has been growing each year, and these expanded services will help support the area's new residents and visitors as well as the current Southwest Florida population. We are pleased to be able to provide more access to non-invasive cardiovascular services and increase access to preventive care," said Dr. Malissa Wood, vice president and chief physician executive of the Lee Health Heart Institute. "There is nothing more important than optimal heart health for our friends, neighbors, and loved ones."

The lab currently does more than 1,700 procedures per month. The space of the new lab will be twice the size of the current facilities. The Noninvasive Cardiovascular Services Lab will be located on the first floor of the hospital at 636 Del Prado Blvd. S., in Cape Coral. Previously used space will be utilized to expand the Cape Coral Hospital Emergency Department, giving patients more space to receive timely and effective care.

Palm Beach County-Based Oceanside Urology Joins Tampa General Hospital

Oceanside Urology has partnered with Tampa General Hospital (TGH) to expand access to comprehensive, academic-driven health care services throughout Florida. This strategic, collaborative practice will operate as TGH Advanced Urology Care, combining local expertise with the cutting-edge resources of one of the nation's top-ranked academic health systems.

Led by board-certified urologists Dr. Daniel Caruso and Dr. Kaveh Besharat, TGH Advanced Urology will continue serving patients from its Jupiter location. This affiliation will benefit residents of Palm Beach and Martin counties by providing enhanced care pathways for complex, urology-related conditions.

Palm Beach Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Attains National Verification from the American College of Surgeons Children's Surgery Verification Program

Palm Beach Children's Hospital at St. Mary's receives Level II verification by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Children's Surgery Verification Quality Improvement Program (CSV).

The CSV program was developed to improve the quality of children's surgical care by creating a system that allows for a prospective match of every child's individual surgical needs with a care environment that has optimal pediatric resources. The program is based upon recognized standards meant to achieve high-quality patient outcomes for children's surgical care. CSV standards ensure that children facing surgery receive care under a multidisciplinary program with quality improvement and safety processes, data collection, and appropriate resources provided to them as patients at the hospital.

"This distinction ensures that we are delivering the highest quality of care to our patients so they can have the best chance for a good outcome," said Dr. Anne Fischer, Medical Director of Surgical Services at Palm Beach Children's Hospital. "We were the first hospital to ever earn the Level II distinction, which requires the right level of training for our staff, infrastructure, and protocols. We want our young patients and their families to know that they are in good hands."

Broward Health Medical Center Opens New Simulation Lab to Advance Medical Training

Broward Health celebrated the new state-of-the-art Advanced Training Sim Lab opening at Broward Health Medical Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event marked the addition of the Advanced HAL® S3201 multipurpose patient simulator, designed to replicate real-life medical scenarios with high detail. This cutting-edge simulator, also known as a high-fidelity medical dummy, offers a realistic, accurate representation of medical situations, providing healthcare professionals with the opportunity to train in a controlled, risk-free environment.



Audrey Guy, Juliever Villan, Rekha Remadevi, Yvonne Taylor-Rhoads

The simulator is designed to replicate real-life medical scenarios, reflecting a variety of medical conditions and physiological verbal responses, including changes in breathing, heart rate and vital signs. Equipped with features that offer both immersive and dynamic learning experiences, the simulator enables healthcare professionals to practice basic procedures, such as intubation and central line insertion, up to and including high-pressure situations like code blues and rapid responses.

The simulator can be used across a range of clinical situations, including:

- Code blue and rapid response defibrillation, which allows for realistic defibrillation training by monitoring, capturing, pacing and cardioverting
- Advanced airway management, including a programable airway that can simulate conditions such as tongue edema and laryngospasm
- Drug recognition system that automatically detects the type, dose and rate of medication injected into the lower right arm, using a pre-programmed library of virtual medications
- Real-time feedback that is integrated into the system, tracking and logging trainee actions to enable instructors to offer instant, data-driven feedback
- Advanced cardiac and neuro features, such as real-time ECGs with physiological variations and reactive eyes, simulating a range of conditions, including seizures

The simulator will primarily support Broward Health Medical Center's nursing staff, but others who benefit from the simulator include emergency medical technicians and clinicians in the Intensive Care Unit, operating room and medical-surgical departments. The versatile simulator offers a risk-free environment to practice essential skills and improve clinical judgement.



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South Florida Hospital News

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

VITAS Healthcare Expands Operations at Miramar Park of Commerce with New Lease and Renewals



VITAS Healthcare, a tenant at the Miramar Park of Commerce since 1995, has once again expanded its presence in the Park to 167,819 sq. ft. in several buildings.

Most recently, VITAS leased 47,819 sq. ft. of new office space in MPC 30 at 3140 Executive Way to accommodate critical administrative and operational functions that support 53 hospice care programs across 15 states and the District of Columbia. The company also has renewed a combined total of 52,733 sq. ft. of space in MPC 30 at 3120 Executive Way and in MPC 19B at 3046 Corporate Way. Prior expansions by the company occurred in 2024 and 2019.

“The flexibility and scalability provided by Miramar Park of Commerce have been key to accommodating the growth of VITAS over the years,” said Ryan Goggins, Vice President of Sunbeam Properties & Development, developer of the Park. “The Park’s ability to offer tailored space solutions has enabled businesses like VITAS to thrive, expanding operations without the disruption of relocations.”

Good Samaritan Medical Center Launches Center for Preventive Cardiac Medicine

Good Samaritan Medical Center is proud to announce the launch of its Center for Preventive Cardiac Medicine, a new initiative dedicated to proactive heart health and early detection of cardiovascular disease. Under the leadership of Dr. Brijeshwar Maini, M.D., FACC, a distinguished structural interventional cardiologist, the program offers diagnostic tools and personalized prevention strategies to help patients manage and reduce their risk of heart disease.

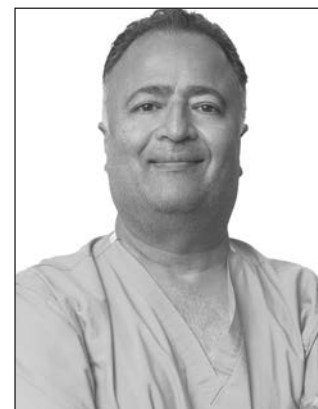
“By focusing on prevention, we can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease and the need for surgical treatments,” said Dr. Maini. “Our goal is to provide patients with advanced cardiac testing and a comprehensive approach to heart health, ensuring early intervention and long-term wellness.”

The Center for Preventive Cardiac Medicine offers a full suite of advanced diagnostic services designed to detect heart conditions before they become critical, including:

- Advanced Imaging to detect heart conditions
- Calcium Scoring to assess plaque buildup in arteries
- Stress Echocardiogram to evaluate heart function under stress
- CT Angiogram for detailed imaging of heart and blood vessels
- Metabolic Heart Testing to assess heart health in relation to metabolism

In addition to individual patient care, the center provides Workplace Wellness Programs designed to support businesses in maintaining a heart-healthy workforce. Services include:

- Executive Cardiovascular Physicals for company leaders
- Heart Health Screenings & Health Fairs for employees
- Complimentary Physician Lectures on cardiovascular wellness



Dr. Brijeshwar Maini

Lynn Cancer Institute Raises Funds for Cancer Care Services Through Annual Run for the Ribbons

The Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute, part of Baptist Health South Florida, at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, recently hosted the 14th Annual Run for the Ribbons. Attracting over 800 participants, the event raised over \$70,000 to support cancer patients through special programs made possible by the hospital’s League of Ribbons.

“Participating in Run for the Ribbons is about more than just physical activity – it’s about coming together as a community to give back and support patients battling cancer,” said Dr. Louise Morrell, medical oncologist and medical director of Lynn Cancer Institute. “The resources generated through these efforts help us provide not only advanced treatment options for patients, but also the emotional and psychological support that cancer patients need throughout their journey.”

On-site at the event, attendees of all ages participated in a 5K run/1 mile walk, followed by the annual World Cancer Day Celebration for survivors and their families. Proceeds from Run for the Ribbons directly benefit the League of Ribbons. The League of Ribbons funds critical cancer services, as well as providing patients with complimentary health and wellness programs and guided imagery, yoga and massage therapy, gifts cards for groceries and gas, and more.



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NYU Top Cardiac Imaging Specialists Join the Lee Health Heart Institute

Dr. Shant Manoushagian and Dr. Juan Gaztanaga have joined the Lee Health Heart Institute. Dr. Manoushagian, who specializes in advanced cardiac imaging, comes to Lee Health from NYU Langone Health System. He will be the Director of Cardiac Imaging at Gulf Coast Medical Center. Dr. Manoushagian received his Doctorate of Medicine from Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, completed his Internal Medicine residency and Cardiac fellowship at Temple University Hospital, and his Advanced Cardiac Imaging fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital.

He is board certified in internal medicine, cardiology/cardiovascular disease, echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, cardiac CT, and cardiac MRI.

Dr. Gaztanaga also comes to Lee Health from NYU Langone Health System. He specializes in cardiac disease and Imaging at HealthPark Medical Center. Dr. Gaztanaga received his Doctorate of Medicine at Chicago Medical School at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine Science, completed his residency at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, and his cardiac fellowship at NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island. He did Advanced Cardiac Imaging Fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



Dr. Shant Manoushagian



Dr. Juan Gaztanaga

Harris Gellman, MD, FACS, Joins Baptist Health Orthopedic Care as an Orthopedic Hand Surgeon

Harris Gellman, M.D., FACS, a board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic hand surgeon, has joined Baptist Health Orthopedic Care.

Committed to the mentoring, teaching and training of medical students, residents and fellows, Dr. Gellman has held several educational leadership positions throughout his career. He currently serves as a clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Davie, FL, as well as a voluntary clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in Miami.

Dr. Gellman earned his medical degree at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University in Philadelphia. He completed an orthopedic surgery residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He also completed a hand and microvascular surgery fellowship at the University of California in San Diego and an orthopedic surgery fellowship at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. Harris Gellman

Baptist Health Miami Neuroscience Institute Names Neurologist Nestor Galvez-Jimenez, MD, Director of Autonomic Neurology Program

Baptist Health Miami Neuroscience Institute has named board-certified neurologist Nestor Galvez-Jimenez, M.D., director of the autonomic neurology program. He specializes in movement disorders and autonomic failure. He treats such conditions as Parkinson's disease, dystonic syndromes, tremor, myoclonus, Tourette syndrome, chorea, Huntington's disease, gait and balance issues, cerebellar ataxias and dysautonomia as well as other autonomic problems such as long COVID neurological complications, orthostatic intolerance and sweat disorders.

Before joining Baptist Health, Dr. Galvez was a neurologist and director of the Movement Disorders Program and Fellowship at Cleveland Clinic Florida and the inaugural holder of the Pauline Braathen Distinguished Chair in Neurology, conferred in 2012.

Dr. Galvez is committed to training and mentoring the next generation of clinicians. He serves as a professor of neurology at both Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine as well as clinical professor of biomedical sciences at Florida Atlantic University Charles E. Schmidt College of Science.

Dr. Galvez earned a Doctor of Medicine degree at Universidad San Carlos Facultad de Ciencias Medicas in Guatemala City as well as at the State University of New York in Albany, NY. He earned a master's degree in neuroscience and behavioral biology at Universidad Pablo de Olavide in Seville Spain and a master's degree in health services administration at Barry University in Miami. He also earned a Master of Jurisprudence degree in health law, policy and management and risk management and compliance at Texas A&M University in College Station.



Dr. Nestor Galvez-Jimenez

Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute Names Firas El Chaer, MD, MSHCM, Chief of Leukemia and Medical Director of Infusion Services

Board-certified hematologist-oncologist Firas El Chaer, M.D., MSHCM, has been named chief of Leukemia and medical director of Infusion Services at Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute. Prior to joining Baptist Health, Dr. El Chaer was an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Hematology-Oncology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He also served as medical director of the Cancer Service Line – Infusion Centers and medical director of the Chronic and Acute Leukemia Research Team at the University of Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. El Chaer earned his medical degree at the University of Balamand in Beirut, Lebanon. He served as chief resident during an internal medicine residency at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in Englewood, N.J. He then completed a fellowship in infectious diseases for immune-compromised cancer patients at the combined program of Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He also completed a fellowship in hematology and oncology with a focus on blood disorders and a built-in fellowship in stem cell transplantation at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, where he served as chief fellow.

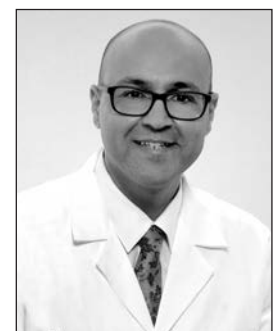


Dr. Firas El Chaer

Urologist and Kidney Transplant Specialist Joins Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital

Khaled Refaai, M.D., has joined Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital as a urologist and kidney transplant specialist. Dr. Refaai completed his residency at Alexandria University Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt, where he also earned his medical degree. He then completed a fellowship in urology and kidney transplant at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH, gaining advanced training in managing complex urological and transplant cases.

Dr. Refaai's clinical interests focus on urology, with a particular emphasis on kidney transplant surgery. His extensive training and experience enable him to provide exceptional care for patients dealing with urological conditions, kidney disorders and transplant needs. Fluent in both English and Arabic, Dr. Refaai is committed to offering personalized care to each patient, ensuring they are informed and supported throughout their treatment process.



Dr. Khaled Refaai

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Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital Expands GI Team

Michelle Likhtshteyn, M.D., is a gastroenterologist at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital. Dr. Likhtshteyn has extensive training and experience in the diagnosis and treatment of various digestive disorders. She earned her medical degree from St. George's University in Grenada, West Indies. She completed her fellowship and residency in gastroenterology and internal medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, where she gained exposure to a diverse patient population and a wide range of gastrointestinal conditions.

Dr. Likhtshteyn's specialty interests include cancer screening, clinical gastroenterology, colonoscopy, esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD), general gastroenterological disorders, and outpatient care. She strives to provide high-quality, compassionate, and evidence-based care to her patients.



Dr. Michelle Likhtshteyn

New Section Head of Electrophysiology at Cleveland Clinic in Florida

Parikshit S. Sharma, M.D., is the Section Head of Electrophysiology at the Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute at Cleveland Clinic in Florida. Dr. Sharma completed his medical education at K. J. Somaiya Medical College before honing his skills with a residency in Internal Medicine at Lankenau Hospital and Mount Sinai Medical Center. He pursued advanced training through fellowships at The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Sharma is board-certified in both cardiovascular disease and clinical cardiac electrophysiology. He has expertise in managing complex arrhythmias, performing atrial fibrillation ablations, and implementing advanced pacing techniques. With a clinical focus on electrophysiology, Dr. Sharma is well-equipped to lead the section and his dedication to patient care and innovative treatment approaches will be invaluable to the institute and its patients.



Dr. Parikshit S. Sharma

Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital Welcomes Distinguished Neurosurgeon

Rodrigo Navarro-Ramirez, M.D., MSc, FAANS, has joined the medical staff at Cleveland Clinic Weston Hospital. A distinguished neurosurgeon and spine surgeon, Dr. Navarro-Ramirez completed his medical education at the School of Medicine, UNAM in Mexico City, Mexico. He has extensive postgraduate training background that includes a fellowship in minimally invasive spine surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY; a fellowship in neuro-oncology at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; and a fellowship in adult and pediatric scoliosis at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Dr. Navarro-Ramirez's specialty interests include minimally invasive spine surgery; robotics, navigation, and artificial intelligence in spine surgery; motion preservation spine surgery; awake spine surgery in adults and elderly patients; neuro-oncology; and biologic intervertebral disc regeneration. He is fluent in both English and Spanish, allowing him to effectively communicate with a diverse patient population.



Dr. Rodrigo Navarro-Ramirez

Clinical Investigator Joins the Rapidly Expanding Cellular Therapies Program at TGH Cancer Institute

As it continues to grow its Cellular Therapy program for the treatment of blood cancers and non-malignant diseases, Tampa General Hospital (TGH) has recruited Dr. Megan Melody to the TGH Cancer Institute Cellular Therapy team. She joins Tampa General from the McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University in Chicago.

Melody is a hematologist-oncologist specializing in blood cancers and cellular therapy. She is actively involved in clinical research, focusing on new immunotherapeutic strategies such as cellular therapies and bispecific antibodies for patients with lymphomas.

Melody earned her medical degree in 2018 from the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, where she developed a deep interest in blood cancers. She completed her residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, before finishing her fellowship in hematology and medical oncology at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, she gained specialized training in the treatment of complex blood cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma, with a particular focus in cellular therapy.



Dr. Megan Melody



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Donation by Falcon Cove Middle School Students to Aid Patients at Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital

National Junior Honor Society students at Falcon Cove Middle School in Weston have been raising money to buy books they'll likely never read for children most will never know.

Their selfless act resulted in a \$5,000 donation to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation, money that will replenish books used in the hospital's bibliotherapy program. The Weston residents raised money by selling coupon cards that can be redeemed for Domino's pizza.

"Bibliotherapy has a special place within the Child Life Zone where books help children understand what they may be going through," said Kelley Morris, president and CEO of the pediatric facility's nonprofit foundation. "It's hard for a four-year-old to understand a cancer diagnosis, for example, so we use therapeutic books to share a story that is similar to what the patient is experiencing."

The check presentation was the centerpiece of an event that recognized Falcon Cove's top fundraisers and was attended by students, parents, faculty, and Stella Stringer, advisor to the middle school's honor society. "Our kids have gifts and talents we encourage them to use to make their South Florida community a better place. Fundraising for the children's hospital is something they're happy to do because it helps patients and families going through tough times," said Stringer.

This is the fifth consecutive year Falcon Cove honor society students have made a \$5,000 donation while participating in the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation's All-Stars program. Previous contributions have supported the pediatric facility's expansion, helped start the bibliotherapy program, assisted with art therapy, and provided car seats to families of discharged patients that didn't have their own.



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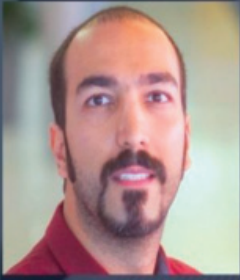
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South University is a nonprofit institution offering educational opportunities for intellectual, social and professional development. With a 120-year story, our community is one where you can belong, believe and become. Providing excellent student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

HEALTHCARE ACCOUNTING AND ADVISORY

BDO

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

HEALTHCARE STAFFING

SAFEGUARD HEALTHCARE

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

HOMECARE SERVICES

MORSELIFE HOME HEALTH CARE

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

HOSPICE

VITAS® HEALTHCARE

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

INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

RISK STRATEGIES

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

MARITAL & FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY

NEAVE FAMILY LAW, P.A.

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

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS BOARDROOMPR

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

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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

PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE

CANO HEALTH - PRIMARY CARE

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

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