



Medical Executive News

Arlene Donowitz, M.D., President, Medical Executive Committee

This is the first issue of a new bi-monthly publication created especially for physicians of Memorial Health Care System, and I think it can be of great value to all of us.

The focus of the newsletter will be on providing physicians with in-depth information on what is happening at Memorial that might enhance your practice – new technology, new physicians, continuing education opportunities, achievements of physicians, additions or changes in hospital departments, and much more.

In this issue of *MDoc* we highlight the new Endobronchial Ultrasound, a valuable diagnostic tool in Memorial's Thoracic Center of Excellence, the new Heart Failure Clinic at Memorial North Park, and Memorial's Research Center.

We welcome five physicians who joined Memorial's medical staff since the beginning of the fiscal year and highlight one of them in the "Getting to Know You" column. Another group of physicians will be featured in the next issue.

Women's Services at the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center welcomes Dr. Chris Portera, a

specialist in uro-gynecology to a new office in the Contenance Center. This Center is a valuable resource for your patients who have problems with urinary incontinence or bowel dysfunction, and an article in this issue explains those services.



Arlene Donowitz, M.D.

Clinical score cards are being prepared in several areas to give physicians and staff database-derived information for evaluating and improving performance. In this issue we look at the Regional Heart Center Clinical Score card.

As a physician, I greatly appreciate the excellent hospitalists and intensivists who provide 24/7 coverage for our patients at Memorial Hospital and Memorial North Park. They bring an increased level of experience and training that positively impacts quality of care.

On behalf of the Medical Executive Committee, I thank you for your commitment to quality care and hope this newsletter will be of value. Please let us know if you have suggestions for features for future issues. For IT concerns, call Mountain Management IT at (423) 495-4911 or MHCS IT at (423) 495-7603.

m doc

advanced medicine
inspired by you.

A newsletter
for physicians
on staff at
Memorial

November 2009

CATHOLIC HEALTH
INITIATIVES

Memorial
Health Care System
inspired medicine

Welcome New Medical Staff Members



Samuel Ryan Faight, MD,
Radiation Oncology



Mark W. Fugate, MD,
Vascular Surgery



John Peter Lund, MD,
Orthopedics



Lee M. Perry, MD,
Allergy & Immunology



Clifton C. Reade, MD,
Thoracic Surgery

Heart Failure Observation Unit Now Open at Memorial North Park

The Heart Failure Observation Unit is designed to provide rapid, intensive diagnosis and treatment for low-intermediate risk patients who come to the Emergency Center for exacerbation of heart failure symptoms.

Patients can be admitted for testing, observation, and education for up to 48 hours. The unit is also available for patients being admitted directly from a physician's office or for patients being discharged with CHF to bridge the gap in care from time of discharge to first PCP visit. After discharge, patients will receive a call back within 48 hours.

Our goal is to provide an expeditious comprehensive work-up, treatment, and careful patient and family education in order to decrease hospitalizations and improve quality of life for our patients.

The Heart Failure Clinic is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For a patient transfer or direct admit, call (423) 495-2920. For information, call Angela Sullivan, NP-C at (423) 8427.

Getting to Know You

Dr. Faught joined the Chattanooga Radiation Oncology Center and the Memorial Cancer Institute in August 2009 after completing the Radiation Oncology Residency Program at Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals in Milwaukee. He and his wife Elizabeth have two sons, ages 4 and 2.

Notable: One of Dr. Faught's strongest reasons for coming to Memorial was the participation he witnessed in the Multidisciplinary Tumor Conferences. "I think it is rare in community practice to have so many physicians enthusiastic about the multidisciplinary approach and to have established such an excellent track record of success. I want to be able to collaborate with other physicians to formulate multidisciplinary care plans, and this was a great opportunity to do that.



S. Ryan Faught, M.D.
Radiation Oncology,
Memorial Cancer Institute

Q: What do you enjoy most about radiation oncology?

A: Radiation oncology is an exciting field, involving precision technology and a broad spectrum of diseases all of which impact patients differently. Each patient is unique, and interacting with them is extremely rewarding and satisfying as we help them understand the disease and treatment process and ease their physical and emotional concerns. You develop strong relationships when you follow them long term.

Q: What have been some of the most significant improvements in radiation oncology?

A: We are getting better all the time at individualizing patient care as we increase our ability to learn more about the patient's individual tumor. We are now able to deliver highly conformal treatment like intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) in such a way as to limit side effects and long-term complications. The high dose rate brachytherapy implant procedure allows patients to be treated in a few short outpatient sessions with successful outcomes and less radiation exposure to the staff as compared to more traditional low dose rate techniques.

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges for treating patients?

A: Understanding the biology of the individual tumor enough to be able to target the specific characteristics of the tumor is a major challenge, a global challenge. When we can analyze the tumor, understand the biology, and know how aggressive it is, we can be even more targeted in our approach to treatment.

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President, Medical Executive Committee: Arlene Donowitz, MD

To discuss a story idea, e-mail angela_colbert@memorial.org or call 495-7701.

Directing Editor: Lisa McCluskey, **Co-editors:** Angie Colbert and Joyce Dick, **Creative Design:** Laurie Van Name

Cover Photo: F. Lee Hamilton, MD, Hospitalist

Memorial Regional Heart Center Clinical Scorecard

Memorial is developing quality scorecards for our major service line as a tool for evaluating and improving quality performance. We are using statistics on our patients and comparing our outcomes with national best practice outcomes. For the Memorial Regional Heart Center Clinical Scorecard, we use the Society of Thoracic Surgeons(STS) national database on outcomes to continue to improve our quality of cardiothoracic surgical care..

Using data on patients seen between January 2008 and September 2008, we found that we were better than the STS average in all except one quality measure.

Patient Profile

- 603 patients, average age – 65.5 years
- 70.5% male, 29.5% female
- Risk factors: 83.9% existing hypertension; 22.7% smoker 18.9% family history of coronary disease

Types of Cases

Total Cases: 603

2.6% Emergent; 8.6% Urgent; 88.7% Elective

427 coronary artery bypass grafting

54 aortic valve plus coronary artery bypass grafting

23 mitral valve replacement

43 mitral valve plus coronary artery bypass grafting

44 aortic valve replacement

6 aortic valve plus mitral valve plus coronary artery bypass grafting

6 aortic valve plus mitral valve replacement

Core Clinical Quality Measures for CABG (coronary artery bypass grafting)

	Memorial Mean	STSMean
Total Complications	22.4%	36.7
Infection Complications	0.5%	1.6%
Operative Mortality	1.9%	2.0%
Cross-Clamp time	76.6 min	67.1 min
Total Ventilator time	16.9 hrs	22.3 hrs
Surgery Duration	273.1 min	332.7 min
ICU total hours	56.2 hrs	67.9 hrs
Length of Stay	7.6 days	9.2 days
Readmission within 30 days	5.8%	9.7%

Endobronchial Ultrasound Valuable Diagnostic Tool in Thoracic Center

The sampling of lymph nodes in the mediastinum has great importance in staging for lung cancer, diagnosing sarcoidosis or determining other processes that impact the nodes in this area of the body. Recently, a new, minimally invasive technology has been developed to assist surgeons and pulmonologists in their attempts to attain samples in traditionally challenging areas of the mediastinum.

As of October 15, Endobronchial Ultrasound, or EBUS, as the technology is affectionately referred to, is now part of Memorial's comprehensive thoracic program, championed by cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Rob Headrick.

"The goal of the thoracic program is to be able to provide world-class care to our patients who suffer from diseases that impact the thorax without them having to leave the Chattanooga area. We are excited to have EBUS available at Memorial as patients who would benefit from this vital diagnostic technology were travelling to Atlanta, Birmingham or Nashville" states Dr. Headrick.

To learn more about the Thoracic Program at Memorial, call Laurel Rhyne at (423) 495-7834.

Chris Portera, MD Opens an Office in Continance Center



Chris
Portera, MD

As Medical Director of Memorial's Continance Center, Dr. Chris Portera is finding it convenient to have his primary office on-site. He is available to consult with physicians on their patients who have urinary and/or fecal incontinence.

Dr. Portera has special interests in surgical and non-surgical treatment of incontinence and vaginal prolapse, gynecologic and advanced reconstructive pelvic surgery.

The Continance Center has the specialized diagnostic equipment to evaluate urinary incontinence, bowel dysfunction, and vaginal prolapse. The Center, located in the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center at Memorial Hospital, continues to provide a variety of nonsurgical treatment options, specialized physical therapy, educational materials, and patient counseling, along with surgical options.

To reach the Continance Center, call (423) 495-2555.

Physician Participation Encouraged In Memorial Research Center

Memorial is committed to increasing participation in clinical studies that can benefit physicians and patients in our community.

Memorial Research Center, which opened in January 2009, is able to identify research trials appropriate for both inpatient and ambulatory settings and work directly with sponsors to bring those opportunities to our medical staff.

"We will work directly with physicians to identify principal investigators as well as sub-investigators and contract with each of them to provide reimbursement and protocol management services," says Colleen Schmitt, MD, Medical Director of the research center. Dr. Schmitt, a board certified gastroenterologist in active practice, operated Southeastern Clinical Research in Chattanooga for 12 years before merging it with Memorial Research Center.

Are You Interested in Research?

If you are interested in being an investigator or have a patient you feel might benefit from one of our studies, please call Kim Norwood at (423) 495-2890.

A number of studies are underway or under development. These include studies on response to treatment among patients with Hepatitis C. Chirag Patel, MD is a Board-Eligible Hepatologist and Principal Investigator.

Other studies currently active or in start-up include:

- Comparative therapies for Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)
- New therapies for Crohn's disease
- Hepatitis C treatment for patients who have failed prior treatment
- Prevention of recurrent Diverticulitis

Several hospital-based trials are also underway. These inpatient studies include a vaccine to prevent MRSA infection after cardiac surgery and a new antibiotic targeting Hospital Acquired Pneumonia.

Kim Norwood is the lead Certified Clinical Research Coordinator. She has more than 14 years experience in research and has worked with Dr. Schmitt for the past 12 years. Document specialist Kathy Brown is also a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator.



Colleen Schmitt, MD,
Medical Director

Cancer Conference Schedule

- All are held in the MaryEllen Locher Conference Center
- Urgent cases can be presented any Friday

Chest Conference

- 7 a.m. (First and third Fridays)
- November 6 and 20,
December 4 and 18

Head and Neck Conference

- 7:30 a.m. (First and third Fridays)
- November 6 and 20
- December 4 and 18

Colorectal Conference

- 7 a.m. (Second and fourth Friday)
- November 13 and 27
- December 11 and 25

GU Conference

- 7:30am (Second and fourth Friday)
- November 13 and 27
- December 11 and 25

Breast Conference

- 7 a.m. (Every Thursday)

GYN Conference

- 7 a.m. (Second Monday)
- November 9
- December 14