Welcome to the World of Rehabilitation Medicine

Welcome to the first version of our new department newsletter! I am pleased to launch this publication as an update on happenings within our department. We’ve had some exciting changes over the last few years and my aim is for continual improvement in the department and residency program. I want to thank our former residents and employees who have helped us in the past. I look forward to your suggestions about how to enhance our developing program. Our department continues to be one of the most profiled at Pitt County Memorial Hospital and Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. Our physicians are all board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, with multiple board certifications in Pediatric Rehabilitation, Pain Medicine, Spinal Cord Injury Medicine, and EMG Certification. We also have a Medical Review Officer. Four of our physicians are fellows of the American Professional Wound Care Association. Dr. Monica Carrion Jones, MD directs our EMG lab and new ultrasound guided injection services. Our Outpatient Medical Director, Erwin Manalo, MD coordinates the Baclofen Pump Clinic and Brain Injury Unit. Our Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit is directed by George Crowl, MD. Ann Nunez, MD provides Worker’s Compensation services and is the lead Rehab physician and consultant at LifeCare, our Long Term Acute Care facility in Rocky Mount, NC. Jeffrey Pierce is our Medical Acupuncturist and Wound Care expert. Clinton Faulk, MD directs the General Rehab II Clinic, and Thurman Whitted, MD is our Medical Review Officer at the Pitt County Memorial Hospital Occupational Health Clinic. Raymond Millan, MD is our Residency Program Director, and specializes in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. Laura Bergs is our NP and has expertise in wound care and musculoskeletal problems.

Residency Review

We are proud of the Residency Program in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Our program includes four years of didactic and hands on training. We participate annually at the American Academy of Physiatrists (AAP) and American Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPMR) national meetings, with our residents submitting abstracts and posters. Two recent graduates, Chirag Patel, MD and Alexius Sandoval, MD deserve special recognition. Dr. Patel scored ninth in the nation on EMG examinations. Dr. Sandoval was an award winner at the recent Research Day sponsored by Pitt County Memorial Hospital and Brody School of Medicine.
We are pleased to announce our largest Medical Student Rotation under the direction of Clinton Faulk, MD.

Over 76 Medical Students Research and Scholarly Activities

Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center with ECU Physicians

A local site under the direction of National Healing Corporation, the Pitt County Memorial Hospital Wound Care and ECU PMR Physicians Center opened in 2007. Five of our faculty provide services onsite including TCOM’s, debridements, graft applications and hyperbaric dives. In conjunction with general surgeons, podiatrists, trauma surgeons, and emergency medicine physicians, over three hundred patient treatments per month are provided.

Our Department Chairman, Daniel Moore, MD is Medical Director of the WHC. Tammy Wolbert was recently hired as the Administrator.

This outpatient site of service treats many diagnostic groups including venous ulcers, diabetic ulcers, osteoradionecrosis and soft tissue injuries after radiation.

We have a hard working group of nurses and staff that provide excellent care.

Research and Scholarly Activities

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation currently has several research projects ongoing. Dr. Jones is coordinating a granted study using Ultrasound to measure median nerve diameters. Dr. Faulk is completing a grant on Geriatric Rehabilitation and both faculty are working with a Brody Summer Research Scholars student. Dr. Pierce completed a grant to develop the Medical Acupuncture course for medical students. Drs. Pierse, Faulk and Moore are active with a grant to promote physician education about outpatient Rehab services. We are pleased to announce a Medical Student Rotation this summer in conjunction with the Office of Medical Education at Brody School of Medicine, welcoming over seventy medical students who have a mandatory rotation for musculoskeletal education.

Dr. Sandoval Takes First Place Award at Research Day

Alexius Sandoval, MD, a recent residency graduate, was awarded the Best Quality and Safety Research Presentation at the Graduate Medical Education Research Day in May, 2009. Dr. Sandoval’s presentation was entitled “Critical Gastrointestinal Bleeding at an Inpatient Rehabilitation Center: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and the role of Gastrointestinal Prophylaxis.” Dr. Sandoval is beginning a fellowship in Multiple Sclerosis at the University of Washington.
Erick Sembrano, MD is Featured at AANEM 2009

Fourth year resident Erick Sembrano, MD has been awarded a President’s Research Initiative Award from the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) for his abstract poster, “Relationship Between Median Nerve Cross Sectional Area and Body Mass Index” Erick works closely in research projects with Monica Carrion Jones, MD. The same project has been selected for presentation at the Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP) meeting in 2010. Congratulations, and way to go, Erick!

Musculoskeletal and Spine Clinic

Rehab Medicine embarked on a new adventure in early 2009, as we began EMG and interventional pain services at the ECU Physicians Neurosurgical and Spine Center. The MSS Clinic works with primary care physicians to provide a plan of care tailored to meet the unique needs of pain patients and improve their functional independence. Comprehensive physical exams, electromyograms, nerve conduction studies, plain films, and CT scans are services provided at the clinic. Interventional services include trigger point injections, medications, and physical therapy. Future plans are to provide ultrasound guided muscle and joint injections, in addition to lumbar steroid epidural injections. Our staff can also assess and prescribe braces, shoe lifts, and other orthotic devices. Known as the locomotive system of the body, the musculoskeletal system provides the strength and stability that allows us to move and function normally. When dysfunctional, the result is pain, ambulation difficulties, and decreased daily functioning.

EMG Lab

Monica Carrion Jones, MD and residents Alex Sandoval, Arash Bidgoli, and Chris Fisher onsite at the Musculoskeletal and Spine Center’s EMG Lab. A routine service in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, we are new at the MSS Clinic. We also provide electromyography (EMG) services monthly at Bertie Memorial Hospital, Roanoke-Chowan Hospital, Heritage Hospital and Pitt County Memorial Hospital.
Outpatient Rehabilitation Services

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation offers a variety of Outpatient Rehabilitation Services including Pain Management, Pediatric Rehabilitation, Amputee Clinics, a Medical Acupuncture Clinic, and Spasticity Clinics, to include Botox injections. We provide these services at the Pain Management Center in Greenville, NC and at ECU Physicians Rehab Center at Doctors Park. Future plans include providing our outpatient services in conjunction with the local Veterans Administration Medical Center site.

Meet and greet Rick Howard, CPC, our department billing coder. Originally from Tarboro, NC, Rick is an accomplished pianist, having performed with the NC Symphony. He currently serves as the organist for two Episcopal churches in Eastern NC. An excellent baker, it’s always a treat to enjoy one of Rick’s homemade cakes. Certified with the American Academy of Professional Coders, Rick is the founder and past president of the Greenville Chapter of the AAPC, and has been with Rehab Medicine for sixteen years.

George Crowl, MD, Director of Pediatric Rehabilitation services, recently starred in the Farmville Community Arts Council production of “To Kill a Mockingbird”. Dr. Crowl is an eager participant in community theater productions, earning his undergraduate degree in Drama and Theater.

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New Arrivals

Alejandro Carrion Jones
Born January, 2009
to Robert and Monica Carrion Jones, MD

Zoe David
Born January, 2009
to Gino David, MD and wife, Jen

Elijah Hanson,
Born May, 2009
Grandson of Laura Bergs, NP

Jay & Elizabeth Granier
February 23

Ann Nunez, MD
Independent Medical Exam Officer

Faculty and Staff Spotlight

George Crowl, MD
Director of Pediatric Rehabilitation Services

Jeffrey Pierce, MD
Medical Acupuncturist

Ann Nunez, MD
Independent Medical Exam Officer

Erwin Manalo, MD
Director of Outpatient Rehabilitation Services

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