



NotaBene

TAKE NOTE OF THIS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEDICAL STAFF OF KENNEDY HEALTH SYSTEM

Please
Take Note

One of our residency graduates returned to our Washington Township hospital last week after a 10-year absence. One can only imagine his surprise at the transformation that has occurred.

As you receive this issue, Kennedy will be making another dramatic advance by opening all new Operating Rooms on the second floor above the Emergency Department at Washington Township. Five tiny ORs are being replaced by nine state-of-the-art Operating Rooms, each with more than 600 square feet of space. Initially, seven of the rooms will be fully equipped, leaving two rooms for future specialty growth. This investment will allow Kennedy to provide advanced surgeries, including neurosurgery, advanced robotics and endovascular care.

These ORs will be supported by a central sterile facility on the lower level. This design permitted the construction of the dramatically larger operating room spaces. Instruments will be cleaned and sterilized on the lower level and transported in a dedicated elevator. The new central supply is equipped with state-of-the-art sterilization that will improve efficiency and reduce staff labor.

This opening completes phase I and II of the project. The old ORs will be gutted and renovated as a new pre-operative space and a new PACU. A "big thank you" is due to those who have worked in cramped quarters for many years! This is a well-deserved change.

The community's confidence in the Medical Staff and the hospital has driven this growth. More than 200 patients from the two-county region use the WT Emergency Department every day. Hundreds more use our campus there. Washington Township is shaping up as the center of Gloucester county. It is fitting that a fast-paced, technically sophisticated, academic tertiary medical center supported by outpatient specialty centers will figure in its identity.

-DLH

Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening of the New Surgical Suite

at

Kennedy Memorial Hospitals –
University Medical Center/
Washington Township
435 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road
2nd floor, Building E
Turnersville, NJ

Wednesday, June 17, 2009
2 to 3 p.m. – Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony

4 to 7 p.m. – Physician-only
reception, tours & networking

Tours and presentations on
topics including efficient OR
throughput, robotic surgery,
pain management and
custom-fit knee procedures

New Appointments

Department of

Medical Imaging

Andrew Shaer, MD

Joseph Torres, MD

Department of Medicine

Stuart Gould, MD

Internal Medicine

Nancy L. Lewis, MD

Hematology/Oncology

Isaac Tawfik, MD

Internal Medicine

Department of OB/GYN

Rose M. Scaffidi, CNM

Department of Pediatrics

Kristen E. Beck, MD

Richard C. Simmers, DO

Department of Psychiatry

Jenys Allende, MD

Najmun Riyaz, MD

Department of Surgery

Stephen B. Kirshner, MD

Orthopedic Surgery

Roberta Papinchak, CRNA

Shilpa Patel, CRNA

Paul Walker Joins Kennedy as Senior VP

Paul A. Walker, FACHE, has been named Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Kennedy Health System. In his new role at Kennedy, Mr. Walker will



oversee the multi-hospital system's operational performance, while providing leadership to its more than 3,500 associates.

Mr. Walker joins Kennedy from Temple University Health System in Philadelphia, where he served most recently as Director of Business Development. His career also includes 25 years with the Tenet Health System, where he held several leadership positions, including that of CEO for five different system hospitals throughout the country. During his tenure at Tenet, which concluded in 2006, Mr. Walker also served as Vice President of Philadelphia Operations for its eight Delaware Valley-based hospitals, including Hahnemann University Hospital and Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital.

A graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Mr. Walker earned his master's degree in health administration from Duke University. He is a member of numerous healthcare organizations, the Health Care Leadership Network of the Delaware Valley, and the American College of Hospital Health Care Executives, where he earned Fellow status. Mr. Walker and his wife Rosemary, a pediatrician, reside in Penn Valley, PA.

Physicians in the News

Samuel S. Becker, MD, served as guest editor of the April 2009 edition of the *Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America*, which was dedicated to the "Surgical Management of Nasal Airway Obstruction: a Rhinologic Perspective." Dr. Becker also lectured at the 31st International Session Head and Neck Conference held in Vail, Colorado, on "Management of Frontal and Sphenoid Sinus Disease." His paper on "Current Issues in the Management of Sinonasal Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus" was published in the February 2009 issue of *Current Opinion in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*.



Stratford Intensivist **Livia Bratis, DO**, was included in the April 2009 issue of *Philadelphia* magazine as one of the "Next Generation of Great Philly Docs." Dr. Bratis manages the medical and surgical ICU at the Stratford campus.

Congratulations to the following children's physicians on staff at Kennedy who are mentioned as "**Top Children's Physicians**" *South Jersey* magazine, Volume 5, Issue 11:

Marc L. Backal, MD

Anat Feingold, MD

Lori Beth Feldman-Winter, MD

Martin Finkel, MD

John N. Giacobbo, MD

Jacqueline Kaari, DO

Tanya Kadrmass-Iannuzzi, DO

Angela G. Knestaur, DO

Ira H. LaVoe, DO

Lee G. Lerch, DO

Adam P. Richards, MD

Guillermo Sanchez, MD



Larry Cohen, DO, and his dance partner Diane Alcavage came in first place in "Dancing with the Cherry Hill Stars" on April 19. The event raised \$30,000 for the Cherry Hill Education Foundation.

Kennedy's Behavioral Health Services Harnesses Its Resources to Improve the Lives of Children

By John Pellicane, Behavioral Health Case Manager

Because of the stigma and shame associated with mental illness, treatment is often avoided. In an NIH study¹, it was found that 50 percent of adult mental health disorders begin at age 14. The median delay in getting treatment for a mental health disorder is 10 years! The study also revealed that untreated mental disorders frequently result in more severe and difficult-to-treat illnesses, as well as the development of co-occurring illnesses.

The National Institutes of Health² reports the most common mental health disorders in children are:

- **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD, ADD)**
- **Autism Spectrum Disorders (Pervasive Development Disorders)**
- **Bipolar Disorder**
- **Borderline Personality Disorder**
- **Depression**
- **Eating Disorders**
- **Schizophrenia**

Trends indicate a significant increase in those seeking treatment³ via primary care physicians, non-prescribing behavioral health providers and psychiatrists. The growth outpaces available resources, particularly for

persons of color and those who are underinsured or uninsured. The study indicates more positive outcomes are noted when treatment is provided by a behavioral health practitioner.

Kennedy's broad spectrum of inpatient and outpatient programs have substantially improved the lives of children and teens afflicted with adjustment and conduct disorders, ADHD, anxiety and mood disorders, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder and schizophrenia. Its acute child and adolescent inpatient unit is respected throughout the region. In addition, a full range of outpatient programs are available at both our Washington Township and Cherry Hill locations. Transportation is often available.

For more information regarding admissions to any Behavioral Health service, please call the ACCESS Center at **800/528-3425**.

Editor's Note: In the March/April *Nota Bene*, the article titled "Behavioral Health Starts New Program to Combat Teen Prescription Drug Abuse" incorrectly stated that Behavioral Health opened an adolescent inpatient substance abuse program. Kennedy opened an outpatient substance abuse service, not an inpatient service.

1. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/statistics/nimh-funded-national-comorbidity-survey-replication-ncs-r-study-mental-illness-exacts-heavy-toll-beginning-in-youth.shtml>

2. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/child-and-adolescent-mental-health/index.shtml>

3. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/statistics/nimh-funded-national-comorbidity-survey-replication-ncs-r-study-mental-illness-exacts-heavy-toll-beginning-in-youth.shtml>

Kennedys' Behavioral Health Services participated in the Celebration of Children in April– a DYFS-sponsored event – that took place at the Children's Garden, next to Adventure Aquarium in Camden. Additionally, Behavioral Health supported the Stay Alive Walk at Challenge Grove Park in Cherry Hill on May 31. This two-mile walk raises funds for CONTACT (a crisis hotline) as well as awareness and prevention of adolescent suicide.



New Service: Vestibular Rehabilitation for Balance and Dizziness

Kennedy now offers Balance Testing and VRT – to diagnose balance system defects and then to develop an individualized, exercise-based program for reducing symptoms of dizziness and poor balance – at its three Physical Therapy Departments.

For patients with inner ear disorders, determined by testing, VRT can be a highly-effective treatment option. With electronic access to the actual results of the balance test and following an assessment of eye-head coordination, dizziness, balance and gait by a specially-trained Physical Therapist, an individualized exercise plan is developed. Therapy, which includes at-home exercises, is painless and usually lasts from four to six weeks.

Some common balance disorders that can benefit from VRT include:

- Weakness on one side of the vestibular system (unilateral), such as vestibular neuritis or labyrinthitis.

- Bilateral vestibular loss, secondary to toxic medications, such as gentamycin, streptomycin, etc.
- Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV), a condition categorized by brief episodes of mild to intense dizziness associated with specific changes in the position of one's head.
- Stroke (or CVA) which has affected the vestibular system.
- Meniere's Disease (if in chronic stages)
- Post-operative acoustic neuroma resection

Research has shown that exercises to enhance the central and peripheral nervous systems to adapt to an inner ear dysfunction -- while increasing balance and stability -- are highly beneficial to patients. For more information about Balance Testing and Vestibular Rehabilitation Therapy at Kennedy, call **866/943-4567**.



Nota Bene
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