

The Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation COMMUNITY UPDATE

January / February 2012

The Tallahassee Memorial Clinical Genetics Center is Open



L. Kristin Parsley, M.D.,
F.A.A.P., F.A.C.M.G.
Medical Director,
Tallahassee Memorial
Clinical Genetics Center and
Assistant Professor,
Specialist in Clinical
Genetics and Pediatrics,
Florida State University
College of Medicine

The Tallahassee Memorial Clinical Genetics Center will provide genetic services for both pediatric and adult patients. The Center, the first of its kind in the area, will use the latest clinical practice in the use of genetics to diagnose and treat a variety of illnesses, including heart disease and cancer.

"This is a new and growing field. We just unraveled the human genome 10 years ago, so we are discovering new therapies, effective diagnoses and treatments," said L. Kristin Parsley, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.M.G., Tallahassee Memorial Clinical Genetics Center, Medical Director, and Assistant Professor, Specialist in Clinical Genetics and Pediatrics, Florida State University College of Medicine.

For Dr. Parsley, who began her medical career in primary care and rural health, genetics has a personal side. She and her husband Marcus adopted a child from the Inner Mongolia region of China when the youngster was 2. He had a genetic form of spina bifida. "It kind of changed my direction in medicine," she said. "I had originally focused on pediatric medicine."

The experience heightened her interest in diseases that have genetic origins and in caring for special-needs patients.

Consequently, she entered and completed her fellowship training in clinical genetics and metabolism at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in affiliation with Children's Hospital Colorado and University Hospital. Children's Hospital Colorado was founded in 1908 and has consistently ranked among the top ten children's hospitals in the country.

Through the testing that the Center will offer, patients will be able to confirm if they have a predisposition for a certain disease and how to go about managing it most effectively if symptoms develop. "If a genetic test indicates the potential for a certain disease, such as breast cancer, the patient can be screened much earlier in life," noted Dr. Parsley. "It allows you to focus your treatment, which is more effective," added Dean Watson, M.D., Tallahassee Memorial Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. "We are very grateful to the TMH Foundation for its financial support which launched this powerful initiative at TMH."

For years, Tallahassee families have had access to geneticist Roderick F. Hume, M.D., who specializes in prenatal genetics. According to Dr. Parsley, "Now, the new Center can expand the genetic services available locally by providing treatment needed at any point after birth." The Clinical Genetics Center will require patient referrals from primary care physicians. It is located in the TMH Transition Center building, 3333 Capital Oaks Boulevard.

BREAKING NEWS

Golden Gala

XXIX

April 25, 2012



**Tallahassee Memorial
HealthCare Foundation**

Tallahassee Memorial's Golden Gala, starring entertainment giant, Keith Urban, is scheduled for April 25, 2012 at the Tallahassee/Leon County Civic Center. The Golden Gala, now in its 29th year, is a black-tie affair considered by many to be Tallahassee's premier charitable and social event. Proceeds will fund the acquisition of an Interactive Patient Communication System.

You are cordially invited to contact the TMH Foundation to make your Golden Gala reservations by either calling Bonnie Cannon at 850.431.4590 or e-mailing her at bonnie.cannon@tmh.org. Thank you very much for your support of "Recognized World Class Health Care" at TMH *Your Hospital for Life..*



TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL AGAIN EARNS “Accredited Chest Pain Center with PCI” Designation from the Society for Chest Pain Centers

“Tallahassee Memorial is currently the only hospital in the Big Bend region recognized by the Society for Chest Pain Centers as an Accredited Chest Pain Center with PCI,” said Terri McDonald who joined Tallahassee Memorial in June 2011 as its Cardiovascular Service Line Administrator.

The accreditation process is a lengthy one with a set of stringent criteria and includes a site visit by the Accreditation Review Committee of the Society for Chest Pain Centers to ensure that patients who arrive at Tallahassee Memorial with chest pain or other symptoms of a heart attack receive the treatment necessary during the critical window of time when the heart muscle can be preserved. “Accredited Chest Pain Center with PCI designates TMH as a hospital where PCI is the primary intervention strategy for the treatment of acute heart attack,” Mrs. McDonald further noted. PCI is commonly known as coronary angioplasty or simply angioplasty, and is a therapeutic procedure to treat narrowed and/or occluded arteries of the heart found in coronary heart disease.

“Since heart disease kills an estimated 630,000 Americans each year and is the leading cause of death for both men and women, getting to a hospital that is prepared to rapidly diagnose and treat a heart attack is critical,” continued Mrs. McDonald. “This important designation by the Society for Chest Pain Centers provides the community with the assurance that our team is prepared to rapidly provide high quality, evidence-based care to patients experiencing chest pain.”

“While Tallahassee Memorial’s Heart & Vascular Center believes that education and prevention are paramount in fighting heart disease, as a heart attack survivor, I know that when leading edge, life-saving cardiac intervention procedures are required, TMH is the place to be,” said Aaron Kinnon, Director of Community Outreach for the TMH Foundation and lead fundraiser for the Heart & Vascular Center. For information on ways you can benefit the Center, please either call 850.431.5698 or e-mail aaron.kinnon@tmh.org or visit www.tmhfoundation.org.

“While Tallahassee Memorial joins the nation in observing February as Heart Month, its Heart & Vascular Center is a leader day-in and day-out in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease.”

— Terri McDonald, Cardiovascular Service Line Administrator

“People tend to wait when they think they might be having a heart attack, and that’s a mistake. The average patient arrives in the Emergency Department more than two hours after the onset of symptoms. The sooner a heart attack is treated, the less damage to the heart and the better the outcome.”

— Wayne Batchelor, M.D., Interventional Cardiologist at TMH

Know the Warning Signs

Many heart attacks can be minimized or stopped by seeking immediate medical attention. The key is recognizing the warning signs.

Chest pain is the most common symptom associated with a heart attack. However, you may have any of the following symptoms:

- Throat or jaw pain radiating to the left shoulder
- Pain that radiates down the left arm
- Shortness of breath
- Mid-back pain radiating to the chest
- Chest tightness or pressure
- Chest discomfort (severe heartburn unrelieved with antacids)

These symptoms may be accompanied by:

- Fainting
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Dizziness

Don’t ever ignore a heart attack symptom – the longer you wait to get help, the greater the chance your heart will be permanently damaged. If you ever experience any of these symptoms, CALL 911 and request immediate transport to the Tallahassee Memorial Bixler Emergency Center.

Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and its Foundation Salute and Honor the
18th Annual Tee Off for Tots Golf Tournament
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FSU, TMH Team Up for Patient Safety Study



Dennis Tsilimingras, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Center on Patient Safety and Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine & Rural Health, Florida State University College of Medicine

Medical errors during hospital stays make headlines, but far more common are problems that occur after patients – especially older ones – go home. Little research has focused on the critical weeks after discharge, and none has focused on rural patients – until now.

Dennis Tsilimingras, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Center on Patient Safety and Assistant Professor of Family Medicine & Rural Health at the Florida State University College of Medicine, has been awarded a two-year, \$908,000 grant from the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. “This is another splendid example of the positive and powerful influence of the FSU-TMH comprehensive research agreement,” said Paula Fortunas, President and CEO of the TMH Foundation.

With the participation of the Tallahassee Memorial Hospitalist Group, this study will monitor approximately 600 patients – half of them rural – for three weeks right after they’re discharged. “Ultimately the goal is to recommend ways to reduce post-discharge problems, which often involve medications,” said Dr. Tsilimingras.

“Dr. Tsilimingras’ grant is designed to evaluate how safe our health care system is when patients transition their care from hospital to home,” said Les Beitsch, M.D., J.D. Associate Dean for Health Affairs. “He may play an instrumental role in making patient care safer and better.”

Dr. Tsilimingras (pronounced “chili-MING-gras”) and his fellow researchers will be looking for medical errors that injure patients – or, in the language of patient safety, “post-discharge adverse events.” He said the only previous U.S. study done, in Boston, found that 19 percent of discharged patients experienced an adverse event. When that study was replicated in Ottawa, the

rate was 23 percent. He said those were five to six times higher than in-hospital rates. Neither study looked at rural patients.

The FSU-TMH study, which officially began September 30, 2011, has three specific aims:

1. Identify adverse events and determine which ones could be prevented or at least be less severe. Researchers’ hypothesis is that the rate among the rural population will be higher than among the non-rural because of less access to follow-up health care.

2. Identify the causes. The hypothesis is that most adverse events will be related in some way to medications, sometimes resulting from a miscommunication between the patient’s regular physician and the hospital physician. In the Boston study, medication problems were a factor in two-thirds of all adverse events after discharge. And because older patients typically have more medications, they more often have adverse events.

3. Examine other factors that could play a role, such as whether the patient didn’t have a primary-care physician, or whether the patient had a chronic disease before entering the hospital – and, if so, the severity of that disease.

Dr. Tsilimingras hopes this study can lay the foundation for a screening tool that will flag any patients who are particularly at risk. In the meantime, Dr. Tsilimingras has this advice for patients: “Always talk to the physician. Always ask as many questions as possible. Always have a list of your medications with you. Before you’re discharged, make sure you know what you’re supposed to do next. Make sure you know what to tell your own physician, because you can’t assume he or she has spoken with the hospital physician. “And if you can’t take these steps, bring along a family member who can.”



Dean D. Watson, M.D., Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

TMH Creates Transition Center for Patients Who Need Follow-Up Care

The Tallahassee Memorial Transition Center that opened in February 2011 is an innovative partnership among the FSU College of Medicine, Capital Health Plan and TMH and is designed to reduce hospital readmissions. The Center delivers follow-up care in a multidisciplinary setting for certain patients who have been recently discharged from the hospital and are clinically stable. Health care professionals connect patients to any care they need such as filling prescriptions, arranging physical therapy or other rehabilitation services or getting in touch with case management or social work for intervention.

“First and foremost, the Center is benefiting the patients it serves ... emergency room visits and readmissions to the hospital have been reduced by 68 percent since the Center opened,” said Dean D. Watson, M.D., Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. “Ultimately, the Center will become a multidisciplinary learning site for TMH, the FSU Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Social Work, the FAMU College of Pharmacy and the Tallahassee Community College Division of Healthcare Professions.” The Tallahassee Memorial Transition Center was recognized for its effectiveness in the December 2011 edition of *The Hospitalist* magazine.

Linda O’Neill, Ph.D. Makes Handsome Gift Provision for the Tallahassee Memorial Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Linda O’Neill, Ph.D., is a seasoned traveler who has seen both the privileged and deprived of the world. “I’ve always had sympathy for the plight of individuals who have a tough time of it because of disability or disadvantage,” said Dr. O’Neill. “We should want to give them some compensation – make life a little more fair for them. I suppose these feelings are what pushed me on in my own life.” It is, therefore, no surprise that Dr. O’Neill has made provision for a \$100,000 gift under her estate plan to benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



Linda O’Neill visits Tibet and receives a warm welcome in the home of her guide Pasang.

When Linda O’Neill came to Tallahassee to pursue her doctorate at Florida State University, she fell in love with Tallahassee, the coast and especially Dog Island. After receiving her degree, Dr. O’Neill began her career as the Associate Director of the Institute for Development of Human Resources at Random House in New York City. The Institute

undertook special educational projects and Dr. O’Neill worked on “Child Find,” a federally mandated national effort to locate handicapped children who had been denied access to public schools solely based on their disabilities. As a result of her efforts, thousands of children were found and educated.

Later, Dr. O’Neill opened her own consulting firm, O’Neill and Associates, in New York City and a second office in Tallahassee. Her firm began to focus on the conditions of mentally and psychologically disabled individuals in state residential institutions, such as the Sunland Centers in Tallahassee and Orlando. Dr. O’Neill worked with and was commissioned by the Florida Legislature to develop a plan for homes that would replace the state institutions. She worked with Herb Morgan, Phil Ashler, Joe Clemons and Bill Rutherford to move residents from these institutions into new community homes across the state.

Dr. O’Neill retired in 2000 and said, “I had almost 2,000,000 miles with Delta Airlines and I have been traveling ever since.” She has been to China, Europe and most recently to Scotland, and when she travels she is still sensitive to the plight of children and the disadvantaged. “Dr. O’Neill’s gift to the Tallahassee Memorial Neonatal Intensive Care Unit underscores her compassion for and support of the smallest and most helpless among us,” said Janet Borneman, Director of Planned Giving at the TMH Foundation. “It gives me great pleasure,” she said, “to leave a gift to the TMH Foundation that will help sick and premature babies.”

Paula Fortunas Named 2011 Woman of Distinction in Health by the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle

Paula Fortunas, Vice President/Chief Advancement Officer at Tallahassee Memorial and President/CEO of the TMH Foundation, was recognized as the 2011 Woman of Distinction in Health by the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle. This council serves 6,000 girls across 19 counties with more than 100 troops. Other winners were Adrian Fogelin – Arts & Humanities, Dorothy Binger – Education, Sandy Beck – Environment, Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson - Government Officials, Kelly O’Keefe – Law, Mary Ellen Klas – Media and Allison Tant Richard – Youth and Social Services. The Awards Ceremony was on November 3 at the Hotel Duval.

According to Raslean M. Allen, Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle, “Girl Scouts are proud to honor these top women leaders in our community as Women of Distinction in their respective fields. It is important to note that they are being recognized not only for their professional excellence and achievement but also for their ingenuity and the ability to overcome barriers that still exist for women. These women serve as role models for us all.”

“The Awards Ceremony was a very special occasion for the TMH family as many of us gathered to salute Paula and her outstanding record of accomplishment and ... everyone’s heart was truly touched when Paula dedicated the award to her mother who passed away in September,” said Mark O’Bryant, TMH President and Chief Executive Officer. Paula further explained, “My Girl Scouting experience was all the more meaningful and memorable because my mother was one of our troop leaders at every level from Brownies forward. She made sure ‘I got it’ – courage, confidence and character count.”



Pink it Up for Breast Cancer

Photos by Gina Weaver, Blue Canopy Photography

On Saturday, October 1, 2011, Gabriela Brown celebrated her 16th birthday in a most unusual and wonderful way. Gabriela invited family, friends and schoolmates from Maclay School to her "Sweet 16 PINK IT UP" party in honor and memory of family and friends who have suffered breast cancer. Guests were encouraged to wear pink and were treated to elaborate pink decorations and pink beverages. Instead of gifts for Gabriela, she asked her guests to make donations to the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation to benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Sharon Ewing Walker Breast Health Center.



From left to right: Brianna Brown, Sandra Brown, Gabriela Brown, Barbara Lindsay, and Patrick Brown

attitude and exemplary generosity." Gabriela has raised almost \$5,000 and says, "I continually urge people to donate to the cause as awareness makes the difference."

Donations to the Sharon Ewing Walker Breast Health Center can be made either by check payable to the TMH Foundation at 1331 East Sixth Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32303, or by secure online donation. Please visit www.tmhfoundation.org, and click on Make a Donation. Then click on Secure Credit Card Donation

and select "Other" as the Donation Category and type in "SEWBHC" as the gift designation.

"I dedicated this event to my late cousin, Janet Francis, who died from a rare form of breast cancer" Gabriela said. "She was known as the chef in my family and had catered many of my birthday parties. It was upsetting to know she would not be here for such an important milestone in my life." Gabriela is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Patrick Brown who wholeheartedly support her philanthropic efforts.

Paula Fortunas, President and CEO of the TMH Foundation said, "Gabriela has shown maturity beyond her years by turning attention away from herself and giving the spotlight to breast cancer awareness. She is to be commended for her unselfish



Guests celebrate at Gabriela Brown's Pink It Up Sweet 16 Party

Protocols for Philanthropy

will return in the March-April issue of Tallahassee Magazine.



Paula S. Fortunas
President/CEO
TMH Foundation

Tallahassee Memorial is exceedingly grateful to you — its community of donors and friends — for the generous outpouring of charitable gifts at the close of 2011. You recognized and, rightfully so, that your gifts are more important now than ever. Thank you for your expressions of confidence in **TMH** *Your Hospital for Life.*

G. Mark O'Bryant
President & CEO
Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

Paula S. Fortunas
President & CEO
Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation



**Tallahassee Memorial
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