

## Physicians encouraged to participate in community speakers program

“Professional Voices for Health” is a dynamic community services program that brings compelling speakers from Hallmark Health to local civic and public service organizations.

Physicians, nurses and clinical staff participate in the program and offer their expertise on a number of topics including heart disease, stroke, managing stress, osteoporosis prevention, diabetes, child safety and other health related topics.

Hallmark Health physicians who are interested in participating as a guest speaker in “Professional Voices for Health,” should contact, **Eileen Dern**, RN, CES, Director, Community Services at (781) 338-7552 or edern@hallmarkhealth.org, or **Nancy Ward** at (781) 338-7556 or nward@hallmarkhealth.org.

## Tufts Medical students honored



Last month, Hallmark Health presented the Annual Robert Fahey Award to the best performing medical student in the Tufts University Medical School Physical Diagnosis Course. This year the award was presented to the entire graduating class of the program at a luncheon held at Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford. In addition, **Peter Contompasis**, MD, (far right), was honored for his many years of volunteer work serving on the faculty. Above are members of the class who attended the luncheon along with **Laurence Conway**, MD, (back row, center) who directs the program.

## Dr. Weinstein receives Thier Physician Leadership Award

**Robert Weinstein**, MD, Chief of the Division of Pulmonary Disease at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, recently received the Samuel O. Thier MD Physician Leadership Award from Partner's Community HealthCare, Inc.

Dr. Weinstein received the award for his energetic work on a number of committees at Partners and for his advocacy for the use electronic medical records.

## Hallmark Health Medical Staff Annual Meeting set for June 2

The Annual Meeting of the Hallmark Health Medical Staff will be held on Wednesday evening, June 2 at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton-Colonial Hotel in Wakefield, MA. The evening honors medical staff members for their many years of dedicated service.

Guest speakers for the evening will include; **William Doherty**, MD, System Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, **Michael V. Sack**,

President and Chief Executive Officer, Hallmark Health, **Donna West**, Chairman of the Hallmark Health Board of Trustees and **Joanne Marqusee**, Executive Vice President, System Chief Operating Officer.

For more information on the event, please call the Physician Liaisons, **Meredith Baker** at (781) 338-7508 or **Thomas Anderson**, at (781) 338-7507.

## Dr. Riffelmacher, MD, joins Hallmark Health Medical Associates, Inc.

by **Jim Nania**, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

We are pleased to announce that **Gerald Riffelmacher**, MD will be joining Hallmark Health Medical Associates, Inc., on July 1. Dr. Riffelmacher has been in private practice in Medford for more than 30 years and is a well regarded, board-certified internal medicine physician within our community.

In addition to his significant inpatient work at Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford, Dr. Riffelmacher has a very busy outpatient practice and is loved by his patients and their families.

Dr. Riffelmacher decided to join Hallmark Health Medical Associates, Inc., to become an important part of a well respected and growing multi-disciplinary group practice. Currently Hallmark Health Medical Associates has 45

physicians, eight nurse practitioners and a nurse midwife.

Dr. Riffelmacher will be relocating from Zero Governors Avenue in Medford to 101 Main St., Suite 202, in Medford on July 1.

He will be relocating to allow for expansion of his practice in the future to include a second physician in his practice and to gain increased operational efficiency. His phone and fax numbers will remain the same: (781) 395-7638, fax: (781) 395-7073.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Riffelmacher to Hallmark Health Medical Associates, Inc.



Dr. Riffelmacher

## Hallmark Health awarded Gold Seal of Approval from Joint Commission

By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for healthcare quality and safety, Hallmark Health System has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™.

The Joint Commission is dedicated to continuously improving the safety and quality of the nation's healthcare through voluntary accreditation. The Joint Commission's rigorous on-site survey of Hallmark Health occurred this past winter.

**Michael V. Sack**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hallmark Health System, adds, “The five-day comprehensive survey conducted by The Joint Commission

encompassed all aspects of both inpatient and outpatient care on each of our healthcare delivery sites. This accreditation validates the high level of care our physicians, nurses and clinical staff provide and our unwavering commitment to provide the highest levels of safety to our patients.”

**Mark Pelletier**, R.N., M.S., The Joint Commission's Executive Director, Hospital Programs, Accreditation and Certification Services, said of the accreditation, “The community should be proud that Hallmark Health is focusing on the most challenging goal -- to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels.”



## New surgery introduced at LMH that leaves patients scar free

A major concern for many surgical patients is the type of scarring they will experience when the procedure is completed. Thanks to a new procedure recently introduced at Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford that is no longer a concern for some patients.

**Andras Sandor, MD** is performing a new type of gallbladder removal surgery, single incision laparoscopic (SILS) procedure that leaves virtually no scars. This procedure removes the gallbladder through a small incision in the belly button and as a result the scar from the procedure is hidden, alleviating a concern for many patients.

"We are very proud to be the first hospital in the region to offer this next generation procedure to our patients," said Dr. Sandor. "My patients have done very well with this new procedure. They have all gone home the same day that they had the surgery."

## Hallmark Health Achieves Gold Seal of Approval

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In addition, The Joint Commission presented Hallmark Health with a silver tier Certificate of Achievement in recognition for achieving a 75 percent seasonal flu vaccination rate among all employees. The high number of staff who chose to get a flu shot demonstrates their high level of concern to protect the health and safety of our patients.

"While not everyone is an eligible candidate for a flu vaccination, our goal is to provide as safe and confident an environment as possible. We are encouraged by the personal responsibility shown by our staff seeking to eliminate the transfer of the flu, and other infections, to each other and to our patients," Sack explains.

Approximately 500,000 gallbladder surgeries are performed in the United States each year. Like other laparoscopic procedures the benefits of the SILS procedure include a shorter length of stay, less pain and less need for pain medication. The procedure also allows patients to get back to work and regular life sooner.

The SILS procedure is just the latest in a list of advancements that have been made to gallbladder surgery over the years. When the surgery was first performed it included a large incision on the upper right side of the abdomen. Later when laparoscopic surgery became the standard of care that changed to four small incisions. Now with the SILS procedure, patients virtually have no scar.

Dr. Sandor is board certified in general surgery and has a special interest in advanced laparoscopic procedures. In addition to performing the SILS procedure, Dr. Sandor also routinely performs laparoscopic weight loss surgery including gastric bypass and Lap Band surgeries at LMH.

For more information on the procedure, please contact Dr. Sandor at Commonwealth Surgical Associates at (781) 438-3034.



*Andras Sandor, MD*

## IMAGING TIP OF THE MONTH

### Barium Swallow and Modified Barium Swallow Exams

**Modified Barium Swallow Exam (CPT 74230):** This exam is designed to assess the dynamics of swallowing liquids and solids. This test is most often used in patients who are experiencing aspiration during swallowing, a common status post a neurological event. This exam does not assess anatomy or morphology. Consultation with a speech therapist is necessary prior to scheduling this exam at Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford or Melrose-Wakefield Hospital.

To schedule a modified barium swallow exam, please call (781) 306-6965.

**Pharyngeal and Cervical Esophagus (CPT 74210):** This exam is designed to carefully assess the anatomy of pharynx, hypopharynx, and cervical esophagus for mass, stricture or Zenker's diverticulum and is often utilized in patients with dysphagia.

An upper gastrointestinal study is an exam that assesses all aspects of the majority of the esophagus, stomach and proximal small bowel. This exam is best suited for assessment of GERD, heartburn, as well as all issues related to the stomach and proximal small bowel.

For more information or to schedule these exams for your patients, please call Central Scheduling at (781) 338-7111.

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