



Poster captures first place at national conference

Joe Ordia, MD and Julien Vaisman, MD, presented a poster at the North American Neuromodulation Society Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV, in December. Their poster that examined "The treatment of medically intractable trigeminal autonomic cephalalgia with supraorbital/supratrochlear stimulation: a retrospective case series" also captured first prize at the conference.

Dr. Chang to author local health column

Tien Lan Chang, MD, chief of Pediatrics at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, is now writing a bi-monthly health and parenting column for Melrose Patch. The column will be in a question and answer format. The Patch is a community news and information website that offers local news, events and items of interest for local residents.

CHEST honors Dr. Zack

Michael Zack, MD, has been named one of the top reviewers for CHEST, the official publication of the American College of Chest Physicians. Only five percent of the reviewers for the magazine were so honored.

Physician partnership and advisory board established

Hallmark Health has recently formed a Physician Partnership and Strategic Advisory Board. This board will serve as a voice of the medical staff in collaboration with system administration on matters regarding hospital initiatives and alignments.

Physician membership of this new board includes; **William Doherty, MD, Nicole Bloor, MD, Tom Jevon, MD, Steven Sbardella, MD, Bernard Logan, MD, Joseph Pennacchio, MD, David Harnett, MD, Charles Allen, MD, Eleanor Moresco, MD, Timothy Tierney, MD, Edward Butler, MD, Carl Danielson, MD, Ronald Nath, MD and Eric Henrikson, MD.**

Members of the medical staff are encouraged to contact these physicians with their comments and ideas for the future of Hallmark Health. Other topics might also include improving system viability, ensuring quality patient care and strategies to improve physician engagement.

The Center for Wound Healing opens this Spring

This spring, The Center for Wound Healing at Hallmark Health will open at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital. The state-of-the-art Center will be the only one in the region with two hyperbaric oxygen chambers offering comprehensive, multi-disciplinary treatments for all types of chronic wounds including diabetic ulcers, venous and pressure ulcers or those caused by poor blood flow or other medical conditions.

The Center's team of highly skilled physicians, nurses and specialists will help patients get their lives back by concentrating on non-healing wounds that have resisted healing after months and even years of traditional treatment. The Center will offer treatment on an outpatient basis and contain dedicated exam and treatment rooms.

Alfonso Serrano, MD, will serve as medical director for the new Center. "There are a large number of diabetic patients and patients who have had arteries or veins who have become very discouraged with chronic wounds that do not heal. These patients desperately need and should greatly benefit from this highly specialized care."

The Center will be managed by The Center for Wound Healing, Inc., a national firm that develops and manages wound care centers for outpatients across the country.



The state-of-the-art Center will be the only one in the region with two hyperbaric oxygen chambers like the one shown here.

State law requires physician competency in EHR

Last year, Massachusetts enacted a new law that requires physicians to be competent in the use of Electronic Health Records (EHR) by Jan. 1, 2015. In order to obtain a medical license in the state, or to renew an existing license, physicians will have to demonstrate competence in EHR to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine.

The Massachusetts eHealth Institute, (MeHI), a state agency, will establish the criteria for competence and will create the criteria to determine this competency. The Board urges all physicians to visit the MeHI website to learn more about these requirements. Their website is: www.maehi.org.

Hallmark Health has been a leader in introducing EHR throughout the system and is well ahead of more than 90 percent of the hospitals in the country in using electronic medical records. This technology is now being used throughout the system for inpatient care, imaging, visiting nurses and many outpatient and physician offices in the community.

Information technology update

Carol Dresser

vice president, Information Services

The HITECH Act within the American Recovery and Reimbursement Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides direction and assistance to healthcare organizations to promote the use of information technology to improve the efficient delivery of quality healthcare throughout the country. Hallmark Health has been implementing advanced clinical systems over the recent years by implementing Electronic Medical Records (EMR) in physicians' offices, clinical on-line documentation, electronic medication administration recording, bedside medication verification and computerized provider order entry. This puts us ahead of many other healthcare organizations.

All of these applications will be required for compliance with the new regulations and make both the system and providers eligible for incentive payments. Another new requirement is "eprescribing." Hallmark Health went live with eprescribing in the office setting last month. It will be available in the inpatient area next year. Other new systems and improved use of current systems will soon be required to meet all of the requirements.

There is a multi-disciplinary team working on this for both the inpatient and eligible provider requirements. We have made a commitment to implementing the required technology. Working together, we are certain we will be using this technology in a meaningful way to better serve our patients, physicians and employees.

For more information about ARRA, please email cdresser@hallmarkhealth.org.

IMAGING INFORMATION

Coronary computed tomography angiography (CCTA) uses advanced CT technology to obtain high resolution, three-dimensional images of the heart and coronary arteries. Our state-of-the-art 64-slice CT scanner is used to perform these studies at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital.

CCTA has been compared to invasive coronary angiography for the detection of atherosclerosis with sensitivities and specificities in the range of 85 to 95%. More importantly, it has a high negative predictive value for the presence of coronary artery atherosclerosis of greater than 98%.

There may be concern by some regarding the radiation involved in CCTA exams. However, with available software on our CT scanner, including prospective EKG-triggered axial scanning, the usual skin radiation dose is less than invasive coronary angiography or nuclear medicine stress testing.

For more information about these CCTA exams, or to schedule an exam, please contact The Cardiac & Endovascular Center at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital at (781) 979-6905.

Local family makes generous gift to Hallmark Health

The Caruso family of Somerville was so moved with the exceptional and compassionate care their mother received at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital (MWH) that they donated \$35,000 towards the creation of the first inpatient Hospice Room at MWH.

The room will be dedicated to the memory of Joseph and Constance Caruso and allow hundreds of future patients to experience the high level of care and compassion the Caruso family received.

Hallmark Health's commitment to the local communities is supported by generous donors, like the Caruso's, who understand the vital role that Hallmark Health plays in the delivery of healthcare services. Contributions of individuals - grateful patients, patients' families, friends and organizations have never been more important to our ability and mission to provide every patient with the finest care possible.



*Pictured in the photo are: **James Herrington**, (l.), trustee and chairman of the Hallmark Health Major Gifts Committee, family members of the late Joseph and Constance Caruso, **Sylvia Caruso**, daughter-in-law, **Nelson Caruso**, son, **Virginia Caruso Bove**, daughter, **Maria Caruso**, daughter, **Margaret Caruso Wilson**, daughter and **Anthony Alley**, RN, CEN, interim patient care director on Med 4.*

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PUBLISHED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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