

### Save the Date, June 3rd, 2009

The Annual Meeting of the Hallmark Health Medical Staff will be held on Wednesday evening, June 3, at the Sheraton-Colonial Hotel in Wakefield. The event honors members of the Hallmark Health medical staff for their years of dedication and service to local communities.

### Hallmark Health receives grant for nursing education patient simulation

Hallmark Health and the Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing Program were selected as one of only eight institutions across the state to receive a grant for a human patient simulation project that seeks to expand the quality of nursing programs. The grant award provides the nursing program with a Laerdal SimBaby Patient Simulator. The infant-sized simulator has realistic anatomy and interactive physiological responses including a heartbeat and respiratory sounds.

The grant was awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Recipients were chosen through a competitive review process. The new patient simulator is an essential addition to the nursing program's Simulated Learning Laboratory where students have been using an interactive adult mannequin. With access to both the baby and adult models, students will have the ability to practice a wide range of medical circumstances.

### Sereno interviewed by NBC News

**Patricia A. Sereno, MD, MPH**, who is with Ell Pond Medical Associates in Malden and serves as the state President of the American Academy of Family Physicians, recently appeared on NBC-TV Nightly News.

She discussed the shortage of primary care physicians, the effect of Massachusetts health care law and changes that may be coming for health care in the new Obama administration.

### Hallmark Health opens Diabetes and Endocrinology Center

**H**allmark Health has opened a new Diabetes and Endocrinology Center at Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford. The center treats patients who have been diagnosed with Type I, Type II or gestational diabetes as well as patients with endocrine disorders.

Highly skilled physicians and medical staff offer a comprehensive hospital-based program that includes treatment, education and professional support to help bring patients' diabetes under control. Education is key to ensure that patients do not develop the serious complications that can result if diabetes is not properly managed. The new center also addresses the field of endocrinology, which deals with hormone-related conditions and diseases, such as thyroid diseases and metabolic bone diseases like osteoporosis.

The Diabetes and Endocrinology Center helps patients develop a goal-oriented, self-management and treatment program so that they can enjoy a better quality of life by preventing any medical complications that often arise from diabetes. Patients can also attend convenient education classes that cover topics like exercise,



*Tara Hamilton, MD, (l.), Sunita Schurgin, MD and Rena LaVasseur, RN, in a patient treatment room at the LMH Diabetes and Endocrinology Center.*

good health habits, meal plans and much more.

The new Diabetes and Endocrinology Center is led by **Tara Hamilton, MD, Sunita Schurgin, MD** and **Rena LaVasseur, RN, CDE**. Drs. Hamilton and Schurgin are both board certified in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism as well as internal medicine. LaVasseur recently joined Hallmark Health from Massachusetts General Hospital, where she spent close to 10 years as a certified diabetes educator.

Prior to joining Hallmark Health, Dr. Hamilton completed an internship and residency program at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and a fellowship in endocrinology, diabetes and nutrition at Boston Medical Center.

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### Physician leadership attends Hallmark Health Annual Meeting

"FY2008 was a year like many others for Hallmark Health System; a year of significant accomplishment, new programs, new physicians added to our medical staff and talented health professionals joining our team," stated **Michael V. Sack**, President and Chief



*Abraham Shurland, MD, (l), with Michael V. Sack, President & Chief Executive Officer of Hallmark Health at the Annual Meeting.*

Executive Officer, Hallmark Health System in his address at the Annual Meeting that was held on Feb. 5.

Sack outlined the challenges Hallmark Health faces during these uncertain financial times, and also pointed out the new technologies and numerous improvements to patient care and service that were added to Hallmark Health over the past year.

Sack described the success in creating a "stronger, more engaged medical leadership" in FY08 with a revised governing structure and responsibilities for chiefs of key departments and medical leadership. He pointed to the formation of a peer review process, led by **Steven**

**Sbardella, MD**, and **Dean Pappas, MD**  
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## "Stronger medical leadership, ... better working partnerships" noted at Hallmark Health Annual Meeting

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that is improving medical practice throughout the system. He also cited a strategic planning session at LMH hosted by **Eleanor Moresco, MD**, President, of the LMH Medical Staff, where 40 physicians offered constructive, thoughtful suggestions on improving hospital-physician relationships and how to capture out-of-system referrals.

He also discussed steps that were taken over the past year to re-structure employed physician practices into a more cohesive model and to foster a more collegial atmosphere and working

partnerships between the medical staff and administration. Sack also noted that over the past fiscal year Hallmark Health has "continued to recruit and retain highly skilled physicians" to the



Wayne Wivell, MD, (l.), with David Bowling, MD, photographed at the Annual Meeting.

medical staff.

In closing, Sack stated, "I believe that we have successfully planted the seeds for continued success for Hallmark Health in FY2009. The steps we have taken; – the administrative engagement of the management team and its journey to achieve and maintain excellence, our continuing efforts to engage the Medical Staff, our commitment to quality and service, strongly indicate that Hallmark Health will continue to show favorable growth trends within our communities and register a favorable financial performance."

There were more than 100 trustees, corporators and physicians who attended the evening meeting.

### WELCOME NEW PHYSICIANS

**Maura K. Shea, MD**, is a Pediatrician. A graduate of the University of Rochester School of Medicine, her office is located at Pediatric Associates of Malden, 105 Commercial St., Malden, MA. Her phone number is (781) 322-5101.



**Danielle Vitiello, PhD**, MD, specializes in Reproductive Endocrinology, Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is a graduate of the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Her office is located at the Fertility Centers of New England, 20 Pond Meadow Drive, Suite 105 in Reading. Her phone number is (781) 942-7000.



### A hospital-based Diabetes and Endocrinology Center

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Dr. Schurgin has been with Hallmark Health since 2005. Prior to that she completed a fellowship in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, Metabolism and Molecular Medicine at Tufts University and a clinical research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital

"The new diabetes and endocrinology center offers patients a program that is comprehensive and close to home," explains Dr. Schurgin. "Our hospital-setting allows for easy access to the full depth of services offered at LMH and throughout the Hallmark Health system. Our dedicated team works with patients, their families and with referring physicians to develop a treatment plan that addresses the

patient's needs and best controls their condition."

The Center provides care to all patients diagnosed with diabetes or any other endocrinology disorder by their primary care physician. Primary care physicians who would like to refer a patient to the Center should call (781) 306-6370. A referral request should be made to the patient's insurance carrier.

*All patients sent for diabetes education or special endocrine testing will remain under the care of the referring physician who will receive prompt test results and updates.*

For more information about the Diabetes and Endocrinology Center at LMH, please call (781) 306-6370 or visit [www.hallmarkhealth.org](http://www.hallmarkhealth.org).

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