

This Week at MCL

A Memorandum to the Employees of the Medical Center of Louisiana, New Orleans
Charity Campus ■ University Campus

September 15-21, 2003



Members of the Geriatric Medicine Program Clinical Staff are, standing, left to right, Genevieve B. Monie, RN, Nurse Supervisor; Lainie V. Moncada, MD, LSU Faculty; Annie H. Brown, GSW, ACSW, Case Management; Daniel A. Yacono, MD, MS, LSU Faculty; Susan Dutsch-Bohl, RN, FNP-C, Nurse Practitioner. Seated, left to right, are Charles A. Cefalu, MD, MS, Medical Director; Linda G. Brown, RN, MSN, RN, Case Management; Susan W. Wyer, MD, Tulane Faculty; and Lumie Kawasaki, MD, MBA, Tulane Faculty. Elizabeth Connor, RN Manager, was unavailable for the picture.

MCL Leads New Orleans Medical Community Towards Improved Healthcare Provision for the Elderly of Louisiana.

With the opening of a Geriatric Assessment Clinic, the Medical Center of Louisiana has launched the new Geriatric Medicine Program. Dr. Charles A. Cefalu is Medical Director. The clinic is temporarily located on the second floor of Charity Campus in E222 Clinic.

The goal of this new program is to provide a holistic, person-centered approach to geriatric medicine while preserving the dignity and enhancing the quality of health and life for those we serve. Through advanced education of physicians, we seek to improve the quality of geriatric inpatient and outpatient care while concurrently improving affiliated hospital cost effectiveness through the enhancement of geriatric patient functional level, nutritional status, and psychological state. This will be accomplished by the development and

implementation of the first truly inter-disciplinary clinical service at MCL.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 2-2166 or 2-2393.

Clinical Services

Inter-disciplinary Assessment Clinics will take place initially on Tuesday mornings and then expand to five half-days per week at a later date. Clinics will be staffed jointly by LSU and Tulane Geriatric Medicine faculty, a nurse practitioner, a clinical pharmacist, and case management personnel.

Patients are referred to the Assessment Clinic by nurses, case managers, or physicians for evaluation of geriatric syndromes such as falls, memory loss, polypharmacy, psycho-social disposition, pre-operative assessment, nutritional

problems, functional decline, or coordination of chronic medical conditions.

Following assessment, patients will be referred back to the referring source with written recommendations. Patients evaluated in need of follow-up in a primary care setting will be referred and followed in the afternoon Geriatric Primary Care Clinics to begin in the near future.

The Assessment Clinic will be complemented by a Geriatric Consultation Service providing inpatient inter-disciplinary team consultation to patients with geriatric syndromes while utilizing the aforementioned team by mid-to-late 2004.

Geriatric Medicine Fellows will provide staffing of these clinical services with supervision provided by the Geriatric Medicine faculty beginning in the next one to two years.

Faculty

A full complement of full-time faculty from the LSU and Tulane schools of medicine with experience, training and certification in Geriatric Medicine will staff these clinical services at MCL.

Program Offices

The academic offices of the Section of Geriatric Medicine are newly located on the first floor of the LSU School of Medicine, 1542 Tulane Avenue, suite 122, Department of Family Medicine.

Last Call for Parking Renewals!

If you park in one of our parking lots and have not renewed your parking contract, your last chance to do so is Monday, September 15. Bring a copy of your registration to the MCL Parking Office located in the University Medical Office Building, 2025 Gravier Street, room 702, to finalize your paperwork. If you do not register by September 15, you will lose your parking space and your name will be placed on the waiting list.

A Notice to Service Award Recipients.

If you are a 2003 service award recipient and your address has recently changed, please notify Norma Larrieu in Marketing at 2-3484, as well as Human Resources so they can update their records. Norma will be mailing the invitations for the Service Awards Breakfast in the near future to the most current home address of all recipients.

To Your Health!

(This week we begin a monthly series called "To Your Health," courtesy of the Employee Health Services.)



Your TB skin test *is* important! An increasing number of patients with unsuspected tuberculosis are being admitted to MCL. Therefore, it is imperative that you receive your TB skin test as scheduled. Employee Health carefully monitors all areas of the hospital each month for positive skin test reactions in order to detect a problem at the earliest possible time and to act to protect your health.

"To Your Health" comes to you courtesy of Employee Health Services. For more information about TB skin testing or other health issues, please call EHS at 2-1043.

Support for Your PDA.

On August 15, our Web Resources team activated new Palm OS support pages on the MCLNO website. The new pages offer MCL-specific information formatted for the personal digital assistant (PDA) via download of a single computer file. The procedure is: 1. Download the file to your desktop computer; 2. HotSync the file into your handheld; and 3. Tap the installer icon on the handheld to unpack the applications.

The current package contains loads of information useful to physicians and other practitioners including: the current antibiogram, laboratory specimen collection manual, quick guide to reference ranges, the nutrition formulary, anticoagulant management recommendations, post blood or body fluid exposure instructions, and the MCLNO phone directory. The website contains details on the download as well as full instructions on the installation procedure. This application is currently available for users of Palm OS devices but support for Pocket PC devices is planned for release later this fall.

To find the PDA support pages go to www.mclno.org and find the Web Resources link under the *Employees* heading, or go directly to www.mclno.org/webresources/index.html.

Happenings & Deadlines.

■ **Free Prostate Cancer Screening.** Through September 19, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., 2020 Gravier Street (Lions Clinic), 5th floor. Sponsored by the LSU Health Sciences Center Department of Urology, Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, and MCL. Available to men ages 50 and above in the general population, and to African-American men or men with a family history of prostate cancer ages 40 and above. Screening includes PSA blood test only. To make an appointment, call 412-1110; for more details contact **Steven Pollard**, spolla1@lsuhsc.edu.

■ **LSU/Tulane Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Conference.** Each Monday, 4-5 p.m., 1542 Tulane Avenue, room 507. Physicians who wish to have a case presented, call Nicole Chatelain at 568-4765.

■ **Plant & Craft Sale.** September 16, 17 & 18, LSU Medical School lobby, 1-4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Outpatient Occupational Therapy Clinic, Mental Health Services. Proceeds go directly to the patients for transportation to their therapy appointments and to job interviews.

■ **LSU Health Sciences Center Medicine Grand Rounds.** September 18, 1542 Tulane Avenue, 1st floor auditorium. "A Case of Disobedience," with Dr. Robert Richard, Assistant Professor of Medicine, 8-8:30 a.m.; and "How Sweet Should the ICU Be?" with Dr. Rekha Kumari, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Endocrinology, 8:30-9.

■ **Health Call.** **Dr. Paul Dash** will discuss screening for dementia during this week's program. He welcomes your calls during the show. Live September 18, WLAE TV, 8 p.m.; rerun September 21, 12:30 p.m.

■ **Workplace Violence/Domestic Violence In-Service Training.** September 19, 9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m., Charity auditorium. Facilitators: **Corporal Jasmine Acosta** and **Detective Rory Martin.** (For

anonymous tips and confidential information, call our Crimestoppers Line at 2-2677.)

■ **CPR Classes.** **Heartsaver** – September 25; **Healthcare Provider** – October 9; both classes 7:30 a.m.-noon in Staff Development, C-900, Charity Campus. Must register in person with \$4 per class, payable by check or money order to MCLNO Foundation. Call 2-2854 or 2-2057.

■ **"Trauma-Rama Goes Hollywood – The Ritz, Glitz, Glamour."** September 27, 8 p.m.-midnight, Ritz-Carlton New Orleans. To benefit Trauma Services. Dinner buffet, entertainment by Four Unplugged, dancing, an open bar, and a silent auction covers the \$125 individual ticket; \$500 for two tickets and reserved seating. For tickets and more details call 2-8813 or come to Charity Campus, W 402.

■ **Critical Care Course Offering #6: Cardiovascular System, Module IV.** September 30, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Charity Campus, 9th floor, Staff Development & Education. 8.1 AACN contact hours. Call 2-2854 for cost, registration and a schedule of all remaining classes.

■ **"Walk to Wellness" Dedication.** October 1. Block party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Bolivar Street, between Gravier and Tulane.

■ **Exercise Classes.** **Exercise** – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Education, 9 center, Charity Campus. □ **Tai Chi** – Thursdays, noon-1 p.m., Lions Clinic, Neuroscience Center. Free.

■ **Employee Assistance Programs.** All the following groups meet at LSU Lions Clinic, 2020 Gravier Street, 5th floor. Call 568-3931 with questions or for full details: **Co-dependency Anonymous**, Mondays at noon, free; **AA**, Tuesdays at noon, free; and **a psycho-educational group** for those who may be chemically dependent or have family members who are, Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., \$10 per week for 10 weeks.

Volunteers Needed for Study.

Tulane University Health Sciences Center – Department of Medicine is looking for healthy volunteers to participate in a high blood pressure research study. To qualify, volunteers must be African-American between the ages of 40-50 years and have a physical exam to determine eligibility. Volunteers who are accepted will be compensated. To sign up for the study or for more information, call 585-6460.





Performance Improvement

Honor Smoke-Free Areas

The Medical Center of Louisiana prohibits smoking in all vehicles, buildings and facilities considered MCL premises. Smoking is allowed in designated areas only. All MCL patients, visitors, employees, physicians, students, volunteers and others are expected to comply.

MCL provides designated smoking areas located near all buildings and facilities on both campuses. Designated smoking areas can be identified by the "Designated Smoking Area" signs posted in the areas.

Why only certain areas?

According to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) standards, smoking is prohibited on roofs, balconies, porches near entrances to healthcare facilities, or by vents where smoke can be pulled into the facility by the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. By smoking only in marked designated smoking areas, we adhere to the JCAHO standard, protecting our patients and others from potentially harmful effects of cigarette smoke, as well as from the lit cigarettes. It is dangerous to smoke in non-smoking areas because highly flammable gases may be present (patients with oxygen tanks), or sick patients can get worse by being exposed to just a small amount of tobacco smoke.

MCL discourages patients from smoking, and a smoking pass obtained under doctor's order is the only way that a patient can go into a smoking area. Doctors are encouraged to work with patients in developing a smoking cessation plan rather than write an order for a smoking pass. Any patient found in a smoking area without a smoking pass can be signed out Against Medical Advice (AMA).

Enforcement of the procedures outline in our smoking policy, #0016, is everyone's responsibility. Call MCL Hospital Police if you ever need help in enforcing this policy.

This column is submitted by the staff of Education and Staff Development. Call in any comments to the Employee Opinion Line at 2-3801.

Important Information from OGB.

The Office of Group Benefits (OG) has announced that its mental health/substance abuse (MHSA) benefits are now administered by United Behavioral Health (UBH). UBH has extensive experience in providing assistance to people seeking help for substance abuse and other behavioral health issues.

Any OGB member who is now seeing a non-UBH network provider may continue with that provider under certain conditions and limitations. Transition benefits will be paid on the same basis as in-network treatment. The transition plan applies to EPO, PPO and MCO members.

PPO and EPO members will enjoy an out-of-network behavioral health benefit that will allow members to see the MHSA providers of their choice, even if the provider is not in the UBH network. Reimbursement for out-of-network visits will be 70 percent of the amount payable to participating network providers. MCO members have no out-of-network benefits.

The toll-free MHSA number for PPO, EPO, and MCO members is 866-492-7143; members with web access can link to UBH's website through the OGB website at www.groupbenefits.org.

It's a Hoax!

Thank you to those who informed us that the warning about UPS in the September 2-7, 2003 issue of *This Week at MCL* was a hoax. For details about this and the many other hoaxes going around, go to <http://www.snopes.com/rumors/ups.asp> or <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/HBMalCode.shtml>.

Away from Work.

Chijioko (Ben) Uchime, Pharmacy, and his wife, Catherine, are the proud parents of 8 lb. 9 oz. Chidi.

This Week at MCL is published through the Medical Center of Louisiana Marketing & Public Relations Department, suite 518, 2025 Gravier Street, New Orleans 70112, Jerry Romig, Director, Lynn Lorando, Editor. All items and pictures submitted must have prior supervisory approval. Please send information to Lynn Lorando on e-mail to mloran@lsuhsc.edu; by fax to her attention at 903-3699; or through interoffice mail. Thank you.