



DBC highlights

DEACONESS BILLINGS CLINIC

SUMMER / FALL 2003

SUPPORTING OUR REGION WITH SPECIALTY MEDICAL SERVICES



CLINICAL UPDATE - DBC CANCER CENTER

Cancer Prevention and Screening: High Risk Cancer Assessments

The American Cancer Society's guidelines for cancer screening and prevention are designed for patients who have an average lifetime risk of cancer. While these guidelines are appropriate for the majority of the U.S. population, certain groups of patients require additional levels of surveillance. Surveillance is usually conducted within a specific disease, such as breast cancer, colon cancer, etc., but may also be more generalized to cancer syndromes where multiple types of a cancer are involved due to a specific genetic mutation. Given a high risk for a specific cancer, there are several possible 'interventions' that patients can pursue to lower their cancer risk. Specifically, these interventions include chemoprevention, prophylactic surgery and/or aggressive modifications of individual risk factors. Patients deserve extensive counseling and an individualized risk assessment before making these decisions.



Thomas Purcell, MD
oncology & hematology

Patients who should consider having an assessment with the Cancer Center's High Risk Assessment Clinic may have one or more of the following:

- a strong family history of cancer
- a personal past history of cancer
- lifestyle factors which increase their personal risk of cancer (i.e. tobacco)
- concerns about their individual cancer risk

In September 2003, the DBC Cancer Center will offer individualized cancer risk assessments and counseling based upon risk factors. Specific recommendations on cancer screening, possible genetic testing, and prevention strategies will be incorporated into each patient's risk assessment plan. Additionally, patients will have the opportunity to undergo evaluation at The DBC Wellness Center for education on lifestyle modifications including nutrition and diet, stress management, massage therapy and other integrative medicine services.

The individualized cancer risk assessment plan will be forwarded to the patient's primary care physician for continued implementation, surveillance and monitoring. The Cancer Center will always be available for additional counseling as needed by the patient or the primary care physician. And, The Wellness Center will be available for continued access to integrative medicine services.

For more information, contact Thomas Purcell, MD, Director, DBC Cancer Center, at 406-255-8411 or 1-800-325-1774 or tpurcell@billingsclinic.org.

ANCILLARY SERVICES UPDATE

Diagnostic Imaging for Cancer

One of the main indications for PET scanning is the diagnosis and evaluation of cancer. Medicare covers PET scan for many cancers, including breast, colon, throat and lung cancer, and lymphoma. Other indications for PET scan may include determining viability of heart tissue; diagnosing Alzheimer's disease by looking at brain tissue; or identifying the part of the brain where seizures are taking place.

The Billings MRI Center has improved our PET processes:

- Pre-certification requires only one call from referring physicians.
- Our new air transport company has a 97% delivery rate, reducing cancelled flights.
- Increased FDG availability and increased scans per day from five to seven.

For more information, contact David Lehnerr, MD, medical director, PET Scan, at 406-255-8411 or 1-800-325-1774 or dlehnerr@billingsclinic.org.



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Clinical Information System is Investment in the Future

System solutions designed to improve patient safety continue to be the drivers of technology and process change in the delivery of health care. Clinical information systems that significantly reduce medication errors and link the delivery of care to evidence based medicine should dramatically improve the care delivered to our patients. DBC's purchase and

implementation of a comprehensive Clinical Information System from Cerner supports several of our key operating strategies and goals, including outstanding quality, information systems development, and community, regional and national strategic alliances.

The new system is an essential step in improving quality, patient safety and financial stewardship in the health care delivery process. Such clinical decision support systems create a vast safety net for remembering, tracking, reminding and prompting caregivers of all the patient facts and clinical best practices that support superior quality care. Once implemented across DBC, this Clinical Information System will be a major enhancement in our ability to deliver the "right care for each patient, the first time and every time."

NEW SPECIALTY

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Dr. Dana Damron is the new maternal-fetal medicine specialist (MFM) at DBC. A MFM is an OB/GYN with additional experience and training in the medical and surgical complications of pregnancy, including a three-year fellowship. An MFM generally acts as a consultant to OBs, FPs and CNMs, as well as a provider of patient care – especially in the areas of preconception counseling and management or co-management of high-risk pregnant, laboring and postpartum patients.

As an MFM, Dr. Damron's experience can benefit higher-risk patients:

- When a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure is required because of risk of fetal chromosomal abnormalities
- When a mother is healthy, but the fetus is high risk, e.g. multiples, history of incompetent cervix or complications during a previous delivery
- When an antepartum patient is admitted for reasons other than delivery (PTL, PIH, surgery) or a postpartum patient has complications
- When an expectant mother has a known medical or surgical condition such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, infectious disease, SLE, eating disorder, etc.

Dana Damron, MD, is accepting referrals and is seeing patients now. For more information, Dr. Damron may be contacted at 406-255-8411 or 1-800-325-1774.



Dana P. Damron, MD,
maternal-fetal medicine specialist

NEW PHYSICIANS

DERMATOLOGY



Mark S. Jones, MD

Mark S. Jones, MD, joins DBC from the Western Montana Clinic in Missoula where he was in private practice as a Mohs surgeon and dermatologist.

Dr. Jones completed his residency and Mohs surgery fellowship at Pennsylvania State University, Hershey Medical Center. He completed his internship at University of New Mexico Hospitals in Albuquerque and his medical degree at West Virginia University School of Medicine.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



Raymond M. Wright, MD

Raymond M. Wright, MD, is board certified in emergency medicine. He received his medical degree at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston. Dr. Wright performed his

residency at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Most recently, he served as an air ambulance service medical director in Lawrenceville, Georgia and physician and educator at Habersham County Medical Center in Clarksville, Georgia.

GENERAL SURGERY



Scott H. Dull, MD

Scott H. Dull, MD, a Montana native, received his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Colorado Health Science Center, Denver, Colorado. His residency and internship were completed in general surgery at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin, where he was administrative chief surgical resident.

INTERNAL MEDICINE



Suzana K. Makowski, MD

Suzana K. Makowski, MD, is board certified in internal medicine and serves as the medical director of The DBC Wellness Center. She received her degree in medicine from University of

Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She

completed her residency at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts. Dr. Makowski was a National Institutes of Health Complementary and Alternative Medicine Fellow at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She assisted in the startup of the Integrative Medicine Clinic in the University of Michigan Medical System.

INTERNAL MEDICINE/GERIATRICS



James B. Wendt, MD

James B. Wendt, MD, is board certified in internal medicine. He received his doctor of medicine degree at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, Illinois. His internship and residency in internal medicine were performed at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center, Rush University, Chicago, Illinois, as was his fellowship in geriatric medicine. He recently completed training at Stanford Faculty Development Center: Geriatrics in primary care.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & WELLNESS



Elizabeth Wilk-Rivard, MD, PhD, MPH

Elizabeth Wilk-Rivard, MD, PhD, MPH, is board certified in occupational medicine. She most recently served as clinical instructor at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, where she also completed her occupational medicine residency. She received her doctoral degree in medicine from the University of Krakow, Poland. Dr. Wilk-Rivard completed her post-doctoral fellowship in aging at Yale University School of Medicine and doctoral program and masters degree in epidemiology at Columbia University, New York.

ONCOLOGY & HEMATOLOGY



W. Thomas Purcell, MD

W. Thomas Purcell, MD, joins the DBC department of oncology and hematology as the director of the DBC Cancer Center and department chair. He received his medical degree from the Emory University School of Medicine in

Atlanta, Georgia. He was chief medicine resident at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, and completed his medical oncology fellowship at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Purcell continues on the clinical faculty of the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he was the assistant director.

OPHTHALMOLOGY



Deborah G. Keenum, MD

Deborah G. Keenum, MD, rejoins DBC from Marshfield Clinic, Wisconsin. Dr. Keenum received her medical degree from Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, Maryland. She treats diseases of the retina and performs surgery for retinal detachment and diabetic retinopathy and laser surgery for macular degeneration. She is a member of the American Society of Retinal Specialists.

MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE — OB/GYN



Dana P. Damron, MD

Dana P. Damron, MD, has completed his fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at University of Vermont, Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington. He has also served as staff physician at Indian Health Service, Blackfeet Community Hospital in Browning, Montana. He is a certified diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

RADIOLOGY



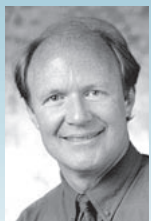
Jeffrey O. Lindenbaum, MD, PhD

Jeffrey O. Lindenbaum, MD, PhD, is board certified in radiology and board eligible in interventional radiology. He completed his medical degree and PhD at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York. Dr. Lindenbaum completed his internship at Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury, Connecticut. His radiology residency and fellowship in angiography and interventional radiology were completed at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York.

CLINICAL UPDATE - MS OUTREACH

DBC Supports Regional MS Care

This summer, DBC began a specialty outreach clinic for multiple sclerosis patients. DBC neurologist Patrick Cahill, MD supervises a program where a specially-trained PA-C, Larry Scharfe, provides quarterly follow-up care and communications between patients, their primary care physician and the neurology department at Deaconess Billings Clinic.



Patrick J. Cahill, MD, supervising neurologist, MS outreach



Larry Scharfe, PA-C, MS outreach

Cahill explains, "The PA-C-based follow-up care is subsequent to the primary care and neurological evaluations. These appointments are a perfect forum for discussions about the chronic symptoms of MS: depression, fatigue, weakness, etc., and the status of the treatment plan, including medication tolerance and effects." All PA-C MS appointments are scheduled during ongoing outreach clinics conducted by DBC neurologists, and each primary care physician is informed of the visit.

Scharfe attended a recent MS workshop series in San Francisco, as well as an MS preceptorship with Frederick Munschauer, MD, director, Jacobs Neurological Institute, Buffalo, New York.

Patients can be scheduled by their primary care providers, or can self-schedule.

For more information, contact Patrick Cahill, MD, or Larry Scharfe, PA-C, at 406-255-8411 or 1-800-325-1774.

CLINICAL UPDATE - CARDIOLOGY

Cardiology Department Expansion Improves Patient Access

The DBC Welch Heart Center has expanded and relocated the electrophysiology and heart failure clinic services to the first floor of the 27th Street Medical Building, to provide more space and easier access for heart patients.

The expansion is very positive for patients, physicians and staff. Dr. Alan Thometz, medical director of EP, agrees, "The move has proved very successful. Expanding to the first floor has provided the opportunity to improve our service to electrophysiology and device patients and allow for growth. Also, the close proximity of the heart failure clinic to EP integrates the care of our patients who utilize both services, saving them time and energy." Vicki Carstens, manager of cardiology, states the effect has been equally positive for all cardiology services, "The EP and HF expansion has created more space for other heart services, especially on the second floor in our main cardiology office."

All phone numbers remain the same. The toll free number is 1-800-736-5355 and the local number is 238-2000. The number 2 option for providers on the phone tree connects you directly to registration for immediate assistance in reaching any of our physicians.

"The close proximity of the Heart Failure Clinic to EP integrates the care of our patients who utilize both services, saving them time and energy."



Alan Thometz, MD, medical director, electrophysiology

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Montana Society of Respiratory Care Fall Conference
September 26 & 27

For more information, call Jenny at 406-657-4075.

OB/GYN Conference at Big Sky
February 5-7

Save the dates! For more info, email conference organizer C.H. "Tersh" McCracken III, MD: cmccracken@billingsclinic.org.

Physician's Direct Line: 1-800-325-1774

for specialist consult, questions or 24-hour air ambulance transport.

Also visit us on-line: www.billingsclinic.com

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