



Memorial Staff, Medical Staff, Board of Trustees and Community:

## Our Mission

Making Communities Healthier

## Our Vision

To be a place where:

People choose to come for healthcare,

Physicians want to practice, and

Employees want to work.

## Our High Five Guiding Principles

These principles guide our actions and decision making and define what our community can expect from us as a healthcare partner.

- Delivering high quality patient care
- Supporting physicians
- Creating excellent workplaces for our employees
- Taking a leadership role in our communities
- Ensuring fiscal responsibility

### Introductory Remarks

Healthcare is changing. Consumerism is a trend that has been growing for the past decade. Patients no longer just go where their doctor sends them. As consumers of healthcare, they are trying to make the best decision based on quality, reputation and cost, just as they do with other purchases. Today, consumers have an endless source of data and peer-ratings at their fingertips. For health systems like Memorial, consumerism means that we must be in tune with the patient’s expectations – because patients now drive the choice of where they get their healthcare. This makes it incumbent upon us to provide a quality experience at an appropriate value. We no longer tell the patient what they need...they tell us what they want. Memorial is ever mindful of positioning ourselves as the first choice for our consumers as we grow into the region’s premier healthcare referral system.

### 100% of Family Medicine Residency Docs Graduate with Board Certification

Our Family Medicine Residency Graduation had an additional reason to celebrate on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Every one of our graduating residents passed their American Board of Family Medicine exam and are now Board Certified in Family Medicine. Board Certification means that a doctor has proven, through rigorous testing, that he or she has intellectual and practical expertise in their medical specialty. We are proud of each of these graduating doctors for their hard work and dedication. And we recognize the exceptional efforts of Dr. John Andazola, Residency Program Director, and the entire Residency team in training well-qualified physicians. Most of this year’s class of graduating physicians will be staying in New Mexico to practice. That is one of the goals of our Residency Program - to fill the critical need for family doctors in our region. Congratulations, doctors, to each of you on a job well-done. We wish you the very best in your medical career!

- Salvador Adame-Zambrano, MD
- Elaina Dinallo-Escalante, MD
- April Leonardo, MD
- Minerva Medrano de Ramirez, MD
- Anna Roberti, MD
- Cynthia Saenz, MD



*Graduating Residents and instructors participate in a “Share the Light” candlelighting tradition at the end of their graduation ceremony.*

## Anticoagulation Management Earns Center of Excellence

We are proud to announce that Memorial's Anticoagulation Management Services (AMS) clinic has earned the designation as Anticoagulation Center of Excellence. The rigorous assessment by the national Anticoagulation Forum gave us the chance to measure our practice against five key areas of patient care. The program also gives us ongoing access to a rich library of



resources to help us keep up with the changing field of anticoagulation. Participation in this program demonstrates AMS's ongoing goal to achieve the highest level of care and the best possible outcomes for our patients on antithrombotic medications. The Anticoagulation Forum is a multidisciplinary non-profit organization with a mission to improve the quality of care for patients taking antithrombotic medications. Also, please join us in welcoming Candace Morales, CNP, as our newest provider in the AMS clinic as of May. Candace will be overseeing patient care in the AMS clinic and brings with her a wealth of evidence-based knowledge that aligns with moving all cardiovascular services to a Center of Excellence.



Candace Morales, CNP

## Memorial Cancer Center Celebrates National Survivors Day

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, marked the annual celebration of National Cancer Survivor Day. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> Memorial Cancer Center held a 1950's themed party for survivors and their families. 40 Survivors, and their family members, attended the party in the Memorial West Annex; many wearing their best 50's garb and enjoying a collection of



antique vehicles that were on display. A special thanks to Kristina Benavidez, Lead RN at the Cancer Center for organizing this celebration. Cancer care is very important to Memorial. That's why we are investing \$15 million to expand our Cancer Center and provide advanced diagnostic and treatment equipment. As our Cancer Center has almost doubled the number of new patients in the past several years, we realize the importance of offering the highest standard

of cancer care close to home. Memorial has the only cancer program in southern New Mexico that is ACoS and ACR accredited. There is nothing that gives us greater joy than to celebrate with our survivors and their families.

*CORRECTION: In a previous newsletter we reported that Memorial Infusion Center would move from the hospital West Annex into the Cancer Center upon completion of our Cancer Center renovations. The Infusion Center will not be moving from its current location and will continue to treat patients from the community. The construction project is expected to be completed early 2018.*

## Doctor of Nursing Candidates Present at State Conference

Two Memorial nurses, who are currently pursuing their Doctorate of Nursing Practice/Family Nurse Practitioner degrees at New Mexico State University, were invited to make a presentation at the New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council State Conference in Albuquerque. Melissa Cometti, DNP (c), CWO CN, CFCN, BSN and Melissa Livingston, DNP (c), BSN, who work in wound care at Memorial and in the ICU respectively, shared their knowledge and research, receiving high praise from this group of professionals. Both of these individuals reflect the top caliber team we have at Memorial. We are all very proud of the contributions Mrs. Cometti and Mrs. Livingston make to our patients and community and congratulate them on their presentations.



Melissa Cometti, DNP (c), CWO CN, CFCN, BSN (left) and Melissa Livingston, DNP (c), BSN

### **Governor Designates Wound Care Awareness Week**

Governor Susana Martinez issued a Proclamation which designated June 4th-10th as Wound Care Awareness Week in the State of New Mexico. The proclamation acknowledges that approximately 6.7 million people in the U.S. currently live with chronic wounds. It further states that chronic wounds represent a cost of more than \$50 billion to the health care system, with over 29 million people living with diabetes. Diabetes is a common cause of chronic wounds, and New Mexico is above average in people living with diabetes. Memorial Wound Care Center, located next to the HealthPlex at 2735 Northrise, is the first free-standing Wound Care Center in Las Cruces and is proud to have earned the Center of Excellence designation from Healogics®, the nation's largest advanced wound care organization. For more information about a chronic wound or to make an appointment with the Wound Care Center call 575-532-4399.



### **Memorial Bone+Joint Center Hosts Full House at Ribbon Cutting**



The room was packed as John Harris and Phil Rivera introduced the physicians and practitioners in the new Memorial Bone+Joint Center location. The Hispanic Chamber and Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce delivered proclamations and held the ribbon as we celebrated the grand opening of the new, larger and more convenient location. During the summer, the practice will be welcoming two new orthopedic physicians – Dr. John Trotter, a foot and ankle specialist, and Dr. Eric Sandoval, a sports medicine specialist. This fills out a fully experienced, high quality team of bone and joint specialists who can treat pediatric patients to geriatric patients, and everyone in-between. We want to give

special thanks to both Chambers of Commerce for helping make our celebration special; and we thank each and every member of our community who came out to share in our grand opening. For an appointment at Memorial Bone+Joint Center call 575-556-6440.

### **New Mexico Department of Health Issues Zika Virus Update**

The Summer vacation season has begun and the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) has published a Zika Virus Update for those traveling to foreign countries. The NMDOH guidelines include specific recommendations for pregnant women and their partners living in or traveling to designated Zika transmission areas. NMDOH recommends that you check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website <https://www.cdc.gov/travel/page/world-map-areas-with-zika> for the latest map of areas of the world with Zika transmission.



### **Memorial Lab First to Offer Rapid Diagnostics in West Texas and Southern New Mexico**

The Memorial Lab is pleased to announce the availability of the Blood Culture ID and Gastrointestinal BioFire Panels. The Blood Culture Identification Panel enables rapid and accurate automated detection of pathogens and antibiotic resistance genes associated with bloodstream infections. The Gastrointestinal Panel provides accurate and actionable results in one day for bacterial, viral and parasitic pathogens. Each panel combines a broad grouping of probable pathogenic causes into a single, rapid test. We are the first hospital in Southern New Mexico and El Paso to offer BioFire Rapid Diagnostics. Advanced technology provides better tools for our doctors and better care for their patients. Congratulations to our Lab for leading the way in this new testing!

### **The BirthPlace Launches New Efficient, Cost-Effective Infant Jaundice Test**

Babies commonly receive a bilirubin test at birth for jaundice. Dr. Jenifer Lichtenfels, a Pediatric Hospitalist at Memorial, recently spearheaded the implementation of a new transcutaneous bilirubin measurement in newborns. This new procedure is noninvasive, low cost and universally recognized as an accurate way to test for causes of jaundice. The babies, staff and Dr. Lichtenfels thank those who helped get this new procedure off the ground at The BirthPlace. Memorial is proud to offer the highest level of care for newborns in southern New Mexico.

### Dr. Jeff Pack Promoted to Director of Anesthesia

Jeffery Pack, MD, has been an important member of the Memorial Anesthesiology Team since Somnia became our anesthesia partner in 2014. Jeff earned his MD at Ohio State University College of Medicine and did his Anesthesiology Residency at University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where he practiced until coming to Memorial. During his time here Dr. Pack has earned the respect of his peers and co-workers, as well as the surgeons. When the Director position became available he was everyone's clear choice to lead our anesthesia team. We are very pleased to welcome him as a part of our stellar Leadership Team at Memorial.



### Welcome New Providers

We are happy to announce when new providers join Memorial's medical staff. Please join me in welcoming the following providers who joined us in the past month.

- **Asligul Cakmak Hendershot, MD** - Internal Medicine, TeamHealth Hospitalist
- **Clinton Woosley, MD** - Pediatric Critical Care, Pininos Pediatric Services
- **Rebecca Brown, PA-C** – Surgery, Memorial Bone & Joint Center
- **Lourdes Vargas-Cobos, CNP** – Pediatrics, Pininos Pediatric Services

### In Closing...

Memorial introduced a new Digestive Health Program earlier this year.

The program includes a team of board certified gastroenterologists, the only fellowship trained colorectal surgeon in the region, a highly experienced bariatric surgeon and a team of digestive health specialists in the hospital. There is no other Digestive Health Program like it in southern New Mexico. We held a

highly successful Colon Cancer Seminar in May. By popular demand, we are hosting another **Digestive Health**

**seminar at 5:30PM on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. This Seminar will focus on solutions for chronic acid reflux, heartburn**

**and GERD.** Many people suffer for years, accommodating these chronic conditions by popping hundreds of dollars of over-the-counter or prescription pills every month, often to the detriment of their overall health. We encourage you to attend this free seminar and hear about the latest LINX™ procedure and other solutions to cure gastroesophageal reflux. Call 800-424-DOCS to reserve a seat.

## Memorial Digestive Health

Choose to Be Healthy,



John Harris, CEO  
Memorial Medical Center

