



## From the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office

### Study to Establish a Biomechanical Biomarker of Hip Osteoarthritis

The Department of Orthopedic Surgery is conducting a study of hip pain to establish a combinatorial biomechanical biomarker of hip osteoarthritis. To do so, researchers will use standard gait analysis to evaluate gait variables with the aim of finding a combination that characterizes hip osteoarthritis.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be experiencing pain in one or both hips at least one day per month
- Be at least 45 years old
- Not have a previous diagnosis of hip osteoarthritis

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria. **Kharma Foucher, MD, PhD**, is the lead investigator of the study. For more information, please contact Samir Chabra at (312) 942-5422.

### Bridging Anticoagulation Study for a Planned Invasive Procedure or Surgery

The Section of Cardiology is participating in a nationwide study of bridging anticoagulation in patients requiring temporary interruption of warfarin therapy for a planned invasive procedure or surgery. The randomized study will compare bridging anticoagulation to the interruption of warfarin therapy.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Have received warfarin therapy for at least three months with a target INR of 2-3
- Have chronic (permanent or paroxysmal) atrial fibrillation
- Have an increased risk for a stroke due to one of the following factors: hypertension, diabetes, congestive heart failure, a previous stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA), or being older than 75

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria. **Stuart Rosenbush, MD**, is the lead investigator at Rush. For more information, please contact Sherry Nelson at (312) 942-8144.

**To read this issue online or to find more news about physicians at Rush, visit *Rush Physician* online at [www.rush.edu/rushphysician](http://www.rush.edu/rushphysician).**

## Rush Announces Affiliation With DuPage Medical Group

With the aim of bringing academic medical center-level cancer care to Chicago's western suburbs, Rush has announced an affiliation with DuPage Medical Group (DMG). An independent group practice, DMG comprises more than 300 physicians who care for about 375,000 patients at 45 offices located across DuPage County. "This is a true partnership that will provide cancer patients with greater access to comprehensive clinical services and research protocols," says Larry Goodman, MD, CEO of Rush.

The affiliation agreement includes the development of a state-of-the-art cancer center in DuPage County as part of a broader affiliation encompassing patient care, research and educational programs and electronic health information systems.

### New Cancer Center

The center will be located in one wing of a three-floor, 95,000-square-foot medical office building that DMG recently began constructing near the intersection of Interstate 88 and Interstate 355 in Lisle, Ill.

The center's first floor will house a resource center and radiation therapy services. Rush will lease 13,000 square feet on the second floor and, as the exclusive operator of chemotherapy services for DMG, will run the chemotherapy infusion center housed there. In addition, physicians from Rush will join physicians from DMG to treat patients in comprehensive cancer clinics located on the center's third floor. Complementing DMG's clinical offerings, specialists from Rush will provide services in hematology, breast cancer, lung cancer, melanoma, thoracic surgery, gynecologic oncology and brain tumors.

### Sustained Collaboration

Rush and DMG also intend to collaborate in the areas of research and education. Collaborative activities may include continuing medical education for DMG providers; faculty appointments at Rush for qualified DMG physicians and nurses; and recruitment by DMG of job-seeking graduates from Rush's medical school, nursing college or health sciences programs.

Rush and DMG also intend to share clinical data via electronic medical records for patients treated by both organizations. Additional health information technology initiatives may include remote patient scheduling and telemedicine for consultative services.

"This affiliation agreement is an important growth initiative for Rush," Goodman says. "And it is consistent with our collaborative approach with other providers to complement medical services and increase access for patients to specialized services that Rush provides."

### Progress Notes

**David Gurka, MD, PhD**, was recently appointed medical director of the surgical intensive care unit and assistant chief medical officer for critical care quality and safety. In his new role, Gurka supervises the attending physicians and house staff assigned to the unit and works closely with nursing and respiratory therapy leadership to ensure the highest possible quality of care. A member of the Rush faculty since 1994, Gurka previously served as the medical director of adult critical care services and, before that, as medical director of respiratory care and the medical intensive care unit.

**Omar Lateef, DO**, has been appointed assistant chief medical officer for critical care operations. In this role, he will be responsible for critical care initiatives that transcend the borders of individual intensive care units. He will also direct overnight attending coverage in the adult intensive care units. An assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, Lateef will also continue to serve as medical director of the medical intensive care unit, a position he has held since 2006.

### Is Your Practice Moving?

With the construction around campus, it's important to keep the contact information in your physician profile up to date. Your profile is used by the Rush call center to guide referrals and appears in the Find-a-Doctor physician directory on the Rush website. Find-a-Doctor, available at [www.rush.edu/findadoctor](http://www.rush.edu/findadoctor), logs more than 30,000 visits each month, an indication of the number of people researching physicians online.

Make sure to update your profile any time your information changes, which you can do quickly and easily using a convenient Web link. To request the link, contact Karen Clayton, manager of physician referral services, at (312) 563-4034 or [karen\\_k\\_clayton@rush.edu](mailto:karen_k_clayton@rush.edu). She will send the link to you via email, along with instructions on how to access the online profile form.

### Publishing Research Results? Share With Media Relations

If you are going to publish or present study results, please let a media relations specialist know as soon as your research has been accepted for future publication by calling (312) 942-5579. Unfortunately, by the time you publish or present your study, it is frequently too late to attract news media interest.



## Clinical CORNER

### Rush Named Official Site for Use of Prostate Cancer Vaccine

Rush has been named an official site for the use of Provenge, a vaccine the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved last year for the treatment of men with advanced prostate cancer. A vaccine manufactured specifically for each patient using his own immune cells, Provenge is the first approved therapy in a new class of drugs called autologous cellular immunotherapy. It is designed to activate a patient's own antigen-presenting cells to stimulate an immune response against prostate cancer. By doing so, it offers a new, potentially life-prolonging option to patients with metastatic disease that has proved resistant to male hormone-deprivation therapy.

Researchers at Rush participated in clinical trials of the therapy, in which patients who received the vaccine had a life expectancy of 22 months, compared to 18 months for those who did not. In addition to prolonging life, the treatment also has the potential to diminish pain and distress by combating the cancer that causes it. "This treatment vaccine is a great option for patients who have advanced prostate cancer, and where other treatments have not shown much benefit," says **Dennis Pessis, MD**, a urologist and lead investigator of the study at Rush. "It will hopefully stabilize the patient's condition and increase a patient's quality of life as well as his longevity."

### Researchers From Rush Find Low B-12 Levels May Lead to Cognitive Problems

Older adults with low blood levels of vitamin B-12 markers may be more likely to have lower brain volumes and diminished thinking skills, according to a study authored by **Christine C. Tangney, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Clinical Nutrition at Rush.

The study, published this fall in the journal *Neurology*, involved 121 residents of Chicago's south side who are a part of the Chicago Health and Aging Project (CHAP), a longitudinal study of common chronic health problems in older adults, especially those related to Alzheimer's risk. These participants had blood drawn to measure levels of vitamin B-12 and markers that can indicate a B-12 deficiency; they then took tests that measured their memory and other cognitive skills. About four and a half years later, researchers took MRI scans of the participants' brains to measure total brain volume and look for other signs of brain damage.

Researchers found that participants with high levels of four of the five markers for vitamin B-12 deficiency had lower scores on the cognitive tests and smaller total brain volume. "Our findings lend support for the contention that poor vitamin B-12 status is a potential risk factor for brain atrophy and may contribute to cognitive impairment," Tangney says. "It's too early to say whether increasing vitamin B-12 levels in older people through diet or supplements could prevent these problems, but it is an interesting question to explore."

## INTRODUCTIONS

The following is a list of physicians who have recently joined the Medical Staff of Rush University Medical Center. The Medical Staff Office and the Department of Marketing and Communications have made every effort to publish accurate information that is as complete as possible; if, however, the information below is incorrect or we have omitted information, we apologize and ask that you contact Muriel Coleman at (312) 942-5496.

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## Privacy and Security Update From the Rush Privacy Office

In keeping with the federal government's renewed emphasis on privacy and security safeguards for patient records, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced an auditing program that may involve the random selection of health care providers to be audited for compliance with HIPAA privacy and security rules. Among the most important of these rules is the "breach notification rule," which requires that any breach of unsecured protected health information be reported to the patient and the federal government.

The Rush Privacy Office recommends taking the following steps to decrease the risk of a privacy breach:

- Be discreet. Never discuss sensitive patient information or leave sensitive documents (such as X-rays or lab results) in common areas.
- Use secure communications. If you must email personal health information, use Outlook encryption, ensure that the recipient is authorized and add the communication to the patient record.
- Fax documents only when absolutely necessary. If other options, such as FedEx, truly are not available, double-check the recipient's fax number, use a cover sheet and direct the recipient to respond with questions.
- Make sure your office has shred bins and that all staff members use these bins to discard paper documents. Shredding is the only secure method of securely destroying paper records.
- Secure all mobile devices, whether used in the office or while traveling. Minimize the amount of information you store on such devices and report lost or stolen devices immediately to security services, whether they belong to you or to Rush.
- Remind staff that it is never acceptable to discuss patients or patient information or to "friend" patients on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter. Photos of patients should never be taken or shared through social networks or by any other means.

If you are concerned that a privacy breach may have occurred, call the Rush Privacy Office immediately at (312) 942-4416. If you have questions or concerns about privacy or security issues, call the same number or email [hipaaquestions@rush.edu](mailto:hipaaquestions@rush.edu).

## Kudos

For the third consecutive year, the Leapfrog Group has named **Rush** to its list of the top hospitals in the country for safety, quality and resource use. Rush was one of only 65 hospitals nationwide and five hospitals in Illinois to earn this honor from the national organization promoting health care safety and quality improvement. The rankings drew on information gathered in the 2011 Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which compiled data reported by nearly 1,200 hospitals in 45 states.

**Maria I. Brown, DO**, assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine, accepted the Eugene J-MA Thonar, PhD Award this fall from Rush CEO Larry J. Goodman, MD, who presented her with the honor at a special 20th anniversary celebration of the Rush ADA Task Force. Rush honored Brown with the award for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of opportunities for people with disabilities. These contributions include cofounding the Association of the Horizon, which raises funds for a camp for adults with muscular dystrophy, and serving as the attending physician for Misericordia, a Chicago home for more than 600 children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities.