



From the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office

Osteoarthritis of the Knee

The Department of Rheumatology is participating in a study testing the effectiveness and tolerability of an investigational medication (single injection) for the relief of osteoarthritis of the knee.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be 35 to 75 years of age
- Be diagnosed with osteoarthritis
- Have had knee pain for at least six months
- Not have symptoms of osteoarthritis in the hips
- Not have a history of septic arthritis

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria. **Joel Block, MD**, is the principal investigator at Rush. For more information, contact Rita Tharpe, RN, at (312) 563-2956.

Tourette Disorder Study

The Department of Neurological Sciences is participating in a study of the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication for children with Tourette disorder. Participation in the study will last approximately 10 weeks.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be 6 to 17 years of age
- Be diagnosed with Tourette disorder
- Have written informed consent provided by a parent or legal guardian
- Be able and willing to comply with study treatment regimen and make seven to eight visits to Rush
- Have at least one tic per day associated with evidence of socially disabling functioning

This is a partial list of inclusion and exclusion criteria. **Katie Kompoliti, MD**, is the principal investigator at Rush. For more information, contact Luci Blasucci, RN, at (312) 563-2900 (press 4).

Rush Needs Your Vital Stats!

Your physician profile is used for “find a doctor” on the Rush Web site and by the Rush call center to guide referrals, so it’s important that your information is always up-to-date. 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 Barb Krah, director of call center services and customer relationship management, at (312) 563-4723 or Barbara_J_Krah@rush.edu. She will send the link to you via e-mail, along with instructions on how to access the online profile form.

Programs and Services Spotlight

Research Administrative Core

The research administrative core is a new service designed to assist physicians and research scientists who are conducting clinical or basic research but don’t have the staff to facilitate research projects. The research administrative core is offered by the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office to make research possible by providing the necessary administrative support on a fee-for-service basis.

“The goal of the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office is to provide a research concierge service. Now, with the research administrative core, we also can provide the equivalent of a specialized temporary research pool,” says Lisa Pitler, JD, MS, RN, senior director, Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office.

Research Made Simple

The following resources are available to investigators at Rush through the research administrative core:

- Help developing study budgets
- Processing and submission of regulatory documents to the institutional review boards (IRB)
- Submission of NIH or other sponsored grant applications
- Staffing (study nurses and/or administrators)
- Education and training for investigators and coordinators
- Coverage analysts who work with investigators on an individual basis for the life of the study to accomplish the following:
 - Provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to clinical trials
 - Ensure there is proper billing for clinical trials
 - Manage project finances
- A new research model that, for the first time, enables investigators at Rush to conduct industry-sponsored and federally funded phase I and II trials on scattered-bed inpatient units (those that care for a variety of diagnostic categories). This model gives investigators an excellent opportunity to partner with industry — and to provide Rush patients with novel therapies.

New Online Features

To help simplify the budget-building process for clinical research studies — which can be a significant roadblock in getting a study off the ground — the research administrative core staff has created a complete list of research prices, organized by billing codes. This centralized research pricing is accessible to investigators and study personnel via the Rush Research Portal on the Rush intranet. The central research pricing provides an efficient alternative to the prior mechanism of having to contact individual departments; now investigators have one convenient place to find the costs of all the procedures and tests involved their studies.

With the implementation of the coverage analysis and contracts and grants modules, the Rush Research Portal can now be used to do the following:

- Electronically submit study information for coverage analysis
- Submit contract documents (such as confidential disclosure agreements and research contracts) for review and approval
- Submit clinical trial agreements for review and approval
- Submit material transfer agreements for review and approval

These functions are available using the Click Commerce Web-based modules incorporated into the portal. “There is a learning curve with the new software, but it quickly becomes more efficient than the old process,” Pitler says. “You can sit at your computer, submit your research-related documents, and look at everything in real time.”

Participating Physicians and Staff

Thomas Wilson, MBA

Associate vice president
Senior research administrator

Lisa Pitler, JD, MS, RN

Senior director, Research and Clinical
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Donna Knuth, MBA

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Jane Welch, DNP, APRN, BC

Director, Human Subjects Protections

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Jennifer Hayden, MSN, RN

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Patrick McNulty, BS

Budget administrator

Research and Clinical Trials
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For more information about the research administrative core, please call Lisa Pitler, JD, MS, RN, at (312) 942-5713.



Clinical CORNER

Oxygen Clinic Helps Patients Breathe Easier

The new oxygen clinic at Rush offers a variety of services to assist physicians with a full range of issues related to oxygen therapy. Located in Suite 054 of the Professional Building, the clinic is staffed by **Robert Balk, MD**, chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Ellen Elpern, RN, APN, and Kathryn Killeen, RN, APN, who are available to do the following:

- Assess patients' oxygen requirements (at rest and during activity)
- Evaluate patients' available options for oxygen systems
- Provide patient education about oxygen therapy
- Send the data required for documentation on a certificate of medical necessity (which is often required by durable medical equipment companies) to the ordering physician
- Perform airlight simulation for patients who plan to travel via plane while on oxygen therapy
- And more

To schedule an appointment or for more information about the oxygen clinic, call the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at (312) 942-6744.

Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Suite Combines Nonsurgical and Surgical Treatments for Heart Defects

The new biplane hybrid cardiac suite at Rush, one of only three facilities of its kind in the United States and the only one in Chicago, offers newborns, children and adults with congenital and structural heart disease the benefits of both interventional treatments and surgery in one convenient, state-of-the-art location.

All of the imaging technology, medications, implantable devices, surgical tools and other supplies needed for interventional and surgical procedures are stored and tracked by a high-tech, automated clinical resource management system housed within the suite. Advanced features include continuous, real-time imaging technology that produces precise, optimal images regardless of the size and location of the defect, and intravascular ultrasound machines that allow physicians to see the progress of the procedure taking place inside the patient's body.

The hybrid nature of the suite facilitates seamless collaboration between surgeons and interventional cardiologists for complex heart problems. "We can now communicate with colleagues and obtain their expertise in real time for complex situations," says **Ziyad M. Hijazi, MD, MPH**, medical director of the Rush Center for Congenital and Structural Heart Disease. "If physicians decide surgery is needed — even in the middle of an interventional procedure — the suite can be converted into an operating room and the surgical team assembled without having to move the patient."

INTRODUCTIONS The following is a list of physicians who joined the Medical Staff of Rush University Medical Center between May 15 and June 30, 2008. The Medical Staff Office and the Office 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 in the Medical Staff Office at (312) 942-5496.

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Progress Notes

There have been several changes to the organizational structure of the Department of Internal Medicine:

- **Martha Clare Morris, ScD**, was named director of the new Section of Nutrition and Nutrition Epidemiology, part of the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition.
- **Carlos de Leon Mendes, MD**, is the new head of the section of Community Epidemiologic Research. He replaces **Denis Evans, MD**, who has stepped down from his administrative duties as section head but will continue his highly successful research.
- The Section of Medical Nephrology has been expanded into a new Division of Medical Nephrology, and **Steven Korbet, MD**, has been appointed as the first director of the new division. Comprising the division are the Section of Medical Nephrology, headed by **Edmund Lewis, MD**, and the new Section of Medical Transplant Nephrology, under the leadership of **Samuel Saltzberg, MD**.

W. Christopher (Chris) Croley, MD, Department of Anesthesiology, has been appointed as medical director of the surgical intensive care unit (SICU). He was also recently appointed co-director of the Rush University Simulation Laboratory and associate director of residency education in the Department of Anesthesiology. Croley takes over clinical leadership of the SICU from **David Rothenberg, MD**, who has been medical director of the unit for the past 20 years.

Kudos

Louis Kraus, MD, chief of child and adolescent psychiatry, was elected to the American Medical Association's (AMA) Council on Science and Public Health, which provides information and recommendations on medical, scientific and public health issues to the AMA House of Delegates, the principle policy-making body of the AMA. Kraus has been an AMA delegate or alternate delegate since 1994. In addition to his role at Rush, he serves as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice, investigating civil rights abuses in juvenile detention centers.

Annabelle S. Volgman, MD, has been appointed president of the Metro Chicago board of directors for the American Heart Association, a two-year term. Volgman is associate professor of medicine and medical director of the Heart Center for Women at Rush. Her work with the American Heart Association began in 1990. She has been extremely active in the efforts to increase awareness of heart disease in women, particularly through her work with the Go Red for Women campaign.

James Young, MD, chairperson of physical medicine and rehabilitation, was the recipient of the inaugural Philip J. Farley, Jr. Memorial Award, which honors a person who has made significant contributions in the field of acquired brain injury. Young has lectured worldwide on traumatic brain injury as well as alternative modalities of care in patients with disabling physical diseases. He is a past member of the board of directors of the Brain Injury Association of Illinois and is currently a member of the honorary board of directors.

Correction

Announcement cards for **Arnold Herskovic, MD**, which were delivered to physician mailboxes a few months ago, mistakenly identified him as an attending radiologist. He is actually an attending radiation oncologist in the Department of Radiation Oncology. The Department of Marketing and Communications regrets the error.