



From the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office

Asymptomatic Carotid Stenosis Trial

The Section of Cardiology is participating in the Asymptomatic Carotid Stenosis: Stenting Versus Endarterectomy (ACT1) Trial. The objective of the study is to demonstrate that carotid artery stenting using the Xact stent and Emboshield distal protection system is as safe and effective as carotid endarterectomy for treating asymptomatic patients with carotid stenosis.

Carotid stenting has been FDA approved for patients who are high risk for carotid endarterectomy. The ACT1 trial is an important national trial designed to determine if stenting is equivalent to surgery in patients who are not at high risk for surgery. This trial provides an option for these patients to be treated with a stent instead of surgery.

The principal investigator is Jeffrey Snell, MD. For more information, contact Catherine Glase at (312) 942-8901.

Project Addresses Depression in Older Adults

BRIGHTEN is a three-year project funded by the Retirement Research Foundation to address the growing problem of undiagnosed and untreated depression in older adults. Its goal: to demonstrate that interdisciplinary intervention and "virtual" communication between health care professionals can help to assess and successfully treat depression.

The project is built around a team of health care professionals from social work, geriatric psychiatry and psychology, physical and occupational therapy, nutrition, nursing and pharmacy. The team "meets" via the Internet, e-mail and teleconferences to make specific treatment recommendations for each patient who gives informed consent to participate in the study.

Patients age 65 and older are asked by physicians to fill out a three-item screening form that includes standard assessment questions for depression. If the patients respond affirmatively to one or more of the questions and agree to talk with the project coordinator, further assessment is provided at no cost. Services beyond the initial evaluation and recommendations are billed to Medicare and/or supplemental insurance. Participation in the project is confidential and voluntary, and patients may decide to withdraw at any time.

The principal co-investigators are Robyn Golden, MA, LCSW, and Stan Lapidus, MS. For more information or to refer patients, contact Laurie Bederow, LCSW, project coordinator, at (312) 942-2066.

Programs and Services Spotlight

A New Vision for Primary Care at Rush

A robust primary care program is an integral part of the clinical enterprise at Rush. That's why Rush is fully committed to the growth and support of primary care.

Rush recently welcomed a number of new primary care physicians, some of whom are bilingual, to better meet the needs of our diverse patient population (see below for a list of new primary care physicians at Rush). Future expansion will occur both on campus and in targeted neighborhoods.

In an effort to improve access, communication and customer service, a primary care task force has been working to develop and implement practice standards across all the primary care practices. Led by Jennifer Earvolino, MD, physician director of primary care, the task force comprises primary care practice medical directors and practice managers. "We're dedicated to enhancing all aspects of the patient experience and the care we provide," Earvolino says.

And later this spring, Rush will introduce a new Web-based health risk assessment tool designed to help patients take charge of their health. See the June issue of *Rush Physician* for more about this exciting interactive online tool.

New Primary Care Physicians at Rush

Associates in Internal Medicine

1725 W. Harrison St., Suite 263*
(312) 942-6700

Pamela Strauss, MD, MPH (Spanish)
*Strauss will practice out of POB Suite 955 until late summer 2007.

Lifetime Medical Associates

1645 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 215
(312) 942-8000

Surabhi "Mona" Mehrotra, MD

Rush Pediatric Primary Care Center

1645 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 200
(312) 942-2200

Sherald Leonard, MD
Uma Levy, MD

Rush University Internal Medicine West Loop

1725 W. Harrison St., Suite 010
(312) 942-6013

Jeffrey Nekomoto, DO, MPH

Rush University Internists

1700 W. Van Buren St., Suite 500
(312) 563-2875

Rohini Bhat, MD
Laura Fassari, MD (Spanish)
Josune Natalia Iglesias, MD (Spanish)

Rush University Senior Care

1725 W. Harrison St., Suite 955
(312) 942-2200

Michael Leiding, MD
Mona Tareen, MD

University Family Physicians Southwest

7000 W. 111th St., Suite 210
Worth, Ill.

(708) 923-9810
Dinah Ahomka-Lindsay, MD

focus on CONTINUING AND GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Upcoming CME Courses at Rush

IMPACT – 2007

An all-day course addressing multiple topics in gastroenterology and hepatology.

June 2, 2007 – New York, N.Y.
September 29, 2007 – Meadowlands, N.J.
October 27, 2007 – Chicago
November 17, 2007 – New York, N.Y.
December 1, 2007 – Laguna Niguel, Calif.

Credits Hours: 8

Sponsor: Department of Medicine, Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition

Cost: N/A

Contact: Seymour M. Sabesin, MD

Phone: (312) 563-3877

E-mail: ssabesin@rush.edu

Preventing Viral Entry: Bringing New Class to HIV Therapy

July 22, 2007

Credit hours: 2

Sponsor: Department of Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases

Location: Sydney, Australia

Cost: None

Contact: Angela Fracasso, R&R Healthcare Communications, Oldsmar, Fla.

Phone: (813) 855-5533

E-mail: afracasso@rrhealthcare.com

Grand Rounds

Department of Neurological Sciences

Cohn Research Building, Field Conference Room, first floor

Tuesday, May 22, 2007, 8 a.m.

"An Epidemic of Blindness in Cuba: Lessons on Nutrition and Mitochondria"

Guest speaker: Alfredo A. Sadun, MD, PhD, professor of ophthalmology and neurological surgery, the Flora L. Thornton Professor of Vision, Doheny Eye Institute, USC-Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles.



Clinical CORNER

Specialized Dermatologic Care for Kids

The Department of Dermatology recently started a pediatric dermatology clinic to address the specialized dermatologic needs of infants, children and adolescents, as well as to train pediatric and dermatology residents. The clinic, which meets every Thursday afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m., is directed by **Arthur R. Rhodes, MD, MPH**, who practices both adult and pediatric dermatology.

Patients must be referred to the clinic by their primary care physicians. Referrals are recommended for patients with simple or complex problems of the skin, mucous membranes, hair and nails.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, call (312) 942-2195. Referrals can also be faxed to (312) 563-2263. Please make sure your contact information is included in the referral so details of the consultation can be communicated back to you.

New Minimally Invasive Hemorrhoid Treatment

A new minimally invasive procedure for stage III and IV internal hemorrhoids offers effective symptom relief but causes far less postoperative pain than traditional hemorrhoid surgery, according to **Marc Brand, MD**, colorectal surgeon at Rush and the first doctor in Chicago to offer the new technique.

The hemorrhoid treatment system (HTS) seals off the blood vessels that feed the hemorrhoid, dramatically reducing blood flow to it. The system comprises a tube with a Doppler probe at the end, which is used to evaluate blood flow, and a window on the side through which Brand can access the blood vessels.

While it's too early to determine the long-term success of HTS, to date 90 percent of patients have experienced relief from their symptoms, which include bleeding and prolapse. And whereas patients who have excisional hemorrhoidectomy suffer through two weeks of excruciating postoperative pain, HTS patients have only three to four days of mild to moderate pain because the procedure does not involve cutting out tissue. Brand says most patients with stage III or IV internal hemorrhoids are good candidates for HTS, regardless of their age or gender.

Rush Ball Sets Records

The 2007 Rush Ball, held February 3 at the Hilton Chicago, was the most successful in the event's 16-year history. Not only did it set an attendance record, with 520 guests, it also raised an event record \$105,228 to provide financial assistance for students in Rush Medical College. Mark your calendars now for the 17th Annual Rush Ball: **Saturday, January 12, 2008**, at the Hilton Chicago.

INTRODUCTIONS The following is a list of physicians who joined the Medical Staff of Rush University Medical Center between January 1 and February 28, 2007. 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.

Lisa N. Boggio, MD
Hematology – bleeding and thrombotic disorders, cytopenias, myeloproliferative disorders and myelodysplastic disorders
(312) 942-5157
Lisa_Boggio@rush.edu

Noman H. Siddiqui, MD
Pathology
(312) 942-5260
Norman_Siddiqui@rush.edu

EYE on QUALITY: *Epic Update!*

It's Epic! It's Here!

May 1 marks another exciting Epic milestone — go-live for clinical documentation, computerized provider order entry (CPOE), hospital billing and registration. Following the pharmacy implementation, which currently is under way, and preceding the OpTime surgical management system go-live, which is set for June 5, this second wave is by far Rush's largest system implementation to date.

A number of key initiatives have been completed in preparation for go-live, including the following:

- The installation of **practice "playgrounds"** on computers across the Medical Center, enabling users to practice Epic prior to go-live
- **Dress rehearsals** to give staff a hands-on feel for how Epic will work using realistic patient scenarios and workflows
- **User account and password verification** to make certain that staff are able to log on and access the appropriate modules at go-live
- **The deployment and testing of more than 400 additional computer devices** — nearly doubling the number of devices available on clinical floors to chart Epic

Go-live Support Plan

A comprehensive go-live support plan has been developed to ensure a smooth transition to the new Epic system. Numerous resources will be available at go-live to efficiently assist with questions and issues as they arise, including the following:

- **Support on units.** Nearly 350 super users — including a number of residents — have received extensive training and will be deployed around the campus to serve as the first line of contact during the Epic implementation. They can be identified by their Epic "Ask Me" buttons and green vests.
- **Command center.** There will be a command center in room 536 of the Johnston R. Bowman Health Center, with more than 150 Epic consultants, application experts and IS staff on hand to answer questions, dispatch help and address system-related concerns 24/7. They will be wearing blue vests.
- **Epic hotline.** A dedicated phone extension, **3-EPIC**, has been established that will instantly connect employees to the command center. When appropriate, personnel will be dispatched to your area immediately.
- **Epic e-mail.** An e-mail address, *Epic_Questions@rush.edu*, has also been established. Staff are encouraged to use this option for reporting questions or issues that are less urgent or do not directly impact patient care, such as system enhancement recommendations.

Progress Notes and Kudos

In January, spine specialists **Christopher J. DeWald, MD**, and **K.W. Hammerberg, MD**, joined Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush. DeWald, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, has lectured both nationally and internationally on advanced techniques in spinal surgery. Hammerberg, a longtime assistant professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Rush, was co-director of the Chicago Spine Fellowship. Both are dedicated to scoliosis and spondylolisthesis research.

Robert S.D. Higgins, MD, has been elected vice president and president elect of the board of directors of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). The UNOS board also serves as the board of directors for the national Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. Higgins is chairperson of the Department of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgery at Rush.

Krishna Lynch, BSN, RN, has been appointed assistant director and liaison for compliance program improvement, and **Kimberly Zajczanko** has been promoted to associate compliance officer and executive director of corporate compliance and compliance strategic planning. Zajczanko assumes the administrative and operational responsibilities and oversight of the compliance office and program activities previously held by **Janis Anfossi**, who left Rush last fall.

Martha Clare Morris, ScD, who has been on faculty at Rush since 1992 in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Rush Institute for Healthy Aging, has been appointed to the new position of assistant provost for community research. In this role, she will be responsible for nurturing the development of community research at Rush University, including a newly formed urban health center.