



## From the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office

### Adult Stem Cell Trial

The Section of Cardiology is participating in the first human phase II adult stem cell trial in the United States designed to investigate the efficacy, tolerability and safety of blood-derived selected CD34+ stem cells to improve symptoms and clinical outcomes in patients with chronic myocardial ischemia. This prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study will involve approximately 150 adult patients nationwide. Participants will receive a study-related medical evaluation, the investigational procedure and a 12-month follow-up at no cost.

To qualify, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Have a medical diagnosis of chronic angina
- Be on maximal medical therapy
- Not be a suitable candidate for conventional procedures to improve blood flow to the heart (angioplasty, stents or coronary artery bypass surgery)

The principal investigator of the RUSH arm of the study is **Gary Schaer, MD**. For more information, contact Catherine Glase at (312) 942-8901.

### Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Study

The Department of Anesthesiology is participating in a study looking at genetic factors in complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS). The study is being conducted at the RUSH University Pain Center. CRPS is a chronic, painful condition that sometimes occurs following injury or surgery. It has been found that subjects who developed CRPS without history of injury had some genetic differences when compared to subjects who did not develop CRPS. This study will evaluate the genetic differences between subjects who have and do not have CRPS and will determine whether other family members share those differences.

To qualify, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be diagnosed with CRPS
- Have at least one close relative diagnosed with CRPS

The principal investigator is **Asokumar Buvanendran, MD**. For more information, contact **Maruti Kari, MD**, at (312) 942-2741 or **Nithya Venkatesan, MD**, at (312) 942-3421.

## Coming Soon: Survey About Culture of Patient Safety

In March, Quality Improvement will be conducting a hospital survey on patient safety culture for physicians and staff. The survey is part of the patient safety communication strategic plan, and Quality Improvement will use the data to determine areas for improvement. The survey will be sent via e-mail, along with instructions for completion.

## Programs and Services Spotlight

### RUSH Electrophysiology Program

The electrophysiology (EP) program at RUSH has a long-established reputation as a leader in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac arrhythmias. One of the world's first indwelling cardiac pacemakers was implanted by physicians at RUSH in 1965, and in 2000, RUSH was one of the first centers in Illinois to implant a biventricular pacemaker.

Under the direction of **Richard G. Trohman, MD**, the electrophysiology team specializes in treating patients with complex problems. In addition to electrophysiologists, the team comprises certified technicians, and nurses who are certified by the Heart Rhythm Society.

The October 2005 opening of a second state-of-the-art EP laboratory enables RUSH to offer the latest advances in diagnostic and interventional electrophysiology, cardiac imaging and implantable cardiac device technologies, including the following:

- Implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), biventricular pacemakers and single- and dual-chamber permanent pacemakers and insertable loop recorders
- Remote and clinic follow-up for implantable devices, including pacemakers, defibrillators and biventricular pacemakers
- Radiofrequency ablation for atrial fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia and supraventricular tachycardia
- Alternative energy sources for complex arrhythmias (CryoAblation and irrigated tip)
- Non-invasive arrhythmia evaluation ECG, holter monitoring, event recorders and implantable monitors for recurrent syncope or cardiac palpitations

The electrophysiology team partners with referring physicians to ensure that patients are seen promptly, usually within 48 hours. They rapidly communicate results to referring physicians and are available for follow-up questions pertaining to ongoing patient management.

### Participating physicians

Richard G. Trohman, MD  
director

Kousik Krishnan, MD  
electrophysiologist

Andrew Lawrence, MD  
electrophysiologist

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## New Program Complements Cancer Treatments

The Cancer Integrative Medicine Program at RUSH focuses on the emotional, psychological and spiritual effects of cancer, offering new therapies that complement the innovative medical treatments at RUSH.

“We created this program to improve the quality of life for our cancer patients,” says **Janine Gauthier, PhD**, director of clinical services for the program. “For instance, stress is a huge issue for people with cancer; it can worsen pain and weaken the immune system. When patients get relief from stress, they gain a sense of control and may even tolerate their medical treatments better.”

The new program offers the following complementary therapies, which can be used by cancer patients and their family members:

- Acupuncture
- Biofeedback
- Yoga
- Massage
- Nutritional counseling with a registered dietitian and a personalized nutrition plan to help sustain health through treatment
- Herbal counseling with a pharmacist to identify which herbal medicines may be helpful and which may interact with other medications

For more information about the Cancer Integrative Medicine Program at RUSH, call (312) 563-2531.



## Clinical CORNER

### TomoTherapy Boosts Cancer Treatment Arsenal

Now available at RUSH, the TomoTherapy system addresses two key aspects of cancer treatment simultaneously with one device: finding the exact location of a tumor and destroying it.

Three-dimensional images from the CT scan and special software help physicians plot the location of the tumor and all the areas around it that should be protected from radiation. Once it's determined how much radiation the tumor should receive and how much radiation surrounding areas can receive, the system calculates the pattern, position and intensity of the radiation beam that the machine will deliver.

Taking a CT scan immediately before treatment ensures that doctors can verify a tumor's location and adjust the patient's position if necessary to make sure the radiation reaches its precise target. And because of TomoTherapy's remarkable accuracy, it is possible to direct a higher dose of radiation at a tumor with a lower risk of affecting surrounding tissue and organs.

According to radiation oncologist **Katherine Griem, MD**, TomoTherapy is likely to be used initially on cancers of the prostate and of the head and neck; eventually, it will be used to treat other cancers, including breast cancer.

### Introducing the RUSH syncope clinic

Syncope is a common problem, affecting 30 percent of adults at some point in their lives and accounting for a significant number of emergency room visits and hospitalizations. But because of the wide spectrum of etiologies, there are often significant practice variations in the use of diagnostic tests and therapeutic interventions.

To provide cohesive, multidisciplinary care for patients with syncope, the **RUSH syncope clinic** was launched in January. Patients referred to the clinic benefit from an experienced team of dedicated physicians, nurse practitioners and support staff, who work together to provide an integrated and individualized approach to the work-up and management of this common condition. Cardiologist **Jeffrey Soble, MD**, is medical director of the clinic. Other participating physicians include **James Calvin, MD**, chief, Section of Cardiology; **Ruth Woroch, ND, APN**, nurse practitioner, cardiology; **Kousik Krishnan, MD**, director, Arrhythmic Device Clinic; **Steven Lewis, MD**, associate chairperson, Department of Neurology; and **Bezalel Dantz, MD**, assistant medical director, outpatient psychiatry.

The clinic is available for outpatient referral through the University Cardiologists' office at (312) 942-7267.

**INTRODUCTIONS** The following is a list of physicians who joined the Medical Staff of RUSH University Medical Center between November 1 and December 31, 2006. 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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## EYE on QUALITY: *Epic Update!*

### Have You Started Your Epic Training?

As we move closer to Epic implementation this spring, the focus is on physician training. Pharmacy is scheduled to go live on April 1, followed by clinical documentation, finance, registration and computer provider order entry (CPOE) on May 1. Training for the OpTime surgical module begins June 5.

By mid-March, all house staff will be trained on the new electronic medical record system. Training involves both online electronic modules and classroom sessions. The e-modules are being offered through RUSH's LEAP program and can be taken anytime, anywhere using a standard Internet connection. You are encouraged to complete the intro to Epic e-module before you attend the classroom sessions.

The classroom sessions have been tailored specifically to physicians' needs and will not exceed three hours. Classes are customized for different specialties, as follows:

- Attending physicians who use the operating room
- Pediatricians who use weight-based dosing
- All other attending physicians

Training is mandatory for all attendings and house staff. Classes will be taught by RUSH residents and Epic/Information Systems staff. The majority of the classes will be held at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and at 8 a.m. on Saturdays. You will soon receive information on how to register.

In the meantime, if you have not completed the intro to Epic e-module, you may do so by logging onto the RUSH portal at <http://rushportal.rush.edu>. Click on the blue Epic training tab near the top of the home page. The online training links are in the upper left-hand corner. If you have questions, call (312) 563-EPIC (3742).

### Are You Worried About Your PC IQ?

A 15-question computer skills assessment quiz is available online at [webtest.skillcheck.com](http://webtest.skillcheck.com). The physician champion for your area can tell you how to log on. In addition, a basic introductory computer skills course is available through RUSH's LEAP program. To learn more about these programs, call (312) 563-EPIC (3742).

### Progress Notes

**Christopher L. Grote, PhD**, has been named as the acting chairperson of the Department of Behavioral Sciences. Grote is associate professor, director of education and associate chairperson of the department. He takes over the reins from **Rosalind Cartwright, PhD**, who has led the department as professor and chairperson since 1977. Cartwright is an internationally acclaimed expert in sleep disorder research and founded RUSH's Sleep Disorder Service and Research Center. She will continue as a senior clinician, investigator and teacher in the department.

**Mary Saba, RN, MS**, has been appointed to the newly developed role of director of ambulatory nursing for RUSH University Medical Group. RUMG supports the future development of the medical service plans in collaboration with the Division of Nursing and the Professional Nursing Staff. Saba will oversee the development and communication of nursing policies and procedures, along with the development and achievement of standards of practice for nursing activities in ambulatory care. She will also lead clinical process improvement efforts to work toward standardization of key processes across practices, and develop annual competency training to support quality patient care and meet regulatory requirements.

**David C. Shelledy, PhD**, has been appointed as the dean of the College of Health Sciences. Shelledy previously was associate dean for Academic and Student Affairs of the College of Health Related Professions at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. A respiratory therapist by professional training, he is a recent past president of the American Association for Respiratory Care and has served in leadership positions in numerous professional societies in his field. In his previous position, he coordinated and supported programs in 17 different professional areas within 10 academic departments.

**Ken Tuman, MD**, has been appointed director of perioperative services for the new Advanced Surgical and Treatment Center. In this role, Tuman will be chairing a new operating room executive committee and working closely with **Scott Sonnenschein**, vice president of hospital operations, **Charlene Thomas, PhD, RN**, director of perioperative and interventional nursing, and **David Ansell, MD**, chief medical officer, to ensure that the perioperative areas meet the needs of RUSH patients and of surgeons and staff at RUSH.