DeKalb Medical Top Doctors Recognized

Congratulations to the 43 DeKalb Medical physicians on Atlanta Magazine's Top Doctors 2013 List. The list contains physicians who are nominated by their peers in the Atlanta area.

**Wayne L. Ambroze Jr., M.D., Colon & Rectal Surgery**
**Todd M. Antin, M.D., Psychiatry**
**Bradford S. Bootstaylor, M.D., Maternal & Fetal Medicine**
**Gary R. Botstein, M.D., Rheumatology**
**Joseph F. Boveri, M.D., Gynecologic Oncology**
**Adam M. Bressler, M.D., Infectious Disease**
**Darwin L. Brown, M.D., Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism**
**Pamela J. Brown, M.D., Obstetrics & Gynecology**
**Robert M. Campbell, M.D., Pediatric Cardiology**
**William H. Cleveland, M.D., Nephrology**
**Stephen M. Cohen, M.D., Colon & Rectal Surgery**
**Thomas P. DeMarini, M.D., Pulmonary Disease**
**Robin H. Dretler, M.D., Infectious Disease**
**Norman L. Elliott, M.D., Gastroenterology**
**Mark W. Feeman, D.O., Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation**
**George R. Gottlieb, M.D., Allergy & Immunology**
**Jeffrey F. Hines, M.D., Gynecologic Oncology**
**David A. Holladay, M.D., Radiation Oncology**
**Ira R. Horowitz, M.D., Gynecologic Oncology**
**David H. Jacobson, M.D., Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism**
**Michael S. Jacobson, M.D., Ophthalmology**
**Robert E. Karsch, M.D., Orthopaedic Surgery**

**Paul A. Kirschbaum, M.D., Cardiovascular Disease**
**Scott I. Lampert, M.D., Ophthalmology**
**R. Allen Lawhead, M.D., Gynecologic Oncology**
**A. Keith Levinson, M.D., Urology**
**Jeffrey D. Lieberman, M.D., Rheumatology**
**Raoul Mayer, M.D., Ph.D., Colon & Rectal Surgery**
**Daniel T. McDevitt, M.D., Vascular Surgery**
**Richard D. Molina, M.D., Maternal & Fetal Medicine**
**Omar A. Najjar, M.D., Family Medicine**
**Stuart J. Pancer, M.D., Obstetrics & Gynecology**
**Juan Luis Pimentel, M.D., Nephrology**
**Erich G. Randolph, M.D., Radiation Oncology**
**Cyril O. Spann Jr., M.D., Gynecologic Oncology**
**Mark A. Stern, M.D., Gastroenterology**
**Steven O. Stewart, M.D., Family Medicine**
**Gary B. Stillwagon, M.D., Ph.D., Radiation Oncology**
**Jacqueline R. Sulton, M.D., Pediatrics**
**Stephen Szabo, M.D., Medical Oncology**
**Neill Videlefsky, M.D., Pediatric Cardiology**
**Joseph M. Woods IV, M.D., Plastic Surgery**
**Mark L. Wulkan, M.D., Pediatric Surgery**

For story ideas and suggestions or to request additional copies, call 404.501.5565 or e-mail PRMarketingRequests@dekalbmedical.org.
DeKalb Medical Expands Primary Care Base with Addition of Rockbridge Family Medicine, Growth at Existing Practice Locations

DeKalb Medical Physicians Group is pleased to announce the addition of Rockbridge Family Medicine. The group consists of Tina-Ann Kerr Thompson, M.D., Janice Lim, M.D., Thomas Parrott, M.D., Markeba Skylark, PA-C, and Francine Matadi, PA-C. Rockbridge Family Medicine has two offices, one on Rockbridge Road in Stone Mountain and another on Tree Lane in Snellville and has been serving the Stone Mountain, Lilburn and Snellville communities since 1982.

Additionally, Vera Reaves, M.D. joined the DeKalb Medical Physicians Group in the spring. Dr. Reaves has been practicing medicine in the Atlanta area for over 16 years and has called Tucker home for the last decade. Newly named North Tucker Primary Care, currently located at 2892 Mountain Industrial Blvd, will relocate within the vicinity within the next few months.

Flat Shoals Internal Medicine welcomes its newest physician: Carmen Echols, M.D. Dr. Echols recently completed her residency at Family Medicine at Georgia Health Sciences University in Augusta, Georgia and joins John Oliga, M.D. and Grantley Joseph, M.D. off of Flat Shoals Pkwy in Decatur.

South DeKalb Primary Care also welcomes Dawn Kirkby, FNP, in August. Dawn recently came from TakeCareHealth and has over 29 years of health care experience.

DeKalb Medical Physicians Group adds Neurosurgery, ENT and Gynecologic Oncology Specialty Practices

While the primary focus of the DeKalb Medical Physicians Group is to secure a strong primary care base in our community, there is also a need to expand the specialists within the group to meet referral demands from the primary care physicians. When this happens, DeKalb Medical considers the options and may decide to employ physician specialties to meet those needs. So, DMPG is pleased to welcome:

- **Atlanta Neurosurgical Associates** – offices in Snellville, North Decatur campus, Covington and Fayetteville (770.979.8080)
  - Michael Hartman, M.D.
  - Murray Robinson, M.D.

- **Atlanta ENT Specialists** – offices on the North Decatur campus (404.501.7710)
  - Preston Imhof, D.O.
  - Shivan Amin, M.D.

- **Gynecologic Oncology Specialists of Atlanta** – offices in Dunwoody and on the North Decatur campus (404.501.7100 / www.gynecologiconcologyspecialistsofatlanta.com)
  - Joseph Boveri, M.D.
  - Cyril Spann, M.D.

Please go to www.dekalbmedical.org and click the “Find a Doctor” tab for contact information.
Cathy Bonk, M.D. joined the DeKalb Regional Health System, Inc. (DRHS) Board of Directors in March. A practicing physician at Atlanta Gynecology & Obstetrics since 1993, Bonk is a certified fellow at the American College of Obstetricians and is a Certified Physician Executive. She currently serves as a board member for the DeKalb Physician Hospital Organization and is treasurer of the Georgia OB/GYN Society. Her DeKalb Medical leadership positions included Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology and member of the Medical Executive Committee. She replaces Dr. Gulshan Harjee, who resigned in January after serving since 1997. Board officers include: David L. Jollay, chairman; Robert E. Wilson, vice chairman; Daniel J. Thompson, secretary; and Charles (Chip) Clifton, M.D., treasurer.

After serving nearly five years as Chief of Emergency Medicine & Medical Director at DeKalb Medical at Hillandale, Dr. Sofia Khan assumed the role of Chief of Emergency Medicine & Systems Medicine Director for DeKalb Medical’s North Decatur campus beginning in April. Khan also joins the DeKalb County Hospital Authority, the governing body made up of volunteer county residents appointed by the DeKalb County Commissioners. This 10-member group looks at the broader picture of how DeKalb Medical impacts, supports and serves the general health and welfare of the county. Membership has historically been comprised of community, civic and professional leaders who meet quarterly throughout the year. The Hospital Authority delegates its authority to the DeKalb Regional Health System Board of Directors when necessary.

DeKalb Medical’s Joint Solutions Center (JSC), now in its fourth year of operation, continues to lead the organization and the metro-Atlanta in patient satisfaction. According to Press Ganey, the national firm that conducts patient satisfaction research for the majority of hospitals in Atlanta, the JSC is in the 99th percentile for patient satisfaction in Atlanta. The center is serving as a model for patient care delivery at DeKalb Medical. Pre-surgery education, Web site resources and a patient road map help set expectations. Combined with a well-trained staff, physician-adopted protocols for care, a non-institutional group setting, a little competition between patients, and inclusion of family in the care and the experience impresses the patients and their families.

Patients are satisfied not just with the experience, but with the outcomes. More than 75 patients have volunteered to be ambassadors, showing off their new hips and knees (and their mobility) at community events and answering questions from potential patients. The patients are so delighted that they’ve asked for and attended a holiday reunion for the past two years. To capture and share these stories with the general public, DeKalb Medical has launched www.atlantaorthostories.com.

If you have patients who would like more information about joint replacement, invite them to go to the Web site or suggest they attend one of the monthly free talks. Information is available at both www.atlantaorthostories.com and www.dekalbmedical.org.
New Prostate and Abdominal Studies
Available on 3T MRI

Currently with our 3T MR magnet, we are offering Prostate MR and MR Enterography. With our new high field 3T magnet, we are able to get detailed images of the prostate without the use of an endo-rectal coil. This creates a more comfortable alternative to other methods of prostate imaging, which generally requires a coil being inserted into the rectum to acquire the scan. MRI enterography is an MRI exam of the abdomen, specifically looking at the intestines, and has the potential to safely meet the imaging needs of patients with Chron’s Disease without exposing them to ionizing radiation.

DeKalb Medical at Hillandale
Sets the Standard

DeKalb Medical at Hillandale was recently awarded the “Georgia Coverdell Champion Hospital of the Year” award for stroke care in the small-sized category (26-100 beds) for 2013.

Named in honor of the late Senator Paul Coverdell of Georgia – who died of a massive stroke in 2000 – the primary goal of the Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry (GCASR) program is to improve the care of acute stroke patients in the hospital setting. Other goals are to increase quality improvement through collaboration among participant hospitals and health care providers, lower the stroke morbidity experienced in Georgia, enhance the effectiveness of secondary care and prevent recurrent strokes, and develop protocols to guide physician care with effective stroke management.

DeKalb Medical Surgeons Embrace Transparency in Quest for Higher Patient Satisfaction

It’s often said that what you do not measure, you do not improve. Such is the case for patient satisfaction scores. DeKalb Medical relentlessly tracks and shares scores for its nursing units, business office and outpatient settings, but one of the factors that helps make up the overall scores – satisfaction with your physician – has been a somewhat of a secret. Until now.

A group of DeKalb Medical surgeons recently opted to allow the hospital to share how their patients rated them in terms of satisfaction.

“The surgeons accepted the challenge to have their scores viewed side-by-side with their peers,” DeKalb Medical CEO and President John Shelton said. “The theory is that if a physician finds him or herself lagging behind peers, they’ll soon figure out what they need to do to improve. We appreciate the willingness to participate in this and so far it seems to be working.”

A Professional Community for PAs and NPs

The Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Council, founded in April 2012, represents the 135 physician assistants and nurse practitioners credentialed at DeKalb Medical. Realizing that the PA/NPs are a large and talented group of health care providers within the system yet had very little formal organization within which to contribute to the growth and success of the organization, the APP Council was created.

The main objectives of the APP Council are to develop a professional community for the advanced practice providers working at DeKalb Medical, and to provide a forum for engagement and integration with other members of the health care team. The APP Council’s vision is to provide a platform in which the PA/NPs can contribute and be included in advancing the overall vision and mission of DeKalb Medical while continuing to function as an integral part of the health care team providing excellent quality patient care.

The APP Council meets quarterly in the Gerlach Conference Room and addresses issues that affect PA/NP practice, as well as avenues for involvement within the hospital structure and the community we serve. Several committees function within the APP Council and include: legislative, operations, administrative and community outreach/entertainment, but it’s not all work and meetings.

The Council had its first annual Summer Social on June 12 in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey Tower Auditorium, and many PA/NPs and physicians attended. More events and community outreach initiatives are being planned, so stay tuned for ways to be involved. All APPs practicing within the DeKalb Medical community are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Sonya Green PA-C, DMPG Director of Allied Health (sonya.green@dekalbmedical.org).
Quality Focus Yielding Results

All facilities at DeKalb Medical had a dramatic improvement in FY 2013 of over 50 percent in ‘Harm’ as defined as central line-associated bloodstream infection, catheter-associated urinary tract infection, and ventilator-associated pneumonia. In addition, there has been slow and steady improvement in a select group of the CMS and TJC evidence-based care process (core) measures in acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care, at both Hillandale and North Decatur. In fact, over the last several months, over 98 percent of patients are receiving “perfect care,” or all of the appropriate core measure processes, at Hillandale and North Decatur. - Reg Gilbreath, Chief Medical Officer

And still more improvement coming...

UPCOMING MEDICAL STAFF MEETINGS

OB/GYN – Multidisciplinary Committee
September 26, October 24, 7:30 AM,
4040 Classroom, Women’s Center

AHP QI Committee Meeting
September 24, October 22, 12:30 PM,
Gerlach Conference Room

Systems Credential Committee
September 24, October 22, 5:00 PM,
Board Room or Auditorium

Medicine
September 10, 5:30 PM, Board Room

Medicine – GI Section
September 16, 7:30 AM, Board Room or PDR

OB/GYN – QI Committee
September 11, October 9, 7:30 AM,
4040 Classroom, Women’s Center

Pediatrics – Multidisciplinary Committee
September 3, October 1, 12:30 PM,
4040 Classroom, Women’s Center

Psychiatry
September 17, 8:00 AM, Board Room

Medical Executive Committee
September 3, October 1, 6:00 PM, Board Room

Medicine – GI Section
October 16, 7:30 AM, Board Room or PDR

Pediatrics
October 15, 6:45 PM, Board Room or Auditorium

Pediatrics – QI Committee
October 8, 12:00 PM, 4040 Classroom, Women’s Center

Surgery
October 8, 6:15 PM, Auditorium

Podiatry
October 15, 6:00 PM, Auditorium

Podiatry Residency Training Committee
October 15, after section meeting, Auditorium

Podiatry – QI Committee
October 8, 5:00 PM, ESC
Thank You for Volunteering

A special thank you to all the physicians who have taken time out of their schedules to participate and volunteer in various community events, workshops, festivals, doc talks, seminars and other activities that benefit our community from April through July. We know how precious your time is, and we want you to know we appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Christopher Haraszti, M.D.
Allen Lawhead, M.D.
Kristy Kinsey, M.D.
Caryn Johnson, M.D.
Maurice Jove, M.D.
Akil Gordon, M.D.
Al Scott, M.D.
Rita Sharma, M.D.
Stuart Pancer, M.D.
Ingie El-Khashab, D.P.M.
Jeff Traub, M.D.
Cathy Bonk, M.D.
Trey Patterson, M.D.
Daniel Tesafaye, M.D.
George Gottlieb, M.D.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with DeKalb Medical community events, please contact the Community Outreach Department at 404.501.7481. Upcoming events include:

- Sept. 28 Ovarian Cancer Walk at North Decatur campus
- Oct. 5 Cancer Screening Day at North Decatur and Hillandale campuses
- Oct. 12 American Heart Association 2013 Metro Atlanta Heart Walk
- Oct. 18 - 20 Susan G. Komen 3-Day Atlanta
DeKalb Medical Chosen to Participate in Best Fed Beginnings Project

Physician Support Crucial to Success

In 2012 DeKalb Medical was one of 90 hospitals in America chosen to participate in the Best Fed Beginnings project to become a Baby-Friendly Hospital. This highly regarded designation means that a hospital has comprehensively implemented the American Academy of Pediatrics-endorsed “Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding,” as established in the WHO/UNICEF Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. Best Fed Beginnings is led by the National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality through a collaborative funding agreement with the Centers for Disease Control.

“We have put evidence-based best practice for maternity care in place to support our Baby-Friendly initiative,” said Margie Hunter, Executive Director of Women & Infant Services. “One of the best practices that was put in place was placing babies skin to skin within five minutes of birth for 60 minutes. Although nurses had to change workflow to accomplish this step, our moms and families have benefited greatly from incorporating this step. We have received extremely positive feedback from moms. We know that bonding especially in those first few days are extremely important and skin to skin helps tremendously. Our maternity staff knows we are helping to make memories that will last for a lifetime.”

Mothers who give birth at Baby-Friendly hospitals and birthing centers are more likely to initiate exclusive breastfeeding and more likely to sustain breastfeeding at six months and one year of age, perhaps because of the institutional support for breastfeeding at these facilities. Adherence to the “Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding” (i), is associated with increased rates of breastfeeding around the world. In the United States, new mothers exposed to at least six of the ten steps were 13 times more likely to continue breastfeeding at six weeks postpartum when compared to mothers who had not been exposed to any of the ten steps during their birthing hospitalization (ii). Additionally, adherence to the Ten Steps decreases racial, ethnic and socio-cultural disparities in breastfeeding rates in U.S. hospitals (iii).

Source: Baby-Friendly, USA, the accrediting body for the Baby-Friendly Hospital initiative in the United States.


