

Four-star general named to MCGHealth board



Larry R. Ellis has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of MCGHealth.

Ellis is the Chief Executive Officer of Ellis Services and Solutions Enterprises in Atlanta. He joined the Board of Directors of Point Blank Solutions in December 2004 and served as President and Chief Executive Officer through April 2009. He serves as a director on the Boards of SRA International and the Armed Forces Benefit Association. He has been

appointed to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by the Governor.

He served in the United States Army for more than 35 years before retiring as a Four-Star General. He commanded units at every echelon of the Army, including the First Armored Division while deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the U.S. Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, he oversaw multi-year, multi-billion dollar budget programs supporting national strategic objectives. Soon after the United States went to war in 2001, he assumed command of the U.S.

Army Forces Command in Atlanta, Georgia – the Army's largest command.

His military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Bronze Star Medal. He holds a bachelor's degree from Morgan State University and a master's degree from Indiana University. Other honors include an Honorary Doctor of Laws, Honorary Master of Strategic Studies, the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the NAACP National Service Award and the ROCK of the year award. ♦

Sodomka is a Hospital Hero



Patricia Sodomka, FACHE, Senior Vice President of Patient Family Centered

Care for MCGHealth and Director of the Medical College of Georgia Center for Patient-and Family-Centered

Care, has been selected by the Georgia Hospital Association as one of its 2009 Hospital Heroes. This prestigious award was recently presented to her at an awards luncheon in Atlanta.

"It is an honor to be selected as a Hospital Hero. This is a great testament to the commitment and hard work of our entire team. I share this

award with the many heroes at MCGHealth and the Medical College of Georgia who help collaborate every day with our patients and families to provide quality patient care," said Sodomka.

Sodomka receives this award for her many accomplishments as an international ambassador of Patient Family

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CEO Corner

Advancing the organization strategically

Since the formation of MCGHealth, we have held an annual strategic planning advance (we never retreat!) to assess our current position, identify organizational strengths and weaknesses and formulate plans for moving ahead. This year was no different in that the leaders of MCGHealth, the Physicians Practice Group and the Medical College of Georgia gathered for a half day meeting. However, what was different this year was the meaningful inclusion of research and education issues that impact patient care.

In true integrative fashion, we discussed our shared goal of achieving growth through improved clinical quality as well as through establishing

a competitive advantage by recruiting top-tier clinician-scientists. Our guest presenter, Joseph Spallina, President of Arvina Group, a health care management consultancy, demonstrated that the nation's most successful academic health centers have integrated health professions education, patient care, and biomedical and health sciences research. He would argue that the successful integration of the three is the key to success.

Several terms are becoming important parts of our organizational vocabulary, including but not limited to:

- Growth through quality (growth is a requirement not an option)
- Durable partnerships
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Synergies
- Symbiosis
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness (balancing cost and quality)
- Accountability
- Shared risk/reward
- Goal alignment

You'll need to become familiar with these terms and begin to use them as

you discuss and describe where our campus is heading.

Where do we go from here? We anticipate that our discussions will be ongoing as we plan for greater integration between MCGHealth, PPG and MCG, resulting in a shared vision statement and a singular strategic plan.

The positive, forward-looking and progressive tone of the meeting was heartening. As we leverage and exploit our interdependencies, each organization will emerge stronger and more competitive. I know that all of us who work on this campus and those we work to serve will benefit from the strength we will achieve. So, open the theater curtains and turn down the house lights... our second act is about to begin and it will draw critical acclaim.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra I. McVicker".

Sandra I. McVicker

Interim President and CEO ♦

Bias appointed to Georgia trauma commission



Richard R. Bias, FACHE, Senior Vice President of Ambulatory and Network Services,

has been appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue to a two-year term on the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission.

In 2007, Senate Bill 60 established the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission. The bill charges the Trauma Commission to create a statewide trauma system and to act as the accountability mechanism for distribution of trauma system funds appropriated each fiscal year by the legislature.

Bias, who joined MCGHealth in 1987, oversees the outpatient physician practice sites and

develops and maintains the health system's affiliate network of hospitals. He has also served as Vice President of Ambulatory and Network Services; Interim Vice President of Ambulatory and Network Services; Interim Vice President of Information Services; Chief Operating Officer and Associate Director for Operations.

He earned his master's degree in Health Administration from

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Getting new employees off to a great start

The comprehensive program to orient new employees to MCGHealth has been given a makeover. StartWise, so named by Krystal Bussey-Davis, a Human Resources Advisory Council member from Clinical Pathology, has a new look and updated content.

"Our goal is for new members of the MCGHealth team to leave orientation with a clear picture of the organization, its challenges and goals and how each of them contributes to the organization's forward momentum," said Derek Carissimi, Vice President of Human Resources.

StartWise participants begin the two days with a lengthened meet-and-greet to expand the welcoming process and give them ample time to get acquainted with their fellow new employees. Presentations

have been shortened to 30 minutes to avoid information overload. However, new employees are sure to grasp all of the important details through supplemental information provided in an orientation manual that is sequenced to match the presentations. Presentations are also more interactive and case study focused to keep participants engaged.

If you haven't seen a group of employees frantically rushing around the buildings lately it is because the scavenger hunt has been replaced by a guided tour that gives a more effective and comprehensive overview of all departmental locations and functions. The Patient Family Centered Care Learning Lab, which used to be attended by each new employee the week following orientation, is now an integral part of orientation

and helps them get up-to-speed on PFCC quicker.

To ensure that new employees are successful, Human Resources conducts follow-up interviews at the 30 and 120-day marks. "We want to make sure that we are giving our employees the tools they need to hit the ground running," Carissimi said.

"A relevant and effective orientation is one of the most meaningful things we do to ensure the success of our employees. Our orientation process helps us communicate MCGHealth's values, set expectations, lay the groundwork for productivity and increase retention. We do not underestimate its value, and that is why our new employee orientation process is under constant scrutiny and continuous improvement," he concluded. ♦

Employees honored for service milestones

MCGHealth recently honored 67 employees for their combined 1,510 years of service. During a celebratory dinner at the Partridge Inn, honorees received service pins recognizing them for their milestones.

Honorees are:

Twenty Years

Carrie Attaway, *Chemistry*
Ansley Barnett, *Pharmacy*
Kimberly Basso, *Pediatric ICU*
Karen Burke, *Epilepsy*
Elaine Carpenter, *Medicine*
Andrea Cherry, *Chemistry*
Dianne Cobb, *SCC Laboratory*
Gary Collins, *3 West Neurology*
Kevin Corbin, *Pharmacy*
Toni Curry, *3 West Neurology*
James Demmons, Jr., *Dietary*
Valerie Dent, *8 West Same Day Surgery*
Vicki Edwards, *Outpatient Clinic Pharmacy*
Kenneth Goff, *Facilities Operations Zone Maintenance*
Kimberly Green, *Bone Marrow Transplant Clinic*
Virginia Green, *7 West & North - OB/Urology*
Nan Hansen, *ENT Clinic*
Traci Hentges, *Shock Trauma*
Debra Lloyd, *Immunomorphology*
Dana McCarty, *Client Services*
Regina Medeiros, *Ambulatory & Network Services*
Chriskna Miller, *Diagnostic Radiology*

Leslie Mills, *Outpatient Pediatrics*
Catherine Morgan, *CP Lab Data Center*
Deborah Morris, *Endoscopy*
Cheryl Priessman, *Occupational Therapy Service*
Vickie Redd, *Outpatient Allergy*
Carla Ryans, *5 West Medicine*
Mark Schreiber, *Emergency Medicine*
Teresa Scott, *Pediatric Anesthesiology*
Donna Teague, *Magnetic Resonance Imaging*
Phillip Teague, *Diagnostic Radiology*
Bonita Thomas, *4 South Surgery*
Connie Thompkins, *Dining Services*
Patricia Tinley, *ACC Laboratory*
Earline Travis, *Environmental Services*
Allen Utley, *Dietary*
Paul Vigneri, *Facility Operations*
Natalie Williams, *3 West Neurology*
Shirley Williams, *Quality Management*

Twenty-Five Years

Joan Arazie, *Georgia Radiation Therapy Center*
Amy Bedingfield, *Jefferson City Clinic*
Vivian Coley, *General Radiology*
Sheila Counts, *7 West Labor & Delivery*
Richard Edmunds, *Diagnostic Radiology*
Thomas Flynt, *Pharmacy*
Mary Fulmer, *Adult Cardiac Cath*
Mary Gaffney, *Utilization Management*
Michelle Gregory, *Epilepsy*

Loretta Heard, *Environmental Services*
Gayle Hooper, *Pediatric Cardiology Clinic*
Renee Johnson, *Endoscopy*
Patricia Knowles, *Pharmacy*
Nancy Lowenberg, *Pediatric Surgery*
Wanda McBee, *SCC Laboratory*
Machelle Rivers, *Pediatric Respiratory Care*
Linda Scott, *Utilization Management*
Donna Vasil, *Pharmacy*
Mary Williams, *6 South CCU*
Sharon Willis, *Ultrasound*

Thirty Years

Kunjumole Abraham, *4 West Surgery*
Patricia Connell, *Communication Services*
Yvette Godbee, *8 West Same Day Surgery*
Linda Hastings, *SCC Laboratory*
Wanda Lowe, *HR Organization Effectiveness*
Mary Thomas, *Operating Room*
Marie Wicker, *Immunopathology* ♦

Correction

The phone number to call about the first Evidence-Based Practice Conference scheduled for Jan. 23 was incorrect in the Dec. 7 issue of *News of Excellence*. The correct phone number is 706-721-1523. ♦

Major surgery with minor inconveniences



Pat Sodomka (left), Vice President of Patient Family Centered Care, is shown getting a tour of one of two new endosuites from Wanda Lewis, Robotic Coordinator, as Tom Rehder, Interior Designer for 2KM Architects, looks on. The endosuites are roomier, state-of-the-art operating rooms designed for maximum efficiency.



Walter Quiller, RN, Endoscopy Coordinator, tries his hand at surgery using the da Vinci robot. By using the robot arms, he can manipulate the colored objects on the operating table at the lower left. His every action can be seen on the flat screen in the upper right corner.

Members of the MCGHealth community recently welcomed the new addition to our surgical team – the da Vinci Surgical System – during an open house.

“Some have said that the da Vinci is among the most effective, least invasive surgical option available today. Our surgeons currently use the da Vinci to treat a range

of conditions, including bladder cancer, colorectal cancer, gynecologic cancer, kidney cancer and prostate cancer, as well as endometriosis, uterine fibroid and uterine prolapse,” said Angeline (Missy) Pratt, Assistant Vice President of Perioperative Services.

The da Vinci offers patients a number of benefits, not the least of

which are better outcomes, small incisions, a shorter hospital stay and less pain.

Along with “test driving” the da Vinci, open house attendees also had the opportunity to see the newly constructed endosuites in which minimally invasive surgery is performed. ♦



Volunteers help to deck our halls

We have our volunteers to thank for the festive decorations that adorn our buildings this time of year. Pictured is Beverly Majanovic decorating the tree that graces the second floor Sydenstricker elevator lobby. Members of MCGHealth Children’s Medical Center Kids ART program made the decorations.

The next time you see our volunteers, please thank them for all they do. ♦

Neonatal continues as a center of excellence

MCGHealth was recently notified by the Clinical Sciences Institute of OptumHealth that it continues to meet the clinical requirements for participation in its Neonatal Centers of Excellence, based on most recent survey data.

Included as part of OptumHealth Centers of Excellence are those medical centers that demonstrate superior clinical care while providing excellent support for patients living with complex conditions.

OptumHealth is one of the nation's largest health and wellness companies. ♦

Bias appointed to Georgia

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Duke University and a B.A. degree in English from the University of Louisville.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the former treasurer and president of the CSRA Association of Healthcare Executives. He serves on the boards of Wills Memorial Hospital, the East Georgia Health Cooperative, the East Central Georgia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., and REACH Call, Inc. ♦

Sodomka is a Hospital Hero

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Centered Care. Her leadership has played a tremendous role in MCGHealth's ability to deliver quality health care. Under her guidance, the hospital has been recognized nationally as a model for PFCC by the University HealthSystem Consortium, the Institute for Family Centered Care and the Picker Institute, among others.

Since the late 1990s, Sodomka has continually led the way in PFCC. She frequently teaches others how to implement PFCC through learning labs and presentations at national and international conferences. She is the founding Chair of the Georgia Hospital Association Partnership for Health and Accountability, a statewide coalition focused on improving quality and patient safety in

Georgia's hospitals. In addition, she has authored or co-authored nearly 20 articles on PFCC in publications such as the Georgia Academy Journal and the Joint Commission Journal on Quality Improvement.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy and her Master's in Hospital and Health Services Administration at The Ohio State University. She has more than 30 years of experience in health care management. She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Established in 2005, the Hospital Hero Award is given to 11 exceptional individuals whose leadership and dedication have significantly enhanced patient care, their organization and their community. ♦

From bling to kerplunk?

If your 10k, 14k, 18k or 24k gold jewelry has lost its bling and has now gone kerplunk, bring it to the MCGHealth Gold Exchange to collect top dollar. A third-party vendor, The Gold X Change, will pay you cash for all broken or

unwanted gold jewelry, Dec. 28 through 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in conference room 1813 in the MCGHealth Children's Medical Center. A percentage of the amount paid out will be donated to MCGHealth. ♦