



a message from the Chief Medical Officer, Joyce Peabody, MD, to the Medical Staff

Run for the ROC

Please join us September 30 for the Hudson River Community Credit Union Run for the ROC to benefit our Mollie Wilmot Radiation Oncology Center. The 5K run/walk at the historic Saratoga Race Course starts at 11 a.m. A free children's event, the Li'l Derby Dash, begins at 10:15 a.m.

The event will feature finisher awards, raffle prizes, music, refreshments, and activities for family members of all ages. The application fee is \$15 for adults who pre-register by September 22 and \$20 for those who register after that date. For more information or an application, visit www.saratogahospitalfoundation.org and click on Upcoming Events, or email rwheatley@saratogacare.org. To volunteer at the event, contact Julie Sipperly at jsipperly@saratogacare.org or 583-8447.

Physician Quality Reporting Initiative

Under the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, you could earn a bonus by participating in a voluntary quality-reporting program for services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The program – the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) – asks participants to report on quality measures for Medicare services provided between July 1 and December 31, 2007. In exchange, participants may qualify for a bonus payment of 1.5% of Medicare charges during that period. More information is available at <http://cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> or from Sue Hodgson, Director of Quality Support Services, at 580-2431.

Medical Records Wants You!

Please make an extra effort to complete your medical records. Time flies, and before you know it, you have a stack of delinquent charts. Medical Records staff will work with you to pull charts at your convenience.

Regional Therapy Center Open in New Location

Outpatient rehabilitation services are now provided at the new Regional Therapy Center (RTC) at 225 Washington Street (across from Roma Importing Company). Neurodiagnostic services, videofluoroscopy of swallow function, and inpatient rehabilitation remain at Saratoga Hospital.

The new outpatient RTC provides physical, occupational and speech therapy for all ages. It offers evening hours, is handicapped-accessible, has convenient parking, and can be reached via public transportation. The new location also features a pool that will allow us to transition aquatic physical therapy from the YMCA to Washington Street.

As always, appointments for any RTC location can be made by calling the RTC scheduling number: 583-8383.

Tumor Boards

Tumor boards are multidisciplinary case conferences in which physicians present cases that are unusual, interesting, or present challenging management issues. Specialists from Surgery, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Radiology, Pathology, and members of the allied healthcare team provide a consultative review and discussion on how to best manage a patient's care. Tumor boards not only provide a forum for patient consultation but also contribute to staff education. Continuing medical education credits will be available to all physicians, radiology technologists, and nursing professionals.

Tumor boards are held every other Wednesday from 7-8 a.m. Tumor boards for July will be held on July 11 and 25 in the Board Room. A complete 2007 schedule is available outside the Cafeteria Meeting Room.

PET/CT at Wilton

We now offer PET/CT imaging at Wilton Medical Arts. This diagnostic technology provides information that can improve cancer detection, help manage treatment, and reduce the need for some biopsies and surgeries.

PET/CT reveals anatomic and metabolic information – through a single, noninvasive procedure. PET is excellent for showing metabolically active (malignant) cells, and CT reveals the precise location of the PET abnormality. Combined, PET/CT creates a fused image that capitalizes on the strengths of each procedure.

To schedule a PET/CT scan, please contact our scheduling department at 580-2232. Next up: cardiac CT scans, so stay tuned!

Know Your Privileges

A reminder that it is your responsibility to know what you are privileged to do in any hospital in which you care for patients. Operating outside your privileges is reportable to OPMC as professional misconduct. If you want to review a copy of your current privileges, please contact Barbara Post at 583-8438.

Parking Request

As you know, medical staff members may park anywhere on campus – and may use valet parking – as long as you have a red tag. Out of courtesy to patients and visitors, however, we ask that you use the spaces in front of the hospital only for truly emergent visits.

Sincerely,

Joyce Peabody, MD
Vice President, Chief Medical Officer