Honoring Physician’s 57 Years of Service

Dr. Morriss Henry, an ophthalmology specialist who retired recently, was honored by the Washington Regional Board of Directors for his 57 years of dedicated service to the Washington Regional medical staff.

Dr. Henry joined Washington General Hospital, as WRMC was then known, in February 1962 as the hospital's 27th physician. The Henry Eye Clinic, which he founded in Fayetteville, continues to serve patients with a staff of specialists that includes his son, Dr. Paul Henry.

Washington Regional President and CEO Larry Shackelford presented the honor to Dr. Henry.

Fulfilling Our Mission of Outreach and Community Education

Washington Regional staff members have been especially busy lately, providing community health education at the April 13 Heart Walk benefitting the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, and the March 30 World’s Largest Baby Shower benefitting the March of Dimes.
Learn How to Help

Washington Regional’s Trauma Program will conduct a Stop the Bleed Course that is free and open to the community. Washington Regional staff members who participate may count it as a wellness activity for health insurance premium discount.

Bleed control training can prepare an individual to provide bystander help in an emergency before professional medical help arrives.

The Stop the Bleed initiative seeks to teach the public about proper bleeding control techniques, including how to use direct pressure, wound packing and tourniquets to help victims with uncontrolled bleeding.

Date: Tuesday, May 28
Time: 8:30 - 10 a.m.
Location: The Jones Center Auditorium, Springdale

Learn more about the national Stop the Bleed awareness campaign at bleedingcontrol.org.

Our Community: Laboratory

This article is the third in a recurring series that highlights how departments contribute to the Washington Regional community. Directors who would like to highlight their departments are invited to send an approximately 250-word nomination, with the subject line “Our Community,” to marketing@wregional.com.

The laboratory is one of those out-of-sight departments in the hospital that remain a mystery to many. National Medical Laboratory Week is April 21 - 27, so it’s a good time to recognize the behind-the-scenes role of the laboratory staff.

The only experience that most patients have with the laboratory is when a phlebotomist arrives to collect a blood sample; however, the clinical laboratory impacts almost all of our patients. In fact, laboratory testing affects 75 - 80 percent of all clinical decision-making.

It takes many different people to provide the service that our laboratory offers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our laboratory staff consists of Pathologists, Medical Laboratory Scientists, Phlebotomists, Lab Assistants, Processors and a Courier.

Pathologists are physicians who oversee the laboratory testing and also interpret the test results. Medical laboratory scientists are Bachelor of Science-degreed and nationally certified professionals who perform laboratory testing in all disciplines, including: hematology, chemistry, immunoassay, microbiology, serology, urinalysis and blood bank testing for transfusion. The scientists are supported by laboratory assistants and a team of phlebotomists, who have the difficult task of collecting high-quality blood specimens from our patients while making the prickly experience as pleasant as possible.

The laboratory staff also includes a courier, who transports items from near and far for many hospital departments, and processors, who have the challenging job of keeping up with orders, incoming specimens via pneumatic tube station and numerous phone calls.

Danita Mullins, Washington Regional Emergency Department Director, received the 2019 Arkansas ED Leader of the Year award from the Arkansas Emergency Nurses Association. Shown above, L-R: Kathi Hanson, ENA State Council President, Shannon Blankenship, ENA State Council Secretary, and Danita.
Employee of the Month - April
Lesly Brown, RN
House Supervisor
Patient Access Dept.

Lesly demonstrated recently what it means to deliver compassionate care as she worked tirelessly to help a patient's family. She made numerous phone calls, arranged for lodging and ensured that the family's needs were met 100 percent. Lesly inspires her co-workers to look beyond the immediate needs of patients and to provide long-lasting, positive impact on their lives.

Shine the Light: Safe Patient Handling

Washington Regional’s Shine the Light on Safety initiative provides a way for employees to report any situation they feel could impact patient, employee or environmental health and safety. In the Healthcare SafetyZone Portal (Clarity), there is a form titled Shine the Light on Safety that employees may use to communicate any situation they think is a safety concern. The initiative also offers a safety tip or a safety focus each month, as in this tip for April, featuring safe patient handling information from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration:

Hospitals have high rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses. On average, U.S. hospitals recorded 6.4 work-related injuries and illnesses for every 100 full-time employees in 2013, compared with 3.3 per 100 full-time employees for all U.S. industries combined. In 2013, 34 percent of recorded hospital worker injuries nationwide that resulted in days away from work were associated with patient interactions. Reducing injuries not only helps workers, but also will improve patient care and the bottom line. Help us help our patients, employees, families and community by reporting safety concerns and issues!

The Clarity system will be temporarily down between 9 p.m. Friday, May 3, until 9 a.m. Sunday, May 5. More information is available on the intranet or via this link: https://intranet.wregional.com/clarity.

New “Best Practice” Option in Clarity

The Shine the Light on Safety form in Clarity now offers an opportunity to submit a “Best Practice Idea.” Staff members are encouraged to submit ideas that have been implemented in their departments or ideas that were implemented elsewhere that might be beneficial for Washington Regional.

Remembering a Friend and Co-worker

Friends and co-workers of Lori Bruick, a Washington Regional Respiratory Therapist who passed away unexpectedly last June, recently installed a bench on the North Hills campus to honor Lori’s memory and the compassion she had for her patients. Employees throughout the hospital made contributions to the Washington Regional Medical Foundation to sponsor the bench.

Dietitian Natalie Bules and Faith in Action Volunteer Coordinator Linda Ericksen show items collected for the Nutrition Services Department food drive during National Nutrition Month in March. Thanks to all who donated!
**New Providers Welcomed**

Dr. Burnett is a native of Arkansas. She earned her medical degree at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio, completed residency training at AHEC in Jonesboro, and is board certified in family medicine. Dr. Burnett has experience practicing rural medicine and has specialized training in chronic wound care.

**Achievements**

Danielle Hoades, a Medical Laboratory Scientist for the Laboratory Blood Bank, recently achieved certification as a Specialist in Blood Banking from the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Danielle, who joined Washington Regional in 2014, earned a Master of Science in biomedical science from Long Island University-CW Post and a Bachelor of Science in medical laboratory science from Hunter College, both in New York. She also achieved certification from American Medical Technologists and from American Society for Clinical Pathology as a Technologist in Blood Banking. She joins Marney Shirrell (hematology) and Mary Beth Young (microbiology) who have also achieved specialty certifications by the ASCP.

**Auxiliary Elects President**

Anita Lynn Sampley has been named president of the Washington Regional Medical Center Auxiliary. Auxiliary members promote and advocate the welfare of the medical center through volunteer staffing, in-service projects and fund raising.

A retired educator, Anita earned degrees from both the University of Central Arkansas and Arkansas State University. A native of Forrest City, where her mother was also president of the local hospital auxiliary, she began volunteering at hospitals as a teen, when she was a candy striper.