

ECMC Rehab Services hosts its First Annual Rehab Symposium

by Kevin Jenney, PT



On Saturday, October 25th, ECMC and the ECMC Lifeline Foundation held its first "Rehab Symposium: A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Acute Care Patient." For the inaugural conference, many of the department's experienced clinicians were invited to speak on a variety of topics pertaining to rehabilitation on the acute services. The symposium idea was spurred by a lack of quality local continuing education courses for physical, occupational, and speech therapists who specialize in acute care.

Area therapists, rehab professionals, and therapy students from the community were invited to learn about some of the unique and specialty services that are available at ECMC. The keynote speaker was ECMC Rehab Services Clinical Director Dr. Mark Livecchi, who presented "Neuropharmacologic Considerations for the Acute Traumatic Brain Injury Patient." Other presenters included: Michael Abrams, PT; Tricia Vail, MS, PT; Jennifer Dombrowski, OT; Stephanie Bieber, DPT; Michael Koch, MS, OTR; Kevin Jenney, PT, DPT; Linda Mullen-Colkitt, OTR; Margaret Umhauer, NP; Lori Miller, PT, DPT, NCS; Julie Buono, PT; Margaret Frye, MA, OTR; Tracy Bentley-Root, MS, OTR; and Joseph

Morrell, MD, who lectured on a variety of Rehabilitation-related topics to an eager audience.

A special guest appearance was made by a former patient, Matt Faulkner, who discussed the experiences he had during his stay at ECMC following a traumatic brain injury. Matt shared his success story from his time in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to the acute rehabilitation unit and to his eventual discharge home, along with some of the challenges he faced. Matt explained that the great care he received from his therapists was a contributing factor to his successful recovery. Many attendees commented that it was helpful and informative to hear about the impact of rehabilitation services from a former patient and how they laid the groundwork for his ongoing success.

Additional feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and the department is already making plans for another symposium next year.

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ECMC Rehab Physicians Welch and LiVecchi now Board Certified in Traumatic Brain Injury

ECMC Department of Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians Mary Welch and Mark LiVecchi recently passed the inaugural Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Subspecialty Board examination. Both physicians are now Board Certified in the newly recognized subspecialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).



Mary R. Welch, MD, Graduated from the UB School of Medicine (1991). She completed her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of

Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital (1995). She was Attending Physiatrist at: Our Lady of Victory Head Trauma Rehabilitation Unit (1995-1997); ECMC Department of Rehabilitation Medicine (1997-2002); and Mercy Hospital Acute Medical Rehab Unit (1997-2007). Dr. Welch served as Assistant Medical Director at Mercy Hospital Medical Rehab Unit (2002 to 2007) and returned to ECMC as Director of the Subacute Rehabilitation Unit (2008-2010). Dr. Welch has been Attending Physician for the ECMC Acute Medical Rehabilitation Unit (2008 to present). She is a Member of the American Board of

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) (1998-present), initially Board Certified in PM&R (1998) and re-certified (2005).



Mark LiVecchi, DMD, MD, MBA, Chief of Rehabilitation Services, ECMC, earned an MBA with concentration in medical management, University of

Massachusetts at Amherst (2013). A former Major in the Air Force, Dr. LiVecchi, he was Chair of Rehab at ECMC (2012-present). While in business school, he was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, an Honor Society for excellent academic achievement. In addition to Board Certification in TBI, Dr. LiVecchi is Board Certified in Rehabilitation Medicine and Spinal Cord Injury Medicine.

With these physicians now Board Certified in TBI and with ECMC's recent (July 2014) CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) recognition, ECMC further confirms/enhances its expertise in Rehabilitation Medicine.

The CARF Accreditation represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

ABOUT CARF: CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF International, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. For more information about the accreditation process, visit the CARF website at www.carf.org.