

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Michigan Stroke Network seeks opportunities to educate about stroke. Connie Parliament, MSN, RN, CNRN, clinical director of Neuroscience Services, will come to your hospital, local fair, community group or EMS department with the robot to talk about how the stroke network saves lives.

For a physician presentation or visit in person or via the robot, notify the MSN, which will help you arrange luncheon and dinner meetings. Continuing Medical Education credits may be available for your group. For details, contact the Michigan Stroke Network Office, 248-858-3295.

## STROKE NETWORK COLLABORATION HELPS PUT PATIENT'S FAMILY AT EASE

A collaboration between the Michigan Stroke Network (MSN) and St. Mary Mercy Livonia helped avoid a potentially difficult patient transfer, and earned a St. Joseph Mercy Oakland neurosurgeon a note of appreciation.

According to Sandy Perez, ICU director at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, a patient was admitted in February with a major intracerebral hemorrhage. The surgeon deemed the patient inoperable, but the family wanted a second opinion. Perez called the MSN and consulted with SJMO neurosurgeon Omar M. Qahwash, DO, who activated the MSN robot to review the patient's CT scan and talk with the family.

"I can't tell you how compassionate he was and how much it meant to this family," Perez said. "In an age where we are all worried about legal issues and payment, this doctor forged ahead with the idea of simply doing the right thing. We can't all be tertiary care centers. God bless him and all the people and processes that support this effort."

## SEND PHOTOS OF COSTUMED ROBOTS

Does your hospital or health care center dress your stroke network robot in costume for Halloween? If so, the Michigan Stroke Network newsletter wants a photo. Please send a photo in jpeg format of your costumed robot and the stroke treatment staff to Heidi Press at [pressh@trinity-health.org](mailto:pressh@trinity-health.org). We will publish as many as we have space for in a future issue.

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROSCIENCE NURSES

Visit [www.aann.org/about](http://www.aann.org/about) for membership applications.

### NATIONAL ORGANIZATION:

Membership Fee \$98.00

### LOCAL CHAPTER – SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN:

Membership Fee \$15.00

### MICHIGAN STROKE NETWORK ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

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**MICHIGAN  
STROKE  
NETWORK**

## MICHIGAN STROKE NETWORK

The Michigan Stroke Network is a collaboration of hospitals committed to bringing the latest in stroke care to their communities. By utilizing the latest in communications technology, namely telemedicine, physicians at participating hospitals will have access to stroke specialists via the Internet. Access to rapid transport via helicopter or ambulance also will be available.

For more information, please visit [MichiganStrokeNetwork.com](http://MichiganStrokeNetwork.com).



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## IS IT A STROKE? MSN HELPS ER PHYSICIAN MAKE DIAGNOSIS



*Dr. Jere Baldwin of St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron is one of many emergency room physicians who connects to a stroke specialist for a consultation via the Michigan Stroke Network.*

When a patient presents with what looks like stroke symptoms, Dr. Jere Baldwin, St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron's staff physician, is glad to have the Michigan Stroke Network (MSN) available.

What looks like a stroke, could be "low sugar or a complex migraine," emergency specialist Dr. Baldwin says. "It's great that the ER physician has a consultant with him."

The consultant is a stroke specialist, connected by the command center, located at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland (SJMO) in Pontiac, or via a dedicated laptop that can be operated from the hospital, home or in the car. Within 12 to 15 minutes, an outlying emergency room can be in touch with a stroke specialist via its ER's two-way audio-visual robot. The MSN operates 24/7. "We never missed the three-hour window because a specialist didn't call back," he adds.

Through the use of telemedicine, the stroke specialist can speak not only with the attending physician to learn of the patient's symptoms and vital signs, but also with the patient and his/her family via the robot.

At the same time, those in the outlying ER can see the stroke specialist on the robot screen. Dr. Baldwin says that creates an element of trust, especially if the patient cannot be treated at his/her home hospital with the clot-busting drug rt-PA and has to be transported for treatment to St. Joe's. "It helps the families know where their loved one is going. It gives them confidence."

Dr. Baldwin treats about 200 patients annually for stroke. Since the establishment of the stroke network in 2006, he's had to transfer 15 to SJMO.

Upon arrival at the Port Huron ER, the patient has a clinical evaluation by Dr. Baldwin. He orders a CT scan and gives the report to the stroke specialist who helps him determine next steps for treatment. Dr. Baldwin is thankful for the stroke network's availability. "It brings a service to our community we would not otherwise have." If the patient is outside the treatment window, arrangements are made for the patient to be transported by air or ambulance to St. Joe's, where the stroke team jumps into action to provide care.

Dr. Baldwin, a 30-year emergency medicine physician, recalls one patient in particular who was helped by the MSN. He first met the patient when the patient arrived at the ER with stroke symptoms and was unable to speak. A consultation with a stroke network specialist determined that the patient fit the time frame for treatment with rt-PA. The patient was treated and discharged. Sometime later, the same patient was admitted to the ER, this time for an injury. When Dr. Baldwin saw him again, he was delighted to see how well the patient had recovered from the stroke.

Currently, the stroke network is connected to 30 hospitals in 28 counties throughout Michigan. Each has a robot like that at St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron for nearly instantaneous connection to a stroke specialist. To date, stroke specialists have "virtually arrived" at the bedsides of more than 500 patients. In addition to patient care, the MSN provides ongoing stroke education and consultation services.

Working with the MSN is Dr. Baldwin's first experience with telemedicine—and he's become an advocate. "Every hospital that doesn't have the capability of administering rt-PA itself should affiliate with the Michigan Stroke Network. I'm very pleased with the service."

## MICHIGAN STROKE NETWORK FACTS

- Total Michigan Stroke Network Member hospitals: 30
  - Average total bed capacity of member hospitals: 165 beds
  - Number of critical access hospitals: 7
  - Hospitals with in-house rehabilitation units: 15
  - Hospitals that have intensive care units: 21
  - Hospitals with neurosurgeons on staff: 15
  - Hospitals with neurologists on staff: 17
  - Average ground miles from SJMO: 144 miles
  - Average air minutes to SJMO: 42 minutes
- 2009 Data:
- Total calls for remote consult: 134
  - Robot connection time to member hospital: within 15 minutes of call
  - Average time spent on robot consults at remote hospital: 15 minutes
  - Number of patients treated with IV rt-PA: 15 patients
  - Hospitals that treated patients with rt-PA utilizing remote assistance:
    - St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital
    - St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia
    - St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron
    - McKenzie Memorial Hospital, Sandusky
    - Battle Creek Health System
    - Otsego Memorial Hospital, Gaylord
  - Average door-to-needle time: 1 hour 20 minutes
  - Average of ALL ischemic stroke consults treated with IV rt-PA: 13.2% (national average 3-5%)
  - Average NIH Stroke Score at member hospital (of patients transferred): 11
  - Average discharge NIH Stroke Score upon discharge from SJMO: 4



Connie Parliament, clinical director of Neuroscience Services at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, conducts a stroke class remotely via the robot for the Women's Auxiliary at Deckerville Community Hospital.

## AUXILIARY LEARNS ABOUT STROKE, TELEMEDICINE VIA MSN ROBOT

Members of the Deckerville Community Hospital Women's Auxiliary had a long distance educational opportunity in April when they learned about stroke via a Michigan Stroke Network (MSN) robot.

The hospital's nurse manager, Irene Cole, RN, arranged the program with Connie Parliament, RN, MSN, CNRN, clinical director of Neuroscience Services at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, home of the MSN.

The class was an opportunity for the women to learn about the MSN and how it enhances the ability of outstate hospitals that don't have in-house stroke specialists to treat patients using telemedicine.

"It was a public educational opportunity," Cole explained. "This stroke information is important for anyone to know, so it was an opportunity to educate them on the importance of recognizing symptoms and acting quickly. Plus they will tell others."

The class was offered to the auxiliary in appreciation for its support of the hospital.

"The group was amazed at what this robot could do," Cole said. "They interacted a lot with Connie, asking questions. It was a wonderful educational event."

## MICHIGAN STROKE NETWORK PRESENTS: 2009 ACUTE STROKE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

THIS OFFERING WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING:

- Basic Anatomy
- Pathology
- New Treatment Options
- Nursing Interventions
- NIH Stroke Assessment Tool

PRESENTER:

Connie Parliament, RN, MSN, CNRN  
Clinical Director, Neuroscience Services

## EXPANSION OF THE RT-PA (ALTEPLASE) TIME WINDOW FROM 3 TO 4.5 HOURS FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS

The American Stroke Association's recommended time window for administration of alteplase (rt-PA) after an acute ischemic stroke has been extended from 3 to 4.5 hours for certain patients who are eligible.

Those not eligible for treatment are:

- Patients older than 80 years
- Patients who have a baseline National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale score of 25 or greater
- Those taking oral anticoagulants with an INR > 1.7
- Those who have a history of both stroke and diabetes mellitus.

For more information, go to the following link:  
<http://stroke.ahajournals.org>.

## STROKE PERFORMANCE MEASURES REQUIRED FOR HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION

Effective Oct. 1, 2009, eight stroke performance measures, endorsed by the National Quality Forum, will be required for hospital accreditation. While Joint Commission certified Primary Stroke Centers must use the stroke performance measure set for certification purposes, this core measure set is an option available for accredited hospitals to fulfill their ORYX® performance measurement requirements.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is not requiring collection of any of the stroke measures at this time.

The eight stroke performance measures are:

- STK-1 Deep Vein Thrombosis
- STK-2 Discharged on Anti-thrombotic Therapy
- STK-3 Patients with Atrial Fibrillation Receiving Anticoagulation Therapy
- STK-4 Thrombolytic Therapy Administered

(continued on page 3)

## 3.5 CONTACT HOURS - NURSING

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE FRIDAYS:  
October 2, 2009  
November 20, 2009

8 a.m. – Noon  
FRANCO CENTER AUDITORIUM  
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland  
44405 Woodward Ave.  
Pontiac, MI 48341

RSVP TO SUE KING AT 248-758-7362.

If you would like this offered at your hospital, please contact the Michigan Stroke Network, 248-858-3295.



Online stroke scale training at <http://www.nihstrokescale.org>.  
This site provides FREE Continuing Education Credits for physicians and nurses.

(continued from page 2)

- STK-5 Anti-thrombotic Therapy by End of Hospital Day Two
- STK-6 Discharged on Cholesterol Reducing Medication
- STK-7 Stroke Education
  - Activation of EMS
  - Need for follow-up after discharge
  - Medications prescribed
  - Personal risk factors
  - Signs and symptoms
- STK-8 Assessed for Rehabilitation

For further information, contact Karen Kolbusz at [kkolbusz@jointcommission.org](mailto:kkolbusz@jointcommission.org).

## SJMO APPLIES FOR FEDERAL GRANT TO ENHANCE MICHIGAN STROKE NETWORK

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland (SJMO) has applied for a distance learning/telemedicine grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop an enhanced, Web-based, continuing medical education program to be available to the rural network.

This grant would provide the technology to enable SJMO to deliver real-time medical training, education presentations and content that also would be available as a podcast for review at a later time. The grant also requests funds to enhance the Michigan Stroke Network (MSN) with additional laptop computer control stations expanding the number of SJMO physicians accessible via the MSN.

A decision on the grant application is expected this fall.

## SATELLITE BROADCAST SPOTLIGHTS TELEMEDICINE, STROKE NETWORK

SJMO neurosurgeon Dr. Omar Qahwash and a patient were guests June 11, 2009, on a satellite broadcast to promote telemedicine, the clot-busting drug rt-PA and the Michigan Stroke Network (MSN).

Dr. Qahwash was joined by David Miller of Allenton, Mich., who suffered a stroke in 2007. Miller was admitted to St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron, an MSN member hospital. The emergency medicine physician connected to the MSN, and it was determined that Miller was inside the window

for treatment with rt-PA. After being stabilized, Miller was transported to SJMO where he spent 13 days receiving continued stroke treatment and services under the care of stroke specialists. Today, Miller says he is at 85 percent of what his capabilities were before the stroke.

During the broadcast, Dr. Qahwash appeared on the robot screen and explained stroke symptoms, how the stroke network operates and how patients benefit from telemedicine.

The broadcast was beamed around the country to Boise, Idaho; Grand Rapids-Kalamazoo, Mich.; West Palm Beach, Fla.; Rapid City, SD; Denver, Colo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Lubbock, Texas; Huntsville-Decatur, Ala.; Charleston, WV; Flint-Saginaw-Bay City, Mich.; New Orleans, La.; and Grand Forks, ND.



Patient David Miller, left, talks about how the Michigan Stroke Network helped him when he suffered a stroke. Pictured with him on the robot screen is SJMO neurosurgeon Dr. Omar Qahwash.

## STROKE SYMPTOMS

- Sudden onset of numbness or weakness on one side of the body
- Sudden difficulty talking
- Sudden trouble seeing
- Sudden trouble walking
- Sudden headache with no known cause

## MEMBER HOSPITALS

- Battle Creek Health System
- Crittendon Hospital Medical Center
- Deckerville Community Hospital
- Garden City Hospital
- Gratiot Medical Center
- Harbor Beach Community Hospital
- Henry Ford Macomb Hospital
- Hills & Dales General Hospital
- Hurley Medical Center
- Huron Medical Center
- Kalkaska Memorial Health Center
- McKenzie Memorial Hospital
- Mecosta County Medical Center
- Mercy Health Partners - Mercy Campus
- Mercy Hospital - Cadillac
- Mercy Hospital - Grayling
- MidMichigan Medical Center - Clare
- MidMichigan Medical Center - Gladwin
- MidMichigan Medical Center - Midland
- Munson Medical Center
- Otsego Memorial Hospital
- Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital
- POH Medical Center
- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital - Ann Arbor
- St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital
- St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
- St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron
- St. Joseph Mercy Saline Hospital
- St. Mary Mercy Hospital
- Saint Mary's Health Care
- West Branch Regional Medical Center

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