Robert Marchand, MD, has added another procedure to his surgical resume that will make eligible total hip replacement patients’ recovery time much quicker. Marchand, of South County Orthopedics & Physical Therapy and a member of the staff at South County Hospital, has begun using the anterior approach for patients who qualify for this procedure.

Although the anterior approach to total hip replacement—also called the Hueter approach—has been around for years, relatively few orthopedic surgeons use it because of the experience and skill-set needed. The procedure requires a much smaller incision, which results in faster recovery times, quicker mobilization and a shorter hospital stay for the patient. In addition, because the muscle is not dissected with the anterior approach there is less post-op pain, and decreased chance of infection. Another benefit is that with the anterior approach, the chance of hip dislocation is virtually eliminated.

By using the MAKOplasty® robotic system, Marchand is able to complete the surgery without using the C-arm, an

**Hip Surgery Trifecta: Anterior Approach, MAKOplasty®, and Mini Hip**

**PT Gets Patients Home Faster and Back to Normal Activities Sooner**

South County Hospital’s inpatient physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) staff have become known for the outstanding results they are achieving with orthopedic patients, but they are also using these “smarter” approaches for all patients who receive inpatient PT/OT care, including those recovering from stroke, pneumonia, cardiac events, falls, general surgery, and so on. Achieving the best outcomes in the shortest time possible allows each patient to return to the comfort of his or her home more quickly—yet another reason you can feel confident recommending the Hospital’s surgical and medical services.
**It’s Tick Season!**

Medical Staff President William Sabina, MD, has kindly relinquished his column this month so that we can remind everyone it’s deer tick season and that means South County Hospital’s Lyme Disease Clinic is getting busy. The clinic treats adults for whom Lyme disease treatment has not been successful. It also offers comprehensive diagnosis and treatment of other tick-borne diseases including babesiosis and ehrlichiosis. Staffed by Frederick Silverblatt, MD, medical director, and Jeffery Bandola, MD, the clinic is open year round on Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon. This is a physician-referral only service only.

Once patients have your referral, they can call the Lyme Disease Clinic Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 401 788-1486 to schedule an appointment.

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**Of the Month**

**STAR Program highlighted**

Our STAR Program for cancer rehabilitation was highlighted during a recent HealthCheck report on NBC Channel Ten. Reporter Barbara Morse-Silva interviewed a cancer patient, as well as Cardiopulmonary Manager Sherri Zinno; Roberto Aguirre was also featured.

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**Click to view video!**
imaging scanner intensifier that is standard equipment in posterior total hip replacement procedures. In many cases, using the Corin mini-hip can also save the patient bone. It is, Marchand says, a trifecta of benefits—bone sparing (mini hip), muscle sparing (anterior approach), and added precision (MAKO).

“Not everybody is a good candidate for the anterior approach,” Marchand said. For example, patients who are obese may not be eligible for this procedure and might have better outcomes with the posterior approach.

Marchand is one of only a handful of orthopedic surgeons in New England who are proficient at the anterior approach. Marchand and the anterior approach were featured on a recent NBC’s HealthCheck report. The story profiled a Warwick woman who researched area hospitals and physicians before deciding on Marchand and South County Hospital. To reach Dr. Marchand, you can email him at: rmarchand@scortho.com.

Continued from page one

occupational therapy. Under the leadership of Dave Menatian, PT, clinical leader of Rehab Services, and in collaboration with the orthopedic physicians, physical therapy protocols include significant advances that help patients achieve therapy milestones markedly sooner. As a result:

• Patients receive enhanced education about physical therapy before surgery
• Once the patient is out of surgery, he or she will receive an increased number of what Menatian calls “smarter” treatments
• Patients are up and out of bed earlier (just hours after surgery)
• Patients at South County Hospital receive a greater number of PT / OT treatments during their stay compared to most hospitals
• Patients learn improved techniques for range of motion

One example of how the protocol is making a difference: a total-knee patient at South County Hospital generally spends two nights as an inpatient while at most hospitals this procedure results in a three-night stay.

Cream of the Crop
As Menatian points out, “South County Hospital’s highly trained physical therapists are hand-picked.” His team of 12 physical therapists provides patients with the knowledge and training they’ll need to continue healing at home and avoid injury as they recover. “PT and OT are essential to recovery and optimal outcomes after joint surgery,” Menatian notes. And with 25 percent of all joint replacements in RI being performed at South County Hospital, the team’s program has been put to the test.

The PT team works closely with the nurses who care for orthopedic patients. Their 2-year collaboration on a Performance Improvement initiative on pain management resulted in better methods of determining the best time to administer a patient’s medications.

They also created a system to more accurately determine a patient’s true level of pain, translating to more appropriate medication choices. Menatian, who has a master’s of science in physical therapy from the University of Rhode Island, has been at South County Hospital for 17 years and welcomes new ideas. As new and improved therapies are vetted, the Hospital’s PT team continues to focus on patient safety, recovery, and quality of care. To learn more about South County Hospital’s physical therapy program, call David Menatian at 788-3814 or email dmenatian@schospital.com.
In an effort to make the cost of healthcare more transparent, the Obama Administration released Medicare data last month detailing how much hospitals across the nation charge for various procedures.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services looked at more than 3,000 hospitals and published what each charges on average for the 100 most common inpatient procedures covered by Medicare. The data is from 2011, and it’s pretty eye-opening. These rates only affect those who are uninsured, and it remains to be seen whether consumers will make decisions based on this data—even if they are insured.

At a glance, it appears that South County Hospital charges less for most common procedures than our “competition.” While some people will insist upon having procedures done at the closest hospital, it is becoming more and more common for patients to shop around.

While some pricing variants can be explained (i.e. Graduate Medical Education), others cannot. How is it that South County Hospital can consistently charge less than other hospitals for nearly every procedure? We have always prided ourselves on being a high-quality and low-cost center, frankly because it is the right thing to do. It is a credit to the staff and physicians at South County Hospital to maintain a culture of fiscal responsibility.

MAKOplasty® lecture

When: Wednesday, June 12, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Where: Westerly Library, 44 Broad St., Westerly
Who: Physicians from South County Orthopedics & Physical Therapy

22nd Annual Golf Tournament

What: To benefit VNS Home Health Services
When: Monday, July 8, 1 p.m.
Where: Shelter Harbor Golf Club, Charlestown
How: Register by calling 401 788-1610 or emailing nmanfredo@schospital.com.
**Medical Staff News**

**Hospital Nets “A” Safety Score Rating from The Leapfrog Group**

For the second consecutive quarter, South County Hospital has received an “A” Hospital Safety Score rating by The Leapfrog Group, one of only two hospitals so rated in Rhode Island. The scores (A, B, C, D or F) are assigned to hospitals based on preventable medical errors, injuries, accidents, and infections. The Hospital Safety Score was compiled under the guidance of the nation’s leading experts on patient safety and is designed to give the public information consumers can use to protect themselves and their families.

The Leapfrog Group is a nationally recognized, not-for-profit, independent healthcare transparency advocacy group. The Hospital Safety Score uses national performance measures established by the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A hospital’s overall performance in keeping patients safe from preventable harm and medical errors determines its score.

According to Leapfrog, the safety measurements considered represent the most basic elements of medical care, such as hand-washing, computerized medication control and nurse staffing levels.

One of the most significant problems with today’s healthcare system is the failure to make safety and quality information available to the public so that consumers can make informed choices about where to receive care. The purpose of the Hospital Safety Score is to bring this information to light in a way that is easy for consumers to understand.

**Hospital Awarded Case In Point Platinum Award**

Recognition of Reduced Re-admission Rates

South County Hospital was awarded the prestigious Case In Point Platinum Award at a recent ceremony in Baltimore, MD. The award recognizes the Hospital’s “Safe Transitions of Care” program, which strives to help patients avoid readmissions through proactive planning and comprehensive follow-up care.

South County Hospital has significantly lower readmission rates as compared to state and national averages and is a model in Rhode Island for this program. Since the inception of the program, medical admissions have decreased by 10 percent, and the Hospital readmission rate has remained well below the national rate of 20 percent. This reduction in readmissions is a result of proper follow-up care, such as making certain patients make appointments with a primary care physician after discharge and are taking prescribed medication in the proper dosage, among other initiatives.

The Case In Point is a unique awards program that recognizes the most successful and innovative case management programs working to improve healthcare across the care continuum. This fourth annual awards competition sets the standard for programs that deliver sustained success across a variety of disciplines and settings in the overarching continuum of care coordination.

The Awards Program is produced by Dorland Health, the publisher of Case In Point, Case In Point Weekly, the Case Management Resource Guide and the Case In Point Learning Network.

**Part-time MDs Wanted**

South County Radiation Therapy is seeking a physician to work for a few hours a week on a regular basis. Rhode Island Medical license required, any specialty. Great for retirees, others returning to the workforce, or physicians looking to broaden their experience! Please call Dr. Darlene Gabeau or Donna McNulty at 284-0850 to inquire.
14th Annual Conference: Integrated Medicine in Women’s Health
When: Sept. 11-14, 2013
Where: Nappa Valley, CA
Description: Integrative Medicine focuses on the mind, body and spirit as a whole, the importance of the relationship between practitioner and patient, and is supported by ever-increasing scientific evidence. This CME is designed to take an in-depth look at how to achieve optimal health and healing for female patients through a variety of complementary alternative treatment modalities, and provide mainstream medical and nursing professionals with evidence-based data. Emphasis will be placed on practical application of the topics presented. Learn more.

Hospitalist and Emergency Procedures CME Course
Where: Seattle, Wash
Description: Hospital Procedures Consultants courses combine all of the essential information typically covered in an Emergency Procedures Course and a Hospitalist Procedures Course all in a single CME conference. This CME has limited space available, so participants are urged to register early. Learn more.

The Difficult Airway Course
When: Sept. 27 - 29, 2013
Where: Baltimore, MD
Description: Highlights include: Instruction by a world-class faculty; simple airway algorithms that allow for an orderly, reproducible approach to any emergency airway; small group, hands-on sessions exclusively focusing on difficult and failed airways, emphasizing rescue strategies and devices. Learn more.

Have you attended a particularly informative CME? Let your colleagues know so they can attend next year. Email jgoodger@schospital.com with the details.

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Do You Want To Submit an Idea/Story for Next Issue?
Contact Jane Goodger at jgoodger@schospital.com or 788-1137
Welcome to the Medical Staff!

**Kara Judson, MD**
Kara Judson, MD, completed her residency in Anatomical and Clinical Pathology (AP/CP) at Johns Hopkins Hospital after receiving her MD from George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Board certified in AP/CP, Judson interned at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Her career has included stints at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York and The William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, CT. In 2005, she was awarded Pathology Young Investigator’s Award for Excellence in Clinical Research.

—kjudson572@gmail.com

**Lindsay Fink, PA**
Lindsay M. Fink, PA, is beginning her career in healthcare at South County Orthopedics & Physical Therapy after graduating from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Services with a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree. Fink received her bachelor’s degree from the University of New England. During her training, she completed clinical rotations in several areas including general surgery, emergency medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics.

— Linda.fink@gmail.com

**Do you know about our STAR Cancer Rehab Program?**

Dear Friends:
As many of you are aware, South County Hospital launched the STAR (Survivorship Training and Rehabilitation) cancer program in 2012. I would like to thank all who have referred patients to participate in this important initiative. The STAR program is a very useful service for patients recently diagnosed with cancer, undergoing cancer treatment, and those in the surveillance phase after having completed treatment. Under our STAR program, cancer patients have access to rehabilitation services designed to mitigate pain, build strength, increase energy, and improve daily function and well-being. These services are usually covered by health insurance and include physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioral health services.

STAR programs across the country are helping thousands of cancer patients recover from the physical and emotional effects of cancer treatment. A recent journal article led by physicians at Harvard Medical School and Johns Hopkins Hospital reports that physical and emotional sequelae of cancer treatments often go unaddressed. In fact, research demonstrates that approximately 3.3 million American cancer survivors would benefit from rehabilitation services.

South County Hospital, along with other institutions that offer STAR services nationwide, is participating in the Strength in Numbers campaign to encourage healthcare professionals to refer cancer patients to local STAR programs. You should have recently received a letter about this from Sherri Zinno, director of the hospital’s STAR services. Please continue to keep South County Hospital’s STAR program in mind as you care for cancer patients in the community.

If you have questions about the STAR Program here, please contact Sherri Zinno, call 788-1695.

Cordially yours,

Darlene Gabeau, M.D., Ph.D.
Radiation Oncologist
dgabeau@rtsx.com
Of Interest...

Health care providers want faster changes in payments. *USA Today* story on the move toward scrapping the fee-for-service payment system for a global payment system.

Physicians should not ‘friend’ patients via social media. Article about the American College of Physicians and Federation of State Medical Boards recommendations about social media and patient care.

Every Disease on Earth. *New Yorker* article about Elmhurst Hospital Center, in Elmhurst, the most diverse neighborhood in New York City and maybe in the world.

On The Bookshelf...

**The Good Nurse: A True Story of Medicine, Madness, and Murder** by Charles Graeber

“The most terrifying book published this year. It is also one of the most thoughtful THE GOOD NURSE is gripping, sad, suspenseful, rhythmic and beautifully documented.”

—Kirkus Reviews

**Not For Profit** by Glenn Shephard, MD

Not For Profit draws the reader in with terrifying details plotted with surgical accuracy. The surprises keep on coming, one barrage after the other.” —Dr. Ross Pennie, Author of the award-winning Zol Szabo mystery series in which murder is contagious.

**What Doctors Feel: How Emotions Affect the Practice of Medicine** by Danielle Ofri, MD

Drawing on scientific studies, as well as on real-life stories from other physicians and her own medical practice, Dr. Danielle Ofri examines the impact of emotions on medical care.

Getaways

When was the last time you visited Block Island? This little gem 12 miles off our coast is the perfect day trip or setting for a romantic weekend—and it’s less than an hour away (if you take the Fast Ferry it’s only 30 minutes). Or you could take the traditional ferry and get there in about 55 minutes.

For those of you who haven’t been, you catch the ferry in Galilee (they also run out of Newport). In Galilee, there’s plenty of Ferry Parking and the fees are pretty reasonable (between $10 and $20). You can bring your car to the island, but if you haven’t already booked your space, you’re probably not going to get on. Car reservations begin in January and ferries fill up quickly.

Block Island is a quintessential New England getaway, filled with Victorian hotels, narrow winding streets, spectacular scenery, great shopping and restaurants, and big crowds. We had the best chowder of our lives in the Block, and we consider ourselves chowder aficionados.

While you may pay five star prices for a hotel, don’t expect to get a five star room. Many of these hotels are for those who make charm a priority—not the latest in hotel décor or amenities. While some hotels have been nicely updated, others still pack more “charm” than many guests want.

Unless you’re going off season, we wouldn’t recommend renting a moped. Instead, bring your bike. The island small (seven miles from end to end), and you can get everywhere you want to by cycling.

*If you have a great getaway or travel tip, please share it here. Email Jane Goodger at jgoodger@schospital.com*