

# CENTER FOR BLOODLESS MEDICINE AND SURGERY

A M E S S A G E F O R O U R P A T I E N T S

## Dear Patient

**H**ello to all of you! Please allow me to update you on developments at the Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery as we move into the third year of operation.

The patient census continues to grow. So far in 1999, we have seen approximately twice the number of patients as in the same time period in 1998. Some patients have been referred by our growing list of past patients. Some have come from quite far away because of the reputation we have developed. This is especially gratifying because it tells us that our former patients are so pleased with their treatment that they tell family and friends.

This spring's highlights include visits by physicians from other countries who traveled to Hackensack University Medical Center to tour our facility and learn about bloodless medicine and surgery from our staff. So far this spring, we have received visits from Dr. Italo Zamudio, a pediatric anesthesiologist from Chile; Dr. Bernard Tanguy, an oncologist from St. Denis; and Dr. Alvaro Leon, an anesthesiologist from Chile. It is a privilege to meet with such physicians who then go back to their countries and are better able to provide bloodless care.

Sincerely,

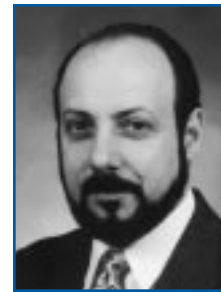
Jo Valenti, R.N.  
Nurse Manager

*The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery  
Hackensack University Medical Center*

## Mission

The mission of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center is to ensure that the dignity and legal rights of patients are respected, especially the right to informed consent.

## MEET OUR PHYSICIANS



John LoCurto, M.D., director of Trauma Services at Hackensack University Medical Center since 1988, is also a Bloodless

Medicine and Surgery Core Team member. Dr. LoCurto is a graduate of the University of Bologna. He took his residency and fellowship at University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey. He is board certified in general and trauma surgery and critical care. Dr. LoCurto is one of the founding members of the NJ State Trauma Council and is a professor of surgery at The University of Medicine and Dentistry-New Jersey Medical School.

His overall credentials are impressive, but Dr. LoCurto also brings a strong background of patient advocacy to the Core Team. He is an energetic supporter of the concept of bloodless treatment. Always innovative in thinking and looking for ways to improve outcomes, Dr. LoCurto welcomes new approaches.

**“Through education, we keep abreast of the ever-changing medical technology available to make bloodless treatment a safe reality. Our goal is to treat the whole patient and render the best possible outcome.”**

— Dr. John LoCurto

## SUCCESS STORY

Mr. and Mrs. O were celebrating the arrival of their fourth child when, just prior to discharge from the hospital where he was born, it was discovered that the ventricles in his brain were not draining properly. The doctors knew that he needed surgery but were hesitant to operate on the newborn because of the family's religious beliefs prohibiting blood transfusions. Mr. and Mrs. O called Jo Valenti, R.N. at the Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery. Jo contacted Dr. Arno Fried, pediatric neurosurgeon

who readily agreed to operate on the baby without blood transfusions. A transfer to Hackensack University Medical Center was arranged. The parents' fears were calmed when they realized that Dr. Fried had extensive experience with bloodless surgery. The surgery was successfully performed without blood. The family has nothing but thanks for the doctors and staff at the Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center. And we are grateful that we were able to help!

## TECHNOLOGY

A common question regarding Bloodless Medicine and Surgery lies in the specific transfusion alternatives. Each issue will describe in detail various methods of transfusion-free surgery and medicine. Hemodilution is a very useful tool for bloodless surgery. It is a blood conservation strategy involving diluting the patient's blood stream immediately prior to surgery. Using a mathematical formula, the anesthesiologist calculates the patient's estimated blood volume. From that calculation, it is decided how much dilution can safely be accomplished. Some blood is drawn off and the tubing is clamped. Continuity with the patient blood stream is maintained in a closed circuit. The patient receives a volume expander in equal amount to the blood that

was removed. During the surgery, the patient loses less blood because their blood system is diluted. At an appropriate time during the surgery, usually toward the end, the physician will return all of the blood back to the patient. Thus the patient has the benefit of all of their healthy blood needed for post operative healing.

*Be Sure to Always Carry Your  
Medical Directive Card!*



## About Hackensack University Medical Center

Hackensack University Medical Center, a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School and a member of the University Health System of New Jersey, is the largest provider of inpatient and outpatient services in the state of New Jersey. Honored since 1995 as the first hospital in New Jersey to receive the Magnet Award for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and the second hospital in the nation to receive a four-year redesignation of this award. The medical center is also the recipient of the Quality Leader Award in Bergen and Passaic counties. Based on survey of 400,000 people to determine the best hospitals in the country, the medical center was named the hospital of choice for quality of staff, community programs, personalized care, and overall reputation.

## Let Us Hear From You!

### Your thoughts count...

If there are any topics that you would like to see featured in the next issue, please complete the following and return it to Jo Valenti, R.N., c/o Operating Room Services, Hackensack University Medical Center, 30 Prospect Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: \_\_\_\_\_

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