

Meet Perry Ann Patterson
Provider Relations Specialist



Perry Patterson (top row, center) is joined by the MRI Center scheduling staff including (back row left) Stefanie Sanchez and (back row right) Rebecca Blodgett, (front row, left to right) MaryJo Lau, Toni Takanashi.

Perry Ann Patterson has joined scMRI Center as the new Provider Relations Specialist. Perry brings to scMRI professional staff more than 25 years of marketing and medical consulting experience. Her most recent medical positions include: Assistant Executive Director at Humana Hospital Sharpstown in Houston, Texas, Medical Consultant in San Diego, and marketing for Palomar Pomerado Health in Escondido.

"Linking vital health services to medical offices throughout San Diego is a thoroughly rewarding experience," commented Patterson. "Each day I meet with referral coordinators, nurses, and physicians. It is our number one goal to provide our physicians and patients with superior diagnostic imaging in a relaxing, compassionate environment.

"At scMRI Center we provide services unlike most other imaging centers. We offer flexibility and ease in scheduling by offering new extended hours. We are open Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"Our MRI Center office staff is experienced and knowledgeable. They ensure each exam order is processed promptly and efficiently. When a medical office faxes in the medical prescription, a staff member will contact the patient, process all the necessary medical and insurance forms, schedule the appointment, and review exam procedures.

"We understand the importance of timely and accurate reporting and deliver most results to the doctor within 24-48 hours of the exam. Scans are available electronically, on disk, or traditional film.

scMRI CENTER
Offers
Anesthesia for
Infants and Children

Sharp and Children's MRI Center is one of the few diagnostic centers in the San Diego medical community to offer the comfort of anesthesia for infants and children. Our caring and highly-trained staff is here to make visits as comfortable as possible for our young patients. Our inviting scanning room features bright, colorful illustrations of aquatic life.



Dr. Vinit Wellis, anesthesiologist, Thadd Huhn, R.N. and Mariea Henry, MRI technologist, provide anesthesia services for our young patients.

"At scMRI Center every detail is designed to provide the patient with excellent imaging services in a relaxing, friendly environment from our caring and highly trained staff to our comfortable and attractive scanning rooms.

"I look forward to creating and maintaining long-term relationships with our local referral coordinators and physicians and to ensuring they receive quality MRI services."

For further information you may contact Perry at 858.939.4550.



7901 Frost Street San Diego, CA 92123



858.939.4550

SHARP AND CHILDREN'S MRI is a trusted and respected leader in advanced magnetic resonance imaging.

Founded by dedicated physicians and healthcare professionals, Sharp and Children's MRI Center offers high quality diagnostic imaging backed by a nationally recognized staff of board certified radiologists.

SHARP AND CHILDREN'S MRI OFFERS:

- Anesthesiology for children and adults
- Flexible hours including evening and weekend appointments
- High-quality imaging for accurate and timely diagnosis



For over twenty years we have served our physicians and patients.
We scanned our first patient December 15, 1986.
At that time, scMRI Center had one MRI and seven employees.
Today, we operate four MRIs and have over 50 employees.

We have grown, and continue to grow, to meet the needs of our referring physicians and patients.



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OUR PHYSICIANS

- Gregg D. Alzate, M.D.
- John A. Amberg, M.D.
- Howard M. Bear, M.D.
- Scott Boles, M.D.
- Bruce L. Bower, M.D.
- Patrick H. Carey, M.D.
- William D. Carter, M.D.
- Norman C. Chen, M.D.
- Nathaniel A. Chuang, M.D.
- Shanoe Cutts, M.D.
- John J. Dente, M.D.
- Christopher E. Dory, M.D.
- Jerry R. Dwek, M.D.
- Darryl K. Evora, M.D.
- Robert P. Flynn, M.D.
- Lawrence E. Goldberger, M.D.
- Jonathan M. Gurney, M.D.
- Lee A. Harvey, M.D.
- John P. Hauschildt, M.D.
- Keith E. Kortman, M.D.
- Peter G. Kruk, M.D.
- Russell N. Low, M.D.
- James W. Lyon, M.D.
- Clinton R. Nichols, M.D.
- Walter L. Olsen, M.D.
- Lee E. Pinckney, M.D.
- Robert J. Prager, M.D.
- Michael L. Puckett, M.D.
- Howard R. Schiffman, M.D.
- Christopher P. Sebrechts, M.D.
- Melvin O. Senac, Jr., M.D.
- Joel S. Sigeti, M.D.
- Victor L. Woo, M.D.
- Robert C. Yacullo, M.D.



Welcome!

Russell N. Low, M.D.

As Medical Director I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the Sharp and Children's MRI newsletter, *MRIInsight*. Over the past 20 years Sharp and Children's MRI (scMRI) Center has grown from its beginnings with a single MR Center scanner and seven employees to become a nationally recognized leader in MR imaging. Our current stable of four state-of-the-art high field MR scanners and over 50 employees

provides MR imaging services 7 days per week to tens of thousands of patients every year. This tremendous success reflects our continuing commitment to innovation and imaging excellence delivered in a caring and patient friendly environment.

Located on the Kearny Mesa Campus between Sharp Memorial Hospital and Rady Children's Hospital, scMRI serves both adult and pediatric patients. For patients large and small our physicians, nurses, MR technologists, and staff are dedicated to you and your family. Our board certified radiologists, members of San Diego Imaging, possess the highest levels of MR training and expertise. In fact three of the scMRI physicians were selected as San Diego's "Top Doctors of 2006" in a survey of their peers. At scMRI Center you can rest assured that your study and its interpretation will be of the highest caliber.

(continued on page 2)

Opening February of 2007



Sharp and Children's MRI Center to Expand Services to New Facility

Sharp and Children's MRI Center will be opening its new imaging center in February 2007 in the Physicians Medical Center located on the northeast corner of Health Center Drive and Frost Street in the Kearny Mesa area of San Diego. This new medical office building is located directly across the street from Sharp Memorial Hospital and just west of Rady Children's Hospital.

"The increasing demand for medical services requiring high-resolution imaging prompted us to expand services within this growing medical community," stated Paul

Hagen, Chief Executive Officer at scMRI. "This expansion will enable us to offer state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging featuring our new General Electric 1.5T magnet within a comfortable environment and at a convenient location."

Sharp and Children's MRI Center will occupy 3,400 square feet on the first floor and welcome patients with contemporary interior colors and furnishings.

(continued on page 4)

Three scMRI Center Physicians Selected as Top Doctors for 2006

San Diego Magazine partnered with the San Diego County Medical Society to determine who the region's highest rated doctors were for 2006. The magazine asked doctors to choose from their peers who they would turn to for medical attention. We are proud to announce that three of our physicians, **Dr. Alzate**, **Dr. Low**, and **Dr. Kortman** were selected as Top Doctors of 2006.

The results were published in the October 2006 issue of *San Diego Magazine*.

WELCOME! *(continued from page 1)*

We always use the very latest MRI equipment and software. Our four high field MR scanners produce exceptional images not possible on low field open MR scanners. For us the choice is simple. Produce the very best study possible for each patient.

Innovation is also a hallmark of scMRI. Over the years we have led the industry in developing new MR techniques to image various diseases. For example, our research in the areas of MRI of cancer and Crohn's disease has helped to develop new ways to image these patients. These are MR techniques we now use daily and which we have shared with MR centers across the country and literally around the world. Our continued interest in searching for new and better ways to use MRI has resulted in safer and more effective ways to solve clinical problems and to make diagnoses.

Our highly trained nursing staff and technologists will attend to your needs and see that your MR exam is performed safely in a comfortable environment. We strongly believe that MR imaging is a much safer alternative to helical CT. While helical CT is a fast and clinically useful imaging tool, there is a growing community concern about the risk of radiation exposure from helical CT. With MRI there is no ionizing radiation. When you have a choice for you and your family, always use MRI for the best and safest imaging possible.

In future issues we will describe some of the new areas of MR imaging available to you at scMRI. For example:

- Breast MRI is very useful to detect breast cancers that may be missed on mammography and ultrasound. Patients with a breast lump, known breast cancer, or those with a strong family history of breast cancer are good candidates for breast MRI.
- MR angiograms allow us to non-invasively evaluate the vessels in the brain, neck, chest, abdomen and pelvis. Lower extremity MR angiograms are used to show the blood vessels to the legs in patients with peripheral vascular disease.
- MRCP's allows us to quickly evaluate the bile ducts in patients with abdominal pain and possible biliary stones or obstruction. Our new high resolution MRCP produces 3D models of the bile ducts with spectacular image quality.
- Advanced brain and spine MRI including MR spectroscopy and whole spine MRI allow us to image these vital areas. Certainly MRI is the gold standard for imaging the brain and the spine for almost all clinical problems.
- Advanced musculoskeletal imaging of joints is used to evaluate knees, shoulders, wrists, elbows, hips, and all other joints and extremities. In some cases MR arthrography can be used to detect subtle internal problems of cartilage and ligaments by performing MRI following injection of a small amount fluid into the joint space.

Of course, we also image everything else from the top of your head through the soles of your feet. The versatility, accuracy, and safety of MR imaging is truly unmatched. At scMRI we are committed to bringing you the benefits of MRI in a caring environment.



Abdominal and pelvic MRI shows all the organs and vessels in the abdominal cavity.



MR angiogram shows the abdominal aorta and the blood vessels in the legs.

Meet our Physicians

In each of our coming newsletters we are pleased to feature members of our nationally recognized medical staff. Our radiologists are highly trained medical professionals who are trusted leaders in the field of diagnostic imaging. This newsletter features Russell N. Low, M.D., our Medical Director at Sharp and Children's MRI Center, along with Gregg D. Alzate, M.D., John A. Amberg, M.D., Howard M. Bear, M.D., Scott Boles, M.D., and Bruce L. Bower, M.D.

Russell N. Low, M.D.

Dr. Low has served as the Medical Director at scMRI Center for the past 15 years. Dr. Low is board certified in diagnostic radiology and specializes in body imaging.

Dr. Low obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Santa Barbara before obtaining a D.D.S. at the University of California, Los Angeles. He then went on to complete his medical degree at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) followed by his internship at St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center in San Francisco. There he received the David Carroll Medical Intern of the Year Award. He completed his diagnostic radiology residency at the University of California, San Francisco and his fellowship training in MRI, CT, Ultrasound, and Nuclear Medicine at Stanford University Medical Center.

Dr. Low has been extensively published in radiology journals and awarded several research grants. Dr. Low is recognized as a leading expert on body MRI and is an invited speaker at many scientific presentations. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UCSD, School of Medicine.

Gregg D. Alzate

Dr. Alzate is board certified in diagnostic radiology and is also certified with added qualifications in both vascular/interventional radiology and neuroradiology. Dr. Alzate is currently Chief of Vascular and Interventional Radiology at Sharp Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Alzate received his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis and his M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco. After an internal medicine internship at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, he

moved to San Diego where he completed his residency, including service as Chief Resident, at UCSD. Dr. Alzate completed his fellowship in angiography and interventional radiology at UCSD.

John A. Amberg, M.D.

Dr. Amberg, board certified in diagnostic radiology, has a particular interest in pediatric radiology. Dr. Amberg practiced at UCSD and is currently an Associate Clinical Professor of Radiology at UCSD.

Dr. Amberg obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis and his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. After his internship at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in San Francisco, he went on to UCSD to complete his residency. Dr. Amberg received his fellowship training in pediatric radiology at Children's Hospital and Health Center, San Diego.

Howard M. Bear, M.D.

Dr. Bear is board certified in diagnostic radiology with added qualifications in neuroradiology. Dr. Bear graduated magna cum laude from Duke University in North Carolina. He completed his medical degree and an internal medicine internship at the University of Texas Medical Branch. His diagnostic radiology residency was completed at Tulane University in New Orleans. Dr. Bear obtained fellowship training in neuroradiology at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Scott Boles, M.D.

Dr. Boles is board certified with the American Board of Radiology. Dr. Boles completed his undergraduate degree at the University of California, San Diego and then went on to the University of Southern California School of Medicine to earn his medical degree. After his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, he completed his residency at Duke University. His fellowship training in abdominal imaging was accomplished at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center.

(continued on page 4)

How does an MRI work?

An MRI, Magnetic Resonance Imaging exam, is conducted to view what is inside your body much like an x-ray but without the radiation. A powerful magnet is utilized along with radio waves to produce sound that is transformed into digital images by use of sophisticated computer equipment.

What is the difference between conventional and open MRI systems?

There are several types of MRI machines. However, the most common are open and conventional. For high quality, accuracy, and efficiency, most physicians choose the conventional MRI system. The reason the conventional system is preferred is found in the image itself. MRI exams are performed to obtain an internal body image with the highest quality and resolution. Clarity and accuracy of the image has to do with the MR scanner's

inherent field strength. The higher the field strength, the higher the signal and resolution of the image obtained. Conventional MRI systems, with their higher, concentrated field strength, produce quality images for better diagnostic interpretations. Very few patients have any problems undergoing an MRI exam. The conventional MRI machines also are faster than open MRIs.

At scMRI we offer four state-of-the-art MRI magnetic scanners at two convenient locations. Our MRI scanners deliver comfort, speed, and high field performance for first-time high quality results ensuring accurate reporting for the physician and their patients.

Scans are available to view electronically with SYNAPSE, on disk, or traditional film.



Jamie Millar, R.N. and Lisa Tuin, MRI Technologist, assist a young patient through a MRI scan.

Physicians

(continued from page 3)

Bruce L. Bower, M.D.

Dr. Bower is currently the Co-medical Director for the Sharp Memorial Outpatient Pavilion. He is board certified by both the American College of Radiology and American Board of Internal Medicine. He has added certification qualifications in angiography and interventional radiology. His professional areas of specialty are in interventional radiology and cardiac imaging.

Dr. Bower's education includes an undergraduate degree from Gannon University, and he earned his medical degree from Hahnemann University in Pennsylvania. He completed his internship and an internal medicine residency at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Bower's diagnostic radiology residency and fellowship in cardiovascular and interventional radiology were completed at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology in St. Louis.

scMRI Center Expansion

(continued from page 1)

Presently, the scMRI Center operates four imaging magnets, two from its location at 7901 Frost Street and two from its outpatient and mobile locations on the Sharp Metropolitan Campus (Sharp Memorial Hospital).

Sharp and Children's MRI Center features sophisticated, full-strength MRI scanners capable of producing the highest quality images that are interpreted by board certified radiologists with subspecialty training. scMRI Center is a member of the American College of Radiology.