

# Inside



Bayou Medical Management, PPO, LLC

Fall 2008

## Opelousas Surgeon Gains National Spotlight

A national news team from Vision Media's National Report Series was in Opelousas to tape a segment featuring Dr. George Ray Williams' cutting edge surgery.

The procedure, designed to correct persistent back pain, is known as ProDisc-L Total Disc Replacement. It eliminates the need for fusing the spine. Dr. Williams is only one of a few surgeons nationwide trained to do this procedure.

"Disc fusion has been the gold standard for 40 years," said Dr. Williams. "But disc fusion brought with it many problems, including reducing a person's range of motion. It put a disproportionate stress on the spine above and below the fusion. It could lead to a cascade of pathological changes; there would be more trouble in the future," Williams remarked.

"The new procedure, which was pioneered in Europe with an excellent track record, eliminates those complications. This allows the patient to maintain the majority of motion. The (artificial disc) allows for six degrees of motion like a normal spine," Williams commented. Dr. Williams performed the first such disc replacement surgery last year and has completed seven such surgeries since.

The procedure, that was only approved for use in this country in 2006, is done through a small opening in the abdomen. The opening is no larger than the one needed for an appendix operation.

"All of my patients are doing well," stated Williams, who hopes to begin applying the new procedure to people with persistent neck pain in the near future.

Dr. Williams completed a spine surgery fellowship at Stanford University/St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco that

*Continued on page 4*



## Opelousas General Health System

Since 1957, Opelousas General Health System has been dedicated to the provision of quality health care through its strong commitment and high standards.

Central to the success of OGHS's commitment for excellence is the presence of an outstanding and highly qualified staff of physicians, nurses, technologists, and other personnel who provide professional treatment in a caring environment.

Serving as the region's referral medical center, OGHS is the area's most comprehensive community health care facility offering a wide range of medical specialties and state-of-the-art technology available today.



The philosophy of OGHS is to provide each patient personalized attention aimed at meeting their specific needs.

OGHS is a 183-bed full service medical center as complete and as inclusive as any referral hospital in the state.

OGHS is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, the American College of Pathologists, American

College of Radiology, the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, The American Academy of Sleep Medicine, American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Intersocietal Commission for the

*Continued on page 3*

# “Gustav” Uproots Baton Rouge

Last week the city of Baton Rouge was rocked by Gustav, a powerful category 2 hurricane, leaving most of Baton Rouge without power, downed trees, and missing roofs. Hurricane Gustav rolled onshore early Monday morning making landfall just 70 miles southwest of New Orleans. With the “Crescent City” being spared the destruction it saw three years ago with Hurricane Katrina, cities like Houma and Thibodeaux were all but destroyed by the powerful winds and torrential rain. As Hurricane Gustav made its way inland, parishes such as St. James, Ascension, and Baton Rouge were slammed by one of the worst storms to hit these areas in decades.

As night gave way to day, residents all across southeast Louisiana awoke to sights of hundred year old oak trees, elms, sycamore, and other trees, snapped in half like twigs. Power lines and cables littered the roads like beads after a Mardi Gras parade. Homes stood with trees and limbs piercing through the roof tops, garages, and cars. With thousands of people sustaining structural damage to their homes and property, the massive loss of power statewide added



to the misery of the situation. The early estimates were that approximately 1.4 million residents in Louisiana lost power in their homes. With a major catastrophe on their hands, Louisiana and the surrounding states stepped up to the challenge. More than 11,000 Entergy trucks and 17,000 workers were brought into the state to get residents up and running with power as soon as possible.

Louisiana also saw one of the largest evacuations in U.S. history with nearly two million people fleeing their homes before the storm. Besides the people who fled in their own cars, or on buses, trains, or airplanes, more than 1,000 people were evacuated from local hospitals. The residents of Louisiana, true to the character of the state, stood firm and began the task of clearing debris, nailing down tarps, helping neighbors, and

rebuilding their lives. The resiliency of the state is evident in the attitude of its citizens who continue to endure and rebuild with their unique sense of humor, unyielding determination, and the “Cajun” attitude that “a little wind” won’t knock you off the bayou.

## Thomas Cockerham M.D. - The Spine Clinic of Baton Rouge

Bayou Medical Management is happy to welcome Dr. Thomas Cockerham and his staff at the Spine Clinic of Baton Rouge to our network of providers. Since October of 2005, Dr. Cockerham has been in Baton Rouge practicing his specialty of Physical and Neuromuscular Medicine. Dr. Cockerham graduated from the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans and completed his residency at the LSU School of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Cockerham is also board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Cockerham performs numerous procedures including EMGs, Epidural Steroid Injections, and Facet Blocks and is able to perform all ESIs in-house. The Spine Clinic of Baton Rouge is equipped with a full gym and rehabilitation center giving it the ability to meet patients’ physical therapy and rehabilitation needs.

Efficiency and accessibility are part of the Spine Clinic’s operational philosophy. All procedure reports and findings are dictated and transcribed in-house and sent no later than two to three days after the procedure is completed. Dr. Cockerham



and his staff strive to provide the best patient and rehabilitative care possible. Dr. Cockerham is located in Baton Rouge at 5211 Essen Lane, Suite 1, and he and his staff can be reached by calling 225-766-5050.

# OGHS (contd. from page 1)

Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories, and the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories.

Construction was completed in 2006 on the first phase of the hospital's \$68 million dollar expansion that includes a new Heart Institute, a multi-level parking garage, a five story medical complex, a cardiac ICU, a new Emergency Center and physician offices. The expansion also includes renovation of the hospital's cafeteria and the construction of an out-patient Diagnostic Center in Sunset.

The hospital was also recognized this year as the First Company of Excellence in Acadiana by the American Cancer Society and took a giant step forward in providing patient safety with the purchase and implementation of Omnicell's SafetyMed System. The new system, which is interfaced with the hospital's health Information System, lets nurses know they are giving the right medication, at the right dose at the right time.

In a significant regional advancement for cardiovascular healthcare, OGHS and Cardiovascular Institute of the South joined together to create a state-of-the-art heart and vascular center. The facility, The Heart & Vascular Institute at Opelousas General Health System, is part of the hospital's \$68 million expansion.

The Hospital's new Sleep Disorders Center was completed in 2007, making it the first Accredited Sleep Center in Acadiana.

# Scott G. Petrie, M.D. Orthopedic Surgeon

Bayou Medical Management is happy to welcome Dr. Scott G. Petrie as the newest addition to the BMM network of providers. Dr. Petrie is an orthopaedic surgeon who has been practicing in Gonzales, Louisiana for the last nine years. In that time he has developed one of the premier orthopedic facilities in the state along with the reputation for being a "patient's doctor". Dr. Petrie and his staff pride themselves on teamwork, efficiency, and a compassionate approach to patient care.

Dr. Petrie specializes in a multitude of procedures, including non-surgical procedures. Surgical procedures include a wide range of fractures, sports injuries including rotator cuff repair, labral, meniscal, and ACL tears. Also, fractures, Arthroscopy, joint replacement and trauma. Non-surgical treatment includes spine injuries, joint injections and visco supplementation.

A graduate of LSU, Dr. Petrie was accepted into LSU Medical School and completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at LSU-New Orleans in 1999. He opened his practice, the Orthopedic & Sports Clinic in 1999. Dr. Petrie has published papers and studies in the areas of shoulder injuries, ACL reconstructions, dual limb grafts and knee injuries to name a few. Dr. Petrie and his professional staff offer state of the art care and a premier orthopedic facility.

# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

- 1 Star of "Truman Show"
- 6 Inquire
- 9 Scientist's office
- 12 Play
- 13 Caesar's twelve
- 14 Pub serving
- 15 Singing voice
- 16 Type of partnership
- 17 Scrap
- 18 Opp. of false
- 20 Molten rock
- 22 "Oh \_\_\_!" (two wds.)
- 25 Bar
- 26 Pair
- 27 Gets larger
- 29 Not front or back
- 31 Surface to air missile
- 32 Asian country
- 36 Microscopic
- 39 Cunning
- 40 Star of "Braveheart"
- 43 Disastrous
- 45 Excite
- 46 Family fight
- 47 Nothing
- 48 Promissory note
- 50 Heathen gods
- 54 Furniture wood
- 55 Opp. of SSW
- 56 Bottoms of shoes
- 57 Spots
- 58 Hair stuff
- 59 Make a present of

## DOWN

- 1 Central daylight time
- 2 Is
- 3 Fled
- 4 Display emotions
- 5 Herb
- 6 Shaft
- 7 Perch
- 8 Cruise's wife
- 9 One of the Florida Keys
- 10 Remember the \_\_\_!
- 11 Started
- 19 At the same time
- 21 Ditto
- 22 Disks
- 23 French "yes"
- 24 Modern
- 25 Jew
- 28 Reservoir
- 30 Compass point
- 33 Chinese seasoning
- 34 Boxer Muhammad
- 35 Big Apple (abbr.)
- 37 Touching with the toe
- 38 Star of "Top Gun"
- 40 City
- 41 Book by Homer
- 42 Resists
- 44 Annex (2 wds.)
- 46 Gas
- 49 Less than two
- 51 Aged
- 52 MGM's Lion
- 53 Opp. of 55 Across

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
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15						16			17			
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40	41	42					43		44			
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47				48	49			50		51	52	53
54				55				56				
57				58				59				

For the solution please go to:  
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# Opelousas Surgeon - Dr. Williams (contd. from page 1)

was part of the clinical trials for the new procedure. "All our patients did extremely well," Williams said.

"I spoke with one doctor from France who told me he has performed 2,000 disc replacements and his patients are now playing rugby and football, doing whatever they want," Williams related.

While most people tend to think of major metropolitan hospitals as the home of the best new medical treatments, in this case it is Opelousas that is leading the way. "We are the only people doing this; it is not being done in Lafayette, in Shreveport, or in Baton Rouge", said Michelle Perkins with Opelousas General Health System.

Dr. Williams called it both an honor and a privilege to be featured. Gerald Fornoff, President and CEO of OGHS, agreed. "We are excited and proud to be acknowledged for the outstanding work being performed in our facility, Fornoff said. "We offer a lot of outstanding services that many people are not aware of."

The National Report Series, which is hosted by Hugh Downs, looks at cutting edge medical, business, environmental, education, and other topics, usually through five to 10 minute segments, which are then shared with local television stations

Inside BMM is a quarterly newsletter published by Bayou Medical Management, PPO LLC. BMM does not prescribe medical advice. Comments are welcome. For additional information, contact us as follows: Tel: 225-448-2591, Fax: 225-448-2594 Mailing address: BMM, Attention: Kyle Kinberger, Marketing Manager, 9441 Common Street, Suite C, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

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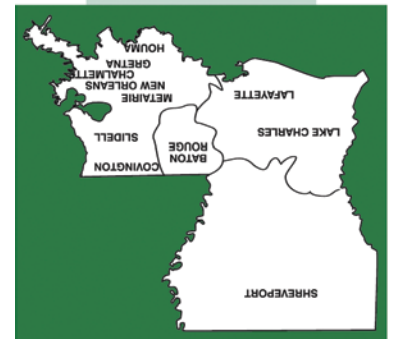
But Williams believes there is no reason why Opelousas shouldn't be on the leading edge. "It is not the building that makes for quality care. It is the people inside the building, Williams remarked. "We have an excellent staff from medical to surgical to rehab. That is good news, because severe back pain is something most people will experience at some point in their lives."

Eighty percent of the population will experience an acute episode of lower back pain at some point in their lives," according to Dr. Williams. Thankfully, 92 percent of those cases can be resolved within six weeks with proper care and rest. It is the other 8 percent that may need Williams' special skill.

He said this procedure is only approved for people between the ages of 16 and 60. They must have first undergone at least six months of more conservative treatment without achieving relief from their pain.

Williams, who was born and raised in Lake Charles, is happy to be back in Louisiana after working at hospitals in California and Tennessee. "I love it here; I'm close to my family. The city was very welcoming to us. The people are great," Williams said.

*Throughout Louisiana!*



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