

LAS VEGAS COMMUNITY

HEALTHCARE

JULY 2023

L A S V E G A S

HEALS

HEALTH • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY • LEADERSHIP
of SOUTHERN NEVADA

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WELCOME



Diego Trujillo
CEO of Las Vegas HEALS

I was recently made aware of a survey that asked physicians why they didn't want to stay in Las Vegas and the overwhelming response was the difficulty in coordinating care. I know that in my time working to discharge patients, I would constantly be tasked with connecting the dots for patients within the community to try and facilitate a safe discharge that would not end in another readmission. As we shift to value-based models, the coordination of care is key.

The role of care coordination in the healthcare sector is an essential factor that largely dictates the quality and efficiency of patient care. Care coordination is a multifaceted approach designed to improve patient outcomes by ensuring that healthcare services are seamlessly integrated, reducing gaps and fragmentation in care delivery. Given the current complexities of the healthcare environment, the importance of care coordination has become increasingly significant.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) defines care coordination as "the deliberate organization of patient care activities between two or more participants involved in a patient's care to facilitate the appropriate delivery of health care services." Essentially, care coordination involves the smooth orchestration of various components of a patient's healthcare journey, from primary care to specialist services, diagnostic testing, hospital care, rehabilitation, and home care services.

As our valley continues to expand, we rely more and more on outdated systems and mentalities that will not allow us to keep pace with the needs of our community. In this issue, we are excited to share some of the visions that look forward to improving the coordination of care in the valley!



CLARK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY STUDENT RISING STAR AWARD 2023

The Student Rising Star Award recognizes outstanding medical students dedicated to raising the bar of health care in Southern Nevada.



Qiret Sultan

Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV



Qiret Sultan is a member of the Class of 2024 at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine. Qiret is from Las Vegas and graduated from UNLV with a Bachelor's of Science in Pre Professional Biology, and a minor in psychology. While at UNLV she served as a Bennett Mentor at the UNLV Honors College helping freshmen to connect with each other and the campus. Her passion for service in teaching and mentoring has continued through medical school. Qiret serves as a tutor for medical students and continues to mentoring undergraduate students at UNLV, through outreach programs at the medical school.

She currently has been selected by the medical school as a national representative to the Organization of Student Representatives through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). She is also a co-founder and President for the Middle Eastern and South Asian Medical Student Association. This group provides mentorship, faculty presentations and service opportunities for students in medical school. Qiret started Project Sunshine, an organization which partners with UMC Children's Hospital, and Sunrise Children's Hospital to provide support for children while hospitalized.

Qiret is active in research and has presented posters statewide and regionally. Qiret is commended for her active involvement and leadership, while also maintaining a high level of academic performance throughout medical school. The medical school looks forward to Qiret's continuing accomplishments and she is truly a Rising Star in our medical community.

Brandon Young

Touro University Nevada



Brandon Young was born in 1996 to two Chinese immigrants and raised in Chino Hills, Calif., along with his two younger brothers. He attended Ruben S. Ayala High School, where he played varsity basketball, watched his idol Kobe Bryant on Lakers games, and developed his interests in medicine and community service. Brandon majored in General Biology at the University of California, San Diego, graduating summa cum laude while actively serving various local communities. As an Orientation Leader, he helped hundreds of incoming students transition into college life while also coordinating a mentorship program for incoming students. Brandon also traveled to Panama and Peru to provide medical services to medically deprived communities and learned about the healthcare systems in those countries.

During his undergraduate years, Brandon's passion for pediatrics grew. He served as a camp counselor for children whose parents were battling cancer, volunteered at the Special Olympics World Games where he trained young athletes with intellectual disabilities, and head coached 5th and 6th-grade athletes in a National Junior Basketball league.

Brandon is pursuing medicine as a student in Touro University Nevada's College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he continues to make selfless contributions. As Student Director of Admissions and a member of the Osteopathic Medical Student Government Association, he serves as a student ambassador for prospective medical students. Brandon also created a Student Survival Guide for incoming students and spearheaded a mentorship program pairing incoming students with individual mentors.

Join Clark County Medical Society

CCMS is dedicated to being an advocate and resource for the physicians of Southern Nevada

Scan for more info



Established in 1955, the Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) is a professional organization of nearly 2,000 doctors, medical residents, physician's assistants and medical students. The organization advocates for physicians and their patients in Southern Nevada, encouraging the delivery of quality health care within the community.



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The Future of the Cannabis Industry is Obtaining the Skills Needed to Thrive in an Evolving Market

Cannabis in Nevada became legal for recreational use on January 1, 2017, following the passage of Question 2 on the 2016 ballot with 54% of the vote. The first licensed sales of recreational cannabis began on July 1, 2017.

According to Statista, sales from 2020 were \$685 million and increased in 2021 to \$1 billion and in 2022 took a slight dip, but for 2023 the market is going strong. The industry is training to provide the skillset needed to be successful in a thriving market.

On January 2023, the College of Southern Nevada's (CSN) Division of Workforce and Economic Development (DWED) partnered with Green Flower to provide three courses for those interested in pursuing careers in the cannabis industry. Each course is 100% online and 9 weeks in duration with a cost of \$750. Green Flower offers payment plans options and ongoing promotions to help offset the cost of the course. After the program, the individual will obtain a certificate, a recognized industry credential in the selected course.

Cannabis Cultivation Specialist Certificate: credibility and knowledge necessary to establish a successful career in cannabis cultivation, work in indoor or outdoor grow operations, or even launch your own cultivation business.

Cannabis Retail Specialist Certificate: the fundamental knowledge of the cannabis supply chain, as well as the essential skills to succeed in the dynamic cannabis retail environment. By completing this program, an individual can build a career in cannabis retail, work in a dispensary, or even start their own dispensary.

Cannabis Extraction & Product Development Specialist Certificate: developing and manufacturing various cannabis products, including edibles, tinctures, and topicals, this program provides a comprehensive understanding of the cannabis supply chain and the foundational skills required to excel in the industry.

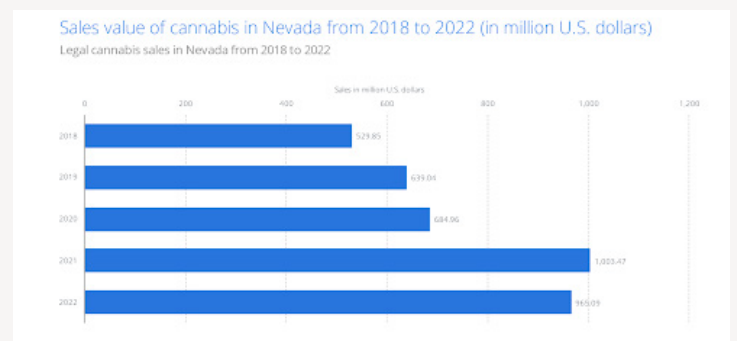
<https://cannabiseducation.dwed.csn.edu/#>

As the future of the cannabis industry grows, a prepared workforce is necessary, where one must acquire the skill set needed to thrive in an evolving industry.



About CSN

Founded in 1971, CSN enrolls approximately 50,000 students each year from around the country. The institution has awarded over 5,200 degrees and certificates in 2018-2019 alone. Students have praised the affordable tuition, small classes, accessible faculty, and flexible course scheduling at state-of-the-art campuses located throughout the region. The college has dozens of academic programs to choose from, including 26 degrees and certificates available entirely online. <https://www.csn.edu/about-us/why-csn>



About DWED

Green Flower is honored to have partnered with CSN to offer our three cannabis industry training courses. These programs will help students gain a deeper knowledge of the industry in general, in addition to the job-specific training," said Daniel Kalef, Executive Vice President of Higher Education for Green Flower.

"We know that the more well-rounded someone is when

working in the cannabis industry, the more opportunities they will see for personal and professional growth. We are also encouraged by the idea of offering a way for students to more conveniently pay and afford these programs as access is a top priority for both Green Flower and CSN.”

The following graphics from the 2023 Vangst Cannabis Jobs Report show median salaries in a variety of cannabis industry jobs.

The College of Southern Nevada’s Division of Workforce & Economic Development was established in 2005 to

	CULTIVATION POSITIONS	2023 MEDIAN SALARY
	Trimmer	\$36,200
	Tissue Culture Technician	\$74,350
	Integrated Pest Manager	\$75,800

meet the training needs of Southern Nevada’s workforce and employers. The Division is an entrepreneurial and self-supporting arm of CSN that works with the region’s business and key industry sectors in the assessment, design, and implementation of customized curricula and training programs. It also provides services to students, employers, employees, and adult learners seeking education opportunities, new skills, and career advancement. <https://www.csn.edu/education-and-training/workforce-development>

Higher Education for Green Flower.

“We know that the more well-rounded someone is when working in the cannabis industry, the more opportunities they will see for personal and professional growth. We are also encouraged by the idea of offering a way for students to more conveniently pay and afford these programs as access is a top priority for both Green Flower and CSN.”

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The College of Southern Nevada’s Division of Workforce & Economic Development was established in 2005 to meet the training needs of Southern Nevada’s workforce and employers. The Division is an entrepreneurial and

	EXTRACTION & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT POSITIONS	2023 MEDIAN SALARY
	Extraction Technician	\$63,000
	Extraction Lead	\$72,300
	Production Manager	\$90,950

self-supporting arm of CSN that works with the region’s business and key industry sectors in the assessment, design, and implementation of customized curricula and training programs. It also provides services to students, employers, employees, and adult learners seeking education opportunities, new skills, and career advancement. <https://www.csn.edu/education-and-training/workforce-development>



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Nadia Khan

Intermountain Health



“We also have a partnership with Discovery Children's Museum. We all know that children are the future, so we are thinking about how to nurture their curiosity and interest in a career in healthcare.”

Tell us a little about your business and your role within that business?

I serve as the VP of Marketing and Communications for Intermountain Health's Desert Region. Intermountain Health has been in the Southern Nevada market for about four years. Prior to that, there was already an organization in place in Nevada that Intermountain Health acquired. So, there is a lot of history here with the community and the local providers, which is good because locals know what's going on and they know what's happening in the market. As a local, it's been nice to see how the community continues to grow and evolve. We are always looking to do what's right for the locals. In Southern Nevada, we have more than 60 clinics and 300 providers employed by Intermountain Health, as well as 1,900 total caregivers in the market. Those clinics range from primary care and specialty care, including cardio and rheumatology. We really have a footprint that can serve multiple audiences. About half of our clinics are Medicare Advantage focused.

What products or services do you offer here in Southern Nevada?

Medicare Advantage is where we've put a lot of focus in the past decade or so. We serve about 80,000 seniors in the community. We also see about 400,000 patients through our entire portfolio in Southern Nevada. Rather than us bringing in resources that are not a priority, we want to ask, "What else does the community need?" and really listen to see what else we can do to help. Intermountain Health also partakes in a lot of community service and engages with many nonprofits. The locals know what's going on and healthcare is a team sport, so we must make sure we are all talking to one another.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

One of the programs we established that's made a difference is the in-person 90-day Medical Assistant program that Intermountain Health partnered with NV Careers to develop, supported by Goodwill of Southern Nevada as the agency partner in the community. It addresses a few things; the overall shortages in hiring caregivers, and it brings more candidates to the table. It also offers another pathway for those looking for career opportunities. We live in a hospitality town, and all that hospitality needs workers to make that happen, and those workers need healthcare. We offer training from start to finish.

After 90 days, the candidate is actually doing supervised work in the clinic, earning their hours, and getting to play a role to increase access in the community.

We also do a lot with the Las Vegas Raiders, including our partnership with Safe Nest and a program called Coaching Boys Into Men that focuses on domestic violence education for young male youth in the community.

We also have a partnership with Discovery Children's Museum. We all know that children are the future, so we are thinking about how to nurture their curiosity and interest in a career in healthcare. We opened a new exhibit last fall in the museum's ECO CITY area. We want children to see and feel it and help them to understand that it is not only nurses and doctors working in healthcare.

We were excited to be recognized by Best of Las Vegas in 2022. We were also recognized as a 2023 Nevada Top Workplace, and our doctors have earned multiple Top Doc Awards from Desert Companion and Vegas Inc.

What do you see for the future of healthcare in Southern Nevada?

Understanding what is possible is what interests me. There is no cookie-cutter approach, which is why the listening process is so important. We do a community health needs assessment to really understand the local needs and landscape. Nevada is underserved. Growing up here and knowing that it could sometimes take three months to get an appointment, we thought that was normal. But it doesn't have to be.

What do we need to do to ensure that providers want to come to Nevada and stay in Nevada?

We need to make Nevada a global destination for healthcare. There's no reason it can't be. There's so much to do and so much transformation that's possible. There's been amazing work done in the last several decades, and we want to keep that momentum going and give the community the care that they truly deserve.

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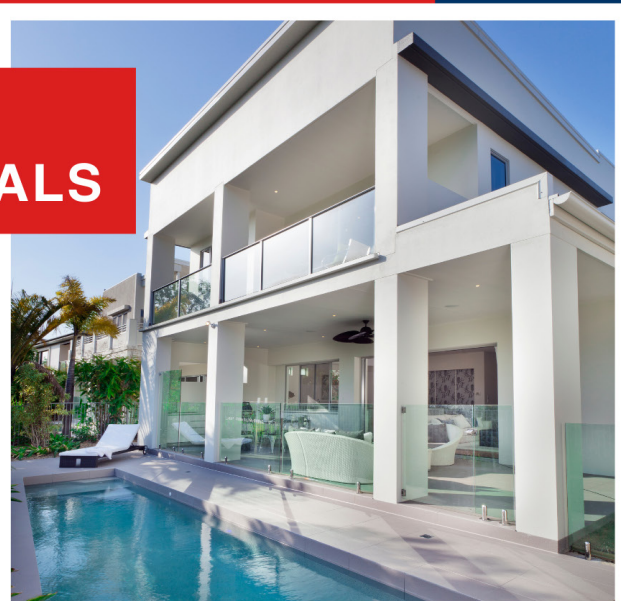
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Mental Health, Dementia, and PTSD

Irma Prettenhofer, BSG, MPA

As people age, they may experience certain life changes that impact their mental health, such as coping with a serious illness or losing a loved one. Although many people will adjust to these life changes, some may experience feelings of grief, social isolation, or loneliness. When these feelings persist, they can lead to mental health issues, such as depression or anxiety. Mental health is important in every stage of life. Effective treatment options are available to help older adults manage their mental health and improve their quality of life. Recognizing the signs and seeing a healthcare provider are the first steps to getting treatment. It is common for people with dementia to experience anxiety, depression, or apathy. Improving the mental health of someone with dementia can improve their overall quality of life.

When we speak about mental health many shy away as the stigma continues to prevail in our train of thought. But it is a subject that needs to be discussed as many suffer from various forms of mental health issues. One mental health issue not many truly understand is PTSD. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is a condition where you experience some symptoms such as difficulty controlling your emotions and feeling very angry and distrustful towards the world. It is caused by living very traumatic experiences. Symptoms of PTSD include flashbacks, where a person relives the traumatic event in some manner, reoccurring memories or nightmares are also a sign.

PTSD occurs when symptoms from psychological trauma disrupt daily functioning. Almost 1/3 of Americans are suffering from clinical symptoms of depression or generalized anxiety. The risk, ironically, is higher among non-military civilians. Veterans with PTSD were 2x times more likely to develop dementia than veterans without PTSD.

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON C-PTSD

- ✦ Sometimes I wish I was dead
- ✦ I can't sleep!
- ✦ I have constant nightmares
- ✦ I feel like I am in pain most of the time
- ✦ I can't concentrate
- ✦ I can't handle the simplest task
- ✦ I feel like I always have to be vigilant. Ready to take on another attack!
- ✦ I just want to be alone most of the time
- ✦ I feel spacey, like I can't think straight
- ✦ I feel depressed most of the time
- ✦ I feel worthless
- ✦ I feel angry that I was put in this position!
- ✦ I feel like I'm a doormat most of the time

MINDJOURNAL

TheMindsJournal

People with PTSD in the general population have issues related to physical and sexual abuse, the threat of death, car accidents, terrorism, or other trauma were more than twice as likely to develop dementia than others with no diagnosis. Add Dementia to this equation and their world gets even scarier and

blurry. These symptoms are often labeled as behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) and encompass a broad range of symptoms related to mood changes such as depression and anxiety, psychosis, and inappropriate behaviors such as wandering, shouting and agitation.

In honor of mental health awareness, it is noteworthy to be transparent and educate people on the importance of diagnosis and treatment, so that individuals with dementia can have some peace. Looking at our residents at times involves doing that deep dive and pairing the mental health diagnosis with the existing dementia condition. It is important that we as health care providers realize the intricate network of damage that PTSD and Dementia inflict upon some of our residents. Some days they are so confused and lost in the shadows of their mind. So be easy on them as life has already given them much to cause pain for an eternity. So be mindful that some days, they will not know what happened with their loved ones who have either passed on or are no longer involved in their life- while other days they might give some clarity and be able to realize what happened.

Some days they may respond to the truth well- other days they will experience meltdowns... that's PTSD in a nutshell. So when they come to you as a provider of care, read their body language, and go along with it... gauge your response to their questions with trepidation, and based on how they present themselves for that window of time, collect your responses and be gentle.

"Almost 1/3 of Americans are suffering from clinical symptoms of depression or generalized anxiety."



"PTSD occurs when symptoms from psychological trauma disrupt daily functioning."

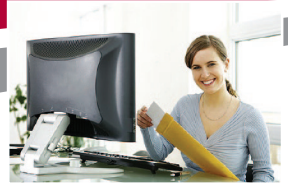
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Southwest Medical Leadership: Inspiring Community Health, Giving Back and Making a Difference

Southwest Medical

Southwest Medical exemplifies a strong commitment to the health of Southern Nevada. Through the leadership of individuals like Dr. John Rhodes, Dr. Neil Gokal, Dr. Carl Allen and Toni Corbin, the organization prioritizes the overall health and well-being of patients while striving to make a positive impact on the communities they serve. From recruiting high-quality physicians to mentoring the next generation of health care providers, their education and passion shine through in their efforts to create healthier and thriving communities.

Dr. John Rhodes has spent his entire professional career, spanning four decades, focused on making his Las Vegas community a better place. As president and chief executive officer of Optum Nevada, he maintains a patient-centric attitude and looks out for his neighbors with the same passion he brings to his practice. His ambitious approach to responding to our community's need for health care access has had him around the country to residency programs and conferences to recruit high-quality physicians to help Southern Nevada. To date, he has helped over 50 health care professionals call Southern Nevada home.

Alongside recruiting quality physicians to his hometown, Dr. Rhodes has shared his health care passion and expertise by training and mentoring new generations of health care professionals who are pursuing medical school.

Dr. Rhodes says, "The greatest privilege we receive as physicians is having a patient trust their health to our care, and we can never let them down or take that privilege for granted."

Dr. Neil Gokal, medical director of clinical education for Southwest Medical in Las Vegas, is another wonderful example of our physician leadership who is dedicated to making the Nevada communities healthier. Dr. Gokal is collaborating with several of the valley's educational institutions to improve the local health care system and increase the number of skilled, quality care providers in Southern Nevada. Dr. Gokal spends part of his time in clinical practice supporting his patients and also devotes time to working closely with the residency team and PA/APRN intern colleagues, mentoring the next generation of health care providers.

"The greatest privilege we receive as physicians is having a patient trust their health to our care, and we can never let them down or take that privilege for granted."

“Helping to educate the next generation is something I’ve always been an active part of and enjoyed,” says Dr. Gokal.

Dr. Carl Allen, senior medical director at Southwest Medical, has been with the practice since 1997. He shares its passion to make a difference for his patients and community.

Among his many contributions, Dr. Allen is recognized for his leadership in promoting diversity and inclusion. Significant examples include his prominent role supporting the Springs Preserve’s celebration of the inspiring accomplishments and contributions of African Americans and his co-chair position of the International STEM Committee for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He also served for many years on the board of directors for the local March of Dimes.

“When patients refer and entrust their friends and family members to me,” Dr. Allen says, “I know I’m making a difference.”

Another company leader who understands the importance of community service is Southwest Medical Chief Operating Officer Toni Corbin. She has spent three decades championing the health and well-being of her community.

Corbin has full responsibility for the clinical, operational and financial administration for Southwest Medical, which serves over 375,000 patients. A polished communicator and natural team builder who develops, inspires and motivates staff to excel, she is dedicated to delivering quality care and excellent customer service while ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations. She is equally as passionate on inspiring, training and promoting the next generation of health care leaders through staff mentorship and growth programs.

Additionally, Corbin oversees all Southwest Medical charitable giving and is a proponent and leader of employee volunteerism projects in the community. She often enlists her colleagues to join her in support of the causes she personally holds dear.

“I’m passionate about providing quality health care to our patients,” says Corbin. “I believe every day when I step through the door at Southwest Medical, I make a difference in our patients’ lives.”

Our community is as healthy as the people who live here. That’s why Southwest Medical works tirelessly for the overall health of our family, friends and neighbors. Our care doesn’t just happen in our physicians’ offices, but also by giving back – through volunteering, social advocacy, corporate giving, charity safety nets and so much more – from executive leadership to our frontline workers. This work means the world to us because our home means the world to us.



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Streamlining Healthcare in Las Vegas: The Road to Consolidated Medical Care

Las Vegas, renowned for its glitz and glamour, is now setting its sights on revolutionizing healthcare in the city. With the goal of providing better patient care and maximizing resources, Las Vegas is embarking on a journey to consolidate medical services, leading the way in healthcare innovation.



1. Health Information Exchange (HIE): Paving the Path for Seamless Data Sharing

One of the cornerstones of this transformation is the implementation of a cutting-edge Health Information Exchange (HIE) system. With HIE, healthcare providers, hospitals, and clinics can securely share vital patient information in real-time. This innovative approach helps prevent unnecessary duplication of tests and treatments, minimizes medical errors, and ensures that patients receive personalized care based on their comprehensive medical history.

2. Integrated Health Systems: Fostering Collaboration for Optimal Care

Las Vegas is embracing the concept of integrated health systems, creating a seamless network where healthcare entities collaborate to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care. Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are at the forefront of this approach, incentivizing providers to work together efficiently while keeping costs under control. The result is a more coordinated and effective healthcare delivery system.

3. Telemedicine Services: Redefining Access to Medical Care

In this digital age, telemedicine is emerging as a game-changer in healthcare access. Las Vegas is rapidly expanding telemedicine services, allowing patients to connect with healthcare professionals remotely. This not only eases the burden on in-person visits but also ensures that non-emergency cases are managed effectively, freeing up valuable resources for critical situations.

4. Community Health Clinics: Enhancing Access to Primary Care

A significant step towards consolidated medical care involves establishing community health clinics and centers strategically placed throughout Las Vegas. These facilities provide vital primary care and preventive services, alleviating the strain on emergency rooms and enhancing overall healthcare accessibility.

5. Health Information Technology (HIT) Infrastructure: Empowering a Connected Healthcare System

With the adoption of state-of-the-art Health Information Technology (HIT) infrastructure, Las Vegas is taking a leap forward in creating a connected healthcare system. Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and telehealth platforms enable seamless communication among healthcare providers, leading to more efficient and coordinated care.

6. Care Coordination Programs: Nurturing Continuity of Care

To ensure that patients receive the best possible care, Las Vegas is implementing comprehensive care coordination programs. These programs facilitate seamless communication among healthcare professionals, specialists, and support staff, providing patients with a holistic and well-coordinated healthcare experience.

7. Empowering the Community through Health Education

Promoting health education and awareness is crucial in cultivating a healthier community. By educating residents about the importance of preventive care and regular health check-ups, Las Vegas aims to foster a culture of proactive healthcare, reducing the need for more extensive medical interventions in the future.

8. Public-Private Partnerships: A Collaborative Approach to Healthcare

Las Vegas understands the significance of public-private partnerships in driving healthcare innovation. By fostering collaboration between the public and private healthcare sectors, the city can leverage diverse resources and expertise to create a more efficient and accessible healthcare system.

9. Mobile Health Units: Taking Healthcare to the Streets

Las Vegas is embracing the concept of Mobile Health Units, bringing medical care directly to underserved areas. These mobile units provide on-site medical care and screenings, promoting early intervention and preventive measures, ultimately reducing the burden on emergency services.

10. Data Analytics and Population Health Management: Improving Health Outcomes through Insights

Las Vegas harnesses the power of data analytics and population health management tools to identify health trends and specific community needs. Armed with these insights, targeted interventions can be deployed, leading to improved health outcomes and a healthier population.

11. Healthcare Policy and Regulation: A Strong Foundation for Progress

Underpinning these efforts is a healthcare policy and regulatory framework that supports consolidation and collaboration among providers. By aligning policies with the goal of improved medical care, Las Vegas is paving the way for a thriving and efficient healthcare ecosystem.

In the dazzling lights of Las Vegas, a new spotlight now shines on healthcare innovation. With a commitment to consolidate medical care, foster collaboration, and embrace technological advancements, Las Vegas is charting a course towards a healthier and more connected community. This ambitious journey sets an inspiring example for other cities, proving that by working together, the future of healthcare can be brighter than ever before.



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Las Vegas Cancer Institute Emphasizes Local Collaboration for Coordination of Cancer Care

Michael Krainock, MD, PhD
President, Las Vegas Cancer Institute

Perhaps no other disease presents challenges for patients, caregivers, and healthcare systems quite like cancer. For 250 years researchers and physicians have worked tirelessly to understand and combat this disease, and these interrelated efforts have resulted in significant progress, especially over the last several decades.

Translating this progress into tangible improvements in patient outcomes requires adequate access to care, and efficient coordination of that care. With this in mind, we have founded the Las Vegas Cancer Institute (LVCI), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with the goal of strengthening the cancer care infrastructure in the Las Vegas Valley. We believe our community has the necessary components to establish itself as a leader in the cancer care delivery of the future, and we seek to unify local resources for the benefit of patients and caregivers in Southern Nevada.

Optimizing cancer-related outcomes requires the longitudinal engagement of both patients and providers before, during, and after a diagnosis of cancer. We now diagnose some cancers at earlier stages thanks to evidence-based approaches to traditional screening, and emerging genomic technologies offer the possibility of one day screening for an array of cancers with a routine blood test.

On the therapeutic front, comprehensive genomic profiling via next generation sequencing is giving us insights into how best to attack individual cancers

based on the unique genomic signature of the tumor. Targeted therapies, immune checkpoint inhibitors, and cellular therapies offer the potential for durable survival in advanced disease that was previously considered incurable, and antibody drug conjugates show promise for similar performance in the future. Additionally, emerging molecular technologies are demonstrating utility in patient risk-stratification, longitudinal treatment response monitoring, and the early detection of recurrence.

We are thus seeing more patients survive cancer and enter extended periods of maintenance therapy and surveillance.

In many cases these patients live to advanced ages, and may require specialized long-term follow-up of chronic conditions, some related to their cancer therapy.

While these developments are unequivocally positive, their meaning to the individual patient is contingent upon care-delivery systems that tightly coordinate cancer care across the entire continuum. With increasing tools in our armamentarium, the complexity of this coordination increases. It is incumbent upon healthcare leaders to assure that these tools are accessible and applied appropriately to all members of our community, and that they do not equate to debilitating financial hardships for patients and their families. Troublingly, significant sociodemographic differences exist in cancer-related outcomes.



Looking close to home, this level of coordination is especially pertinent for the Las Vegas Valley. Approximately 2.64 million people are expected to call Clark County home in 2025, and that number is expected to grow by ~28% to 3.38 million by the year 2060.

Given that the American Cancer Society estimates 378.2 new cases of cancer per 100,000 people in Nevada in 2023, it is important we prioritize cancer care access, delivery, and coordination for our growing population. Additionally, we have one of the most ethnically diverse demographic profiles in the United States, making culturally considerate approaches to screening, treatment, and survivorship especially important.

The program we are building emphasizes the integration of centralized, multi-disciplinary, evidence-based care with focused translational research and innovation. We seek to develop a place where local physicians come together with patients across every reach of the Las Vegas Valley in an environment that supports both the patients and the people taking care of them. Further, we aim to serve as an educational and training resource for students, physicians in training, and the next generation of medical professionals and scientists. Our strategic programmatic scope includes frontline community education to reduce cancer risk, cancer screening, support through active multi-modality treatment, and lifelong survivorship.

The long-term goal of our organization is to create a program worthy of designation as a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center. These types of centers improve cancer-related outcomes and attract significant federal research funding. Additionally, NCI centers contribute to the robust clinical trial infrastructure required to ensure local patients have access to emerging therapeutics and cutting-edge treatment modalities, to include the inpatient

management of patients receiving novel cellular and immuno-therapies, for example. Currently, a Las Vegas would need to travel a minimum of ~250 miles to receive care at an NCI designated facility, and this is the farthest distance to a center from a metropolitan area of over 2 million people in the US.

Despite these challenges, today our individual local physicians provide high caliber care in an environment that is largely fragmented and under-resourced. The role of the LVCI therefore is in providing an infrastructure that expedites and enhances the delivery of multidisciplinary care, allowing us as a community to offer an even higher level of service. We endorse an open philosophy, and all current local oncology stakeholders are highly encouraged to participate in our development. We are working for Las Vegas to enhance local cancer care through the provision of needed substantive resources, not to compete with current organizations and systems.

We believe that the future of cancer care is bright. We are passionate about ensuring that this immense progress reaches every single patient in our community, every single time. A locally driven organization such as the LVCI is needed now more than ever to organize local resources within a cancer care infrastructure that serves both patients and caregivers.

If you are interested in learning more about our organization or getting involved, please get in touch at info@lvcancer.org.

"We believe that the future of cancer care is bright."

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Promoting Mental Well-being Through Data Protection

In the workplace, the theft of a laptop can be far more devastating than the loss of the device itself. Beyond the immediate inconvenience and financial setback, the violation of personal boundaries can be deeply unsettling and less than ideal for your mental health. But perhaps the most distressing aspect is the potential theft of the sensitive information stored within the device.

Imagine your patient records, confidential work files, and other sensitive information falling into the wrong hands. It's a nightmare scenario, especially when you realize that methods like remote wipe and tracking are not foolproof solutions. They are so unreliable that it's an easy argument to say they aren't really even worth looking into. Therefore, it is essential to take proactive measures to secure your information BEFORE there is a need. The two effective strategies are drive encryption and strong login passwords.

Drive Encryption: Your First Line of Defense

One of the most robust and reliable methods to protect your information is drive encryption, and BitLocker is a standout tool for this task. BitLocker is a free full disk encryption feature included with Windows designed to protect your data by encrypting the entire disk drive. It works seamlessly in the background, providing robust defense without impeding your regular computer use.

When BitLocker is activated, all your files are automatically encrypted. This

means that even if your laptop is stolen, the thief can't access the data without the encryption key. In essence, while they may have the physical laptop, the information inside is locked away in a digital vault. They're left with a device but not the sensitive information it holds.

Login Passwords: The Second Layer of Security

Even with drive encryption, it is crucial to have a strong login password for your user account. A strong password acts as the second layer of security, preventing unauthorized users from logging into your account and accessing your data.

Remember, a good password is your digital key, and you wouldn't want it to be easily guessable or replicable. Make sure your password is not too short, uses a mix of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, symbols and the blood of a unicorn. Avoid obvious choices like birthdates, names, or common words. By ensuring a complex and unique password, you make



it exponentially harder for anyone to gain unauthorized access to your account and thus your data.

Protect Your Laptop!

In a world where our laptops hold a wealth of personal and professional information, the stress of potential theft extends far beyond the loss of the device itself. Protecting your data is of paramount importance, and that's where drive encryption with BitLocker and strong login passwords come into play. By integrating these protective measures, you can ensure that your sensitive information remains safe, giving you peace of mind in the digital realm. Remember, your laptop's security doesn't stop at a good antivirus or firewall; it's about the holistic protection of your data. It's about safeguarding your digital world. Do these two things and don't give it a second thought if the unfortunate does happen.

"Remember, a good password is your digital key, and you wouldn't want it to be easily guessable or replicable."



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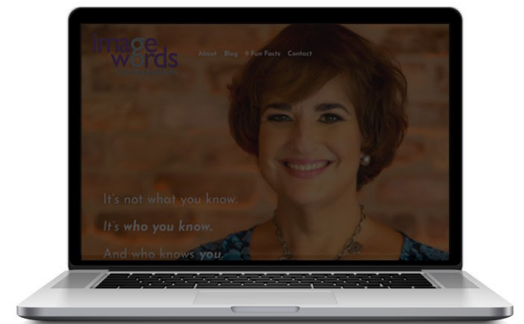


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- ◆ Oral Abstract Presentation And Awards
- ◆ Tournament Of Kings Congress Dinner
- ◆ Entertainment And More!



Keynote Speakers

Thursday, October 19, 2023

- ◆ Beatriz Dominguez-Gil, Spain
Update on latest donation and transplantation statistics

Friday, October 20, 2023

- ◆ Annemarie Weissenbacher, Austria
Future of organ perfusion and reconditioning

Saturday, October 21, 2023

- ◆ Sam Shemie, Canada
Permanence principle of death during NRP

Saturday, October 21, 2023

- ◆ Dale Gardiner, UK
Permanence principle
- ◆ Brendan Parent, USA
Bioethical aspects of NR donation/pro
- ◆ Alexandra Glazier, USA
DCD and NRP: legal concerns/con
- ◆ Wida S. Cherikh, USA
Donation for VCA in USA

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JULY 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 10 – 12
Health 2.0 Conference
Caesars Palace

July 20
Task Force Meetings
10:00 am - 2:45 pm
Viticus Group (Eastern Location)

July 11
PCA Home Care Huddle
Silverado Red Rock

Jul 26
Las Vegas HEALS Healthcare
Happy Hour
Bella Vita Restaurant (Henderson)

July 14 – 16
Cardiology & Pulmonology for
Primary Care
Bellagio Hotel & Casino



"End the Wait"



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A Nevada Transplant Institute Initiative

In 2022, more than 42,000 organ transplants were performed in the United States. Yet, every 9 minutes, someone is added to the transplant waiting list. With a growing need for organs, and a limited supply, most of the country is in a situation where transplant centers must choose who to transplant and who not to transplant and take risks on lower-quality organs for transplant because there simply aren't enough organs. In Nevada this situation is reversed, as a leading organ procurement organization (OPO), Nevada Donor Network's (NDN) recovery of organs in Nevada far exceeds the current waitlist, yet over 90% of all lifesaving organs donated by the heroic families of Nevada are leaving our state.

As the only Nevada-based OPO, NDN's core purpose is to save and heal lives through organ, eye and tissue donation, serving more than 3 million people in the state of Nevada and thousands of recipients across the country. NDN is working to end the wait for Nevadans in need of a life-saving transplant by expanding transplantation services which is currently limited to a kidney program.

The vision to expand transplantation services in Nevada represents an important milestone to create a more collaborative and robust healthcare sector. Enhancing transplantation services requires a multi-pronged approach that reaches beyond NDN. Support is required from both the public and private sectors, as well as an increased willingness to collaborate. Through highly integrated partnerships with hospitals throughout the state, expanded transplantation services will contribute to growth in the healthcare sector, economic development, research and commercialization, and an expanded physician workforce. The community will benefit greatly from innovations in patient care, increased access, lower costs, and a quality of care that meets the demands of the community.


The strategy for the development of a robust transplantation program is predicated on establishing Las Vegas & Reno as regional healthcare destinations while recognizing the need to enhance the economic vitality of the region's healthcare sector. The transplant institute will be a network of hospitals and entities working together

to plug into existing hospital systems and infrastructure while using equipment that is currently available and in place. Philanthropic funding from the community will primarily go into funding the necessary transplants needed to become accredited and investing into the overall infrastructure.

Although at an advantage both in terms of supply and geography, the level of expertise needed to provide transplant services does not exist in our state. Transplant surgery, hepatology, and anesthesia are three services that would need to be recruited for and developed. In addition to the physicians needed, the expertise of the care of these critically ill patients will need to be developed in the ICU along with the support of the complex procedure itself. This is an achievable task that will provide a service that is currently not available to Nevada residents and elevate the level of healthcare of our state.

Nevadans will no longer have to travel outside of state any longer to meet their transplantation needs. This valuable resource will now be available here locally. What this also means is that by 2040 the potential of \$356 million being added to the regional economy, 2,845 new jobs and provide \$33.8 million in state and local government revenue.

In conclusion, expanding transplantation services in Nevada will have a significant positive impact on the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of Nevadans as it expands the economy, adds thousands of new jobs, and provides millions in government revenue.



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Harnessing the Power of Interoperability: Electronic Health Records and HealthIE Nevada

By Michael Gagnon, Executive Director, HealthIE Nevada

As healthcare continues to evolve, there has been a notable shift from traditional paper-based records to Electronic Health Records (EHRs), digital versions of a patient's healthcare information. While this digitization offers substantial benefits, the key to maximizing its impact lies in the interoperability of these EHRs, which facilitates seamless sharing and utilization of health information among various healthcare providers. HealthIE Nevada, the statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE), plays a vital role in achieving this goal.

Interoperability: The Heartbeat of Modern Healthcare

For healthcare organizations, interoperability is the effortless exchange and effective use of health information across various EHR systems. Its significance stems from the potential to offer various benefits that can profoundly impact healthcare outcomes:

1. Improved Patient Care and Patient Safety:

Interoperability allows healthcare providers to access comprehensive patient records, enabling them to make informed decisions, provide personalized treatment plans, and avoid harmful drug interactions.

2. Efficiency and Timesaving: With interoperability, the manual transfer of patient records, which can be both time-consuming and prone to errors, is eliminated. It streamlines workflows by providing instant access to necessary health information.

3. Reduced Healthcare Costs: By facilitating data exchange, interoperability can prevent redundant tests or procedures, thereby reducing healthcare costs. It can also contribute to early disease detection, leading to more cost-effective treatment.

4. Enhanced Public Health Research and Surveillance:

Interoperable EHRs provide a trove of data that can be anonymized to ensure privacy and used for public health research, epidemic surveillance, and health policy formulation.

5. Patient Empowerment: Interoperability enables patients to access their medical records across various platforms, promoting active participation in their health management.

The Role of HealthIE Nevada

HealthIE Nevada is a crucial service for providing interoperability among providers and other healthcare organizations. It serves as a bridge between healthcare providers, allowing them to securely share and access patient health information electronically. HealthIE Nevada is a key component in the development of a patient-centric healthcare data system in Nevada.

1. Better Coordination of Care:

HIEs like HealthIE Nevada provide a platform for the exchange of health information among disparate healthcare providers. This exchange enables better coordination of care, particularly for patients with complex conditions that require multiple providers.

2. Real-time Access to Patient Data:

HIEs facilitate real-time access to comprehensive patient data. This capability is critical during emergencies when quick access to a patient's medical history can potentially save a life.

3. Prevention of Healthcare Disparities:

HIEs can help mitigate healthcare disparities by ensuring that patient information is available to all healthcare providers, irrespective of their location or affiliation.

4. Population Health Management:

Through the aggregation and analysis of health data from a large population, HIEs can support public health officials in disease surveillance, outbreak management, and preventive health measures.

The Current State of HIE In Nevada

While the interoperability of EHRs is an integral goal in modern healthcare, its attainment is fraught with challenges, including technological discrepancies, data security concerns, and regulatory issues. While the federal TEFCA (Trusted Exchange Framework and Cooperative Agreement) initiative is an important step forward, it is not a robust solution for fully utilizing healthcare data for services like population health or public health. Widely promoted by EHR vendors, TEFCA just expands upon already existing basic interoperability networks like the eHealth Exchange, CommonWell, Carequality and Epic Care Everywhere by lining them together. These networks provide one basic service, which is the ability to query for a full patient record from other EHRs. But these queries use only basic patient demographics like patient name and date of birth to search for records resulting in many missed patient records (false negatives).

This is where HealthIE Nevada can play a transformative role. HIEs provide more robust query services by having a master patient index which allows for very few missed patient queries and has much more robust patient data which has been aggregated and curated for uses such as population and public health. As an independent non-profit organization that has been operating for over 11 years, HealthIE Nevada can play the role of a Health Data Utility for all organizations in Nevada. Despite operating for 11 years HealthIE Nevada has received very little state or federal support to enhance its mission. The most advanced HIEs in the country are non-profit public-private partnerships. These organizations get significant public support and provide robust health data services which reduce costs, enhance patient care and patient safety, and provide robust data analytics for developing better public policies.

Empower the Future of Nevada's Healthcare:

Here's How You Can Help To be one of the best HIEs in the country HealthIE Nevada needs only two things, state funding at 10% to obtain a federal match of 90%

and a change to our outdated opt-in consent law. Based on studies from other states, Nevada could save over \$153M each year in health care costs when the HealthIE Nevada network is fully utilized. This not only offers significant health benefits but also promises substantial economic savings. HIE networks have been associated with a 50% reduction in rates of hospital readmission, 26% reduction in Emergency Department admissions, 35% reduction in repeat imaging procedures, and 10% lower 30-day readmission rates among Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries. Join us in championing better healthcare by urging your state senators and assembly members to support HealthIE Nevada's mission. Together, we can revolutionize Nevada's healthcare landscape. By facilitating secure and efficient health information exchange, HealthIE Nevada can help pave the way for a truly interoperable and cost-effective healthcare ecosystem.

For more information visit us at www.HealthIENevada.org.



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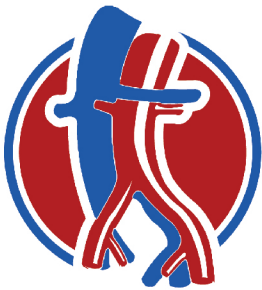
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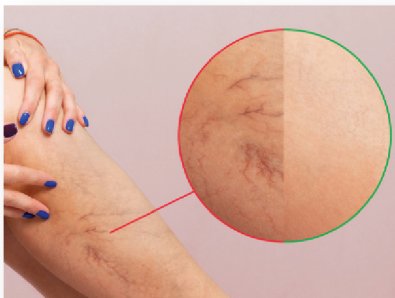
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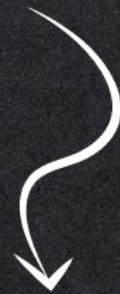
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