

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Healthbeat

New Cancer Center director

The newly expanded Comprehensive Cancer Center at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center has a new director. Boris Pasche will assume the post March 1.

As director, Pasche will be responsible for providing leadership, direction and guidance to the Cancer Center, working collaboratively with medical center leadership to advance academic and clinical missions. He will be the principal investigator of the Cancer Center's National Cancer Institute core grant, continuing its strong tradition of research excellence, while expanding basic, clinical and translational research in collaboration with departmental and center leadership.



Pasche

Pasche will also serve as chair of the department of Cancer Biology at Wake Forest Baptist. He is currently director of the division of hematology/oncology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He identified the first mutation of a gene that controls cell growth and found that some individuals carry an altered form of the gene, which increases their risk of developing several forms of cancer. He has also identified one of the first genetic links between obesity and breast and colon cancer. He has pioneered the use of low and safe levels of electromagnetic fields for the treatment of cancer.

A native of Switzerland, Pasche is currently an associate editor for the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and editor of both The Journal of Experimental and Clinical Cancer Research and Cancer Hallmarks.

Advocacy groups merge

Action for Children NC and the Covenant with NC's Children have merged to create NC Child: The Voice for North Carolina's Children. The merger, which became effective on Jan. 1, combines the strengths of each organization — rigorous research and data analysis, a statewide advocacy network, and a strong voice with policy makers — to accomplish great things for North Carolina's children.

"Our future prosperity as a state depends on our ability to raise healthy and well-educated children. Unfortunately, North Carolina's ongoing economic troubles and continued budget cuts have threatened to jeopardize the healthy development of our state's children. These challenges demand the most effective advocacy organization possible, grounded in reliable research and strong data analysis — that's why we decided to merge and create NC Child," stated Michelle Hughes, co-chair of NC Child's board of directors.

Over the next few months, the board will conduct a search for the leader of this new organization. Until then, Leslie Staroneck will serve as NC Child's interim executive director. A new logo, web site and public launch event will be announced over the next few months.

New Crisis Control hires

Patricia Bennett has joined Crisis Control Ministry as the pharmacy services coordinator. A certified pharmacy technician, Bennett



Bennett

will work with pharmaceutical companies to obtain free medications for Crisis Control clients. She will also manage the free pharmacy budget, pharmacy donation processing and volunteers. Prior to joining Crisis Control, she was a senior technician with Walgreens.

Tina Adkins has been promoted to director of client services following the recent retirement of Cynthia Fearington. Tina was formerly the assistant director of client services and has been with Crisis Control for 14 years. Adkins will manage the free pharmacy, client choice food pantry and the volunteer interviewers, as well as overseeing the client services budget.



Adkins

Chelsea Franzese has been promoted to assistant director of client services. She was formerly the pharmacy operations manager and has been with Crisis Control for over nine years. She will interview and approve clients for the food and pharmacy certification program.



Fearington

Crisis Control Ministry is a four-star rated charity whose mission is to assist people in crisis to meet essential life needs and to become self-sufficient.

Report: Blacks four times more likely to be murdered

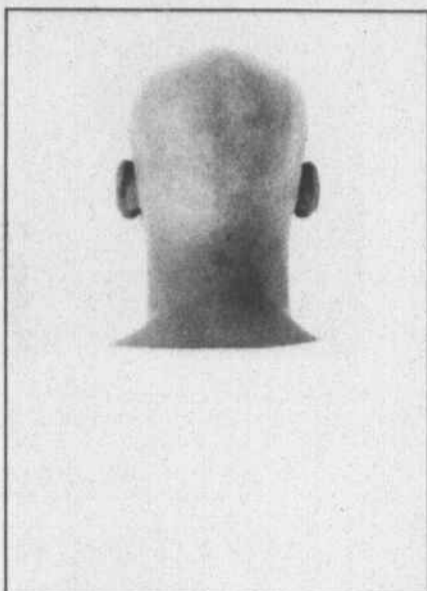
CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Black Americans are four times more likely to be murdered than the national average, and four out of five black homicide victims are killed with guns, according to a new analysis by the Violence Policy Center (VPC).

The study finds the black homicide victimization rate in 2011 was 17.51 per 100,000, while the overall national rate was 4.44 per 100,000. The national homicide victimization rate for white Americans was 2.64 per 100,000. The study refers to homicide rates in 2011, the most recent year for which comprehensive national data is available.

The annual VPC study, "Black Homicide Victimization in the United States: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data," is based on unpublished data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). This is the eighth year the VPC has released the study.

Nationwide, there were 6,309



black homicide victims in 2011. For homicides in which the weapons used could be identified, 82 percent of black homicide victims (4,949 out of 6,022) were shot and killed with guns.

Among the victims killed with guns, 77 percent were killed with handguns.

The study also ranks the states according to their black homicide victimization rates. For 2011, Nebraska led the nation in the rate of black homicide victimization with a rate of 34.43 per 100,000. Missouri (33.38), Michigan (31.54), Pennsylvania (29.02) and Oklahoma (25.51), respectively, rounded out the top five.

"Gun violence is a public health crisis that touches all Americans, but the impact on African Americans is especially devastating," states VPC Executive Director Josh Sugarmann. "This report should be a wake-up call for our elected officials to address the disproportionately high homicide victimization rate among black men and women. The longer we wait to act, the more lives will be lost."

Nationwide, the study finds that in 2011:

- Of the 6,309 black homicide vic-

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HONORING KENNEDY



File Photo

Beloved pediatrician Dr. Charlie Kennedy will be honored at the Outreach Alliance for Babies' 10th Anniversary Celebration on March 29. The nonprofit provides clothing and other baby items to infants whose families are facing financial challenges. Kennedy, who has practiced for more than 50 years, will be feted during the event, which will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn at 5790 University Parkway. Tickets are \$50. Dr. Lawrence Hopkins and his wife, Beth, are serving as honorary chairs. Learn more at www.outreachalliance.org.

Novant seeks to make impact with prediabetes program

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

When Cathy Reeder-McIntosh talks with people about how important it is to detect diabetes early, she knows what she's talking about. That's because she is one of the more than 25 million people in this country who has the disease, and managing type 1 diabetes is a daily part of her life.

Reeder-McIntosh is the assistant manager of diabetes services at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center and is coordinating the medical center's program to provide early detection screenings and diabetes education for low-income adults in Forsyth County. The three-year project, made possible from a grant by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, is seeking to enroll 500 adults diagnosed with diabetes or prediabetes into diabetes education and prevention programs.

"Our biggest challenge right now is connecting with people who are eligible for the program," says Reeder-McIntosh. "Many low-income families either don't have health insurance or if they do, their insurance doesn't cover preventive care or diabetes education. Out of pocket costs can be a deterrent to getting the help they need."

Many people don't know they have the disease or are at risk for diabetes until a more serious condition develops, such organ and nerve damage, loss of limbs or blindness, she says.

Diabetes occurs when the pancreas is unable to produce insulin or does not effectively use the insulin that is produced. Insulin is a hormone that removes glucose (blood sugar) from the blood and delivers it to the body's cells for fuel. Diabetes is a chronic disease. Once someone has diabetes, the treatment is ongoing management of the blood sugars through meal planning, weight control, exercise, stress reduction and medication if needed.

Nationally, one out of every three Americans age 20 and older has prediabetes, and those who are obese are far more likely to develop

See Novant on A9



Black doctors group fully behind Obamacare

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Last week, the National Medical Association (NMA) expressed satisfaction that more than 2.2 million people through Dec. 28 have selected health insurance plans from state and federal marketplaces via the Affordable Care Act.

NMA is the largest and oldest national organization representing African American physicians and their patients in the United States. It represents the interests of more than 35,000 black physicians and the patients they serve. The organization says it wants to see much more people sign up for Affordable Care Act coverage, including the millions of African Americans who do not have health insurance coverage.

A report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that 18.8 percent of African Americans under 65 years of age are without a health plan and that 14.2 percent of African Americans of all ages are in fair or poor health.

"It is absolutely imperative that we help reach the millions of African Americans, particularly the young people, and let them know why it is so important for them to have health insurance coverage," said Dr. Michael A. LeNoir, president of the National Medical Association. "We want to take a message of hope and concern to those within the African American community and help to educate them about the Affordable Care Act. Everyone, young and old, must understand that having health insurance is an absolute necessity."

More than 50 percent of the approximately 40 million African Americans live in the South, with the remainder living in the major urban areas of the Northeast and Midwest. Many of the states with large African American populations and with individuals who need health insurance coverage are opposing the Affordable Health Care Act and have used a variety of tactics to impede rollout of state health exchanges and the federal program, according to NMA leaders.

Texas is the largest state that has rejected the Affordable Healthcare Act, but also has 1.7 million residents uninsured, the highest number in the nation. Florida has 1.3 million uninsured low-income residents. Mississippi is the nation's poorest state and the residents there have the shortest life expectancy. All three states, along with Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia have significant African American populations. The governors and state legislators of those states are fighting against the Affordable Health Care Act.

"Many of NMA's physicians are in the South," said Dr. LeNoir. "Since most of their patients are African American, we are planning to launch a major campaign to reach individuals within their communities who are uninsured to get them signed up. Our goal is to reach all those who need coverage, but we will put an extra focus contacting young people over the air waves, at community health education events and through Facebook postings and other social media tools."



LeNoir

