

The Salisbury Bulletin

W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center, Salisbury, NC – January 2014

Inside this Issue

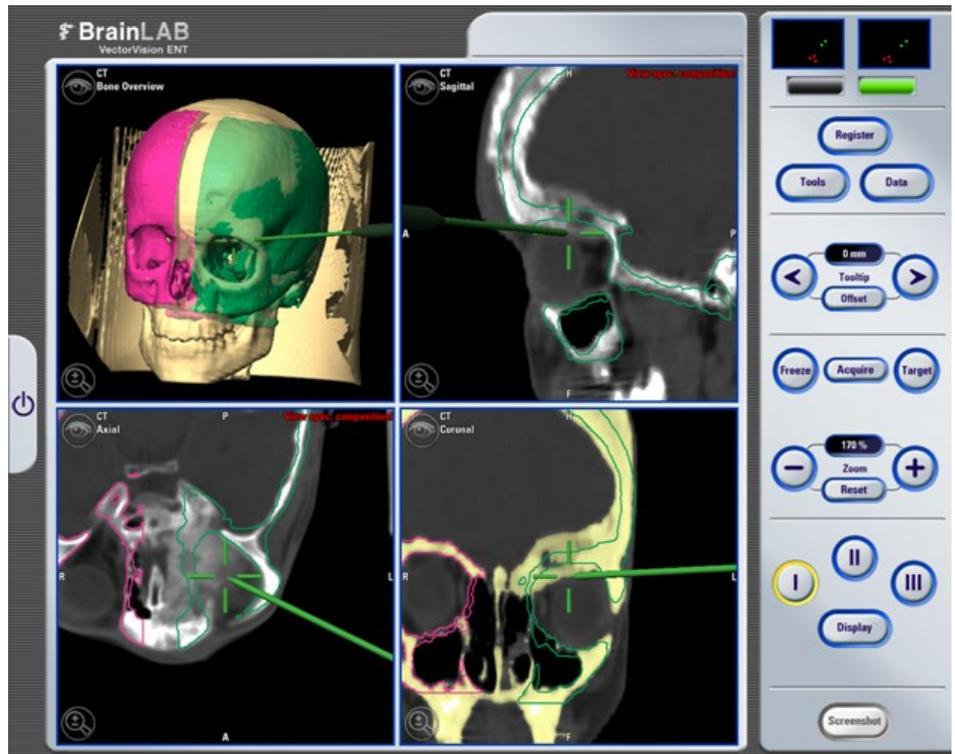
- 2 Salisbury donates record CFC amount
- 4 Words of thanks from our Veterans
- 5 Holiday Open House
- 6 From the History Books
- 11 Links and Important Information

January 2014 Observances

- Thyroid Awareness Month
- Poverty in America Awareness Month
- National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
- Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Quick Links

- [Salisbury homepage](#)
- [Salisbury Calendar](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)



Depicted is a monitor as a doctor would see it during a surgery. The new Brainlab equipment doesn't replace the use of endoscopes, but works in concert with them by using a system of sensors and infrared cameras to let doctors know exactly where their instruments are during endoscopic surgery procedures.

New technology to make endoscopic surgery more precise

By Michael Maddox

Doing endoscopic surgery can be tedious work – performing surgery in small spaces with only a camera as a guide for the surgeon. Surgeons at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center now have a new tool that makes navigating during endoscopic sinus surgeries more precise.

The medical center recently added new image guided surgery equipment from BrainLab, a company that makes products that revolve around less invasive image-guided surgery technology. The equipment is being used to perform a variety of nasal and sinus surgeries at the Salisbury VA Medical Center to include treating sinus disease, and removing benign nasal tu-

mors and nasal polyps.

Dr. Roger Cole, staff otolaryngologist, says it adds an additional margin of safety and provides more precision during surgical procedures.

“This system allows us to navigate through the sinuses as we are doing surgery to remove diseased tissue and things along those lines,” he said. “The advantage is that it lets us do more complicated procedures where the traditional surgical landmarks are distorted with an increased margin of safety. With the brain and the eyes being so close to the nasal sinuses, it helps reassure where you are in relation to those vital structures. It gives the surgeon another piece of data to do their job.”

See BRAINLAB, Page 3

Salisbury donates record amount to CFC

By Michael Maddox

Thanks to the generosity of the employees at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center and its Community Based Outpatient Clinics, the hospital recently met its goal for this year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

CFC is the world's largest annual workplace charity campaign, with almost 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country and overseas, raising millions of dollars each year.

Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (Sept. 1 - Dec. 15) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

This year, more than \$100,000 was raised by Salisbury VA Medical Center staff. Salisbury VA Medical Center Director Kaye Green said the donation is just one more way the hospital can partner with the local community.

"Even though we're part of the federal government, first and foremost we are part of this community. Our staff members have families here, we work here, we shop here – and we need to support our local community and I think that's exactly what we've done,"

she said. "I am so proud of the staff here at the Salisbury VA Medical Center for their generosity and really engaging in this community in terms of meeting and exceeding our CFC goal."

The amount donated this year set a new standard of giving for the hospital, said Jackie Harris, Rowan County Principal Combined Federal Campaign administrator.

She added, this donation was the largest she has seen from the hospital

in the 22 years she's been working with CFC.

"We are so appreciative of the support received from the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center's Combined Federal Campaign. Many non-profit agencies here locally, statewide, nationally and internationally will greatly benefit due to their generosity," she said. "We can always depend on the employees to reach out and help those in need. For that, we are most grateful."



CLC visitor

Retired Major League Umpire Larry Barnett spent time yesterday visiting our hospitalized Veterans and the residents of our Community Living Center. His visit was sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans. Barnett spent more than 31 years as an American League Umpire, retiring in 1999. He umpired four World Series, five All-Star Games and seven American League Championship Series. A Veteran himself, Barnett has made more than 3,000 visits to VA medical centers across the country and visits about 50 each year, both during and after the baseball season.

BRAINLAB, cont'd from Page 1

Judy Pennington, perioperative program nurse manager, agreed that having one more layer of safety in taking care of patients is always a good thing.

“I think that the new Brainlab equipment provides a safer way of performing sinus surgery, especially for the Veteran that has had this surgery done previously,” she said. “The surgeon is provided with a full view of the patient’s sinus cavities and the position of instruments inserted to perform the surgery.”

Cole said the new equipment doesn’t replace the use of endoscopes, but works in concert with them by using a system of sensors and infrared cameras to let doctors know exactly where their instruments are during endoscopic surgery procedures.

“Basically, a patient gets a CT scan done, and then the data from that CT scan is uploaded into a computer. The computer then uses infrared cameras from the system and reflectors that are attached to the instruments we use,” he explained. “Based on where those reflectors are in relation to the tip of the instrument, we can correlate that with the CT images in real time. So it basically allows us to triangulate where the tip of our instruments are – not only can we visually see where it is by looking at the camera and the monitor, but we can see radiographically where it is in relation to organs next to the sinuses.”

Pennington said adding new equipment like this to the hospital’s capabilities shows that patient safety is the top priority at the Salisbury VA Medical Center.

“The acquisition of this equipment demonstrates a commitment to our Veterans in that it provides them with the



safest and most technologically advanced way to perform sinus surgery,” she said.

Cole said the Brainlab equipment also has the capability to be useful in spine surgery, orthopedic surgery, and can be adapted to neurosurgery if the Salisbury Medical Center were to offer those procedures in the future.

Legion Commander visits

Patricia A. Harris, State Commander of the North Carolina American Legion, presents Salisbury VA Medical Center Chief of Staff, Dr. Subbarao Pemmaraju, with a donation to the medical center during her visit Dec. 16, 2013. The commander visited Salisbury to learn more about the medical center and to tour the facilities.



Service Santas drop in



The Service Santas from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2423 in Indian Trail, N.C., made a stop by the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center Dec. 13, 2013, to visit with patients and staff. The team visits each year to spread holiday cheer to our Veterans. Thanks Service Santas for thinking about our Veterans during the holiday season!



Words of thanks from our Veterans

My family would like to extend a special thank you to the doctors, nurses, and staff at the Hickory VA Medical Center for their care and compassion, especially to Dr. Anita Creekmore and nurse, Leslie Langer.

From the time I arrived at Salisbury VA Medical Center and was referred to the Specialty Clinics, I have been treated with exceptional attention. Sally Bame is an extremely professional nurse with outstanding skills as well as a warm and caring individual.

I would like to express my appreciation for one of your staff members who is a very special person. Lori is the receptionist in the Eye Clinic and she always has a big smile on her face when she greets you. Lori is very professional, caring, and just makes you feel good.

Thank you for the good work of Dr. Trivedi at the Charlotte VA Clinic. He has worked with me for 2-3 years and I have found him to be an excellent doctor. He communicates with clarity and is accurate in his work. His nurse, Abena is also gifted. She is kind, professional, well informed and a good teacher. Thanks for this great health support team!!! They are good souls and a real asset to us Veterans.



Holiday Open House 2013

The Holiday Open House was held at the Community Living Center Dec. 16. It was highlighted by performances for CLC residents by Navy Veteran and Flutist Krickit Shoemaker, the Sacred Heart School Choir, the Community Living Center Choir and the East Rowan High Jazz Band. Santa Claus, played by Bob Coleman, a retired Air Force Veteran, also made an appearance to spread good cheer among the crowd.



From The History Books....

Dialysis first offered in VA facilities 50 years ago

Fifty years ago, in 1963, VA opened its first kidney dialysis units as part of a pilot project at three hospitals: Wadsworth in Los Angeles, Hines, and Mount Alto in D.C.

The first hemodialysis machine was built in 1943 by Dutch physician, Dr. Willem Kolff, during World War II. In 1960, a successful shunt was developed in America by Dr. Belding Scribner and Wayne Quinton, a biomedical instrument maker, at the University of Washington hospital in Seattle to alleviate problems in filtering and circulating blood in patients using hemodialysis machines.

Within three years of that breakthrough, VA became the first Federal agency to open kidney dialysis units as a pilot project.

The first patient was treated on December 12, 1963 and, by 1966, VA's hemodialysis pilot program had progressed into a full-blown program. Ten years later hemodialysis centers were located at over 50 hospitals.

VA has been at the forefront of kidney disease research. In 1967, VA medical research investigators at Mount Alto (D.C.) "collaborated in the design and construction of a new hemodialysis system" that could treat "up to 10 patients simultaneously," while at VA's Bronx hospital, Dr. Jack Cimino and fellow researchers developed a new surgical technique "to connect an artery and vein under the skin surface of the forearm" that facilitated the removal of "blood from the body dur-

ing a purification process. . . and return [ed] blood to the body in a purified state."

The technique became known as the arterio-venous fistula.

Until recently, VA dialysis centers were located within the walls of a hospital. On May 18, 2011, VA's first free-standing dialysis clinic opened in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

One out of 10 Americans has some form of chronic kidney disease and hemodialysis is a proven lifesaver.

VA continues to lead improvements in dialysis equipment and best practices through its cooperative medical research studies and clinical trials.

Mobile dialysis units and VA's e-Kidney Clinic are just a few of recent innovations.



The first hemodialysis machine (left) was built in 1943 by Dutch physician, Dr. Willem Kolff, during World War II.

Have you heard about the Hoptel?

Did you know that the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center offers overnight accommodations of a bed, linens, private bath and evening meal for Veterans with scheduled clinic appointments or procedures?

Veterans who live more than 50 miles from the VA with a scheduled clinic appointment/ procedure within a day of their Hoptel stay who are physically and psychologically independent, able to attend to their own needs (i.e. medication administration, feeding, toileting, dressing, etc.) are eligible.

Veterans should notify their provider or clinic if lodging services will be needed. Reservations must be



scheduled prior to arrival. Anyone without a reservation will be wait-

listed as those Veterans with reservations will be given priority.

Look out for pedestrians when you visit!

When you are on the Salisbury VA Medical Center property, please be mindful of the following:

- Pedestrians have the “Right-of-Way”
- The speed limit on the campus is 20 miles per hour.
- Look both ways before entering into an intersection or crosswalk.

- It is illegal to Text & Drive.
- Use extreme caution when attempting to enter/depart the facility through the gates. The time change, line of sight, and lack of sidewalks and signals in those areas make them quite dangerous.
- Use of cell phones while driving can be distracting and it would be wise to

avoid using them while driving around campus or in high-traffic areas.

There are currently several other facility projects underway to improve Pedestrian & Motorist safety here on VAMC grounds including, but not limited to, Solar Powered Pedestrian Crosswalk signs and the installation of fixed location Radar “Speed” boards.

Minority Veterans Program - Providing equal access to all qualified Veterans

Established under Public Law 103-446 on November 2, 1994, the Minority Veterans Program is a coordinated effort to increase awareness of minority Veteran related issues and to develop strategies for increasing their participation in existing VA benefits and health care services.

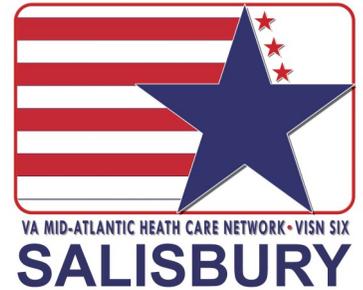
The Minority Veterans Program serves all Veterans regardless of race or ethnicity, with a primary emphasis on minority

Veterans in the local community. Veterans of minority groups include: Asian American, African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American, including American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander.

For more information, you can contact Belinda Dublin, Minority Veterans Program Coordinator, at (704) 597-3500, ext. 7983.



W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA
Medical Center
1601 Brenner Avenue



*You are cordially
invited to attend our
Groundbreaking
Ceremony
for the Kernersville
Health Care Center*

*January 24, 2014
11 a.m. - Noon*



*The event will take place at
KERNERSVILLE MEDICAL PARKWAY
Kernersville, N.C.*

*Please RSVP by January 13, 2014 to the Salisbury VAMC Public Affairs Office
Telephone: (704) 638-9000 ext. 5009 Email: VHASBYPublicAffairs@va.gov*

We look forward to seeing you!

<http://www.salisbury.va.gov/construction/new/KernersvilleHCC.html>

Directions to the Kernersville HCC Groundbreaking Kernersville Medical Parkway Kernersville, North Carolina

The Groundbreaking will take place across the street from the Kernersville Medical Center, located at 1750 Medical Parkway, Kernersville, N.C. 27284.

Please refer to the map below when planning your directions to the site.

Kernersville Medical Parkway will be closed for the ceremony, so access to the site will be available by exiting Interstate 40 or Business 40 onto US-66. Then take Industrial Park Drive to Macy Grove Road, which connects to Kernersville Medical Parkway.

