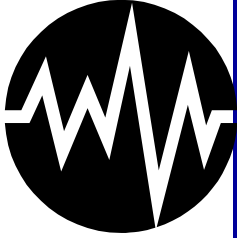


## Vital Signs



Fall Issue

October 31, 2004

*Inside this issue:*

2004-2005 Chapter Officers	2
Chapter Meeting Review	4-5
Member Profiles	6-8
Calendar of Events	7
New Members	9
Members on the Move	9

### Southwestern Utah Advances in Healthcare

By Terry Draper/Steve Vance

“When the ribbon was cut at River Road last November, we celebrated a glorious beginning, as well as a successful completion,” says L. Steven Wilson, CEO and Administrator of Dixie Regional Medical Center (DRMC). “Washington County is the fastest growing county in Utah. To provide excellent health care which meets the needs warranted by our rapid growth, our 2020 vision is to be a nationally recognized rural tertiary referral center, with capabilities comparable to McKay-Dee and Utah Valley on all levels.”

The opening of DRMC’s River Road Campus heralded the addition of the first tertiary level service – open-heart surgery. Nearly 300 open-heart surgeries have been performed at the new hospital with success rates rivaling other heart centers in Utah and across the nation. In October 2004 DRMC’s heart program was designated a UnitedHealth Premium<sup>SM</sup> cardiac specialty center, reflecting national recognition of the quality of care provided. The UnitedHealth Premium program requires and recognizes specific hospital and physician capabilities, including quality processes, adherence to evidence-based approaches, compliance with nationally recognized guidelines published by clinical societies, and their broad capabilities to handle cardiac illness and its treatment through a continuum of stages.

Work on the addition of the second tertiary level service, newborn intensive care, is well underway at the DRMC 400 East Campus. The Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic, a forerunner for families who may need a NICU, is already open. Other major developments in progress include renovations to the Cancer Center at DRMC 400 East; completion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the River Road Campus which will host a “Joint Camp” and bariatrics program; and the installation of a hyperbaric chamber for concentrated oxygen therapy.

(continued on page 3)

### Fast Facts about Check 21

by Laura Wood

October 28, 2004 was the effective date for Check 21, check clearing for the 21st Century. Most checks in the past had to be physically transported across town or across the country before they could be cleared. With new legislation the need for physical transportation is removed. Check 21 helps to eliminate delays that can pose problems for check clearing such as weather conditions or transportation problems. The collecting bank can now remove the original check from the collection and return processes by creating an image of the paper check. The check information is then processed electronically. Checks will be scanned in case you need to pull up your cancelled check. A substitute check is a document created by printing an electronic image of the original check. A substitute check includes an image of the front and back of the check. Check 21 legislation requires everyone to accept substitute checks in lieu of the original check. All types of checks except foreign checks, Treasury Tax and Loan documents, and United States Savings Bonds are eligible for conversion to a substitute check. Under the new law, all banks must accept the substitute check as they would have accepted the original.

## Chapter Officers 2004-2005

### President

**Kelly Christensen, CPA**  
Utah Valley Regional Medical Center  
kelly.c.christensen@ihc.com

### President-Elect

**Barbara Viskochil**  
Univ. of Utah Hospital  
Bviskoch.acs.uhc@hsc.utah.edu

### Secretary

**Michelle McOmber**  
Michelle.mcomber@xmission.com

### Treasurer

**Alan Robinson, FHFMA, FACHE, CPA**  
Logan Regional Hospital  
alan.robinson@ihc.com

### Board Members

Gary Dittmore, St. Marks Hospital - Founders  
Janet Malmberg, Eligibility Plus - Region Educator  
Roger Autrey, Collection Center, Inc.- Certification  
Calvin Price, University Hospital - Website  
Michael Weed, McKay-Dee Hospital - Sponsorship  
Colin Quincy, Ernst & Young - Membership

### Committee Members

Laura Wood – Newsletter  
Steve Vance - Newsletter  
Charles Birkinshaw - Newsletter  
Veneda Bennett-Bruner -Newsletter

Roger Autrey - Program Committee  
Boyd Chappell - Program Committee  
Janet Malmberg - Program Committee  
Michelle McOmber - Program Committee  
Joni Nebeker - Program Committee  
Trevor Porter - Program Committee  
Alan Robinson - Program Committee  
David Squire - Program Committee  
Barbara Viskochil - Program Committee

A special thanks to St. Mark's Hospital for volunteering their facility for our meetings on September 24th. Leslie P. Francis Ph.D. spoke in the morning on Medical Ethics. Richard Cohan J.D. spoke to our chapter next on The Role of Ethical Leadership in Organizations. Lunch was donated by Mountainstar Healthcare, St. Mark's Hospital. After lunch Mark Knold spoke on the Economic Picture. Utah's Healthcare Workforce Overview was given by Gar Elison.

### Chapter Statistics

As of 10/25/04 our  
Utah Chapter  
numbers 144

Our chapter's membership directory is now available. Please visit our website at [www.hfma-ut.org](http://www.hfma-ut.org) and click on "Members." Then click on "Chapter Membership Directory." You will be able to view all 144 members of our chapter! Try it out.



**The Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic** on DRMC's 400 East Campus provides specialty care for pregnant women who are at high-risk to deliver prematurely or have other conditions that might compromise a healthy delivery. A pregnancy can become high-risk when a problem, condition, or disorder is present or develops. Prospective mothers who may be referred to the clinic by their physicians include those who have diabetes; high blood pressure; experienced multiple miscarriages; toxemia (pre-eclampsia); heart, kidney, or liver disease; previously delivered a baby with genetic disease or birth defect; advanced maternal age (older than 35 years); twins or triplets; placenta previa (placenta in front of the baby's head); and abnormal fetal growth (especially small baby).

**The region's first newborn intensive care unit (NICU)** will be fully functional in 2005 to provide care for infants born too early (up to 17 weeks early), with low birth weights, respiratory failure, some congenital birth defects, and with other life-threatening medical conditions. These babies require the life-saving skills of neonatologists, critical care trained nurses and therapists, and highly specialized equipment and medications.

The great advantage of having a NICU at DRMC is the ability for a baby's parents and family to be close at all times. Nothing can compare to the love, attention, and motivation to improve that an infant receives from family members. Being able to stay close to home and a support system helps keep parents from becoming overwhelmed physically, emotionally, and financially by what may already be a traumatic experience.

**DRMC 400 East Cancer Center** will be renovated this winter to better facilitate coming advancement and growth of cancer programs. The hospital's former main entrance on 600 South will become the main entrance for the Cancer Center. This change will allow the chemotherapy and radiation oncology departments to grow, as well as make it more convenient for cancer patients to access the services they need. Cancer programs are also expanding to Cedar City's Valley View Medical Center. Fund-raising for a new radiation oncology treatment center there is making great progress.

Earlier this year a new linear accelerator complete with intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) capability was installed at the DRMC's Cancer Center. IMRT utilizes an advanced computer programming system that divides each of the radiation treatment beams into multiple rays and assigns different beam intensities or beam strength to the individual rays. It more precisely adjusts radiation to irregularly shaped tumors, limiting the exposure of surrounding normal tissues from undesirably high levels of radiation.

The hospital hosts a full range of cancer treatment options including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation oncology, and brachytherapy. Brachytherapy is a relatively new treatment option involving the surgical insertion of radioactive "seeds" or "crystals" adjacent to less aggressive prostate and breast cancers. Brachytherapy procedures for prostate cancer have been performed at DRMC since January 2003 with great success. Research studying the outcomes of breast cancer patients receiving high dose brachytherapy currently looks positive and DRMC plans to include this treatment option in 2005.

**Construction on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of DRMC River Road Campus** has begun. Hospital administrators, general surgeons, and orthopedic surgeons have been working together for over a year on the care delivery model for this new 32-bed unit. Joint replacement and bariatric patients will be cared for on this unit.

The joint replacement experience will emphasize patient education before surgery and physical therapy afterward. The recovery environment will feel more like home than a hospital, with a strong focus on wellness. "This concept, or care delivery model, is known nationally as 'joint camp,'" says Gary Stroud, RN and Director of the 4th Floor Services. "Joint camps focus on helping patients who have had hip and knee replacement surgery resume daily activities quickly and safely, with the assistance of health care professionals." DRMC's Joint Camp is expected to be in full swing early in 2005.

Bariatric (gastric bypass) surgery patients will also be cared for on the 4th floor. DRMC and Southwest Surgical Associates are working closely together to offer this service. Four patient rooms will be designed specifically for these patients. Their progress after discharge will be followed for several years so the success of the program can be accurately measured.

*Terry Draper is the Public Relations Director and Steve Vance is the Director of Planning at Dixie Regional Medical Center.*

August 13, 2004 Chapter Meeting



Utah Chapter members pose for a picture at the August Chapter Meeting. Pictured left to right are David Squire, Bill Johnson, Calvin Price, Martha Silliman, Janet Malmberg, Barbara Viskochil, Boyd Chappell and Joni Nebeker.



Our chapter members learned to trust each other on the R.O.P.E.S. Course.



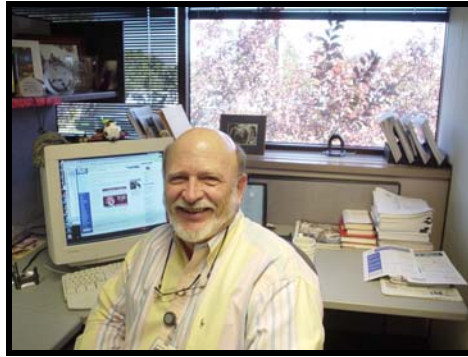
The R.O.P.E.S. course is designed to help groups with communication, team building, empowerment, problem solving, cooperation, trust and/or skill building.

When they asked about our goals for the meeting, Barbara Viskochil, President-Elect said, “We want to facilitate more interaction among members. We have a lot of members who don’t know anyone other than the folks from their organization. We also want help with communication skills and team building.”



August 13, 2004  
Chapter Activity

## Member Profile



### Skeeter Draper

***Job/Department/Company I work for:***

I am a Marketing Manager for 3M Health Information Systems.

***Responsibilities:***

My primary marketing responsibilities are for all of the Post Acute Care markets which includes Long Term Care Hospitals, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, Inpatient Psych Facilities, Home Care, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Sub Acute Care Units, Assisted Living, Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, and Hospice. I'm responsible for tracking the payment systems and government policies for these types of provider organizations and ensuring that 3M HIS develops products for this market that meet their coding, grouping and reimbursement needs.

***My family includes:***

My wife, Helen

***The best part of my job is...***

The contact with the individual care providers and teams within the post acute care healthcare delivery systems and the fact that I'm doing something different with a different piece of the market daily.

***If I'm not at work, you'll find me...***

Working on an old house, traveling, sitting and relaxing and reading.

***Pets:***

A nearly 11 year old mixed breed, yellow dog and American Eskimo, by the name of Holly, she's whitish in color and we rescued her from the pound for Christmas when she was about 8 months old

***A person may be surprised to know that...***

I've never had any training in software and computers, but have worked in a software company for over 25 years.

***My proudest moment was...***

Working for the Paralympic Games at Snowbasin in 2002.

***The best advice I ever received:***

SHOW UP...everybody is looking for good employees...EVERY DAY.

***Hobbies:***

Wood working, collecting coins, skiing, traveling, gardening, many other things but little time to pursue.

***I joined HFMA because:***

I work closely with organizations through my responsibilities and need to understand the problems they are encountering on the fiscal side of their businesses and HFMA offers the content to understand those problems.

***My favorite food is:***

Chocolate any kind, dark is better.

***A book that I would recommend:***

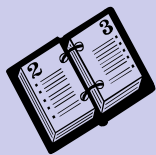
[Undaunted Courage](#) by Steven Ambrose which is the story of the Lewis and Clark Exploration of the Louisiana Purchase or [Good to Great](#) by Jim Collins or for Fiction, [The Life of Pi](#)

***My mentor is:***

(was) Ralph Hubble, who gave me a chance during the early years of my career and then helped me be successful.

***Education:***

Bachelors of Science in Microbiology



## Calendar of Events



November 19, 2004

Chapter Meeting with Larry Goldberg at Little America Hotel

January 28, 2005

Chapter Meeting

March 16, 2005

Golf Tournament in St. George

March 17 & 18, 2005

Alliance Meeting in St. George

## Member Profile



**TJ Curatolo**

***Company I work for and education:***

I work for 3M Health Information Systems. I graduated from the University of Utah in 1995 with a B.S. in Behavioral Science.

***Responsibilities:***

I work as an Account Representative in Utah, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and Wyoming.

***My family includes:***

My wife Abril, and two daughters Bella (5) and Lexie (3).

***The best part of my job is...***

The opportunity to meet and learn from so many people.

***If I'm not at work, you'll find me...***

You won't find me!

***Pets:***

I won't claim any on my own, but the girls have a cat, hermit crab, and sea monkeys.

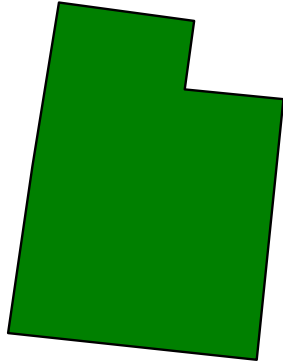
***Hobbies:***

Golf, running, playing guitar.

***My proudest moment was ...***

Personally, the birth of my daughters. Professionally, receiving the Jimmy Gamble Team Player Award at 3M.

The best advice TJ has received is marriage is not 50/50, it is 100/100. TJ joined HFMA because he wanted to better understand the financial side of the hospital industry and how 3M can have a positive impact on hospital revenue. A book TJ would recommend to read is the Bible.



# Utah Chapter Welcomes Our New Members

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Heri Sutanto	Intermountain Healthcare
Steven Turk	Motion Picture & Television Fund
David Rasmussen	Symbiont Healthcare Systems Inc.
Cordell Eggett	Intermountain Healthcare
Dean Clark	The Hyperbaric Medicine Group



## Members on the Move



Accounting employees from the Urban Central Region (UCR) which includes LDS Hospital, Cottonwood Hospital, Alta View Hospital and The Orthopedic Specialty Hospital moved September 24, 2004 and now reside together at 5022 South State Street in Murray.

**Cordell Eggett** has been accepted to the MBA program at Utah State University. Cordell is a new member to our Utah Chapter and works as an accountant for LDS Hospital.

Please help us share your accomplishments with our membership if you have a new position or employer, passed an exam, completed a degree or know someone in the membership who has attained a goal. Email Laura Wood at [laura.wood@ihc.com](mailto:laura.wood@ihc.com) with membership accomplishments.



## Fall Money Tips

By Laura Wood



The leaves have turned red, yellow and have even turned white due to the recent snow that has fallen. It may be fall but we need to be thinking green! There are four things we can do this fall to save some money.

**Credit cards:** Next time your credit-card statement comes in the mail check for a hike in your interest rate. Credit card companies have moved 3/4 of a point since June. Many card issuers impose higher rates at the start of a new quarter. If your card rates are on the rise, call the issuer and ask for a better deal.

**Career:** Update your resume. The last three months of the year are prime time for employers to either lay off or let employees go according to the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas. Many companies go on hiring sprees in the new year because they have a fresh budget to work with.

**Medical bills:** You have just three months left to use up your flexible spending plan. Check to see how much you have left in the account and use up the cash for health care bills. You might be able to whiten your teeth for the holidays!

**At home:** Simple steps such as not leaving TV's and videos on standby, switching off lights in unused rooms, switching to energy-saving light bulbs and turning down the central heating by one degree will save you money.

