

# THE RAPID PULSE

May 2005

## Faces and Places

### WELCOME

#### El Centro, CA:

LCDR Brenda Gearhart

#### Florence, AZ:

LT Grace McGill

#### San Diego, CA:

LT Nongluk Gritsanaduruk

#### San Pedro, CA:

Ms. Stacey Braddy

#### Pearsall, TX:

CDR Bujean Jenkins

CDR Daniel Reyna

LCDR Jeff Haug

LT Andrea Bishop

LT Christl Bonaparte

LT Eigna Chacon

LT Suzie Garza

LT Lyra Gibbs

LT Dale Thompson

Kay Beard

Maria Ellis

Nori Heyen

Cynthia Ibarra

Sylvia Medrano

Christine Morales

Elvia Olloque

Sandy Ramirez

Noemi Villanueva

### FAREWELL

#### Queens, NY:

LCDR Priscilla Rodriguez

#### San Pedro, CA:

LT Aaron Smith

#### Washington, DC:

CAPT GERALYN JOHNSON

CAPT DAVID MARTIN

MR. MELVIN "MJ" BATES

MRS. JUANITA STEEVES

## THE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. Gene Migliaccio

In this issue of *The Rapid Pulse*, I want to wish a fond farewell to CAPT GERALYN JOHNSON, Deputy Director, as she leaves the Division, and I want to extend my gratitude for her service to the Division.

For over eight years, Dr. Johnson has served with honor and distinction within the Division. Her dedication to duty and support of our mission has distinguished our immigration health care program as one of the finest correctional health care delivery systems in the world. Her accomplishments are solidly based within clinical services, operations, and administration. Her contribution and value to our program is immeasurable, but here are a few of her accomplishments:

- o Pioneered \$8M Electronic Medical Record (EMR) project; a first for Public Health Service
- o Decreased TB screening processing time 25 fold by establishing teleradiology program
- o Established accreditation program; 100% success rate to date
- o Collaborated on design for Port Isabel's 42 bed community hospital; in addition, she was instrumental in the design and stand-up of 2 SPCs
- o Maximized control of health care services by centralizing case management to HQ
- o Played a key role in communications with CDC during SARS crisis

Her leadership and management have not gone unnoticed as she was highly recruited by HHS, Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Health and Emergency Preparedness to assume an important role in our nation's defense system.



Dr. Johnson's last day with the Division was May 13. I thank her for the integral role she has played within our Division, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

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## Farewell

***From the Director:*** I want to take this opportunity to extend a fond farewell and my sincere appreciation to retiring CAPT David Martin, an outstanding leader and dedicated Officer who has so honorably served this Division in various roles, including Nurse, Health Services Administrator, Managed Care Coordinator, Acting Branch Chief, and Chief Inspector. He leaves a lasting legacy within DIHS!



**CAPT David Martin**

## *POMEGRANATES: THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT*

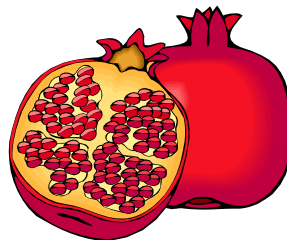
By Dr. Luzviminda K. Peredo-Berger

Biblical scholars think that the forbidden fruit that tempted Adam in the Garden of Eden was the pomegranate. Current researchers have found that it's filled with an unusually potent antioxidant that could help reduce the risk of heart disease.

Pomegranates are abundant in polyphenols. These polyphenols help to counteract the harmful molecules called free radicals. Free radicals are presumed to cause cholesterol to harden against the artery walls, slowing blood flow which allows for the development of heart disease.

Scientists have known that both Vitamins E and C are natural antioxidants but feel that the more complex polyphenols found in grapes, cranberries and oranges (fruits with dark pigment) may be far more effective.

The good news for the pomegranate is that it may be the best choice for a bountiful antioxidant fix.



A limited study was done at Technion University in Israel. Ten patients with severe blockage of the arteries showed improvement after a year on pomegranate juice- at least 8 oz daily. Granted this is not a placebo controlled

trial or conducted on a large scale patient population, but none the less, it was promising and has spurred further testing.

One distinct advantage that pomegranates have is natural sweetness. Other potent antioxidants such as green and black tea, licorice, cranberries, or grapefruits usually require an additional sweetener to enhance palatability.

Generally, plant based products contain antioxidants and no one product should be eaten to the exclusion of a well balanced diet rich in more fruits and vegetables (at least a total of 5 or more daily- the more the better).

One on-going study conducted by Pom Wonderful, a grower of pomegranates, is examining the fruit's affects on erectile dysfunction. Erectile dysfunction is affected by poor blood supply and since the pom is purported to enhance poor circulation, the company is testing the outcome. This study, along with another on prostate cancer, revealed positive preliminary results.

So go ahead and add pomegranates to a diet rich in other fruits and vegetables.

Adam lived to almost 900 years old and pomegranates may have contributed to his longevity!!

# DIHS OPENS NEW TEXAS FACILITIES

By CAPT Philip Jarres

As the Division continues to expand its mission of providing health care and public health services in support of immigration law enforcement, we celebrate the opening of the Houston site and the opening of Pearsall.

Both facilities are located in Texas. These newest ICE operated detention facilities represent the latest in terms of facility design which includes a well thought-out medical clinic setting, complete with SSU beds capable of providing medical services to approximately 1000 detainees. The current trend calls for the building of larger centers capable of delivering comprehensive on-site medical services which includes dental and mental health programs.

The Houston medical staff, under the direction of CAPT Christine Williams, Health Services Administrator, began to see patients in October from a small trailer. They were steadfast in meeting the challenges of providing services in such a setting.

In May however, they successfully transitioned operations into the newly constructed ambulatory care unit. The unit includes both general medical, isolation and mental health beds in the SSU.

CDR Bujean Jenkins, Health Services Administrator of the Pearsall facility, is currently on site with an advance party of nurses and mid-level providers, and together they are

working with Headquarters staff on the clinic start-up, which includes the logistics of ordering and setting up medical equipment and supplies, furniture and identifying and establishing off site provider services. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 17. There were over 400 attendees, including Dr. Migliaccio.

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## DIHS Says "Thank You" To All Nurses

### Nurses Week (May 6-12)

You deserve to feel special for the great work that you do.

Your heartfelt dedication always comes through.

We thank you sincerely for all that you share.

Your Attitude, Efforts, Commitment, and Care!

***Director's Message: I extend my sincere gratitude to the heart and soul of this Division- our Nurses!***

***Your value to this organization cannot be understated. You touch the patients, and are truly at the front-lines of healthcare. Happy Nurses Week to you all!***

## Our Spirit:

We add dignity to a necessary process of alien detention, serving without fanfare at the forefront of public health protection for the American populace.

# ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS SURVEY

By Dr. John Wulu

## Our Vision:

By 2008, we will be the benchmark for detention health care systems and will be recognized as having the most prestigious, dynamic and rewarding workplace within the United States Government.

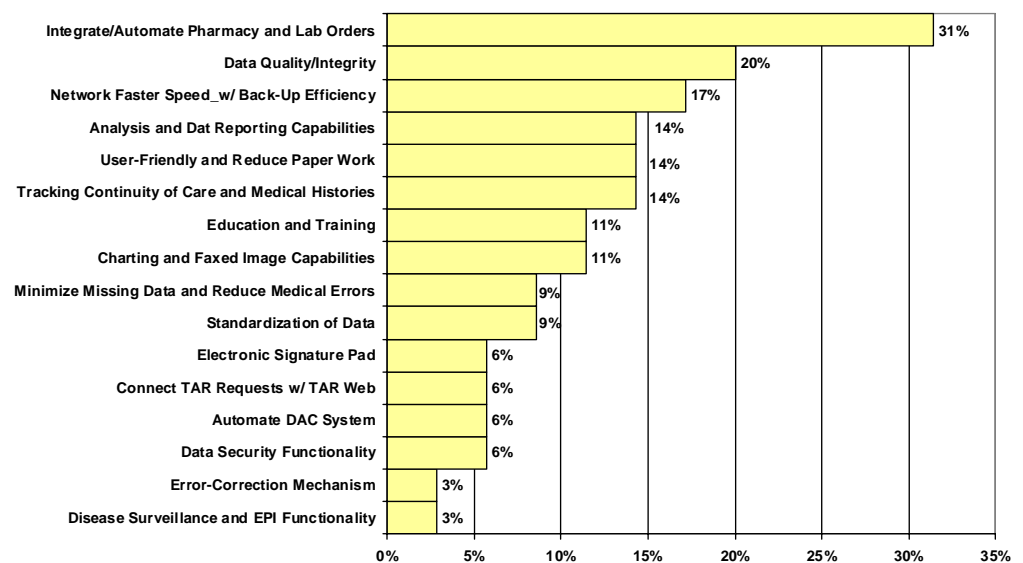
The Electronic Medical Records (EMR) informal survey was primarily conducted to collect and compile information focusing on the number one priority issue staff would recommend to improve the EMR system. The single question survey was disseminated on April 13<sup>th</sup> to the entire DIHS staff via the DIHS email system with an anticipated response date of April 18<sup>th</sup>. The response rate was about 9 percent.

The top three “Number One” things DIHS staff picked to improve the EMR system were “Integrate/Automate Pharmacy and Lab Orders,” “Data Quality/Integrity,” and “Network Faster Speed w/Back up Efficiency.” Figure 1 shows the distribution of subthemes extracted from narratives shared by respondents.

### Findings:

- Almost one-third of the narratives focused on “Integrating or Automating Pharmacy and Lab Orders.”
- About one-fifth of the narratives emphasized “Data Quality or Integrity Indicators” including accuracy of medical records, retrieval capabilities, repeatability, back tracking, completeness, representivity, readability, accountability, variability, and synthesis.
- Approximately 17 percent picked enabling “Network Faster Speed w/Back up Efficiency.”

**DISTRIBUTION OF SUBTHEMES STEMMING FROM THE DIHS ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS (EMR) SYSTEM INFORMAL SURVEY, FY 2005**  
(Sample Size n=35)



\*Source: DIHS Summary of EMR System Informal Survey Results, April FY05