Reid Neurology stabilizes, expands to serve patients

2016 has been a year of significant change at Reid Neurology. The practice recently added three neurologists, all of whom are passionate about the specialty and about serving patients in their native state of Indiana.

James Burkhart, M.D., is joined by Brian Goggins, M.D., Luke McMillion, D.O., and Jordan Raynor, M.D. Dr. Burkhart has worked at Reid Neurology since it became part of Reid Health Physician Associates in 2011; he has been a constant, reassuring presence through the years.

Dr. Burkhart was pleased to welcome Dr. McMillion in February 2016, and Drs. Goggins and Raynor on August 1. "Prior to their arrival, patients were sometimes waiting one to two months for an appointment," explained Dr. Burkhart, who has practiced neurology in Richmond for 40 years. "Some gave up and went to Muncie, Indianapolis and even Cincinnati for their care. We know we need to reintroduce ourselves to physicians and the community. We hope to build up our referral base as community physicians get to know our new doctors and see the high level of care our team offers."

Dr. McMillion completed his internship and residency at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash. He worked as a neurologist for the U.S. Army for five years, serving in South Korea, Afghanistan and Honolulu. Dr. McMillion says he is glad to be back in his home state and close to Selma, Ind., where he grew up. It is a sentiment shared by Drs. Goggins and Raynor, who became friends while attending Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

"When I was in med school, my wife and I lived about an hour from Indianapolis, so Jordan let me sleep on his couch whenever we had a big test or early call the next day," said Dr. Goggins, who grew up in Linton (near Terra Haute). "After graduating, we went our separate ways—I trained at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Jordan trained at IU. But we talked about going into practice together some day. We are both small town guys, and a place like Richmond feels a lot like home to us."

Dr. Raynor describes himself as an "Indiana guy through and through." “In a town like Richmond, you see average people facing a lot of problems, but these are my people and I want to be in a place where I can help them," said the Seymour, Ind., native. "When Brian and I looked at joining Reid Neurology, we saw a lot of opportunity to be part of building something meaningful."

In addition to his role at Reid Neurology, Dr. Raynor is an adjunct clinical professor of neurology at the Indiana University School of Medicine. The appointment will assist him in training and teaching current hospital staff as Reid Health works toward its stroke certification.

Pursuing stroke certification is just one aspect of Reid Neurology’s commitment to exceptional neurologic care. Another is the use of new drugs and protocols for patients with neurologic disease. "We want to expand our treatment of patients with aggressive multiple sclerosis, and are awaiting approval of a protocol for Lemtrada," said Dr. Burkhart. “This drug has stopped the progression of disease in many patients with MS. We are also keeping an eye on another drug awaiting final approval that would benefit these patients as well.”

Reid Neurology serves adult patients, providing general care for all conditions of the nervous system. Most referrals are for:

- Epilepsy and seizures
- Multiple sclerosis
- Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders
- Cerebrovascular disease and stroke
- Dementia and other neurodegenerative disease
- Autoimmune neurologic disorders
- Neuromuscular junction disorders
- Myelopathies and peripheral neuropathies
- Headaches/migraines
- Spasticity

For more information or to refer a patient, please call Reid Neurology at (765) 939-7711.
Welcome to...

Physicians
Bernole Batenga, M.D., internal medicine, joins the hospitalist team. Dr. Batenga earned his medical degree at the University of the Philippines in Manila. He did his internal medicine residency at Summa Health System/Northeast Ohio Medical University in Akron.

Gargi Davda, M.D., nephrology, joins Indiana Nephrology & Internal Medicine at 960 Chester Blvd. in Richmond. Dr. Davda graduated from Topiwala National Medical College in Mumbai, India. She joins Dr. Sherif Ellassal and Dr. Jacques Daoud in the Richmond office.

Brittany Merk, M.D., anesthesiology. Dr. Merk attended the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She did a one-year internship and completed her residency at Duke University in Durham, N.C.

Seneque Milien, M.D., family medicine, joins the hospitalist service. Dr. Milien graduated from Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies. He completed his family practice residency at Mohawk Valley Health System in Utica, N.Y., which included multiple rotations in hospital medicine.

Martin Muñoz, M.D., pediatrics, joins Reid Pediatric and Internal Medicine, 1485 Chester Blvd. in Richmond. Dr. Muñoz attended the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis and completed his pediatrics residency at the University of Toledo.

Charles Umunna, M.D., anesthesiology. Dr. Umunna earned his medical degree at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in Chicago, Ill. He completed his anesthesia residency and fellowship in regional anesthesiology and acute pain at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Fla.

Aaron Wasserman, M.D., emergency medicine. Dr. Wasserman attended Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio. He completed his residency in emergency medicine at Central Michigan University in Saginaw, Mich.

Audiologist
Sarah Dohse, AuD, CCC-A, earned her doctorate in audiology from Ball State University in Muncie. Prior to joining the staff of Reid ENT, 101 S. 10th St., in Richmond, she worked as an audiologist at Charles George Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Ashville, N.C., and a hearing center in Jackson, Mich.

Advanced Practice Providers
Stacy Fee, F-NP, earned her bachelor’s in nursing from Indiana University East in Richmond, and worked as an emergency department nurse for more than 14 years, including seven at Reid Health. In February, she graduated from the family nurse practitioner program at Walden University in Minneapolis. She joins Reid Urgent Care, 1350 Chester Blvd., in Richmond as a family nurse practitioner.

Shannon Shuman, NP, has worked at Reid Health since 2004. Shannon earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing and master’s degree in primary care nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion. She joins the staff of Union County Medical Center, 950 N Market St. in Liberty.

Farewell to Pat Esham!
Pat has retired after 24 years as director of medical staff development. Under Pat’s leadership, the department successfully recruited 376 providers. Before the Internet, she made a lot of cold calls, relying on lists of residents who might be drawn to Reid. She made sure providers, spouses and their children felt welcomed and appreciated. Pat was well-known in recruitment circles, and an active member of the Indiana Society of Physician Recruiters. We will miss you, Pat!

Pat’s immediate retirement plans include spending time with her beloved horses Cash (pictured) and Sofie, and traveling to Italy and Hawaii.

In the News
New Medicare option for Reid
Reid Health and Health Alliance Medicare have teamed up to offer Medicare Advantage options in a five-county area. Reid Health Alliance Medicare Advantage plans include coverage for parts C & D. Health Alliance Medicare has served the Midwest for more than 30 years with high quality and customer/provider satisfaction. Reid Health Alliance’s office is at 600 East Main Street in Richmond, providing enrollment and billing support. The plan will be offered beginning Oct. 15 for the 2017 calendar year to residents of Fayette, Randolph and Union Counties in Indiana, and Darke and Preble Counties in Ohio. Members can see providers in Wayne County. For more information: Christina Dorsett, provider relations specialist, (217) 337-8007.

Preceptors needed for NP students
Do you want to help train the next generation of medical professionals? You can when you sign up to be a preceptor for nurse practitioner students who attend IU-East. The focus is on family medicine and internal medicine. Contact Lindsey Hobson, MSN, APRN, F-NP: (765) 983-3427 or Lindsey.Hobson@ReidHealth.org
Vein Center provides relief, long-term solutions

The new Reid Vein Center offers minimally invasive therapies for patients who suffer from venous disease. Vascular surgeons treat varicose and spider veins, as well as leg discoloration, leg pain and swelling, restless legs, cramps and leg ulcers.

“We have done veins for many years, but not in an organized, concerted way,” said Michael Buckmaster, M.D., vascular surgery. “A vascular surgery group in Birmingham, Alabama, reached out to us several months ago with the idea of helping us launch the vein center, as they have done with 40 other hospitals in the Midwest. Several of us went down for a site visit, and it was clear that this group provides a superior experience for their patients. They are working with us as consultants as we establish the center, providing expertise in areas such as administrative oversight, process flow, credentialing, marketing, financial analysis and best practices.”

The vein center is part of Reid Heart & Vascular Center, which recently expanded with the addition of Brian Rapp, M.D. Dr. Rapp, Dr. Buckmaster and William Ducey, M.D., are the region’s only vascular surgeons.

An estimated 25 percent of women and 15 percent of men suffer from venous disease. “Varicose veins and related conditions often begin as a cosmetic nuisance, but they can lead to significant leg pain, swelling and difficulty sleeping, along with more serious complications such as wounds, ulcers and dangerous blood clots,” Dr. Buckmaster said. “The average person spends 10 to 20 years deliberating about having vein surgery. Our goal is to remove barriers by providing patient education and offering new therapies that minimize recovery time.” Therapies include vein restoration and venous disease prevention, endovenous laser therapy (which is new to Reid), ambulatory phlebectomy and sclerotherapy.

The procedures are minimally invasive and performed on an outpatient basis in Reid Vein Center, not a surgical suite. Local anesthesia is used and virtually no down time is needed. Most patients return to normal activity immediately.

The Reid Vein Center is located in Reid Vascular Surgery, which is on the second floor of the Outpatient Care Center on the main campus, 1100 Reid Parkway. The center accepts physician referrals and self-referrals. To learn more, please call (765) 935-8784.

The Reid Vein Center is offering a free vein screening (by appointment) on Oct. 18, from 4–6 p.m. for patients with leg pain or other concerns that could be related to vein issues. Patients can schedule by calling the Reid Vein Center directly. (Limit of 10 screenings per hour)

Symptom management team provides an extra layer of support

The new Symptom Management Team takes a holistic approach to helping patients with serious chronic diseases experience the best quality of life possible.

The multidisciplinary team includes physicians, social workers, chaplains and nurses, among others. Several team members are certified in palliative care, and others are pursuing certification. The team works closely with referring physicians, providing an extra layer of support for patients and their families.

Patients who benefit from this program include those with chronic, serious illnesses such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, cancer and many others. “These conditions cause life-limiting symptoms, but patients and physicians do not always realize the services and therapies that may be available to help,” explained Tammie Angeles, LCSW, team coordinator. “By addressing issues proactively, we may be able to help patients avoid unnecessary visits to doctor offices, urgent care and the emergency department.”

The initial assessment typically takes place in the home, and considers the patient’s physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs. “Seeing patients in their home environment provides the clearest picture possible,” said Angeles. “We also provide consults on request during a patient’s hospitalization, at doctor appointments, in nursing homes, and in the emergency department.”

After the initial consult, the team reports back to the referring physician and shares the care plan. The care plan may address issues such as:

- Depression and anxiety
- Therapies for pain management, nausea, etc.
- The need for home health care or home medical equipment
- Long-term care planning
- Advanced care planning
- Financial stressors impacting medical care
- The need for community-based services, such as Meals on Wheels

To learn more or refer a patient, call Tammie at (765) 983-3344, Ext. 4778.

Pilot program to evaluate patient interest in medical acupuncture

A closed 12-week pilot program at the Reid Health Cancer Center this fall will help gauge market demand for acupuncture as an adjunct therapy. Jeevan Sekhar, M.D., hematology/oncology, will provide therapy, track patient outcomes and evaluate patient satisfaction. Dr. Sekhar, a trained medical acupuncturist, is interested in establishing an integrative medicine institute at Reid Health that would offer tai chi, art therapy, yoga, nutrition counseling, massage therapy and acupuncture, among other therapies.
Reid physician never outgrew his love for dirt biking

Many dirt bike enthusiasts retire from competing at the national level once they hit their mid-30s. But that’s when Dr. Brad DuBois was just getting started.

Dr. DuBois, a Reid family physician at Whitewater Valley Primary Care in his hometown of Connersville, has been riding dirt bikes since junior high school. His older brother introduced him to the sport, and racing with friends got him hooked.

Dirt biking opportunities were scarce for Dr. DuBois when he was serving in the U.S. Army as a medic and laboratory technician in the early 1980s. He picked up the sport again while completing his physician assistant degree at Kettering College of Medical Arts in Dayton. When he broke his collarbone and hand in a local race, he figured it was time to retire and focus on his medical career.

But at the age of 36, Dr. DuBois heard the siren call again. By then, he had graduated from medical school and completed his residency, and was working as a physician. “I was out of shape and wanted to do something physical, so I decided to get back into racing,” he said. “To be really good, you have to train hard, not just on the track but in the gym.”

It wasn’t long before Dr. DuBois started winning local and regional races, and in 2000 he began competing nationally. Each race usually attracts 200 to 500 competitors and takes place on a 10-mile course in the woods. Arrows are printed on paper and stapled to trees to mark the route, and races can last up to three hours.

Although he has never won a national race, Dr. DuBois was ranked in the top five in his age group for several years. These days, he competes in about 15 races a year. His 50-acre property features a 1.5-mile professional-level dirt bike track, where friends often gather to race for fun. “I wouldn’t call it pleasure riding,” he said ruefully. “Every race is a bitter battle for bragging rights. We’ll snap branches and kick rocks back at each other to stay ahead.”

Dr. DuBois is fastidious about safety, but injuries are inevitable. He has sustained four ankle fractures, two collarbone fractures and a broken hand. “My wife, Denise, is supportive, but we’ve agreed that I have to quit if I get one more major orthopedic injury,” he explained. “Of course, what defines that is up for debate. I figure if I have to go by ambulance, that’s probably it. But if I can walk off the track, I’m still good.”