

News Release

Contact: Jennifer Tornetta, 609-569-7010, jennifer.tornetta@atlanticare.org
Jenna Dearth, 609-449-4318, jenna.dearth@atlanticare.org
Frank Tedesco, 609-407-2550, frank.tedesco@atlanticare.org

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2008

AtlantiCare physicians make racket at Ping Pong Tournament finals *ARMC Hospitalist wins championship*

Sixteen AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC) physicians traded their white coats for ping pong balls and paddles to participate in the finals of AtlantiCare's inaugural Physician Ping Pong Tournament recently held at the AtlantiCare LifeCenter. Narsimha Rangaraj, MD, an internal medicine hospitalist at ARMC, defeated fellow hospitalist Kashif Tufail, MD, in the final match to win the championship. Rangaraj was awarded a trophy for his winning performance.



Tournament participants included physicians who are employed by AtlantiCare, private practice physicians on ARMC's Medical Staff and ARMC's Internal Medicine Residents. They represent a number of specialty areas including neurology, surgery, anesthesiology, nephrology, orthopedics, cardiology and internal medicine. Physicians took turns refereeing the games which began in February at ARMC's Mainland campus.

According to John Saia, DO, a cardiologist at the Heart Institute at ARMC, the tournament originated after a casual conversation between two physicians about how they played ping-pong in college.



“Following their discussion, they checked with colleagues to see if there was interest in a tournament,” said Saia. “There was and it quickly grew. Although the tournament is purely for fun, it offers health benefits too. It’s a great way for physicians to take themselves out of their work element to enjoy physical activity and camaraderie.”

Through its Office of Physician Services, ARMC strives to enhance communication among physicians, staff and administration. The office partners with physicians to identify, address and impact issues that affect patient care, professional development and AtlantiCare's goal of increasing access to quality care.

(more)

(AtlantiCare physicians make racket at ping-pong tournament finals – add one)

The office supports physicians in other ways. “Doctors are facing more complex cases and meeting ever-changing healthcare needs,” said Nancy O’Connell, RN, BSN, director of Physician Services at ARMC. “Participating in the tournament is good for them on so many levels. Whether they’re treating cardiac surgery patients or seeing patients for routine office visits, physicians urge their patients to get exercise. This tournament provides an opportunity for them to unwind and relieve stress. They’re also getting to know one another in a different context, which is always a good way to strengthen relationships.”

“This was not some mom-and-pop bounce-the-ball action,” said Saia. “There was some serious ping-pong going on.”

Photo Caption: Narsimha Rangaraj, MD, an internal medicine hospitalist at ARMC, competes in the finals of AtlantiCare’s inaugural Medical Staff Ping Pong Tournament. Rangaraj won the tournament and was presented a trophy by his peers.

Photo Caption: Sixteen AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC) physicians took part in the finals of AtlantiCare’s inaugural Medical Staff Ping Pong Tournament held at the AtlantiCare LifeCenter.