

The FOCUS

Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program

2014

MedStar Franklin Square
Medical Center

MedStar Georgetown
University Hospital

Physician Spotlight



Daniel L. Picard, MD

Chairman, Department of Surgery
Surgical Service Line Physician Director
Medical Director, Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program

Dr. Daniel Picard received his medical degree from Paris Medical School in Paris, France where he also completed an internship and residency training program in General Surgery with the French Red Cross. He returned to the States where he completed an internship and residency program at Baystate Medical Center in Massachusetts. Thereafter, he was fellowship trained in vascular surgery at Lutheran Medical Center, SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn.

In 1982, Dr. Picard became American board certified in Surgery. He currently specializes in general and vascular surgery, and his extensive knowledge and expertise can be found in numerous publications and abstracts.

In 1998, Dr. Picard played a key role in establishing the bloodless medicine and surgery program at MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center (MFSMC). He has treated countless surgical patients utilizing the bloodless techniques that are common to many patients in the Jehovah's Witness community.

Dr. Picard currently serves as the medical director of the renewed bloodless program at MFSMC and is the driving force in promoting alternatives to transfusion therapy.

FUN FACT: Dr. Picard is fluent in French.

MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center
Department of Surgery
Second Floor



For inquiries or to schedule an appointment,
call the MFSMC bloodless program office
for assistance at **443.777.7793**

Patient's Perspective as told by Sharon Abney

Twelve years ago I was involved in a head-on collision with a speeding van. When the emergency response team arrived they strapped me to a board to prevent a spinal injury, and I was rushed to the hospital.

It was truly a life-altering experience. Prior to the accident, I was an extremely high-energy person, to the extent that my friends often called me an "energizer bunny". I exercised every other day, I was a fully engaged, independent, attentive mother of a small child, a wife, a business owner, and very active in my congregation — all of which brought me much joy. That part of my life now seemed to be a thing of the past.

The accident left me unable to enjoy even the smallest of pleasures, like taking a walk in the park with my family. Pain traveled through my body, from head-to-toe. There were times when even my eyes would hurt when I shut them, and I would swell up for no apparent reason.

I found myself on a quest to find some sort of relief. That was the beginning of a long series of visits to a variety of specialists: orthopedists, chiropractors, physical therapists, rheumatologists, acupuncturists, homeopathic doctors — you name them, I've seen them.

At this point depression had begun to set in, so my doctor wanted me to begin anti-depression medication. My response was a flat out "NO". I asked him which came first, the pain or the depression. Sitting in his office, tears would roll down my face uncontrollably. We were both at our wits end. My chipper personality was waning and despite my best efforts, those who knew me best could see straight through my façade.

One evening, during dinner with some close friends, the conversation turned to me and my health. Although the discussion made me a

little uneasy, it led me to the best healthcare I have ever experienced. My friend gave me the telephone number of Michael Hofmann, the coordinator of the MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (MGUH) Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program (BMSP).

Everyone in that program has the utmost respect for people from all walks of life and religious backgrounds. They always put their patients' comfort before their own by being available at any given time to offer assistance, no matter how major or minor the medical issue. That same caring attitude can be discerned in the doctors at MGUH, whom I consider some of the most compassionate, professional doctors in the nation.

I had the pleasure of meeting one such doctor, orthopedic spinal surgeon, Dr. "Bobby" Kalantar. From the moment I met him, he put me at ease. I had complete confidence that he would not only get to the root of my problem, but I sensed he genuinely cared about me as a person. As a result of our conversations, I knew I would get some long awaited relief!

Dr. Kalantar examined me, he talked with me, and most importantly he listened. On my first visit he got the ball rolling. In just days he discovered the problem that eluded other doctors for years — I had cervical spine issues. My C5 and C6 discs were completely degenerated, and surgery was inevitable. I was so sure of Dr. Kalantar's expertise that I asked how soon he could perform the surgery. If it could've been done that same day, I was willing.

In October 2012, I underwent cervical spine surgery. The bloodless program's nurse coordinator, Dick, and administrative assistant, Christine, met me in the early morning to make sure I wasn't nervous and didn't have any last minute questions. Thanks to Dr. Kalantar my surgery was very successful!

Since that surgery, I have had four other surgeries at Georgetown with the assistance of the bloodless program. My 94-year-old mother-in-law and my 14-year-old daughter have both been successfully treated at MGUH through the bloodless program, by orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Mark Zawadsky, and pediatric oncologist, Dr. Aziza Shad.

MGUH with its bloodless program is, and will always be, my hospital of choice for my entire family.



Photo courtesy of Sharon Abney

Sharon Abney, with her husband Frank, sought out the MGUH bloodless program for relief from her cervical spine issues.

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A Bloodless Program is Revived in Baltimore

Like the Phoenix bird, the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program (BMSP) at MedStar Franklin Square Medicine Center (MFSMC) has risen from the ashes. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Samuel Moskowitz, President of MFSMC, Dr. Daniel Picard, Chief Medical Officer, and our very own Mike Hofmann, MFSMC's BMSP is once again serving the medical needs of the Jehovah's Witness community in Northern Baltimore County.

In the 1990s, MFSMC was at the forefront of providing bloodless medical care for Jehovah's Witness patients. The hospital's new bloodless program was the first of its kind in the greater Baltimore/Washington area. At that time, blood conservation strategies were in their relative infancy and programs were very rare across the country. Rough estimates place the number of fully functioning bloodless programs to nearly 50 hospitals across the United States.

Today there are nearly 200 formalized bloodless programs nationwide. Alternatives to blood transfusion have expanded and have been transformed into comprehensive care plans which have improved the surgical outcomes of Witness patients without violating their religious beliefs. Thanks to the Witnesses, the medical community has gained valuable experience in caring for the severely anemic patient, and they have gained better insight on how well humans tolerate anemia at levels previously considered incompatible with life. Jehovah's Witnesses should be acknowledged for their contributions to history of medicine.

As part of the re-opening of the BMSP at MFSMC, an open house was held on Saturday, November 23, 2013. The event was held in the hospital's Kotzen Auditorium. The remarkable attendance of well over 180 participants was a clear indication that the program will be well-received and will serve as a vital resource to the Witness community in Baltimore county.

Mr. Moskowitz opened the program by welcoming the attendees. He, too, was very

impressed with the turnout and was very thrilled that the bloodless program has been revitalized at MFSMC. Mike Hofmann spearheaded the movement to resurrect the dormant program, and he serves as the program coordinator while continuing in his role as the coordinator of the BMSP at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital.

Additional presentations at the open house included a presentation by Dr. Daniel Picard. Dr. Picard first introduced the bloodless concept to the hospital and was instrumental in establishing the early program. He is a champion for bloodless surgery and the broader concept of patient blood management. His presentation focused on the past, present, and the future of the BMSP at MFSMC. Dr. Picard serves as the medical director of the BMSP.

Next on the program was hematologist/oncologist, Dr. Michael Auerbach. Dr. Auerbach is an international expert in the use of IV iron for treatment of anemia, and he has an exhaustive résumé of published scientific papers on the topic of IV iron therapy. He delivered a very knowledgeable, passionate, and entertaining presentation regarding the use of IV iron as an adjunct treatment therapy for anemia and other medical conditions.

The final presentation was given by the MGUH's nurse coordinator, Dick Verstraete, RN. Dick discussed alternative treatment modalities that are the core of bloodless medicine and surgery. To conclude the program, Mike took the opportunity to introduce the new nurse coordinator of the bloodless program at MFSMC, Jeong Chae, RN (see Mr. Chae's profile below).

With the revitalization of the bloodless program at MFSMC, we have now expanded our service area, and you now have a broader array of expertise in medical and surgical specialties. We hope that you will take advantage of our services and spread the word to others about the bloodless programs at MFSMC and MGUH. And whatever medical questions you may have, our nurse coordinators are standing by to take your call at either one of our two locations.

By Dick Verstraete, RN

From the Coordinator's Desk:

It was so nice to see so many able to attend our MFSMC Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program Open House in November. From the numerous comments of appreciation it was clearly a very interesting and informative opportunity to learn more about the Program.

The opening remarks by MFSMC's President, Samuel Moskowitz, made it evident to all that the administration is fully supportive of this program. Both Dr. Picard and Dr. Michael Auerbach have been fully committed to treating patients who request alternatives to blood transfusions. We appreciate their pioneering efforts in this field and recognize what a valuable resource they are.

We were equally pleased to announce the addition of registered nurse, Jeong Chae, to serve as nurse coordinator for the bloodless program. Jeong has worked as a nurse at MFSMC for over three years and is very familiar with the operations of the hospital and its staff. In addition, he is personally familiar with the importance of alternative strategies for patients seeking non-blood medical management. He is a great asset to the bloodless program team.

We look forward to holding additional educational seminars in the months to come in continuing our effort to bring quality care to our community. We hope to see you then, and thank you in advance for your constant support!

Mike

Michael K. Hofmann
BMSP Coordinator, MFSMC & MGUH



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The MFSMC BMSP Welcomes Nurse Coordinator...



Jeong Chae, RN

- Joined MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center in 2009
- Received his Associate of Science Degree Registered Nurse in 2010 from the Community College of Baltimore County
- Is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing from Kaplan University
- Lives in Timonium, MD with his wife and two children

TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

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