

from the front page

WHERE THE DOCTORS ARE
A DAILY SUN SPECIAL REPORT



Photo provided
Neil Manimala, a USF Morsani College of Medicine student who recently completed a clerkship with The Villages Health, joined a group of fellow medical students at the Bakas Equestrian Center in Tampa last year to perform pre-participation physicals on disabled children who were participating in horseback riding.

Getting the Experience, For a Lifetime of Service

Manimala impressed with the high level of care and the personal service TVHS provides.

By **LARRY CROOM**
Daily Sun Ombudsman

Neil Manimala, a University of South Florida medical student, recently completed a third-year clerkship with The Villages Health. During that time, he worked alongside Dr. Michael Wald and Dr. Paul Daluga of the Mulberry Grove Care Center, and Dr. Saul Rosenblum and Dr. Kimberly Giovannelli of the Santa Barbara Care Center. The Tampa resident hopes to become a urologist after graduating from medical school.

Here are some of Manimala's thoughts on his experiences here:

What do you think about having medical students come to The Villages Health for training?

I think it's fantastic, not just because the physician-educators are brilliant at their craft, but even more importantly, the patient population is wonderful to work with. Medical students need to be placed in environments that foster humanism and permit a return to the basic values that got them into the field in the first place.

All the options that modern technology provides us, from the lab tests and advanced imaging, can distance us over the years from the very patients we are trying to treat.

The Villages Health provides students an opportunity to really spend time in exam rooms and return to the basics of medicine with their patients.

While other systems sometimes rush practitioners from room to room, The Villages Health allows for providers to spend a longer time in each patient exam room, which permits more time to really sit down and listen to what the patient is saying. This opportunity carries over to students, who can talk to the patient and help determine a treatment plan before their preceptors walk in to take over.

The hands-on experience at The Villages enables students to become more well-rounded practitioners who are firmly grounded in the ideals of humanism and compassion.

What did you think about the people you worked with at The Villages Health?

I am so grateful to them. The Villages Health has a range of doctors who have been in practice for varying spans of time – all with valuable perspectives. I especially want to thank Dr. Saul Rosenblum and Dr. Michael Wald, both of whom took me under their wing in my time at Santa Barbara and Mulberry Grove.

The staff throughout both centers is truly remarkable! Riddhi Patel, Lea Boisvert, Ashley Dalke, Maria Atchison

and Connie Henderson at Santa Barbara; and Michael Sellen, Arlisa Cepeda, Tammy Plotner and Shawn Risch at Mulberry Grove are just a few examples of some of the people who made a lasting impact on me.

I am also thankful to fellow USF Morsani College of Medicine graduate Dr. Kimberly Giovannelli. I spent a few days at The Villages Regional Hospital with Dr. Paul Daluga and seeing the system there was eye-opening as well.

How valuable was this clerkship to you?

It was one of the most valuable experiences of my time in medical school because I spent it at The Villages, which is certainly a unique place. The experience was one that I will carry with me for the rest of my career. The things I learned, the conversations I had and the people I met were truly exceptional. I can truly say that there are not too many health-care establishments like The Villages Health in the country.

Would you say you learned a lot during your time here?

I learned so much in so many arenas of my personal development. Perhaps even more important than specific nuggets of medical knowledge was the perspective I gained by working with senior citizens. Conversation with The Villages patient population is ripe with opportunity to gain wisdom and clarity. I will never forget some of the interactions I had, from the man who just needed his shingles vaccine or the woman who had metastatic colon cancer and just wanted to talk. I

learned that sometimes the best medicine is a good hug, a strong handshake or a warm smile.

What are your thoughts on primary care?

I think it is critical that we, as a nation, have a strong primary care system to not only reduce costs within the health care system as a whole, but to also ensure that patients receive the best care that they can receive, either directly in their primary care physician's office or through referrals to specialists. It is important to overall public health that regular checkups and screenings happen. I think that an emphasis on preventative health is not only appropriate but also critical to our status as a well nation.

Were you surprised to find such an active community in The Villages?

I was a bit surprised at first, but it made sense the more I got to know the folks there through conversation. It seems like everybody has a spirit to keep living life to the fullest and staying active through exercise is one of the best ways to maintain that quality of living we all so thoroughly desire. Indeed, I still sometimes look to some of my patients up at The Villages as an inspiration for me to get out of the library and go for a swim.

What will you tell other medical students about your experiences at The Villages Health?

I will tell them my experiences were great and that they should certainly do a rotation there.

THE NEIL MANIMALA FILE

Age: 24
Third-year medical student: University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
Undergraduate: University of South Florida (2010)
Major: Biomedical Science
High school: King High School, Tampa (2008)
Favorite movie: "Batman Begins"
Favorite television show: "SportsCenter"
Favorite color: Green

WHAT DOCTORS ARE SAYING ABOUT NEIL



What I like to do is I like to get the students on a one-to-one basis seeing patients with me. It's one thing to teach in classroom, but when you get them seeing patients with you, that's really where the essence of learning occurs. I've been exposed to a number of medical students, and like anything else, there are some good and some that aren't so good. Every once in awhile, however, you hit upon a special individual, and Neil is one of those special guys."

DR. MICHAEL WALD
Mulberry Grove Care Center



As with all medical students, Neil brings a wonderful amount of enthusiasm and excitement to the job. It's part of our responsibility, being physicians, to teach the next generation of physicians what this is all about. We try to teach them great communication skills. We try to teach them how to deal with people, facts of medicine and techniques. But it kind of gets our juices flowing because we have students who get us thinking about some of the basics and going back in time to when we were that age. It's also important to let them know where we think the field of medicine is going, where the needs are and whether they are interested in those areas. It was just a great experience."

DR. SAUL ROSENBLUM
medical director, Santa Barbara Care Center

For Dr. Giovannelli, Villages Health Was Perfect Job After Residency

By **LARRY D. CROOM**
Daily Sun Ombudsman

When Dr. Kimberly Giovannelli completed her residency program at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg last year, she had her sights set on one place – The Villages Health.

Originally from Ocala, Giovannelli knew that she wanted to be close to home when she started her primary care career, so a trip to Florida's Friendliest Hometown definitely was in order.

"I'd heard about this new practice that was coming up in The Villages, with more time with the patients and all kinds

of Marcus Welby-style doctoring," she said. "So I asked for an interview."

Both sides quickly realized that they were a good fit for each other, so Giovannelli finished up her residency, got married and became a part of The Villages Health. Not surprisingly, it's a move she is glad she made.

"In some primary care settings, you don't have time to teach and you don't have time to really explain diagnoses," said Giovannelli, who practices at the Santa Barbara Care



Kimberly Giovannelli, M.D.

Center. "I came here because you have less patients and more time with each of them so you can do a better job. And you really feel like you answered people's questions."

Giovannelli, whose father and father-in-law are doctors, mother is a retired nurse and younger brother is in podiatry school, said she initially went to the University of South Florida's Morsani College of Medicine with the goal of becoming a pediatrician. But that plan changed when she spent time with a family medicine doctor.

"The whole year, every Tuesday, I would work with him and I loved his job," she said. "I like to talk and hang with patients, so this is also

where my personality meshed the best."

Giovannelli said a plus that she brings to the table is that she recently completed her medical board exams and is quite familiar with the most current guidelines and technologies, to name a few things.

"But they can tell me what works in the real world," she said of the experienced physicians she works with. "They say, 'I've been doing this for a bunch of years and I haven't seen this. Or I have seen this all the time, or you need to think about that. It goes both ways, but it's definitely experience that's important.'"

As for medical students who are considering a career

in primary care, Giovannelli said she would be the first to encourage them to pursue it.

"I think our generation is going to be the one that changes things around," she said. "Primary care will drive the whole thing and more people will want to do it when you feel like you're more involved, more rewarded and given the time to do what you actually need to do."

Dr. Saul Rosenblum, medical director of the Santa Barbara Care Center, said it's a huge benefit for Giovannelli to have access to the vast array of knowledge that her experienced colleagues bring to the table each day.

"There's things that she

teaches us and we teach her some of the old things that are coming around again or ways of dealing with issues from experiences we know," he said. "There's a lot of communication and give and take. It just makes it an exciting place to be."

For a new doctor, Rosenblum added, that kind of assistance is extremely important.

"I can't tell you enough how comforting that is," he said. "It's just getting that extra brain power to offer their opinion on cases. We talk to each other, have meetings with each other and present cases to each other. So that communication is available to all the physicians throughout the whole day."