

**Maxine Mesinger
Multiple Sclerosis
Clinic**

**Director: Victor
M. Rivera, MD**

**Asst. Director:
George J. Hutton,
MD**

**Clinical Trial Co-
ordinator: Wini
Breitbach, RN**

**Research Coordi-
nators:
Shell Laday, RN;
Jeanene De La
Rosa**

**International Co-
ordinator: Cris-
tina M. Rivera**

**Clinical Social
Worker: Tracey
Reeves, LCSW**

**Receptionist:
Ange Covalt**

**Dr. Rivera's Sec-
retary: Rose Salz**

**Dr. Hutton's sec-
retary: Ivonne
Fougerat**

**Cashier: Nedra
Edwards**

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The MS Messenger

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The Maxine Mesinger Multiple Sclerosis Clinic

The goal of the Baylor College of Medicine's Maxine Mesinger MS Clinic is to make life livable for persons with MS. The clinic strives to achieve this goal through direct clinical care, research and community outreach.

The clinic first opened in the fall of 2003 in the spacious and accessible suite it occupies today in the Neurosensory Building at The Methodist Hospital & Baylor College of Medicine. It is named in honor of Maxine Mesinger, a Houston Chronicle columnist, who suffered from MS and died of complications related to MS in 2001.

The services provided at the clinic include:

- Full neurological evaluation



Reception area of the Maxine Mesinger MS Clinic

- Treatment of MS symptoms and episodes with current medications

- Investigational drug trials of new treatments of chronic and relapsing MS
- Physical and occupational therapy evaluation
- Neuropsychological cognitive evaluation
- Social services evaluation and counseling
- Nursing services
- Well-woman exams

(Continued on page 2)

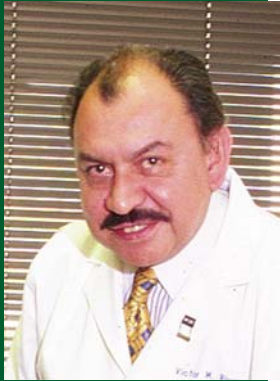
Meet The Staff

In every issue, we will introduce you to the dedicated team of individuals who comprise the staff of the Maxine Mesinger MS Clinic.

Although these individuals come from different profes-

sional backgrounds, they are all united in their desire to find a cure for MS and erase the devastating effects of the disease and are all experienced, knowledgeable and caring.

In our first issue, you will learn a little bit about the Medical Director and Assistant Medical Director of the clinic. Look for more bios in the issues to come!



Victor M. Rivera, MD

Medical Director: Victor M. Rivera, MD

Dr. Victor M. Rivera is a full Professor of Neurology at Baylor College of Medicine and medical director of the Maxine Mesinger Multiple Sclerosis Clinic of Baylor at The Methodist Hospital. He is currently Attending and Director of the Neurology and Surgical ENT/EYE Unit of the Neurosensory Center, The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas.

At The Methodist Hospital and during the course of time, Dr. Rivera has served under different capacities:

Deputy Chief of Neurology, member-at-large of the Medical Staff Executive Committee, Chairman of the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Quality/Assurance Committee and member of the International Advisory Committee and more recently, member of the Neurology Care Management Performance Improvement Subcommittee.

Dr. Rivera was the first resident in the Department of Neurology at Baylor where he finished his training before joining the faculty of the col-

lege as Deputy Chief of service at the Harris County Hospital District in 1970 at age 29. He has been the recipient of teaching awards from Texas Women's University and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine. He has also been a staunch supporter of research by this PMR Department's "Center For Women with Disabilities".

He actively participates in scientific, clinical and epidemiological studies (con't p.3)

Are you fully utilizing the clinic services? Give us a call...we're here to help.



George J. Hutton, MD

Clinic (continued from page 1)

- Educational services including information about MS, disability and insurance issues
- Staff neurologists
- Physiatrist
- Nurses
- Social worker
- Research coordinators
- Receptionist & Administrative assistants
- International services coordinator
- Medical technician
- Neuropsychologist
- For more info or to make an appt, please call 713-798-6296.
- Psychiatrist
- Medical Director
- Asst. Medical Director

Assistant Medical Director: George J. Hutton, MD

George J. Hutton, M.D. is Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine Department of Neurology in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Hutton graduated from Duke University and received his medical degree from Vanderbilt University Medical School. He com-

pleted his internal medicine internship and neurology residency at Baylor College of Medicine, serving as chief resident his final year. He then completed a fellowship in Multiple Sclerosis at Baylor College of Medicine.

He serves on the Clinical Advisory Committee of the Lone Star chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and also chairs the Clinical Programs Committee of that organization. (continued on page 3)

Dr. Rivera (continued from page 2)

and has published over 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals, 25 book chapters, edited two books, written the preface of four major neurological books in Spanish and one in Portuguese, lectured in more than 100 international events and chaired 8 international meetings.

Dr. Rivera was a founding member of the Latin American Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (LACTRIMS) and finished his second term as elected President of this association that promotes education, research and public awareness in

Latin America (23 countries); these programs include the increasing Latino population in the USA. The prevalence of this disease appears to be increasing significantly in the Latin American region.

Dr. Rivera has been awarded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) six certificates of "Appreciation", one "Recognition as Volunteer" and one "Citation of Merit". He has served an unprecedented four non-consecutive terms elected as Chairman of the Clinical Advisory Committee of the Lone Star Chapter of the NMSS,

the largest in United States. In 1996 he was chosen "Volunteer of the Year" by the Lone Star Chapter of the NMSS. Largely due to his work with the Chapter in the clinical aspects of patient services, the MS Clinic for the indigent at Harris County was developed at the Ben Taub General Hospital in 1992, staffed by Baylor faculty and residents. In 2003 he was elected to the National Council of Clinical Advisory Chairs of the NMSS and inducted into the prestigious *Voluntary Hall of Honor, Health Professional Category*.

Getting involved in your community can enhance your physical and emotional well-being!

Health & Wellness

Living with MS Conference

The NMSS is hosting a conference in **Beaumont TX on Saturday, July 8th from 8:30am-noon**. Speakers include Dr. Rivera as well as Beaumont experts on yoga, nutrition & wellness. RSVP by calling 800-344-4867 and pressing option 1 on the phone menu.

Yoga

The National MS Society sponsors an adaptive yoga class **every Monday from 6:30-7:30 pm** at the JCC Merfish Center located at 9000 S. Rice, 77096. If you are interested, please RSVP weekly the Friday prior to class by calling 713-526-8967.

Health Promotion Program

Volunteers are needed for a BCM research study of health and wellness for women 45 or older whose MS limits self care or daily activities. Participants will receive compensation & two wellness sessions. Please call 713-798-5782 for more info.

Dr. Hutton (continued from page 2)

He directs the Multiple Sclerosis Clinic at Ben Taub Hospital and serves as the assistant medical director and director of clinical research of the Maxine Mesinger Multiple Sclerosis Clinic of Baylor College of Medicine at The Methodist Hospital.

He is married and has two sons. He recently completed the MS 150 in April and has ridden in this event for the past 6 years. He has also been recognized as a top fundraiser in this event since 2003.



Dr. Hutton cycling in the MS150.

BCM

Baylor College of Medicine

Maxine Mesinger
Multiple Sclerosis
Clinic

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“Making life livable for persons with MS.”

National MS Society Corner

MEDICARE PART D

As most of you are probably aware, beginning this year, Medicare began offering beneficiaries prescription drug coverage called Medicare Part D. Many persons with MS have found the program choices to be complicated & some have experienced unexpected changes in the process of obtaining medications .

Fortunately, the National MS Society is offering one-on-one counseling to Medicare recipients who wish to know more about the program & want to make an informed decision about prescription drug cover-

age.

Counseling is provided by telephone at 1-877-524-4044 & if you live in Austin, Dallas, Houston or San Antonio, you can also make an appt. for in-person counseling which is offered between 10am-2pm on the 2nd



Arriving at camp!

Thursday of the month.

NMSS CAMPS

Camp Can Do was held May12-14 at Camp For All in Burton TX and provided 40+ persons with MS the chance to meet others with MS & spend some time away from home in a safe, fun and relaxing environment. If you haven't had an opportunity to attend camp, consider participating in Family Discovery Camp in October which offers the opportunity for persons with MS as well as family members to experience a variety of outdoor activities in comfortable, accessible surroundings. Contact Nan @ 713/526-8967 for more info.