

Good news. Great works. Community spirit.

Epilepsy monitoring unit dedicated at Holy Cross



Sister Margaret Crowley, left, Sister Claudia Steger, Dr. Eduardo Locatelli, Sister Margaret Ritchie and Sister Ann Driscoll

Holy Cross Hospital and South Florida epilepsy expert Dr. Eduardo Locatelli, MPH, founder and medical director of Florida Neuroscience Center, recently celebrated the opening of a four-bed epilepsy monitoring unit with a blessing and dedication ceremony.

The brand new unit houses state-of-the-art digital equipment to monitor and assist with the diagnosis of complicated seizure cases while patients stay in comfortable private rooms in a medically supervised environment.

Normal brain function is made possible by electrical charges passing between nerve cells in the brain and throughout the body.

Epilepsy, the third most common neurological disorder in the United States, is a condition that causes the brain to produce sudden bursts of electrical energy that disrupt other brain functions. These bursts may affect a person's consciousness, bodily movements, or sensations for one to three minutes.

In a monitoring unit, a patient is connected to an electroencephalograph (EEG) machine via dozens of tiny wires that are taped to the head. Locatelli records continuous brain wave activity with simultaneous video recording. Brain waves during or between seizures may show special patterns,

which help the doctor decide whether or not someone has epilepsy.

Sometimes, a seizure can be induced if it is known what type of stimuli causes it, such as music or loud noises.

Located in Fort Lauderdale, Neuroscience Center is a state-of-the-art private medical practice specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy and other neurological conditions such as headaches and Alzheimer's disease.

Locatelli holds triple boards in neurology, neurophysiology, and neuroimaging. He holds a master's of public health in addition to his medical doctorate degree. Dr. Locatelli has also earned certification as a Six Sigma champion.

Prior to opening Florida Neuroscience Center, Dr. Locatelli was the director of the epilepsy program, director of medical informatics, and chairman of the ethics committee at Cleveland Clinic Florida. He completed his internship, neurology residency, and fellowship at George Washington University.

Additionally, Locatelli completed a fellowship at the prestigious National Institutes of Health. He is the co-author of *Locatelli & Singh's Handbook of Neurology* and many scientific papers.

For more information, visit them on-line at www.florida-neuroscience.com. ■