

The Diagnostics are in the Details

By Susan I. Shiber

Photography by Kelly O'Keefe

Darlene A. May, MS, RT (R), LRT, has an extensive resume. She spent several years as chief technologist at the New York City Police Academy after graduating from Bellevue Hospital. Her next career move was two hospitals in Las Vegas where she held supervisory posts. A radiology director appointment took her to NorthCrest Medical Center in Tennessee.

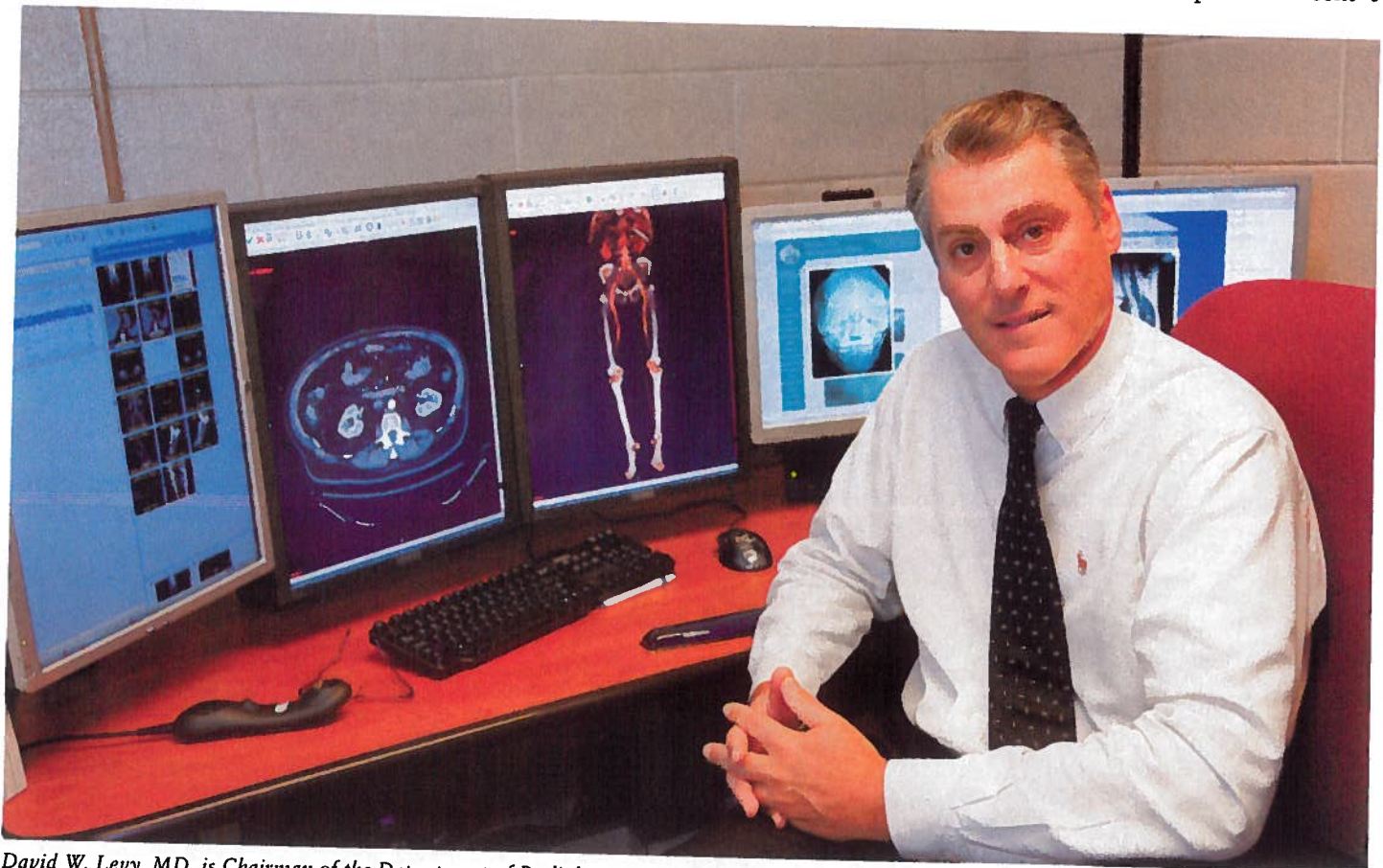
Several years ago, May decided to pursue other career options. With outstanding credentials and excellent references, choices were plentiful. May chose Phoenixville Hospital in 2006. She is now Administrative Director of Imaging Services, which includes the Heart Station, 11 additional departments, and more than 100 employees at both Phoenixville Hospital and its Outpatient & Surgery Center at Limerick. "When I walked in the door, I knew immediately that this was where I wanted to be," stated May. "There was something so different about the hospital – the layout, the camaraderie, the warmth. It felt right because everyone

including the doctors, nurses, middle managers, and support staff is part of a team. I quickly saw how they go all out for patients, which is very impressive."

May stated that Steve Tullman, CEO, had a huge impact on her decision. "He is a really smart man who is very approachable, very to the point, very proactive. When I was in his office, I saw his visions for the hospital, which have since become a reality. He's a great leader, and working for a great leader makes my job easier."

A third reason the talented director joined the hospital is David W. Levy, MD, Radiology Department Chairman. "Dr. Levy was in agreement with Steve Tullman's goals," recalls May. "He proposed fresh new ideas and has accelerated significant accomplishments in the department."

Diagnostic Imaging provides mammography, general X-rays, ultrasound, DEXA scan (bone density tests), CT scans, and MRI. There are more than 122,000 imaging procedures completed each year, and reports are sent to



David W. Levy, MD, is Chairman of the Department of Radiology at Phoenixville Hospital and a Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania.



Phoenixville Hospital has a clinical affiliation with the Department of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania. Shown here are: David W. Levy, MD, Chairman, Department of Radiology, Phoenixville Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Pennsylvania; Steven Greenberg, MD, Director of Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Phoenixville Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Pennsylvania; Jonathan Rubin, MD, Interventional Radiology, Phoenixville Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Pennsylvania; and Asha Kovalovich, MD, Neuroradiology, Phoenixville Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Pennsylvania.

physicians within minutes of exams. "Outpatient stat test results are often delivered to the referring physician's office before the patient returns," says Dr. Levy. "With PACS (picture archiving and communication system), doctors can bring up studies on computer screens anywhere in the hospital. In earlier days, X-rays were stored in jackets, and only one person at a time could review them. Now they are available to multiple parties, 24/7."

Dr. Levy and his many board certified physician colleagues are members of the University of Pennsylvania Department of Radiology. Technologists are ARRT (The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists®) certified and specialty certified for each modality performed.

Recently purchased equipment streamlines diagnostic procedures and ensures greater patient safety, satisfaction, and treatment outcomes. A state-of-the-art 1.5T Siemens MRI features an array of cutting-edge applications that accelerate its operation. Radiologists are able to view tiny details with incredible clarity.

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Darlene A. May, MS, RT (R), LRT, is now Administrative Director of Imaging Services, which includes the Heart Station, 11 additional departments, and more than 100 employees at both Phoenixville Hospital and its Outpatient & Surgery Center at Limerick.

A Nuclear Medicine System fuses nuclear images with CT scans to enhance studies. Nuclear medicine provides physicians with structure and function data. Special cameras work with computers to supply precise pictures. By combining CT scans, only one test is necessary for anything from a fracture to metastatic cancer.

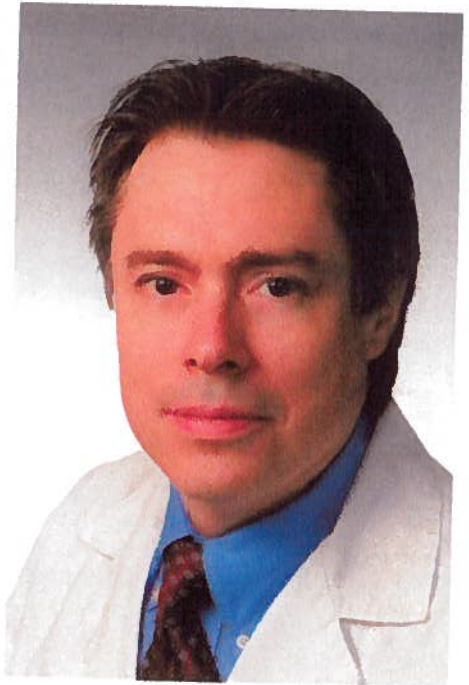
The new state-of-the-art Digital Fluoroscopy X-ray unit allows radiologists to view deep structures of the body in real-time. It provides very detailed images of function and structure of areas like the intestines, bladder, cardiac muscle, and stomach. Unlike regular X-rays that record an image to film, digital fluoroscopy records a series of images to a computer. Patients spend less time in the room, thus cutting down on radiation exposure.

A Long Board is just that, an extended imaging machine that takes a picture of the entire spine in one shot. Prior to its arrival, separate studies were required. The Long Board, which reduces radiation, is particularly beneficial in pediatric tests.

Dr. Levy, who joined Phoenixville Hospital's medical staff in 1988, finds himself in the best of both worlds. The sophistication in this community hospital is outstanding, yet he has the good fortune to become very intimate with



Dr. Baman, MD, FACC, FASE, FASNC, is the co-director of Phoenixville Hospital's Heart Station.



Dr. David Malamed, MD, is a radiologist who specializes in breast health.

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Andy Himes, CNMT-Nuclear Medicine Supervisor shown here with the BrightView XCT which features technological advances that can enable low patient radiation dose levels, high-resolution localization, and high-quality attenuation correction with the potential for fewer artifacts and shorter exam times. The BrightView XCT also offers the ability of comparing, matching, and superimposing the SPECT and CT images on one another for a more detailed analysis. The large bore of the camera and increased weight limit of the imaging table provides nuclear medicine services to members of the community previously unable to be served.

cases from beginning to end, an opportunity rarely found in metropolitan institutions.

David Malamed, MD, a radiologist specializing in breast health, echoes his colleague's assessment. "What's special is that all our radiologists are fellowship trained, enabling us to perform multiple modalities on the latest equipment available. Instead of three separate test results, there is one integrated report. We read, compare, and put pieces of the puzzle together. The patient gets definitive answers with a combined analysis of ultrasound, mammogram, and breast MRI. This isn't always the case. At some competing facilities, care can be less integrated, with diagnostic services delivered at three separate locations."

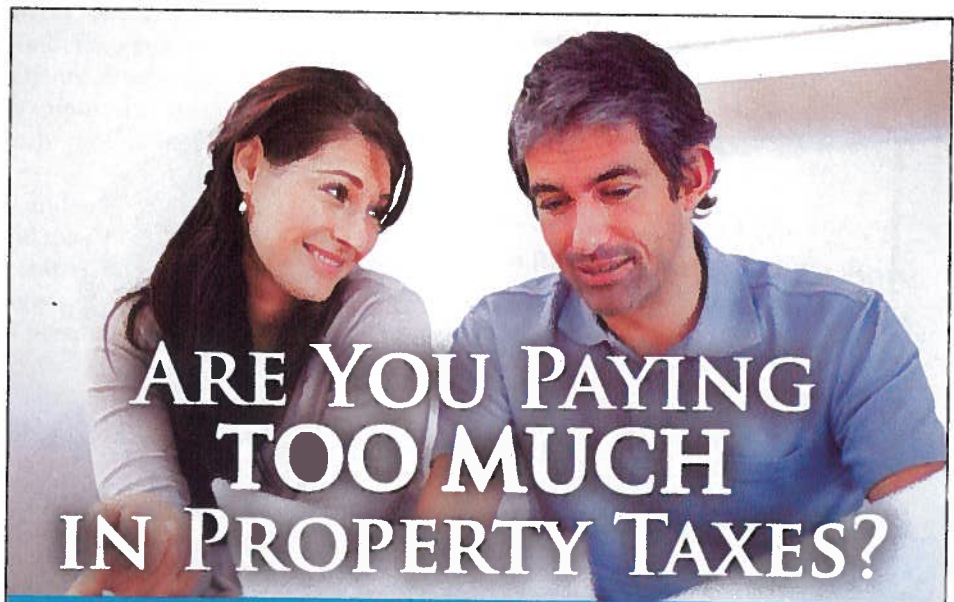
Diagnostic imaging services are part of Phoenixville Hospital's Breast Health Center. Specialty certified technologists use advanced equipment to provide digital mammography, digital breast ultrasound, digital mammographic needle localizations, breast MRI- and MR-guided breast biopsy, and ultrasound-guided breast biopsy/mamotone.

Dr. Malamed, who has been with Phoenixville Hospital for 18 years, recognized high quality from day one. "Not only the imaging department, but medical areas, as well, have always been outstanding. With our strong University of Pennsylvania Health System ties, the hospital is a real star, a gem that is affiliated with one of the finest medical institutions in the nation, if not the world."

Dr. Levy shares, "We often get involved in difficult diagnoses, and see the drama unfold as we determine what is making the patient sick. With modern imaging techniques, we can expedite diagnosis and treatment." One case involved a young man, who sneezed and wound up with an extensive life-threatening aortic dissection. He had Marfan's syndrome, a condition that can weaken the aorta. Surgery saved his life. Levy also recalls a woman's symptoms indicating "Cogan's syndrome, a rare vasculitis, or inflammation of blood vessels, that was beautifully demonstrated with CT angiography." For other cases, "The acquisition of the new nuclear SPECT/



Phoenixville Hospital's Heart Station provides all non-invasive cardiac testing for patients in one comfortable and convenient location. Heart Station team members include: Deborah Palmucci, EKG Technician; Lori Shannahan, RVT, Vascular Technologist; Mike Yodis, EKG Technician; Patrick Connolly, RCS, CCT-Heart Station Supervisor; Darlene A. May, MS, RT (R), LRT, Administrative Director of Imaging Services; and Joseph Yannizzi, EKG Technician



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Patient satisfaction and exceptional quality are key drivers for Phoenixville Hospital's Diagnostic Imaging team. Pictured are (from back left): Andy Himes, CNMT-Nuclear Medicine Supervisor; Diane Zglenski, RT (R) (M)-Radiology Supervisor; Kevin Redcay, RN-IR Nursing Coordinator; Michael Rader, RT (R) (MR)-MRI Supervisor; (from front left): Alison Espenship, RT (R), (VI)-Interventional Radiology Supervisor; Darlene A. May, MS, RT (R), LRT, Administrative Director of Imaging Services; Mary Jane Webb, RT (R), (CT)-CT Supervisor; and Richard Modica, Radiology Coordinator.

CT camera has made it possible for us to define small carcinoid tumors which used to be difficult to localize.”

Cardiac patients receive equally outstanding diagnostic care. The hospital's Heart Station is integral to its commitment to combat heart disease. Nuclear and non-nuclear cardiac stress testing, vascular ultrasound, echocardiography, EKG, and holter monitoring to record heart rhythms are among the diagnostic tests conducted. In addition, certain minimally invasive diagnostic and interventional procedures such as transesophageal echocardiogram, cardioversion, and implanted defibrillator threshold testing are provided.

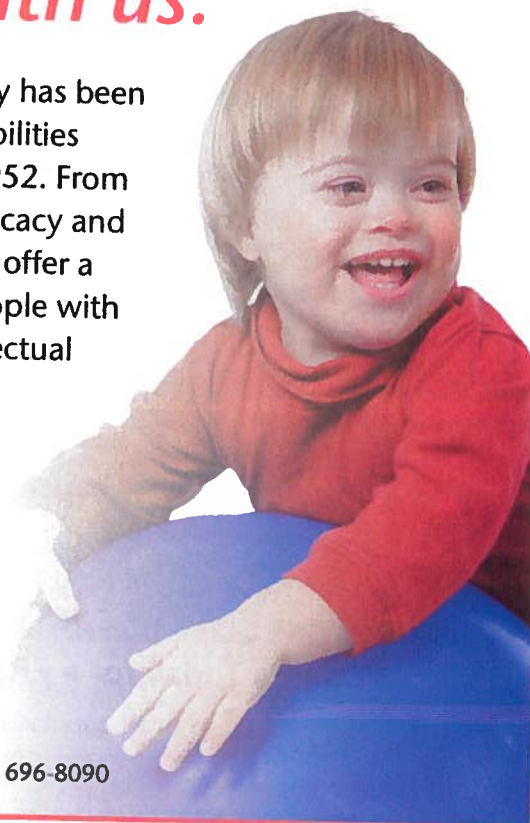
Rakesh Baman, MD, FACC, FASE, FASNC, along with Chief of the Division of Cardiology Kathleen Magness, MD, co-directs the hospital's Heart Station. “Our Heart Station has capabilities similar to those located in downtown hospitals,” says Dr. Baman. “One of the biggest diagnostic breakthroughs is the use of a contrasting agent, which allows better visualization during echo tests. Another valuable change concerns stress tests. Fifty percent of our patients cannot walk on a treadmill long enough to make a diagnosis. Now we can give them a drug that simulates the effect of this exercise on the heart.”

Dr. Baman, who knew from the time he was a child in India that he would be a doctor, notes that it is extremely fulfilling for him to have the latest resources, technology, and equipment to practice his profession. “I love working at Phoenixville Hospital and feel truly blessed to be here.”

Heart Station supervisor Patrick Connolly, RCS/CCT, has the atypical ability to make patients feel comfortable to be at the hospital. “No one wants to see the doctor. It's our responsibility to make the visit a great experience. Connolly's infectious personality, a comfortable environment, an outstanding medical staff, and excellent equipment and systems, result in satisfied patients. “Since we expanded, the Heart Station is awesome,” raves Connolly. “It has doubled in size and expanded service capabilities using advanced technology. With a dedicated cardiac nuclear

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Phoenixville Hospital in Phoenixville and its Outpatient & Surgery Center on Linfield-Trappe Road in Limerick, just off Route 422, offer comprehensive, accredited Diagnostic Imaging services featuring University of Pennsylvania Department of Radiology physicians, skilled technologists, advanced technology, and flexible hours for easy scheduling.

medicine room and two vascular rooms, we are now able to perform all non-invasive cardiac testing in one location.”

The Diagnostic Imaging department’s team of physicians and technologists are committed to providing imaging services that exceed regulatory requirements and patient expectations. “Patient safety is priority one,” says Sue Reichenbach, Chief Quality Officer. “Every step of the imaging process has a set of checks and balances to assure our patients’ safety. We continuously measure the clinical accuracy and efficiency of each test performed or image taken. Our patients’ feedback about their imaging experience is equally as important. We conduct patient surveys to help us continuously provide services that patients expect and deserve.”

When it comes to diagnostics, treatment, and healthcare, ask where physicians, including Dr. Levy, send their families. “Phoenixville Hospital has a great medical staff. I’m confident in the abilities of our doctors, technologists, and imaging equipment. This is why I send my family here.” CCL

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The Radiology Department at Phoenixville Hospital and the Outpatient & Surgery Center at Limerick are accredited by:

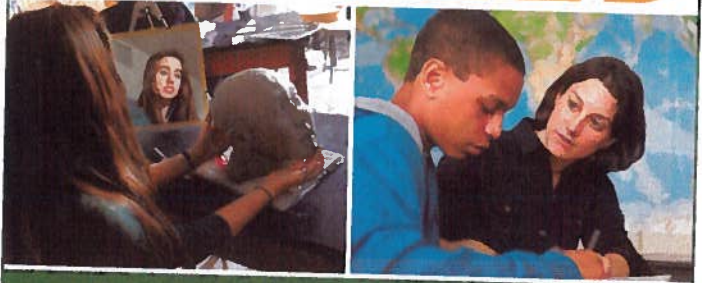
- The American College of Radiology (ACR)

The Heart Station at Phoenixville Hospital is accredited by:

- The Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL)
- The Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL)

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