



Board Certified Diagnostic Radiologist  
Russell Perry, M.D., studies a CT scan.  
Photo: Larry Wagner

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A wide range of exams, including improved breast MRI, can be performed comfortably with Toshiba's Vantage MRI system. Photo courtesy of Toshiba.

## MCDH to Open One of California's Most Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Centers

[MCDH.ORG](http://MCDH.ORG)

# ADVANCED IMAGING COMING TO THE COAST

**A**FTER MORE THAN A YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION and an outpouring of support from local residents, MCDH's state-of-the-art Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Center opens March 2011.

Built with contributions from hospital employees, Mendocino Coast Hospital Foundation donors and bond sales, the Center ushers in a new era of advanced medicine for the rural coast.

"We can all be very proud of what we have accomplished in making the Diagnostic Imaging



Center a reality," said Raymond Hino, hospital CEO. "Residents no longer need to go over the hill to other hospitals for advanced imaging."

Russell Perry, M.D., Board Certified in Diagnostic Radiology and medical director of the imaging center, agrees: "All of our images will be the highest quality and available digitally. The digital format makes them accessible by doctors from their office or home computers—including physicians located in Ukiah, Willits, Santa Rosa or the Bay Area."

"There will be some cases where our hospital doesn't offer a specialized service or surgical procedures that also require imaging," said Perry. "Now the diagnostic images can be made close to home and transmitted digitally to a patient's doctor—even a doctor in another state."



gives MCDH emergency room physicians, hospitalists and primary care physicians instant access to the images.

The stand-alone, \$4.1 million, 8,000-square-foot Digital Imaging Center was constructed from twenty-one different modules in Santa Rosa and trucked to the coast for assembly.

"The Center will offer an entrance and registration area separate from the hospital to enhance the patient experience," said Linda Dutcher, Director of Support Services, who coordinated its construction with co-worker Gus Killion, Manager of Engineering and Plant Maintenance.

Imaging services include X-rays, digital mammograms, breast MRIs, CT scans, ultrasound, bone density testing, and fluoroscopy.

Imaging Center manager Helena Coello says that her staff has extensive experience in all areas of imaging, many of them with multiple areas of expertise.

"We also are lucky enough to have Dr. Perry leading our team," said Coello. "He is not only an excellent radiologist, but is a specialist in interventional radiology which allows him to provide minimally invasive, targeted treatments using imaging for guidance." 🍊



MCDH Diagnostic Imaging Center equipment. Images courtesy of GE Healthcare and Toshiba.

## Dr. Don the Nation's First Robotic "Nocturnist"



Yale- and Stanford-educated Intensivist James Gude, M.D., guides Dr. Don from a remote location. Photo: OffSiteCare, Inc.

MCDH is one of five rural hospitals in Northern California using a telemedicine robot (referred to as "Dr. Don") to help patients, but the nation's first to cover the night shift, according to James Gude, M.D. Dr. Gude is founder and CEO of OffSiteCare, Inc., a program that brings advanced telemedicine services to "hospitals where certain specialists aren't available or communities can't afford them."

Dr. Gude, a professor of medicine at UCSF Medical Center in San Francisco, says MCDH uses Dr. Don as a "nocturnist" each night from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Dr. Don admits patients who come in through the Emergency Room and then cares for them in the hospital until a hospitalist comes on duty in the morning.

"The robot, with the assistance of a nurse, can visually examine a patient, check their vital signs through an attached stethoscope and perform ultrasound procedures," said Gude.

Built by InTouch Health in Santa Barbara, Dr. Don (named for retired Fort Bragg physicians Dr. Don Hahn and Dr. Don Thomas) provides coast residents with access to neurologists, urologists, dermatologists, intensivists (ICU specialists), nephrologists, psychologists and psychiatrists.

"Patients get help from top specialists usually within five minutes," Gude explained.



Retired Physicians Don Thomas and Don Hahn with the robot "Dr Don", which was named in their honor. Photo: Bruce Lewis.

"The telemedicine robot has been helpful in allowing immediate consultation with many specialty services that are not available locally (such as infectious disease specialists or pediatric intensivists)."

—Tamaki Kimbro, Chief of the ER

"The patient remains in the local hospital where they get great personal care. It also is more economical than having physician specialists on duty locally."

Other hospitals using the robot are Howard Memorial in Willits, Ukiah General Hospital in Ukiah, Palm Hospital in Sebastopol, Healdsburg District Hospital and Redwood Memorial in Fortuna. 🍊

## Telemedicine Robot "Dr. Don" Saves Patient with Massive Stroke

Chuck Greenberg, CEO of Habitat for Humanity in Fort Bragg, woke up in the middle of night on July 23, got out of bed, and collapsed with a massive stroke.

His wife's call to 9-1-1 summoned rescuers from Albion Fire Department and the MCDH Ambulance Service paramedics who whisked him to the MCDH ER.



"Time equals brain," explains MCDH hospitalist Richard Sachs-Wilner, M.D. "The longer you wait to treat a patient, the more brain tissue they lose. But before you give a patient the clot-busting drug TPA, you need to be sure the patient has actually had a stroke."

Enter Dr. Don, guided by stroke specialist David Tong, M.D., at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), which Dr. Sachs describes as a "crown jewel—one of the best stroke specialty services in the country."

Chuck Greenberg recalls what happened next:

*It was too foggy to fly me out, but fortunately our local hospital is tied into California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco by video (Dr. Don). They were able to talk with specialists that saved, if not my life, the quality of it. Thanks to that videoconference, they felt I was eligible for TPA.*

*Within an hour I was able to speak more clearly and move my right leg and arm a little. Within 24 hours, I was on the path to recovery. The nursing care throughout was superb, and they allowed my wife, sons, both daughters and grandson liberal visiting hours.*

*You need have no fear of falling ill on the coast; help is here or readily available. 🍊*



MENDOCINO COAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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## FAST FACTS—

### MCDH's New Diagnostic Imaging Center...

**COST:** \$4.1 million

**SIZE:** 8,000 square feet; twenty-one modules

**SERVICES:** CT, RF, X-ray, MRI, Ultrasound, Digital Mammography, Bone Density

**STAFF:** Ten technologists; two radiology coordinators

**MCDH FOUNDATION DONATIONS:** 563 individuals, including a large number of hospital employees, donated \$1.4 million. To donate to future projects, visit [www.MCHFoundation.org](http://www.MCHFoundation.org).



CEO Raymond Hino addresses the crowd at the groundbreaking for MCDH's new, state-of-the-art Diagnostic Imaging Center last May.

