

Q&A

with

Paul "Bubba" Mancini, Jr.

Nuclear Medicine Technologist,
Bolivar Medical Center

by KELLI COTTON

Cleveland Current Managing Editor

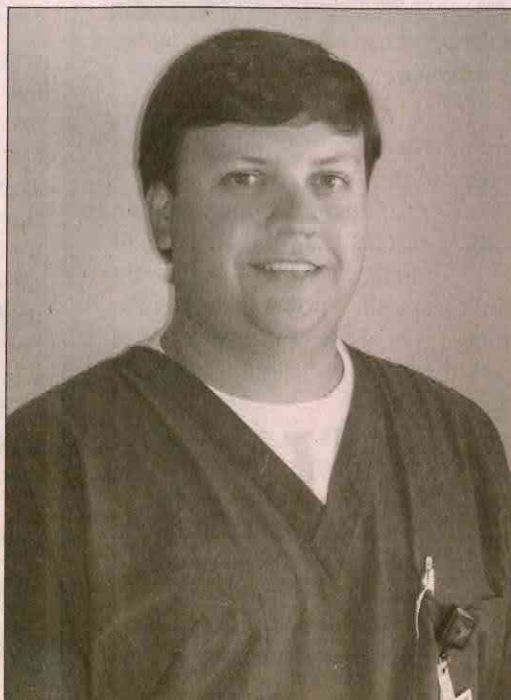
What is your job description/what do you do on a daily basis?

I am a nuclear medicine technologist certified with the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (CNMT) and the American Registry of Radiological Technologists (ARRT). In nuclear medicine we use radionuclides to diagnose and treat disease. In my daily job, I administer radionuclides to patients by mouth, injection, or inhalation and then monitor the functions of specific organs in which the drugs localize. I also operate a gamma camera that detects and maps the radioactive drug in a patient's body to create diagnostic images. My department is routinely inspected by the Mississippi State Department of Health, so I am responsible for keeping patient records and documenting the amount and type of radionuclide that each patient receives. I also perform numerous quality control tests on our equipment that are required to meet the state board of health regulations.

In addition to my nuclear duties, I am also the PET/CT Coordinator and Assistant PACS administrator.

PET/CT is a modality of radiology that is offered at Bolivar Medical Center. In one continuous scan, PET (Positron Emission Technology) captures images of minute changes in the body's metabolism caused by the growth of atypical cells, while CT (Computed Tomography) images simultaneously allow physicians to isolate the exact location, size, and shape of the diseased tumor.

PACS stands for Picture Archiving and Communication System. PACS allows us to store and rapidly retrieve radiology images and reports from several different modalities. PACS eliminates the need to manually file, retrieve, and transport patient film jackets.



Mancini

Where are you from?

I was born in Greenville, but my family moved to Hot Springs, Ark., when I was in second grade. When I started sixth grade my family moved to Indianola. So I guess I am from Indianola, but I've lived in Cleveland longer than any other place, so maybe I can claim Cleveland as my home.

Where did you go to high school/college? Please include degrees.

I graduated from Indianola Academy in 1996 and then went to Delta State and received my BS degree in Biology in 2000. After Delta State I applied for and was accepted into the Nuclear Medicine Program at The University of Mississippi Medical Center. After graduating from UMC, I was hired at Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center in Clarksdale. I worked at NWRMC for about six years and began my current position at Bolivar Medical Center in 2007.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is of course helping people. Patients are usually very anxious and scared when they are having an unfamiliar test done, and it is my job to make them feel comfortable and answer any questions they may have. Another great part of my job is the people I work with in my department. Everyone is always ready to step-up and lend a helping hand if someone needs assistance, and we always celebrate everyone's birthday.

If you could have any job on the planet, what would it be?

If I could have any job, I would want to be an astronaut and visit the moon. As a child my parents took me to the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., to visit NASA. We were able to see a space shuttle launch, and ever since then I have always been fascinated with NASA.

What would your perfect meal consist of?

My perfect meal would probably include a Caesar salad, any entree made with crab, and pink lemonade pie for dessert.

What is the best thing about living in Cleveland?

It is impossible to come up with just one thing that is great about living in Cleveland. Our town is such a special place and has a lot to offer everyone. By living in a college town, everyone has the opportunity to be a part of a wide selection of activities that Delta State has to offer; such as the BPAC, Delta State athletics, or one of the many DSU Alumni events that are held throughout the year. Cleveland also has wonderful schools and a great Park Commission for the children of our community. The Crosstie Festival, Italian Festival, and Oktoberfest are events that really make Cleveland stand out from all the other cities in the Delta. Cleveland truly is one of the nation's best small communities, and I'm proud to call it home.