

# ***Linda Manhardt Nelson***

Business Development & Marketing Director  
Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center

Linda Nelson has been with Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center, a 500-bed acute care hospital, since 1997.

She completed her undergraduate degree in Business at West Virginia Wesleyan College and her MBA at Texas Women's University.

Wanting to stay active in the community that she both lives and works in, Linda is active in the following organizations:



- **The Woodlands Township, Secretary, Board of Directors**
- **Visit The Woodlands, Vice Chairman, Board of Directors**
- **Leadership Montgomery Count (LMC) – Past Chairman**
  
- **The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce – Past Chairman, Current Board Member**
- **Greater Conroe/ Lake Conroe Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**
- **Economic Development Partnership (EDP)**
- **Accolades**
  - The Woodlands Hometown Hero
  - Houston Business Journal's 2021 Women Who Mean Business in Healthcare Honoree
  - The Woodlands Area Chamber Citizen of the Year
  - IRONMAN Team Captain of the Year
  - Montgomery County Women's Council on Organizations Women of Distinction
  - Leadership Montgomery County Distinguished Alumnus Award
  - The Woodlands Area Chamber Chairman's Award
  - The Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce Trailblazer

Linda was born and raised in New Jersey and moved to the Houston area in 1980. She has been married to her husband, Gordon, for 44 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren living in Cypress and Austin. Other than spending time with family, you can find Linda playing racquetball or enjoying time with friends.

**Jia Wu, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Imaging Physics**  
**Thoracic/Head & Neck Medical Oncology (*jointly appoint*)**  
**MD Anderson Cancer Center**

I am an Assistant Professor on the tenure track in the Departments of Imaging Physics and Thoracic Head & Neck Medical Oncology. I am a dedicated young scientist specializing in translational cancer research, with specific expertise in machine learning, medical image analysis, and radio-genomics. My research lab is focused on creating innovative computational tools for medical imaging to tackle unmet challenges in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment selection and monitoring. Additionally, my team has conducted preliminary image-genomics investigations to delve into the biological and immunogenomic foundations of imaging biomarkers. We have published a series of influential research studies in journals of radiology, pathology, and oncology, encompassing radiomics, pathomics, and radiogenomics. Our studies have received editorial recognition from respected publications including *Lancet Digital Health*, *Nature Machine Intelligence*, *Radiology*, *the Journal of Pathology*, and *Modern Pathology*.



As the Chief Insights Officer at AVIA, Sonia leads the digital Insights, research and thought leadership function at AVIA, ensuring AVIA brings the latest in digital innovation and market research in emerging digital capabilities and solutions. Sonia also works as a strategic advisor to leaders at health systems and digital solution companies to help them navigate technology and strategic decisions.

Sonia has led the development of AVIA's research and frameworks in many areas including consumerism, hyper-personalization, digital oncology, phygital strategies, digital first primary care, digital partnership strategies and more. She oversees the insights development across all the centers of excellence at AVIA covering areas of consumer experience, care transformation, operational optimization and more.

Further, Sonia has worked with over 40 of AVIA's health system Members frame their vision and strategy to transform into consumer-centric organizations, identify and prioritize key consumer-facing capabilities, assess their digital needs, and

navigate the digital health vendor landscape to find best solutions. She and her team have supported over 35 health systems to create their Digital Front Doors and is a leading voice in the industry on consumer and personalization strategies.

Prior to joining AVIA, Sonia was a senior director with PwC Strategy as part of the healthcare strategy practice where she led numerous digital strategy project including a smart building project for a large integrated delivery network where she worked across Facilities, Care Delivery Operations, and IT to develop strategies for digital integration of experiences and physical spaces.



**Roberta Levy Schwartz, Ph.D., FACHE**

Executive Vice President  
Chief Innovation Officer  
Houston Methodist Hospital

Roberta L. Schwartz is the executive vice president and chief innovation officer of Houston Methodist Hospital, which has been named by *U.S. News & World Report* as the No. 1 hospital in Texas for seven straight years in her role as chief innovation officer, Roberta is responsible for advancing and expanding Houston Methodist's digital innovation platforms, including telemedicine, artificial intelligence and big data. Prior to joining Houston Methodist, Roberta worked at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, CSC consulting and for the government at CMS. Roberta has her undergraduate degree from Barnard College, her masters from Johns Hopkins and her Ph. D from UT School of Public Health. Roberta is certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Roberta is involved in many non-profit organizations such as Lifegift OPO; Robert M Beren Academy and the UOS Synagogue, Young Survival Coalition and many breast cancer organizations. Roberta received the 2019 ACHE Healthcare Executive Regent's Award and has won many awards for her professional and non-profit work.

## **Justin Gnau**

Justin is an accomplished, forward-thinking technology and health care leader with an extensive portfolio of success across health care development, strategy, enterprise-wide/regional transformation, support, and program/project management. For the past 15 years, Justin has been working for CommonSpirit Health, the last 5 of which he has worked directly with St. Luke's Health in Houston as their VP/South Region Chief Information Officer. He holds a BSA in Health Information Management from The University of Kansas and an MHSA from The University of Kansas Medical Center. Justin has previously worked for Perot/Dell Systems, Cerner Corporation, and St. Luke's Health System in Kansas City, MO.

In his current role, Justin's focus has been on employing proven solutions and technology to meet the needs of the organization, including quickly building telemedicine and virtual care offerings, stabilizing existing platforms/infrastructures, streamlining the revenue cycle, standardizing the application portfolio, and developing digital solutions to expand the presence of St. Luke's Health online. Justin leads through a transparent, collaborative, results-oriented, and vision focused leadership style that empowers his teams to perform at the top of their positions. Always striving to promote from within by mentoring team members eager to move their career forward while building upon their strengths.

## **FREDDY WARNER JR., JD**

**Freddy Warner joined Memorial Hermann Health System in 2008, and serves the system as Chief Government Relations Officer, responsible for federal, state and local advocacy.**

**Before coming to Memorial Hermann, he spent more than twenty years as a government relations, regulatory and business development consultant, working in a variety of legislative, campaign and regulatory capacities in more than 20 US states and in Washington, DC, with particular emphasis on the State of Texas; and for 3 years was Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the largest building materials company in the US.**

**Over the course of his career, he has represented numerous clients before federal, state and local elective bodies and regulatory entities, managed greenfield development projects, developed strategic plans, and created community investment and media campaigns for his clients.**

**He previously served in senior campaign and legislative capacities for a member of the Texas Congressional Delegation, a Texas State Senator, and for the Texas Lieutenant Governor.**

**He holds undergraduate degrees in Journalism and Political Science from Southern Methodist University, and a law degree from South Texas College of Law.**

Evan Roberson began serving as the third Executive Director for Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare on February 1, 2013. Tri-County is one of 39 Community Centers in Texas that serve persons in all 254 counties. Evan obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas and his Master's Degree from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. In his 26-year Community Center career, Evan has held a variety of positions at three different centers including roles in mental health crisis services, psychiatric research, grant writing, development of HUD housing for persons with disabilities, and supervision of a variety of administrative services including quality management and information technology. Evan currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Texas Council of Community Centers' Executive Director Consortium, liaison to the Community Center's Behavioral Health Directors Consortium, leads the Community Center's Behavioral Health Committee and serves on several other state-level committees, workgroups and teams.

**Divya Chirumamilla, M.D.****Interventional Pain Medicine Specialist**

Clinical Assistant Professor, Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery  
McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

Dr. Divya Chirumamilla is a fellowship-trained pain medicine specialist with expertise in interventional pain medicine. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology, with primary certification in anesthesiology and subspecialty certification in pain medicine.

Dr. Chirumamilla received her medical degree at J.J.M. Medical College in Davangere, India. She began her anesthesiology residency at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, where she received the department of Anesthesiology's Outstanding Resident Award. She completed her residency at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Boston. Following residency, she completed a pain medicine fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where she received the Carol A. Warfield Award in Pain Management. Dr. Chirumamilla joined Mischer Neuroscience Associates from Harvard Medical School, where she was an instructor and served as clinical faculty in the department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine.

Dr. Chirumamilla is fluent in English, Telugu, Hindi and Kannada, and has participated in medical missions to Zimbabwe and Colombia. She provides interventional pain management services at Mischer Neuroscience Associates-The Woodlands and has expertise in all aspects of the discipline.

**To Refer a Patient:**

P: 832.658.5325

F: 713.897.2202

**Mischer Neuroscience  
Associates-The Woodlands**

1120 Medical Plaza Drive,  
Suite 150

The Woodlands, TX 77380

## **Kelli Gershon , FNP-BC, ACHPN**

Kelli Gershon is a nurse practitioner who specializes in Palliative care, which is specialized medical care for people living with a serious or chronic illness. She currently works for Carelon Health which is part of Elevance as the Program director. She has specialized in Palliative care for over 20 years practicing in all care settings. She is passionate about making palliative care available to all individuals in all settings. She is married with three beautiful daughters, three dogs and two cats and has lived in The Woodlands for 25 years.

# Missy Herndon

**PRESIDENT & CEO, INTERFAITH OF THE WOODLANDS  
& INTERFAITH COMMUNITY CLINIC  
CO-FOUNDER, HOPE: THE WILL HERNDON RESEARCH FUND**



A graduate of Texas A&M University, former PR consultant Missy Herndon became a stay-at-home mom and social editor/writer while her boys were young.

Her journey changed paths when her son Will was diagnosed with juvenile Batten disease and given a fatal prognosis. In 2009, Missy and her husband Wayne co-founded HOPE: The Will Herndon Research Fund. The mission is simple: The fund has raised over \$7.2 million to date in The Woodlands community and continues raising awareness and funds to find a treatment to save Will.

In 2012, Missy went back to the workforce, landing a dream job at Interfaith of The Woodlands as the Director of Programs and Services. In 2016, Missy was promoted and now serves as President and CEO of Interfaith of The Woodlands and Interfaith Community Clinic. As CEO of Interfaith, Missy oversees more than 450 employees and manages the \$26 million non-profit organization that focuses on providing basic needs to our neighbors in crisis. The Interfaith Community Clinic is the only charity clinic serving our uninsured neighbors residing in all of Montgomery County. The organizations provide nearly 1 million service contacts per year.

Missy is always looking for ways to innovate; She Co-Founded and Co-Chaired the Inaugural Giving Goes Glam Fashion Show back in 2011 and serves as an Advisor for this fundraiser benefitting Interfaith of The Woodlands and Junior League of The Woodlands. Additionally, in 2016, Missy created the publication The Book The Woodlands as a revenue generator for Interfaith.

In her spare time, Missy loves spending time with her family and friends, serving her community and working on HOPE. The center of her world is her husband of 19 years, Wayne, and their three boys, Will, Steele and Magnus. Missy loves to write through her blog on social media, workout and hang at the Football, Rugby or Challenger Baseball fields cheering on her boys. The Herndons are members of The Woodlands United Methodist Church. Missy hopes to inspire others to make positive change in their communities and be the light no matter the situation.

## AFFILIATIONS

- 2014 Graduate of Leadership Montgomery County and Current LMC Alumni
- Past-President and current Sustainer of the Junior League of The Woodlands
- Board of Directors of The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce 2017–Current
- Member of Executive Leadership Team of The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce
- Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Executive Director Board
- Advisory Board Member, Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands
- Advisory Board Member, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital
- The Woodlands CEO Forum, Member
- Lone Star College – Community & Faith-Based Advisory Council
- Luxury Alliance, Member
- Women of The Woodlands, Member
- George's Coffee Club, Member
- United Methodist Church Building & Church Location Committee Member, North Central District
- Montgomery County Hispanic Chamber Past Board Member
- American Heart Association Heart Ball Host Committee

## HONORS & AWARDS

- Hometown Hero, 2012
- The Junior League of The Woodlands Vision Award, 2014
- Honorary Chair, Junior League of The Woodlands Holiday Market 2016
- One of Houston's Most Influential Women of 2017 by Houston Magazine
- LMC Distinguished Alumnus Award, 2018



Karen Harwell is the Chief Executive Officer of Lone Star Family Health Center in Conroe, TX. Before joining Lone Star, Ms. Harwell was the Director of Finance for a specialty physician group in Houston, TX. She's a Certified Public Accountant, graduate of Texas A&M University, the current Treasurer and board member for Leadership Montgomery County, and a proud mother of two young children. During Ms. Harwell's tenure at Lone Star, the health center has experienced rapid growth and expansion adding more than 100 employees and four clinic locations in the last 10 years.

Matt Davis, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Conroe Regional Medical Center

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**Biography:**

Matt Davis Serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Conroe Regional Medical Center. Davis assumed the role of CEO in September 2013 after a 6 year stint as the COO of HCA's North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville, FL. Davis' career spans 17 years with HCA serving hospitals in Indiana, Georgia Florida and Texas.

Conroe Regional Medical Center is a 345 bed tertiary acute care hospital that has been serving the community for more than 75 years. Conroe Regional Medical Center provides a 24-hour Trauma II emergency care center, Level III neonatal intensive care, a 38 Bed Critical Care ICU, Cardiovascular Service, The Neuroscience Center as well as a full complement of imaging services, to include the Satellite Imaging Center – Lake Area Imaging in Montgomery.

Conroe Regional Medical Center has been awarded the Joint Commissions *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures* for three consecutive years. This program is based on data reported in the previous year about evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to be the best treatments for certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care. Complimenting this award, CRMC was awarded *TMF Award of Excellence in Quality* and the *Pathway to Excellence Designation* for nursing care.

CRMC is a Joint Commission Certified Advanced Primary Stroke Center; an Accredited Chest Pain Center with PCI; and an American College of Radiology Award for full Accreditation for Quality and Excellence in MRI and an ACR accredited Center of Excellence for Breast Imaging,

Hailing from Indiana, Matt Davis holds a bachelors degree from DePauw University and a Masters Degree from Indiana University.

Matt is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has served as the Chairman of the Board for the Lewisville Economic Development Foundation as well as a member of the Board of Directors for the Lewisville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lewisville Tax Incremental Funding Board. Matt served as the chairman of the American Heart Association Heart Walk for two years and served as an advocate/volunteer for the Gainesville Harvest Food Bank, Adopt a Child Holiday Program, Taste of Gainesville, Junior Achievement and Tyler's Hope for a Cure to Dystonia.

Presently, Matt sits on the Board for the Lake Conroe/Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce as the immediate past chairman and is a member of the 2015 Leadership Montgomery County Class. He is an avid youth sports coach and volunteers countless hours each season to the youth of Montgomery County.

Matt and his wife Joy have five children Ethan (14), Wyatt (11), Madalyn (9), Canon (7), and Easton (4). In his spare time, Matt enjoys saltwater fishing, playing golf, BBQ'ing and spending time as a family.



***Jim Parisi BSN, MBA***  
**North Houston Market President**

**St. Luke's Health**  
**The Woodlands, Lakeside Springwoods Village and**  
**The Vintage Hospital**

With more than 30 years of healthcare experience, Jim Parisi was appointed President of St. Luke's Health The Woodlands, Lakeside and Springwoods Village Hospitals in January 2018 and he was named as the North Houston Market President in the fall of 2020. Jim, a well-respected and highly capable leader with more than 30 years of healthcare experience, brings to the organization an accomplished, established career as an administrator committed to growth and excellence across a balanced scorecard. Under his leadership St Luke's the Woodlands Hospital has achieved a number of awards, designations and certifications. In 2020 The Woodlands was named A Premier Quest Award winner and in 2022 received the "Achievement Award" from the Quality Texas Foundation.

Jim has held a variety of positions increasing in responsibility and scope in various healthcare organizations. Most recently, he served as Chief Executive Officer for Memorial Hermann Health System's Katy Hospital. His previous roles at Memorial Hermann included Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Nursing Officer. Jim helped build a culture of safety and improved communication, nurse and physician relationships, and physician satisfaction. Promoted to Chief Executive Officer, Jim continued to establish and lead initiatives, as well as guided \$130 million in construction projects. Under Jim's leadership, the hospital received the Quality Texas Foundation's 2017 Award for Performance Excellence and attained a top two percent patient safety score from Truven. Further, the facility was one of only 72 hospitals in the United States to achieve Leapfrog straight A's since 2012 and was named one of Becker's Top 49 Hospitals.

Jim serves on a number of community boards in the Woodlands area and is currently the President of the Gulf Coast American Heart Association Board, as well as the Chairman of the Woodlands Economic Development Partnership.

Jim Parisi holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Tyler in Tyler, Texas, a Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, Texas, and an Associate degree in Applied Science, Nursing (ADN) from Central Texas University in Killeen, Texas.

## **Justin Kendrick**

Senior VP & CEO

Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital

Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center



Justin Kendrick serves as the senior vice president & CEO of Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center and Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital. During his nine-year tenure with the Memorial Hermann Health System, he has served as vice president of operations at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and Memorial Hermann The Woodlands, as well as the director of operations at Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital.

He is the former COO of Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas and, prior to that role, he served as an Associate Administrator for Palmdale Regional Medical Center in Palmdale, CA.

Justin received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Southern Nazarene University and master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and serves on numerous community service and development boards.

A resident of The Woodlands, Justin and his wife, Chelsea, have three young children – two daughters and a son: Collins, Ellison and Brooks.