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## Medical People

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Valerie Franklin, patient access representative at Lakeland Regional Medical Center, was the hospital's February employee of the month. An LRMC employee for 30 years, she has worked in patient access for 10 years and been a team leader of the patient access staff for two years.

Dr. Michele Lea McClendon, internal medicine physician at Bond Clinic since 2002, is now board certified in the subspecialty of nephrology. That certification is from the American Board of Internal Medicine, through which she also has internal-medicine certification.

Dr. Jorge Gonzalez, cardiologist and medical director at Watson Clinic in Lakeland, recently was elected president of the Polk County Medical Association. At Watson Clinic since 1985, he received his medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he did fellowships in cardiology, cardiac electrophysiology and noninvasive cardiovascular techniques.

Other new Polk County Medical Association officers are Dr. Brian M. Jurbala, president-elect, orthopedic surgeon at Highland Center for Orthopaedics in Lakeland and in Winter Haven; Dr. George D. Lyle, vice president, otolaryngologist with Barranco Clinic; and Dr. Pedro Ruiz, secretary-treasurer, internal medicine specialist with offices in Lakeland and Bartow.