Annual Provider Awards

I am pleased to announce the nominees for the 2016 Annual Provider Awards. These prestigious awards were developed in 2003 as a way to recognize outstanding physician role models and colleagues in the categories of Colleague, Mentor/Educator, Outstanding Nurse Practitioner (NP)/Physician Assistant (PA) and Patient Advocate. On the next page is an outstanding list of the nominations we received this year. These individuals and a guest, as well as those who nominated them, will be invited to a special celebration at the Cedar Rapids Country Club on April 7 as we host the Mercy Honors event.

At this ceremony, award winners will also be announced. So, if you are a nominee, please mark your calendar! Formal invitations and celebration details have been sent.

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has announced 2016 as the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This extraordinary announcement has additional meaning to the Sisters of Mercy and to our organization given our heritage and mission. Last month, we kicked off our celebration of the Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis has asked everyone in the world, regardless of their faith tradition to participate in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. As a result, a planning committee has developed a schedule with suggested activities in which to participate.

The calendar of events is available on the physician portal at p.mercycare.org/announcements. Welcome to the Year of Mercy!

Bedrest Order Set

Beginning March 7, if a bedrest order is selected, a reason for the bedrest will be required as well. If you would like to see the complete SBAR or a screen shot of the Epic bedrest order, please go to p.mercycare.org/announcements.

Physician Relations introduced this new segment in the January Mercy Physician Newsletter as a way to further recognize physician leaders in our community. Leadership starts with the physician, and our aim is to highlight those that exhibit leadership and work to lead Mercy’s positive growth...

Christopher Walsh, MD, is an anesthesiologist with Linn County Anesthesiologists, PC. He is also Mercy’s Medical Director of Anesthesia.

Dr. Walsh is very active at Mercy and is a member of the Medical Director Council, Trauma Multidisciplinary Committee, Perioperative Committee, Medication Management Committee and Blood Management Committee.

He was instrumental in the creation of anesthesia metrics, some of which include: epidural efficacy in the Birthplace, OB go now, PACU arrival temp and implementation of FIDES software.

Dr. Walsh often assists in the development, regular review and revision of policies and procedures for anesthesia services. He conducts patient care reviews and creates performance improvement activities. He also advocates for appropriate space, equipment and staffing for anesthesia services.

Dr. Walsh routinely communicates with staff and provides frequent staff education opportunities at both department meetings and in-services. Dr. Walsh is known for always having reading material regarding new ideas and technology. Staff can count on him to incorporate evidence-based practice into his teachings with current relevant case studies.

Regardless of the situation, Dr. Walsh is always found with a smile, friendly attitude and is welcoming of new staff.

If you know a physician leader and have a story to share in this segment, please send it to Jessica Coppess at jjcoppess@mercycare.org.
Annual Provider Awards

Colleague Award Nominees

Matt Aucutt, DO; Linn County Emergency Medicine, PC
Suraj Bopanna, MD, MRCP; Mercy Pulmonology Clinic
Brandon Bourgeois, MD; Cedar Rapids
OB/GYN Specialists, PC
Martin Cearras, MD; Mercy Pulmonology Clinic
Scott Ekroth, MD; PCI Orthopaedics
Brian Edeler, MD; Linn County Emergency Medicine, PC
Janna Girardi, MD; Mercy Healing Center
Karen Harmon, MD; MercyCare Blairs Ferry
Shane Kasner, MD; MercyCare Blairs Ferry
Mathew Kemp, MD; Linn County Emergency Medicine, PC
Jan Merfeld, MD; Radiation Oncology of Cedar Rapids, PC
Kristin Orr, MD; Cedar Rapids OB/GYN Specialists, PC
Stephen Runde, MD; MercyCare North Urgent Care
Rose Schabilion, MD; Resident – Cedar Rapids
Medical Education Foundation
Thomas Schroeder, MD; MercyCare Vernon Village
Gary Schweiger, MD; Radiology Consultants of Iowa, PLC
Melanie Stahlberg, MD; MercyCare Internist Associates of Iowa and Nephrology
Vince Taeger, MD; MercyCare North Liberty

Mentor/Educator Nominees

Suraj Bopanna, MD, MRCP; Mercy Pulmonology Clinic
Cam Campbell, MD, FACC; Mercy Cardiology Clinic
Joshua Eastvold, MD; Linn County Emergency Medicine, PC
Janna Girardi, MD; Mercy Healing Center
Karen Harmon, MD; MercyCare Blairs Ferry
Laura Hemann, MD; Radiology Consultants of Iowa, PLC
Shane Kasner, MD; MercyCare Blairs Ferry
Charles Schauberger, MD; Eastern Iowa Health Center
Melanie Stahlberg, MD; MercyCare Internist Associates of Iowa and Nephrology
Vince Taeger, MD; MercyCare North Liberty
Chris Walsh, MD; Linn County Anesthesiologists, PC and LCA, PLC
Mark Zittergruen, MD; Mercy Pediatric Cardiology Clinic

Outstanding NP/PA Nominees

Kelly O’Reilly Alber, ARNP; MercyCare Monticello
Sam Drahos, ARNP; Mercy Cardiology Clinic
Rachel Francois, ARNP, C-PNP; Mercy Pediatric Clinic
Sarah Kluesner, ARNP; PCI Orthopaedics
Colleen Mohr, ARNP; Hospice of Mercy Medical Center
Sara Neff, ARNP, C-PNP; Mercy Pediatric Clinic
Jill Petersen, ARNP; Mercy Psychiatry Outpatient Clinic
Jessica Quinn, PA-C; MercyCare Marion
Greg Taylor, PA-C; Linn County Emergency Medicine, PC
Sherri Vesely, DNP; MercyCare Tama

Patient Advocate Nominees

Robin Barnett, DO, MBA; Mercy Employee Health Center
Suraj Bopanna, MD, MRCP; Mercy Pulmonology Clinic
John Brownell, MD; MercyCare Johnson Avenue
Maria Doce, MD; Hospitalist Medicine Physicians of Linn County, PLLC
Janna Girardi, MD; Mercy Healing Center
Karen Harmon, MD; MercyCare Blairs Ferry
Shane Kasner, MD; MercyCare Blairs Ferry
Neil Mittelberg, MD; PCI Urology
Mary Anne Nelson, MD; Mary Nelson, MD, PC
Usha Renganathan, MD; Hospitalist Medicine Physicians of Linn County, PLLC
Rose Schabilion, MD; Resident – Cedar Rapids Medical Education Foundation
Sarah Schloss, ARNP; Hospitalist Medicine Physicians of Linn County, PLLC
Melanie Stahlberg, MD; MercyCare Internist Associates of Iowa and Nephrology
Vince Taeger, MD; MercyCare North Liberty
Mark Zittergruen, MD; Mercy Pediatric Cardiology Clinic

On behalf of Mercy and MercyCare Community Physicians, it is our privilege to recognize all the nominees and offer our congratulations. We acknowledge and appreciate the gifts you share with the patients and staff at Mercy and are thankful for the many contributions you offer day in and day out.

Inpatient Physical Therapy Eval and Treat Order

A revised Inpatient Physical Therapy Eval and Treat Order went live on March 7. Providers brought to our attention a required question for diagnosis in the order, but the choices were not ICD-10 codes and did not list all of the necessary options. After meeting with leadership from Physical Therapy, it was proposed to:

• Remove the required diagnosis question
• Add a required “Reason for PT” question (free text)

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Kearney, I-Order Set Coordinator, at (319) 221-8418.

Anticoagulants, Platelet Inhibitors and Direct Thrombin Inhibitors Update

Updates have been made to the Anticoagulants, Platelet Inhibitors and Direct Thrombin Inhibitors chart. You may access the updated chart by visiting p.mercycare.org/announcements.

Malnutrition Added to the Problem List

Currently, a smart phrase will pull the nutritionist note into the discharge plan. Malnutrition has been added to the problem list to assist with coding and will carry over to the outpatient setting.
Standard & Poor’s Rating Service assigns Mercy A-level rating, stable outlook

Standard & Poor’s Rating Services has affirmed and assigned an “A” credit rating with stable outlook to Mercy Medical Center. The credit analysis factors the financial performance of MercyCare Service Corporation and related organizations such as MercyCare Management, Inc., physician practices and the Mercy Medical Center Foundation.

This positive credit rating reflects Mercy’s strong financial performance for fiscal year 2015, as well as the hospital’s success in consistently meeting or surpassing budget targets identified through a multi-year strategic plan. Last fiscal year, Mercy also received an “A” rating with stable outlook from Standard & Poor’s; Moody’s Investors Service affirmed Mercy’s strong A2 credit rating, with a stable outlook.

Mercy named one of nation’s 100 Top Hospitals by Truven

For the fourth consecutive year, Mercy Medical Center has been rated one of the nation’s 100 Top Hospitals® by Truven Health Analytics, a leading provider of healthcare information. Mercy is the only hospital in Cedar Rapids to receive the 2016 designation and the only one in the area to achieve the distinction consecutively over the last four years.

The Truven Health Top 100 Hospitals designation is a prestigious industry award based on overall organizational performance. It cannot be purchased. The award evaluates nearly 3,000 hospitals and recognizes the top 100 that have achieved excellence in areas such as patient outcomes, patient safety, treatment standards, patient satisfaction, efficiency and financial stability.

The Truven study found that, compared to non-winning peer group hospitals, the top performing hospitals had:

- lower 30-day mortality and readmission rates
- fewer complications
- higher survival rates
- lower inpatient costs per beneficiary

According to Truven, if all hospitals achieved the same results as the benchmark hospitals, nearly 104,000 inpatient lives could be saved; 48,400 additional patients could avoid complications; and more than $2 billion in inpatient costs could be saved each year.

Additional information can be found at www.100tophospitals.com.

Save the Date

New Candor Law Training Meeting
May 24, 2016
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Hall-Perrine Cancer Center, Community Rooms A & B
Speakers: Connie Alt and Robert Thompson
CME credit pending approval

Education Corner:

CRMEF – Visiting Professor Program
Noon on Monday, April 4
Topic: Caring for LGBT Community
Speaker: Katherine Imborek, MD
University of Iowa

CRMEF – Visiting Professor Program
Noon on Tuesday, April 19
Topic: Approach to Chronic Ankle Pain Instability
Speaker: Phinit Phisitkul, MD
University of Iowa

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