

Premier Pulse

News for Premier Health Physicians

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“My hope is, during this journey of enlightenment, we open our eyes, ears, and hearts so that we can level the playing field for people of color when it comes to racial inequality in medicine.”

What Now?

By Andre Harris, MD, chief medical officer, Atrium Medical Center



May 25, 2020 was a dark day, but also an enlightening one: It was the day that George Floyd died at the hands of Minneapolis Police.

The travesty of a Black man dying at the hands of the police wasn't new, but the nation's response definitely was. The Black community gained allies from corporations, the NBA, local governments, and individuals. Protests in the streets had a demographic unlike any in our history: young white men and women. Premier Health stepped forward and organized sessions to educate our leaders on racism, white privilege, microaggressions, and being allies. Corporations have pledged millions of dollars to fight racial injustice. Yet, like every movement in history, there is a beginning,

middle, and end. We seem to be somewhere in the middle and, if so, the question is: What now?

Much needs to happen in America when it comes to racial equality, but I would like to focus on what we do best at Premier Health—health care. Our next step is how do we level the playing field when it comes to racial disparities in medicine?

What I consider a foundational step is the recruitment and retention of Black physicians to the Miami Valley. We are blessed with a medical school in our backyard that positions us well to show young Black doctors why Dayton is where they would want to practice. My rationale for singling out the Black physician is that historically they have been the physicians who will open and sustain practices in underserved communities of color. The

recruitment can be based in scholarships that pay for medical school (with the caveat that the physician will maintain a practice in an underserved area for a certain number of years). The National Health Service Corps has used this model for years to push primary care physicians into underserved communities across America (I am a proud alumnus of the program).

Another way to address racial disparities in medicine is through partnering with Horizons in Medicine, a program started in 1979 at Wright State University. The program focuses on taking high school students from minority communities through a curriculum that exposes them to medicine. The program director has used my office and those of other Black physicians throughout the community as sites for the students to visit during the program. At the end of the

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SERVICE LINE UPDATE: SPORTS MEDICINE

Returning to Play During a Pandemic

By Paula Thompson, president and CEO, Fidelity Health Care



This pandemic may forever change how we work, play, and live. As our communities began to reopen school facilities, the Premier Health Sports Medicine leadership team gathered information and formulated guidelines for evaluating optimal processes such as screenings, infection control, and safety

measures for students and staff. The leadership team had the safety and well-being of our student athletes and communities top of mind in guiding our 38 school partners back to activity in the safest and most appropriate manner. Not only did the group offer information related to the safe return of sports but also how to manage the “return to play.”

There is certainly no definitive roadmap for success, but our sports medicine leadership team of Jeffrey James, DO; Michael Barrow, MD; Jeffery Rayborn, MD; and Timothy Linker, MD, continue to provide support and reassurance to the athletic directors and sports staff for our school partners. The team also provides guidance to student athletes and parents to help them decide if they are comfortable with returning to training and competition.

Another focus for sports medicine in 2020 is the nutritional and mental health of the athlete. Sports performance consultations are provided to student athletes who have a concern related to nutrition, hydration, sleep, training routine, or mental health. It also provides guidance for athletes who want individualized information about sports performance and overall wellness.

“The visits include a detailed assessment; lab workup, if indicated; and customized plan for each athlete’s specific goals,” said Aloiya Earl, MD, of Premier Orthopedics. “Common concerns I address include trouble gaining muscle weight, disordered eating, insomnia, sports-related anxiety, panic disorder, anxiety returning to activity after an injury, supplement misuse, performance plateaus, and energy deficiency.”

Premier Health is committed to building healthier communities. Our goal in sports medicine is to assist the facilitation of creating the healthiest and safest sports environment possible, while navigating through this unprecedented time. The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges. However, our schools and communities are strong, and together our partnerships will move us forward. We will be successful in reaching the new normal.

U.S. News & World Report: Miami Valley Hospital Ranks 8th in Ohio

Miami Valley Hospital ranked eighth among all Ohio hospitals in the latest annual rankings released by U.S. News & World Report. The hospital had the best performance among all hospitals in the Dayton metropolitan area.

The distinction includes Miami Valley Hospital North in Englewood and Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville.



“Once again, Miami Valley Hospital demonstrates its commitment to quality hospital care,” said Mike Uhl, president of Miami Valley Hospital. “This

honor from U.S. News and World Report shows why we’re so proud of – and confident in – our compassionate team of physicians, providers, nurses, and clinical and support professionals for bringing this level of excellence to our hospital each and every day.”

The hospital received a “high-performing” designation in 11 additional areas of care: orthopedics; pulmonology and lung surgery; urology; aortic valve surgery; heart bypass surgery; heart failure; colon cancer surgery; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); hip replacement; knee replacement; and lung cancer surgery.



AORTIC VALVE SURGERY



COLON CANCER SURGERY



COPD



HEART BYPASS SURGERY



HEART FAILURE



HIP REPLACEMENT



KNEE REPLACEMENT



LUNG CANCER SURGERY



ORTHOPEDICS



PULMONOLOGY



UROLOGY

Provider Praise

Premier Health patients submit thousands of comments each year acknowledging physicians across our health system for providing excellent care. Here is a random sampling of appreciation received in recent months:

I appreciate **Dr. Khatri's** energy and knowledge regarding food and natural options for health care.

Dr. Stone is the BEST! He is the best listener, so friendly. He is the best doctor I've ever had!

Dr. Snyder has a personality and medical intellect that promotes confidence and trust. I am so GLAD to be back with him and on the road to

a better journey of taking good care of myself.

Dr. Butman is the best. He treats you with a lot of compassion. That means a lot. Thank you.

Dr. Metry is so caring and treats me with kindness and respect.

Dr. Denen and his assistant, Hillary, are always easy to talk to and patient with all my questions.

Dr. Albright is an excellent physician.

Dr. Hendricks is wonderful. She is polite, listens to what I have to say, and gives me clear information about my health.

I told **Dr. Alsamkari** everyone should run their office the way they do. I am totally impressed! I will be back!

Spending Time with Family, Trying New Restaurants



Richard Kim, MD

What is your clinical specialty?

Headache medicine. I completed a residency in internal medicine and then a fellowship in

headache medicine.

Where did you go to school?

I attended undergrad at University of Cincinnati, and then medical school at St. George's University.

What brought you to Premier Health?

I was already familiar with the Premier Health system since I completed my Internal Medicine residency here at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, so I knew the quality of care that Premier Health provides to the community. I also wanted the opportunity to work with my mentor in headache medicine, Glen Solomon, MD, who is a headache specialist and the chair of Internal Medicine and Neurology.

Why did you choose medicine as a career?

My interest in medicine started from watching a heart surgeon operate on TV when I was like 9 years old. I remember being amazed that an organ could be exposed and operated on to save a life. Since then, my interest in science and medicine grew. I chose headache medicine because there are so many people suffering from debilitating headaches who can't enjoy life to the fullest, but we can actually do something to help them. It is very rewarding when we are able to get people feeling better. But, with a dearth of headache specialists in the country, these patients are under-recognized and poorly treated. I wanted to provide care for this large group of underserved patients.

Who are the people who influenced and/or mentored you?

I have two key mentors who have helped me in my career toward becoming a headache specialist. I was exposed to headache medicine by Dr. Solomon late in my internal medicine residency. He made headache medicine seem really interesting (which it

is) and showed me how rewarding it can be to care for headache patients. Dr. Solomon is the reason I pursued a career in headache medicine. My other mentor is Dr. Tom Ward, my headache medicine fellowship director at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, who continued to nurture my interest in headache. He helped me grow as a clinician and become a headache specialist with insightful and funny words of wisdom along the way.

What is one thing most people don't know about you?

I can play the piano. I am also a business owner.

Where is your hometown?

Defiance, Ohio

What, if any, sports team(s) do you cheer for?

Cincinnati Bengals (I know...)

What is the last book you read?

The Peculiar Memories of Thomas Penman

What is your favorite song in your playlist?

My favorite song changes frequently with my mood. Right now, I would say it is "Delicate Few" by O.A.R.

What is your favorite food?

Chicken parmesan

What is your favorite hobby?

Working out, traveling, trying new foods/restaurants, eating in general, golfing, and lying around doing nothing.

What is your favorite animal, and why?

Chipmunks. They're cute.

Where is your favorite vacation spot, and why?

Redondo Beach, Calif. My parents live there, right next to the beach. So, we can visit my parents, enjoy family time, and the beach and weather. Also, there is no shortage of amazing and diverse restaurants/food there!

Describe something (a thing, person, place, experience, etc.) for which you are especially thankful:

I am thankful for my wife and family, for it is with their support that I have been able to pursue and complete my medical training.

Pick a side

iPhone or Android?

Android

Early bird or night owl?

Night owl

Beach bum or mountain hiker?

Beach bum

Dress shoes or tennis shoes?

Tennis shoes

Paperback or e-reader?

Paperback

Coffee or tea?

Neither. Although, I do like the smell of coffee, I rarely drink it.

Cooking or baking?

Cooking

Sweet or salty?

Salty



The Liver Cancer Center of Ohio Now Coordinated by Premier Physician Network



The Liver Cancer Center of Ohio is now part of Premier Surgical Oncology, a Premier Physician Network practice. The center brings together some of the area's top interventional radiologists and surgical oncologists to offer coordinated care in conjunction with a patient's other care providers.

"This center is the only one of its kind in Ohio, not to mention one of a few across the nation, designed to offer coordinated care for those who are living with liver tumors," said James Ouellette, DO, surgical oncologist at the center and a certified physician with MD Anderson Cancer Network at Premier Health.

The center's physicians specialize in a variety of procedures such as:

- Laparoscopic and open liver resections
- Robotic liver and pancreas resection

- Laparoscopic microwave, nanoknife, and radio frequency ablations
- Percutaneous CT-guided ablations
- Hepatic artery chemoembolization
- HA yttrium-90 microsphere radioembolization
- Pre-liver resection portal vein embolization
- PTC catheter and/or high biliary stent placement
- Robotic Whipple procedure

The Liver Cancer Center of Ohio is a service of Premier Surgical Oncology and is located within the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville. The center is accepting new patients and can be reached at **(937) 438-8600**.

Premier Health First in Ohio to Use Innovative Technology for Lung Cancer Diagnosis

Premier Health is the first health system in Ohio to use promising new technology to fight lung cancer through the goal of earlier diagnosis and treatment. The Monarch™ Platform enables pulmonary specialists to navigate and search the delicate, distant branches of the lung and obtain tissue samples from hard-to-reach nodules for biopsy.

As lung cancer screening increases, the nodules tend to be smaller and harder to reach, making early-stage diagnosis — and

therefore treatment — difficult. Because the Monarch™ Platform provides improved reach, vision, and control for viewing the inside of the airways, it holds potential to help make an earlier diagnosis.

Located at Miami Valley Hospital, the Monarch™ Platform integrates advancements in robotics, software, data science, and endoscopy. Funds for its purchase were raised by the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation.

Online Cancer Referral Guide

Premier Health now has an online Cancer Care Referral Guide that describes our extensive services and links to our cancer specialists. Within the guide you will:

- Learn what our relationship with MD Anderson Cancer Center means for your patients
- Find a list of Premier Health physicians certified with MD Anderson Cancer Network®
- Find information on open oncology clinical trials by cancer type

- Learn about Premier Health's cancer services by tumor type
- Learn about supportive care provided at Premier Health, including support groups, survivorship support, and more
- Find convenient Premier Health locations that provide cancer services

The guide will be continuously updated with new information to better serve our referring physicians. Find the guide on Premier Health's website in Physician Connect

point your camera at this QR code



A Unified Medical Staff Model

Leadership/Unity/Inclusion

By Marc Belcastro, DO, chief medical officer, Premier Health and Miami Valley Hospital



On August 13, an email was sent to the entire medical staff with revisions in the Bylaws that reflect a unified medical staff. This will be posted for 30 days before we begin the voting on September 13. The voting process will also be by email. The potential of a unified medical staff is both exciting and important for our system. Currently there is significant uniformity in the system.

- One common set of Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
- One Central Verification Office (CVO) for credentialing
- 31 standard delineations of privileges across three hospitals
- Identical policy and procedure concerning physician wellness and physician professional conduct
- Identical policies for peer review, medical record delinquency
- Standardization of hospital-based services provided by one group
 - Pathology; Radiology; Anesthesia, Neonatology
- Nearly 80 percent of physicians have privileges at more than one facility

What are the advantages of a unified medical staff?

- Brings together one unified voice to the Premier Board through the Physician Partnership Board (this currently does not exist).
- SPEED of process resolution with greater communication
- EFFICIENCY – the approval process for vital changes is reduced
- SHARING – One credentials committee
- STANDARDIZATION - where needed
- CULTURE - Preserves the unique culture of each facility
- CULTURE – Adds a new culture of oneness for physicians

As a broad overview, there will be one Premier MEC and each hospital will also have an MEC which will be named the Medical Staff Operating Committee (MSOC). Credentialing and privileging will be centralized. Peer review and wellness committees will remain local.

As we have been working on this for the majority of this year, we have received some frequent questions:



If we become one medical staff, can Premier require me to take call for the emergency departments at all Premier hospitals?

NO. As one medical staff, physicians will not automatically have clinical privileges at all

Premier hospitals unless you specifically apply to have them at each facility through a new streamlined process.

What then is the difference for physicians?

The main difference is membership – which is distinct from privileges. Under the unified model, each physician will become a member of the Premier Health Medical Staff. You can have membership without clinical privileges.

What does membership involve, and is it changing?

There are no changes to the current categories of membership – Active, Affiliate and Honorary. Each category will have the same qualifications as they stand today. The primary distinction between the Active category and the Affiliate category is voting rights for Active staff members.

Can physicians choose only one hospital at which to have clinical privileges? As one medical staff, since I'll be a member at all Premier hospitals, am I then obligated to pay annual dues at all three?

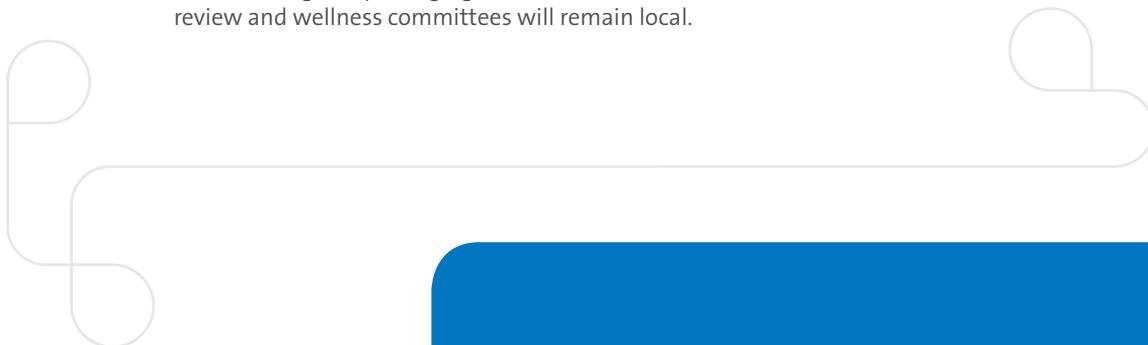
A physician can choose to be privileged at only one Premier Health hospital. Annual dues will be associated with clinical privileges, not membership. Physicians will only pay the annual dues for the hospital(s) at which they have been granted clinical privileges.

Are there other health systems regionally or nationally that have done this before?

Yes. Our outside consultant assists hospital systems across the country.

If I still have questions or concerns about becoming one medical staff, who should I talk to?

You may send your questions to onemedicalstaff@PremierHealth.com or talk to your President, President-Elect, or Chief Medical Officer.



Wrapping Our Brains Around Cerebral Edema

By Andrew Maigur, MD, director of Physician Advisor Program



This article is meant to address the clinical documentation of non-traumatic cerebral edema in the medical record. The ICD-10 (International Classification of Disease) diagnosis code for non-traumatic cerebral edema, G93.6, serves as a

major comorbid condition or complication. As a health system, we have noticed an increasing volume of clinical validation denials for cerebral edema. The reality of clinical validation denials is if the payer denies a condition that establishes a Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) or DRG tier, they may recoup reimbursement, which underscores the importance of accurate documentation in the medical record.

Two important questions should be considered:

- Is cerebral edema clinically significant?
- Is cerebral edema a valid secondary diagnosis? In other words, is cerebral edema supported by valid clinical indicators (signs and symptoms), imaging findings and intervention?

Common conditions that cause non-traumatic cerebral edema include ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes, brain tumors, infections, altitude sickness, electrolyte derangements, and toxins. However, the development of cerebral edema is not always inherent to the underlying etiology; for instance, not all ischemic strokes have surrounding vasogenic edema. It is an additional component which often complicates the clinical manifestations, treatment, and prognosis of the primary underlying condition.

It is important for clinicians to know the coder is not permitted to code exclusively from a radiology report. The clinician must declare the finding is clinically significant in the medical record. For cerebral edema to be a valid secondary diagnosis it is critical to link the diagnosis with associated clinical signs and symptoms (headache, nausea, vomiting, seizures, encephalopathy, Cushing's triad, papilledema), imaging findings (midline shift,

mass-effect, sulci-basilar cistern effacement, brain herniation), and interventions. Treatment measures including IV Decadron, hypertonic saline infusion, and hyperventilation must be linked to the diagnosis of cerebral edema. Importing the radiology impression into your medical progress note does not clinically validate the diagnosis of cerebral edema. It is also essential to note that the diagnosis must be carried forward through the medical record and summarized in the discharge summary to be accurately captured by coders.

What about the patient with a guarded prognosis who elects comfort care measures? Does the lack of aggressive treatment render cerebral edema invalid as a secondary diagnosis? The answer is a resounding no. The key takeaway would be clear documentation of cerebral edema contributing to the grave prognosis, leading to the selection of comfort care measures.

To assist our clinical providers in accurate and consistent documentation of cerebral edema, Nivedita Mankotia, MD, and I have created a macro (tip sheet available on Provider Learning Home in EPIC). If you find yourself struggling to match the drop-down menu options with your patient, then it may be possible that cerebral edema is not clinically significant and/or a valid secondary diagnosis.



CompuNet's Contributions During the COVID-19 Pandemic



While COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on health care, Premier Health has rallied to provide “best in class” care to patients and support our community.

During the past few months, the pandemic has also revealed the importance of the clinical laboratory’s role in diagnosing and treating COVID-19 positive patients, as well as providing important data to public health agencies.

While the lab is typically not thought of as “patient-facing” or “providing direct care,” CompuNet teams have worked tirelessly alongside our Premier Health colleagues and other community partners in the fight

against the novel coronavirus. Here are some of the projects that highlight the level of partnership and the scope of services CompuNet has provided since March:

UD Drive-Through COVID Testing Site: The University of Dayton Arena collection site was launched on March 17 thanks to strong leadership and teamwork from Premier Health, CompuNet, Fidelity Health Care, and University of Dayton. The UD drive-through was the first of its kind in Ohio and served as one of the longest running drive-through COVID collection sites in the country before relocating to OnMain (former Montgomery County fairgrounds) on Aug. 24. More than 24,000 patients have been tested over the

course of the five months that the site was active.

COVID-19 IgG Antibody Testing: CompuNet began offering COVID-19 IgG antibody testing on April 27, allowing Premier Health to be the first hospital system in Southwest Ohio to offer this service. The tremendous demand for COVID-19 antibody testing prompted CompuNet to launch direct access testing to patients without a physician’s order on May 4. Antibody testing is currently offered at 28 CompuNet Patient Service Centers.

Convalescent Plasma Program: CompuNet has played an important role with Premier

Premier Health Urgent Care, CompuNet Offer New COVID-19 Testing Sites



Premier Health Urgent Care and CompuNet Clinical Laboratories on Aug. 24 opened multiple COVID-19 specimen collection sites throughout the region to meet the need for such testing among Premier Health patients and the community at large.

The expansion includes the transition of Premier Health and CompuNet's drive-through collection site at the University of Dayton Arena to OnMain, the 38-acre property across from Miami Valley Hospital that is in its early stages of redevelopment after serving as the long-time site of the Montgomery County fairgrounds.

Those seeking tests should enter the new OnMain testing site, at 1229 S. Main St. in Dayton, through the former fairgrounds main entrance. The testing site will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It will continue to focus exclusively on the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test that is used to determine if individuals are currently positive for COVID-19. The drive-through testing site will not require an appointment, and is open to any individual who has a physician's order for the test.

Premier Health patients who need to schedule PCR testing prior to a procedure can do so online at **PremierHealth.com** at one of the following locations, which will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days per week:

- Atrium Medical Center, One Medical Center Drive, Middletown (drive-through location at Behavioral Health Unit canopy)
- Upper Valley Medical Center, 3130 N. County Road 25A, Troy (drive-through location in the parking lot northeast of the former Dettmer Hospital site)

- Premier Health Urgent Care – Vandalia, 6700 Commerce Center Drive (patient calls upon arrival; is met at door)
- Premier Health Urgent Care – Miamisburg, 8 Prestige Plaza Drive (patient calls upon arrival; is met at door)

The UD site, which opened on March 17, has been one of the longest-running and successful testing sites in the nation, serving more than 24,000 people during its more than five-month run.



Health's convalescent plasma treatment program, the first in the nation to utilize Mayo Clinic protocols to provide such therapy, by providing COVID-19 IgG antibody testing for potential convalescent plasma donors.

Innovative Test Solutions: Recognizing a shortage of test supplies would jeopardize the lab's ability to provide our hospitals and the community with adequate COVID-19 testing, CompuNet proactively took steps at the beginning of the pandemic to address the critical shortages. CompuNet expanded its lab space and purchased multiple instruments to perform up to 1,500 tests daily. This would not have been

possible without the support of Premier Health's foundations and their generous contributions that enabled the purchase of COVID-19 instruments. CompuNet is continuing to source additional instruments as COVID-19 continues to spread.

Lab Services Expansion: In the coming weeks, CompuNet will implement nasopharyngeal swab collections at designated patient service center locations to provide additional access for patients and providers. Once finalized, the select patient service centers would require appointments during designated hours for COVID-19 collections, following all safety and infection control protocols. More information will be

communicated in the coming weeks about the proposed expansion.

The pandemic will continue to present challenges in the coming months. CompuNet's focus will remain on supporting our partners to provide the necessary testing and access to be an important part of the solution in fighting this virus.

CompuNet
CLINICAL LABORATORIES

Major Achievements, Boosting Patient Morale, Remembering a Board Member

Atrium Medical Center

Atrium Medical Center earned the Mission: Lifeline Gold Receiving Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association for implementing specific measures for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks. Atrium earned the award by meeting specific criteria and standards of performance for quick and appropriate treatment through emergency procedures to re-establish blood flow to blocked arteries in heart attack patients coming into the hospital directly or by transfer from another facility.



Atrium Medical Center has expanded its partnership with Countryside YMCA, one of the world's largest YMCAs, to offer athletic training services to

its members. A full-time athletic trainer will provide free injury assessments, treatment, and injury prevention advice to YMCA members as part of the enhanced relationship. Atrium and Countryside YMCA have enjoyed a positive relationship for many years, with sports medicine and physical therapy services located at the YMCA.

Whitney Hare, AT, will provide the athletic training services at Countryside YMCA. She will also host free monthly talks for YMCA members, including an Aug. 25 seminar on getting golf fit.



Mouhamad Abdallah, MD, medical director of Atrium's Chest Pain Center and the hospital's cardiac catheterization lab, was the guest speaker at Middletown Rotary

Club's Aug. 4 meeting. Dr. Abdallah discussed the complete scope of cardiovascular services at Atrium as well as COVID-19's impact on cardiovascular patients. He also encouraged members to join the hospital for the 2020 Butler Warren Heart Walk, which will be a virtual event this year.



The motorcycle ride Highway to Help returned for its sixth year on Aug. 1 with a few modifications, but the same mission to help families in need during the holidays. The charity motorcycle ride, organized by Atrium employees, raised \$17,000 for Adopt-A-Family. Organizers expect to help more than 100 children this holiday season by purchasing gifts and other needed items the local families could not have otherwise afforded.

Atrium employees are making an appearance in the City of Middletown's "Masks On, Middletown" campaign, which encourages residents to wear face masks. Photos of



Atrium employees wearing their face masks are being featured in social media posts by the city.

The coronavirus pandemic has changed how we celebrate important events, and this year's employee picnic was no exception. Organizers modified the annual event typically held at Stricker's Grove amusement park and, instead, staff and medical providers were treated to a free picnic meal from the Atrium Café. Folded into the event

was a celebration of Atrium being named a Top Workplace by the Cincinnati Enquirer. Whit's Frozen Custard – the top sweet treat in Warren County as declared by the visitor bureau's annual "best of" awards – was given away to Atrium's Top Workplace team.



Miami Valley Hospital Campuses

Miami Valley Hospital North (MVHN) celebrated two years of providing inpatient services on its campus. In 2018, a total of 46 inpatient private rooms for short-stay inpatient and observation care, including four high-acuity beds, became available. The hospital continues

the same quality care and services that local residents in the northern region have received since 1995. This addition at MVHN meant 82,000 additional square feet as well as expanded patient and visitor parking.

Miami Valley Hospital North Ultrasound, as part of the Miami Valley North Breast Center, achieved reaccreditation with the American College of Radiology (ACR) for breast ultrasound. The Breast Imaging Center of Excellence designation is awarded to breast imaging centers that achieve excellence by seeking and earning accreditation in all of the ACR's voluntary breast-imaging accreditation programs and modules.

The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association proudly recognized Miami Valley Hospital as a 2020 Get with the Guidelines®-Stroke GOLD PLUS with Honor Roll Elite and Advanced Therapy Achievement Award hospital. This recognition is the result of having the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment to improve patient care and outcomes in the community. This is the first year the AHA has awarded hospitals with the "Advanced Therapy" recognition.

Miami Valley Hospital Clinical Nurse Educator Lorna Stringfield wanted to do something to help boost morale, not only for patients but also her coworkers. Lorna decided to snap a selfie, laminate it, and wear the badge on her scrubs so her coworkers and patients could see the smile behind her mask. Lorna then took her "individual" idea and made it a hospital initiative. She decided to ask her coworkers if they would like a badge and they jumped at the opportunity. In less than a week, Lorna



made nearly 80 badges for her colleagues. "If you look up and you're in an unfamiliar environment and the first thing that you see is this face smiling back at you, it's going to put a smile on your face," says Lorna. "If you're not able to smile, it's going to make you feel a little bit better."

Out of an abundance of caution during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation has made the decision to postpone its Champions of Hope event until later this year. As always, our top priority is the safety and well-being of our honorees and attendees. The MVH Foundation will continue to develop plans to determine the safest options in moving forward with the event. Champions of Hope honors four extraordinary local individuals



for their achievements in the fight against cancer. As further details become known, more information will be available on the MVH Foundation website or by contacting the MVH Foundation office at **(937) 208-2700**.

Upper Valley Medical Center



The Upper Valley Medical Center family mourned the passing of long-time board member and hospital supporter **Joel Walker**, who died July 22. His board tenure began in

1983 when he joined the Stouder Memorial Hospital Board, transitioning to the UVMC board in 1985, and retiring from the UVMC Parent Board in December 2019. As former publisher/co-owner of the Troy Daily News, Mr. Walker held many leadership positions in journalism and community organizations. He and his wife, Nancy, were recipients of the Troy Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award in 2014.

The Upper Valley Medical Center Retail Pharmacy has relocated to a new suite near the hospital's main entrance. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Nick Lair, system vice president of strategic initiatives at Premier Health, presented a Troy Chamber of Commerce Wednesday Webinar program for chamber

members via Zoom on July 8. The program featured a health care update, COVID-19 tracing/testing for businesses, and a question and answer session.

Upper Valley Medical Center will host a health and wellness marketing booth at the Piqua Farmers Market each Thursday throughout the summer. The event, presented by Main Street Piqua, is being conducted following COVID-19 mask/social distancing/hand sanitizing protocols for all participating vendors.

Kevin Harlan Named President at Upper Valley Medical Center



By Barbara Johnson, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Premier Health

As a result of Tom Parker's retirement, I am pleased to announce that **Kevin Harlan** has been appointed as President of Upper Valley Medical Center. Kevin's health care career spans

nearly 39 years where, most recently, he led Grand Lake Health System as president and CEO for the last 15 years. Prior to this, Kevin has held key executive leadership roles in diagnostic services, hospital operations, outpatient joint ventures, and health care alliances. His most recent responsibilities include oversight of an acute care hospital, nursing home, foundation, home health agency, multi-specialty physician practice, and cancer network. Throughout his career, Kevin has led numerous growth efforts and improvement initiatives aimed at providing high-quality health care, improving patient experience, and enhancing outreach and education programs to the communities in which he serves.



Kevin comes to Premier Health with an associate degree in Radiology from Sinclair College, a bachelor's degree in Business and Natural Sciences from Wright State University, and a master's degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University. He is a member of numerous professional

health care and community organizations, including the Ohio Hospital Association and the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association. Kevin brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and accomplishments to Premier Health and we are confident in his ability to lead Upper Valley Medical Center. Kevin will join Premier Health at UVMC on September 7. Please join me in welcoming Kevin to the Premier Health and UVMC leadership teams.

What Now? *(continued from front)*

program, students compete for a renewable scholarship to Wright State.

The last way to examine these disparities that I'd like to highlight is a very personal one for each and every person reading this column. The concept is that of reflection. Having heard the protests and the pundits, you have to reflect personally on biases. Statistics have shown throughout history that Black and Brown people do not fare as well when it comes to top-notch medical care. But when you reflect on the process you can see why. In Dayton, most of those living in a lower social economic status present to Miami Valley Hospital with a CareSource card. The vast majority of their care is provided by residents (physicians in training). This is not to say that our residency programs provide sub-par care. On the contrary, I am proud of the education that I received as a resident at MVH and would welcome any future resident to get

their training here. Where I feel the focus should be is on how the care is provided. A 27-year-old African American female in a sickle cell crisis presenting to the ED for pain management has a different feel than a 27-year-old white male presenting to the ED for an infected tooth. Both are seeking pain management...but the race and diagnosis bring forward biases with which we all must grapple. The training ground for a young physician, young nurse, young phlebotomist all starts with how we see the patient in front of us. It affects the care we provide. Sometimes the biases cause us to provide care that we would pray is never given to someone we love. Medicine is exempt from neither bias nor racism. My hope is, during this journey of enlightenment, we open our eyes, ears, and hearts so that we can level the playing field for people of color when it comes to racial inequality in medicine.



National CNS Week
September 1-7, 2020



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