

# Premier Pulse

News for Premier Health Physicians

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*So let me just say  
I take with me a  
lifetime of memories  
I will cherish dearly.  
As Garrison Keeler  
once said, “Be well,  
do good work, and  
keep in touch.”*

*–Mary Boosalis*

## An Incredible Journey

By Mary Boosalis, Premier Health president and CEO

When I arrived here to complete a post graduate fellowship in health care administration in 1986, I certainly had no idea I would be part of Premier Health some 35 years later! This incredible journey must now come to an end, and frankly it is impossible to encapsulate all I would like to say. I am fortunate to have had a career that I was passionate about. That is because I have always believed in our mission, vision, and values, as do the people who work here.

I have had the privilege of working with incredibly talented individuals at every level of this organization – the board of trustees, an excellent executive team, exceptional physicians, nurses, volunteers, and so many others. Suffice it to say, I have seen a depth and breadth of talent that not only makes

me “Premier Proud” as we so often say, but is truly unparalleled at so many levels, and in so many ways.

Premier Health has hardly been immune from the many challenges facing our industry. Regardless of the challenge, you have accomplished so very much with courage, fortitude, and resilience and I believe, are second to none. This is because no matter what we have experienced, we have always focused on those we serve, working as a team – to benefit the community as a whole.

We have earned many distinguished clinical awards, greatly expanded our clinical footprint, forged ahead in the digital world, responsibly reduced costs, been recognized as a best practice nationally in diversity and inclusion, implemented numerous unique

partnerships, built innovative care sites, and the list goes on.

Additionally, we have collectively faced what I believe are the most difficult decisions in our 125-year history during my tenure here, including the closure of Good Samaritan Hospital. The former hospital site has an exciting redevelopment plan with the support of many community partners that you will begin to see implemented this year.

We have experienced a series of crisis situations and have risen to the occasion after a horrific mass shooting and helped our own impacted employees and the community when devastating tornadoes hit our area. Through it all we continued to move forward, especially through a world-wide pandemic that has essentially



[View a special video message from Mary](#)

*Continued on back*

PremierHealth.com

 Premier Health

# Premier Health Announces Next President and CEO



Michael “Mike” Riordan, a seasoned and successful health care leader with extensive experience with community partnerships, will serve as Premier Health’s new president and CEO, effective January 31, 2022. He is the first external candidate selected to lead Premier Health since its formation in 1995.

Riordan brings progressive hospital and health care experience, including nearly 20 years in CEO leadership positions for prominent health systems across the United States, including the University of Chicago Medical Center and Greenville Health System/ Prisma Health in Greenville, South Carolina.

His selection follows a national search and review of dozens of candidates.

“The Premier Health Board of Trustees was extremely impressed by Mike’s ability to bring creativity, flexibility, and analysis to bear in tackling and solving complex challenges, as well as his brand of servant leadership,” said Anita Moore, immediate past chair of the Premier Health board of trustees. “We believe he will complement Premier Health’s culture with his proven track record of mentoring and developing talent, seeking input from front-line staff, and valuing diversity and inclusion.”

Riordan has served as an Independent Director with Owens & Minor since December 2019, as well as on the global health care solutions company’s Audit and Governance & Nominating Committees. In addition, he was recently selected to be an adjunct senior advisor for McKinsey and Company’s Healthcare Systems and Services Practice.

“Premier Health is clearly an organization committed to meeting the rapidly evolving health care needs of Southwest Ohio,” Riordan said. “I am honored to be selected to lead the organization and look forward to working with the board, medical staff, and employees in advancing the health system’s mission to build healthier communities. My family and I are eager to be a part of this community.”

Riordan earned a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts/English and a master’s degree in education/psychology from Columbia University in New York, as well as a master’s degree in health systems from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Additionally, he served three years as a lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He and his wife, Susan, will relocate to the Dayton area from Greenville, S.C. They take great pride in their five grown children and one grandchild.

Riordan succeeds Mary Boosalis, whose service to Premier Health, Miami Valley Hospital, and the region spans 35 years, including the past five as the health system’s president and CEO. Mary will serve in an advisory role through the end of March to ensure a seamless transition.

Moore praised Boosalis’ leadership as bold and visionary. “We owe Mary great appreciation. She has skillfully led Premier Health through industry challenges with expertise and resolve, most recently in fighting the global pandemic, placing us on a strong trajectory for the future,” she said. “Our heartfelt gratitude and respect go out to her for her exemplary service that will have an impact for decades to come.”

## Mission Driven



# A look back at the 35-year career of Premier Health's first female CEO

Mary Boosalis has always believed that in health care, a job isn't simply a job – it is a calling.



After working 10 years as a critical care nurse, Mary began her 35-year career with Premier Health when she joined Miami Valley Hospital as

a post-graduate management fellow in 1986. Following the fellowship, Mary's advancement through the health system happened quickly. She was named chief operating officer of Miami Valley Hospital in 1998, and in 2006 she became the hospital's president and CEO. In 2011, Mary began her service as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Premier Health, and since 2017 she has served as president and CEO – the first female CEO in the health system's history.

Mary's career has been marked by partnerships, successfully navigating unprecedented challenges, and a strong orientation toward physician and clinical quality to advance Premier Health's mission of building healthier communities. She made significant strides in the advancement of women in executive leadership roles, and her passion for diversity, inclusion, and equity has never wavered.

Highlights of her collaborative work include the expansion of Miami Valley Hospital's main campus with the construction of the Heart and Vascular Tower, as well as the integral part she played in the strategic vision and development of the Miami Valley Hospital South campus, which opened in 2007 as one of the nation's first free-standing emergency departments.

Mary has worked for decades on campus and neighborhood development, partnering with the City of Dayton and other business partners to improve areas near Miami Valley Hospital and in northwest Dayton through the Genesis Project and the Phoenix Project – neighborhood revitalization work that continues today.

The decision to close the former Good Samaritan Hospital was the most difficult of Mary's career. A major part of the decision centered on the redevelopment of the former hospital site. Those efforts continue today through Phoenix Next, partnering with the City of Dayton and CityWide. The project remains a key focus for Premier Health; the health system has committed to build on the site a new 12,000-square-foot facility focusing on urgent care, physical therapy, lab services, medical imaging, and physician office space. This further enhances a long tradition of partnering with community organizations serving northwest Dayton, including Gem City Market, the Hope Center, Homefull, and area barbershops, to provide health education and screenings.



Mary has championed numerous clinical initiatives, including developing and launching the Premier Health-Wright State University Neurosciences Research Institute and the decision for Premier Health to join the MD Anderson Physician Network, bringing nationally recognized cancer care close to home for local residents.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mary's leadership and experience were critical. She worked tirelessly with others to help Premier Health overcome the challenges of obtaining personal protective

equipment, testing supplies, and vaccine distribution, and most importantly, supporting front line and behind-the-scenes staff. Enhancing partnerships with other decision makers at the local, state, and national levels resulted in finding unique solutions to challenging problems associated with COVID-19. And together with the University of Dayton, Premier Health opened one of the first drive-through testing sites in Ohio.

In 2019, Mary's leadership also was critical to Premier Health's community response to two tragedies – a tornado outbreak that resulted in hundreds of injuries and disrupted the lives of hundreds of employees, and the mass shooting in the Oregon District that killed nine people and injured dozens. Twenty-three injured patients flooded Miami Valley Hospital's Level I trauma center and other emergency departments, with only two arriving by EMS. A few days later, Mary and other leaders hosted the first visit by a sitting U.S. president in Miami Valley Hospital's 130-year history.

In 2019 and 2021, Modern Healthcare recognized Mary as one of the Top 25 Women Leaders in Health Care in the country. In 2020, Modern Healthcare named her to the national list of 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives. Mary also has been named to the Top Ten Women list by the Dayton Daily News and has been recognized as an Ohio Most Powerful and Influential Woman by the Ohio Diversity Council and as a Woman of Influence by the Dayton YWCA.

Mary is looking forward to being with her family and pursuing activities that have long been on her list of retirement goals.



# Gladiators

By Marc Belcastro, DO, system chief medical officer, Premier Health



Instead of making a New Year's resolution, one thing I do each year is choose a word to

serve as a goal or guidepost for me. This word is often based on any personal and/or work challenges I may be facing. My word for 2021 was endurance. My new 2022 word is courage. I chose courage when I recognized that some element of fear lingered in me as I reflected on 2021.

As many of you know, I battled cancer in 2020-2021. I also fought through a COVID diagnosis right before the vaccines became available and recently came through another course of COVID. While these illnesses have been difficult and even frightening at times, my faith was extremely important in this fight. I was also able to battle through my fears with the support of family, friends, and my colleagues. Adding to this personal stress,

health care is the new battleground for all of us as we have lived through almost two years of a pandemic.

While I indeed faced many personal battles, I have never lost sight of the burden this pandemic has been on our entire team. I am acutely aware each day of the physicians and APPs who have provided continuous care for not only our patients with COVID, but those with many other serious illnesses as well. You are carrying heavy loads day after day, week after week, and month after month. I see nurses, therapists and other workers coming in through the front door to start a shift while others leave exhausted, discarding their mask only to return and do this again the next day. I think about the lab team, the EVS team, the nutrition team, and so many others. As I see this unfold day after day, I am constantly reminded of your incredible courage and endless sacrifices. I also know that what

keeps you going during the most difficult times is that you have a co-worker or colleague next to you in the same fight. Together you have been able to face whatever has come your way.

I share all of this to encourage you to not give up on the hope of what a new year can bring and to not be shy about sharing your personal thoughts with a trusted friend. We may not be able to fix things for one another, but a willingness to share and some transparency can help us find a bit of inner strength and courage we did not know existed.

Let's stand together and support one another. My door is always open. I will end with a movie quote from Gladiator. "Whatever comes out of these gates, we have a better chance of survival if we work together. If we stay together, we survive." I will continue to work with you and support you as we stand together.

# CMS Reverses 2021 Changes to the Inpatient Only List

By Andrew Maigur, MD, system director, Physician Advisor Program



On Nov. 2, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the anticipated CY 2022 Hospital outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) and ambulatory surgical center (ASC) payment system final rule, finalizing this year's Medicare payment rates for hospital outpatient and ASCs as well as regulatory guidance regarding several high-profile policies for hospitals. CMS evaluated industry feedback to the proposed modifications, including the halting of the elimination of the inpatient only list (IPO).

## Changes to the inpatient only list

In the proposed rule, CMS suggested reinstating the 298 services removed from the IPO list Jan. 1, 2021, with an effective add back date of Jan. 1, 2022. In the final rule, CMS paused the elimination of the inpatient only list due in part to receiving

overwhelming stakeholder feedback arguing that patients' safety would be at far greater risk with a total elimination.

The final rule adds back to the IPO list all the services removed in 2021 except for three distinct procedures and their associated anesthesia codes. The services described by the following CPT codes will remain off the IPO list:

- 22630 (lumbar spine fusion)
- 23472 (reconstruct shoulder joint)
- 27702 (reconstruct ankle joint)
- The anesthesia codes corresponding to these procedures

It is important to consider that, as in the previous rulemaking, CMS emphasized that "the removal of a service from the IPO list does not require the services to be performed only on an outpatient basis." And providers should keep in mind that:

"It is a misinterpretation of CMS payment policy for providers to create policies or

guidelines that establish the hospital outpatient setting as the baseline or default site of service for a procedure based on its removal from the IPO list. As stated in previous rulemaking, services that are no longer included on the IPO list are payable in either the inpatient or hospital outpatient setting." (CMS-1753-FC pg. 587/1394 and 84 FR 61354; 82 FR 59384; 81 FR 79697)

As physician advisors, we will continue to monitor the impact of these changes on our patients, providers and health system and advocate on your behalf. My team of physician advisors and I are more than willing to bear the regulatory burden and assist you with status determinations on these patients. Please feel free to contact the Physician Advisor Group via secure chat to reach an on-call physician advisor with any questions.

*References: CMS OPPS/ASC Final Rule Increases Price Transparency, Patient Safety and Access to Quality Care | CMS*

## CompuNet Introduces Moderna COVID Vaccine at Select Locations

CompuNet Clinical Laboratories now offers the Moderna vaccine at three patient service center locations (Miami Valley Hospital Berry Building, Miami Valley Hospital South, and Atrium Medical Center). The Moderna vaccine is free-of-charge and available for anyone 18 years or older.

Appointments can be scheduled at [PremierHealth.com/vaccine](https://PremierHealth.com/vaccine). Individuals should bring their vaccine card with them to any appointments for subsequent doses.

The initial two-dose Moderna vaccine series and the Moderna booster, as well as the third dose for those who are

immunocompromised, are available through CompuNet. The Moderna booster is available five months after completing the initial two-dose series. For those who are immunocompromised, a Moderna dose is available 28 days after receiving the initial two-dose vaccination series. The following is a link to the CDC page with recommendations for individuals who meet the criteria for being immunocompromised: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html).

CompuNet also offers the Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) COVID vaccine. Appointments for either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine

are highly recommended; however, vaccine requests will be honored during a lab work visit if slots are available. All CompuNet COVID-19 vaccine locations are listed online at [compuNetlab.com/covid-vaccine-scheduling.html](https://compuNetlab.com/covid-vaccine-scheduling.html).

Vaccine documentation will be available through an individual's Premier Health MyChart account as well as through CompuNet's online patient portal, My Labs Now<sup>SM</sup>. Access or sign up for My Labs Now online at [CompuNetlab.com](https://CompuNetlab.com) or text MYLABS to 66349 and follow the signup link in the text message that you receive.



# OBGYN Loves Volleyball, Vacationing in the Mountains



Lacey Wood, MD

**What is your clinical specialty?**  
Obstetrics and gynecology

## Where did you go to school?

I attended Colorado State University for my undergraduate degree and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine for my medical degree.

## Why did you choose medicine as a career?

Practicing medicine is an incredible opportunity for me to combine both my love for physiology and my passion for caring for others – all in a team-based environment.

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

My sister, parents, and grandparents are an incredible force that have always kept me feeling inspired and well-supported. Also, I would not have had as much success or fun in my medical school training without my incredibly hard-working, intelligent, and funny best friend from medical school, Juli. I also owe some of who I am today to my high school volleyball coach.

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

I won “best laugh” in high school.

## Where is your hometown?

Springfield, Illinois

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

Whatever teams my nephews are playing on, and usually the underdog in any close game. Volleyball is also, by far, the best sport.

## What is the last book you read?

“The Conscious Closet” by Elizabeth L. Cline

## What is your favorite song in your playlist?

It depends on what I'm going for, but when they play “Send Me On My Way” by Rusted Root on the Matilda movie, that's some pretty good vibes.

## What is your favorite food?

Rice and broccoli

## What is your favorite hobby?

Snow skiing

## What is your favorite animal, and why?

I don't know if I have a favorite. On some of our recent hikes we have seen bears and moose. There's something so cool about seeing them in their natural habitat.

## Where is your favorite vacation spot, and why?

Anywhere in the mountains – endless opportunities to be active outdoors in an incredibly beautiful place.

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

Traveling around the world and volunteering in third-world countries have been such an incredible way to grow my understanding, appreciation, and love for different cultures.

## Pick a side

**iPhone or Android**  
iPhone

**Early bird or night owl**  
Both, unfortunately

**Beach bum or mountain hiker?**  
Mountain hiker

**Dress shoes or tennis shoes?**  
Tennis shoes

**Paperback or e-reader?**  
Paper is easier to study on, but I made the switch to e-readers to try to be less wasteful.

**Coffee or tea?**  
Coffee – purely for survival.

**Cooking or baking?**  
Neither

**Sweet or salty?**  
Both – sweet and salty popcorn is the ultimate snack.

# Self-Scheduling for Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Evaluations



To offer more choice and flexibility, patients can now schedule their initial physical therapy or occupational therapy evaluations via Premier Health MyChart®.

Following your order for a consult, patients with a Premier Health MyChart® account will:

- Receive an email alerting them that they have a new scheduling ticket available in Premier Health MyChart®
- Have the option to choose a provider, location, and time convenient for them

## Placing a Therapy Consult Order

When placing an order, it is important to select the proper specialty consult order for specialty services. This will ensure the patient schedules the correct initial evaluation with the correct therapist.

CON30385 - Consult to Lymphedema Therapy OT/PT Eval and Treat

CON30387 - Consult to Pelvic Floor Rehab PT Eval and Treat

CON30383 - Consult to Vestibular Rehab PT Eval and Treat

CON30384 - Consult to Hand Therapy OT Eval and Treat

CON30043 - Consult to Physical Therapy Eval and Treat

CON30044 - Consult to Occupational Therapy Eval and Treat Searching “eval treat” displays the following orders:

Name	Px Code
Fees Speech Therapy - Eval and Treat (Premier Health)	CON30386
Hand Therapy - OT/PT Eval and Treat (Premier Health)	CON30384
Lymphedema Therapy - OT/PT Eval And Treat (Premier Health)	CON30385
Neuro Outpatient Therapy - Eval and Treat (Premier Health)	CON30201
Occupational Therapy - Eval And Treat (Premier Health)	CON30044
Pelvic Floor Rehab - PT Eval and Treat (Premier Health)	CON30387
Physical Therapy - Eval and Treat (Premier Health)	CON30043
Speech Therapy - Eval and Treat (Premier Health)	CON30266

Please note: At this time, physical and occupational therapy are the only therapy departments set up to offer self-scheduling.

Wheelchair clinic, speech therapy, and neuro outpatient therapy consults are not set up for self-scheduling.

For therapy orders that do NOT allow self-scheduling, it is very important to order the CORRECT order, such as “Neuro Outpatient Therapy,” rather than “physical therapy,” to disallow the patient from scheduling at the wrong location or with the wrong therapist.

## 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.

**Dr. Block** and his staff are great!

**Dr. Dixon** does a wonderful job taking care of me. He listens to my concerns and answers all of my questions.

**Dr. Linn** and his staff are fabulous.

**Dr. Ljungren** always gives a thorough exam, listens to questions I may have, and answers all my concerns in a manner that I can understand. I never feel rushed and feel that Dr. Ljungren is concerned about my health.

**Dr. Schatzel** and his staff are superb. I could not ask for a better physician.

**Dr. VonMaluski** is the best doctor ever. Everyone should have a doctor like him. He listens, takes time with patients, and he is kind and caring.

# Local ECMO Therapy Benefits COVID-19 Patient



Many of us pursue various professions out of a desire to make a difference in the world. That is certainly the case for most medical professionals, who often choose to work in fields that present opportunities to not only save lives, but sometimes witness miracles. The health care team tasked with operating the newly-established ECMO program for adult patients at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton recently had one such experience.

Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) is a process in which, similar to a

heart-lung bypass machine used in open-heart surgery, blood is pumped outside of the body to a machine that removes carbon dioxide and sends re-warmed, oxygen-filled blood back to the body in an effort to give the patient's heart, lungs, or both, a chance to heal.

"ECMO is a very advanced therapy; it's not something that should be taken lightly," says Vincent Nardy, DO, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Cardiothoracic Surgery Associates and medical director of adult ECMO services at Miami Valley Hospital.

Last summer, Miami Valley Hospital became the first facility in Dayton to offer ECMO for adults, which has allowed critically ill heart and lung patients to remain close to home while receiving the potentially life-saving treatment. Also last summer, 31-year-old Shayna Stanley of West Milton fell ill with COVID-19 and was hospitalized at Miami Valley Hospital's Level I Trauma Center.

Dr. Nardy describes Shayna's case as a "sadly common scenario" in which even young patients start off with mild





COVID-19 symptoms before spontaneously taking a rapid turn for the worse. Wearing an oxygen mask can quickly lead to having a breathing tube inserted and being placed on a ventilator, which triggers a new set of concerns. ECMO is the next option to potentially save a patient's life.

"There were a lot of times that we weren't sure Shayna would actually survive," says Dr. Nardy. "Thankfully, after a lot of persistence from our ECMO team – our nursing staff and our perfusionists and our critical care doctors – she was starting to get better."

Shayna was comatose for nearly two months. She remembers being transported in an ambulance in July and then waking up in October. The ECMO team actually had a conversation with her mother about withdrawing her from care. A day or two later, however, "she started to make a drastic recovery," recalls Dr. Nardy. "It was remarkable how well she was improving."

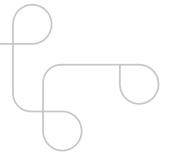
Dr. Nardy credits Shayna's recovery to her own resilience, as well as the dedication of the ECMO team.

"Everybody involved did a wonderful job treating Shayna and persisting through some of the darkest hours of her therapy," he says. "I'm extremely proud of our team, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for our ECMO program and the lives we can save here in the Miami Valley area."

Patients who survive being placed on ECMO, especially those diagnosed with COVID-19, are "nothing short of a miracle," says Dr. Nardy.

That includes Shayna, who – once awake – would light up with a smile any time someone walked into her hospital room.

"Shayna's special, I can tell you that for sure," Dr. Nardy says. "She was always very appreciative of the opportunity to still be alive, and it was very rewarding and very heartwarming any time you walked into her room. It made us as professionals very grateful to have such an opportunity to take care of somebody who is also grateful for the opportunity to live. Seeing how well she's done and seeing how grateful she is – it's exactly why we go into medicine."



## Ohio Valley Surgical Hospital Partners with Two Health Systems

Ohio Valley Surgical Hospital announced on Jan. 4 that it is partnering with Dayton-based Premier Health and Columbus-based OhioHealth as part of an ongoing commitment to expand access to care and keep care local in Clark County.

As part of the unique arrangement, the two health systems have formed a joint venture that will join 35 physicians in sharing ownership of the multi-specialty hospital in Springfield.

"This partnership brings needed resources to successfully innovate in a changing health care landscape while allowing the doctors to maintain independence and focus on clinical excellence," said Steve Eisentrager, president of Ohio Valley. "The Board was committed to selecting a partner who would continue to build on the success of Ohio Valley as a trusted health care partner in our local community."

The partnership took root in Ohio Valley Surgical Hospital's request for partnership proposals. Leaders at both health systems reiterated their commitment to keep care local in Springfield and Clark County.

"Ohio Valley Surgical Hospital is widely known and respected across the region for its quality of care, and we are pleased to join with both this hospital and OhioHealth to build upon its strong reputation," said Mary Boosalis, president and CEO of Premier Health. "This venture is in keeping with our strategic plan to expand access to care through partnerships with like-minded organizations. This helps to support Premier Health's mission to improve the health of all communities that it serves."

"We are excited to be partnering with two reputable institutions like Ohio Valley Surgical Hospital and Premier Health to expand access and keep care local in Clark County," said Steve Markovich, MD, president and CEO of OhioHealth. "This is a unique opportunity for us to work collectively to strengthen Ohio Valley, enhance their current offerings and put them in a position for continued growth and success."

There are no immediate plans to adjust services at Ohio Valley Surgical Hospital. The partners plan to identify opportunities to expand access to health care services in the Springfield region.

OhioHealth is a nationally recognized, not-for-profit, charitable, healthcare outreach of the United Methodist Church. Ohio Valley Surgical Hospital, a physician-owned hospital, was established in 2009 and provides an award-winning care experience for elective surgical procedures and medical care.



# Sleep Centers; Holiday Festivities; and Foundation Support

## Atrium Medical Center

Two established and highly regarded sleep centers have joined Premier Health, effective Jan. 1, 2022. This transition will increase patient access to Premier Health's sleep services. The two sleep centers, located at 7056 Corporate Way in Centerville and 7371 Brandt Pike in Huber Heights, do business under the name Center for Sleep Disorders and are operated by Atrium Medical Center. These new sleep centers are managed by Jodi Stitt, who oversees other Premier Health sleep centers, and report to Lyndsey Pittman, Atrium's director of finance and operations.

Atrium patients and employees were the beneficiaries of more than \$1.5 million raised by the Atrium Medical Center Foundation in 2021 to support patient programs, services, and equipment acquisition. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Foundation has funded major renovations in the hospital's cardiac catheterization lab and has acquired new equipment for surgery, cancer services, cardiology, and orthopedic services. Additionally, the Foundation continues to coordinate the ongoing response from the public to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For parents who have lost a child, the holidays can be a time of painful memories and brief but cherished moments. To help, Atrium's Help Endure a Loss (HEAL) Program invited families to its 23rd annual Memory Tree Lighting, a seasonal remembrance for those who have experienced the death of a child. Nearly 300 children were remembered during the virtual event, which included music, a reading of names, and poetry.

Atrium's Level III Trauma Center, which manages a traffic safety program in collaboration with community partners, donated Uber gift cards to hand out at the Monkey Bar & Grille in Maineville to help provide safe rides home on New Year's Eve. The coalition, whose members include law enforcement, public safety partners and

educators, focuses on motor vehicle and traffic safety awareness initiatives.

Atrium employees gave back to the communities they serve during the holiday season. A hospital-wide food drive benefited Shared Harvest Foodbank and saw more than 1,000 pounds of non-perishable food items donated to the agency that serves five local counties. Atrium's Emergency Department employees also organized a toy drive to benefit local families during the holidays.



Atrium was a major sponsor of the annual Horse-Drawn Carriage Parade in Lebanon. In addition to promotion of Atrium services, the new Premier Health Center at Union Village was promoted during the popular community event.

## Miami Valley Hospital Campuses

The Miami Valley Hospital Foundation Board allocated funding for equipment acquisitions and for the creation of a new clinical position. A brief summary of the funded proposals includes: expanding EPIC records to include research; new patient blood flow monitors in surgery; and new communication software to improve physician scheduling and consultations. The approved new position is a pharmacist dedicated to clinical trials. Several capital

equipment requests were also funded, many of which are replacing equipment at the end of its useful life. This includes: an ultrasound echo imaging table at Miami Valley Hospital South; four high-level disinfection units; an ultrasound machine for Cardiac ICU; a transport monitor for the Neuro ICU; and several breathing assistance devices for the respiratory area. In addition, existing Foundation funds allowed for the purchase of a monitor vent for respiratory neonatal care and an oximeter for the cardiac cath lab.

Through a mailing campaign, Good Samaritan Foundation – Dayton sought contributions for the three Rays of Hope-funded programs: the Samaritan Health Center, Mothers Empowered, and Breast Cancer Patient Assistance. Through mid-December, the Foundation had received more than \$29,000 in support for these programs. Fundraising also continued for the Michael Sawdey Samaritan Clinic for Women, including a \$20,000 gift in support of an exam room at the clinic. Foundation staff continued to coordinate snacks and drinks for all staff during the recent high census and high acuity at Miami Valley Hospital North.

COVID-19 didn't keep Santa Claus from visiting the NICU at Miami Valley Hospital.



Thanks to the wonderful team of nurses, Santa (in the form of a cardboard stand up) visited the tiniest patients to take holiday photos. Christmas blankets and hats were provided for the babies, and parents could also provide a special outfit. Finally, the Parent Family Advisory Council is making free personalized ornaments for all NICU parents and babies.

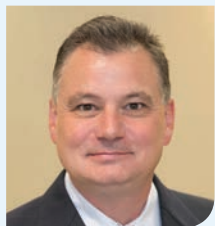


Xenia High School students donated “Baskets for Battles” to cancer patients at Miami Valley Hospital South. The baskets contain items to support patients throughout the holidays.

### Upper Valley Medical Center Psychiatrist



Dr. Mark Casdorff joined Dr. Scott Kanagy on Dec. 13 for radio morning show interviews on the Piqua and Troy radio stations. The primary topic was mental health issues/advice for the holidays, and Dr. Kanagy gave an update on COVID-19 at the hospital.



UVMC participated as a booth sponsor at the Lincoln Community Center holiday party for children in the after-school program held Dec. 17 at the center. Members of leadership hosted games and handed out prizes for children at the event. Additionally, UVMC employees provided 150 gift cards for the children’s Christmas

stockings as part of the annual Darla’s Helping Hands Holiday Drive.

Falls Prevention 101 seminars were hosted at the Miami County YMCA Piqua Branch on Dec. 3 and Troy Branch on Dec. 13.

UVMC was a presenting sponsor of the annual Edison State Community College Holiday Evening held Dec. 1 at the college and attended by 12 UVMC leaders in addition to more than 150 community members. The event featured musical performances spread out throughout the campus to provide a safer environment. UVMC also was a sponsor of the Tipp City Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Gala held Dec. 1 at the Arbogast Performing Arts Center. Leadership from Springmeade attended representing UVMC.

In other community engagement activities, UVMC was a Piqua Main Street sponsor of the annual Piqua Christmas on the Green on Dec. 3, the Piqua Holiday Parade on Dec. 4, and the Holly Jolly Run on Dec. 11, all held in downtown Piqua and attended by hundreds of families in the community. UVMC also was a sponsor of the Piqua Arts Council Sounds of the Season Concert held Dec. 4 at St. James Episcopal Church in downtown Piqua.

The UVMC Patient Flow Project is wrapping up and was featured in the local newspapers. The project kicked off in 2019 to bring a modern look and updated healing environment to the hospital, which opened in 1998.

### Premier Physician Network

Three Premier Health facilities have achieved accreditation by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) in Echocardiography in the area of adult transthoracic. Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville, and Premier Cardiovascular Institute in Beavercreek were recently granted a three-year term of accreditation by the IAC. “IAC accreditation is a seal of approval that patients can rely on as an

indicator of consistent quality care and a dedication to continuous improvement,” said Muhanad Al-Zubaidi, MD, medical director at Premier Cardiovascular Institute. “This accomplishment shows Premier Health’s commitment to quality patient care in echocardiography.”

Clinical Neuroscience Institute now provides comprehensive multidisciplinary neurologic care for patients and their families in office locations in Miami and Shelby counties. Patients will receive the best care possible, whether their appointments are held at CNSI’s office at Upper Valley Medical Center, or at their Sidney satellite office at 915 Michigan St., Sidney, OH. Doctors Eicher, Hall, Kitchener, Krousgrill and White are available to help deliver complete neurologic care. To refer a patient, please call **1-844-277-2894**, fax (937) 208-5143, or type “neuroscience” in Epic to find CNSI physicians.

PPN Rocked the 2021 Concert for a Cure! The 2021 Mix 107.7 Concert for a Cure, along with headline sponsor Premier Physician Network, raised more than \$5,000 to benefit Noble Circle Project, a local nonprofit organization that provides nutrition and peer support to women living with cancer. Thanks to all the PPN providers and volunteers for helping at our table with T-shirt sales and passing out provider bios and practice information to attendees. This is always a great way to meet potential patients while supporting a great cause.



# Premier Health EMS Center of Excellence—Distance Learning Program

By Candy Skidmore, RN, CHEP, system vice president for service integration – emergency, trauma, and CareFlight, Premier Health



The Premier Health EMS Center of Excellence (COE) provides outstanding resources for EMS systems in Southwest Ohio,

striving to improve outcomes for all patients within our communities. The EMS COE serves to enhance partnerships between hospital providers and pre-hospital care providers to strengthen the care we collectively provide. The COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately created significant challenges in offering the necessary ongoing education for those who provide pre-hospital care. In 2020, our EMS COE began the development of a distance learning program that allows EMS providers to sign up for classes. These courses offer a live presentation, allow for questions from the participants, and provide them with continuing education units (CEU). The presentations are then stored on our Premier Health portal where they can be

viewed for several weeks. The program was the first of its kind in the state to be readily available for EMS.

This distance learning program was so well received in 2020 that it was continued and expanded in 2021 and features our physicians providing invaluable information to EMS providers and others in health care from a broad geographical area. Additionally, our EMS providers have become acquainted with the depth of our physician specialties, learned how to improve patient care in the field, and have been able to connect with providers within Premier Health.

In 2021, the Premier Health EMS Center of Excellence distance learning program offered 38 classes that amounted to 4,597 distance learning CEU certificates awarded to participants from 222 EMS agencies across Ohio and nine other states: Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin. The program has been wildly successful, and requests for more courses come in daily.

Thank you to all of our physicians who offered their time to provide this education need for our first responders!

## Asymptomatic COVID testing in Premier Health Emergency Departments

Patients have at times arrived at one of our emergency departments seeking a COVID test, despite having no symptoms and not seeking medical care. Typically, this is due to concerns over a possible exposure, the need for a required test for work/school, or even travel. These visits can prove to be quite frustrating for patients, as Premier Health emergency departments do not provide COVID testing on asymptomatic patients. While we have implemented external signage to help direct patients to an appropriate testing center, this situation still occurs. In the event you have a patient who is asymptomatic, but simply seeking a COVID test, please direct them to a testing center.

## An Incredible Journey *(continued from page 1)*

now become endemic. You have exceeded expectations at every level, kept moving forward with grace and determination, and for these reasons and more, I believe, will be around for the next 100 years!!

To that end, our board has recruited a very experienced new president and CEO, Mike Riordan. Mike and I have been working together to ensure as smooth a transition as possible, and it has been a pleasure to become acquainted. I have assured him that just as I felt very welcome to the area all those years ago, I am confident he and his wife, Susan, will receive the same warm Premier Health and community welcome I experienced.

Having witnessed several people retire over the years, it is obvious the hard part is

missing the people with whom you work. When you spend the amount of time many of us do at work, it is a void that will take time to overcome, when you no longer see those individuals on a day-to-day basis.

It has been my honor and privilege to work with you. It always bothered me that I could not ever “know” everyone at Premier Health, due to our sheer size, but that is true whether one is here or retired. At some level, it is reassuring to know that an organization like ours really transcends all of us individually. That is why someone in my role must always put the organization first.

So let me just say I take with me a lifetime of memories I will cherish dearly. As Garrison Keeler once said, “Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.”



## National CRNA Week

January 23-29



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