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Septemer 2008

Welcome to these new providers



Albert Meric III, M.D., is a boardcertified neurosurgeon who primarily will handle emergency cases and urgent referrals at the hospital. Dr. Meric received his medical degree from Tulane University Medical School in New

Orleans. He completed his neurosurgical residency at the University of Tennessee at Memphis and then practiced in Knoxville, Tenn., until 2007.



Emil Pecholt, D.O., is a boardcertified family medicine physician, who will practice at Plaza Family Medicine Clinic. Dr. Pecholt received his medical degree from A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Mo. He completed his

residency at Mercy Capital Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. Most recently, he practiced in Blue Earth, Minn.



George Morris, M.D., is a boardcertified family and sports medicine physician who will practice at the Health Plaza and St. Joseph sites. Dr. Morris received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota. He completed

his family medicine residency from the St. Cloud Hospital/Mayo Family Practice Residency Program and a fellowship in primary care sports medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. The past few years he practiced in Cold Spring.



Christina Rexine, M.D., is an obstetrician & gynecologist who joined Women & Children. Dr. Rexine received her medical degree from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine in Grand Forks. She completed her

residency at Grand Rapids Medical Education and Research Center in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 2008.

Long Prairie Health Fair

CentraCare Clinic and Long Prairie Memorial Hospital will offer screenings and education from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 10 at First Baptist Church. Call (320) 732-7324 for details.



CentraCare breaks ground on new St. Joseph clinic

CentraCare officials, contractors and St. Joseph city officials celebrated with a ground-breaking ceremony Aug. 29. The new clinic, planned to be completed in spring 2009, will be twice the size (13,032 sq. ft.) of the current clinic and allow for future expansion. It is located at the intersection of County Roads 133 and 75.

Employees of the quarter recognized

Congratulations to our winners **Patty Schmitz**, Nephrology, River Campus, and **Jeanne Notsch**, **C.N.P.**, Plaza Family Medicine Clinic. Patty received five nominations. Her co-workers wrote, "Patty treats all people with respect and dignity. She is pleasant and never complains. Patty goes above and beyond and is respectful and professional with co-workers and patients. She is a pleasure to have as a co-worker."

Jeanne was nominated by three co-workers who said, "Jeanne goes above and beyond to care for her patients. She encourages nurses to call her about patient issues even when she's on vacation. Jeanne did a great job adapting to EPIC and is very respectful to all."

Deanna White, GI Clinic, was the random drawing winner, and **Cheryl Tschaekofske**, Special Procedures, River Campus, also received a nomination.

Condolences to ...

Donna Hartung, Business Center, on the loss of her mother; **Kelly Caspers**, Gastroenterology Clinic, on the loss of her mother; **Cheryl Pachan**, Long Prairie, on the death of her grandmother.

Kudos to ...

- Scott Davis, M.D., Critical Care, and Kirsten Skillings, R.N., ICU, who presented at the VHA Upper Midwest Conference on severe sepsis. VHA has designated St. Cloud Hospital as a "Blueprint Hospital" for care of patients with severe sepsis. Dr. Davis also will present on the intensivist-directed ICU program at SCH to the health system board at its September meeting.

- Mary Schwieters, M.D., Melrose, was interviewed about the challenges of filling physician vacancies in rural communities. The story is scheduled for Minnesota Medical Association's next issue of *Quality Review*.

- Thomas Math, M.D., Infectious Disease, presented on MRSA at SCH Medical Staff Grand Rounds.

- CentraCare Clinic - Long Prairie staff collected and donated school supplies to five area schools.

Congratulations to ...

- Allen Horn, M.D., President, and George Schoephoerster, M.D., Plaza Family Medicine, who were recognized in the August 2008 Minnesota Physician magazine as one of the 100 Influential Health Care Leaders for their outstanding work in health care; Mevan Wijetunga, M.D., Central Minnesota Heart Center, who received a fellowship from the American College of Cardiology; Sheri Pikus, N.N.P., on passing her neonatology nurse practitioner certification exam through the National Certification Corporation; Jeremey Stockinger, Business Center, on passing the American Academy of Professional Coders exam and becoming a certified professional coder; Bryan Rolph, M.D., and his wife on the birth of their son; Deb Rasmussen, M.D., Long Prairie, on the birth of her first grandchild; Kelly Stone, Dermatology, and her husband on the birth of their daughter; Becky Leaders, Dermatology, and her husband on the birth of their daughter; Liz Karvonen, River Campus, and her husband on the birth of their son; Gretchen Leisen, Heartland Lab, on her recent retirement; Women & Children's Pediatrics Department for having the most bikers in the BLEND bike parade. (They won the fruit party hosted by Allen Horn, M.D.); Joy Karels, Women & Children, who was the winner of the bike parade drawing for the WiiFit.

On the road ...

River Campus staff participated in the Expo for Seniors Aug. 23 at Whitney Senior Center; **Sleep Center and L.I.F.E. program staff** will attend the Head to Toe health fair Sept. 12-13 at Crossroads; **Melrose staff** will attend the Senior Wellness Fair Sept. 18 in Sauk Centre.

Walk to create awareness of kidney disease

Join the St. Cloud Kidney Walk Sept. 20 at Whitney Park. Register at www.walk.kidney.org in advance or at 9 a.m. Sept. 20. The walk starts at 10 a.m. For more information or to join a CCHS team, call ext. 52206.

Melrose offers new depression treatment program

CentraCare Clinic - Melrose is the only Central Minnesota primary care clinic to offer a new approach for caring for patients with depression. Depression Improvement Across Minnesota, Offering a New Direction (DIAMOND) is a unique collaboration among medical groups, health plans, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI). Staff completed ICSI training to become program certified.

Turn off the television and enjoy a family dinner

CentraCare Health Foundation's BLEND (Better Living: Exercise & Nutrition Daily) program is encouraging a family dinner night Sept. 21. Research shows that family dinners encourage healthier behaviors in children. Watch for the Sept. 14 *St. Cloud Times* ad which includes a suggested healthy menu with coupons from community partners, Coborn's and Gold'n Plump.

CentraCare Clinic partners with QUITPLAN

CentraCare Clinic received a ClearWay Minnesota grant to offer the QUITPLAN program at several sites. Designated nurse practitioners at Women & Children, Becker, Endocrine and River Campus will provide oneon-one counseling to patients beginning Oct. 1.

Welcome to these new clinic employees

Becker: Celina Gustafson, Nursing
Plaza – Genetics: Ruth Schleper, Admitting,
River Campus: Rose Gaikowski, Quality Improvement;
Angela Kray, Nursing.
St. Joseph: Melissa Garding, Nursing
Women & Children: Amy Amelsberg, Nursing; Coral
Brixius, Nursing; Molly Dunn, Administration; Kari
Patton, Admitting; Sara Rueckert, Admitting

Recognition for Years of Service

20 Years: Renee Buerman, Business Center
15 Years: Julie Bukowski, River Campus
10 Years: Patricia Browen & Sheila Mehr, River Campus
5 Years: Ann Frericks, River Campus; Jenny Johnson, Dermatology; Tammi Lay, River Campus; Linda Zirbes, Women & Children; Angela Zylla, Heartland

The Hard to Swallow Truth

Join **David Roberts, M.D.,** CentraCare Digestive Center, as he discusses heartburn, gastroesophageal reflux disease and esophageal cancer. This free program is 7-8:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at CentraCare Health Plaza. Call (320) 229-5139 to register by Sept. 21.

Diabetes Center offers healthy cooking classes

Learn more about soup at the Oct. 8 class from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at CentraCare Health Plaza. Call (320) 202-7759 to register by Oct. 1. Cost is \$15.