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The Beat: September 2008

CentraCare Health

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Recruits strengthen neurosurgery program



Dear Friends:

Ensuring that Central Minnesota residents have around-the-clock access to neurosurgeons has been a challenge for many months. I am grateful to Drs. Bottini, Falloon and Gerdes for their extra call coverage during this time.

Now, as of Sept. 1, we have added three neurosurgeons to the Medical Staff of St. Cloud Hospital, bringing the total to six.

Lynn Miller, D.O., has joined Jeff Gerdes, M.D., at Central Minnesota Neurosciences. She is trained in both adult and pediatric neurosurgery. Warren Ishida, M.D., has returned to St. Cloud and rejoined Tony Bottini, M.D., and Tom Falloon, M.D., at CentraCare Clinic – River Campus after completing a fellowship in functional and stereotactic neurosurgery, which will allow us to offer new services to our region. Bert Meric, M.D., is employed by St. Cloud Hospital to work 10, 24-hour shifts per month, providing both consultations and trauma coverage. Also part of the neurosurgery team are four physician assistants, a nurse practitioner and two clinical nurse specialists.

St. Cloud Hospital's continued designation as a Level II trauma center is an important service to the region we serve. This certification requires a team of physicians including a trauma surgeon, a neurosurgeon and an orthopedic surgeon available 24 hours a day seven days a week. Today, I am confident that we will retain that important designation and that we will be able to care for the vast majority of trauma and neurosurgery patients.

Further enhancement of the neurosciences program is a component of the strategic growth plan for St. Cloud Hospital and CentraCare Health System. Our next step is to recruit more neurologists to our vital team of Thanh Dang, M.D.; Anh Nguyen, M.D.; James Romanowsky, M.D.; Lawrence Schut, M.D.; and Kevin Xie, M.D., all of whom are employed by CentraCare Clinic – River Campus.

Please join me in welcoming the neurosurgeons — and in spreading the word that our neurosurgery program is stronger than ever.

Sincerely,



Terry Pladson, M.D.
President, CentraCare Health System

CentraCare breaks ground on new St. Joseph clinic

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

Celebrating a Quarter Century of Cardiac Care

In celebration of its quarter century of cardiac care, the Central Minnesota Heart Center invites you to participate in a lecture series. The second talk of the series takes place from 7-8 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Whitney Senior Center.

Cardiologist John Mahowald, M.D., will talk about the prevention of heart disease, the basic anatomy of the heart and common conditions such as heart attack, cardiac arrest and chest pain. Refreshments are included. For more information, please call (320) 251-2700, ext. 71391.

CentraCare Laboratory Services accredited

Congratulations to CentraCare Health System's Laboratory Services for its recent accreditation by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). At an on-site inspection, CAP representatives examined the records and quality control of the laboratory for the past two years and also scrutinized the education and qualifications of the staff, the adequacy of the facilities, the equipment, laboratory safety and laboratory management to determine how well the laboratory is serving its patients.

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.

Dr. Congdon becomes medical director for Short Stay Units

St. Benedict's Senior Community is pleased to announce that Internal Medicine Physician Tamara Congdon, M.D., recently became the medical director for the Short Stay Units. Dr. Congdon joins Family Medicine Physician Mark Becker, M.D., of Mid-Minnesota Family Medicine Center, Medical Director for St. Benedict's Senior Community. Dr. Congdon has an office at St. Benedict's Senior Community to serve residents.

For more information about the services available at St. Benedict's Senior Community, please call Information and Registration at (320) 654-2355 or e-mail sbcinformationregistry@centracare.com.

Senior Community to host open houses

St. Benedict's Senior Community – St. Cloud is hosting an open house celebrating the renovation of portions of the existing care center and the opening of the new Gorecki Care Center from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 2. Tours and refreshments will be available. Follow signs to enter the new Gorecki Care Center south of the main St. Benedict's entrance.

St. Benedict's Senior Community – Monticello is hosting an open house from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at 1301 East Seventh St. (located just off I-94, near the Super Target.) If you are unable to attend the open house, please call (763) 295-4051 for a DVD or to schedule a private tour with a complimentary lunch.

Learn about Alzheimer's

The Jake and Mary Essen Annual Alzheimer's Education seminar takes place Oct. 2 in Woodland Hall at the Gorecki Care Center. The morning session, for health care professionals, will focus on reducing pain for patients with dementia and will start at 9 a.m. The afternoon family session will start at 1 p.m. and will focus on understanding Alzheimer's disease. Online registration is available at www.centracare.com.

St. Cloud Hospital joins Spirit of Women

St. Cloud Hospital has joined Spirit of Women®, an elite coalition of American hospitals and health care providers that ascribe to high standards of excellence in women's health, education and community outreach. This exciting program promotes the hospital as the regional leader in women's health education and community outreach for women and their families.

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.

United Way Celebration

CentraCare Clinic, St. Benedict's Senior Community and St. Cloud Hospital will hold their United Way campaigns Oct. 20-Nov. 7 with the theme Live United! Turn in your pledge card early for a chance to win a Nintendo Wii game system! Other exiting activities include:

- * Gift Basket Raffle
- * United Way Run, Walk, Bike
- * UNITE Cards

For more details, see your United Way department representative or visit CentraNet.

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 one- on-one counseling to patients beginning Oct. 1.