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Physician dedicates life to patients, profession

After 38 years of providing cancer care to Central Minnesota, Harold Windschitl, MD, retired Dec. 19. From the beginning, Dr. Windschitl’s colleagues and patients loved him. His positive attitude, sense of humor and charm were contagious. His patients often commented that he was one of the most compassionate healers they ever met. In 1977, Dr. Windschitl became one of seven pioneering physicians who founded the North Central Cancer Treatment Group (NCCTG). These physicians saw a need to bring high-quality cancer care and research to the communities where patients live and receive most of their medical care. To achieve this goal, they formed a cancer clinical trials cooperative group that allows promising scientific ideas developed at Mayo Clinic to be tested in many communities throughout the NCCTG network, allowing broad access to the latest therapies. Thanks to Dr. Windschitl’s dedication during the past 30 years, more than 1,900 patients have been enrolled in cancer clinical research trials at St. Cloud Hospital and the Coborn Cancer Center.

Kulus recognized as Physician of Excellence

Pediatrician Kathleen Kulus, MD, Women & Children, was honored with St. Cloud Hospital’s Physician of Excellence award. Her nominees said she is a very compassionate and a genuinely caring physician who goes out of her way for patients and co-workers. She is a skilled listener and in tune with the needs of others. She truly demonstrates St. Cloud Hospital’s mission to treat others as Christ.

Welcome to our new physician

Pediatrician Joey Rexine, MD, joined Women & Children. Dr. Rexine received his medical degree from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine in Grand Forks. He completed his pediatric residency at Grand Rapids Medical Education and Research Center in Michigan.

Employees of the quarter recognized

Congratulations to the winners from the past two quarters. They were: Jan Schmiesing and Virginia Evans, Long Prairie; Kevin May, Women & Children; and Linda Reberg, Managed Care.

Jan’s co-worker wrote: “Jan is an intelligent and caring person with an approachable personality and is a great team leader and promoter of CentraCare.”

Virginia’s co-worker wrote: “Since we are short-staffed, Virginia has relocated her work area to assist at the front desk. Any time we need help, she’s available to resolve any problems that arise. Virginia truly goes above and beyond her job.”

Kevin’s co-workers wrote, “We feel Kevin is an asset to our pediatric team, and we appreciate him very much. His positive attitude, willingness to help, sense of humor, concern for patients’ needs, and friendly, polite approach are just a few of his qualities.”

Linda’s co-worker wrote, “Linda is our Managed Care point person for information and problem-solving. She has a great memory and recalls important details. Linda also is compassionate, considerate, and a wonderful team member.”

The following employees received nominations this quarter: Linda Klein and Patti Browen, River Campus; Carol Braun, Mona Libbesmeier and Jessica Pearson-Cohl, Women & Children; and Deb Fearing, Long Prairie.

Clinic participates in national Hib screening

Women & Children is participating with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to survey children to see if they are carriers of Haemophilus influenza type B, also known as Hib. From Feb. 9-20, the pediatric staff is screening children ages 6 weeks to 5 years with throat swabs. Five Minnesota children became sick with the disease and one died last year. Clinics in Rochester, Bemidji, Willmar, Grand Rapids and the Twin Cities also are participating in the study.
Kudos to...

- Troy Payne, MD, Sleep Medicine, reviewed new recommendations for medical residents work hours and how sleep disorders can affect health care providers, and David Kroska, MD, Women & Children, shared evidence-based nutritional basics for disease prevention and a LIFE program overview at SCH Medical Staff Grand Rounds.
- President Allen Horn, MD, presented on the topic of health care reform at the SCSU Herberger School of Business as part of their Emerging Topics Speaker Series.
- Several CentraCare physicians shared their expertise with primary caregivers at the Mid-Minnesota Medical Symposium. They were Jurgen Craig-Muller, MD, Rheumatology; David Risher, MD, Pulmonology; Jason Erickson, MD, Gastroenterology; David Tilstra, MD, Genetics; Wade Schmidt, MD, Cardiology; Troy Payne, MD, Sleep Medicine; and David Kroska, MD, OB/GYN.
- Electrophysiologist Keith Lurie, MD, was awarded a U.S. Army Achievement Award for the development of the ResQGARD. This device is for spontaneously breathing patients with low blood pressure and provides therapeutic benefit as soon as a patient begins to breathe through it.
- Surgeon Kurt Martinson, MD, River Campus, is the new trauma medical director for St. Cloud Hospital.
- The Long Prairie “FUN” club donated five, family-themed gift baskets to Hands of Hope victim crisis center in Long Prairie.
- Joy Shamla, CPC, Accounting, completed her MBA program with a 4.0 GPA.
- A patient of Paul Van Gorp, MD, and nurse Peggy Riedel made a donation in their names to the CentraCare Health Foundation.

Condolences to.....

The following physicians and employees on the loss of their loved ones: Susan Atamian, MD, Endocrinology, father-in-law; Deb Post, Heartland, father; Mary Hatten, Heartland, stepfather; Arlene Sullivan, Long Prairie, brother; Paul Van Gorp, MD, Long Prairie, mother; Rosy Bertamus, Health Plaza, husband; Stacy Denbrook, River Campus, father; Judy Ringeisen, River Campus, brother-in-law; and the following people from Women & Children: Marlene Deboer, brother-in-law; Bernice Kampa, uncle; Cindy Betzler, uncle; Cindy Melloy, MD, father; Jean Zwilling, mother; Jon Dennis, MD, aunt; and Nancy Williams, brother.

Congratulations to...

Angela Hall, Women & Children, on the birth of her son; Jenn Tschida, Melrose, on birth of her son; Sarah Wiechmann, Melrose, on birth of her son; Nita Lerdahl, River Campus, on the birth of her grandson.

Blue Cross Blue Shield recognizes performance
Submitted by the QI Department

Blue Cross Blue Shield recognizes health care providers for superior outcomes. CentraCare Clinic met the program’s targeted goals in hypertension management, generic drug utilization, cancer composite screening, heart failure management and chronic disease registries for diabetes and coronary artery disease. These 2008 audited clinical measurements were for dates of service in 2007.

Earn dollars toward your HRA balance

Check out the CCHS Wellness Reward Program on the Human Resource tab on CentraNet. View the step-by-step instructions for registering online with MMSI. View your claims and HRA balance, as well as earn money toward next year’s HRA contribution.

CentraCare helps to develop Brainerd heart program

CentraCare Health System is collaborating with Brainerd Lakes Health and St. Mary’s Duluth Clinic to develop a cardiovascular program in Brainerd. Central Minnesota Heart Center cardiologists have started seeing patients at Brainerd Medical Center and St. Joseph’s Medical Center. Richard Aplin, MD, will lead the development of the Brainerd Lakes Heart and Vascular Center and will live in Brainerd. Cardiologists Bernard Erickson, MD, Wade Schmidt, MD, and Jacob Dutcher, MD, also are taking appointments in Brainerd. Recruiting is ongoing for an additional cardiologist for Brainerd.

Recognition for Years of Service

30 Years: Bradley Currier, MD, Gastroenterology
25 Years: Laura Kortuem, Heartland
20 Years: Diane Kron, Heartland
10 Years: Christian Schmidt, MD, and Laurie Stillwell, River Campus; Heidi Rice, Women & Children; Ann Marie Spanier, Business Center; Katherine Field, Epic; Joann Zenzen, Melrose; Kelly Caspers, Gastroenterology
5 Years: Debra Kunkel, Jodi Suedel, Brett Pinkerton, MD, Lucinda Larson, Catherine Matuska, MD, and Kathleen Craft, Women & Children; Stacy Denbrook, Greg Campbell and Susan Husby, River Campus.

Celebrate Day of Dance - Feb. 26

St. Cloud Hospital will hold its first Spirit of Women event with Day of Dance on Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Holiday Inn. Free gift bags to the first 500 participants and a chance to win a $100 cash prize! From 4:30-7 p.m., you will learn simple steps for salsa, tap, electric slide and a variety of other dances. This portion of the event is free and includes free heart-healthy food samples, screenings, information and music. From 7-8:30 p.m., a $10 ticket purchase allows participants to hear coach and author Jenny Hadfield share secrets for learning to love activity, losing weight without sacrifice and tapping into your inner athlete. Call (320) 229-5139 for ticket information.

If you have employee or clinic-related information to share, e-mail it to pauld@centracare.com or send to Deb Paul, Communications department.