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The Beat: April 2009

CentraCare Health

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April 2009

Do you have an idea for the *Beat*?

Contact Chris Nelson
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An award for one is an honor for all of us



Dear Friends:

Each of us who works for CentraCare Health System has reason to celebrate this spring. As members of the CentraCare team, we can share in St. Cloud Hospital's recent awards.

St. Cloud Hospital is in the nation's 100 Top Hospitals for the fourth consecutive year. This is the seventh time the hospital has made the list since the awards program started in 1993. Thomson Reuters, the organization that runs the top 100 program, analyzes data in nine categories to make its rankings. The categories include patient safety, average length of stay, patient satisfaction, medical complications, mortality, adherence to clinical standards, expenses, profitability and cash-to-debt ratio.

Not only is St. Cloud Hospital in the top 100, it is one of only 23 hospitals in the country (and the only one in Minnesota) to win the Everest Award. That honor goes to an elite group of top 100 hospitals that have shown the fastest rates of improvement over the past five years.

The hospital also earned, for the eighth time, top 100 heart hospital status this past fall.

Just a few weeks before winning a spot in the top 100, St. Cloud Hospital was re-designated as a Magnet hospital for nursing excellence. The Magnet criteria are so rigorous that only 2 percent of hospitals achieve re-designation. Magnet recognizes not only nursing, but also the collaboration between nursing and all other disciplines within the hospital.

St. Cloud Hospital also recently was named one of America's Best Hospitals for urology and orthopedics. This honor comes from *U.S. News & World Report*.

We all can feel proud to be part of a health system that provides, to our patients, the best quality outcomes at the lowest cost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Pladson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Terry Pladson, MD
President, CentraCare Health System

New VP for Heart Center



Bernard Erickson, MD, has been appointed to a St. Cloud Hospital vice presidency for the Central Minnesota Heart Center. Erickson will

continue to practice medicine and replaces Mark Martone, MD, who returned to full-time patient care.

Nicholas Reuter, MD, receives Caduceus Award



The CentraCare Health Foundation selected Nicholas Reuter, MD, oncologist at Coborn Cancer Center, as this year's recipient of the Caduceus

Award. For nearly 32 years, Reuter has provided outstanding care to his patients in the St. Cloud area and is the 10th physician to receive the award.

CentraCare Clinic news

- The public open house for the new CentraCare Clinic - St. Joseph is from 5-8 p.m. May 21 at 1360 Elm St. E. (near the intersection of County Roads 75 and 133).
- CentraCare Clinic was the top performer in colon cancer screening as published by MN Community Measurement, an independent, nonprofit organization with a mission to improve health by publicly reporting health care information.
- Kudos to Keith Lurie, MD, Central Minnesota Heart Center, who published an article in the April 2008 issue of *Minnesota Health Care News* on therapeutic hypothermia and the *Take Heart St. Cloud* program.

Alumni scholarship offered

A St. Cloud Hospital Nursing Alumni Scholarship is available to a graduate or a family member of a graduate of the St. Cloud Hospital School of Nursing, who is seeking a specialty degree in the nursing field. The application deadline for scholarships is May 15. For more information, call (320) 240-2810 or visit www.centracare.com/hospitals/sch/scholarships.html.



From left: Jim Sullivan, ESGR MN executive director; Michael Bellos, ESGR MN training coordinator; Terry Pladson, MD, CCHS president; Duane Rasmusson, vice president Human Resources; Kelly Thomson, director Human Resources.

CentraCare signs statement of support

In demonstration of the ongoing support of CentraCare employees who serve their country, or have family members who serve their country, Terry Pladson, MD, signed a statement of support for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) on behalf of CentraCare Health System March 4.

CentraCare Laboratory receives award

CentraCare Laboratory Services was second-runner-up for the *Medical Laboratory Observer (MLO)* Medical Laboratory of the Year Award 2009. The winner and two runners-up will be featured in the April 2009 issue of *MLO*, which is a peer-reviewed journal for laboratory professionals.

Annual Spring Fling

Dance under the stars at the sixth annual Spring Fling from 4:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4 on the campus of St. Benedict's Senior Community. The outdoor event includes dinner and dancing to the music of the George Maurer Variety Group. Tickets are on sale at St. Benedict's Senior Community, St. Cloud Hospital Gift Gallery and online at www.centracare.com. For more information, call (320) 240-2810.

Women's Health 101 draws a crowd

Nearly 450 people participated in a variety of health screenings and presentations and visited more than 40 booths at Women's Health 101 April 4 at CentraCare Health Plaza.

Your gift makes the difference

CentraCare Health Foundation's Employee Campaign ends April 30. The "Caring for Generations" campaign gives you an opportunity



to make a difference in the lives of the patients we serve. This year we ask employees to pledge the amount of money they would earn in 30, 60 or 90 minutes each pay period for five years, to help ensure that the healing work of CentraCare Health System will continue for generations. Any gift, large or small, is appreciated. Visit CentraNet for details.

Physician receives excellence award

Congratulations to Jeffrey Gerdes, MD, a neurosurgeon with Central Minnesota Neurosciences, who was honored April 8 with the St. Cloud Hospital Physician of Excellence award. The award is recognition by peers of an exemplary work ethic.

Clinics join cultural understanding project

To help staff and physicians become more effective in caring for diverse populations, CentraCare Clinic – Women & Children and the Mid-Minnesota Family Medicine Center are participating in an 18-month Stratis Health project. CentraCare Clinic sites in Melrose and Long Prairie completed the cultural competency initiative in 2008. Stratis Health is a non-profit organization that works with providers on health care quality and safety issues.

Hospitals wins state awards

The Minnesota Hospital Association has recognized St. Cloud Hospital with a Patient Safety Excellence Award for outstanding performance in the statewide SAFE SITE initiative. Long Prairie Memorial Hospital received a Patient Safety Excellence Award for its work on preventing pressure ulcers.