

Premier Pulse

News for Premier Health Physicians

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Thankfulness and Grace

By Roberto Colon, MD, chief medical officer and vice president of operations, Miami Valley Hospital

As we wrap up our Thanksgiving traditions, it is a good time to reflect on what we should be thankful for, especially after all the hardships we have endured in the nearly two years of this pandemic. It is important, perhaps more than ever, to look for the positives that need to be remembered and celebrated. As J.T. McCormick says, "Everyone has a story," and as you each reflect on your story's thankful moments, I wanted to share just a few of the things I am thankful for as a member of Premier Health.



First, I am thankful for our clinical and non-clinical staff who have continued to work for longer hours, caring for our patients while facing your own individual hardships. I am thankful that, since last year, we have found more help in our fight against COVID-19. The game changing impact of COVID-19 vaccines has protected millions of us and saved countless lives. Hopefully, very soon, even newer treatments in the form of a pill will be available in the United States to life-saving care even more accessible. I am thankful for our patients who continue to choose Premier Health and trust us to help them during their toughest moments. I am also thankful to all my friends and family who support and allow me to be a part of this great team.

Being thankful for our team members also helps us to approach each other with grace, especially when things do not go as smoothly as we would like. First, we must all realize is that none of us wake up in the morning thinking to ourselves, "I am



going to see who I can upset today." We all come to work with the goal of doing what is best for our patients. If things are not going according to plan - if disagreements or errors occur - go back to this concept of showing grace to your colleagues. When we do this, the adversarial mindset and tone are much easier to avoid.

Marc Belcastro, DO, system chief medical officer at Premier Health, likes to quote a saying at the conclusion of his emails, "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought." Thank you for caring. Thank you for supporting our mission, our community, and each other. Thank you for being a part of the Premier Health family.



Premier Health and Wayne HealthCare Expand Telehealth Partnership



Premier Health and Wayne HealthCare are again expanding their telehealth partnership to include teleneurology services, called NEUROne, for patients who have nonemergency neurological conditions.

The NEUROne program provides patients who have neurological conditions greater access to nonemergency evaluation and care. Premier Health is the only health system in the Dayton area that offers NEUROne teleneurology services.

Through the program, Wayne HealthCare will have access to inpatient teleneurology services – in other words, remote telehealth access to the expertise of a neurologist for a far greater range of neurological conditions than in the past.

Suitable for patients with general neurological conditions, including headache, seizure, stroke and neuro-muscular disorders, NEUROne is in addition to the Premier Health Telestroke Network that already provides emergent services for acute stroke treatment at Wayne HealthCare.

Private and secure NEUROne video conferencing allows patients, family, and the bedside care team to see and speak with

Premier Health's Clinical Neuroscience Institute neurologists in real time. This collaboration can optimize diagnosis and treatment by providing a high level of specialized care.

The NEUROne program complements other telemedicine services currently provided by Premier Health, including:

- TeleIntensivist: a board-certified intensivist, who has advanced training and experience in treating the complex health needs of critically ill patients, is virtually available to assist the staff at Wayne HealthCare in managing patients with higher acuity needs;
- TeleStroke: board-certified neurologists work virtually with the staff at Wayne HealthCare to ensure rapid evaluation and treatment after a stroke to maximize rehabilitation and recovery for patients;
- TeleEEG: board-certified neurologists diagnose and assist in monitoring seizures and other brain disorders.

Building Market Distinctiveness for the Surgery Service Line

By William “BJ” Krech, III, MHA, system director, orthopedic and surgery service line strategy and business development, Premier Health



Premier Health’s 2023 strategic plan has six main themes. The first of those themes, referred to as strategy one, is to “build market distinctiveness.” This plan defines building market distinctiveness as reclaiming market share by doubling-down on areas with disproportionate opportunity to capture growth in our eight county region. To accomplish this, the strategy led us to a system-wide service line approach with an emphasis on growth, strategy, and business development.



At the beginning of 2021, Premier Health established a brand-new service line structure when we introduced the surgery service line. As we evaluated the approach to surgery as a service line, we decided our best opportunity to meet the goals of strategy one was to put our focus on program development.

- **Heartburn and Reflux Program:** In collaboration with radiology, gastroenterology, primary and specialty care, we are working to build a program around fore-gut and reflux treatment solutions. This program will include physicians from across the system and will be marketed to the community as an industry leader in reflux treatments as well as providing the highest level of service.
- **Medical and Surgical Weight Loss:** With a strong programmatic foundation, we identified an opportunity within the market to expand Premier Weight Loss Solutions (PWLS). The physician network and physician recruitment team successfully recruited two new surgeons to the program. In partnership with the care team and leadership at PWLS, we are poised to grow the program through various channels, including educating patients already using Premier Health services, contracting with employers, direct-to-consumer digital marketing, and community educational programming.
- **Extended breast surgeons to Atrium Breast Center:** We created a one-stop shop with enhanced collaboration with the breast imaging team and nurse navigation. The outcome will increase market share through the packaging of services at one site as we communicate the program to consumers as a complete breast care center. This effort is supporting the Women’s Health Center of Strategic Growth at Atrium as well as in alignment with the oncology service line efforts across the system from both a connectivity and commonality of services perspective.

As we look ahead to 2022, in addition to further program development, the surgery service line is also supporting other specialty areas with significant opportunity as defined by market analysis, including gastroenterology. We are supporting the coordination of a system strategy approach to gastroenterology services to enhance coverage, increase outpatient elective volume, retain procedural volume, and gain market share.

We look forward to continuing to support Premier Health’s strategic initiatives and welcome input and engagement from our surgeons and physicians.

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Atrium Medical Center Leads Ohio in Specialized Lung Procedure



Atrium Medical Center leads Ohio in the number of patients who have participated in the Zephyr Endobronchial Valve procedure,

the first minimally invasive procedure that treats patients with severe COPD and emphysema.

The Zephyr Valves are placed during a bronchoscopic procedure, making this surgery minimally invasive – no knives, no stitches. Within the first day, many patients begin seeing some improvement. The valve, a device shaped like a pencil eraser, is inserted into the lobes of the damaged lungs without surgery.

Jamie Yunger, MD, medical director of Atrium's Intensive Care Unit, performed the first Zephyr Endobronchial Valve procedure in the Dayton and Cincinnati region in 2019 and was the second physician in Ohio to perform this procedure.

The Zephyr Endobronchial Valve can offer patients significant benefits, including improvements over baseline in lung function as well as improvements in



exercise capacity, according to a recent study by Pulmonx Corp., a global supplier of minimally invasive treatments for severe lung disease.

Patients from as far as Pennsylvania and Kentucky have driven to Atrium Medical

Center to have the Zephyr Valves inserted. According to a recent study by the American Lung Association, 16.4 million Americans, or 6.6 percent of adults, were diagnosed with COPD, chronic bronchitis, or emphysema.

CompuNet Introduces New Coagulation Testing for Inpatient Population

APIXABAN (LAB 6431) and RIVAROXABAN (LAB 6432)

As of October 12, 2021, Premier Health hospitals can now perform testing for the direct oral anticoagulant drugs' (DOAC) levels of Apixaban (Eliquis) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) for the inpatient population. Both direct oral anticoagulant drugs have a strong effect directly on Factor XA in the coagulation cascade. They are often used for cardiac and

stroke disease indications. Monitoring the presence or absence of these drugs becomes urgent in trauma or surgical situations. In conjunction with Premier Health pharmacy, CompuNet has created a DOAC Reversal order set in EPIC. This will order the test STAT to see if these drugs are present or absent and to help determine if reversal agents are needed. This coagulation test is a chromogenic assay; therefore, possible interference can be a vivid plasma color. In addition, other

direct oral anticoagulant drugs as well as unfractionated and low molecular weight heparin can interfere with this test.

For any questions, please contact Catherine Hoesl MT(ASCP), system technical director for hematology and coagulation, at cchoesl@compunetlab.com.



Miami Valley Hospital Medical Staff President's Corner

By Matthew Kramer, MD, medical staff president, Miami Valley Hospital



This month's recognitions and staff events include:

- The Miami Valley Hospital Practitioner Wellness Committee is holding a silent auction, and we are seeking donations of items to include. Timing is TBD and the event will be open to all staff. Contact Lakmali Ranathunga, MD, chair of the practitioner wellness committee, for information on what items are needed at lcranathung@premierhealth.com.
- Miami Valley Hospital's medical staff leadership is currently in the process of planning a Lunch and Learn lecture series on alternate Wednesdays, beginning in late January 2022. We are recruiting lecturers from all fields of medicine and surgery and will offer an honorarium to staff members interested in speaking. CMEs will be offered. Please contact me at mgkramer@premierhealth.com if you are interested in being a speaker.
- As we approach the holiday season, blood is in critically short supply. A blood drive is scheduled at Miami Valley Hospital South in the mobile blood donation bus on December 28. Please consider giving back just a little bit extra in the holiday season! Contact the Community Blood Center for more information.
- The Practitioner Wellness Committee at Miami Valley Hospital recognized the Physician of the Quarter, Mark Oxman, DO; and the APP of the quarter, Sarah Hendrickson, for their outstanding work in the care of our patients. They were honored at the MSOC meeting on November 10.
- Special kudos to Alexander Kobzik, MD, and Steven Dellon, MD, for their quick action in saving the life of a critically ill bleeding patient. We often hear about problems; however, I believe it's important to celebrate our successes. The president's office will gladly accept and commend examples of outstanding care, so send in your commendations!

Plastic Surgeon Inspired by Uncle



Todd Hicks, MD

What is your clinical specialty?

Plastic and reconstructive surgery

Where did you go to school?

Bachelor of Arts from Johns Hopkins University
 Doctor of Medicine from Weill Cornell Medical College

What brought you to Premier Health?

I started my professional career at Miami Valley Hospital in 2001 as a general surgery resident and continued my training in plastic surgery here as well. My first few years of practice were in a private office in Dayton. When the opportunity to work full-time at Premier Health arose, I jumped at the chance. It was like returning home.

Why did you choose medicine as a career?

Since I was child, I have always been fascinated by how things work. Plastic surgery is the extension of this with the human body. Plastic surgery comes from the Greek word, “Plastikos,” which means to mold or shape. We are constantly working with tissue to heal and restore the body for cosmetic and reconstructive purposes. I love being a part of a specialty that gets to help patients erase the devastating effects of disease and age.

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

My biggest influence and mentor has been my uncle, Dr. Pearlman Hicks, who has been a practicing plastic surgeon in Los Angeles since 1980, and still practices today. I hope to have such a long and successful career.

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

I love cars and planes and learning as much as I can about them.

Where is your hometown?

Cincinnati, Ohio

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

Cincinnati Bengals
 Ohio State University Buckeyes

What is the last book you read?

“Dr. Sleep” by Stephen King

What is your favorite song in your playlist?

That’s tough. There are too many to list. I am always listening to music in the operating room.

What is your favorite food?

Anything Japanese

What is your favorite hobby?

Working around the house and tending to the yard

What is your favorite animal, and why?

The beaver. with just its teeth and determination, it can transform an entire ecosystem to make its home

Where is your favorite vacation spot, and why?

Hawaii, it’s paradise on earth and you don’t even need a passport

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

My wife, Tracy, is an amazing mom to our two children. She runs a tight ship at home. Without her love and support, I would never be able to do what I do at work often

working six days a week or putting in the long hours as a physician.

Pick a side

iPhone or Android

iPhone

Early bird or night owl

Night owl

Beach bum or mountain hiker?

Mountain hiker, as long as there is snow, and I can ski back down

Dress shoes or tennis shoes?

Dress shoes

Paperback or e-reader?

Paperback

Coffee or tea?

Neither, Coca-Cola

Cooking or baking?

Cooking, I love to grill out any time of year

Sweet or salty?

Sweet



Premier Health Among 2021 Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America



Premier Health has been named one of the 2021 Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America by Healthiest Employers® for its investment in the health and well-being of employees. This award honors organizations that demonstrate care for their people by investing in health and well-being solutions and initiatives.

Scoring is based on each organization's Healthiest Employers Index — a metric that reflects six categories:

- Culture and Leadership Commitment
- Foundational Components
- Strategic Planning
- Communications and Marketing
- Programming and Interventions
- Reporting and Analytics.

The questionnaire, scoring, and benchmarking were developed with the help of a national, non-biased group of

representatives from the academic, medical, and wellness communities.

Throughout the pandemic, wellness efforts expanded in response to the enormous stress and pressures placed on staff. Respite rooms, or “quiet rooms,” were established on frontline floors, allowing any staff member to escape busy clinical areas, process emotions, relax, or receive onsite counseling. The rooms included healthful snacks, calming music, and educational resources. A network of wellness consultative services, including a hotline to speak with a chaplain, access to the Employee Assistance Program, and support groups, were made available for staff to converse with other frontline workers.

In addition, Premier Health established an employee resource page, which included information about childcare, free/discounted lodging, virtual wellness webinars, and access to “Online Health University” courses

on substance use prevention and stress reduction. All these offerings continue today.

Earlier this year, Premier Health was also recognized in the 2021 Healthiest Employers of Ohio, placing third in the extra-large company category. This program honors people-first organizations that prioritize the well-being of their employees.

Healthiest Employers® was founded more than a decade ago by Springbuk, the health intelligence platform for Healthiest Employers, to drive meaningful investment in employees' health and well-being and to accelerate companies' adoption of data-driven approaches to health initiatives and planning employee benefits.

UVMC Awarded Primary Stroke Center Advanced Certification from The Joint Commission



Upper Valley Medical Center (UVMC) has earned Primary Stroke Center status from The Joint Commission.

The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Center was awarded to UVMC based on continuous compliance with stringent performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

Primary Stroke Center Certification recognizes health care organizations that provide clinical programs across the continuum of care for stroke. The certification evaluates how organizations use clinical outcomes and performance measures to identify opportunities to improve care, as well as to educate and

prepare patients and their caregivers for discharge.

UVMC underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review this past summer, during which a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards. Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts, and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

UVMC is part of the Premier Health system whose hospitals are recognized by The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for excellence in patient stroke care and outcomes.



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. Raghupathy is a wonderful physician. I have absolute trust in what she says regarding my medical treatment.

Dr. McHenry is an excellent physician and a complement to Premier Health.

Dr. Barrett listened to me and I really felt like she listened. It is always wonderful to feel like you can truly trust your doctor.

Dr. Ray and his team are amazing.

Dr. Ordway is thorough, easy to understand, and enjoyable to talk to. He seems very genuine in his concern for my health care needs.

Dr. Lasala is an amazing doctor! He listens and explain everything clearly. I highly recommend him.

Dr. Schulz and team are always professional and thorough. Thanks for the top-notch medical care!

Dr. Kohnen is always kind, knowledgeable, and really cares. She never rushes me or acts like she has anything else to do but listen to my problems with such compassion.

Premier Health Penicillin Allergy Testing Clinic

Premier Health has launched a penicillin allergy testing clinic at Miami Valley Hospital to update, or remove if appropriate, patients' penicillin allergy labels because these antibiotics are preferred for most infections and have few negative side effects. The clinic is the first of its kind in the Dayton area.

The clinic will reach out to patients who are scheduled for a procedure at a Premier Health facility and have an allergy to penicillin (or other antibiotic) listed in their medical record. The benefits of being tested will be explained, along with the possible negative effects of non-penicillin antibiotics.

The patient will be invited to answer a few questions to determine whether the allergy label should stay in the medical record or if the patient would be a candidate for an allergy test at the clinic. If the patient is a candidate, the test will be explained and encouraged, and options will be provided to schedule the test.

Heroic Actions; Level III Trauma Center Designation; and Brake for Breakfast

Atrium Medical Center

Atrium Medical Center and the City of Middletown Health Department hosted a conversation with residents as part of ongoing efforts to address socioeconomic inequalities that negatively affect the health and well-being of people of color. The conversation on Oct. 16 featured Andre Harris, MD, Atrium's chief medical officer, and Michael Robertson, MD, and Michelle Eakins, MD, of Middletown Family Practice. The topic – how to talk to your doctor and what you should ask during a visit – was requested by several attendees during the first discussion. Atrium and the City of Middletown Health Department are planning to hold these conversations through an ongoing series to promote important discussions and improve health in communities of color.

Alexandra Carpenter, trauma program manager for Atrium's Level III Trauma Center, has been named to the *Emergency Nurses Association's* inaugural class of 20 Under 40, a



new annual program that highlights 20 up-and-coming emergency nurses under the age of 40. Carpenter, the only Ohio honoree to make the list, was recognized for not only reaching significant milestones in her health care career, but also for demonstrating positive contributions that extend beyond her professional work.

Atrium's distribution of 320 breakfasts during its annual Brake for Breakfast marked a 7 percent increase from last year and the second-highest turnout in the history of the event at the hospital. Multiple media interviews ran prior to and during the event, highlighting Atrium's

cancer services and the importance of early detection.

Miami Valley Hospital Campuses

Marquita Turner, chief operating officer at Miami Valley Hospital South, personally recognized Beaver Creek Township Fire for being the first EMS department to transport a cardiac patient since the cardiac cath lab opened in July at the south campus.

Miami Valley Hospital physicians were represented in the media for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Thomas Heck, MD, was interviewed live by WDTN's Living Dayton on breast cancer prevention and



the Premier Health mobile mammography unit. Selyne Samuel, MD, provided information on breast health for an interview with WDTN Five on 2.

Callie Neibert, a nurse at Miami Valley Hospital South, was recognized for heroic action by the Riverside Police Department. Neibert noticed a child running in traffic on her way home from work. She stopped to assist the child and quickly established a relationship, calming him down until a parent was located. The police department recognized Neibert for going above-and-beyond in service to her community and noted her actions were a positive reflection of Premier Health.



Miami Valley Hospital received the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®- Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes Miami Valley's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, researched guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence from the American Heart Association (AHA). Additionally, Miami Valley Hospital received the Target: Stroke Honor Roll and the Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll awards. The Level I Trauma Center and Comprehensive Stroke Center received the stroke honor roll recognition for meeting quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment

with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke. Miami Valley Hospital received the Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll recognition for providing this critical high-risk population the most up-to-date, evidence-based care for diabetics when hospitalized with cardiovascular disease or stroke.



Miami Valley Hospital recently achieved echocardiography accreditation by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). At the September 16 meeting of the IAC Echocardiography Board of Directors, our application was reviewed, evaluated, and discussed. Miami Valley Hospital was awarded accreditation in the adult transthoracic area of echocardiography.

The Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services board (ADAMHS) has continued its support of Promise to Hope with \$100,000 through the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation. Promise to Hope provides compassionate clinical treatment for pregnant women with substance use disorder and relies on community support to provide care for moms and infants in the program.



Selyne Samuel, MD, spoke on breast health at the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce women's luncheon and at the Springboro Performing Arts Center. The Springboro Performing Arts Center event was also streamed through Facebook live and recorded by Spectrum News One.

Miami Valley Hospital recently achieved echocardiography accreditation by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission

Upper Valley Medical Center

Communications rolled out in October to announce that Upper Valley Medical Center achieved designation as a Level III Trauma Center from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. UVMC joins Premier Health's trauma network, which includes Miami Valley Hospital's Level I Trauma Center, Atrium Medical Center's Level III Trauma Center, and Miami Valley Hospital South's Level III Trauma Center.

Also announced in October was UVMC's Primary Stroke Center status awarded by The Joint Commission based on continuous compliance with Joint Commission's stringent performance standards for providing safe and quality patient care.



On Oct. 18, Pradeesh George, DO, UVMC trauma medical director, joined Scott Kanagy, DO, MBA, chief medical officer at UVMC, to discuss the hospital's Level III Trauma Center designation on Troy and Piqua radio morning show interviews. Dr. Kanagy also



provided an update on COVID-19 at the hospital.

The Troy Chamber's 2021 Leadership Troy class visited UVMC for a half-day session on health care. Presenters included Kevin Harlan, UVMC president; Sarah Hackenbracht, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association's president and CEO; Dr. Scott Kanagy; and Chris Snider, UVMC facilities director.

Continued on next page

SYSTEM NEWS *(continued)*

UVMC hosted a lunch program on diabetes for residents and community guests at StoryPoint of Troy on October 7. Tracy Schneider, RN, diabetes educator, shared a program entitled “Nuts and Bolts” of diabetes and took questions from more than 30 attendees.

Twelve UVMC and Premier Health departments participated in the Miami County YMCA Seniors Health Fair held at the Robinson Branch in Troy on October 14. The event was attended by more than 150 area senior citizens.

As part of UVMC’s partnership with Ohio’s Hospice of Miami County, the hospital was a presenting sponsor of the Hospice Memory Walk held on the UVMC campus Oct. 30. The inaugural fundraiser was attended by more than 150 community members.

Premier Physician Network

You might know that the Brain Mapping Center at Premier Health’s Clinical Neuroscience Institute is the first of its kind in the Midwest. This very specialized service brings together neurosurgeons, neuropsychologists, neurologists, and radiologists as a comprehensive, multidisciplinary team of experts dedicated to the care of neurological health issues, such as brain tumors, epilepsy, movement disorders, and multiple sclerosis. Functional brain mapping helps to ensure that brain tumor surgery does not compromise vital areas of the brain, and it should be considered for any patient undergoing brain surgery. For referrals in EPIC, please use: CONSULT TO CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE - BRAIN MAPPING CENTER, and please email Division Chief of the Premier Health

Brain Mapping Center, Fadi Tayim, Ph.D., with any questions.

Premier Blood and Cancer Center (PBCC) is our physician-led medical oncology program, providing patients quality care maintained via MD Anderson and Commission on Cancer certification. PBCC provides an in-network cancer care option for Premier Health’s cancer patients. Our medical oncologists and hematologists use a variety of advanced therapies, treatments, and procedures, while collaborating with other specialists to develop an individualized plan of care for patients. PBCC provides new patient consults within 24 to 72 hours and has options for both in-person and video visits. PBCC providers work directly with the hospital infusion centers to arrange treatment for our patients.

When patients are hurting but busy, they can get care for surprise injuries and nagging bone, joint and muscle pain at Premier Orthopedics walk-in clinics at our Centerville, Englewood, and Vandalia locations. Patients are seen by board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic and sports medicine specialists and specialty-trained physician assistants – the same Premier Orthopedics team who cares for athletes from University of Dayton, Wright State University, and many area high schools. The team treats adults and youth patients for sprains and strains, dislocations, breaks and fractures, sports injuries, work injuries, joint pain, and muscle pain. We will provide a diagnosis and follow-up treatment plan, saving precious time. Patients can even get X-rays right there. They just need to walk in or make an appointment.