Seventeen Mercy Health Network Nurses Recognized as ‘100 Great Iowa Nurses’

MHN is proud to announce 17 nurses from throughout our system of hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities have been selected for this year’s list of 100 Great Iowa Nurses. The award promotes nursing excellence and recognizes nurses in Iowa who have made a meaningful and lasting contribution to humanity and their profession, and act as mentors to others.

The 17 MHN nurses earning recognition in 2018 are:

- Teresa Culpepper, Covenant Medical Center
- Laci Dykstra, Knoxville Hospital and Clinics
- Dawn Eimers, Van Diest Medical Center
- Kandra Hartman, Mercy–Clinton
- Mary Jane Hunt, Knoxville Hospital and Clinics
- Lori Kennedy, Mercy–Des Moines
- Nancy Kertz, Mercy College of Health Sciences
- Michelle Kingland, Hospice of North Iowa
- Karleen Looney, Mercy–Clinton
- Douglas Meyers, Mercy-North Iowa
- Sue Pankey, Davis County Hospital
- Daniel Stabile, Mercy Clinics Family Medicine Ottumwa
- Christina Van Beek, Mercy Home Care-Sioux City
- Julie Waltenberger, Knoxville Hospital and Clinics
- Meredith Willey, Mercy-Des Moines
- Bryan Williams, Mercy-North Iowa
- Amber Wilson, Mercy-Des Moines

According to MHN Vice President of Quality and Safety Dave Hickman, “The high-quality, safe and compassionate care our nurses provide every day is truly exceptional. We believe we have the best nursing staff in the state, which is reaffirmed by the 17 nurses receiving this recognition for their leadership in nursing.”

This year’s 100 Great Iowa Nurses will be recognized Sunday, May 6, 2018, in Des Moines during the 14th annual celebration. The 2018 honorees will gather – along with more than 1,000 families, friends, colleagues and past years’ recipients – to be recognized for their outstanding careers and achievements. To nominate a colleague anytime throughout the year, please visit www.greatnurses.org.

Q & A with Bob Ritz

Q. Is there anything new MHN plans to roll-out this year?

A: Over the coming months, you will be hearing more about the work we are currently doing to advance MHN as an integrated system of health care. This work includes: how we present ourselves to patients and communities in a competitive marketplace; how we build momentum through one culture; and implementing system-wide strategic and financial planning. Together through this work we will fully realize the benefits of system collaboration and advance our mission.

With all of the work underway, culture is one area in which we unify our organizations as one. This is the most important work we will do together to ensure the long-term success of MHN. Culture defines how we do our work, how we relate to each other, and how we relate to everyone we serve. What we stand for, and how successful we are in living our values will have a direct correlation to our success at all levels of the organization.

The future of MHN is bright, especially when we work together. I firmly believe this and hope you do as well.

While this process has just begun, there will be opportunities for input from colleagues throughout MHN along the way as work progresses. We appreciate your commitment to embrace these efforts and look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback.

Have questions for Bob? Email MHNinfo@mercydesmoines.org.
Idea to Try

Family Birth Center at Covenant Medical Center Creates Snapchat Filter for Birth Announcements

New parents at Covenant Medical Center's Family Birth Center can now generate a birth announcement and send it via Snapchat to friends and family. According to DailyMail.com, almost a third of 18 to 24-year-olds now use the app, and the phenomenon is growing in popularity among 24 to 35-year-olds.

"We decided based on our family birth center's target audience and demographic of Snapchat users to create a Snapchat filter to match our ad campaign focused on popular children's books including 'Sleeping Beauty' and 'This Little Piggy," said Hanna Nuss, marketing strategist at Wheaton Iowa. "The ad campaign features a crown over the baby's head and invites people to share their story, so it seemed like an obvious fit for a Snapchat filter."

In the first week, more than 2,000 people viewed the filter in a story or snap, and more than 150 used it and shared their story. The results continue to grow, and it was a great test for what could be a very innovative concept to adapt to other areas.

"We had some fun with this one," added Adam Amdor, public relations and marketing coordinator at Wheaton Iowa. "We're constantly looking at ways to advance our marketing efforts within the social arena – it's fun!"

Spotlight on Patient Care Improvements

New TeleSitter Solution Added to Enhance Patient Safety in Iowa City

Through support made possible by the Mercy Hospital Foundation and 2017 Colleague Campaign, a new patient safety system (AvaSys) went live on Feb. 15, 2018. The new TeleSitter technology is designed to reduce fall risk, improve patient safety and streamline nursing care. Designated rooms have the technology and a trained video monitor tech is able to monitor up to six patients at a time.

Because there is no recording of video or audio, the technology meets HIPAA requirements and clinical staff can enable a privacy mode at the bedside. The system also allows for two-way communication between the patient and video monitor technician.

Nurses will be educating patients and their families about the system and introducing them to staff to ensure they understand how the system works and how it will benefit them.

"We are so grateful to the Foundation for purchasing this technology to enhance patient safety," said LeAnn Tatman, vice president and chief nursing officer.

Mercy-Des Moines implemented a similar program for Virtual Patient Observation (VPO) in one unit in February 2017. VPO allows virtual observers to monitor up to 10 patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Nurses in the unit make the decision to place patients on VPO using a set of risk criteria reviewed upon admission or at any point during the patient’s hospitalization. Patients who have a high fall risk or potential for any other safety event, including pulling out critical lines, tubes or drains, are typical candidates for VPO. To date, the unit using VPO has recognized a 42 percent reduction in falls. Like Mercy Iowa City’s program Mercy-Des Moines’ VPO does not include sound, is not recorded and allows for privacy when a patient is being examined or bathing.
Spotlight on Patient Care Improvements (continued)

Joint Commission Notes Areas of Excellence at Mercy-North Iowa

The Joint Commission surveyed Mercy-North Iowa the second week of February with outstanding results. The survey team leader from the Joint Commission described Mercy-North Iowa as "Excellent." Surveyors were especially complimentary of Mercy-North Iowa's:

1. **Leadership focus on problem identification, immediate problem-solving and transparency of issues/resolution for staff**

2. **Consistent use of huddle boards with a focus on quality and patient safety**

3. **Updated process for caring for the suicidal patient in a non-behavioral health setting**

   Mercy-North Iowa is developing a suicide prevention team including a colleague from security, behavioral health, the nursing supervisor and the patient's primary care nurse. Once a patient is identified as a self-harm patient, the team will conduct a risk assessment to stratify the patient's level of suicide risk and develop the plan of care based on the assessment. The team will conduct an environmental risk assessment, determination of how to best protect the patient, and just-in-time training for patient sitters. An environmental assessment tool and sitter documentation tool have been created to support the new process. For more information, contact Suzan Brunes, bruness@mercyhealth.com

4. **Malignant hyperthermia drill and associated outcomes**

   Mercy-North Iowa conducted a Malignant Hypothermia (MH) drill in the emergency department, an area where MH is less likely but possible to occur. The team conducting the drill included personnel from OR, Anesthesia, Nursing Supervisor, OB, ED, CCU, and Accreditation. Several opportunities for improvement were identified which are driving changes in process, policy and training. For more information, contact Suzan Brunes, bruness@mercyhealth.com

5. **Updated processes for multifaceted pain assessment and management**

   Based on the multifaceted assessment below and other factors the nurse determines the patient's level of pain and provides pharmacologic and/or non-pharmacologic treatment consistent with physician's orders.

   - Patient's self-report of pain with the use of a pain scale as a guide
   - The presence of pathological conditions or procedures/activities known to cause pain necessitating preemptive intervention
   - Nursing observations of behavioral and physiological signs of pain (i.e. agitation, clenching teeth, splinted breathing)
   - Reports from family of pain or behavior/activity changes
   - Improved behaviors after an analgesic trial may indicate that pain was a contributing factor

   Nurses may administer medications ordered for a lower pain intensity based on these factors, providing they document the reason that explains their critical thinking and/or patient involvement.

   Timely documentation of patient's response to interventions closes the loop and helps in determining future interventions and patient's progress toward their goal.

   For more information, contact Jean Loes, loesj@mercyhealth.com
Mercy-Dubuque Achieves Lowest Heart Failure Readmission Rate in Iowa

Over 28 percent of hospitalized Medicare patients with a diagnosis of heart failure are readmitted within 30 days of discharge. Mercy-Dubuque had the lowest proportion of heart failure patients readmitted within 30 days of discharge of all hospitals in Iowa at 14.11 percent.

Over 5 million Americans are living with heart failure today, and it's the No. 1 reason individuals age 65 or older are admitted to the hospital.

"Having a chronic disease like heart failure is a life-changing event for patients and also for families involved in caring for them," said Robert Wethal, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Mercy-Dubuque. "Stress and strain on the patient can lead to hospitalization and throw the patient and family into crisis mode. We work with the patient and family to help them maintain a stable state, and reduce the stress associated with the disease."

Mercy-Dubuque has several initiatives in place to keep heart failure patients healthy and out of the hospital,

- Patients and family members receive education while in the hospital targeted at how to manage the symptoms of heart failure at home. Education on the importance of consistently taking medications and how to follow a heart-healthy and low-sodium diet, exercising, tracking and reporting symptoms.

- A nurse-patient navigator follows heart failure patients for at least 30 days after discharge to answer questions, ensure follow-up appointments are made and to assist if any problems arise.

- In collaboration with Medical Associates Clinic, some heart failure patients use the Tele-Minder Program daily to report information about weight and symptoms, which will be provided to the patient's health care provider for quick intervention if necessary.

For more information on heart failure readmission rates click here.

Mercy-Sioux City Colleagues Attended Event Dispelling Myths on Human Trafficking

Over 80 nurses from Mercy-Sioux City and Dunes Surgical Hospital gathered for What's Up Nurse? a new educational event. Featured speakers at the inaugural event were Jessica Bowman, nurse practitioner with Ear Nose and Throat Consultants PLC; Dr. Abu Ata with Siouxland Mental Health; Dennis Bickett, therapy manager with Mercy-Sioux City; and Dr. Lawrence Volz with Midlands Clinic.

Monica Swords, LPN and HIV case manager with Siouxland Community Health Center, delivered the keynote on Recognizing Human Trafficking. Swords reinforced the following:

- We need to offer assistance, offer assistance again, and not be disappointed when abuse victims don't accept help on the first attempt.

- Front line health care workers – doctors, nurses, radiologists, and CNAs all play a role in identifying women and men who are trafficked.

- Separating victims from handlers is paramount to conduct a medical history and build trust. Human trafficking can be present even if a person isn't taken away from their home or relatives.

Mercy-Sioux City and Dunes Surgical Hospital will continue to sponsor additional off-site and on-unit professional development training for their nurses.
Laboratory Leaders Collaborate to Streamline Care and Generate Savings

The integration of MHN has enabled service lines to begin working together to streamline care and leverage combined buying power to achieve more aggressive cost savings.

A committee of laboratory directors chaired by Teri Reiff, Mercy-Des Moines, with representation from Wheaton Iowa, Sioux City, Clinton, North Iowa and Iowa City began a lab service line review in early 2017. A SWOT analysis provided the foundation for the top priority which focuses on reducing cost while maintaining clinical quality for reference lab testing. “Partnering with vendors who support our quality, safety and financial objectives is important to the success of these initiatives,” says Reiff.

The team completed an evaluation of all reference laboratories used by MHN ministries. They identified Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML) as a common supplier for many of our ministries. MML has a reputation for high quality service and the ability to provide “value-added” elements such as diagnostic algorithms, marketing help, education and support related to laboratory operations.

The laboratory leaders, along with their respective medical directors, visited with MML representatives to see what benefits could result from a tighter partnership. These discussions led to an agreement, which includes Mercy-Des Moines, Mercy-North Iowa and Wheaton Iowa. The new agreement will result in a network wide cost savings of $400K annually. Studies are currently underway to determine what other saving opportunities exist. Possibilities include moving more reference lab testing to MML, negotiating additional pricing discounts and increasing growth by capturing testing that could be performed in our network laboratories which is currently being sent to labs outside of Iowa.

Spotlight on Patient Care Improvements (continued)

Creative Thinking Reduces the Impact of IV Bag and Fluid Shortage

Last fall, Hurricane Maria disrupted lives in Puerto Rico and impacted U.S. hospitals. Companies located in Puerto Rico that manufacture IV bags and solutions were heavily damaged, causing a decrease in supply while patient demand remained steady.

Mercy-Des Moines uses 1,800 IV bags daily. When faced with the potential of an IV bag shortage, creativity became vital. Mercy Pharmacy business manager Stephanie Lingen and a team including physicians, nursing, administration, pharmacy and Mercy logistic center specialists met weekly to determine a plan that would stretch supplies.

“Our work became very hands-on. We did extra research to find the best way to deliver medications,” said Stephanie. “The “recipe” for mixing our solutions often changes. Our pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have been key to making it through this challenging time. Their knowledge, skills and flexibility in dealing with these unprecedented shortages has been amazing.”

The pharmacy has become very accomplished at dividing large bags of fluids into multiple smaller portions. Bags are saved when possible. Some medications are preloaded in syringes for emergent use. This creates another challenge — a shorter time to use the medications before they expire.

“The shortage is challenging, but we’ll make it,” says Stephanie. “We’re committed to the needs of our patients and they shouldn’t notice any major changes in care.”

For more information, contact Stephanie Lingen, slingen@mercydesmoines.org.
Mercy-Clinton Continues Partnership with Project SEARCH

For the second year, Mercy-Clinton and Clinton Community School District have partnered for a community project that will provide area youth with essential job skills.

Project SEARCH is a Work Immersion Transition Program seeking to achieve meaningful employment for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This program originated in Ohio in 1996 and was developed as a means to meet entry-level employment needs at a local hospital, support their diversity initiative, and partner with school and community service agencies. Students in this program have finished their high school requirements, are in their last year of school eligibility and have a desire to be employed in their community.

Youth rotate through three unpaid internships during the nine month program. They receive continual feedback from job coaches contracted through Imagine the Possibilities and mentors on staff at Mercy. Vocational Rehabilitation, Mississippi Valley Area Education Agency, Employment and Training with Iowa Workforce Development, and families play a significant role in the success of getting these youth employed. Students work on team building, workplace safety, health, financial literacy, job preparation and planning. Employment outcomes for a person who has completed this nine month program with these community agencies averages 73 percent. These students work at least 16 hours per week in an integrated setting.

Six students at Mercy-Clinton are working jobs in the following departments: Dialysis, Home Medical Equipment, Environmental Services, Lab, Child Care, Physical Therapy, Wound Care, Admitting, Living Centers, Specialty Clinic and Volunteer Services.

"Together, we continue to empower youth with disabilities as they transition to paid employment in their communities," said Mary Beth Kokjohn, Project SEARCH instructor, adding that the partnership between Mercy and the Project SEARCH program has been very successful in getting youth prepared for employment. The program works in conjunction with Mercy-Clinton’s Human Resources department. For more information, contact Shane Buer, CHRO at buersh@mercyhealth.com or Mary Beth Kokjohn at mbkokjohn@clintonia.org.

Honoring the Legacy of Patricia Clare Sullivan

Former president and CEO of Mercy-Des Moines, Patricia Clare Sullivan, passed away Monday, Feb. 5, at her home near Orlando, Fla., following a brief illness. She was 89 years old.

Patricia Clare, who loved nursing and all she cared for, served as president and CEO at Mercy from 1977 to 1993. She retired in 1993 following a career that included many roles at Mercy-Des Moines, Mercy College of Health Sciences and Mercy-Centerville. She continued to serve Mercy as the head of external affairs through 1995.

Under Patricia Clare’s guidance, Mercy grew into a state-of-the-art medical center and one of Iowa’s largest employers. Mercy became a regional referral center and developed a reputation as a leader in many clinical specialties. During her tenure, the development of the Mercy Clinics’ system began, a new Bishop Drumm Retirement Center campus was constructed and the House of Mercy opened.

Those who served with Patricia Clare found her to be a tireless leader who was well respected in the Des Moines business community. She worked alongside business leaders to not only develop Mercy, but also to improve access to health care and improve the quality of life in Des Moines and surrounding communities.

Many gathered for a prayer service in Des Moines celebrating her life.
Mercy-Sioux City Provides Assistance to Street Medicine Program

Beginning in March 2017, Sunnybrook Community Church, with assistance from Mercy-Sioux City and several other organizations in the area, began a Street Medicine program in Sioux City to help the homeless population with their medical needs.

Medical professionals from Sunnybrook Community Church and teams from Mercy-Sioux City, CNOs and Siouxland Community Health Center visit the Soup Kitchen/Gospel Mission on Mondays and Thursdays and the Warming Shelter on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They check blood pressure, blood sugar, perform first aid and provide other medical services.

The Street Medicine volunteers are able to provide follow up care because they travel to the patient. As an added benefit, Street Medicine is providing the homeless with skills for better self-care.

Supplies used during Street Medicine visits

Mercy Health Network Makes a Big Impact on Iowa’s Economy

Together, we play a critical role in the health of patients, communities and local economies.

A report released by the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) identifies the substantial part Mercy Health Network (MHN) plays in the well-being of Iowa’s economy. Our regional health system provided more than 20,000 jobs, of which the salaries and wages contributed an estimated $1.7 billion to Iowa’s economy. The jobs created by MHN also generated more than a projected half-billion dollars in retail sales and contributed nearly $32 million in state sales tax revenue this past year, according to the IHA report.

MHN President and CEO Bob Ritz is proud of all the contributions market ministries make to local communities through economic activity and providing excellent care. “We are honored to contribute to the health and prosperity of communities to make Iowa a great place to live and work while living out our Mission of caring for others.”

New Providers across the Network

Family Medicine

Brenda Mauch, ARNP
Mason City

Sandra Rohr, ARNP
Mason City

Ruth Uhl, ARNP
Sioux City

Mercy Health Network Mission Statement

Mercy Health Network serves with fidelity to the Gospel as a compassionate, healing ministry of Jesus Christ to transform the health of our communities.
Awards and Accolades

Mercy Health Network Critical Access Hospitals Awarded Top 100

Hospitals included on this list are top performers in managing risk, achieving higher quality, securing better outcomes, increasing patient satisfaction and operating at a lower cost than their peers. Congratulations to Decatur County Hospital, Madison County Memorial Hospital and Mitchell County Regional Health Center.

Five Hospitals Receive Wellmark Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® Blue Distinction® Center+ Designation Recognition for Maternity Care

Wellmark Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® has recognized Mercy-Des Moines, Mercy-Dubuque, Mercy Iowa City, Mercy-North Iowa and Covenant Medical Center with a Blue Distinction® Center+ for Maternity Care as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated hospitals which show expertise in delivering improved patient safety and better health outcomes, based on objective measures developed with input from the medical community.

Childbirth is the most common cause of hospitalization, and cesarean sections are the most common operating room procedures, according to National Centers for Health Statistics and the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. Reducing early elective delivery is an area of focus for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care program evaluates hospitals on quality measures for vaginal and cesarean delivery. To receive a Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care designation, a hospital must also demonstrate cost-efficiency.

Mercy-Des Moines Named a Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence

Mercy-Des Moines has been named a Screening Center of Excellence by the Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA) for its ongoing commitment to responsible lung cancer screening. There are approximately 500 screening centers nationwide following best practices outlined by the LCA. Low dose CT screening for lung cancer carried out safely, efficiently and equitably saves tens of thousands of lives a year.

Designated Screening Centers of Excellence have committed to provide clear information based on current evidence on who is a candidate for lung cancer screening, and to comply with comprehensive standards based on best practices developed by professional bodies such as the American College of Radiology, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program for controlling screening quality, radiation dose and diagnostic procedures within an experienced, multidisciplinary clinical setting.

“Mercy-Des Moines is dedicated to providing patients with the highest quality care. Low dose CT screening has shown to be the only proven method to detect lung cancer at an early and treatable stage. We are thrilled to be part of this elite group, setting an example for responsible screening practices across the country,” said Susan Eckels, Mercy's director of imaging services.

Mercy-North Iowa Receives Wellmark Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® Blue Distinction® Center+ Designation Recognition for Bariatric Surgery

Mercy-North Iowa also received a Blue Distinction Center+ for Bariatric Surgery designation. To receive this distinction a health care facility must demonstrate success in meeting patient safety measures as well as bariatric-specific quality measures, including complications and readmission rate for laparoscopic procedures in sleeve gastrectomy, gastric bypass, and adjustable gastric band. A health care facility must also be nationally accredited at both the facility and bariatric program-specific levels, as well as demonstrate cost-efficiency compared to its peers.
Mercy-Des Moines and Iowa Heart Center Physician Honored for Serving “From the Heart”

Liberato Iannone, M.D., Mercy and Iowa Heart Center interventional cardiologist, was the 2018 recipient of the “From the Heart Award,” presented by the American Heart Association. This award recognizes an individual in central Iowa whose achievements, advocacy, philanthropy and civic efforts have improved the lives of Iowans and Americans.

Dr. Iannone began with Iowa Heart Center in 1974 and has been a pioneer of interventional cardiology, performing a number of firsts, including Iowa’s first coronary angioplasty at Mercy in 1979 and more than 14,000 since. He has served as the medical director of the cardiac catheterization lab at Mercy since its inception and continues to perform hundreds of life-saving procedures every year.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Iannone has led the advancement of interventional cardiology techniques. He has published hundreds of articles, abstracts, papers and research studies — always improving the understanding of cardiac disorders, approaches to treatment, procedural techniques and devices.

Perhaps Dr. Iannone’s greatest achievement has been growing the expertise of practitioners. Countless cardiologists have benefited from his mentorship. A teacher at heart, he has trained 29 cardiology interventional fellows at Mercy and has served as the Director of Cardiology Fellowship Program Planning at the University of Nebraska.

“He has dedicated a lifetime to the care of others and the advancement of the profession and practice of interventional cardiology,” said Mark Tannenbaum, M.D., Iowa Heart Center chief physician officer.

“Serving Iowans for more than 43 years, we would be hard-pressed to find another physician who has saved more lives and impacted the cardiovascular health of Iowans through their work as an interventional cardiologist as Dr. Iannone.”

Mercy-Dubuque Earns CT and MRI Reaccreditations

Mercy-Dubuque has been awarded three-year terms of reaccreditation in both computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) following a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The ACR gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR practice guidelines and technical standards after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs were assessed.

Mercy-North Iowa’s Family Medicine Residency Program Receives Accreditation

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has granted continued accreditation to the Mercy Family Medicine Residency program at Mercy-North Iowa. The Review Committee commended the program for its demonstrated substantial compliance with the ACGME’s program requirements and institutional requirements without citations. Mercy Family Medicine Residency has 18 family residents, six in each year of the program. The residency program is in its 43rd year in Mason City.

Leadership Positions across the Network

Des Moines
- Physician Recruitment and Engagement Leader (Central Iowa)

Dubuque
- Director of Home Care

Iowa City
- Vice President of Revenue Cycle
- Director of Materials Management
Leadership Announcements

Dr. William Vandivier Selected as Mercy Clinics Chief Physician Executive and President

Mercy-Des Moines announced the selection of William Vandivier, D.O., as chief physician executive and president of Mercy Clinics.

Dr. Vandivier has served in these roles on an interim basis following the appointment of Kent Carr, M.D., as president of the Mercy Health Network Physician Enterprise.

Dr. Vandivier will manage Mercy Clinics’ multi-specialty physician enterprise of more than 400 providers. He will provide strategic direction on physician enterprise activities, represent providers in organizational decisions, drive quality goals across the system and assist in integration with the statewide network.

“I am very pleased to be working with Dr. Bill Vandivier in his new role,” said Kent Carr, M.D., president, Mercy Health Network Physician Enterprise. “He is a visionary leader who will help Mercy Clinics continue to grow, and assist the clinic system in becoming an integral part of our statewide network’s medical group.”

Dr. Vandivier began his career with Mercy Clinics in 2006 — serving as a physician and in a number of leadership roles at Mercy and its sponsor, Catholic Health Initiatives of Englewood, Colo. He has been a champion of the introduction and use of information technology to drive patient care improvements on a local and national basis.

“Dr. Vandivier is an innovator who understands the roles of relationships and technology in providing the best patient experience,” said Mercy President Karl Keeler. “As a practicing physician with a long history at Mercy, he is an excellent advocate for his fellow physicians and has a collaborative leadership style that will help move Mercy Clinics into the future. We have great confidence in his ability to work with our physicians and health care professionals to continually improve access to care, and meet or exceed patient expectations.”

Sean Williams Selected as Mercy Iowa City Chief Executive Officer

Sean Williams has been selected to serve as Mercy Iowa City’s new president and chief executive officer (CEO), effective May 1, 2018. Williams currently serves as the president and CEO at Mercy-Clinton, where he has successfully led the organization for the past eight years. Mercy-Clinton chief nursing officer Amy Berentes will serve as interim leader during the transition period.

Williams brings nearly 20 years of health care leadership experience to his new role at Mercy Iowa City. During his tenure at Mercy-Clinton, the organization realized greater clinical success and continual improvement in colleague engagement, patient experience and quality metrics. This achievement led to the hospital receiving Magnet recognition and receiving many awards. Williams will bring his passion for excellence to Mercy Iowa City, and is committed to working in partnership with the Iowa City team to continue the momentum gained over the past few months.

Reverence
We honor the sacredness and dignity of every person.

Integrity
We are faithful to who we say we are.

Commitment to the Poor
We stand with and serve those who are poor, especially the most vulnerable.

Compassion
Solidarity with one another, capacity to enter into another’s joy and sorrow.

Excellence
Preeminent performance, becoming the benchmark, putting forth our personal and professional best.

Justice
We foster right relationships to promote the common good, including sustainability of the Earth.

Stewardship
We honor our heritage and hold ourselves accountable for the human, financial and natural resources entrusted to our care.