MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center named one of Becker’s Healthcare 100 great hospitals in America

MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center is one of the 100 great hospitals in America, according to Becker’s Healthcare.

The hospitals included in Becker’s list are high performing and recognized for excellence in clinical care, patient outcomes and staff and physician satisfaction. They are industry leaders that have achieved advanced accreditation and certification in several specialties. They also spark trends in developing health care technology, hospital management and patient satisfaction. Analysis of ranking and award agencies were also considered, including the 2018-19 U.S. News & World Report’s rankings, on which MercyOne Des Moines was the second-ranked top performing hospital in Iowa.

“We are extremely proud of our physicians and colleagues who perform as one in delivering high quality personalized care for our patients,” said MercyOne Des Moines President Karl Keeler. “It is an honor to be included among these hospitals. Des Moines and central Iowa can count on our continual efforts to provide innovative care to meet individual and community health care needs.”

MercyOne Des Moines achieved many national accolades and pioneered innovations that contributed to Becker’s recognition. Some of these include:

• Involvement in national trials that make advanced heart care available locally
• Central Iowa’s only pediatric heart surgery program, with a pediatric heart surgery mortality of only one percent — a third of the national average
• MercyOne Iowa Heart Center (IHC) development with the less invasive transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure, providing a highly successful left ventricular assist device (LVAD) heart pump program for end-stage congestive heart failure patients
• Accredited Chest Pain Center for heart attack care
• The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval™ Primary Stroke Center, with care provided by a team of neurologists, vascular neurosurgeons and dedicated stroke coordinator
• Advanced 24-hour mechanical thrombectomy services available for patients with acute ischemic stroke
• MercyOne Des Moines Cancer Center accreditation by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons (ACOS) and recognition as an approved comprehensive community cancer program
• A specialized multidisciplinary lung cancer clinic
• Iowa’s only National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC)

“We are extremely proud of our physicians and colleagues who perform as one in delivering high quality personalized care for our patients.”

Karl Keeler, MercyOne Des Moines President
Kara Pease recognized with DAISY Award

Kara Pease, R.N., is Mercy’s newest DAISY Award recipient. She was presented the award at a ceremony April 8 in the Neuro Trauma Intensive Care Unit, with several of her colleagues and Mercy nursing leadership in attendance. Kara was nominated by the wife of a past patient, to recognize the kind and compassionate care she provided to the patient and family while hospitalized.

Following is an excerpt from the nomination form: “My husband suffered severe head trauma and his condition was not survivable. I remember very little about the two days he spent in the ICU, but I want to specifically recognize Nurse Kara. She was our Angel Nurse. She treated him with such compassion and respect. She would talk to him and let him know what she was doing and what was happening every time she was in the room. She took the time to answer all of our questions and although I’m sure she was extremely busy, we never once felt like we were infringing on her time. She took the time to grab a chair, hold my hand and sit with me, letting me know that it was clear what an amazing man he was because of all the people who loved him very much. I was able to get through the two worst days of my life because of your amazing, compassionate staff and our Angel Nurse Kara. I will hold Kara in my heart for the rest of my life and can never express all the gratitude and love I have for her.”

The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System)® Award is an international recognition program that honors and celebrates the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide every day. MercyOne Central Iowa implemented The DAISY Award® program in April 2017 to honor our nurses, who consistently provide compassionate and remarkable care while demonstrating clinical excellence. Winners are presented with a certificate, pin and a hand-carved stone sculpture entitled, “A Healer’s Touch.” Everyone in the honoree’s unit is also treated to cinnamon rolls.

Upcoming events

Coming soon: MercyOne Central Iowa Colleague Forum
Plan to attend the upcoming MercyOne Central Iowa Colleague Forums. Sessions will be held:

- **Tuesday, May 14** | 7:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.
  East Tower Auditorium (central campus)
- **Tuesday, May 21** | 3:30 p.m.
  Cownie Conference Room (MercyOne West Des Moines)
- **Wednesday, May 22** | 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
  Cownie Conference Room (MercyOne West Des Moines)

Health Care Week
MercyOne will celebrate Health Care Week May 12-18. Find a list of events in News Briefs.

Douglas Fiore, Ph.D., was formally installed as the third President of Mercy College of Health Sciences on April 10, 2019. Shown above during his inauguration are Joe Brookover, Staff Council Chair and Director of Financial Aid, Bishop Richard Pates and Dr. Fiore.