Upgrade improves quality, safety and efficiency

Earlier this year, MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center’s operating room (OR) #8 underwent a massive renovation to create a hybrid operating suite, offering substantial advantages to support a wide range of surgical procedures, improved patient outcomes, and better room utilization. The room is also equipped with MercyOne Des Moines’ first Siemens ARTIS Pheno, a robotic C-arm angiography system used for minimally invasive interventional procedures.

Having advanced imaging equipment available during surgery allows for faster, more precise placement of surgical tools and implants. This new technology requires less radiation and less contrast material — the dye needed to give doctors a better view of tissues. This results in greater safety for patients.

"With this technology, we are able to do complex vascular procedures with less radiation exposure to staff and the patient, while getting real-time high quality images to improve accuracy and precision," said Dr. David Chew, vascular surgeon for MercyOne Iowa Heart Center. "OR eight is also equipped with perfusion equipment so we can do combo cases with cardiac surgeons and interventionalists, if needed."

"This was an investment in efficiency, accuracy and safety, and we are now able to do things in the operating room we have not been able to do before." — Dr. David Chew

The ARTIS Pheno system is engineered to limit infection risk due to uninterrupted airflow that is a result of no ceiling-mounted components. Also, if surgeons determine other procedures are needed for an individual patient, including traditional open surgery, the open surgery can be done safely and immediately in the same room.

"This was an investment in efficiency, accuracy and safety, and we are now able to do things in the operating room we have not been able to do before," said Dr. Chew.

Ruan Neurology celebrates 25 years

Since opening in 1995, MercyOne Ruan Neurology Care’s board-certified neurologists have provided expert neurological care to patients for various conditions, from multiple sclerosis to stroke care, Parkinson’s to Alzheimer’s, migraines to epilepsy.

MercyOne Ruan Neurology Care is central Iowa’s largest and longest-established comprehensive neurology clinic, with its dedication to the field of neurology earning the honor of being:

- Named a Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence
- The only hospital in central Iowa performing thrombectomies for acute stroke
- Central Iowa’s only hospital to receive the Gold Seal of Approval™ and Primary Stroke Center certification from The Joint Commission

Photo above: Neurology providers pictured left to right: Randall Hamilton, MD; Bruce Hughes, MD; Heike Schmolck, MD; John Wright, MD; Anne Lewis, ARNP; Paul Babilian, MD; Michael Jacoby, MD; Mark Puricelli, DO; Jacqueline Myers, PC-C; Keith Kohout, DO, MS
MercyOne Des Moines appoints new board members

Four new members joined the MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center Board of Directors for fiscal year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020.

Neil Horning, MD, FACP, FCCP, is a physician with MercyOne Des Moines Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Practicing in Des Moines for more than two decades, Dr. Horning is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, and the American College of Chest Physicians. He is a member of the American Thoracic Society and Society of Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Horning received his bachelor’s degree in microbiology from the University of Tennessee, and his medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine, as well as his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine, at Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Dr. Horning is the medical director of Respiratory Care, and the co-medical director of the MercyOne Des Moines Lung Cancer Clinic and Lung Cancer Screening Program. Dr. Horning chairs the Clinical Quality and Patient Safety Committee, and chairs the Quality and Value Committee for the MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center Board of Directors.

Timothy Miller is a seasoned public educator, retiring from his most recent position as principal of Valley High School in West Des Moines in 2018. He received his certification in secondary school administration from Drake University, his master’s degree in special education from the University of Iowa, and his bachelor’s degree in physical education (K-12) from Luther College. Miller worked at Des Moines-area junior high and high schools for most of his 40-year career. He has served on boards for the South Des Moines YMCA, Greater Des Moines Sports Authority, and Iowa High School Football Coaches Association. Miller is a member of the Quality and Value Committee for the MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center Board of Directors.

Christopher Nelson is president and CEO of Kemin Industries, a global nutritional ingredients company specializing in improving human and animal health through molecular innovations. He serves on boards for the Iowa Cultivation Corridor, and MedPharm Colorado, and is the chair of the Science Center of Iowa Board of Directors. He was named one of the top 100 CEO Leaders in STEM in June 2013 by STEMconnector. Appointed by Iowa Governor Branstad, he served as the co-chair of the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council from 2016-2017. Nelson received his undergraduate training at Northwestern University, and his Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from Washington State University.

Stephen Nowak, DO, is a physician at MercyOne Ankeny Family Medicine and Urgent Care Clinic, where he has worked since 1991, and also served as clinic director from January 2011-March 2020. He currently chairs the MercyOne Medical Group – Central Iowa Board of Directors. Dr. Nowak was honored with the inaugural physician Society of St. Luke Award in 2019 by MercyOne Central Iowa. He received his bachelor’s degree in zoology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and his medical degree from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Nowak completed his internship at Des Moines General Hospital, and his residency in family medicine at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. He is a member of the Audit and Compliance Committee for the MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center Board of Directors.

The 2020 MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center Board of Directors officers are:

• Chair – Brenda Cushing, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Athene (retired)

• Vice Chair – Monica Friedman, chief human resources officer, LCS

• Treasurer – Terry Lillis, chief financial officer, Principal

• Secretary – Theresa McConeghey, assistant vice president, Principal