Jeffrey Knerl, MD has announced his retirement from MercyOne South Sioux City Family Medicine, but will continue to work at MercyOne Ponca Family Medicine clinic until summer. Dr. Knerl started working as a physician in Ponca in 1985. He joined MercyOne in 2007 and worked at both the Ponca and South Sioux City clinics. Dr. Knerl and his wife, Kathie have three sons and plan to spend time travelling to see them and enjoy outdoor activities.

“I hope my physician colleagues and the MercyOne staff remember me as having great compassion for my patients and being willing to go the extra mile for them,” says Dr. Knerl.

Matthew Humpal, MD has joined the MercyOne South Sioux City Family Medicine. Dr. Humpal, who recently practiced in Spencer, Iowa, did his residency at Clarkson Family Medicine in Omaha, Neb. He attended medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas and received his bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M- Corpus Christi.

“I am excited to be part of the MercyOne network and I am looking forward to meeting new patients,” says Dr. Humpal.

MercyOne Siouxland monitors coronavirus developments

We continue to monitor Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCOV) outbreak with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and our MercyOne parent organizations. All MercyOne locations are following the recommendations of the CDC and IDPH to screen patients for:

- travel history,
- contact with persons known to have 2019-nCOV, or
- persons presenting with fever and/or respiratory symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath.

If any patient fits the at-risk criteria, the patient will be isolated and provided a mask and our Infection Prevention colleagues will contact the IDPH. MercyOne Infection Control colleagues meet regularly to monitor and continue prevention efforts to ensure we are prepared as an organization to deal with this virus and minimize risk to our patients and colleagues.

MercyOne Siouxland is excited to add Moville Family Medicine to our circle of care. The clinic, previously owned by Family Healthcare of Siouxland, will reopen in March. CNOS will continue to serve patients out of the same location at 410 Main Street.

MercyOne Siouxland currently operates 21 primary care and specialty clinics in the Siouxland area and manages six additional clinics.

Golden Stethoscope winners

Joseph Liewer, MD
MercyOne Siouxland
Emergency Department

Kelly Pomerenke, MD
MercyOne Akron
Family Medicine

Jeffrey Knerl, MD
Matthew Humpal, MD
Child Advocacy Center receives national FBI award

MercyOne Siouxland Child Advocacy Center (CAC) has been selected for a prestigious national award given out by the Omaha FBI field office. The FBI chose the Mercy One Siouxland Child Advocacy Center for the Director’s Community Leadership Award on behalf of their efforts to combat violence against children in the tri-state area. “Our office relies on the work MercyOne Siouxland Child Advocacy Center does to impact people’s lives so significantly,” says Christie Johnson, Special Agent in Charge, FBI- Omaha.

Amy Scarmon, left, receives an award from Christie Johnson, Special Agent in Charge, FBI- Omaha.

Midline catheters available for procedures

Midline catheters are now available for placement by order. A midline catheter is a long term peripheral IV that is shorter in length than a PICC line and terminates in the upper arm. They have some of the same benefits of a PICC line with a dwell time of 29 days but are not considered a central line. Midlines are placed by anesthesia under ultrasound in upper arm veins and can be used after discharge for some outpatient infusions.

24-hour direct access to hospitalist quarterback

We are happy to share with you a recent improvement in our process to connect you with a hospitalist at MercyOne Siouxland. Effective March 2, you can reach the hospitalist quarterback 24-hours a day by calling 712-279-2129.

If you prefer to text message the quarterback, please do so directly through Doc Halo. The daily hospitalist quarterback list can be found on the intranet or by calling the operator at 712-279-2010.

Physician Appreciation Celebration

The new year is progressing quickly and with it, comes an opportunity to honor you and your contributions to the Siouxland community on National Doctors’ Day.

In lieu of the annual medical staff appreciation dinner, we would like to invite you to join us on Monday, March 30 as MercyOne Siouxland in coordination with the Medical Executive Committee hosts an evening of heavy hors d’oeuvres and drinks. The evening, which will include a brief recognition ceremony, will be held 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sioux City Art Center, 225 Nebraska St. We hope this will be an opportunity for you and your spouse or special guest to enjoy an evening with your colleagues. Formal invitations will follow soon and RSVPs are appreciated.

Ribbon cuttings

Dr. Glynne Edwards and Western Iowa President Beth Hughes cut the ribbon on the new MercyOne Siouxland Heart and Vascular Center clinic in Dakota Dunes.

Dr. Neal Khurana and Tim Daugherty, VP of Operations, join MercyOne Siouxland senior leaders and Siouxland Chamber Ambassadors in unveiling the new interventional radiology suite at MercyOne Siouxland Medical Center.