

Pulse

Spring 2012 • Volume 14 • Number 2



**Morrow County
Hospital**
OhioHealth
Associated with OhioHealth

Hospitalists Provide Inpatient Continuity of Care



**Darren Sommer, DO,
MBA, MPH**
Hospitalist

A partnership with the Hospitalist Division of Premier Physician Services is enhancing Morrow County Hospital's coverage of inpatient care by a doctor (hospitalist) who specializes in caring for hospitalized patients. This coverage provides excellent continuity of patient care from admission to discharge.

Directing the new Hospitalist program is Darren Sommer, DO, Vice President of Hospitalist Services, whose medical background includes that as a former Medical Director of a Hospitalist program in Southeastern Regional Medical Center in North Carolina.

Dr. Sommer said Premier Physician Services focuses on the rural community and is the only company nationally that does so. "Our belief is we can take a strong Hospitalist program dedicated to quality and customer service, and we can change the

curve of patients being transferred from the rural community to the city. We feel this is a burden on the patient, the patient's family, the hospital, the healthcare system and the financial well-being of healthcare in general," said Dr. Sommer, explaining the need for improvement. "We've tailored a program that focuses on how to keep more patients here locally."

Since April 1, inpatient coverage at MCH has had the presence of an in-house hospitalist for 8 to 12 hours a day or until the work is done. "We want to be sure all patient questions are answered, family issues are addressed and coordinated with primary care doctors," said Dr. Sommer. The hospitalist is also on-call for night-time coverage.

The goal of this new program is to allow patients to have access to hospital-level care nearer to home without traveling farther for hospital needs. It gives patients, nursing and ancillary departments greater access to physicians and healthcare closer to home. The hospitalist on duty will also provide additional collegial support for the emergency department physicians and surgeons who will rely on the other specialty physicians to assist them on providing the additional expertise they offer the community.

(continued on page 2)

Laboratory – CAP Accreditation

"I'm proud to announce that our Morrow County Hospital Laboratory has met the stringent requirements of CAP (College of American Pathologists) and has achieved full accreditation," said Laboratory Director Rhonda Graham, MHA, BS MT(HHS), MLT(ASCP). The laboratory's pathologist, Joon M. Park, MD, was notified of this prestigious recognition following the intense on-site inspection.

Rhonda noted that the inspection was performed by a team of seven laboratory technicians, each of whom was a specialist in their area of expertise – hematology, chemistry, microbiology, transfusion

medicine and pathology. The inspectors examined the laboratory's records, quality control of procedures for the preceding two years and the laboratory staff's qualifications. The laboratory's equipment, facilities, safety program and records were also examined in this stringent inspection.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulates all laboratory testing performed on humans in the U.S. through the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). The objective of the CLIA program is to ensure quality laboratory testing.

(continued on page 2)



Working in the hospital's CAP accredited laboratory are: Amy Harris, MLT(ASCP), at the CA560 coag analyzer; Valerie Burns, MLT(ASCP), at the Dimension XPAND Plus chemistry analyzer; and Amy Helman, CPT(ASCP), validating an order.

What's Inside

p.2 Stroke Network **p.3** Heart Care **p.4** Outreach Calendar **p.5** Customer Service **p.6** Dr. Hansen **p.7** "Sarena" **p.8** Patient Stories

Hospitalists Provide Inpatient Continuity of Care (continued from front cover)

Actively working at MCH is Dr. Sommer, who is a graduate of the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree and his Master's of Public Health from Nova Southeastern College of Public Health in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He received his Medical Degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale and his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Duke University (Durham, NC). He is residency trained and board certified in Internal Medicine and is a Fellow in the American College of Osteopathic Internists.



Karen Agrawal, MD, FACP, FHM
Hospitalist

Dr. Sommer is joined at Morrow County Hospital by Karen Agrawal, MD, FACP, FHM, who has practiced hospital medicine since 1999. She is a graduate of Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and her Medical Degree from the University of Cincinnati (OH). Board certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Agrawal currently is working to continually improve quality metrics for the hospital clients as the Vice President of Quality of Hospitalist Services for Premier Physician Services.

In addition to Drs. Sommer and Agrawal, Eric Hansen, MD, will serve as a hospitalist on an as-needed basis. Efforts are being finalized to have Sabreen Obaid, MD, join the group later this summer as one of Morrow County Hospital's permanent hospitalists.

Laboratory – CAP Accreditation

(continued from front cover)

"Proficiency and competency testing is required of all laboratory personnel based on these CLIA requirements," said Rhonda. "The CAP inspectors looked at personnel records with a fine-tooth comb. They examined the laboratory staff's education requirements and the degrees and certifications each of them hold." Continuing education courses ensure that the staff is up-to-date on all regulatory requirements and professional certifications of the staff.

"This is definitely an achievement of great pride," said Rhonda. "The CAP Accreditation is the gold standard in laboratory practices and validates that Morrow County Hospital's Laboratory is offering our patients the highest caliber care."

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If you have a story idea, please contact – (419) 949-3088

Stroke Care Joins OhioHealth Stroke Network

It was a joyous occasion in February when the OhioHealth Stroke Network "Go Live" Celebration and "REACH Health™" (Mobile Unit) Dedication took place where guests watched a live demonstration of the mobile telemedicine cart ("Sarena"). This unit allows emergency physicians to connect with the OhioHealth eICU (electronic Intensive Care Unit) physicians and on-call neurologists when patients enter the emergency department with symptoms of a stroke. This high-tech cart offers a two-way camera and audio system.

Morrow County Hospital President and CEO Chris Truax hailed the alliance as a "great program and expansion opportunity for the services that we're providing at the hospital. The Stroke Network is a way we have the ability to expand our outreach to the neurological environment and can take care of stroke patients locally. If patients need to be transferred, we can transfer them to a quality hospital to take care of their higher needs." Chris thanked OhioHealth Stroke Network System Director Paula Meyers and her entire team for making this connection a reality. He thanked Teresa Roe, RN, MCH Emergency Department Manager, for being an integral part of the program's development.

Teresa credited, now retired Sarena Johnstone, RN, for collecting data for over a year to follow up on her concern about the care stroke patients were receiving. She reported that 78 patients received care at Morrow County Hospital for a stroke-related diagnosis in 2011 and that is a notable increase from 49 in 2010 and 32 in 2009.

(continued on page 7)



The OhioHealth Stroke Network "Go Live" Celebration & REACH Health™ (mobile unit) Dedication on February 8, 2012, included: (Left to Right) OhioHealth Stroke Network System Director – Paula Meyers, RN, MSN, CCRN; OhioHealth Project Manager, Information Systems – Becky Bowling, RN; OhioHealth System Director of Regional Clinical Operations – Patti Crego, RN, MS, CNS; MCH Radiology Director – Russ Merrin, BS, RT(R); MCH Emergency Department Manager – Teresa Roe, RN; MCH Acute Care Manager – Carol Vail, RN; MCH Pharmacy Director – Holly Trainer, RPh. (In front): Sarena Johnstone, RN; MCH President and CEO – Chris Truax.

Auxiliary-Sponsored Event 2012

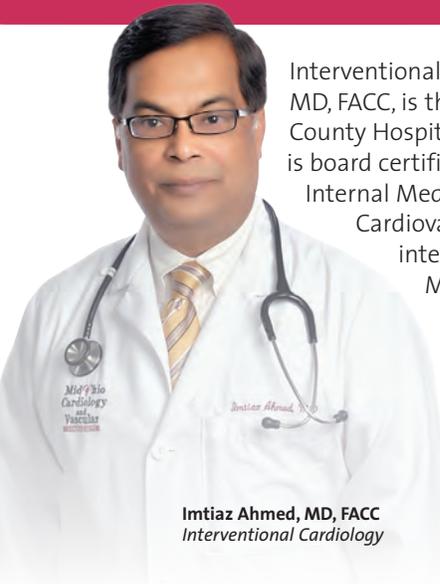
"Robert's Medical" Uniform Sale

Thursday/June 28 • 7 a.m.-4 p.m. • MCH Room A

Net proceeds from these events benefit patient care.

Open
To The
Public!

Heart Care You Can Trust

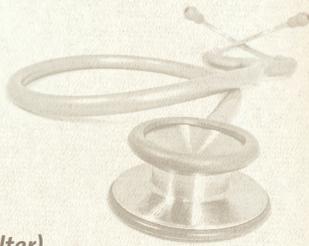


Imtiaz Ahmed, MD, FACC
Interventional Cardiology

Interventional Cardiologist Imtiaz Ahmed, MD, FACC, is the newest member of Morrow County Hospital's Medical Staff. Dr. Ahmed is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease. He served his internship and residency at Cabrini Medical Center in New York, and completed fellowships in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology at Brown University. Dr. Ahmed sees patients in the hospital's Medical Specialty Center North and is available for consults for both inpatients and outpatients.

Dr. Ahmed offers comprehensive cardiovascular services at Morrow County Hospital –

- Consultants for both inpatients and outpatients
- Electrocardiogram (EKG or ECF) testing and interpretation
- Cardiac stress testing
- Echocardiography
- Vascular studies
- Cardioversion
- Heart rhythm monitor (Holter)



If further treatment is needed, Morrow County Hospital has relationships with Marion General Hospital and Riverside Methodist Hospital to ensure a smooth transition to their full-service comprehensive Heart and Vascular Programs.

To learn more about Dr. Ahmed, or to schedule an appointment, please contact the hospital's **Medical Specialty Center North – (419) 949-3080**.

Rehab Services Director – Patrick Hunter

Patrick Hunter, MS, AT ATC, brings a wealth of training and experience to his new position as Morrow County Hospital's Rehab Services Director. A self-described "Army brat," Patrick moved often with his family in his younger years, but the "constant" is now Ohio. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Sports Medicine from Marietta College and his Master's Degree in Athletic Training from Ohio University and has been an athletic trainer for 11 years.

Prior to coming to Morrow County Hospital, Patrick held positions in Parkersburg, West Virginia, where he worked in an outpatient rehab hospital and conducted clinics at a city high school. The following two years at Asheville, North Carolina, Patrick worked with a team of orthopedic surgeons and a high school's outreach program.

In 2007, Patrick joined Morrow County Hospital's Rehab Services as a staff ath-

letic trainer and was responsible for the expansion of the sports outreach program with the county schools' athletic programs. Patrick serves as the liaison with the coaches, evaluates injuries and organizes the treatment of athletes who sustain injuries during practice or a game. He also works with the parents, athlete and coach to ensure the proper care and recovery from those injuries.

(continued on page 5)

Echocardiogram... Testing Close To Home

When cardiologists need information about how a person's heart functions, they may order an "echocardiogram." "This diagnostic test is based on an ultrasound which uses high-pitched sound waves that pick up 'echoes' as they bounce off different parts of the heart," said Radiology Director Russ Merrin, BS, RT(R)(N), CNMT, NCT. These echoes form moving pictures that can be viewed on a computer monitor. Russ pointed out that an echocardiogram is a very useful tool for evaluation of the heart's structure, valve function and the blood flow to the heart. "This is a 'first step' test and is made on the referral of a physician or cardiologist. It requires no medication, however, if an abnormality is found, the cardiologist may order more diagnostic tests, such as a stress test.

Morrow County Hospital has the capabilities to perform these echocardiograms utilizing state-of-the-art equipment with highly trained clinicians. To learn more about this diagnostic test, please contact **Morrow County Hospital Radiology Services – (419) 949-3090**.



Echo Tech Kelly Beck, BSBA, CCT, performs a patient's (aka, Russ Merrin) echocardiogram with Dr. Ahmed, referring cardiologist, and Kathy Wellman, RN, to evaluate the patient's heart function.

Calendar of Community Outreach Programs & Services

Pre-registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. To register for any of the listed programs, or for more information, please call Morrow County Hospital's Public Relations Department – (419) 949-3089 or (419) 949-3088 – Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Watch for weekly ads in the local newspapers.

May & June

Diabetes Education

Registration Required • Free Program

Minimum Class Size: 10 participants

Thursday/May 3 • 6-8:30 p.m. • MCH Room C

Tuesday/May 8 • 6-8:30 p.m. • MCH Room A

Thursday/May 10 • 6-8:30 p.m. • MCH Room A

Tuesday/May 15 • 6-8:30 p.m. • MCH Room A

This four-part/ten-hour program is for recently-diagnosed diabetics. Each night of this twice-a-week/two-week course, a different aspect of the diabetes disease process will be discussed. **You must attend all four classes to complete this course.**

"MCH Health Awareness" Blood Profiles

No appointment necessary! • 6-9:30 a.m.

Eligibility: Anyone age 18 and over

Saturday/May 5 • Morrow County Hospital (Room A)

(Use "Receiving" entrance)

Tuesday/May 15 • The Pines Christian Church

(6775 U.S. Hwy. 42 • Mt. Gilead)

Saturday/June 23 • Morrow County Hospital (Room A)

(Use "Receiving" entrance)

Morrow County Hospital's laboratory personnel will offer \$20 "MCH Health Awareness" blood profiles, which include a battery of 27 tests.

Remember –

- An 8 to 10-hour fast is necessary for accurate results – no eating.
- Drink moderate amounts of water.
- Take your medications with moderate amounts of water.

For an additional \$20, you may also receive a TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone) test.

Absolutely...No physicians' orders for additional tests will be accepted at this screening. The \$20 blood profile will only be available at the site listed!

Healthcare Provider CPR

Monday/May 7 • 3:30-7:30 p.m. • MCH Room A

Monday/June 11 • 8 a.m.-12 p.m. • MCH Room A

Certification/Recertification – \$45 • Book – \$15

This class is for healthcare professionals and teaches all aspects of basic life support. Community members wishing to register for a CPR class are required to pre-pay their registration fee (non-refundable) seven days prior to the class date, or their name will be removed from the class roster.

Safe Sitter

Saturday/May 12 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m. • MCH Room A

Registration Fee – \$10 (for student manual)

Lunch Provided • Minimum Class Size: 8 participants

Morrow County Hospital is a teaching site for "Safe Sitter" which is a medically-accurate program designed to prepare 11-13 year olds to be safe and nurturing babysitters. Instructors will teach life skills – business, medical, safe habits – in this high-quality course. The registration fee covers all costs!

First Aid Class

Monday/May 14 • 4-7 p.m. • MCH Room A

Registration Fee – \$40 (includes book)

Registration Required • Minimum Class Size: 6 participants

This American Heart Association First Aid Class will teach participants (anyone over the age of 14 years) to identify medical emergencies and how to provide proper first aid. Community members wishing to register for a first aid class are required to pre-pay their registration fee (non-refundable) seven days prior to the class date, or their name will be removed from the class roster.

Heartsaver CPR

Thursday/June 7 • 4-7 p.m. • MCH Room A

Certification/Recertification – \$45 (includes book)

Registration Required • Minimum Class Size: 6 participants

Learn basic adult and pediatric life support techniques. Community members wishing to register for a CPR class are required to pre-pay their registration fee (non-refundable) seven days prior to the class date, or their name will be removed from the class roster.

Sports Physical Exams For Morrow County Students Grades 9-12 • FREE! (For School Year • 2012-13)

Saturday/June 9 • MCH Lower Level

(Use "Receiving" entrance)

7:30-8:30 a.m. – Mt. Gilead (Grades 9-12)

7:30-8:30 a.m. – Gilead Christian (Grades 9-12)

8:30-9:30 a.m. – Cardington (Grades 9-12)

9:30-10:30 a.m. – Northmor (Grades 9-12)

10:30-11:30 a.m. – Highland (Grades 9-12)

No appointment necessary! Contact your high school's Athletic Director for required forms.

American Red Cross Bloodmobile

Friday/June 29 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m. • MCH Room A

Positive identification required – American Red Cross donor card or photo ID showing date of birth. Call MCH Public Relations to schedule an appointment – (419) 949-3089.

Rehab Services Director – *Patrick Hunter* (continued from page 3)



Patrick Hunter, MS, ATC, Rehab Services Director

In his new position as Rehab Services Director, Patrick will oversee the department's areas of focus – speech, occupational and physical therapy – for outpatients in the department, inpatients who qualify for the hospital's Swing Bed Program, and outpatients involved with Home Health care, in addition to physical therapy at Northfield Medical.

Patrick is excited about expanding the outreach program and implementing screening events for the public's education.

An order from a licensed practitioner in the state of Ohio is required for all Rehab Services therapies. If you would like to learn more about the various services, please call **Rehab Services – (419) 949-3086**.

Customer Service Champions

Mari Derouaux, RN, and **Matthew Hintz, MD**, were two of the 41 Champions recognized during the 12th Annual OhioHealth Customer Service Retreat held at the Aladdin Shrine Center (Columbus) in April. With over 800 attendees, this energizing and inspiring event honored employees/associates, physicians and teams throughout the OhioHealth system for their exemplary customer service and was filled with uplifting presentations that brought laughter and tears.

Excerpts from their Customer Service nominations...

Mari Derouaux, RN, is a champion of patient-centered care and is a very skilled nurse always remembered by her patients. She stands tall among the nursing staff of Acute Care for the number of patient compliments she receives on the Press Ganey patient satisfaction surveys. Mari is an exceptional caregiver who takes the time to make her patients feel at ease while providing excellent bedside care. She has the innate ability to connect with patients and their families in a calm, gentle manner as she listens to their concerns and explains the patient's treatment. Repeatedly, patients mention how Mari is excellent in all aspects...very knowledgeable and caring...made us feel like family...wonderful. Mari has particular interest in wound care and geriatric nursing and has been the lead for development of pressure ulcer prevention and intervention, and wound care protocols for the inpatient unit of Morrow County Hospital. On her own time, Mari attained the credentials of Wound Care Certified (WCC) from the National Alliance of Wound Care and incorporates that knowledge into her daily work. She is sought out for her expertise and, by example, sets the bar for others. Mari is meticulous in adhering to regulatory standards, policies and procedures, frequently suggesting evidence-based practice changes.

Matthew Hintz, MD, is a family practice physician, who is genuinely "others oriented." He takes the time to listen, respects others and gives back to his community. Dr. Hintz is known by the Morrow County Hospital staff and his patients as a kind, thoughtful, compassionate and down-to-earth family man who happens to be an excellent physician with a solo medical practice in Morrow County. Dr. Hintz has one characteristic that stands out above others...his engagement of the fine and relatively lost art of listening as an integral tool in his medical practice. The nursing staff and his patients appreciate his ability to listen patiently and solicit

their input as an intricately important part of his assessments and decisions. He is even more compassionate and caring with those who cannot speak for themselves as he provides holistic care for



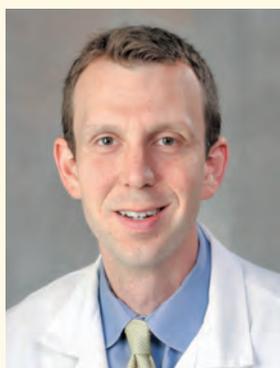
Champions Dr. Matthew Hintz and Mari Derouaux, RN, received accolades at the 2012 OhioHealth Customer Service Retreat.

group home residents. Serving as the newly elected Medical Staff President, Dr. Hintz is well respected by his peers and is recognized for his insightfulness, fairness and professional image regardless of the situation.

His interest in others extends beyond his private medical practice. Dr. Hintz is active in the Morrow County community and involves his family in community activities. He is a role model for the image of a family practice physician. On Friday nights, you will find Dr. Hintz along with his wife and two small children at the local football game where he provides field coverage for athletes to ensure they have appropriate care if needed. Each year, Dr. Hintz volunteers his time to provide hundreds of free sports physical exams for local high school students and is dedicated to the hospital's efforts to provide free wrestling weight assessments.

Congratulations to Dr. Hintz (Physician Award) and Mari (Individual Award) for making a difference in the care they consistently provide...every person, every time.

Welcome...Dr. Hansen



Eric Hansen, MD
Primary Care Physician

Eric Hansen, MD, is now seeing patients in the Morrow County Hospital Primary Care office located at 245 Neal Avenue, Mount Gilead, and is committed to providing the best care possible along with the other providers.

Dr. Hansen is board certified in family medicine and served as Morrow County Hospital's Emergency Department Medical Director for over five years through Premier Health Care Services. He has been recognized as an OhioHealth

Customer Service Physician Champion for his outstanding patient satisfaction scores and proven efforts to improve the quality of patient care.

Dr. Hansen graduated summa cum laude in chemistry from Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH) and is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Baltimore, MD). He completed a Family Practice Residency Program at Riverside Methodist Hospital (Columbus, OH) and an obstetrical fellowship at St. Elizabeth Medical Center (Edgewood, KY). Dr. Hansen has served as the Director of Obstetrics in Family Practice at the MetroHealth Family Practice Residency Program (Cleveland, OH). Prior to working in Morrow County Hospital's emergency department, Dr. Hansen served as a solo emergency physician in Millersburg, Willard and Wooster, OH.

For more information about Dr. Hansen and **Morrow County Hospital Primary Care**, please call – (419) 947-3015.

Hearing Loss...What Did You Say?

Communication is one of the most important parts of each of our lives. Being able to enjoy a movie, play or television requires the ability to hear with clarity. Conversations with family and friends are a vital part of our well-being. Because hearing loss can be a gradual deterioration, sometimes friends and families notice it before the individual does. The American Academy of Audiology states that more than 28 million Americans suffer from some kind of hearing impairment. Hearing loss is not just for the elderly! More than half the people with hearing loss are under age 65. Hearing loss can come from many causes such as: exposure to loud noise, genetic factors, medications, and even ear infections. So, what is the first step in finding out about the many types of hearing loss? A visit with an audiologist would be



Roger Winger, PhD
Audiology

a referral to a physician or specialist is in order. If it is not due to a medical condition, an audiologist can determine if a hearing aid would be an appropriate plan of action. Hearing aids are now state of the art and are not simply amplification devices. Technology has made hearing aids more sophisticated, less visible, and more

Hospital Board Member – Brad Wood



Brad Wood
Board Member

Brad Wood, life-long Mount Gilead resident, was named in March to a six-year term on the Morrow County Hospital Board of Trustees. He succeeds Robert (Bob) Willeke who served a six-year term.

A Mount Gilead High School graduate, Brad earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from The Ohio State University and has been a pharmacist at Whiston Pharmacy in Mount Gilead since his graduation.

Brad has served his community in many areas from his church, where he has been active, to two terms on the Mount Gilead Board of Education. He was also a nine-year member of MCCAD (now Recovery & Prevention Resources) and for 15 years Brad was on the Mount Gilead Board of Recreation.

Brad and his wife, Rita, a Mount Gilead school teacher for 15 years, have three grown children and six grandchildren.

He anticipates that his service as a Morrow County Hospital Board member will bring a "different slant" to his experience in the retail world, and it will be a positive perspective.



Visit Our Web Site...

to learn more about Morrow County Hospital services, physician information, job opportunities, community outreach programs, and *much more...*

www.morrowcountyhospital.com

comfortable to wear. Many people hesitate to inquire about aids because they think the cost is out of their price range. Many effective hearing aids can still be purchased without selling the family farm. An audiologist can be an asset to help the individual through this decision-making maze.

Roger K. Winger, PhD, a licensed audiologist for over 35 years, sees clients in the hospital's Medical Specialty Center West and provides hearing tests, hearing aid consultations and hearing aid repair/cleaning for Morrow County area residents.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Winger, or for more information, please call the **Medical Specialty Center West – (419) 947-1707**.

Stroke Care Joins OhioHealth Stroke Network

(continued from page 2)

OhioHealth Stroke Network System Director Paula Meyers, RN, MSN, CCRN, said, "Across the nation there are less than five percent of stroke victims getting to the emergency room quickly enough to receive TPA (a clot busting medication) in the critical time window of three hours from their first symptoms." Paula complimented Morrow County Hospital for beating the national benchmark standards set for "turnaround times." She noted

"Sarena" ...Morrow County Hospital and the OhioHealth Stroke Network

There was always something about medicine and the way the body works that fascinated Sarena Johnstone. "I wanted to be a nurse from the time I was six years old and never changed my mind," shared Sarena Johnstone, RN, who is considered the champion for Morrow County Hospital's partnership with the OhioHealth Stroke Network. Because of her challenges, determination and hard work, Sarena's efforts prevailed to improve outcomes for stroke patients.

Sarena, a Cardington High School graduate, became a nursing assistant and then earned her RN degree. Initially, she worked in MCH's maternity department and then moved to the emergency department in 1992.

Although medicine was her passion, Sarena shared her love with backpacking and hiking. After several years of planning, Sarena took six months off from her nursing duties to follow her heart to hike the 2,600-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine in 2003. The trek through Georgia went well with Sarena hiking at a crisp three miles an hour.

It was in North Carolina near the Fontana Dam that she caught her toe on something and fell face first on the trail. The perky hiker got right up and kept walking but, that evening, her neck began to hurt. She suspected that when she had fallen forward her pack had torn her carotid artery. Sarena refused to let that stop her and she continued hiking. The first day after the fall, her arm kept "drifting," and the next day when she was three miles south of North Carolina's only pick-up site, she couldn't control her right side and couldn't carry her pack. Determined, she still kept hiking although her hiking speed was slowed and she kept falling. One of two girls, a Ranger, called EMS. Sarena refers to them as her "trail angels," who stayed with her. At that point,

Sarena could not lift her right leg and had little control over her right arm. She was transported to a community hospital in North Carolina similar to Morrow County where they ran an MRI and a radiologist found the carotid artery so narrow it could not generate a pulse. A special medication was administered and three days later she was

Sarena Johnstone, RN, and "Sarena," Morrow County Hospital's telemedicine mobile unit.

national benchmark standards are – door-to-physician time is 10 minutes, door-to-CT scan is 25 minutes and door-to-read CT scan is 45 minutes. Door-to-treatment for IV and TPA is 60 minutes. Paula added, "Stroke is the leading cause of disability for adults in the U.S. and rehabilitation costs are over \$7.5 billion a year.

Morrow County Hospital was the 11th hospital in OhioHealth's Stroke Network to "go live" and 14 will be up and running by the end of April. "This connection is wonderful for our stroke patients," said Teresa. "Since its implementation we have benefited three patients who presented to our emergency department with symptoms of stroke."

brought to Morrow County Hospital where she continued her rehabilitation for the next eight weeks before returning to the profession she loved.

It was Sarena's situation on the Appalachian Trail, that led her to research and pursue the possibility of having a stroke program to improve patient outcomes at Morrow County Hospital. What started with a meeting at Riverside Methodist Hospital, progressed to the collection of the necessary data and validation of specific stroke protocol. "This was the spark that ignited the huge fire for our stroke program that is now in place and our link with the OhioHealth Stroke Network," said Emergency Department Manager Teresa Roe, RN. "It is amazing how one person's adversity can provide positive opportunities for others."

In recognition of Sarena's efforts, a special plaque was placed on the highly technical telemedicine mobile cart at the hospital's "Go Live" OhioHealth Stroke Network Celebration in February. Tagged "Sarena," this mobile unit has already benefited three stroke patients needing care in the Morrow County Hospital emergency department.

Even though Sarena retired from nursing in 2010, stroke patients will be forever grateful to this dedicated nurse whose trek on the Appalachian Trail led to this life-saving program at Morrow County Hospital.

Patients Share Their Stories

(continued on page 8)

Valda Fitzpatrick didn't hesitate when she was advised by her mother's surgeon to have a colonoscopy. Her mother had colon cancer and following her surgery, Valda told her family physician (Dr. Freundlich) of her promise to her mother's surgeon. With Valda's past history and some underlying symptoms, she was referred to David Kasserman, MD (general surgeon), in the hospital's Medical Specialty Center West. The results of the colonoscopy revealed a malignancy, and Valda underwent surgery in one of the hospital's operating suites. Being a forthright person, Valda told Dr. Kasserman to do what was necessary and "cut everything out" if necessary. At first, her follow-ups were annually and now she is checked every two years. She has had no recurring problems.

Valda can't say enough about her experience at Morrow County Hospital. "I enjoyed being in the hospital," she said. Valda complimented the nurses, the doctors and everyone for being so good to her. "I had a lot of confidence in my surgeon. He is an excellent surgeon, and I have not had any problems. I give him my highest recommendation. Without hesitation, I would go to him for other procedures." She advises others to pay attention to symptoms that she didn't... she thought they would go away, but they didn't. Valda is thankful for the advice from her mother's surgeon. Valda has high regards for Morrow County Hospital, "It's close, easy to schedule and convenient."



Carrier Presort BOXHOLDER

Patients Share Their Stories

(continued from page 7)

Jack Walker is back on the farm tending to his dairy herd after two brief visits to Morrow County Hospital. The 50-year Morrow County resident entered the hospital's emergency department several days after experiencing seizure-like episodes which left his mind "blank" for brief moments before returning to normal. Jack mentioned, "They took me right away." Their immediate diagnosis was that he had suffered a stroke, and he was transferred to Riverside Methodist Hospital where the diagnosis was confirmed saying it had caused some memory loss. Wanting to return to his hometown hospital, Jack was referred to Dr. Blake Kellum, a neurologist who sees patients in the Medical Specialty Center North, who placed him on medication and worked with his primary care physician (Dr. Matthew Hintz).



When Jack's symptoms returned again, he went immediately to Morrow County Hospital's emergency department. "They admitted me to the hospital for overnight observation," said Jack. "This was my first stay in Morrow County Hospital, and I was impressed. The staff, doctors, nurses, and the food were all very good. I even found a staff member tidying up my room when I entered it," Jack continues to feel fine, is strictly following his doctor's instructions, and can't say enough about the care he received close to his home.

When **Doyle Rogers** was given the choice of being treated for Myasthenia Gravis in Columbus, he didn't hesitate to mention Morrow County Hospital. "I told my neurologist (Dr. Erik Arce) in Columbus, I wanted to go to Morrow County Hospital near my home," said Doyle, who had been diagnosed with the neurological disorder after being referred by Dr. Grant Galbraith, his family physician.



Doyle, a Mount Gilead resident and life-long Morrow Countian, said he was told the disease is an autoimmune disorder in which antibodies attacked a secretion in the body that controls the muscles. "In my case, they attacked my eye muscles, eye lids and my swallowing process," said Doyle, who was the meat department manager at Marengo Country Market for 27 years.

Doyle started with a series of five intravenous treatments for five consecutive days, each treatment consuming 3-5 hours. He is now being given follow-up sessions once a month with each session taking the same length of time. Doyle explained the medication is to rid his body of the antibodies that attacked it. (continued)

"I'm feeling much better," said Doyle, who added that he is treated very well in the outpatient surgery room where he is given the infusions. "I can read, watch television or just doze. Everyone treats me just fine." Doyle said there is no known cause of the disorder, but the treatment at Morrow County Hospital "is bringing healing results."

Beth Beal describes the Morrow County Hospital Medical Specialty Center West as a "blessing." She should know because she is a patient who must make frequent visits to the center where she is treated for diabetes and its complications including kidney and anemia conditions.



"Everyone from the janitors to the nurses and staff are so kind and observant," she said. "If they see me coming down the hall looking tired, they will offer to get me a wheelchair or any other help."

One of the physicians she is currently seeing is Dr. Lodhawala, whose specialty is hematology/oncology. Beth describes Dr. Lodhawala as personable. "He has a gentle demeanor and makes every effort to be sure I understand what he is explaining to me," she said. "This certainly helps to put me at ease in a stress situation."

In the course of her treatment, Beth sees several doctors in the Medical Specialty Center and receives injections from the staff. She has battled diabetes for many years, and likes the accessibility of Morrow County Hospital and the fact that most of her physicians can be visited at one place.

Morrow County resident **Crystal Harding** praised her surgeon, doctor and nurses following surgery to remove her gallbladder at Morrow County Hospital.



A visit to the emergency department resulted in a diagnosis by her primary care physician, Dr. Grant Galbraith, to remove her gall bladder. She was admitted to the hospital on a Monday night and was pleasantly surprised when Dr. Ken Graffeo, general surgeon, visited her and explained the technique for performing laparoscopic surgery. "He explained the procedure to me in easy-to-understand language, and I understood everything he was saying. Dr. Graffeo gave me the opportunity to ask questions," Crystal said. "Although I was 'groggy' and a little 'out of it,' he came back to check on me several times following my surgery." Crystal's follow-up visit was with Dr. Graffeo in the hospital's Medical Specialty Center West. "He even helped me get my acid reflex problem under control," commented Crystal.

"It was so nice to be in Morrow County Hospital, close to home, and my family could take care of my little girl," she said. Crystal found the nurses to be "super nice" during her 24-hour hospital stay. "Anytime I needed anything, I pressed the call button and they came quickly. It was great to see familiar people – people I know who work at the hospital."