

Samaritan Medical Center 830 Washington Street Watertown, NY 13601



#### www.samaritanhealth.com

Samaritan Medical Center is interested in your comments! Please write or call and let us know your thoughts about this newsletter or any of our ealthcare services. Good Health Matters is published quarterly by Samaritan Medical Center, 830 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601, 315-785-4504.

#### Moving Forward: Hospital Renovations are Underway!



lendering of the necting corridor.

In October, Samaritan Medical Center broke ground on its newest construction project - an enclosed connecting corridor that will link Samaritan Medical Center with Samaritan Keep Home. This two-level corridor will allow for the movement of residents between the nursing home and hospital and will eliminate the current need to transfer nursing home residents to the hospital by ambulance.

During construction, visitors to the nursing home should use the entrance on the West side of the building closest to Sherman Street (also known as the Turner Room entrance). Reserved parking for visitors to the nursing home is located in the parking lot adjacent to this entrance.

While not as immediately visible to the public as the work on the connecting corridor, renovations have also started within the hospital's Pratt Building. These renovations include consolidating outpatient services, creating a specialized orthopaedic medical/surgical unit with private patient rooms, and expanding the Maternity Department.

"From a patient perspective, one of the biggest changes that

will take place with the renovations is the consolidation of outpatient services into one convenient location that is easily accessible from the parking garage," explains Krista Kittle, Director of Marketing and Community Relations at Samaritan.

"Currently, patients who need outpatient tests, such as X-rays, EKGs, or blood work have to travel to multiple locations on different floors. This can be both time consuming and confusing for our patients."

The planned renovations will bring lab, radiology, EKG and registration together in a single location, which will simplify the healthcare experience, especially for patients who need to have multiple tests completed.

With these ongoing changes happening, Ms. Kittle advises everyone to take the time to look for and read Samaritan's directional signs. "Our signs will assist with routing people around construction areas or to temporary locations for certain services." Staff members, all of whom wear identification badges, are also available to help by providing directions or assisting patients and visitors in reaching their destinations.



### The Changing of the Guard:

For more than 50 years, the North Country Orthopaedic Group (NCOG) has cared for our community, treating problems ranging from sprains, dislocations and broken bones, to arthritis, back pain and osteoporosis. One of the reasons for the practice's success has been its ability to recruit talented new physicians to work alongside its more seasoned practitioners.

This past year NCOG has continued to transition with the retirement of David O. VanEenenaam, MD and Arthur C. Peckham, Jr., MD, and the addition of new physicians Anel M. Abreu, DO and Edward W. Choung, DO.



Perry T. Shuman, MD • D. Peter VanEenenaam, MD • Steven B. Fish, MD

## New Interventional Radiologist Offers More Options, Less Travel for Patients

Interventional Radiology combines the use of tiny instruments and imaging technology to produce big results. And it's now available at Samaritan Medical Center.

Interventional Radiology first evolved as a medical specialty in Working in collaboration with the highly skilled team of physicians the 1970s, and since then, its ability to treat an ever-expanding at Northern Radiology, Moonjohn Kim, MD, heads Samaritan's list of conditions has continued to grow. It's now used to treat new Interventional Radiology Department. Dr. Kim is a Boardblockages inside arteries and veins, block off blood vessels certified and fellowship-trained Interventional Radiologist. that nourish tumors, administer targeted chemotherapy and other medications, drain blocked organ systems, such as the "What I do is minimally invasive and extremely targeted," liver, gallbladder and kidney, and perform biopsies that would explains Dr. Kim. "I use ultrasound, MRI and other diagnostic otherwise require surgical exploration.

images as a 'road map' to help me guide miniature instruments,

#### Retiring & New Physicians Reflect on Advances in Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr. VanEenenaam joined NCOG in 1968 and retired earlier this year, while Dr. Peckham practiced with NCOG for 34 years before his retirement in September. Over the course of their careers, both physicians have seen amazing advances in the field of orthopaedic surgery.

"The first total joint replacements for hips were being pioneered in the 1960s as I was doing my medical training," says Dr. VanEenenaam. "It was a very exciting time. This was a huge advance in what we could do to relieve

> joint pain and allow our patients freedom of continued on page 3

The NCOG Orthopaedic Surgeons (L to R): Anel M. Abreu, DO • Edward W. Choung, DO • Edward N. Powell, MD • Bruce L. Baird, MD

such as catheters, through blood vessels or through the skin to treat diseases right at the site of the problem."

### New Interventional Radiologist Offers More...

#### continued from front cover

"The comprehensive Interventional Radiology services that we're offering at Samaritan Medical

Center are not typically available in a community hospital setting. We now have both the technology and physician expertise to offer services that previously were only available to our community members at outside referral centers in Syracuse and beyond," says Mario Victoria, MD,

For patients, Interventional Radiology often provides an alternative to open surgery - with less risk, less pain and a faster recovery.

Samaritan's Chief Medical Officer. "We're thrilled that our patients will be able to stay close to home for treatment, where they have the support

of family, friends and their regular primary care and specialist physicians."

For patients. Interventional Radiology often provides an alternative to open surgery – with less risk, less pain and a faster recovery. "I like to think that I provide the patient with options," says Dr. Kim. "There's always another way to go in and reach the area that needs treatment."

One example of this is the treatment of uterine fibroids - very common noncancerous tumors of the uterus. While for most women uterine fibroids don't



Dr. Moonjohn Kim performs a nephrostomy tube placement in a patient who could not receive a standard ureter stent due to blockages caused by kidney stones.



cause problems, for some they can cause extremely heavy bleeding during menstrual periods, pelvic pain and pressure, and pressure on the bladder.

In the past a hysterectomy, or surgical removal of the uterus, has been the most common treatment for women who suffer from these symptoms.

"We can now provide non-surgical relief for fibroid tumors with uterine fibroid embolization or UFE," says Dr. Kim. The procedure blocks the blood flow to the tumor causing it to shrink and symptoms to subside. Benefits of UFE include no surgical

incision, little or no blood loss, significantly less pain, a faster recovery and a guicker return to work and normal activities.

"I think it's important that our community knows that these types of Interventional Radiology treatments are now available here in Watertown," concludes Dr. Kim. "This allows them to talk to their doctor and ask about their options."



Dr. David O. Van Eenenaam (L) and Dr. Arthur C. Peckham.

#### The Changing of the Guard... continued from front cover

movement again." Today, more than 193,000 total hip replacements are performed each year in the US.

"Arthroscopic surgery for joints was just evolving when I did my medical training in the 70s," shares Dr. Peckham. "When an arthroscopy is performed, a camera is inserted into the joint through a small incision. Today, the cameras have fiberoptic lights, but back then there was literally a tiny lightbulb on the end of the device."

In contrast, Dr. Choung, who joined NCOG in September after completing a Sports Medicine Fellowship, says that his training "was 99% arthroscopic and 1% open surgery."



Anel M. Abreu, DO, MS Bruce L. Baird, MD Steven B. Fish, MD

## **Simple Questions** Help Keep Patients Safe

If you've been a patient recently at Samaritan Medical Center, you've probably heard these two questions once or twice ... or even three or four times.

They are an important part of verifying patient identification, which allows hospitals like Samaritan to make sure that the correct treatment is provided at the correct time to the correct patient.

"Delivering care to the correct patient is a basic principle of patient safety," explains Wendy Nevills, Chair of Patient Safety Committee and Director of Quality Improvement. "And understandably, it's a big concern for both patients and healthcare providers. At some point, every person who 2

works at Samaritan has also been either a patient or the family member of a patient. We're personally invested in providing the safest patient care possible,"

At Samaritan, all patients are identified by every staff member who interacts with them. This process starts with patient registration ... whether the patient is being admitted as an inpatient, visiting the Emergency Department or at the hospital for an outpatient x-ray or blood test. It is continued with every care or treatment encounter.

The patient's identity is confirmed by asking two questions - the patient's

name and date of birth – and by comparing the response to the patient's wristband (if they have received one) and medical record.

What is your date of birth plea May have

What is your date of

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## .we care about you, and it is our goal to keep you safe.

Patients can become our "Partners in Patient Safety" by giving Samaritan complete and accurate information when they register, and by understanding that confirming their name and date of birth is an important safety check. Even such simple things as the difference between similar sounding names such as Jo Dee Adams, Joe D. Adams, or Jody Adams can potentially lead to medical errors and adverse outcomes if not corrected.

May I have your name please?

"As a patient, you may get tired of us continually asking your name, even if we already know you," says Ms. Nevills. "But we care about you, and it is our goal to keep you safe."

Ms. Nevills adds that patients and family members need to partner with Samaritan in ensuring their safety and should always speak up if, at any time, they are unsure about something or have questions about the treatment or care they are receiving. "Patients need to be involved in their care," she says.

"Orthopaedics is very technologydriven," adds Dr. Abreu, who is fellowship-trained in Adult reconstruction/Joint Replacement and also joined NCOG in September. "Now, for example, the drive is to create better materials for total joint replacements. The prostheses that we use today are stronger and last longer than what we had just five years ago."

While the technology behind the specialty has changed over the years, the reason for practicing medicine has not. "The most rewarding part of my career has been the opportunities I've had to interact with patients," says Dr. Peckham. "The people are what matters."



Dr. Anel M. Abreu (L) and Dr. David O. VanEenenaam consult on a patient's diagnosis.

## NORTH COUNTRY ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP

Edward W. Choung, DO, MS

Edward N. Powell, MD Perry T. Shuman, MD D. Peter VanEenenaam, MD

# Welcoming New Healthcare Providers Samaritan Medical Center is proud to welcome the following physicians and allied health professionals to the community.



Anel M. Abreu, DO, MS **Orthopaedic Surgery** North Country Orthopaedic Group 1571 Washington St, Ste 201 • 315-782-1650

Dr. Abreu joins the practitioners at the North Country Orthopaedic Group.

- Medical School: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
- Orthopaedic Surgery Residency: University of
- Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford. NJ Adult Reconstruction Fellowship: University of
- Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA In Board process with: American Osteopathic Board
- of Orthopaedic Surgery

and Dr. Mario Victoria at Pediatric Associates of

Philippine General Hospital, Manila, Philippines

Medical School: University of the Philippines,

Honeylee Augustin, MD

Pediatric Associates of Watertown

18969 US Route 11 • 315-782-4391

Pediatrics

Watertown

Farhana Basit, MD

Children's Clinic.

Karachi, Pakistan

Hospital, Camden, NJ

North Country Children's Clinic

238 Arsenal Street • 315-782-6400

Pediatrics Residency: UMDNJ – Robert Wood

Pediatrics



#### Andrew Beuttenmuller, DDS **Pediatric Dentistry** Watertown Pediatric Dentistry 104 Paddock Street, Suite 103 • 315-221-4044

- Dr. Beuttenmuller joins the practitioners at Watertown Pediatric Dentistry.
- Medical School: State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Dental Medicine, Buffalo, NY Pediatric Dentistry Certification: State University of New York at Buffalo, Women's & Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

# Dr. Agustin joins Dr. Taj Hadee, Dr. Gail Rose-Green



#### Jefferson Anesthesiologist Services 104 Paddock Street, Ste 202 • 315-785-8509

Tom Chen, MD

- Dr. Chen joins the practitioners at Jefferson Anesthesiologist Services.
- Medical School: UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, NJ Anesthesiology Residency: Columbia University,
- NY Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY In Board process with: American Board of
- Anesthesiology

Edward W. Choung, DO, MS

- Country Orthopaedic Group.
- Medical School: Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Pomona CA
- Orthopaedic Surgery Residency: University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, New Jersey Medical School Newark NJ
- Sports Medicine Fellowship: Lenox Hill Hospital, Manhattan, NY
- In Board process with: American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery

#### Taj Hadee, MD

Pediatric Associates of Watertown 18969 US Route 11 • 315-782-4391

- Dr. Hadee joins Dr. Honeylee Augustin, Dr. Gail Rose-Green and Dr. Mario Victoria at Pediatric Associates of Watertown
- Medical School: University of Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Buffalo, NY
- Pediatrics Residency: Children's Memorial Hospital McGaw-Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
- Special Infant Care Fellowship: Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC Physician-Patient Communication Fellowship:
- University of Bochester Bochester NY Board-certified and a diplomate with: American Board
- of Pediatrics



Mooniohn Kim, MD Interventional Radiology Samaritan Medical Center • 315-779-5200

- Dr. Kim has established the new service line of Samaritan Interventional Radiology. Medical School: Hahnemann (Drexel) University
- School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA General Surgery Residency: University of Illinois at
- Chicago, Chicago, IL Diagnostic Radiology Residency: University of Illinois
- at Chicago, Chicago, IL Interventional Radiology Fellowship: Rush-
- Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, Chicago, IL Board-certified and a diplomate with: American Board of Radiology with subspecialty certification in Vascular & Interventional Radiology

#### Thomas P. McCue, IV, DDS Dentistrv

Samaritan Keep Home and

General Dentist Office 25 Main Street, Philadelphia, NY 315-642-0318

Medical School: State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, Buffalo, NY Residency: St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, Svracuse, NY

#### Khaled Mohamed, MD Psvchiatr Samaritan Medical Center • 315-786-4955

- Dr. Mohamed will serve as Director for the Samaritan Inpatient Mental Health Department. Medical School: Cairo University School of Medicine, Cairo, Egypt
- Psychiatric Residency: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY Research & Psychopharmacology Fellowship: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical
- Center Bronx NY Board-certified and a diplomate with: American Board
- of Psychiatry and Neurology

#### Fahd Rawra, MD

Samaritan Medical Center • 315-786-4955

- Dr. Rawra joins the Samaritan Inpatient Mental Health Department.
- Medical School: Dow Medical College, Karachi University, Karachi, Pakistan
- General Psychiatry Residency: University of Texas at Houston, Houston, TX
- In Board process with: American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology



## Steven L. Berk, MD

Watertown Eye Center

1815 State Street • 315-788-6070 Dr. Berk joins Dr. Robert Johnson, Dr. Debra Koloms

- and Dr. Noaman Sanni at Watertown Eye Center - Center for Sight. Medical School: University of Chicago, Pritzker
- School of Medicine, Chicago, IL Ophthalmology Residency: University of Chicago
- Medical Center, Chicago, IL Cornea and External Disease Fellowship: University
- of Rochester School of Medicine, Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, NY
- Board-certified and a diplomate with: American Board of Ophthalmology









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- North Country Orthopaedic Group 1571 Washington St, Ste 201 • 315-782-1650

Dr. Choung joins the practitioners at the North













#### Christopher A. Rumsev, DO\* **Obstetrics & Gynecology** Fort Drum OB/GYN Clinic

826 Washington Street, Ste 202 • 315-785-4624

Dr. Rumsey joins the practitioners at the Fort Drum OB/GYN Clinic

Medical School: University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Biddeford, ME

- OB/GYN Residency: San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium – Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX
- Board-certified and a diplomate with: American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology

#### T. Musa Saghir, MD Hospitalist

Samaritan Medical Center • 315-779-5298

- Dr. Saghir joins the Samaritan Hospitalist Group, which also includes his twin brother Dr. Tareq Saghir
- Medical School: Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, West Indies
- Internal Medicine Residency: Staten Island University Hospital, Staten Island, NY
- Board-certified and a diplomate with: American Board of Internal Medicine

#### **Rory Sears, DO**

Pulmonary-Critical Care Pulmonary Associates 19320 US Route 11 • 315-786-0254

- Dr. Sears joins Dr. Lawrence Kramer, Dr. David Rechlin and Dr. A. Melynne Youngblood at Pulmonary Associates.
- Medical School: New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Old Westbury, NY
- Internal Medicine Residency: Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, Columbia University Affiliate, Cooperstown, NY
- Pulmonary, Critical Care and Occupational Medicine Fellowship: University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

Board-certified and a diplomate with: American Board of Internal Medicine

In Board process with: American Board of Internal Medicine for subspecialty certification in Critical Care Medicine and Pulmonary Disease

#### Raymond A. Sleszynski, MD Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Samaritan Behavioral Health Services 1575 Washington Street • 315-779-5060

Medical School: Georgetown University, Washington, DC

- Psychiatry Residency: US Naval Hospital, Bethesda, MD and New York School of Psychiatry, Central Islip, NY
- Child Psychiatry Residency: University of South Florida Medical School, Tampa, FL
- Board-certified and a diplomate with: American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology with subspecialty certification in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

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## Samaritan Foundation's Heart to Heart Program **Gives Patients a Way to Say**

When words alone just aren't enough, the Samaritan Foundation's Heart to Heart Grateful Patients/Family and Friends program provides a slightly different way to say "thank you."

The program, which was started in Spring 2010, lets patients and their families thank the Samaritan doctor, nurse, technician, therapist, dietician, housekeeper, volunteer or other caregiver who made a difference in their visit or stay by making a financial donation to the Foundation in their honor.

"Patients and their families often ask how they can show their appreciation for the care received at Samaritan," says Beth Fipps, Executive Director of the Samaritan Foundation. "This program provides an opportunity for them to say

Samaritan employee Linda Turner is honored for one of the Heart to Heart donations made in her name. Shown from L to R are: Beth Fipps, Executive Director, Samaritan Foundation; Linda Turner, Financial Counselor/Supervisor, Tom Carman, CEO, Samaritan Medical Center; Paul Kraeger, Vice President of Finance & Administrative Services and CFO; Renee Grigg, Director of Patient Accounting; and Vicki Martin, Manager of Patient Registration.

'thank you' in a lasting and meaningful way by supporting our healthcare services and programs."

When a donation is made, the Foundation presents the employee or physician with a Heart to Heart pin or, if an entire department is recognized, a framed certificate.

"We recognized Dr. Scott Mitchell, Doris Platt, RN, and Kristen Johnston, NA, in memory of our mother, Kathleen M. Hajdasz. During her time at Samaritan, each of these individuals went the extra mile to make a very difficult situation a little easier to handle - for my mom and for our entire family," says Laurie Faunce, a Heart to Heart donor. "We feel fortunate that we had an opportunity to honor a





Heart to Heart donations recognized Doris Platt, RN, Kristen Johnston, NA, and Dr. Scott Mitchell (not pictured) for their care of the late Kathleen M. Hajdasz. Pictured from L to R are: Beth Fipps, Executive Director, Samaritan Foundation; Doris Platt, RN; Kristen Johnston, NA; Kim Smith, RN, ICU/PCU Nurse Manager; Barb Fargo, RN, Director of Nursing Practice; Cathy Voos, RN, ICU/PCU Assistant Nurse Manager; and Tom Carman, CEO, Samaritan Medical Center.

few of the people that touched our lives!"

Linda Turner, Samaritan Financial Counselor, has been recognized multiple times with a Heart to Heart donation in her honor. "I appreciate it, but I'm just doing my job," she says in her typical matter-of-fact manner.

What patients have realized is that "just doing my job" means that Mrs. Turner will go above and beyond to provide them with the financial assistance they ask for.

"I try to treat every patient the way I would want to be treated," she explains. "Our patients are more than account numbers and medical records. Each one of them has a story. I listen and then do my best to help."

If you are interested in making a contribution, Heart to Heart donation forms may be obtained at various locations throughout Samaritan Medical Center and Samaritan Keep Home, on-line at www. samaritanhealth.com/foundation or by calling the

Samaritan Foundation at (315) 785-5785.

## SERVICE EXCELLENCE Recent National Survey Ranks Maternity **Department in Top 7% for Patient Satisfaction**

The Maternity Place at Samaritan Medical Center welcomed more than 1,500 new babies into the world last year. With each and every delivery, we are committed to providing Mom and her family with an unforgettable childbirth experience. Now, the continuing efforts of our medical staff, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to provide the best possible experience for expectant parents have received national recognition.

The Maternity Place recently achieved its highest patient satisfaction scores ever. Survey results placed Maternity in the top 7% when compared to nearly 400 hospitals of a similar size nationwide that use Press Ganey Associates for satisfaction surveys. Press Ganey is the leading healthcare

measurement firm in the

Gayle Jech, MSN, Nurse of The Maternity Place, a at least part of the unit's success to acting on prepatient satisfaction surve results. "The surveys all us to identify areas when our patients feel we nee improve. We then use the patient feedback to deve and implement strategie that will result in a better healthcare experience," s explains.

Jancy Maryhugh, RN (L) checks in on mon Karen Leedom, MD anc baby, Nicholas, as they prepare to go home

Thanks to patient comments, The Maternity Place has recently focused on "three Ps" - pain, parenting and personal issues. One way they have started to address these areas is through hourly rounding - essentially visiting each patient room at least once every hour. This consistent checking on patient needs has already yielded results, including a dramatic decrease in calllight use. Another change that will soon be seen in the department is dedicated quiet hours during the day so that new moms can rest.

> "Spending more time at the bedside has allowed us to increase our connection with our patients," says Ms. Jech. "And I think that our patients realize that the care they receive in The Maternity Place is really the best level of care there is."

Expectant moms are invited to tour The Maternity Place or to call with questions. Please contact the department at 785-4050.

## **Samaritan Foundation** Welcomes New **Executive Director**

Creating new opportunities for giving and working to grow the endowment to ensure that Samaritan can continue to meet the community's healthcare needs for generations to come are just two of Elizabeth (Beth) Fipps' goals for the Samaritan Foundation in her new role as Executive Director.

Essential to the Foundation's ongoing success, according to Mrs. Fipps, are continued relationships with donors, supporters and Samaritan employees. "We must continue to develop these relationships, provide a positive customer experience and promote the importance of a strong hospital in our community," she says.

A Watertown native, Mrs. Fipps brings a wealth of leadership experience to her new position. Most recently, she served as Senior Vice President and Market Manager of the North Country Mohawk Valley Market with HSBC Bank USA, where she worked for 23 years. Mrs. Fipps has also volunteered her time in numerous community leadership roles, including the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Operation Yellow Ribbon, Drum 2020, United Way of Northern New York, Development Authority of the North Country, and as a Trustee for the Boards of Samaritan Medical Center and Samaritan Keep Home.

"Samaritan is extremely fortunate that Beth has agreed to join our team," says Lisa Weber, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Samaritan Foundation. "Her professionalism, proven leadership, enthusiasm and long-standing commitment to both Samaritan and our community make her a perfect choice for this position."