



medical staff news

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Quality care takes a team

by Clark Coler, M.D., chief of staff

Greetings. It's a privilege to serve as your chief of staff for the Swedish First Hill, Cherry Hill, and Ballard campuses. I hope to continue the kind of outstanding leadership you experienced under Dr. Mary Weiss.

It's no coincidence that the finest medical centers in this country also have the medical staffs with the highest levels of morale. This is all about pride in the way your organization delivers on its promises to the community, and in the admiration you hold for the work of your peers and in yourself as a part of something truly important. Pride, in turn, prompts even greater engagement, ongoing personal development, and commitment to a shared vision.

Health care delivery is always a team effort; it is always about the people. The best health care that skilled people can deliver takes place in a group culture of professionalism where everyone's expectations are raised. That culture is no accident. It is the result of handcrafted, cooperative efforts by leaders who fully appreciate how vital it is for the medical staff to feel trusted, respected, and integral to a greater vision. Only when the larger interests of the medical staff are aligned with a common purpose can you achieve this culture. This is the culture in which people derive genuine personal pleasure from going that extra mile to give considerate service to our patients.

Swedish has that leadership. Your Medical Executive Committee is made up of conscientious people working hard every day on your behalf. They protect the remarkable gains made in health-care safety and quality over the last decade. They speak on your behalf to the Board of Trustees and the CEO, Mr. Kevin Brown. They are there to make decisions which ensure that we stay on mission as an institution by making that mission clear to every one, every day.

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(Quality care continued from p. 1)

As chair of the MEC I am accountable to the Board of Trustees, but my legitimacy as your chief of staff lies largely with how successfully I promote your best interests. The well-being of our staff, and that of our patients, are truly intertwined goals, and always at the heart of our decisions.

I would like to leave this position in two years with real evidence that our medical staff is more engaged, and more easily able to provide safe and fully-integrated patient care as members of an organized team. I would like our staff to feel even closer to the noble mission of their profession, and to experience on a daily basis the dignity inherent in many small acts of service to others. Join me in working toward a future for Swedish where a growing, shared commitment to excellence is palpable in every aspect of our care.

Medical staff department leaders take office

Several medical staff departments recently completed chief elections. Newly-elected chiefs are:

- Sandeep Sachdeva, M.D. Medicine
- R. Guy Hudson, M.D. Urology

Department chiefs re-elected include:

- Lara Wagner, M.D. Emergency medicine
- Heath Miller, M.D. Obstetrics, gynecology, and perinatology
- James Pritchett, M.D. Orthopedics
- Michael Shannon, M.D. Pediatrics

Department chiefs are elected to two-year terms and may serve three consecutive terms.

Board approves governance document amendments

The Board of Trustees recently gave final approval to several medical staff governance document amendments adopted by the medical staff in balloting held in November, including:

- *QPSC chair*: transfers position from chief of staff-elect to the medical director of Quality and Patient Safety
- *Department annual reports*: departments may make reports at leadership council meetings rather than submitting written annual reports
- *Peer review appeal*: requires certain peer review appeals to be submitted in writing
- *Peer review evaluation system*: clarifies action steps and adds vice presidents of medical affairs to list of report recipients
- *Board certification*: gives MEC flexibility in evaluating foreign-board certification equivalency and follows initial certification deadline requirements of granting boards
- *Non-substantive amendments*: allows MEC to make spelling, grammatical, and title corrections to Rules and Regulations and policies without initiating the review and comment process
- *Outpatient services*: clarifies that privileges may be granted for inpatient and outpatient services
- *Recommendation for temporary privileges*: clarifies that temporary privileges may only be granted upon recommendation of the chief of staff or designee
- *Disruptive behavior*: changes “disruptive behavior” references to “behavior that undermines a culture of safety.”

Medical Staff Leadership Council to meet Jan. 15

Minutes of the most recent Medical Staff Leadership Council meeting are [now available for review](#).

MSLC meetings are held quarterly from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Swedish Education and Conference Center at the Cherry Hill campus. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 15. All medical staff members are welcome to attend. Dinner is available at 5:45 p.m.

Members may submit topics for the agenda by contacting [Clark Coler, M.D.](#), chief of staff.

Use the Epic 'Problem List' to help manage patient care

by Lily Jung Henson, M.D.

Maintaining the 'Problem List' in Epic can make managing patients a lot easier. The 'Problem List' allows one to organize a patient's relevant medical issues. As a multiple sclerosis neurologist, I can use the 'Problem List' to:

1. Identify symptoms and test results leading to diagnosis.
2. Record disease-modifying treatments tried and failed.
3. Note when monitoring scans and labs are due.

When I am running behind in clinic, I can use the 'Problem List' to succinctly remind me about a patient's primary concerns by looking at "linked" problems such as fatigue, paresthesias, bowel dysfunction, bladder dysfunction and gait abnormalities. I can quickly be reminded why I don't want to use drug "x" which had already been attempted. When I am away, my covering colleagues can easily identify the most salient things about my patients by looking at their 'Problem List.'

"That's all well and fine if you are a neurologist," you say to yourself. "What happens if you are a hospitalist or a surgeon or a primary care physician?" What is the value of the 'Problem List' to those folks? Stay tuned to upcoming articles in subsequent editions of *Medical Staff News*.

Save the date: Destination Swedish annual luncheon

by John Vassall, M.D., chief medical officer

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SWEDISH

Philanthropy is critical to success at Swedish by funding equipment and important programs that allow us to meet patient needs. I invite every member of the medical staff to

join me in supporting the inaugural Destination Swedish annual luncheon on Monday, Feb. 11, at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. You may join me at my table, purchase seats or a table of your own, or sponsor seats that will allow nurses with whom you work to attend. This event, previously called the Women's Wellness Luncheon is now intended as an ongoing vehicle to raise money for the benefit of all patients: men, women and children across the entire Swedish system.

This year's luncheon will raise money to support our new and unique Registered Nurse Residency Program which provides real-time mentoring, training and smooth assimilation into clinical care teams for freshly-minted graduate nurses starting their careers at Swedish. This program has been shown to boost skills and confidence while reducing attrition in the first critical years of a nurse's career.

Please support the luncheon by [signing up online as a table captain](#) and filling a table (10 people) with fun folks to incorporate into the Swedish community while helping fund the Registered Nurse Residency Program at Swedish. For more information contact [Marnie Foust](#) at 206-386-3357.

Community Health offers classes for patients

Every month, Swedish hosts free and low-cost community classes on various topics helpful for patients, such as:

Can You Hear Me Now?

Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Swedish/Ballard)

Designed for anyone with hearing loss or who has a loved one with hearing loss, this class will cover communication strategies and options for amplification. Free.

Food for the Soul: Nourishing Comfort Foods for Diabetes

Wednesday, Jan. 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (Swedish/Cherry Hill)

In this interactive demonstration, patients will learn how to cook heart-healthy alternatives to typical comfort foods. Fee: \$15 per person.

Nutrition for the New Year

Tuesday, Jan. 30 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (Swedish/Edmonds)

Patients will get tips from a registered dietician on how to incorporate nutrition goals into everyday life and stick to their New Year's resolutions. Free.

Have Aches and Pains?

Wednesday, Jan. 30 from 6 to 8p.m. (Swedish/Issaquah)

Patients will learn about what causes back and neck pain, how to treat it quickly and successfully, and how to minimize the chances for future episodes. Free.

To see a full list of classes or to register for a class, patients should visit www.swedish.org/classes, email healtheducation@swedish.org or call 206-386-2502. Providers and staff may contact [Kaetlin Miller](#), health education specialist.

Welcome new medical staff members

Help welcome practitioners who joined the medical staff in [December](#).

To admit a patient to Swedish, call 206-386-6090.

At Your Service: The Physician Assistance Program

The Swedish Physician Assistance Program is a confidential, outside resource available to medical staff members and their families at no cost to support members in addressing:

- Family or marital concerns
- Substance abuse
- Work-life balance issues or other problems
- Emotional or behavior issues
- Compulsive behaviors

The program is always confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 800-777-1323. Benefits also include free legal services, childcare and eldercare referrals, identity theft/fraud services and debt management assistance.

Check out the [online tools and resources](#). At the “Work/Life Resources” tab enter the username: “swedish” and the password: “employee” for immediate access. . The username and password provide access for all medical staff members, whether or not employed by Swedish.

CME spotlight

Upcoming CME Conferences

[Pediatric Specialty Update for the Primary-Care Physician](#)

Jan. 25

[PsychoOncology Symposium 2013: Nothing to Be Afraid of – Working with Distressed, Medically Ill Patients](#)

March 1

The Transradial Approach: A Case-based and Hands-on Training Course

March 1-2

[Clinical Research Investigator Training](#)

March 15

[High-Risk Obstetrics: Tools for the Family Physician](#)

March 22

[Multimodal Treatment of Spinal Tumors 2013](#)

March 29

Third Annual Pacific Northwest Head and Neck Cancer Symposium: Update on Head and Neck Skin Cancers

April 19

Annual Oncology Symposium – Women’s Cancer: Why Sex Matters

May 3

Seventh Annual Cerebrovascular Symposium

May 9-10

Sixth Annual Iris and Ted Wagner Endowed Lectureship

May 22

Fifth Annual Acute Care Neurology and Neurosurgery

May 31

CME Series

[Cancer Conference Series](#)

15 sub-series | First Hill, Cherry Hill, Ballard, Issaquah and Highline

[Combined Campus Cardiovascular Conference Series](#)

2nd and 3rd Thursdays | Cherry Hill

[Grand Rounds](#)

2nd Thursdays | First Hill, Ballard and Issaquah

[Medical Ethics Conference Series for Health-care Providers](#)

4th Wednesdays | First Hill

[Swedish Neuroscience Institute Grand Rounds](#)

1st & 3rd Thursdays | Cherry Hill

For the most up-to-date information, visit: www.swedish.org/CME

Standards News

[Click here](#) for a summary of Clinical Standards recently adopted or amended and links to each Standard.

Standards are published as soon as possible after final adoption. All Swedish Standards are accessible at <http://standards.swedish.org> or by going to the Swedish intranet page and clicking on “Standards.”



SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER

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Current CME Listings : <http://www.swedish.org/cme>

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