



Mercy Ranks High in Modern Healthcare Survey

According to an annual survey by *Modern Healthcare* magazine, the Sisters of Mercy Health System is the ninth largest Catholic health system in the nation based on net patient service revenue. This is the third year in a row that Mercy has held this ranking. Mercy also is the 28th largest among all healthcare systems in the United States based on net patient service revenue. •

St. John's Mercy Medical Center Opens Heart Hospital

St. John's Mercy Heart Hospital on the campus of St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis opened to patients on June 27. The nine-level, 340,000-square-foot Heart Hospital includes 96 private patient rooms, nine procedure laboratories and five operating rooms for cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgeries. On August 16, St. John's Mercy's Emergency Department will move into the Heart Hospital. •



Mercy Hospitals Receive Awards

St. John's Mercy Hospital in Washington, Missouri, has been awarded the 2005 Primaris Hospital Quality Award. This award is given annually to a Missouri hospital for attaining high performance and demonstrating a commitment to improving services in four quality areas identified by Primaris, a healthcare consulting firm that coordinates and oversees the Medicare Quality Improvement program for Missouri.

St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center in Hot Springs, Arkansas, has been awarded the 2006 Pulmonary Care Excellence Award™ from HealthGrades, the nation's leading provider of independent hospital ratings. St. Joseph's ranks among the top 10

Sister Mary Roch Rocklage Receives AHA Award

Sr. Mary Roch Rocklage, RSM, was presented with the American Hospital Association's (AHA) highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award at the AHA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. This lifetime achievement award recognizes her significant contributions and service to healthcare. Sr. Roch currently serves as chair of the Sisters of Mercy Health System's (Mercy) Sponsor Council. Her career with Mercy includes 13 years as the System's first president and CEO, and five years as chair of the board of directors.

Sr. Roch served as 2001 chair of the AHA board of trustees. In addition, she previously served as chair of the Catholic Health Association and has been a member of the governing

boards of numerous hospitals and health and education organizations, as well as a participant on several governmental, religious and civic agencies, task forces and committees for health planning. Sr. Roch also is a liaison for healthcare to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care and is a member of the National Coalition for Healthcare. •



percent of hospitals in the United States for overall pulmonary care, based on HealthGrades annual analysis of more than 37 million Medicare patient discharges across the country. •

MHP, Community CarePlus Merge Medicaid Operations

Mercy Health Plans' Mercy MC+ and the Alliance for Community Health, operating as Community CarePlus, have merged their Medicaid operations, effective July 1. Operating as Mercy CarePlus, the new organization is Missouri's second largest Medicaid insurance plan and serves a population of approximately 80,000 members in eastern, central and western Missouri. Mercy CarePlus' network of participating healthcare partners will include 41 hospitals, 4,200 physicians and 250 ancillary providers. •



Mercy's Missouri Facilities To Go Tobacco-free

Beginning September 1, all hospitals, physician buildings and other properties that are part of St. John's Mercy Health Care and St. John's Health System will be tobacco-free, including St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, St. John's Mercy Hospital in Washington, and St. John's Hospital in Springfield. The announcement comes in anticipation of a regulation by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services that is expected to be publicized this summer requiring all Missouri hospitals to be tobacco-free by 2007. •

Mercy Health Center Receives Continued Magnet Designation

Nearly a year after first being designated a Magnet hospital, Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City has been granted continued Magnet designation. This designation renews Mercy Health Center's Magnet status for another year and recognizes the ongoing efforts of all its co-workers to sustain nursing excellence. •

Lebanon Hospital Receives Gift For Cancer Center Construction

The Curry family of Lebanon, Missouri, has donated an undisclosed amount to help the St. John's-Lebanon Heritage Foundation construct a \$3.4 million cancer care center at St. John's Hospital-Lebanon. In appreciation, the cancer center will be named the Curry Cancer Center. The center will provide

Leadership Changes

Cheryl Matejka has been named vice president-finance for St. John's Mercy Health Care in St. Louis.



Cheryl Matejka

Kelly Pingleton has been named chief learning officer for the Sisters of Mercy Health System, with oversight of Mercy Learning Resources, which encompasses all areas of instruction, education, learning and alignment for Mercy leaders and co-workers.



Kelly Pingleton



Douglas Trembath

Douglas Trembath has been named president of St. John's St. Francis Hospital in Mountain View, Missouri. He has held this position on an interim basis since March 2006. •

Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas Leadership Restructuring

To better respond to a rapidly changing and dynamic healthcare environment, and to ensure the success of the many initiatives underway by Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas, a new leadership structure has been put in place that separates the roles of president and chief executive officer, effective July 10.

Susan Barrett holds the position of President, with responsibilities that focus on community relationships and activities, including all aspects of foundation and fundraising; developing and maintaining strong relationships with community members, leaders, employers, legislators and government officials; and providing leadership in support of the completion of the new medical campus.

George Flynn has been named to the position of Chief Executive Officer, with responsibilities that focus on direct operational leadership of Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas, to ensure that the organization is positioned to meet community health needs while achieving organizational goals related to quality and safety, physician recruitment and retention, co-worker development and satisfaction, system integration, market share growth, operational integrity and financial stability.

"This leadership structure, while unique to healthcare, has been used in other organizations with great success," said Ron Ashworth, Mercy president and chief executive officer. "It enables a stronger and closer relationship with the community while also providing for a significant focus on operations." •



Susan Barrett



George Flynn

comprehensive diagnosis, treatment and support to area cancer patients. Groundbreaking is scheduled for this summer and construction is expected to be completed within two years. •

Mercy Ministries of Laredo Leadership Change



Sr. Maria Luisa Vera, RSM, (right) will become president and CEO of Mercy Ministries of Laredo when Danny Guevara (left) retires at the end of July.

Danny Guevara, president and chief executive officer of Mercy Ministries of Laredo, has announced his plans to retire at the end of July. Guevara's association with the Sisters of Mercy spans nearly 40 years, most served in leadership positions at Mercy

Health Center in Laredo. He has served for the past three years as the founding CEO of Mercy Ministries of Laredo.

Effective August 1, Sister Maria Luisa Vera, RSM, will become the new president and CEO of Mercy Ministries of Laredo. Sr. Maria Luisa has served as a member of the Mercy Ministries of Laredo board since its establishment and previously served as a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute Leadership Team and St. Louis Regional Community leadership team. •

SNEAK PEAK Special Edition of Mercy

Be on the lookout later this summer for a special edition of the Mercy newsletter celebrating the 20th anniversary of the incorporation of Sisters of Mercy Health System. Find out how the System has changed over the past two decades, reflect on important dates in our history and learn about the changing role of the Sisters of Mercy at our facilities. Also, help us celebrate 150 years of the Sisters of Mercy in St. Louis and visit Catherine's Residence, a new assisted-living facility for the St. Louis sisters.



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