



Physicians: Our Partners in Caring

By John DiAngelo, Inspira Health Network President and CEO

On March 30, our nation celebrated **Doctor's Day**. Although not as well-known as **Mother's Day** or **Boss' Day**, it is an important celebration at hospitals and health networks across the nation. This recognition day helps remind us that physicians truly are our partners in caring.

There are more than 1,100 physicians on Inspira's Medical Staffs, representing more than 70 specialties and sub-specialties. Their expertise and dedication help make it possible for us to provide quality care throughout our network, both within and beyond the walls of our hospitals. Of course, we are all familiar with the direct patient care they provide. However, much of what they do is not seen by their patients. The following are just some of the "invisible" contributions made by physicians.

Physician Leaders

Our medical staff officers, medical executive committee members, department chairs and medical directors play a crucial role in the areas of patient safety, clinical quality, policy development and new directions for our physicians to pursue. These leaders also serve as liaisons to our health network's senior leadership and trustees.

Continuing Medical Education

The practice of medicine is forever evolving, and the Continuing Medical Education Committee is focused on providing our medical staff with opportunities to stay up to date on the latest research, best practices and trends in medicine. Each year, the committee organizes a dozen or more educational offerings for members of our medical staffs as well as other interested parties.

Mentoring and Teaching

With 157 residents and fellows continuing their training in our hospitals, a dedicated team of experienced physicians must be available for both

classroom and hands on learning. At Inspira, we have more than 210 physicians who serve as faculty for our 11 residency and fellowship programs.

Researchers

For more than two decades, physicians at our hospitals have been involved in clinical research trials, primarily in the oncology field. The physicians serve as primary investigator for trials that range from prevention, to treatment, to the psychological effects of cancer. By taking part in research, these physicians make clinical trials available locally to people in our communities.

Doctors also play an important part on our Institutional Review Board, which approves protocols, clinical trials, informed consent forms, as well as physician credentials and eligibility.

Inspira Health Partners

(Inspira's PHO or Physician-Hospital Organization)

More than 230 members of our medical staff have joined Inspira Health Partners with the goal of working with us to enhance the quality and efficiency of health care across our region. Of course, the ultimate goal is to improve patient outcomes and reduce health care costs. New physicians continue to join and we are grateful for their commitment to work closely with us as we focus on common goals. Together, we have and will continue to make advances that benefit our patients, our physicians and our health network. As an example, partnering on the implementation of technology infrastructure, which is often out of reach for private physician practices, will enhance our ability to rapidly share patient information and to identify and track health care trends in our communities.

Preparing for the Future

Physicians from the Inspira Medical Staff are often asked to provide input and feedback on new initiatives. For example, our multi-year implementation of a single network-wide electronic health record has two physician champions; countless other doctors

have provided input and feedback on how this new technology can best meet the needs of patients, physicians and staff. Physicians have also played a key role in the planning and design of our new medical center in Mullica Hill.

Preparing for the future also requires cultivating new medical staff leaders. To assist with this process, Inspira Health Network has teamed up with St. Joseph University to create a fast-track Executive Leadership advanced graduate certificate program, designed for physicians and senior administrators.

Focused on Healthier Communities

Our 60-plus Inspira Medical Group physicians, who now represent 20 specialties with the addition of Pulmonary Medicine specialists in 2016, are focused on finding ways to help each patient achieve the best possible quality of life. For example, our primary care physicians work closely with our Population Health team to identify any barriers that might prevent patients from following their physician's plan of care. They then put measures in place to overcome those barriers. This holistic, proactive approach continues to make a positive difference in the lives of our patients, especially those who have one or more chronic conditions.

Caring for Patients Every Day

Each of these less visible roles performed by our medical staff are united by an overarching goal to provide our patients with the safest, highest quality care every day at every Inspira location. I ask everyone to join me in thanking our physicians for their hard work and the excellent care they bring to our hospitals and communities.



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