



Thanking our Doctors, Today and Every Day

By John DiAngelo, Inspira Health Network President and CEO

They heal, comfort, teach, research and save lives. With Doctors' Day just a couple of weeks away, we should all take a moment to reflect upon how the members of the medical profession help us and our loved ones.

At Inspira, we have nearly a thousand physicians on our medical staffs, making our team of doctors one of the largest in southern New Jersey. With approximately 75 specialties and sub-specialties represented, our physicians provide care for the vast majority of medical conditions and injuries that you might encounter. From primary care to neonatology to surgical oncology to vascular and cardiac interventions, we have you, and your loved ones, covered.

In certain specialty areas, including pediatrics and cardiology, the expertise of our physicians is complemented by the knowledge and skills of physicians from other highly respected institutions such as Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children and Cooper University Health Care. And in the near future, we will be announcing a cancer services affiliation with a national leader in oncology care and research.

The growth of our medical staffs, in just the past 15 years, is truly remarkable. Specialties that were once only available 45 minutes or an hour away are now available locally. Life-saving emergency angioplasty, once only a dream in Cumberland County, has now been available for four years at our hospital in Vineland. Our Woodbury campus has performed this emergency intervention since 2009. Our neonatologists, working in the Deborah F. Sager Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, are caring for babies born as young as 27 weeks gestational age and less than two pounds in weight. In the past, many of these critically ill and fragile newborns would have required a transfer to an out-of-town NICU.

In just the last few months, a new surgical oncologist and a vascular interventionalist/surgeon have joined us. These are sub-specialists who bring extensive training and experience in their respective specialties. Last fall,

we welcomed a new surgeon specializing in bariatric (weight-loss) and robotic surgery to our Woodbury campus. He joins three bariatric surgery specialists who perform procedures at our Vineland and Elmer medical centers. Inspira Medical Center Vineland is nationally recognized as an Accredited Comprehensive Bariatric Surgery Center by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and the American College of Surgeons. Our bariatric programs in Elmer and Woodbury are being modeled after our Vineland site, and will be pursuing national accreditation moving forward.

Many physicians on our medical staffs also bring extensive training and skills in the use of leading-edge technology. Currently, more than 19 surgeons are performing robotic surgical procedures in our hospitals using the daVinci Robotic Surgery System. And just last week, a new highly advanced robotic technology was brought on line at Inspira Medical Center Woodbury. The Mako Robotic-Arm Assisted Surgery System transforms the way joint replacement surgery is performed, enabling surgeons to have a more predictable surgical experience with increased accuracy. Using a virtual 3D model, Mako allows surgeons to create each patient's surgical plan pre-operatively, creating a custom and more personal plan of care. Inspira Woodbury is the only hospital in our service area to offer hip and knee replacement using the Mako system.

Breast surgeons on our medical staffs are using state-of-the-art radar localization technology to precisely locate and target tumors during lumpectomy procedures. The system, known as SAVI Scout, uses a reflector the size of a grain of rice and provides accuracy to within plus or minus one millimeter. This precision can optimize breast conservation strategies and enhance outcomes for women.

The push to introduce new technology also comes from our nine residency and fellowship training programs. As we help train the next generation of doctors, we have an obligation to ensure that they are introduced to new technologies in their respective specialty areas.

Our residency programs also bring new physicians to our communities. In just the past couple of years, five graduates from our residency programs have chosen to practice medicine in our service area. Moving forward, we expect a growing number of graduates to follow suit. It's not hard to imagine that upwards of 100 or more graduates will bring their newly honed medical skills to our region over the next 10 to 15 years.

We are currently training 159 residents and fellows between our Vineland and Woodbury campuses. They are taught and mentored by a faculty of approximately 200 experienced physicians from our medical staffs. We are grateful to them for ensuring that our medical residents are prepared to meet the demands of a career in medicine.

I'm extremely proud of the robust teaching health network we have become. In less than a decade, we have greatly expanded our teaching programs, adding more than 145 residency and fellowship positions. In December, the Leapfrog Group recognized Inspira Medical Center Vineland as a Top Teaching Hospital. Nationwide, only 36 Top Teaching Hospitals were named.

As our nation celebrates Doctors' Day on March 30, please spend a few minutes recalling how physicians in our communities have helped you and your families. Physicians are vital to the health and well-being of our communities and deserve to be recognized not only on Doctors' Day, but throughout the year.



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