St. Rita’s Nurse Practitioner wins Health Care Worker of the Year Award

Out of 220 member Ohio hospitals and 56 most deserving nominees, the Ohio Hospital Association has selected our very own Tim Mosher, nurse practitioner, as the Health Care Worker of the Year. This award is presented to one Ohio caregiver who is a great leader, reflects the mission and values of their organization, gives back to the community and characteristically goes beyond the call of duty. The 2015 Albert E. Dyckes Health Care Worker of the Year Award was presented to Tim on Tuesday, June 9 at the OHA Recognition Dinner in Columbus, Ohio.

Through and through, Tim’s career as a healthcare worker goes well above and beyond his job. He lives his calling and upholds St. Rita’s values—Compassion, Excellence, Human Dignity, Justice, Sacredness of Life, and Service—on a daily basis. We are honored and humbled to have him on our team. Congratulations, Tim Mosher, on this outstanding accomplishment! Thank you for all you do for St. Rita’s and the communities we serve.
Look good, feel good — mind, body and spirit

We have all heard the saying; “Look good, feel good,” but there is always something that keeps that from happening. Whether it is acne, scarring, inevitable age lines or tension from stress there is something for you at the Rejuvenation Spa at St. Rita’s. The Rejuvenation Spa provides non-surgical cosmetic treatments and services for both men and women. With all services being performed or overseen by Dr. Ana Pere, who expands her wellness plans from her family medicine practices to the spa with her anti-aging medicine patients, the location has created a place to increase wellness of the mind, body and spirit.

Amy Reineke, office manager of the Rejuvenation Spa shared, “Dr. Pere encourages and assists all of her patients to be healthy on the inside of their body as well as the outside.” While the Rejuvenation Spa offers many tools that tend to the mind and body, Dr. Pere’s team also promotes spiritual health. By helping patients take care of their bodies on the outside, the spa can help improve an individual’s confidence and happiness. The rejuvenating and refreshing treatment that takes place at the spa can help quicken a patient’s spirit.

The options for renewing the mind, body and spirit have been expanded. Services at the spa include seven different kinds of facials, laser treatments for skin tightening, facial peels, hair removal, Botox injections, facial fillers, massage therapy, weight loss plans and a full line of skin care products. The Rejuvenation Spa offers four product lines including Murad and Obagi skin care products, Youngblood Cosmetics, and the Ideal Protein health system, which is a part of the weight loss program monitored by Dr. Pere and a diet coach.

With new additions, such as a tool to help with skin tightening, hair removal and vein therapy, the spa team is helping to boost the appearance and self-esteem of all patients coming through the doors.

The Rejuvenation Spa at St. Rita’s is located behind the family practices located in Shawnee and welcomes all new clientele, but certainly would like to reach out to the rest of the St. Rita’s family.

Treating personally every step of the way

Kathleen Burkholder was in a situation that many have experienced before. She was laid off from her job, and stopped being able to afford her daily medication. Kathleen went for a checkup and was referred to Dr. Capone at St. Rita’s for a colon screening.

During this process, there was a blockage in Kathleen’s colon that turned out to be an advanced stage of cancer. “I lost my husband to brain cancer and I just thought my life was over. Dr. Capone made me feel like everything would be alright, and I would be okay.” Dr. Capone immediately set up appointments with a robotic surgeon and urologist. She was immediately booked for a surgery in robotics.

“Not only did Dr. Bowersock do a great job, but Dr. Nicholson came in to be sure it did not spread throughout my system. My experience was amazing, down to the anesthesiologists,” shared Burkholder.

St. Rita’s was with Kathleen every step of the way and encouraged her to keep getting regular screenings. Although Kathleen was in an advanced stage of her illness, her life has resumed to its normal pace. Her biggest piece of advice for everyone is to get screened. “Although St. Rita’s is always going to take care of us, something that can be prevented should be. They’ll be there for that too,” said Burkholder.

“I had no symptoms. There was no pain, everything was regular. If I hadn’t gotten screened, I would have been in trouble. Robotic surgery kept me from going through chemo, radiation and all kinds of pain,” said Burkholder. Kathleen’s story is something we are proud of here at St. Rita’s.
Healing expertly with the new Da Vinci Xi

Since 2011, St. Rita’s has been a leader in robotic surgery. There are 14 robotically privileged surgeons at St. Rita’s who will be able to use the newest addition to the robotics program, the Da Vinci Xi. According to Dr. Craig Nicholson, “Most hospitals in the United States probably don’t need an Xi. It’s designed for really complex procedures which means we’re doing surgeries here, in this hospital, that they aren’t doing in a lot of other places in the state and in the country.”

While all robotics make surgery more convenient for the patient and surgeon, the Da Vinci Xi is the new generation of robotic technology. The amount of blood loss for a patient is much less than with open procedure, patients can get back to work sooner thanks to quicker recovery times, and the precision of the robot makes the entire surgery process more accurate. The Da Vinci Xi is an advanced piece of equipment that will help surgeons navigate and operate with better mobility and vision. St. Rita’s has plans for the robot to be used by many specialties including, urology, gynecology, general surgery and cardiothoracic.

Michael German, RN, Robotic Team Lead explained that “there are only 250 Xi’s in the world, and five in Ohio.” The level of advancement St. Rita’s needed was just one robot away. While there are only five in Ohio, Mercy Health System is proud to own two of them. This innovative technology is advancing St. Rita’s to places that larger teaching hospitals in Ohio have yet to reach and these locations do not currently have this new Xi robotic technology.

St. Rita’s Director of Surgery, Jo Shough said “We are the visionaries. If there is something out there relating to technology, that’s going to better the community, get patients back to work quicker, provide safe, high quality outcomes and truly support our Mission to improve the health of the people we serve, St. Rita’s has always been at that forefront.”
New healthcare tools allow patients to stay connected and take better control of their health

At St. Rita’s Health Partners, we strive to heal expertly and treat personally. Keeping patients healthy is our number one priority, and we are continually seeking new tools that will help enhance the care provided. Healthcare communication tools like Emmi and Tel-Assurance are two programs that are helping to engage patients and connect them with their care teams in between doctor visits.

Emmi is an added benefit to all patients; it is not specific to Medicare or patients enrolled in specific healthcare plans, nor does it cost anything for patients. The system monitors patient information and notices when they are due for checkups or certain tests like mammograms, colonoscopies or flu shots. Then, Emmi reaches out to patients via phone call to remind them to schedule their test or checkup.

The Mercy Health Select Tel-Assurance program is designed to help patients with chronic conditions. St. Rita’s Health Partners, in partnership with some of our collaborating physicians in the community—including Dr. Edward Tremoulis, West Market Street Family Physicians—was selected to be the pilot site for this innovative service. Each day, select patients use a phone or go online to complete a two-minute survey and receive a health tip. Tel-Assurance then evaluates the survey using evidence-based algorithms. If a response requires follow-up, it is flagged in the secure system. A care coordinator then reviews the survey and contacts the patient if further care is needed.

Now more than ever before, St. Rita’s Health Partners is focused on preventative care and treating patients before they become ill. Emmi is aiding in this preventative approach by reminding patients to come in for regular testing that may help them avoid long-term care down the road.

These interactive tools have already helped thousands of community members live healthier. Whether it is Emmi, Tel-Assurance or a new patient engagement tool in the future, St. Rita’s Health Partners will continue reaching out to community members and encouraging proactive care. According to Ronda Lehman, chief operating officer at St. Rita’s Professional Services, “With programs like Emmi and Tel-Assurance, it’s all about meeting patients right where they are to keep our community healthier.”

Helping children form healthy habits

When our schoolchildren are home for the summer months, it is important for parents to encourage less screen time and more activity time. Dr. Stephanie Dunkle-Blatter, director of St. Rita’s Weight Management Program and bariatric surgeon, spoke with WLIO about childhood obesity and ways we can combat this epidemic with simple changes such as healthy eating and playing outside. She encourages “5-2-1-Almost None” everyday—five servings of fruits and veggies, less than two hours of screen time, at least one hour of physical activity and almost none of sugary foods and beverages. Now is the time to start forming healthy habits—healthy children grow into healthy adults!
Primary Care Associates nationally recognized as Patient-Centered Medical Home, Level III

We are excited to share that the two more members of the Family Medicine team were recently recognized as a Patient Centered Medical Homes, Level III — St. Rita’s Family Medicine – Shawnee and St. Rita’s Family Medicine at UNOH. While we were honored to receive this distinction, we are most excited for what that means for our patients’ care.

• Same-day appointments are now available for any sudden onset illness. Simply call the office in the morning, and we will schedule a time for your appointment.

• Evening hours are now available on select Thursdays.

• Care Coordinators have joined our team. These nurses will work closely with some patients and families, striving to catch concerns early and answer questions about more involved care.

Our goal, of course, is that all of these enhancements will allow patients to receive the care they need here, at their home, saving both the time and expense of emergency or urgent care visits.

According to Herbert A. Schumm, MD, St. Rita’s Professional Services President, “As the region’s leader, St. Rita’s is leading new and transformational methods to help patients access their doctor and for doctors to manage their patient’s care. We’re very proud of our practices and staff for being awarded PCMH Recognition.”
Employee campaign

As with any initiative at St. Rita’s Health Partners, employees are a key stakeholder in the “Invest in Your Health” capital campaign. The St. Rita’s team is always enthusiastic to help and give back, so the St. Rita’s Health Care Foundation decided to add some fun to the campaign for all employees. In April, one ceramic piggy bank, along with a set of paints and brushes, was delivered to each department throughout the hospital to be creatively decorated by employees. After being glazed and fired, the ceramic piggy banks were put on display in the High Street mall. Employees pledged an amount and voted for their favorite piggy banks. The winning department, respiratory therapy, received a pizza party!

3-D mammography — a new step in the fight against breast cancer

It seems that everyone you ask has a story about how breast cancer has touched them—a mother, a daughter, a sister, a friend... herself. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, except for skin cancers. And about one in eight women in the U.S. will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime. And while research continues to uncover promising treatments for the disease, clinicians all agree that early detection is critical to improving success stories for patients.

Our team at the St. Rita’s Women’s Wellness Center has taken yet another step in the fight against breast cancer. On April 21, our first 3-D Mammography unit became available to our patients. The St. Rita’s Foundation is simultaneously raising money to purchase two additional units with hopes to have those in place in 2016.

“There are certain individual characteristics that will make 3-D mammography the better choice for patients,” says Nicole Nelson, Medical Director for St. Rita’s Radiology Department. “Those with dense breasts or who have scar tissue, for example, will be encouraged to consider this new option.”

This new mammography exam will feel very similar to the traditional 2-D, however, the images will allow doctors to examine breast tissue layer by layer. So, instead of viewing a flat image, fine details are no longer hidden by tissue above or below.

In addition to detecting 41 percent more invasive breast cancers, 3-D mammography also has shown to reduce false positives by up to 40 percent — reducing the stress and sleepless nights for women who are called back for further testing.

Invest in your health

St. Rita’s Heath Care Foundation has accepted the challenge to raise $5 million over the next three years as part of its “Invest in Your Health” campaign. This project includes assisting with funding for both a new hybrid operating room and 3-D mammography for the Women’s Wellness Center. Charitable gifts and naming opportunities will provide the necessary funding to bring the most advanced technology to Lima and the surrounding 10-county area.
Hybrid operating room — making healthcare easier in our community

St. Rita’s Medical Center is expanding their level of care with a hybrid operating room. A hybrid operating room will allow many disciplines to come together in one room to enhance patient experiences.

Our team is planning for current and future procedures by bringing more advanced imaging equipment that will be able to sync with pre-existing images to make comparisons and allowing for the proper innovative procedure to be performed. By allowing many disciplines to operate in the same room, we will cut down the risks of infection that could occur in transporting a patient from room to room.

The hybrid operating room would act as a general operating room, a radiology suite and the cardiac catheterization lab. On top of adding the safety of patients into the equation, the OR will cut down on scheduling conflicts as well.

Orthopaedic, neuro, trauma, vascular, cardiac and thoracic surgeons will all benefit from the addition of the hybrid operating room. Any other discipline who needs advanced levels of imaging can utilize this equipment over what is available in other imaging rooms.

“Over the last 15 years, we have continued to advance our offerings for our cardiovascular patients and have added more innovative procedures and technologies for our patients. As we have embarked on more complex procedures, we have reached the point where we need to acquire the next level of tools and facilities to make the leap to the next phase of healthcare,” says Dr. Farzin Fotouhi.

The hybrid operating room will allow for procedures that are being done in a handful of places to come into our hospital, making it a mainstream procedure in our community and increase the wellness of our patients.

We expect the room to be fully operational in 2016.
At the superhero-themed appreciation luncheon for St. Rita’s Volunteer/Auxiliary, CEO Bob Baxter addresses attendees and thanks them for their dedicated service.

St. Rita’s favorite superheroes make a commitment to “Invest in Your Health”

St. Rita’s Health Partners honored its volunteer/auxiliary members with a superhero-themed appreciation luncheon on May 18. Several volunteers and volunteer coordinators dressed up as their favorite superhero characters including Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. Awards were presented to outstanding volunteers, the 2,000-hour honor roll inductees were announced, and officers for the 2015–17 term were introduced. Additionally, Volunteer/Auxiliary Resources President Linda Garling presented a check for $305,000 to CEO Bob Baxter, which signified the hard work and dedication of our volunteers—also known as St. Rita’s everyday superheroes.

In 2014, the St. Rita’s Volunteer/Auxiliary team contributed a combined total of 118,400 hours of volunteer work. “What an amazing superpower to fit almost 14 years of volunteering into 365 days!” said Baxter. “In addition, our volunteers have dedicated themselves to saving and improving lives—clearly a superhero trait—through raising funds to bring new technology to Lima.”

The $305,000 check presented at the luncheon is the first installment of the Volunteer/Auxiliary’s pledge of $900,000 to the St. Rita’s Health Care Foundation’s “Invest in Your Health” project, raising funds for a new hybrid operating room and 3-D mammography for the Women’s Wellness Center.

These major projects are made possible through a variety of donor contributions, and St. Rita’s Volunteer/Auxiliary is already leading the way. After the luncheon’s check presentation, Bob Baxter expressed his appreciation for volunteers’ service by putting on his own superhero costume to complement the event’s theme. Rather than putting on a Superman cape or a Batman mask, he put on one of the dark green polo shirts our volunteers wear. He called himself “Volunteer Man,” which Baxter claimed “embodies everything good about a superhero.”

Baxter noted dozens of tasks that our volunteers complete on a day-to-day basis including: comforting the sick, guiding the lost, bringing coffee to the stressed, stocking shelves, filling out forms, and encouraging and educating hospital visitors. Additionally, our volunteers are now leading the way in fundraising to bring a hybrid OR and 3-D mammography to St. Rita’s and inspiring all community members to invest in their health.

Before the luncheon concluded, Baxter expressed his thanks to the entire Volunteer/Auxiliary: “All I can say is thank you for being superheroes and for believing in generosity, in a calling, in strength and in volunteerism.” This is what we were meant to do, and we could not do it without our volunteers.
St. Rita’s volunteers take a break from comforting the sick, guiding visitors, stocking shelves, filling out forms and other volunteer duties to enjoy a tasty lunch and the company of other auxiliary members.

Volunteer/Auxiliary team members dress up as their favorite superheroes to celebrate St. Rita’s dedicated volunteers.

This is what we were meant to do—thank you, nurses!

Nurses’ Day is our chance to honor our outstanding team of nurses and all they do. This Nurses’ Day in May, we saluted all of our nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse techs, nurse assistants and other nursing team members with a special breakfast and luncheon in the conference center.

Later in May, St. Rita’s also hosted a Nursing Career Fair, where nurses of all experience levels were able to meet managers and team members from the different units, tour the hospital, and interview on-the-spot for available nursing positions.

Nursing truly is a calling. We are honored not only to have such caring and compassionate nurses on our team currently, but also to have made such great connections with future nurses at the Nursing Career Fair.
Alumni news

Alumni—it’s time to start thinking about dues and the Alumni Banquet. The banquet is September 2, 2015 at noon in St. Rita’s Auxiliary Conference Center. For more information, please contact Camilla Aukerman at joy2youqd@yahoo.com or Sheila Bohn at 419-224-0585.

Alumni dues submission

Please print:

Married name

Name ___________________________ ___________________________

(First) (Maiden)

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _______________ Zip _______________

Email address ____________________________________________________________________________

Year graduated __________

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Return to: St. Rita’s Alumni Association
Carol Schmenk, Treasurer
1755 Northbrook Dr.
Lima, OH 45805

Payable by October 1, 2015. Please make checks payable to: St. Rita’s Alumni Association
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Individuals who made contributions are listed below the name of the person they have chosen to remember.

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