MERCY HEALTH NETWORK NAMES NEW CEO

Bob Ritz has been named Chief Executive Officer for MHN effective July 1, 2017.

Bob joined the Mercy Family as President of Mercy Medical Center–Des Moines in 2013. He is known for building strong relationships within the medical community, as well as in the communities where he has served. Bob is a strategic leader and pioneer in health care with a proven history of creating a next-level vision for the Catholic health care systems he leads.

MHN CEO Dave Vellinga, who announced his planned retirement in November of last year, said, “Bob has boundless energy, unquestionable integrity, commitment to our ministries, drive, focus and compassion. He uses all of his talents to build high performing teams and I am excited for the future of Mercy Health Network under his leadership.”

Bob’s selection as CEO follows a thorough search which included extensive vetting of candidates from across the country. The Mercy Health Network Board made the selection based on inputs from interviews with select leaders from across the state representing community boards, MHN Management Council, MHN Senior Leadership Team and physicians.

A search for Bob’s replacement as CEO of Mercy Des Moines will begin immediately.

SIX NURSES NAMED TO THE 2017 100 GREAT IOWA NURSES LIST

Each day, nurses at Mercy deliver compassionate and skillful care to our patients and their families. The positive impact these nurses make deserves to be recognized and celebrated. For the 13th consecutive year, the 100 Great Iowa Nurses program is recognizing outstanding nurses across the state. Recipients of this honor were nominated by patients, colleagues, family and friends, and were then selected by a panel of reviewers.

The nurses pictured below will be honored at the 100 Great Iowa Nurses Celebration on Sunday, May 7, along with 10 nurses from other Mercy Health Network hospitals.

Tiffany Beyer
RN, BSN, CMSRN
Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines

Ashli Formaro
RN, BSN
Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines
Skiff Medical Center

Dixie Harms
DNP, ARNP, FNP-C, BC-ADM, FAANP
Mercy Clinics Internal Medicine Urbandale

Michele McGrath-Rothmeyer,
BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines

Marla Pesek
RN-BC
Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines

Marvin Van Der Wiel
RN, BSN, CEN
Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines
As a young child, Mary Wallace knew she wanted to become a nurse. The ability to make a difference in the lives of others and provide good care inspired her to pursue a lifelong career in nursing.

After graduating from Mercy’s School of Nursing in 1962, Mary began her career as a nurse at Mercy. This year, Mary will celebrate 55 years of service, a remarkable milestone demonstrating her outstanding dedication to the nursing profession.

“Taking care of someone and making a difference in his or her life is very rewarding and makes you feel good,” said Mary.

Mary began her career as a nurse on the orthopedics floor, but most of her time at Mercy has been spent in the Emergency Department and Trauma Services. She officially retired several years ago, but has continued to work a few days a month PRN in the Trauma Services department.

The fast-paced environment and variety of work is what Mary enjoyed most about working in the Emergency Department. Mary explained, “I loved the Emergency Room because I got to do a little bit of everything – cardiac, obstetrics, trauma, etc.”

Mary has experienced and witnessed many changes at Mercy – including the construction of the H-shaped towers from 1971 to 1978. In the early years of her career, the patient rooms didn’t have private bathrooms. Mary recalled “having to push patients in wheelchairs to the community bathrooms.”

Her passion for nursing and the compassion of her colleagues have kept Mary doing what she loves at Mercy for 55 years.

“Throughout my career at Mercy, I have worked with great, compassionate people,” said Mary.

**MERCY MEDICAL CENTER IN IOWA CITY IS JOINING MERCY HEALTH NETWORK AS AN AFFILIATE HOSPITAL**

Effective June 1, 2017, the Mercy Iowa City Board of Directors and Interim CEO Mike Heinrich agreed to participate in MHN through a Strategic Affiliation and Management Services Agreement. It is a longstanding goal of MHN to unify Catholic Health Care in Iowa and contiguous areas. In addition, MHN and Mercy Iowa City share missions focused on improving and transforming health care in the communities we serve. The ties between our organizations are very deep, starting with our founding by the Sisters of Mercy and our legacies of compassionate care and service to the poor. Both organizations also share commitments to do our work with excellence, respect for the dignity of the people and families we serve, integrity and stewardship.

MHN was created to add value to participating organizations and communities by improving quality health care, reducing costs, increasing accessibility of care and improving the health of those we are privileged to serve. We are excited to have Mercy Iowa City join us in these efforts to transform health care across the region. Mercy Iowa City is recognized for its high quality and patient satisfaction scores, which are consistent with the excellent experiences provided at existing MHN hospitals and clinics. Having Mercy Iowa City as a part of MHN also creates the opportunity to extend specific statewide strategies such as value-based insurance contracts and direct-to-employer services.

**RECOGNIZE A NURSE TODAY!**

National Nurses Week, May 6-12, is a great time to celebrate the nurses at Mercy and thank them for everything they do! You can recognize an extraordinary nurse for his or her outstanding performance by submitting a nomination for the DAISY Award. Nomination forms are available throughout Mercy central campus and Mercy West Lakes, and can be completed online at mercy.dm/daisy.
Tomorrow marks the first day of annual National Nurses Week, a special time to recognize and thank the many nurses who care for our patients and their families. This year, Mercy is celebrating nurses with a week of fun and educational activities and events.

**Saturday, May 6** | Ice Cream Social, noon and 8 p.m.; Ice cream will be delivered to each floor by Administrative volunteers.

**Sunday, May 7** | 100 Great Nurses Celebration, 3 p.m. at the Iowa Events Center Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center

**Monday, May 8** | Unit-based activities to be announced by unit directors
Blessing of the Hands, May 8-12, day/time will vary based on unit/location

**Tuesday, May 9** | Doctors’ Breakfast for Nurses provided and served by Mercy Medical Staff, 6:30-9:30 a.m. at central campus, Marketplace and Grille, and Mercy West Lakes, Atrium Café

CELEBRATE NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

During National Hospital Week, May 7-13, members of the Mercy Family will be recognized for their dedication to our Mission, Vision and Values that inspires us to provide a Remarkable Mercy Experience to everyone we are privileged to serve. As an expression of appreciation, many events are taking place next week at central campus and Mercy West Lakes. Check Mercy News next Tuesday and Thursday for any updates to the schedule of events.

**Monday, May 8** | Blessing of the Hands, 7-8 a.m., noon-1 p.m. and 3-4 p.m., main lobby at central campus

**Tuesday, May 9** | Trivia Tuesday. Watch your email for a link to a survey. Complete the survey for your chance to win fabulous prizes!

**Wednesday, May 10** | Food Truck Day! Food truck vendors will offer food for purchase. Vendors accept cash or credit/debit cards.
- Central campus: 5th St. (access via the west entrance)
  - 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Top Bun, Miss Molly’s, Big Red Truck, Smoke Signals and Parlo Pizza
  - 11 p.m.-1 a.m., Big Red Truck and Bahn Me
- West Lakes ED entrance
  - 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Rodell’s Smokehouse, 515Pi and Gastro Pub
  - 11 p.m.-1 a.m., Karam’s Grill

**Saturday, May 6** | Ice Cream Social, noon and 8 p.m.; Ice cream will be delivered to each floor by Administrative volunteers.

**Wednesday, May 10** | ANA Webinar: Nurses Guide to Preventing Compassion Fatigue, Moral Distress and Burnout; noon-1 p.m., central campus, East Tower Auditorium and West Lakes, Cownie Conference Room

**Thursday, May 11** | Lunch and Learn with the Polk County Medical Examiner Presented by Amanda Luick, noon, central campus, East Tower Auditorium, and televised at West Lakes, administrative conference room

**Friday, May 12** | Unit-based activities to be announced by unit directors
Walk the Mercy Mile for Nurses, noon, central campus and West Lakes; meet at the front entrances at each location

**Thursday, May 11** | Annual Service Awards Celebration at Iowa Events Center (invite-only)

**Friday, May 12** | Treat Day! Bring your coupon (managers will hand them out) and stop outside the Marketplace and Grille or West Lakes Café from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 4 p.m.-6 p.m. for a free color-change cup, fountain drink ticket, popcorn and M&Ms. Off-site clinics will receive cups for their staff members as well.

**Saturday, May 13** | Iowa Barnstormers game at Wells Fargo Arena. Up to four free tickets per staff member, while supplies last. See Mercy News for ordering information.