

Clinical CONNECTIONS

INFORMATION ON
MEDICAL TRENDS
THAT DIRECTLY IMPACT YOU
AND YOUR PRACTICE

Don't Let the Noise Make You Deaf

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Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer



Everywhere we go it seems there is an information overload about healthcare and medicine in America. It seems our profession has become the property of politicians, lawyers, reporters and anyone with an avenue to get their opinion heard. We've even seen our major medical societies fail to successfully represent us at times.

If we read or paid attention to all of this noise, physicians would stay in a constant emotional state somewhere between anger and helplessness. It would be easy to become cynical and apathetic. No single individual can stand up to the barrage of negativity hurled at our profession.

I acknowledge that many people have good reason to be upset with the healthcare industry, even physicians, but we should realize that the constant barrage of negativity is only truly directed at us if we are acting in a manner consistent with the reports. We need to constantly self-evaluate and make appropriate changes if the negative articles or reports are relevant to our practice or behavior. There is often some truth to even the most negative article and we must look for that point, casting aside the emotional ideology that we too often see today. It is a disservice to our patients, peers and staff to let the rhetoric turn our attention from our professional responsibility of patient care. In the end, as you know, we are each responsible for our own actions and we alone know whether we have been intellectually honest, treating every patient and staff member in a professional and compassionate manner.

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Unfortunately, some of our peers have become cynical, angry and apathetic to the problems of their medical community. There are many reasons – or “excuses” – for these attitudes and resulting behaviors but the result is never justified. As physicians and leaders for our hospitals, we must be the professionals that our communities look up to or we abdicate ownership to those very groups that we complain about. Leadership voids will be filled by someone or some group, as they are not vacant for long.

Cynical physicians are a weight that can bring down an otherwise excellent medical staff through constant complaining or an inability or unwillingness to work to improve the office, hospital or community. Often citing the interference of government or some regulatory or accrediting body for their hostility, these physicians get in the way of initiatives that would improve accountability, safety protocols and procedures. The most successful physicians understand quite well what is going on, but

they have the mental toughness and flexibility to get over their anger or frustration and channel it into useful energy. Energy used to teach, listen, discuss and care about others is how we as physicians can build lives, practices, hospitals and communities in which we are proud. In the new world, government compliance may be necessary, but it will never replace being accountable for our own actions.

Since the early 1990s, medicine has been the target of a variety of media attacks for many reasons, both real and imagined. Physicians, as a group, make easy targets for the pundits to tear down. Generally we are financially better off than most, but we defend ourselves poorly and are, by necessity, connected to human tragedies. Fortunately, we are individually judged primarily by our own actions, not what the latest article or pundit has to say about medicine.

So, for this new year (and new era in healthcare), let me challenge you to concentrate on what you have control over: yourself. Remember to listen to your patients, peers, staff and colleagues, and take action based upon truth, not hyperbole, politics or sensational media reports intended to generate emotion. Don't let all the noise make you deaf to what you really need to hear... and do.

Medical Staff Honors

Dr. Finley Turner Retires; Honored for 30+ years of leadership, service

Saint Mary's and the Arkansas River Valley celebrated Dr. Finley Turner for more than three decades of service, as he retired in November. Dr. Turner, who received Capella's prestigious Physician Leadership Award in 2013, began his 33-year career as a family practitioner in 1980.

He practiced at Millard-Henry Clinic for 19 years, serving as Chief Medical Officer for Saint Mary's Regional Health System for the past two years. He has served on Capella's National Leadership Group since its inception.



Saint Mary's Chief Executive Officer Donnie Frederic said Turner has been committed to the hospital's success. "He is highly respected, woven into the fabric of that community and dedicated to making sure the hospital provides the highest quality of care possible," he said. "It is because of his dedication, in great part, that the hospital is achieving much recognition for quality and safety."

Dr. Dwayne Damba promoted to Colonel

Mineral Area Regional Medical Center's ED Director Dr. Dwayne Damba has been promoted to Colonel in the United States Army Reserves. Colonel Damba has served in the Army Reserves since 1985 when he began as an enlisted soldier. He has been deployed several times, including to Iraq. Dr. Damba has been on MARMC's medical staff for 16+ years. His wife Dr. Victoria Damba is the Hospitalist Medical Director at MARMC. They are pictured on the left with their daughter.



Hospital's Trauma Team honored

EASTAR Health System's Trauma Center has been recognized for outstanding performance and dedication to the highest standards of excellence. The hospital was the recipient of the C.T. Thompson, M.D. Award for Excellence in Trauma Care, given annually by Saint Francis Hospital Trauma Institute, Tulsa, to organizations or individuals whose contributions to patient care exemplify trauma care at its best. They were recognized for "exceptional care of a trauma patient with a very significant injury and whom the trauma surgeons and clinicians feel would not have survived had the system not worked near perfection."

The award was based on a series of events in which the patient entered EASTAR's Emergency Trauma Center with extreme life-threatening injuries. The nurses and medical staff rapidly assessed the complexity of injuries and implemented a surgical stabilization plan that not only saved the individual's

life, but also facilitated a rapid recovery permitting the patient to return home within days. According to a Saint Francis Trauma spokesperson, “for a trauma injury of this magnitude....the level of result exceeded all normal expectation”.

EASTAR CEO Tony Young stated, “We are fortunate to witness on a daily basis the exceptional care provided patients through our hospital associates and medical staff. It is particularly meaningful when our dedicated and skilled professionals are recognized by their peers, especially on this level. We commend the entire team for their skills and dedication. In particular we acknowledge Dr. James Campbell, Emergency Department Medical Director; Dr. John V. Tedesco, General Surgery and Cardiovascular Surgeon; and Dr. George S. Cohlma, Cardiologist, along with our ER Director Amber Henson and Trauma Coordinator Stacey Jarrard for their expertise and compassion in saving this life.”

Capella News

Mike Wiechart named President and CEO of Capella



Mike Wiechart has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of Capella Healthcare, effective January 1. The appointment was announced by Founder and Board Chairman Dan Slipkovich, who said the move was designed to position the company for long-term success and strategic growth. Slipkovich continues as Executive Board Chairman, with the transition allowing him to dedicate more of his time to strategic market development and growth along with continued responsibilities in the areas of investor and government relations.

As Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Capella Healthcare since 2009, Wiechart has had responsibility for hospital operations, physician services, quality improvement, supply chain, revenue cycle, managed care, strategic planning, business development, and labor productivity initiatives. He has also been significantly involved in merger and acquisition activities.

“During one of the most transformative times in the health care industry, Mike has made a significant impact at Capella,” Slipkovich said. “Under his leadership, our hospitals have made outstanding progress, receiving numerous national awards and recognition for their quality and satisfaction. One of his key priorities has been to ensure all of our hospital leaders, including Board and Medical Staff leaders, are educated, resourced and motivated to achieve industry-leading goals in quality care and constituency satisfaction. Mike is passionate and proactive about exploring all solutions to health care’s greatest challenges. He is the right leader to move us forward during this new era.”

“The company is continuously in the process of preparing itself for the future,” he said. “Mike’s appointment is the next logical step in Capella’s growth as a company and part of a long-standing succession plan.”

“I am honored and humbled by the trust that Capella’s leaders and Board have placed in me,” said Wiechart. “I’m especially excited about working more closely with all of my corporate colleagues, our hospital leaders and affiliated physicians to make a significant difference for the communities we serve. This new era of value-based care – with an intense focus on quality, collaboration and cost-effectiveness – provides a tremendous opportunity for Capella.”

Wiechart began his career in healthcare 25 years ago with the role of Controller for a hospital in Statesville, NC. Later, he served as CFO at various HCA hospitals, which culminated in his being named CFO for the Chattanooga Market and then the Cumberland Division. In 1998, Wiechart became Vice President of Operations for Province Healthcare, where he oversaw financial operations for 11 hospitals before moving to LifePoint in 1999 as a founding member. As Senior Vice President & Group President for LifePoint, he led two operating divisions with 24 hospitals.

Wiechart is a member of the Nashville Health Care Council’s 2014 Fellows Class, a group of senior health care leaders who will participate in a nationally-unique experience focused on transforming the nation’s

health care system. A member of the Board of Governors for the Federation of American Hospitals, which represents over 1,100 hospitals, Wiechart also serves on the organization's Rural Hospital Committee.

Capella "In the News"

- [Significant opportunities for growth: Incoming Capella CEO Mike Wiechart to prep company for future](#)
- [Capella's leadership duo puts sale rumors to bed](#)
- [Mark Medley chosen Chair-Elect of Tennessee Hospital Association](#)
- [Kevin Ekar receives Capella's annual Board leadership award](#)