

# Clinical CONNECTIONS

INFORMATION ON  
MEDICAL TRENDS  
THAT DIRECTLY IMPACT YOU  
AND YOUR PRACTICE

## Dr. Swensson Announces Retirement

Erik Swensson, MD, FACS, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Capella Healthcare, has announced his retirement, effective February 28. He was recognized for his service at the National Physician Leadership Group conference held in Nashville February 21-22.

Dr. Swensson was appointed Capella's first CMO in January 2011. He served part-time in the CMO role while continuing to practice medicine in McMinnville, Oregon, at Capella's Willamette Valley Medical Center.

"Dr. Swensson has done an outstanding job facilitating the work of Capella's National Physician Leadership Group, ensuring that physicians from across the company have been continuously involved in shaping the company's vision and future strategies," said Mike Wiechart, President and CEO of Capella. "He has also played a vital role in guiding our quality and service excellence initiatives. His service has helped to make a significant difference for the patients, communities, physicians and others served by hospitals in our Capella family."

A national search is already underway for a new Chief Medical Officer.

To read a personal note from Dr. Swensson, visit the [medical staff news section of our website](#)>>



Dr. Swensson was recognized for his service by Executive Board Chair Dan Slipkovich at the NPLG conference on February 22.

In addition to his visits with Capella's hospitals throughout the country, he connected with Nashville's medical community as well during his three years as Capella's Chief Medical Officer. Here are a few photos.



Dr. Swensson speaks with Dr. Bill Frist, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader, at a Nashville Healthcare Council meeting.

# NPLG/Board Conference Held February 21-22

Physicians representing each of Capella's affiliated hospitals attended the annual NPLG/Board Leadership Conference held this past weekend in Nashville. Pictured above with the hospital CEOs, CMOs, Board Chairs and Capella's Executive Leadership, the physicians who attended included:

- Capital Medical Center: **Steve Snow**, MD
- DeKalb Community Hospital and Stones River Hospital: **Don Cripps**, MD
- EASTAR Health System: **Jay Gregory**, MD, and **Brad McIntosh**, MD
- Highlands Medical Center: **Alan Drake**, MD
- Mineral Area Regional Medical Center: **Victoria Damba**, DO
- National Park Medical Center: **Kevin Hale**, MD
- River Park Hospital: **Jeff Peterson**, DO
- Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center: **Rick Harrison**, MD
- Southwestern Medical Center: **Martin Jones**, MD
- Willamette Valley Medical Center: **Matt Bliven**, MD



CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner was a nurse at a Richmond hospital when she and Dr. Swensson worked together. They reconnected when she spoke at a Nashville Health Care Council meeting.

## What can we expect in the future?

Analyzing the external and internal health care environments from the perspectives of different stakeholders was the focus of this year's leadership conference.

The next issue of *Clinical Connections* will include an overview of the topics discussed, including "You Either Believe in Magic or You Believe in Math: the Changing Nature of Health Economics," a discussion led by Lawrence Van Horn, Ph.D., MPH, MBA, Associate Professor of Economics and Management, Executive Director of Health Affairs at Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management (shown on the right with Mike Wiechart, President & CEO of Capella).

Also speaking was Chas Roades, MBA, Chief Research Officer of The Advisory Board Company who addressed "Market Forces Shaping Provider Strategy in the New Healthcare Economy."

To keep up with the latest health news and trends, including the daily Advisory Board briefing, visit the Physician Leadership and Resources section of Capella's website [at this link>>](#)



In Nashville, Dr. Swensson participated last year in "Light up the Night" raising funds to fight leukemia and lymphoma. He is shown here with Capella's Magda Osburn.

In McMinnville, he remains active in the community. He was the first president of the Willamette Valley Cancer Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides support for low-income cancer patients. He continues to serve on the Foundation's Board and has chaired the annual golf tournament fund-raiser generating tens of thousands of dollars to help the needy.