New Year Brings Changes to Intermountain

Several leadership changes announced for Intermountain, our Medical Group, and Central Region in 2017

A number of leadership and organizational changes at Intermountain were recently announced:

• Linda Leckman, MD, Intermountain Healthcare Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the Intermountain Medical Group, will retire February 3. After Dr. Leckman’s retirement, Intermountain will make the following structural changes: Mark Briesacher, MD, will lead the Medical Group, affiliated physicians, and medical staff. Chris Thornock will continue as the Medical Group’s Chief Operating Officer and Tim Johnson, MD, as Senior Medical Director—both with expanded roles geared toward optimizing development and leadership opportunities among physicians. Brent Wallace, MD, Intermountain’s Chief Medical Officer, will report to Dr. Briesacher and continue his outstanding work with affiliated physicians. Vivek Reddy, MD, Intermountain’s Chief Health Information Officer, will continue to report to Dr. Briesacher to support physicians as we implement tools like iCentra that can help them better care for patients.

• Joseph E. Fournier, JD, MHA, will become Intermountain Healthcare’s new Vice President of Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer starting January 30. Fournier has diverse experience in all human resources activities and a proven track record of effective leadership. Before becoming a nationally recognized HR leader, Fournier was an accomplished attorney and Air Force officer. Most recently he was the Chief Human Resources Officer for the University of Michigan Health System.

Moody Chisholm, RVP of Intermountain’s Central Region, announced major changes affecting the Central Region. These changes take effect January 1.
• Joe Mott will be administrator of Intermountain Medical Center. Mott is a long-time Intermountain Healthcare leader who’s been serving as Intermountain’s vice president of population health, and before that as CEO of Primary Children’s Hospital. Intermountain’s Park City and Heber hospitals will become part of the Central Region starting January 1. Si Hutt, the administrator of Park City Hospital, and Shawn Morrow, the administrator of Heber Valley Hospital, will remain in those positions. Hutt will report to Morrow as the administrator of the Wasatch Back, and Morrow will report to Chisholm. Both hospitals will retain their separate boards to ensure they continue to best serve the needs of each community.

• Third, Blair Kent will expand his portfolio to become administrator of both Riverton and Alta View hospitals.

• Intermountain will create an Enterprise Project Management Office during the first quarter of 2017. This is something many top-tier organizations have, and its goal would be to provide consultation and process to help Intermountain shepherd our large, high-priority initiatives in a way that makes us more nimble, more effective, and more efficient. We’re actively exploring the optimal way to introduce this capability at Intermountain.

SelectHealth Share Engages Employees in Health
More than 95 percent of Spanish Fork City employees enrolled in plan have completed health goals

With the launch of SelectHealth Share® earlier this year, employers like Spanish Fork City found new reasons to focus on engaging their employees to live the healthiest lives possible. In collaboration with SelectHealth and its network of participating providers, and Spanish Fork’s health insurance consultant, the city has achieved exciting results.

An employee wellness kick-off event in July engaged city employees to take charge of their health. During that event, the city’s 187 employees had the opportunity to enroll in the Healthy Living program, sign-up for online MyHealth access, choose a primary care physician, complete their online health risk assessment, and receive individual health screenings and education.

Following the kick-off event, SelectHealth continued to work closely with the city to support their other SelectHealth Share® commitments. As of December 2016 more than 95 percent of city employees enrolled in SelectHealth Share® had completed an online health assessment, attended a worksite health education and screening event, completed a core wellness challenge, and finished at least one online digital coaching program.

SelectHealth is committed to helping people live the healthiest lives possible®. Spanish Fork City exemplifies how this mission can be achieved by working together.
President and CEO Featured in ManagedCare Magazine

Q&A piece highlights Intermountain’s leadership in transforming care

In December’s issue of ManagedCare magazine, Intermountain President and CEO Marc Harrison, MD, discusses Intermountain’s role as a leader in the worldwide movement to transform healthcare to achieve greater value.

Talking about improving the health of the people we serve, Dr. Harrison said, “I think there’s a virtuous cycle of managing populations while understanding how to keep costs low and how to keep quality high.” He described an approach “where we share what we’re learning, and we learn from others in terms of how we reduce variability, how we increase quality, how we work on our patients’ experience, and how we become consumer-focused.”

The Q&A piece, written by Peter Wehrwein, explores Dr. Harrison’s experience both in Abu Dhabi for the Cleveland Clinic and his first few months on a listening tour while at the helm of Intermountain.

“We are completely dedicated in the communities we serve, and our mandate, when the system was formed 41 years ago, was to be a model system and to have good accessibility and to keep health care affordable. That hasn’t changed, and it won’t change,” Dr. Harrison said. “But the question of how we fit in more broadly as thought leaders and contributors and potentially as a destination, is in evolution.”

Read more about Dr. Harrison’s view from the top.

Publication Highlights How Health Pathways Improve Care at Lower Cost

Intermountain’s framework for delivering care was recently featured in Becker’s Hospital Review

Intermountain’s framework for delivering care was recently featured in Becker’s Hospital Review in an article by Kim Henrichsen, Intermountain’s VP of Clinical Operations and CNO. The article, “A Cardiovascular Case Study On How Intermountain’s Health Pathways Are Improving Care at Lower Cost,” highlights the success of the Heart Failure Clinical Pathway pilot at McKay-Dee Hospital.

Henrichsen writes, “When Intermountain’s McKay-Dee Hospital piloted the Heart Failure Clinical Pathway in 2014, mortality rates for patients in the pilot were seven percent, compared to nineteen percent for patients who weren’t participating. Thirty-four percent of the patients
in the pilot were able to return to their homes, where they received home health services after they were discharged from the hospital, instead of going to a skilled nursing facility, but only nineteen percent of patients who weren’t in the pilot were able to go home after discharge.”

Read the full article.

Liver Transplant Innovation Saves Lives
Intermountain doctors safely use liver damaged by hepatitis C to replace dying liver, then cure new liver

For patients with liver disease who need a donor liver, Intermountain Medical Center doctors can now safely use a liver that’s been damaged by hepatitis C to replace a dying liver. The donor recipient takes six pills a day for 12 weeks to cure the hepatitis C in the new liver.

Intermountain Medical Center is the first transplant center in Utah to use this revolutionary approach for saving the life of patients who are at death’s door.

Nearly 15,000 Americans are on the liver transplant waiting list, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—but about 1,500 of them die each year while they’re waiting for a transplant, and another 1,700 are removed from the waiting list after they get too sick to have a transplant.

When a cure for hepatitis C was developed by a research team led by Intermountain Medical Center physician Michael Charlton, MD, late last year, the number of available livers jumped. “It could increase by up to 600 more per year,” says Richard Gilroy, MD, Medical Director of the Liver Transplantation Program at Intermountain Medical Center.

Check out news reports on this story from KUTV 2 and FOX 13.

Doug Hammer Featured in Modern Counsel
Hammer has helped guide Intermountain Healthcare through a period of major change

The current edition of Modern Counsel magazine, a leading publication for in-house corporate attorneys, focuses on the evolution of in-house legal counsel for the healthcare industry. It also shines a spotlight on Intermountain’s Doug Hammer, Vice President and General Counsel, who was among the very first in-house attorneys in healthcare when he began in 1977.

During his 39-year career at Intermountain, Hammer has helped guide Intermountain—and to a large degree the healthcare industry as a whole—through a period of major change that has extended in-house attorneys’ roles far beyond offering legal advice to internal partners and ensuring regulatory and statutory compliance.
“We’re the mechanics under the hood that make sure the organization is running properly,” said Hammer in the article. “We have to understand Intermountain’s objectives and strategies, and then fine-tune the motor to get us to our intended goals.”

Hammer’s legal team at Intermountain, and their counterparts at other health systems, play an important role in informing and shaping state and federal policies related to healthcare and other issues.

Read the article here.

New da Vinci Robotic Surgery at Intermountain
Intermountain Medical Center offers expanded benefits of robotic surgery

Intermountain Medical Center now has the newest model of the da Vinci Xi robotic surgery system, bringing the latest expanded benefits of robotic surgery to patients needing urologic, gynecologic, and general surgery.

“We installed the newest da Vinci robotic platform a year earlier than scheduled,” said Urologist Jay Bishoff, MD, Medical Director of the Intermountain Urological Institute. “Patients who benefit from robotic or laparoscopic surgery can get more precise, more effective surgical care, a shorter recovery, and lower rates of complications.”

With da Vinci, a surgeon inserts an endoscopic camera into the surgical field through small incisions and sits at a console while viewing a high-definition, 3D image of the patient’s target anatomy. The da Vinci translates hand, wrist, and finger movements the surgeon makes at the console into precise, real-time movement of surgical instruments attached to three or four robotic arms.

The robotic system allows surgeons to practice exactly what they’ll be doing before they do it, see the surgical field with greater clarity, then perform the procedure with more precision, dexterity, and control.
Intermountain Launches New Trial
Heart Institute Launches Trial of Fasting Among People at Risk of Cardiovascular, Metabolic Diseases

The Intermountain Medical Center Heart Institute has launched a new study of people at higher risk of chronic diseases for whom frequent but sustainable fasting may meaningfully reduce their risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cognitive dysfunction.

This clinical trial will help determine whether intermittent fasting is just a passing weight-loss fad or if it holds real health benefits for people. The study is testing the question of whether intermittent fasting reduces “bad” cholesterol (LDL cholesterol). Other measurements of secondary interest will also be recorded to see if fasting reduces metabolic problems and if it improves measures of cognitive function.

The study will be the first randomized trial of fasting that uses a control group of people who eat their usual diet and evaluates a single primary outcome that isn’t weight loss. The study is named WONDERFUL, which stands for Weekly One-Day Water-Only Fasting Interventional Trial.

Five Hospitals Honored for Stroke Treatment
American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize five Intermountain hospitals

Five Intermountain Healthcare hospitals—American Fork Hospital, Dixie Regional Medical Center, Intermountain Medical Center, McKay-Dee Hospital, and Utah Valley Hospital—have been recognized by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association for using up-to-date, evidence-based treatment protocols for stroke care patients by following the “Get With the Guidelines” quality improvement program.

Intermountain Medical Center, McKay-Dee, and Utah Valley were also named to the Target Stroke Honor Role for having door-to-needle times—the time it takes from when a stroke patient enters the hospital to when they receive clot-busting medication—of 60 minutes or less at least half the time. For stroke patients at Intermountain, time to treatment is about 20 minutes faster than the national average.

The five hospitals were all listed in an ad that ran recently in U.S. News & World Report.
Three Hospitals Get Consumer Choice Awards
Winners determined by consumer perceptions on multiple quality and image ratings

Three Intermountain Healthcare facilities—Intermountain Medical Center, McKay-Dee Hospital, and Utah Valley Hospital—received National Research Corporation’s 2016-2017 Consumer Choice Awards.

The Consumer Choice Award is based on a survey of nearly 300,000 healthcare consumers across the United States who were asked to identify their top choice of hospitals. Survey respondents recognized their favorite hospitals for having the best overall quality and image. Intermountain Medical Center is the most-preferred adult hospital in Salt Lake City, McKay-Dee Hospital is the most-preferred hospital in Ogden, and Utah Valley Hospital is the favorite hospital in Provo/Orem.

Intermountain Medical Center, McKay-Dee, and Utah Valley are the only hospitals in Utah on the list. This is the fifth consecutive year Intermountain Medical Center has received the Salt Lake City award, and the 13th consecutive year for both McKay-Dee and Utah Valley (Provo-Orem). Winners are determined by consumer perceptions on multiple quality and image ratings collected in National Research Corporation’s Market Insights survey.

Intermountain Praised for Energy Efficiency
Efforts to conserve energy, cut costs making a difference at Intermountain, in community

Intermountain Healthcare is one of three Utah companies praised by Rocky Mountain Power for outstanding achievements and leadership in energy efficiency. The other two winners of the 2016 Wattsmart® Business Partner of the Year in Utah award were Smith’s Food and Drug Stores and Genpak.

“These three stellar organizations are really driven to cut down costs and save electricity,” said Cindy Crane, Rocky Mountain Power CEO. “This honor recognizes a commitment to the people they serve as well as the environment.”

“Last year Intermountain completed 12 projects through the 2016 Wattsmart business program, saving nearly 3 million kilowatt-hours in electricity—enough energy to power 330 typical Utah homes,” said Rocky Mountain Power’s Paul Murphy. “The 2015 projects are also saving Intermountain $140,525 in annual energy costs and helped it earn $345,740 in Rocky Mountain Power incentives.”

Intermountain also partnered with Rocky Mountain Power last year to co-fund a new position to oversee energy efficiency projects throughout our facilities system-wide.

Learn more at Rocky Mountain Power’s website.
Utah Valley Named a Top 50 Heart Hospital
Truven list honors hospitals that have achieved superior clinical outcomes in cardiovascular care

Truven Health Analytics named Utah Valley Hospital as one of the nation’s 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals. The list honors 50 hospitals that have achieved superior clinical outcomes in cardiovascular care. Utah Valley is the only hospital in Utah to receive the honor this year.

Truven, an independent research firm, analyzed survival rates, cost of care, readmission rates, and patient length of stay to determine the top-performing hospitals. Researchers examined the performance of more than 1,000 hospitals by analyzing outcomes for patients with heart failure and heart attacks and for those who received coronary bypass surgery and percutaneous coronary interventions such as angioplasties.

According to the study, patients at the top 50 hospitals experience higher survival rates, fewer complications, lower readmission rates, shorter hospital stays, and lower costs than their peers.

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