

Leading the Way:

as Steve Scogna retires,
Michael Hartke takes on new role

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FOUNDATION NEWS



Northwest
Community
Hospital
Foundation

Winter 2022

WELCOME

Northwest Community Hospital Foundation was pleased to welcome two new trustees to its board this summer. "Wylecia and Anu are talented and passionate leaders; we are honored to welcome them as new trustees," said David Ungurean, Executive Director at NCH Foundation. "Their nonprofit, education and healthcare expertise will benefit the entire community as we expand our reach and raise funds for amazing developments in cancer care and beyond."

Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE



Dr. Harris is chief executive officer at American Health Information Management Association in Chicago, a global nonprofit association with almost 70,000 health information professionals.

She holds a PhD in organizational development

from Capella University, a master of management degree from Northwestern and both a bachelor and honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Wittenberg University.

Harris was named one of 2021's Top Diversity Leaders by Modern Healthcare, which in 2022 also recognized her on its Top Women Leaders list.

"I am passionate about many things including the importance of developing healthy leaders, which leads to healthy organizations," says Harris.

She resides in Palatine with her husband, Melvin.

Anuradha "Anu" Tripathi



Anu Tripathi is senior manager and strategist for UST Aviation Services in Des Plaines and the owner/director of OM SHREE Education, an award-winning learning franchise in Palatine and Lake Zurich.

"My passion is to make a difference in the healthcare of the community by building an even stronger future," says Tripathi. She has volunteered for a variety of community charities including Apna Ghar and Autumn Leaves. She also served as president of Share a Smile.

A former resident of Rolling Meadows, Anu and her husband Mayank live in South Barrington.



In addition, NCH Foundation welcomed Gret Luhrs to the Foundation team as Assistant Executive Director and Senior Major Gifts Officer. Gret joins us from Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Foundation where she served as the Director of Development and Operations. A lifelong local resident, she has early ties to the hospital - she is the only Foundation team member born at NCH! She may be reached at gluhrs@nch.org or 847-618-4271.

FROM THE DESK OF STEVE SCOGNA, PRESIDENT AND CEO



I am incredibly fortunate and humbled to have been the President and CEO of NCH since 2013. After having the pleasure of being a health care executive for 33 years, I am announcing my retirement. I can honestly say NCH is by far the best organization I have ever been associated with. The commitment to our mission and our values is what sets NCH apart, and that culture exists because of the people who choose to work, practice and volunteer here.

I'm grateful to have met many of you, our donors, patients and community members, over the last decade. Your support and encouragement for NCH, our team and me personally is truly remarkable. Thank you.

Our current chief operating officer will be succeeding me on January 1, 2023. Michael Hartke and I have worked together for my entire tenure at Northwest. He is the epitome of what NCH is all about. He has longstanding relationships with our physicians, he understands our employees and our culture and is a member of this community. In selecting Michael, our boards and NorthShore - Edward-Elmhurst Health could not have made a stronger statement that they believe in what NCH is all about. NCH is strong and continues to grow and Michael will provide that continuity in leadership to move us forward into the future.



At the end of the day, few people are blessed enough to reach the end of their career with the best job, in the best place, with the best people you have ever had the opportunity to work with and you get to pass it off to someone that you know, trust and who you know is going to take the organization even further.

Please know that it has been my greatest privilege to lead NCH. It is a very special place. Never take it for granted. May you and your loved ones continue to enjoy good health and happiness.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Scogna'.

Steve

MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE

Northwest Community Healthcare and our community are stronger because of our donors. They are a major source of support and inspiration that makes all that we do possible. Here are just a few of the things going on at NCH right now and in the near future as we continue to achieve excellence together.

New Neurological Institute Established



Amin Kassam, M.D.

A globally recognized neurosurgeon, Amin Kassam, M.D., will lead the new NorthShore Neurological Institute (NNI) at Northwest Community Healthcare. Building on the current offerings of NNI, Dr. Kassam brings novel and innovative procedures that he has pioneered over the past

two decades, such as the Expanded Endonasal Approach (Transnasal) Brain Surgery, conscious surgery, and new technologies in brain mapping and optical robotics to NorthShore's brain and spine team. He has a national and international reputation as a destination surgeon and educator, recognized by his peers and the technology sector as a key opinion leader who has been responsible for some of the most significant transformations in his field.

"We are proud to offer a unique and dedicated neurosciences department under Dr. Kassam's leadership that, while serving as a global destination center, will expand our scope of

care for our community and the region, offering world-class care in our back yard," said Steve Scogna, CEO and President of Northwest Community Healthcare.

"There is no force more powerful than a patient and family in their moment of need. While it is a blessing to partner with an organization willing to provide the resources, state-of-the-art venues, robots and technology, there are many organizations that are willing to do so," said Amin Kassam, M.D. "What separates NCH is the extraordinary commitment to the patient and family experience. This organization truly treats each family as if they are their own, caring and committing in a way that I have never seen. This is what defines a destination site, where I want to come to be treated and to treat, and that is why our team opted to come to NCH over any other organization. It is my belief that NCH will transform, not only neurosciences, but the way healthcare is delivered nationally."

For more information on NNI at Northwest Community Healthcare visit nni-nch.org; or call 847-618-4430.

New Spine and Pain Center Opens

NCH also opened a new Spine and Pain Center on the second floor of the Busse Center in June 2022. This multidisciplinary center includes neurosurgeons, physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians, anesthesia pain specialists and sports medicine physicians collaborating to treat the simplest to the most complex spine conditions.



Tibor Boco, M.D.

"We are very pleased to establish this Center, offering expert care and providing a full range of medical and rehabilitative options to get patients back to pain-free living as quickly as possible," said Tibor Boco, M.D., Center Director and Director of Spine Surgery at NCH. "We believe our integrated care model will benefit patients who have long been seeking relief of their pain."

The Center's specialized care teams will focus on multiple spine and back pain conditions including: Degenerative Spine Disease, Disc Herniation and Disease, Pain Management, Spinal Surgery, Sports Medicine and Stenosis. Additionally, the Center will use advanced imaging technology to identify and locate a patient's source of pain. Treatments will range from nonsurgical approaches such as therapies or exercise, to more advanced options like surgery, if necessary. For more information visit nch.org/back or call 847-618-9565.

Cancer Center Plans Progress

Plans for a new NCH Cancer Center have continued this year with state and local approvals. Located at the site of the former Motorola headquarters and easily visible and accessible from Meacham Road and I-90, the Cancer Center will total 105,000 square feet. The Cancer Center is being designed with extensive input from physicians, nurses, and community members to create an ideal space for procedures, equipment, technology, research and education. The design is also flexible and expandable to ensure NCH is prepared to meet the needs of the future. A formal groundbreaking will take place in the spring of 2023.



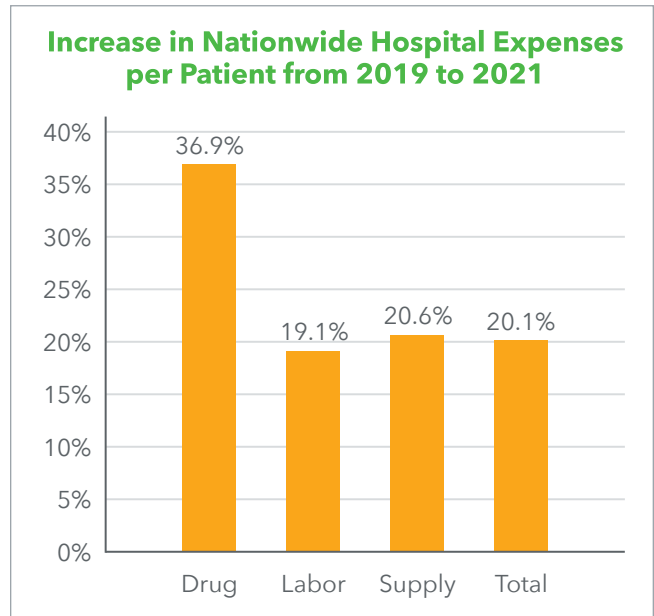
Conceptual Drawing of the New Cancer Center in Schaumburg

HOSPITALS NOT IMMUNE TO CURRENT ECONOMIC PRESSURES

Just as families and businesses around our community try to find ways to navigate inflation and post-pandemic economics, healthcare organizations around the country are also finding themselves with skyrocketing expenses and historic revenue losses. "It is important that our donors know what their hospital is facing and that it is not unique to NCH - it is affecting all healthcare providers," said David Ungurean, Executive Director of NCH Foundation. "We have always talked about healthcare philanthropy as the way to drive innovation, new programs and technology when we have had razor-thin margins in the past. Philanthropy is more important now than ever for us to continue to excel for our patients and community."

NCH Executive VP of Finance, Chrissie Erdmann updated Foundation Trustees during a recent meeting of the Board. She stated that hospital systems across the country are operating at margins below pre-pandemic levels (traditionally margins averaged between 2 and 5 percent). According to an April report by the American Hospital Association, more than 33% of hospitals are operating on negative margins. Governmental relief related to COVID has come to an end. Multi-year contracts with commercial insurance companies typically have around 2-3% annual increases for reimbursement; some don't have any and yet hospitals are seeing significant double-digit percentage increases in drug, labor and supply costs (see chart).

Government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid also provide only small increases each year and Medicaid does not reimburse enough to cover cost. As community members are faced with rising co-pays and deductibles and the



Source: January 2022 Kaufman Hall National Hospital Flash Report

hospital sees more uninsured patients, this can also lead to increases in uncollected revenues for healthcare organizations.

Personnel costs make up approximately 55% of NCH's operating expenses. Like many businesses, labor costs have been one of the biggest drivers of cost as hospitals keep pace with growing wages and are forced to fill vacancies with temp staffing agency help (at a much higher expense). The entire country is facing a nursing shortage. According to the Illinois Nurses Foundation, by 2025 the estimate is that Illinois will be short 15,000 registered nurses. In essence, Hospitals are competing for a shrinking labor pool. Healthcare workers and their families get sick too, and those absences need to be filled so that hospitals can continue to take care of patients.



NCH Executive VP
of Finance
Chrissie Erdmann

Where does this leave NCH? According to Erdmann there is strength in numbers. "Partnering with NorthShore, now NorthShore - Edward-Elmhurst Health, helps each hospital leverage efficiencies as well as providing added resources for growth and investments in our communities." Erdmann elaborated, "We have a really strong balance sheet backing

us. The challenges facing the industry are not something that will turn around quickly; it will be

a multi-year path to return to pre-pandemic levels and will require creative and new ways of doing business." For the healthcare market as a whole, managing through the current labor environment will be key as well as securing permanent staff at adequate levels. At NCH, strategic growth is also crucial. "NCH has stewarded its resources wisely for many years and those efforts allow us to grow even during these tough times. Strong programs such as our new Spine and Pain Clinic, Neuroscience Institute and the proposed Cancer Center are all ways we continue to invest in the future of the hospital, our patients and community."

ONE STOP CHARITABLE GIVING

When the standard income tax deduction nearly doubled four years ago, some donors began to look into donor advised funds as a tax-savvy way to make charitable gifts. According to the National Philanthropic Trust, donors recommended \$46 billion to nonprofits in 2021 from donor advised funds, a 28 percent increase over the year before, so it seems "DAF's" aren't going anywhere anytime soon. Fidelity, Schwab, J.P Morgan, Vanguard and many other banks and community foundations have donor advised funds that regularly send distributions to NCH based on the recommendations of our donors.

So What Exactly is a Donor Advised Fund?

A donor advised fund is an account you set up with a charitable sponsor such as a community foundation or financial services company. You can open one with a written agreement that gives you (or other family members) the right to recommend distributions to nonprofits such as NCH Foundation.

You contribute cash or appreciated property to your fund and qualify for a tax deduction when you make the gift. This is particularly helpful when trying to avoid capital gains taxes in a year that you sold a large asset. You also have time to choose the nonprofits you want to support. The fund is invested and grows tax-free until the grants are disbursed to a qualified nonprofit. You can also support multiple charitable organizations without having to retain records for each contribution.

The fund's impact can last a long time - even beyond your lifetime. You can choose family members or friends to continue to recommend grants to charitable organizations, growing your personal legacy and passing on the value of philanthropy. You can also name NCH Foundation as a beneficiary to receive all or part of the account after your lifetime.

If you would like to learn more about how a donor advised fund can simplify your charitable giving or how you can use it to extend your legacy at NCH, please contact Maggie at 847-618-4272 or mmclaughli@nch.org.

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Northwest
Community
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Foundation

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May the New Year
bring you and your family
peace, happiness, and
good health.

**Wishing you and yours
a joyous 2023!**