

WomenCare Quarterly

News, announcements, and vital information about Catholic Health WomenCare for WNY physicians.

March 2013



Robotic Surgery Expands to GYN & Bariatric at St. Joseph Campus

Catholic Health has expanded its robotic surgery program with the addition of a da Vinci® Surgical System at Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Campus.

The system allows surgeons to offer advanced GYN, urologic and general surgery procedures that improve clinical outcomes and redefine standards of care. OB/GYN specialists using the system include: **Ali Ghomi, MD**, director of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic and Robotic Surgery at Sisters Hospital's Piver Center and director of the program at St. Joseph Campus; **Edward Bartels, MD**; **Adel Chouchani, MD**; **Christian Chouchani, MD**; **Jeon Lee, MD**; **David Marchetti, MD**; **Dilara Samadi, MD**; **Magdi Sayegh, MD**; **Amarjit Singh, MD**; **Pankaj Singhal MD**; **Chad Strittmatter, MD**; and **Mark Weissman, MD**. Bariatric surgeon, **Dang Tuan Pham, MD**, is using the system for bariatric procedures. GYN specialist **Magda Osman, MD**, has been trained on the system and will soon perform robotic surgeries at Sisters. **Faraj Touchan, MD**, an OB/GYN at Mount St. Mary's Hospital, will be securing time to enable patients that he cares for in Niagara County to have robotic surgery as an option for their care.

For patients, the benefits of robotic-assisted surgery are clear – less pain and scarring, shorter hospital stays, quicker recoveries and fewer complications. By bringing da Vinci® to St. Joseph Campus, we are enhancing surgical capabilities at this site and providing advanced care to more patients throughout our community.

WomenCare Newsmakers

Ali Ghomi, MD, has been named director of the new Robotic Surgical program at St. Joseph Campus. Dr. Ghomi currently is director of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic and Robotic Surgery at Sisters of Charity Hospital, where he developed the first robotic program in WNY focusing on benign gynecology in 2009.



Dr. Ali Ghomi

Sisters Hospital was designated as an Academic Center of Excellence in Gynecologic Surgery by the American Institute of Minimally Invasive Surgery (AIMIS), the first in the region and one of only 12 in the U.S. This means that at Sisters Hospital, and now St. Joseph Campus, a vast majority of gynecologic surgeries are performed minimally invasively, meeting the highest standards of outcome quality as set by the AIMIS.

Dr. Ghomi is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and board eligible in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (formerly know as urogynecology). Prior to assuming his current positions at Catholic Health, Dr. Ghomi was the director and founder of Advanced Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery at University at Buffalo, Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics. As a nationally recognized minimally invasive gynecologic and robotic surgeon, Dr. Ghomi has authored many scientific manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals and continues to educate surgeons in the field of robotic surgery. He has particular interest in evaluation and management of female pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence, vaginal fistula and pelvic mesh complications.

Dr. Ghomi has a referral surgical practice and sees patients at M. Steven Piver, MD Center for Women's Health and Wellness at 2121 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, 14214, (716) 862-1965.

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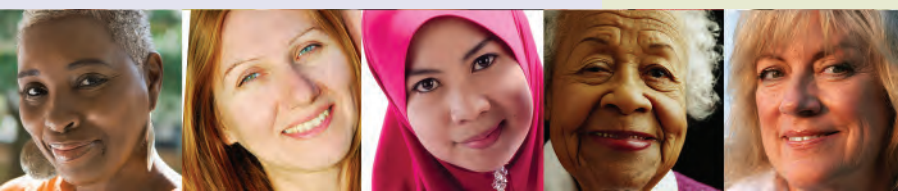
A specialist in Gynecologic Oncology and a member of Roswell Park Cancer Institute's (RPCI) Department of Gynecologic Oncology, **Stacey Akers, MD**, has joined the team at the M. Steven Piver, MD, Center for Women's Health and Wellness, expanding the center's work in the diagnosis and treatment of ovarian and other gynecologic cancers. She will work closely with **M. Steven Piver, MD**, one of the area's most respected specialists in the field of gynecologic oncology.



Dr. Stacey Akers

Dr. Akers received her medical degree from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Louisville. She completed a fellowship rotation in Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Most recently, she completed a fellowship

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WomenCare Newsmakers

in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology at RPCI. She received the Excellence in Clinical Research award, which is presented to 60 obstetrics and gynecology fellows. Her work has also been published in several professional journals and presented at a number of medical meetings. **Dr. Akers is accepting new patients. Appointments can be made by calling the M. Steven Piver, MD Center for Women's Health and Wellness at 862-1965.**

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WomenCare's lactation consultant program continues to grow. Certified lactation consultants are available at both Mercy and Sisters hospitals, and Catholic Health Home Care.

MERCY HOSPITAL – Karen Burchalewski, RN, IBCLC; Alayne Danzer, RN, IBCLC; Pat Forcucci, RN, IBCLC; Nicole Frick-Taher,

RN, CLC; Joy Kent, RN, CLC; Tammy Kowalik, RN, IBCLC; Lisa Kubiak, RN, CLC; Cathy Lang, RN, IBCLC; Karen Lavis, RN, CLC; Mary Ann Murphy, RN, IBCLC; Colleen Nielsen-Reilly, RN, CLC; Maureen Pinterpe, RN, IBCLC; Carmen Repicci, RN, BSN, IBCLC; Dawn Smith, RN, IBCLC; Courtney Wahowski, RN, IBCLC

SISTERS HOSPITAL – Sigrid Chapman, RN, BSN, IBCLC; Amy Estrada, RN, IBCLC; Margaret Furlong, RN, IBCLC; Robin Goff, RNC, IBCLC; Tina Harman, RN, BSN, IBCLC; Gamileh Jamil, RN, BSN, IBCLC; Carolyn Putzbach, RN, BSN, IBCLC; Sue Rusinski, RN, IBCLC; Suzanne Russo, RNC, IBCLC; Jennifer Scarpina, RN, MSN, IBCLC; Lynne Smith, RNC, BSN, IBCLC; Sherrie Sterlace, RN, IBCLC; Diane Weissman, OTR, IBCLC; Bonnie Wentlent; RN, BSN, IBCLC; Lisa Zybert, RN, IBCLC

HOME CARE – Deborah Colangelo, RN, IBCLC; Denise Hopkins, RN, IBCLC; Susan Provorse, RN, IBCLC

Awards, Accolades & Accreditations

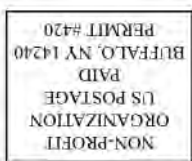


- Healthgrades® – Five-Star Award for Gynecologic Surgery (Mercy Hospital, 2011-2012) and Gynecologic Surgery Excellence Award & Top 10% in Nation (Mercy Hospital, 2012)
- Healthgrades® – Five-Star Award for Maternity Care (Mercy Hospital, 2011-2012) and Maternity Care Excellence Award & Top 10% in Nation (Mercy Hospital, 2012)
- AIMIS – Academic Center of Excellence for Minimally Invasive Women's Surgery (Sisters of Charity Hospital, since 2012)
- American Institute of Ultrasound Medicine – Obstetric Ultrasound and Fetal Echocardiography Accreditation (Mercy Hospital Imaging Services, since 2011)
- American College of Radiology – Mammography Accreditation (Kenmore Mercy Hospital Imaging Services, since 2012)

For a complete listing of Catholic Health accolades, visit chsbuffalo.org/AboutUs/Quality/Awards.

Mercy Hospital received Healthgrades' Five-Star Quality Award for Maternity and Gynecologic Surgery Services. Pictured from left: Kim Marts, RN; Gerri Plecha, RN; Colleen Raczynski, RN; Elaine Keegan, nurse manager; Colleen Bona, LPN; Dr. Lawrence Gugino, chief of OB/GYN; Amy Woods, RN; Jennifer Field, CNM; and Aimee Gomlak, vice president of WomenCare.

To learn more about the programs, services and education classes available through Catholic Health WomenCare, or for a referral to one of our many women's health specialists, visit WomenCareWNY.org or call (716) 447-6205.



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