

Welcome:

The **Washington Health System**, a new name for a new era. The name change from the Washington Hospital to the **Washington Health System** (WHS) reflects the changing macro-environment in which the brick and mortar hospital is no longer the center of medical practice. The patient and family have now become the center of the practice of medicine most of which occurs outside of the hospital. Not really a NEWS FLASH for family medicine since, as the name indicates, we've believed in this concept all along.

I've had the privilege of being a part of the WHS Family Medicine Residency since 1977 (save for a couple of years in private practice). I've even been here long enough to implement a second EMR 17 years after the first! That change was made necessary by the rapidly developing need to interact with our patients in a variety of ways. With the addition of a regional HIE and ACO activity, population management is now possible and essential.

The Family Medicine Center where residents learn to provide cutting edge continuity care was designated as a Patient Centered Medical Home in 2011. With the addition of these new management tools the practice will continue to evolve further into patient centeredness and population health.

Residents are an integral part of the WHS. I was amazed in 1977 when on my first day as a first year resident seasoned nurses were calling me "doctor" and actually listening to what I had to say! Through the years this level of respect has been continuously earned by the long line of superb residents many of whom chose to enter practice in the friendly shadow of the Washington Health System. In fact over 50% of the physicians who make up the Department of Family Medicine are former graduates.

From the included single family housing to the free Cameron Wellness Center membership, the WHS administration has provided residents with a supportive environment that encourages concentration on the educational process. The faculty is comprised of excellent family physicians with varied areas of interests that broaden the education opportunities for our residents. Faculty interest has created experiences in women's health, international medicine, community outreach (including a free clinic), sports medicine at the high school, college (W&J College) and professional levels (the Wild Things Baseball team competing in the Frontier League), college student health, palliative medicine and practice-based research. The subspecialty attending staff that includes an active hospitalist group is dedicated to the long Washington Health System's tradition of dedicated volunteer teachers.

With our learning environment, amenities, location, excellent facilities, talented faculty, superb residents and hospital-wide support, I can promise that at the **Washington Health System** you will become an excellent family physician.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey F. Minter
Director