Dr. Zaroukian receives national I.T. award

For his work in applying information technology and electronic medical record systems to the needs of physicians and patients, Michael Zaroukian, M.D., Ph.D., Sparrow’s Medical Director of Clinical Informatics and Care Transformation has been honored with the 2010 Physician IT Leadership Award from the Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS).

Zaroukian also serves as the chief medical information officer for the HealthTeam, Michigan State University’s faculty group practice where he led the implementation of an electronic medical records system. Sparrow is currently installing electronic medical records in all Sparrow-employed physician practices.

“We showed early on that there can be a really good financial return on investment using electronic medical records,” he said. “We are able to use the system to redesign care and remove a lot of waste and redundancies while providing better quality care.”

HIMSS, a global, nonprofit dedicated to using IT and management systems to improve health care, honored Zaroukian and other awardees Feb. 22, in Orlando, Fla., at the 2011 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition awards banquet.

What physician inspires you?

Every day, doctors inspire us. On Doctors’ Day, March 30, we have the chance to share our appreciation for all they do. Take five minutes to log on to sparrow.org/inspiredbypathysicians and let us know what physician inspires you to deliver better patient care. View the messages from fellow associates on our Facebook page and on display at various locations throughout the health system.
Dennis Swan was recently honored with the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Chief Okemos Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Dennis, who serves as Sparrow’s President and Chief Executive Officer, joined Liz Haar, president from Accident Fund Holdings and Don Leduc of Cooley Law School as one of three honored with this year’s award.

« Classic style. On her last day at Sparrow, Sandi Walters, RN, reprised the nurse’s cap she wore when she first began her Sparrow career – 44 years ago. Sandi also brought along her graduation photo from Hurley Hospital’s School of Nursing to share with her friends on the Mother-Baby unit where she has cared for patients for the last 36 years. Thanks for the memories Sandi, and on behalf of the entire Sparrow family, the Sparrow News offers our best wishes to you for a long and happy retirement.

« Hometown Service. From left, members of Sparrow-Ionia Hospital’s ‘Hometown Service Beyond Expectation Team” from left, Diane Hatinger, RN, Bill Roeser, CEO, nominator Kendra Miller, Dr. Joshua Vance, Mike Procunier, LPN, and Jerry Ritz, RN. In February, Sparrow-Ionia Hospital earned the designation from the Ionia Chamber of Commerce as part of a community-wide endeavor to recognize businesses and organizations for providing outstanding service. Miller nominated Sparrow-Ionia for the care her son received from the hospital’s emergency room staff. Great job, Sparrow Ionia!

« A note of thanks. Megan Schoenmaker, RN, was a HUC on Sparrow’s Mother-Baby unit who had just earned her RN degree when she was tragically killed in a snowmobile accident in December. Her father, Ob-Gyn physician Martin Schoenmaker MD, and his family wish to thank the Sparrow family for the outpouring of love prayers and support. “Both Megan and I are incredibly fortunate to have worked with such caring people,” Dr. Schoenmaker said. “The kindness shown to us through this sad time in our lives will never be forgotten.”

« A glass block in the Mother-Baby unit memorializes Megan Schoenmaker and was paid for from donations from her friends and co-workers.

With deepest regrets we announce the death of Helen Duvall, LPN, on Feb. 22 at age 69. Helen retired in 2009 after 50 years of service as a staff nurse at Sparrow Hospital. She was featured on the cover of the Sept. 7, 2009 edition of the Sparrow News announcing her retirement. On behalf of the entire Sparrow family, the Sparrow News extends our sympathy to Helen’s family and many friends.
Heart and Vascular Appointments
Sparrow’s Heart and Vascular Services has announced new leadership with Joel Cohn, MD, heading the leadership team as medical director for Sparrow’s Heart and Vascular Services.
Supporting Cohn will be four associate medical directors: Milind Karve, MD, associate medical director for invasive cardiology services; Ronald Voice, MD, associate medical director for non-invasive cardiology services; Appa R. Bandi, MD, associate medical director for medical cardiology services; and Ranjan Thakur, MD, associate medical director for electrophysiology services.

Service Excellence offers interpreter service
The medical interpreter service at Sparrow Hospital is dedicated to helping providers establish a direct relationship with their non-English or limited-English proficient patients. Service Excellence can provide interpreter services via telephone; in-person; document translation assistance; and web-based. To make a request for in-person interpreters, please contact Service Excellence at 517-364-3935 or serviceexcellence@sparrow.org and include the following information: name and department number; phone number; patient name; location needed; procedure; date and time; and length of time needed.

Nurse of the Year nominations
It’s time again to nominate an exceptional Sparrow nurse to be considered for selection as one of Sparrow’s 2011 Nurses of the Year. Nominations are available via MySparrow for Associates at sparrow.org or the Sparrow Intranet under Nursing and can be filled out online or by printing the PDF form and submitting to the Nursing Office. The deadline for all nominations is April 15.
The Nurses of the Year will be honored at a special tea during Nurses Week in May.

Welcome to My Learning – Education at your fingertips
Are you looking for a way to keep track of required training? Do you want to take part in learning opportunities that enhance your skills? Sparrow’s My Learning will help you do just that.
My Learning is a web-based system to help Sparrow associates complete required tests, track competency completion, or enroll in Sparrow University courses.
Associates can use My Learning to enroll in live courses and take online learning modules. My Learning consists of annual regulatory education that is required for all associates (Compliance, Information Security, Privacy, and Health & Safety.) In time, My Learning will evolve to include nursing education, Sparrow University courses, and other content. Eventually, My Learning will replace CBT and Event Tracker.
My Learning training sessions will soon be held – check the LOD Intranet site for more details.
To log into My Learning go to the Sparrow Intranet homepage or use this address from any computer: http://lsglm.learnsoft.com/lsglm/login/sparrowlogin.aspx

Username: Your associate ID number
Password: Password. (Once you log in, please change your password immediately.)
Questions? Email MyLearning@sparrow.org.

brief mentions

Sandy Kern is the recipient of Physician Health Plan’s first Diversity Recognition Award which acknowledges PHP associates who encourage and support diversity education and awareness. Sandy, who serves as a provider contract specialist for PHP, also is a member of Sparrow’s Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council.

Judy Riley is the March Volunteer of the Month as selected by the Sparrow Women’s Board of Managers and the Sparrow Volunteer Services. Judy serves on three groups, Helping Hands in the Mother Baby unit, Infant Massage for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and TLC Oncology for the Sparrow Cancer Center.

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Carson City Hospital celebrates 75th anniversary

It was the early 1930s and Dr. Emmett Binkert, a graduate of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri, was looking for a small town to establish his new practice. He approached Carson City and was struck by the beauty of the St. Mary’s Church steeple punctuating the landscape. The rest is history.

“The sight of that steeple is still a landmark for Carson City, and it’s a fun story to tell that Dr. Binkert picked us because of it,” said Gary Sweet, a 35-year employee of Carson City Hospital (CCH) and the organization’s resident historian.

Dr. Binkert founded CCH inside his home in 1936. Since those humble beginnings, CCH has moved to a modern building and steadily expanded. In 1997, CCH began their affiliation with Sparrow.

“I like to think Dr. Binkert would be proud and in awe of how far his hospital has come,” Sweet said.

To commemorate the hospital’s 75th anniversary, several events are planned throughout this year to honor the community, the hospital staff, Dr. Binkert and CCH patients. For more information and a list of events go to the CCH facebook page.