



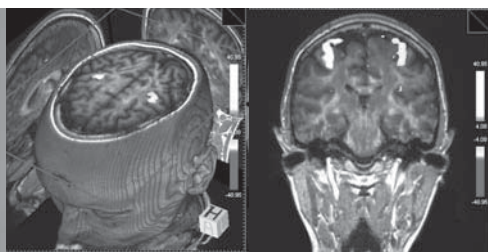
# Pulse

The difference between healthcare and true care™

A PUBLICATION OF ECMC CORPORATION

## ECMC Officially Opens New MRI Center in Memory of Radiology Chief

Latest technology installed—world's first wide bore 3T MRI scanner



During an August 31 opening/dedication, event participants including (l. to r.): June Alker (wife of the late Dr. George Alker); Dr. John Alker (son); Sharon L. Hanson, Chair, Board of Directors, ECMC Corp.; and Jody L. Lomeo, CEO, ECMC Corp.—posed immediately after the plaque unveiling that officially renamed the new state-of-the-art facility the “George J. Alker Jr. M.D., MRI Center at ECMC.”

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On August 31, 2011, Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) Corporation officially opened and dedicated its all-new MRI center to the memory of the late mentor and colleague Dr. George Alker Jr. The new center is now officially known as the **George J. Alker Jr. MD, MRI Center at ECMC.**

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# Pulse

**Pulse** is a monthly publication of the  
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\*ECMC Corp. Administration may require that this schedule  
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ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE REQUIRED IN ELECTRONIC  
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files/attachments). Photographs must be forwarded as  
digital files/scans and attached to e-mail or submitted on  
CD, or USB devices.

# A Message from ECMC CEO

## Jody L. Lomeo



Jody L. Lomeo  
ECMC Corp. CEO

I would like to publicly thank all of our physicians, nurses, and staff for their hard work over the summer. It was a very busy time, and we had days when the trauma unit and medical/surgical floors were full. As ECMC continues to be very busy, I know everyone is making an extra effort to ensure that our patients are treated well and receive great care.

We also are very busy in our psychiatric emergency room. As services have been reduced and cut in our community, our psychiatric emergency room has become one of the only places in our community for psychiatric patients to go. This has created overcrowding and put stress on our systems and employees. I have been personally involved with this situation and I am working closely with the NYS Department of Health and Office of Mental Health to develop a solution. Also, I am working with the New York State Nurses Association advocate to our Western New York State delegation for additional resources and support.

As we continue to manage the increase in patients, we are working hard to expand our patient experience efforts and watch the bottom-line. Because of Federal cuts to

Medicare and State cuts to Medicaid, we are beginning to feel the effects of these cuts on our community services that do not receive appropriate reimbursement. My colleagues across the State are experiencing the same challenges and are having to make some difficult decisions.

As we develop the budget for 2012, we are also facing some difficult decisions. The reduction in reimbursement is going to affect some very important "safety net" programs in the community. Unfortunately, these decisions are being made for us by policy decisions in Washington and Albany. We take our mission to provide these services to the community very seriously. However, we can not go back to the deficit budgets of years past. In recent years, we have been able to end the year with a positive bottom-line from operations and that has allowed us to reinvest into our campus and services. As I have said many times, our goal continues to be to thrive, not just survive.

We will continue to advocate for our "safety net" services. We hope our elected officials will listen and that we will be able to maintain some of these services for our community. I ask that you

please talk to your government representatives to advocate to preserve "safety net" services for our hospitals. Your anticipated support and advocacy is greatly appreciated.

Our commitment to you is that we will continue to provide great care for our patients and exemplify "*The Difference Between Healthcare and True Care*™."

Jody L. Lomeo

Chief Executive Officer

ECMC Corporation

# ECMC Officially Opens New MRI Center in Memory of Radiology Chief

Cover story continued.

Dr. Alker was Chair of the E.J. Meyer Memorial Hospital and ECMC Radiology Departments and Professor and Chair of Radiology for the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB). He performed cutting edge work in the field of imaging of trauma victims; especially those injured in motor vehicle accidents, and was a leading voice in the seat belt safety movement for automobiles. Along with the late Dr. Edward Eschner, also a former Chair of the Department of Radiology at UB; Dr. Dan Bednarek, Radiation Safety Officer, ECMC; and Ben Kutas, retired Chief Radiologic Technologist, ECMC; Dr. Alker also established the beginnings of the *Museum of Radiology and Medical Physics* at UB and maintained a collection of historical artifacts significant to radiology and clinical medicine at the Erie County Medical Center.



With the new MAGNETOM® Verio 3.0 Tesla MRI scanner from Siemens, patients coming to ECMC for routine Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans will experience a unit designed for maximum comfort with a large, patient-friendly one foot of spacious headroom. The tight confines in older MRIs are now a thing of the past. The scanner offers ECMC physicians some of the most advanced MR imaging services available. The system provides excellent image quality and superb diagnostic capabilities.

“Opening our new MRI Center in memory of such a well respected physician as Dr. Alker is a fitting tribute,” said Jody L. Lomeo, Chief Executive Officer, ECMC Corporation. “The new technology will allow our doctors to have one of the widest ranges of imaging capabilities while being able to better serve and satisfy an increased number of patients.”

“Our board decided unanimously to name the new MRI Center in Dr. Alker’s memory,” stated Sharon L. Hanson, Chair, Board of Directors, ECMC Corporation. “We are also pleased to be able to offer the new technology and added conveniences for our patients.”

“Neuro-radiologist Dr. Alker and physician colleagues Border, Seibel and LaDuca were instrumental in conversion of ECMC into the outstanding trauma hospital it is today. I can think of no more appropriate name for the MRI service at ECMC than Dr. Alker’s,” stated Timothy G. DeZastro M.D., Chief, Department of Radiology and Imaging Services, ECMC. “Our new facility now includes one of the most cutting-edge pieces of MRI equipment available, operating at the highest clinically used field strengths while offering exceptional patient comfort.”

At 3.0 Tesla, the MAGNETOM® Verio boasts the strongest magnet field strength used clinically today and gives ECMC physicians access to many applications, including neurology evaluations, orthopaedic and cartilage imaging. The system’s large 70-cm opening is wide enough to accommodate a diverse array of patients including individuals who have traditionally been hard to image, such as children, those who are obese (up to 550 lbs), the elderly, and those who are claustrophobic. The MAGNETOM® Verio, utilizing Total imaging matrix technology, has up to 102 seamlessly integrated matrix coil elements and up to 32 independent radiofrequency channels which allow flexible coil combinations that make patient and coil repositioning virtually unnecessary. This allows increased speed for most MRI exams.



**MORE ABOUT GEORGE J. ALKER JR. M.D.:**  
*Dr. Alker (1929-1991) was born in Hungary and was very proud of his heritage. He was a survivor of WWII, spent time in a refugee camp, and later served as a U.S. Army Medical Officer in the late 1950s. He completed his residency at the E.J. Meyer Memorial Hospital and continued working at Meyer/ECMC for the remainder of his career. While at ECMC, Dr. Alker specialized in neuro-radiology, published in many journals, and won several awards for his writings. He built a strong relationship between radiology and neurology and is internationally recognized in cervical spine neuro-radiology. UB honors Dr. Alker by presenting an award in his name to the outstanding medical student who plans to study radiology. Dr. Alker’s life revolved around medicine and training and anyone who trained with him is a better doctor or technologist because of him.*

# State DOH to approve ECMC TCU as Demonstration Project

## ECMC Transitional Care Unit to be First in WNY for specific patient population

On September 8, 2011, ECMC Corporation officials announced that the New York State Department of Health tentatively approved creating a Transitional Care Unit Demonstration Project at the Medical Center.

The purpose of a Transitional Care Unit (TCU)—a less-costly and reimbursable service—is to reduce the number of days incurred in the hospital for Medicare patients whose stays may exceed the necessary length of stay reimbursement rates. Patients who would receive care in the TCU are medically stable with clear prognoses, but are still quite ill; those with complex conditions and/or requiring costly care; or patients who will be discharged to home within a few days.

“We are pleased that New York State has approved our proposal to create a Transitional Care Unit. This unit will be the first of its kind in Western New York. The unit will result in better care for this unique patient group and also be reimbursed more appropriately,” said Jody L. Lomeo, CEO of ECMC Corp.

“The fact that the Department of Health is referring to this initiative as a ‘demonstration project’ indicates to us that the New York State’s Division of Health Facility Planning sees the validity in our proposal and that establishing a Transitional Care Unit could set a more appropriate standard for care of this patient population across the state,” explained Richard Cleland, ECMC’s Senior Vice President of Operations. “We anticipate that our TCU should be operational as early as June of 2012.”

On an average day at ECMC, 24 medical-surgical beds are occupied by patients for whom Medicare does not pay. The medical center should discharge these patients more expeditiously, typically to Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) beds, for which Medicare would pay for extended convalescence. However, a sufficient number of Medicare SNF

beds are not available in Western New York. A TCU would meet some of the need for additional beds, providing a unit that would administer the appropriate level of care that is also Medicare-reimbursable. The TCU would appropriately be used to provide care for the most complex and costly patient conditions, while allowing ECMC’s medical-surgical beds to be used for patients requiring necessary medical-surgical care.

“An ECMC TCU will bring in approximately \$2.6 million in new Medicare dollars (through payments for previously unpaid services),” said Cleland. “The community will be the real beneficiary of ECMC’s improved financial stability since we will have greater flexibility to meet service needs, expand innovative concepts, and subsidize care to other patients unable to afford health insurance.”

The final approval of ECMC’s TCU is contingent upon final review of construction documents and inspection by the New York State Department of Health.

## UR Physician Advisors Dr. Sperry and Dr. Orlick

Howard Sperry, MD, and Arthur Orlick, MD, are Physician Advisors to the Hospital’s Utilization Review (U.R.) Program.

As physician advisors, Doctors Sperry and Orlick will actively work with our Medical Staff, Care Management Department and Clinical Documentation Specialists per hospital policy in the following areas:

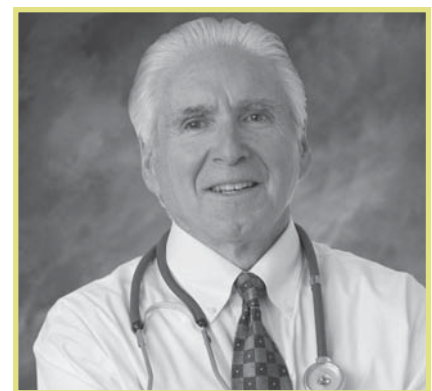
- Admission reviews for compliance with admission/observation criteria and medical necessity standards;
- Continued stay review, review of outliers and review of medical necessity documentation required in these instances;
- Level of care determinations for patient placement to appropriate services;

- Execution and support of the hospital’s U.R. Management Plan;
- Educate, assist and advise on all issues pertaining to U.R. appropriateness.

**Mark C. Barabas, D.H.A., F.A.C.H.E.**  
*President and Chief Operating Officer  
ECMC Corporation*



**Arthur Orlick, MD**



**Howard Sperry, MD**

# Vi-Anne Antrum Appointed Manager



**Vi-Anne Antrum, RN, MSN, MBA, FACHE**, is the new Manager for Inpatient Hemodialysis and the Vascular Access Center. Vi-Anne began her career at ECMC in 2000 on the 12th floor, zone 3 as a staff nurse. She went on to become the Charge Nurse for the 12th Floor, Zone 3. Vi (as many have come to call her) then moved into the Nursing Care Coordinator role with administrative oversight for ECMC. Vi-Anne also served as the Manager of Non-invasive

Cardiology at Sisters of Charity Hospital, Main Street and St. Joseph campuses. Vi-Anne has held a wide range of positions throughout her nursing career which include long term care supervision, home infusion therapy, agency nursing and clinical instruction. Vi-Anne is excited to be back at ECMC full time and is looking forward to making a positive impact in her new position.

Vi-Anne holds Associate degrees in Nursing and Accounting from Onondaga Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Daemen College, and dual Masters degrees in Nursing and Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She holds certifications in Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). Vi-Anne belongs to Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, the American College of

Healthcare Executives, the New York Organization of Nurse Executives, and the New York State Nurses Association.

Vi-Anne recently became certified as Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of more than 30,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE is known for its prestigious FACHE credential, signifying board certification in healthcare management. In addition, Vi-Anne was selected for inclusion in the 2011-2012 Cambridge Registry of Who's Who Among Executives, Professionals, and Entrepreneurs.

*Please welcome Vi-Anne as she starts her new position.*

# Championing Quality Health and Wellness



**Rita Hubbard-Robinson, JD**, Director of Community Health Education and Outreach, here at ECMC was recently appointed to Chairperson of the Western New York Health Equity Coalition for the P2 Collaborative of WNY. The WNY Health Equity Coalition is an inclusive group of leaders that champions equal access to quality health and wellness for everyone in Western New York. It provides assertive leadership to remove barriers and support public health initiatives focused on systems change.

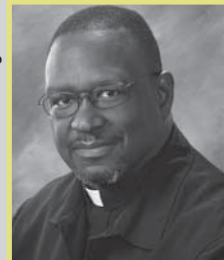
The mission of the WNY Health Equity Coalition (HEC) is to champion the urgent call to action for health equity through systems change across communities in WNY. Focusing on chronic disease prevention and overall wellness, some of the goals of the HEC are to develop a

communication and training plan that includes messaging, identifying target audiences, and creating a delivery method tool box to train providers and stakeholders on equity in healthcare and health education. Further, the Coalition looks to the development of a Health Equity-Wellness Center by 2013, to continue the work of health equity, providing resources and services to all of WNY.

The HEC membership includes representatives from hospitals, healthcare clinics, community based organizations, governmental and private health agencies, health insurance companies, universities and colleges, as well as private practices.

"Improving the health of all who live in Western New York will have a direct impact on the future of this region," says Rita. "Making an impact on the community so that there is access to healthy foods; safe and free or affordable places to get fit; and education services, and systems that will reduce the overall stress of being impoverished; will allow us to create a tipping point to decrease the very high chronic disease statistics we have in WNY. What is exciting about this effort is that it is collaborative and it is my hope that together we can make the difference that is desperately needed."

# Rev. Dr. Lewis Achieves Master Training Level Status as Law Enforcement Chaplain



**Rev. Dr. James A. Lewis III**, Director of Pastoral Care, ECMC, Chief Master Chaplain for Buffalo Police Department Chaplain Corps, attended the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) 38th Annual Training Seminar held at Montego Bay, Jamaica on July 11th-15th.

Rev. Dr. Lewis achieved Master Training Level status with the International Conference of Police Chaplains. This endorses him as a member who has completed the required hours of professional studies, tenure of service and provided evidence of significant contribution to law enforcement chaplaincy.

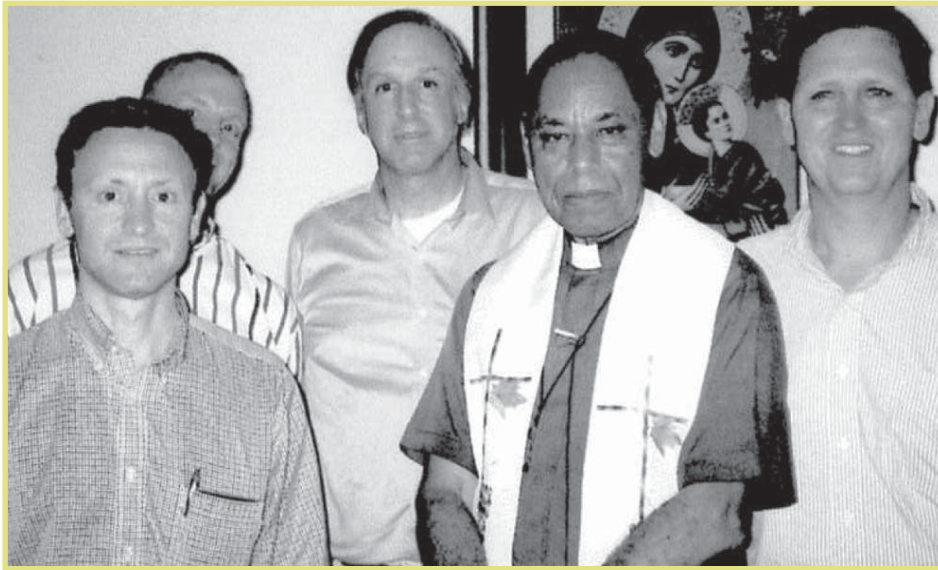
Classes offered to those in attendance included basic, enrichment and advanced courses covering topics such as: Introduction to Law Enforcement Chaplaincy; Death Notification; Stress Management; Ministering to Law Enforcement Officers Returning from Military Service, along with other topics. Also, included during the seminar was ICPC's touching tribute honoring all law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty as well as a remembrance of ICPC chaplains which passed during the preceding year.

# ECMC Physicians Anders, Smolinski, and Holmes donate time and expertise in Haiti

## Archbishop of Haiti Blesses WNY Doctors before Surgeries

In Port au Prince, Haiti, the leader of the Catholic Church, Archbishop Guire Poulard blessed WNY doctors with the *Hope for Tomorrow Foundation* prior to the donation of

100 plastic, vein, orthopaedic and general surgeries for the needy in the Immaculate Conception Hospital in Les Cayes, Haiti.



Shown here (left to right) are: University Orthopaedic Services and ECMC Orthopaedic Surgeon **Dr. Mark Anders**; Mount Saint Mary's Hospital Anesthesiologist Dr. John Huebschmann; Board Certified Plastic Surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Meilman; Archbishop of Haiti Guire Poulard, and University Orthopaedic Services and ECMC Orthopaedic Surgeon **Dr. Robert Smolinski**. Missing from the photo are Vein Treatment Centers Vein Surgeon Dr. Hratch Karamanoukian and General Surgery Resident Dr. Raffi Barsoumian.

## ECMC Medical/Dental Staff contributes toward Mission Trip to Haiti



*Dr. David Holmes, ECMC Cleve-Hill Family Health Center physician, examines Haitian child during medical June-July mission trip.*

**David Holmes, M.D.**, ECMC Cleve-Hill Family Health Center physician, describes below the mission trip experience toward which the ECMC Medical/Dental Staff donated \$2,500...

We were requested to bring children's backpacks and school supplies as they are considered valuable items in Haiti and are needed for children to be able to attend school. Suitcases were used to transport the many donations we received from various sources. Many of the suitcases were left in Haiti for people to use for storage. The teenagers made balloon animals to entertain the children while waiting to be seen by the doctors and medical students. The Chadasha Foundation guest house we stayed at was overbooked so we were asked to bring air mattresses and sheets to use during our stay and after our stay to donate them to the guest house. We were told that many Haitians are far sighted and have difficulty reading so we purchased many reading glasses and gave them to those in need. We brought the leftover glasses home for use on future medical relief trips.

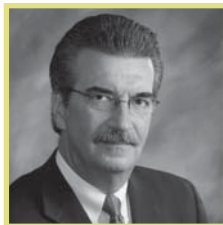
## ECMC Administrators Participate in Important Community Initiative



**Mark Barabas, DHA, FACHE**



**Richard Cleland, MPA, NHA, FACHE**



**Ronald Krawiec**



**Juan Santiago**

**Mark Barabas, DHA, FACHE**, President and Chief Operating Officer; **Richard Cleland, MPA, NHA, FACHE**, Senior Vice President of Operations; **Ronald Krawiec**, Senior Vice President of Operations; and **Juan Santiago**, Assistant Vice President, Support and Hospital Services, all participated in the *Project Homeless Connect Buffalo* event on September 19.

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is a one stop model of delivering services to people

experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. PHC began in San Francisco in 2004 and has grown into an international best practice model. This program has shown positive results in getting people connected to the community while providing them services they otherwise would not be able to access.

The Western New York Coalition for the Homeless is an association of service providers and concerned individuals who have joined

together to empower and advocate for people in need of safe, affordable, and permanent housing.

Among other necessary services, medical/dental services provided include: dental care and referrals, elder services, healthy screenings, HIV/AIDS testing, mental health referrals, substance abuse services, and women's health services.

# ECMC Nephrology Nurses Soar to New Heights

by Rebecca Lippner, RN



Data show that 26 million Americans (1 in 8 US adults) have Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and another 20 million more are at increased risk. Kidney disease affects all ages, races, cultures, social classes and religions. To honor the dedicated Nephrology Nurses who care for patients with kidney disease, the American Nephrology Nursing Association (ANNA) has designated the second full week in September each year as Nephrology Nurses Week. ANNA is a professional nursing association with over 11,000 members, whose mission is to advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for individuals with kidney disease through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence. ANNA launched Nephrology Nurses Week in 2005 to give employers, patients, and others the opportunity to thank Nephrology Nurses for their life-saving work. In addition, the organization hopes to spark interest in other

nurses about the multifaceted career opportunities available in nephrology. One of the most diverse nursing specialties practiced today, Nephrology Nurses care for patients of all ages who have, or are at risk for, kidney disease.

This year's theme, *Soaring to New Heights*, highlights the way nephrology nurses use their vision, knowledge, and skills to improve patient outcomes. Caring for patients with kidney disease, and often their families as well, requires nurses to be highly skilled, well educated, and motivated. Nephrology Nurses cite the variety and challenges of the specialty as fueling their ongoing passion. At ECMC, if you visit the Dialysis Unit or the Transplant & Renal Offices, this level of skill and dedication is widely apparent. Every dialysis treatment saves every patient's life each time it is performed. Every office visit provides patients with the tools they

need to cope with their illness. Recognizing ECMC's Nephrology Nurses' compassion as they deliver this care to their patients inspires hope and fosters strength. These nurses apply their kindness and expertise to their every day practice with devotion and enthusiasm. It is this dedication which is advancing ECMC to a Center of Excellence for Kidney Care. ECMC is truly "Soaring to New Heights," both emotionally, as ECMC's Nephrology Nurses are ready to be at the forefront of excellence, and physically as construction of this new center continues to mount to an ever more recognizable structure.

The ANNA and ECMC are proud to honor Nephrology Nurses throughout the year, but especially during Nephrology Nurses Week. "Nephrology Nurses put their hearts and souls into caring for their patients," said Rowena Elliott, President of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association. "They often develop personal relationships with patients because kidney disease can span years. Combined with their vision and skills, caring nurses are every day heroes."

More information about ANNA, Nephrology Nursing Week and careers in the specialty is available at [www.annanurse.org](http://www.annanurse.org). More information about Kidney Disease in Western New York is available at [www.kidney.org/site/index.cfm?ch=111](http://www.kidney.org/site/index.cfm?ch=111).

*Rebecca Lippner, RN, is a Registered Nurse in ECMC's Hemodialysis Unit*

## Community Health Workers of WNY present check for *Farmers' Market at Grider*



This past summer, the Community Health Workers of WNY donated \$5,000 for the Farmers' Market at Grider. Displaying the check (l. to r.) are: Rita Hubbard-Robinson, JD, Community Health Education and Outreach Director, ECMC Corp.; William Covington, Healthcare Education Project, Farmers' Market (FM) Committee Member; Ann Munroe, Community Health Foundation; Wendy Anderson, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, FM Committee Member; Patrick Cray, St. Philips Episcopal Church, FM Committee Member; Delores Wilkenson Jacobs, Delavan Grider Community Center, FM Committee Member; Jessica Bauer-Walker, Community Health Foundation of Buffalo; and Tom Quatroche, PhD, Sr. VP, Marketing, Planning, Business Development, ECMC Corp.



# ECMC Achieves Goal in Vascular Access *Fistula First* Quality Improvement Project

The dialysis unit at ECMC has met its quality improvement goal for March 2010 to March 2011 by increasing the rate by 4% of arteriovenous (AV) fistula use in prevalent patients. This goal was met through the collaborative efforts of the Hemodialysis Unit and the Vascular Access Center.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has identified increasing fistula rates as a national breakthrough priority. Evidence-based literature indicates that arteriovenous fistula is the preferred access for hemodialysis based on lower complication rates, longevity, and lower costs. CMS has set a national goal of at least 66% of prevalent patients using an AV fistula.

CMS has set End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Networks-specific goals for continual improvement in this area. Specifically, each ESRD Network must decrease their quality deficit by 20% by the end of each year's contract.

**Thank You ECMC!**



**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
COUNTY OF NIAGARA  
Lockport, New York**

**James R. Voutour**  
*Sheriff*

**Samuel J. Muscarella, Jr.**  
*Undersheriff*

August 8, 2011

Mr. Jody L. Lomeo, CEO  
Erie County Medical Center

Dear Mr. Lomeo:

On July 18, 2011, Deputy Allen Gerhardt was involved in a serious auto accident in which both of his legs were severed. Al was responding to a call for help from a fellow officer involved in a foot chase. I feel compelled to advise you of our experience at ECMC.

When I arrived at about 2:00 a.m. on the 18th, your ER staff was very thoughtful, compassionate and helpful. The first few hours brought about much concern for Al and brought many of his family members to the hospital, as well as other police officers. Once Al was stabilized, your staff provided a private room for Al's family and a larger room for the officers to gather. You allowed us to occupy the CPR (205) room for several days as we kept an officer there 24/7 for the first four days. It also allowed my deputies to gather and share their emotions, which was a great part of the ongoing healing process.

While Al remained in the ICU, the staff there was once again very compassionate and understanding and made the transition from surgery to ICU to a private room as seamless as possible. Finally, I cannot express the gratitude all of us feel toward your medical staff members who were responsible for saving Al's life. Western New York has a crown jewel in ECMC and your leadership is a big reason for that.

I must also mention that the ECMC police department was there for us from the first hour we arrived. They continually looked in on Al and they were always asking if we needed anything to make the day a little better. The entire police staff went above and beyond their duty and should be commended.

The Erie Country Medical Center will always have a place in the hearts of the men and women of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. We are truly blessed to have your facilities in our backyard. Please extend our sincere thanks to your staff and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

James A. Voutour  
Sheriff

# Rewarding Summer Youth Self-development Program provides Healthcare Experience

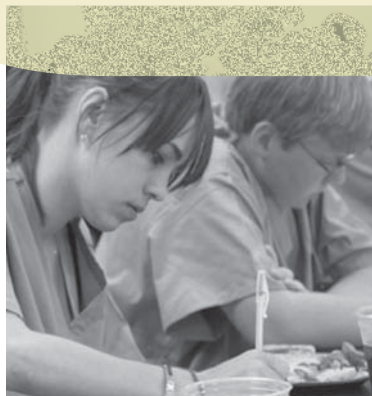
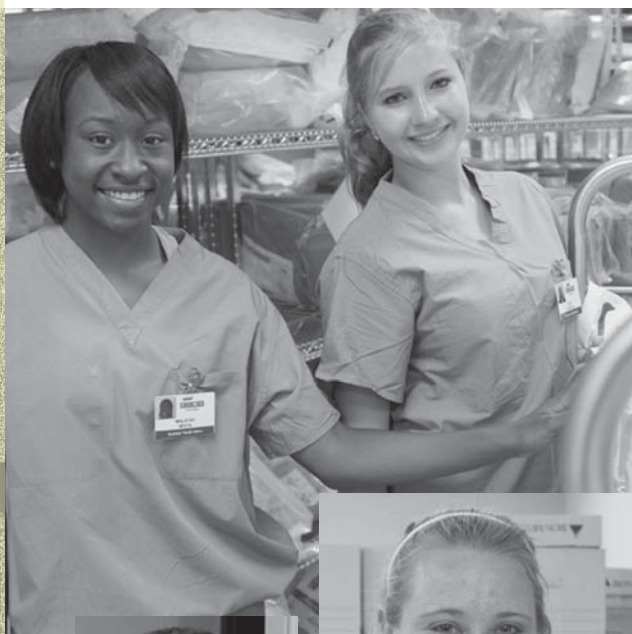


**Each year, ECMC hosts a Summer Youth Program (SYP) which provides an opportunity for students to learn about different healthcare and hospital-based careers.** This year is the 4th year of the four-week youth program. A total of 78 interns participated from a variety of schools including: Alden, Applied Technologies, Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, Buffalo Seminary, Canisius, Cardinal O'Hara, Cheektowaga Central, Christian Central, City Honors, Depew, East, Frontier Senior, Health Science Charter, Holy Angels, Hutchinson Central Technical, Lancaster Central, McKinley, Mount St. Mary, Nardin Academy, Niagara Wheatfield, Nichols, Olmstead, Oracle Charter, Orchard Park, Royalton Hartland, Sacred Heart Academy, St Mary's, St. Francis, St. Joseph's Collegiate, Tapestry Charter, Tonawanda, Williamsville East, Williamsville North and Williamsville South High Schools.

Students were offered the opportunity to attend interesting seminars based on their assigned days. Second year participants took workshops on Heart Health sponsored by Kaleida Health and taught by Ariana Martinez and Priyanka Dua from the Community Health Department at Kaleida Health. Second year interns also participated in CPR training presented by the ECMC Nursing In-Service Education Department. Theresa Arquette, RN; Barbara Fitzgerald, RN; Rita Rivers, RN, Operating Room In-Service Instructor; and Amy Short, MS, RN, from the Emergency Department provided the four-hour certificate-bearing workshop. First year interns experienced the ECMC Career Exploration. Joe Kabacinski, Administrative Director, Laboratory Medicine; Karen Beckman, RN, ER Clinical Nurse Specialist; Sonja Melvin, Unit Nurse Manager, 12 Floor, Zone 3; Pamela Riley, Nurse, 12 Floor, Zone 3 and Rose Nadolinski, Sr. Radiologic Technologist provided

*"I love seeing all the patients' smiling faces. Even when they are in pain, they find enough joy to crack a joke to make us all smile."*

*"Everyone in the program has differences, but we are all brought together under one common ground, that allows us to break the ice and build friendships based on something deeper than what's on the surface."*



*"My generation is the future and I want to do my best to better serve that future."*

*“My goal is to help people, as many people as I can. If that’s becoming an anesthesiologist or maybe...a nurse, that’s fine with me as long as I am able to create the greatest good for the greatest number.”*



the Career Exploration Workshops. First year interns also participated in a workshop presented by Ryan Daley and Rahwa Ghirmatzion-Hill from Upstate New York Transplant Services (UNYTS) on transplantation and blood donation. They also participated in the "Let's not meet by Accident" class offered by the ECMC Trauma Department. Linda Schwab, Cheryl Nicosia, Karen Beckman, along with Matt Miller and Nick Solem from Rural Metro, exposed the youth to the impacts of making bad decisions when driving.

The interns were placed in various departments throughout the hospital and performed tasks that helped them to understand daily and routine activities that take place in a hospital. Departments that hosted interns were: Nursing Units including Skilled Nursing and Nursing Education, Public Relations, Bio-Med, Clinics, Dietary, Finance, Human Resources,

Immunodeficiency, Infection Control, Information Technology, Learning Leadership Foundation, Medical Records, Pathology, Plant Operations, Police, Print Shop, Quality, Radiology, Rehabilitation Medicine, Social Services, and the Surgical Department.

The SYP itself is designed to go beyond a glimpse in health careers. Rita Hubbard Robinson, Director of Community Health Education and Outreach for ECMC says, “We know that we can expose young people to the health and hospital-based professions and open a whole new world to them. We are helping them to make determinations about their future. And we are showing them how their dreams can come true.” At the Awards Ceremony held on August 17th, interns received awards for their exemplary performance in the program. Department staff members made nominations and a selection committee selected the top nominees. Jenna Grieco and William Nelson

received the Congeniality Award. Abigail Smith and Julia Muscarella won the Ambition Award. William Dybas and Emily Nelson received the Leadership Award. The Emerald Award, given to those voted most precious amongst their peers, was bestowed upon Muhaimen Ramen and Jeremy Lazatin. For all-around high achievement, Bernard Ryan and Ariel Flowers were the proud recipients of the Excellence Award.

The program had a great impact on many of the participants. One intern commented, “Over the past couple weeks I’ve learned about the importance of doing things right the first time” and “I feel like I have made a difference by being the best I could be and doing everything I needed to do when it needed to be done.” Hopefully we will see the program continue into its fifth year and carry on with educating and providing youth with new positive experiences.



*“I am looking forward to this summer internship as it brings me closer to my dreams of being a doctor.”*



*“I have tons of friends from the program who are of a different race...beliefs, and opinions. If they hadn’t been a part of this program I would have never met them and gained knowledge from their different backgrounds.”*



# ECMC Lifeline Foundation Tournament of Life Golf Classic raises \$125,000



The 2011 Tournament of Life Golf Classic Held on August 15, 2011, at the Park Country Club was once again a HUGE success! This year's tournament raised over \$125,000 net of expenses.

This tournament was possible with the generosity of our many sponsors and underwriters and friends. Their participation ensures the Foundation's mission to fund life-saving programs and enhance patient care at ECMC.

For their continued generous support, we applaud our Presenting Sponsor Buffalo Hospital Supply for their continuous support. We also extend a special thanks to Diamond Sponsor, The Exigence Group, for their generosity and belief in our work.

We salute tournament chair, Michael Seaman, for his leadership, spirit and dedication to our mission.

Thank you to the Tournament of Life Golf Classic Planning Committee and our event day volunteers for their tireless efforts, as well as all of the corporations and individuals that made the golf classic a success!

A very special thank you to our sponsors

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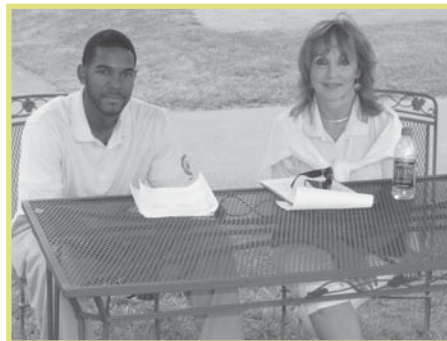
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# ECMC *Nurse of the Month*

September

Susan Kiener



**Susan M. Kiener, RN**, works in ECMC's Trauma Intensive Care Unit (TICU). She exemplifies the high standard of nursing that we all strive to achieve. She is dedicated to the Trauma ICU where she has spent her nursing career caring for her patients and their families. She always has words of wisdom for others, and she is the main reason why the quilting program has been initiated for all organ donors through Upstate New York Transplant Services (UNYTS). Susan is also a pleasure to work with. Thank you, Susan, for all you do here at ECMC—great job!

# ECMC *Employee of the Month*

September

Rosalyn Barnes



**Rosalyn Barnes, Sr. Insurance Clerk**, Inpatient Billing for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) puts the needs of others first whether it is to answer a question or guide someone through a tough problem. If there is an answer she does not know, she will research and find the correct one. She is a very patient person and treats everyone with understanding and kindness. Rosalyn always goes above and beyond what is expected of her. Good work Rosalyn!

August

Lena Ciccarelli



**Lena C. Ciccarelli, Sr. Clerk Typist**, Pharmacy, is an integral part of the pharmacy department and is the type of person who goes above and beyond her receptionist duties. Always with a pleasant attitude and optimistic spirit, she is the go-to person for everything from ordering supplies to filling out all necessary forms. Lena keeps the entire department informed on such things as registration renewals, upcoming continuing education, re-orientation and yearly physicals. Not only is she a consistently friendly presence in the department, but someone that can be depended on daily for the operations of the department. Thank you Lena!

July

Marguerite Gajewski



**Marguerite Gajewski, Sr. Clerk Typist**, Outpatient Chemical Dependency Services, Downtown Clinic, has the personality and patience that is needed to work with this particular client population. She is compassionate, caring, and extremely self motivated. She is never demeaning or short-tempered with the patients, a population that can at times be very demanding. Marge is willing to modify her time off in order to provide coverage and her time and attendance is impeccable. She is not an employee that just goes through the motions; she truly enjoys working at the Downtown Clinic. You are much appreciated Marguerite!

# ECMC *Employee of the Month*

*continued*

**June**

**Ellen O'Brien**

**Ellen O'Brien**, Project Manager, Immunodeficiency Services, has worked for ECMC for over 16 years. She has a great work record demonstrating dedication to ECMC and Immunodeficiency Services (HIV/AIDS). Ellen recently took on the challenge of leading the department. She is eager to improve the department and manage with a fair hand. She is now learning a new aspect of the department in the leadership role and shows true promise

and dedication. It is wonderful to see a staff member rise up through the ranks to continue learning and lead, now not only by example, but in a true leadership role.

*Photo not available.*

# ECMC *Volunteer of the Month*

**September**

**Patricia Carter**



**Patricia Carter** has volunteered with ECMC the last couple of years after retiring from working as a nurse in the outpatient clinical service areas. She is a member of the Volunteer Board and currently plans the menu for monthly meetings. Pat loves animals and also volunteers at the SPCA. Always very willing to help, she is an active participant. Coming in weekly, Pat sells books in the lobby for the Gift Shop. She also helps out at all volunteer flower and candy sales, makes phone calls, works in the Volunteer Office, and is active in meeting attendance. Pat has been a real blessing to us all. Her smile is warm and her attitude is caring. Thanks, Pat, for all you do for ECMC.

**August**

**Joel Bus**



**Joel T. Bus** is a hard worker with a cheerful disposition who volunteers with Pastoral Care. He has been a volunteer here since 2005. He is a team worker with other ministers at the hospital. Joel is one of a set of triplets who went on in life to serve in the military. He has been married for 50 years and has two sons who also serve as ministers. He became ordained in 1956 with the Jehovah's Witnesses church and currently serves as an elder in their congregation. Joel loves the interaction with patients and says, "It has been a joy to bring comfort, encouragement and direction when needed." Thank you, Joel, for being there for the ECMC patients and families.

# ECMC *Important Days to Know*

## ECMC Holiday Events Schedule

TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 13TH, 2011  
"Sing-a-long with..."  
Kathi & John  
12-1 PM

WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 14TH, 2011  
Mount Olive Baptist Church  
Ensemble  
6-6:45 PM

Thursday,  
DECEMBER 15TH, 2011  
Join Carolers and Santa  
to visit residents and patients.  
(Call 898-3509 to sign-up)  
12-1 PM

FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 16TH, 2011  
Akron HS Santa Band  
9:30-10 AM

FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 16TH, 2011 *continued*  
Hutch Tech Jazz Band  
12-1 PM

Muhammad School of Music  
6:00-6:45 PM

MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 19TH, 2011  
DJ Brass  
1:00-2:00 PM

TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 20TH, 2011  
East High School Chorus  
1:30-2:30 PM

DECEMBER 22ND, 2011  
Saint Joseph's Collegiate  
Institute Swing Choir  
12-1 PM

*And, there will be more to come!*

## NOVEMBER

### Month-long Observances

Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month (National)  
Bladder Health Month  
Diabetes Month (American)  
Diabetic Eye Disease Month  
Epilepsy Awareness Month (National)  
Family Caregivers Month (National)  
Healthy Skin Month (National)  
Home Care Month (National), Hospice Month (National)  
and Home Care Aid Week  
Hospice Palliative Care Month (National)  
Lung Cancer Awareness Month  
Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (National)  
Sexual Health Month (National)

### Week-long Observances

1-7 Diabetes Education Week (National)  
1-7 Medical-Surgical Nurses Week  
1-7 Urology Nurses and Associates Week  
6-12 Allied Health Professions Week (National)  
6-12 Aspiring Nurse Leader Week  
6-12 Health Information and Technology Week  
6-12 Medical Staff Services Awareness Week (National)  
6-12 Mental Health Wellness Week  
6-12 Patient Transport Week (National)  
6-12 Radiologic Technology Week (National)  
7-11 Blood Management Awareness Week  
7-13 Perioperative Nurse Week

### Recognition Days/Events

17 Great American Smokeout

## OCTOBER

### Month-long Observances

Beast Cancer Awareness Month (National)  
Chiropractic Health Month (National)  
Dental Hygiene Month (National)  
Disability Employment Awareness Month (National)  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month (National)  
Eye Injury Prevention Month

## OCTOBER *continued*

Healthy Literacy Month  
Healthy Lung Month  
Liver Awareness Month  
Medical Librarians Month (National)  
Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month  
Patient-Centered Care Awareness Month  
Pharmacists Month (American)  
Physical Therapy Month (National)

### Week-long Observances

2-8 Gerontological Nurses Week  
2-8 Healthcare Resource & Materials  
Management Week (National)  
2-8 Mental Illness Awareness Week  
2-8 Nuclear Medicine Week  
3-7 Customer Service Week  
3-9 Healthcare Foodservice Workers Week  
6-12 Physician Assistants Week (National)  
9-15 Case Management Week (National)  
9-15 Healthcare Central Service & Sterile Processing Week  
9-15 Healthcare Security & Safety Week and Officer's Day  
10-15 Dialysis Technician Recognition Week (National)  
10-15 Emergency Nurses Week  
16-22 Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy  
Week (National)  
16-22 Infection Prevention Week (international)  
17-21 Medical Assistant's Week (National)  
17-23 Healthcare Quality Week  
23-29 Healthcare Facilities & Engineering Week (National)  
23-29 Pastoral Care Week (National)  
23-29 Respiratory Care Week (National)  
23-31 Red Ribbon Week

### Recognition Days/Events

6 Bipolar Disorder Awareness Day  
7 Depression Screening Day® (National)  
12 Stop America's Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Today  
21 Mammography Day (National)  
26 Lung Health Day  
27 Lock Your Meds Day

## SEPTEMBER

### Month-long Observances

Cholesterol Education Month  
Healthy Aging Month  
Pain Awareness Month  
Prostate Cancer Month  
Prostate Health Month  
Reye's Syndrome Awareness Month  
Sickle Cell Awareness Month  
Sports and Home Eye Safety Month  
Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month

### Week-long Observances

4-10 Suicide Prevention Week  
11-17 Healthcare Environmental Services and  
Housekeeping Week (National)  
11-17 Nephrology Nurses Week  
18-24 Child Passenger Safety Week  
18-24 Farm Safety & Health Week (National)  
18-24 Prostate Cancer Awareness Week  
18-24 Rehabilitation Awareness Celebration (National)  
18-24 Surgical Technology Week (National)

### Recognition Days/Events

24 Seat Check Saturday  
27 Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day  
28 Women's Health & Fitness Day (National)

## AUGUST

### Month-long Observances

Neurosurgery Outreach Month



# ECMC Staff Members and/or immediate relatives of Staff Members Serving in the Military

NAME	TITLE	LINE OF SERVICE	CURRENT STATION	RELATIONSHIP TO ECMC AND/
Kyle J. Broginski	Combat Engineer	United States Marine Corps., First Combat Engineer Battalion	Afghanistan (as of Nov. 2010)	Son of Kevin J. Broginski, Electric Control Technician, Plant Operations, ECMC
Shawn Drzyzga	Specialist	U.S. Army: Recently Honorably Discharged after four years of service	Fort Campbell, KY	Son of Laurie Drzyzga, Hospital Police Officer, ECMC
Kathleen Fay	Lieutenant Colonel	U.S. Air Force, 914th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (Niagara Falls Airbase) and 455th Expeditionary Medical Operation Squadron (Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan)	Niagara Falls, NY & Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan	On military leave from ECMC Cardiac Care Unit as Charge Nurse
Dr. Kurt Von Fricken	Lieutenant Colonel (LTC)	U.S. Army	Afghanistan	ECMC Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Brett Harrison	Senior Airman	Niagara Falls 914th Security Forces	Kirkuk, Iraq	Son of Chuck Harrison Plant Operations, and Rose Harrison, RN, ECMC
Samantha Hoch	Sergeant	U.S. Army 277th Quartermaster Company	Niagara Falls, NY	ECMC Main Lobby Prima Pizza General Manager and co-owner
Katherine A. Keleher	Lance Corporal	United States Marine Corps. Combat Correspondent/ Photographer	Parris Island, SC	Daughter of Kerry Keleher, LPN, Nurse Consultant Patient Advocacy, ECMC
Kevin J. Kuhn	Platoon Sergeant	United States Marine Corps. 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit Military Police Detachment Combat Logistics Battalion	Camp Pendleton, CA	Son of Donna Carr, RN, Patient Safety, ECMC
Brian Payne	Marine	U.S. Marines	Honorably Discharged	Son of Shirley Csepegi, Unit Manager, Psychiatry, 4th Floor, Zone 2
Steven Payne	Reenlisted Recruiter	U.S. Army	Long Island, NY; (previously Stationed in Ft. Gordon, GA)	Son of Shirley Csepegi, Unit Manager, Psychiatry, 4th Floor, Zone 2
Tim Payne	Special Forces Member	U.S. Army	Injured in the line of duty in Kandahar, Afghanistan on July 3, 2011 (see separate article in this issue of Pulse)	Son of Shirley Csepegi, Unit Manager, Psychiatry, 4th Floor, Zone 2
Andrew Payne	Specialist	U.S. Army	Vicenza, Italy (two deployments to Afghanistan)	Son of Shirley Csepegi, Unit Manager, Psychiatry, 4th Floor, Zone 2
Charles D. Schroeder	Master Sergeant	U.S. Air Force Reserves 914th Aerial Port Squadron's First Sergeant	Most recent deployment to Bagram Airfield Afghanistan, January 2010	ECMC MRI Staff Member
Joseph A. Zaccagnino Jr.	Master at Arms, First Class	U.S. Navy Stationed aboard the USS Paul Hamilton DDG-60	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, currently at sea on seven month deployment	Son of Sandra R. Cutrona, Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) Erie County Home

## Are you or a family member currently serving in the military?

If so, we would like to publish your/their name, line of service, location of station, and number of years in the military.

Please E-MAIL TO: [jcirillo@ecmc.edu](mailto:jcirillo@ecmc.edu)

CONSENTS: For any article to be published including a person's name, etc., a completed and signed consent for each person identified must be completed and mailed/delivered to:

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# Soldier Brothers Payne

Until recently, Pulse staff members were not aware that Shirley Csepegi, RN, Psychiatry Unit Manager for ECMC, had four sons in the service. Therefore, when we received word that "Shirley's son was injured in line of duty," we made the incorrect assumption that the only son we knew about being in the service (Andrew) was the son injured. However, Pulse now has the accurate information about Shirley's four sons and their dedication and service to our country, along with a report on her son, Tim Payne, the son injured in the line of duty.

Three of Shirley's sons are currently in the army and one works for a contracted soldier and is an ex-Marine with eight years of experience. Her sons in the service at present are: Brian, 25 years old; Tim, 28; and Andrew, 26. They have been involved with serving as follows: Brian is an ex-Marine. His last job was teaching underwater survival skills to soldiers; Steven recently reenlisted to recruit on Long Island and was previously stations in Ft. Gordon in Georgia. He was in Afghanistan for a 16-month deployment where he was in intelligence. Andrew was in Afghanistan on two deployments and was stationed out of the 173rd in Vicenza, Italy. He was named Soldier of the Year in 2009 for Germany and Africa. These men have worked hard in their careers serving our country and we should all be thankful for their dedication and accomplishments.



Brian Payne and Tim Payne



Steven Payne and Tim Payne



Andrew Payne, Soldier of the Year 2009.

## Soldier injured in the line of duty... Update on Injured Soldier Tim Payne

Submitted by Shirley Csepegi

My son, Tim Payne, enlisted in the U.S. Army January 2003. He was stationed at Ft. Bragg and was in the 82nd Airborne. He served in two tours to Iraq (2003 and 2004). After serving there, he joined up with the 173rd Airborne stationed out of Vicenza, Italy. He was stationed there for two years and worked for the Southern European Task Force (SETAF). During this time, he tried out for Special Forces which was shown on the Discovery Channel (December 2009). The show was called, "Two Weeks in Hell." He had cameo appearance at the end of the show.

In December 2010, Tim signed on to the 10th Mountain Division stationed out of Ft. Drum, Watertown, to be closer to home. On March 17th, 2011, he was deployed to Argendab region in Kandahar, where on July 3rd, was injured after stepping on a 40 lb. Improvised Explosive Device (IED). He arrived at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., on July 8th from Landstuhl, Germany, and was in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) for six weeks. He then progressed to an orthopaedic floor.

Despite his numerous injuries, Tim remains positive and is healing. He has a long road ahead of him but he is strong and determined; a true fighter. I have been with him since July 9th, after the Army flew us to Washington. We now stay at the Naval Lodge in Bethesda. The military hospitals there were merged and are now called Walter Reed National Memorial Medical Center. I can't say enough about both facilities. The medical and administrative staff members are "angels" and I've seen many miracles. The dedication shown to each soldier



and family is uplifting. God has blessed us in so many ways. The staff at Walter Reed's SICU calls Tim the "Wonder Boy" due to his numerous injuries and successful healing. The staff and doctors pray with us each night before Tim goes into surgery.

I want to thank everyone at ECMC for their support and prayers for our family. It has helped us to stay strong and fight the good fight with Tim. I am forever grateful. *Hoowah!* (as they shout in the Armed Forces).

*Shirley Csepegi, RN (mother of Tim Payne) is the Unit Manager in Psychiatry on the 4th Floor, Zone 2, at ECMC.*

# Interesting News and Information...

## Life in the year 2100

As published in *The New Yorker*, *The Week*, April 8, 2011, by the turn of the century, says physicist Michio Kaku, and based on interviews with 300 of the world's top scientists, Kaku assembled some predictions for what that world, 100 years in the future, will look like.

Over the next several issues of ECMC Med-Center Pulse, we'll publish some of these predictions.

One of these predictions is described below.

## The Internet will be in your contact lenses

Image blinking and then instantly going online, accessing your home office or home-entertainment system anywhere or anytime. We will be able to download any movie, song, website, or piece of information off the Internet directly onto our Internet-enabled contact lenses. These lenses will also be able to identify people's faces, translate their comments, and provide subtitles, so that we will always know exactly with whom we are speaking and what they are saying in any language. We will live in a cross between *The Matrix* and real life.

## Gone to the Dogs?



The ECMC Carpenter Shop recently built an ECMC "Canine Agility Course" for canine team training.

Since its completion, Police agencies from surrounding towns, including the Erie County Sheriff Department's canine teams, have been using the ECMC course to continue to develop the skill sets of their dogs. The course is located on the ECMC Campus, behind the new Carpenter Shop, across from School 84.

I can tell you from experience that the other Police agencies greatly appreciate and look forward to using this course. ECMC's K9 Course is the best in Western New York!



The Hospital Police Department and our K-9 Unit would like to thank and give credit to ECMC's Plant Operations Department, and specifically carpenters **Harvey Murello** and **Pat Sikorski**, who did such a remarkable job crafting the agility stations—thank you guys!

**Bryan M. Mayer** (Badge #913) K-9 Officer  
*Erie County Medical Center Police Department*



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**ABOUT ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL  
CENTER (ECMC) CORPORATION:**

The ECMC Corporation includes an advanced academic medical center (ECMC) with 550 inpatient beds and 136 skilled-nursing-home beds, on- and off-campus health centers, more than 30 outpatient specialty care clinics and a long-term care facility. ECMC is the regional center for trauma, burn care, transplantation and rehabilitation and is a major teaching facility for the University at Buffalo. Most ECMC physicians, dentists and pharmacists are dedicated faculty members of the university and/or members of a private practice plan. More Western New York residents are choosing ECMC for exceptional patient care and customer service—*the difference between healthcare and true care.*