

# THE CUPOLA



The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital  
Bassett Healthcare, Cooperstown, New York

Spring 2007  
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## BASSETT WORKING TO ESTABLISH AFFILIATED MEDICAL SCHOOL CAMPUS

With the goal of building on its tradition of teaching to help meet a national need, Bassett is exploring options for an affiliated medical school campus based in Cooperstown.

"The Association of American Medical Colleges has called for a 30 percent increase of medical students and the creation of new medical school campuses," said Bassett President Dr. William Streck.

"Bassett has opportunities to expand upon our current strengths in education."

Laura Schweitzer, Ph.D., former vice president for Academic Affairs at SUNY Upstate Medical



Laura Schweitzer, Ph.D.

University and vice provost at Syracuse University, joined Bassett on Feb. 1 as chief academic officer



Dr. Henry Weil

and is co-leading the medical school initiative with Dr. Henry Weil, Bassett's director of Hospital

Services and Informatics, who has been largely responsible for creating and fostering the idea of a medical school at Bassett.

"The recruitment of Dr. Schweitzer by Dr. Streck represents a major milestone in the medical school initiative. She brings to Bassett indispensable perspectives and skills," Weil said.

Schweitzer's first task has been to gather input from physicians that will help create a program that emulates the finest parts of their collective medical school experiences. "I'm really reaching out to all

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## ELECTRONIC REVOLUTION TAKES OFF

One year after its official launch, Bassett's "eRevolution" is changing the way clinicians care for patients, communicate, access information and make decisions.

"Bassett's electronic revolution directly supports our missions of patient care, teaching and research," said Dr. Streck. "Bassett is committed to evidence-based practice, and this technology clearly positions us for a future of integrated, evidence-based care."

At the heart of Bassett's eRevolution is the enterprise-wide Electronic Medical Record.

Customized for Bassett by the new ICA software company through Bassett's unique partnership with Vanderbilt University, the EMR system was piloted in Prime Care in December and is gradually being phased in throughout the organization. The Web-based system, billed as a "one-stop shop," is a dramatic change from the days of shuffling through paper charts and logging in and out of Meditech to find information. With a few clicks, a provider can now review a note, see an X-ray or search a patient's history.

As work to enhance the system continues, a



growing number of providers will realize these benefits. "Change is always hard, and I myself was apprehensive about the first couple of days," said General Internal Medicine Chief Doug DeLong, M.D., one of the first providers to use the new EMR system. "But at this point, even though I

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Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.

Greetings from Cooperstown and New Bern. Summer is nearly upon us, and we can always hope for a somewhat slower pace of life, usually to no avail. Life at Bassett is certainly buzzing, as you can see from this issue of The Cupola.

Obviously the biggest news concerns plans for a medical school campus in Cooperstown. The arrival of Laura Schweitzer, Ph.D., is a large step toward fulfillment of this dream. This concept fits in well with two of Bassett's main missions of teaching and patient care.

Please take a moment to remember the family of Dr. Raj

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dalal. Raj was one of the best teachers I've known, as well as a fine man. He will be sorely missed.

Please enjoy the rest of this issue. You'll learn how Bassett is reaching out to the community with its school-based health centers, and more about the electronic revolution in Cooperstown. As always, let us hear from you.

Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.  
President, Board of Directors  
Bassett Medical Alumni Association

THE CUPOLA is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

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THE CUPOLA is published three times a year. Please send comments and news, including change of address information to: Editor, The Cupola, Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail to <bassett.cupola@bassett.org>.

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# Breaking News

## BASSETT PART OF NATIONAL STUDY

Bassett recently received a \$70,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help test new ways to keep experienced nurses in our nation's hospitals. Bassett is one of 13 hospitals across the country selected by RWJF to participate in its new program, Wisdom at Work: Retaining Experienced Nurses, which will build an evidence base for what works to help hospitals hold onto nurses with extensive experience.

Under the 18-month grant, Bassett will evaluate the Admission Nurse Program established in 2001. The program offers experienced nurses four-hour shifts in a work schedule they choose, as well as a scope of practice that is a good fit for their skills and experience. "In addition, we will study the retention and exit of experienced nurses, those over age 45, in general at Bassett," explains Maureen Murray, R.N., director of Professional Nursing Practice and project director for this grant.

## HISTORY DISPLAY TAKES SHAPE

Bassett is creating a "Historic Hallway" display in the tunnel between the clinic and inpatient building. The first panel was unveiled in December at a dedication ceremony where the winners of a contest to name the new "streetscape" were announced. A street post at the corner of the tunnel features two signs: Bassett Way, pointing toward the hospital building, and Legacy Lane,

pointing toward the clinic.

The panel is a graphic representation of Bassett Then and Now, featuring photos of Dr. Mary Imogene Bassett and the 1916 construction of the fieldstone building as well as a current photo of the Cooperstown campus and a collage of employee photos taken in honor of Bassett's 75th anniversary. It is the first part of a living history display that will eventually extend throughout the tunnel. The next phase, which will focus on education, is scheduled to be installed by the end of May. ■



Bassett President and CEO William Streck, M.D., stands in front of the new Historic Hallway display with street name contest winners Nancie Apps, center, and Maureen Murray, right.

## NEW HOUSE STAFF APPOINTMENTS MADE

Bassett recently announced the following medical education postgraduate appointments for the 2007-08 academic year:

### General Surgery

Tarun I. Bajaj, M.D., Saint Louis University School of Medicine; Dana I. LaVanture, M.D., Loma Linda University School of Medicine; John R. Wierdsma, D.O., University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine; Rachel D. Wooldridge, M.D., University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine.

### Internal Medicine

Praveen R. Chada, M.D., Odessa Medical University, Ukraine; Elena Eberle, M.D., Novosibirsk Medical Institute, Russia; Stephanie Jean-Noel, M.D., Howard University College of Medicine; Pim Jetanalin, M.D.,

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; Melissa N. Kagnoff, M.D., University of California San Diego School of Medicine; Atipon Kangwanpornisiri, M.D., Mahidol University, Thailand; Natsurang Kreetapon, M.D., Mahidol University, Thailand; Erin L. McKay, D.O., University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine; Petpring Prajuabpansri, M.D., Mahidol University, Thailand; Adam F. Seigers, M.D., State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine; Suresh K. Tammineni, M.D., Gandhi Medical College, India; Yanjuan Zhu, M.D., Medical Center of Fudan University, China.

### Transitional Year

Michael A. Akerley, D.O., University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine; Patricia H. Burkhart, M.D., Columbia University

College of Physicians and Surgeons; Nowreen Haq, M.D., Medical College for Women, Bangladesh; Melissa A. Lukose, M.D., State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine; Mikhail G. Perlov, M.D., State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine; Roberto Rappa, M.D., Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine; Farah Siddiqui, M.D., State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine; Jeremy B. Sykes, M.D., Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine; Alexis A. Tracy, D.O., West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

### Pharmacy

Wen Gao Huang, Pharm. D., and Amanda R. McFee, Pharm.D., both from the Albany College of Pharmacy. ■

## LIBRARY EVOLVING INTO 'LEARNING COMMONS'

Groundwork is being laid for the transformation of the Mackenzie Medical Library into a Learning Commons where technology, information and community converge.

Bassett Learning Commons & Mackenzie Medical Library Manager Laura Dixon said the project, which is supported by a \$100,000 grant secured by the Friends of Bassett from the Gladys Brooks Foundation, is expected to be finished in September. As of early April, Dixon was busy updating the items listed on the original grant proposal to reflect new prices and software models. She wrote the proposal last May with Linda Muehl, who retired in the fall after 24 years as library services manager.

Once this groundwork is complete, employ-

ees will start to see some physical changes in the library. Furniture and computers will be moved around; new digital tools, such as scanners, digital cameras and MP3 players, will be added; and the roles of the upper and lower floors will be reversed.

Most of the computers will move to the upper floor, which will become a collaborative zone. The medical books will remain, but they'll share space with group work areas featuring comfortable seating and flat-panel computers on movable arms.

The lower level will become a quiet study zone. It will include a quiet study area, a small-group conference area and a developer workstation, which will include a high-end computer with

development tools such as Photoshop and video streaming software. There will also be a state-of-the-art teaching laboratory with model-based trainers, including surgical physical training models that can incorporate virtual-reality skills and a full virtual-reality trainer that can teach advanced-level operations.

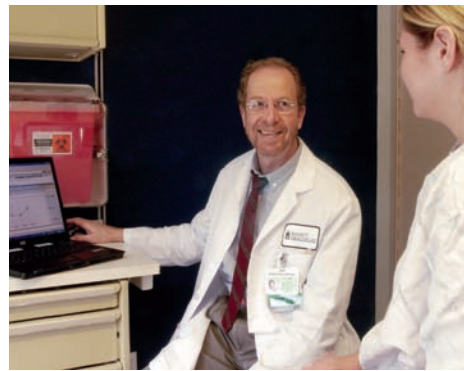
Dixon sees the Learning Commons as a natural step in the library's evolution. The library has been taking advantage of technology to better serve its customers for quite a while now, independent of the organization-wide electronic revolution. For example, library staff members frequently fill requests for information electronically, and the library subscribes to a variety of online journals. ■

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have the chart, I rarely look at it. The first thing I do is throw it on the counter and boot up the computer. It's a great feeling."

Within the next few years, all the features of the EMR will be operational. From a wireless computer in the exam room, providers will be able to order tests, send prescriptions to a patient's pharmacy, draft a letter or ask a patient service associate to schedule a follow-up. They may choose to do much of their documentation electronically, using customized templates.

"The point of the Vanderbilt EMR is to replace outmoded systems, systems which are demoralizing providers and support staffs across the country, with rational and efficient tools that augment the increasingly complex care process," said Dr. Henry Weil, director of Medical Informatics. "Bassett people from all areas have done an incredible job customizing the Vanderbilt product and have already built a great foundation for the future, which, in turn, should help contin-



*Dr. Doug DeLong, chief of General Internal Medicine, uses the new EMR with a patient in the Prime Care Clinic.*

ue Bassett's tradition of attracting outstanding health care professionals."

The EMR is the largest part of a multiyear Information Technology Strategic Plan now entering its second year. This plan encompasses non-clinical initiatives such as: IDX eligibility verification, credit card and co-pay allocation capabilities; Lawson budget and planning, package tracking,

par and cycle counting management, and e-recruiting tools; online employee evaluations and reporting; enhanced online education or e-learning capabilities; and improved online case management and incident reporting abilities.

In the clinical realm, in addition to Document Imaging, digital imaging (PACS) and the EMR, the focus includes areas such as enterprise bed-management capabilities, enhanced and, perhaps, automated vital signs capture, OB patient management and fetal monitoring, enhanced infusion pump data capture and reporting, bedside medication verification, inpatient and outpatient order entry, and advanced OR and anesthesia capabilities.

"We built this plan by bringing both clinical and non-clinical parties together to craft our technology roadmap," said Vice President and Chief Information Officer Kenneth R. Deans Jr. "We knew early on that we had to have a strong clinical perspective in this planning, and, as anticipated, that perspective has made all the difference. Overall, year one has been a great success, and I genuinely believe year two is looking even better." ■

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the physicians regardless of whether they're here in Cooperstown or at the regional sites and getting their vision for what Bassett has to offer as a unique and special place for the training of medical students, and then I'm going to be putting together a curriculum in conjunction with Dr. Weil and the clinical faculty."

She said she and Dr. Weil hope to have the school accredited and ready to launch within three years. The school will be an affiliate of a yet-to-be-determined existing medical school and will provide clinical training on the Cooperstown campus. Schweitzer said each class

would be made up of approximately 15 students who would do core rotations in Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Psychiatry, Family Medicine and Neurology.

In addition to helping to meet a national need for medical education, the school will be an excellent recruitment tool, both for Bassett's residency programs and for physicians with an interest in teaching, Schweitzer said.

Once they get here, many students appreciate what Bassett has to offer. The medical staff includes a significant number of attending physicians who trained at Bassett, and current medical students who do rotations at Bassett have high praise for the training they receive. For example,

on a recent questionnaire given to 35 medical students, the house staff and attendings received an average rating of 4.85, on a scale of 1 to 5, for their teaching and supervision abilities.

National leaders of undergraduate medical education are calling on places with excellent track records to expand and to train doctors for the future. "Bassett can offer superb humanistic clinical preparation. We can also offer exposure in nontraditional skills like performance improvement," Weil said. "Our remarkable faculty, the diversity of our patients and the unique features of our health system will shape an outstanding opportunity for individuals seeking to become modern physicians." ■

## THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM—ALUMNI NEWS

### 1950s

**George L. Nicklin, M.D.**, (*two-year Rotating Intern 1951-53*) retired in 2005 after 51 years of psychiatric practice in New York City and Garden City, N.Y., and with the academic rank of associate clinical professor of psychiatry at NYU. While here, his wife, Kate Nicklin, (M.S.W., Western Reserve University) was Bassett's first social worker. She worked for Drs. T. Campbell Goodwin, Bassett's pediatrician-in-chief, and his wife, Dr. Mary Goodwin, at Bassett and at the summer camp on the lake that was to become the Mohican Reading School for children with reading difficulties. The Nicklins have four children, one born at Bassett and two of whom are family physicians, and 12 grandchildren.



George L. Nicklin, M.D.

### 1970s

**Marc E. Heller, M.D.**, (*Rotating Intern 1973-4, OB/GYN Resident 1974-6, Attending Obstetrician/Gynecologist 1978-99, Chief 1988-99*) sends word that "I have been active in current efforts to preserve reproductive rights. I had the opportunity to go to the Supreme Court to listen to the hearing on the first-ever federal law banning abortion, the so-called Partial Birth Abortion ban of 2003. This law could prosecute doctors for doing virtually any second-trimester abortion. I was one of 7 doctors nationally who participated in the ACLU suit against the federal government in an attempt to prevent this act from becoming law. I have also

been working with the New York Civil Liberties Union to discipline pharmacists who refuse to fill refills of emergency contraception. The future of reproductive health is very guarded in this country today."

### 1980s



David E. Newman, M.D.

**David E. Newman, M.D.**, (*Medicine resident 1981-84*) writes that "I have been the Health Services director for Ithaca College for the last 12 years, following 10 years in private practice in Ithaca. Remarried three and a half years ago, my wife, Lesley, is an Episcopal priest, M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School, and chaplain at Hobart & William Smith Colleges. We have six children in all: My daughter Emma, born at Bassett in 1984, is a senior at San Diego State; Eliza, 20, is here at Ithaca College; Valerie, 17, a senior at Trumansburg High School; Madeleine, 17, senior at Geneva High School; Hank, 15, at Trumansburg; and Charlotte, 14, Geneva. We live on the Hobart & William Smith campus."

**James Nicholson, M.D.**, (*Surgery Resident 1985-90*) sends word that he is chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center in Sheboygan, Wis. He has two children, Julianne, 14, and Zachary, 13, with his wife, Cheryl Grzywacz, Bassett Pathology Department 1985-1990. He is busy with his old cars and toy trains but still keeps in

touch with Bassett friends, Jonathan Fong, Herb Gaston, Mark Potenza and Jim Anania. "I will always be grateful to Drs. Olson, Gold, Blumenstock, MacMillan, Carter, Dietz and Moglia for all they taught me," he writes. "I'm even using my surgical skills to put in implantable pain devices."



Nicholson family at an auto show



Jim Nicholson with Zachary, 13, Julianne, 14, and wife Cheryl Grzywacz

**Marie J. Trenga, M.D.**, (*Transitional Resident 1985-86*) writes from Midland, Ga., that "after retiring from the Army last year, I have been involved in a variety of pursuits. I am currently teaching part time at the family practice residency program at the Columbus Regional Medical Center. Now I really appreciate how easy it was to get tests and medication for my military patients. I have also been working with the local autism group, trying to bring an autism center to our community, and speaking to parents, teachers and psychologists on medication for autism. Brian is a civilian internist at Fort Benning. Our children are Caitlin, 16, Paul, 14, and Adam 11. All are excellent students involved in many extracurricular activities that keep me hopping. I am also enjoying the extra time for hobbies, such as needlework and riding our horse."

**Robert Walker, M.D.**, (*Transitional Resident 1985-86*) has won a seat in the Maine State House of Representatives for District 44. Bob lives in Lincolnville, Maine, and began representing seven different mid-coast towns in the state Legislature for a two-year term beginning in December 2006. Bob will introduce legislation concerning health insurance reform and new ways of dealing with the adjudication of medical errors. He notes that "Yvonne (Yvonne Walker, M.D., also Transitional Resident 1985-86) continues to help raise our two children, now 13 and 11. Mid-coast Maine is a lot like Cooperstown/Upstate N.Y., which is probably why we like it here."



Robert Walker, M.D.

### 2000s

**Cory Collins, D.O.**, (*Transitional Resident 2000-01*), who completed fellowship training in pediatric anesthesiology at the Boston Children's Hospital, reports that "Christina and I are expecting our third child on January first. We'll let you know if we have a New Year's baby! Isabella, born at Bassett in 2000, is now 6, and her sister, Charlotte, is 3. Both are eager for a new baby in the family. We just bought our first home — finally! We can't wait to move in after a few renovations. I have returned to academic anesthesiology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, where I care for

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## RADIOLOGY FUND TO HONOR DR. DALAL

The Friends of Bassett is accepting donations toward the creation of a Radiology Educational Fund, to honor the late Rajendra Dalal, M.D., the attending radiologist whose sudden and untimely death saddened all who knew him.

As Dr. Streck eulogized: "Raj came to Bassett in July of 1978. His professional career was one characterized by outstanding skills in Radiology and his empathetic interest in the care of his patients. He shared his knowledge freely as an educator and teacher. He was a generous man, most recently evidenced by the marriage hall he funded in India in his father's honor. Raj was a valued colleague and friend and a wonderful person to have as part of Bassett."

The fund will be used as an educational resource for medical students, interns and residents who take electives in the Radiology Department or who participate in day-to-day radiology teaching. The fund will also supplement the continuing education for the technical staff who work in the Radiology Department.

Donations can be made to the Radiology Educational Fund, in care of the Friends of Bassett, One Atwell Rd., Cooperstown, NY 13326. For more information, contact Scott A. Barrett, executive director of the Friends, at (607) 547-3556.

## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

**Dr. Rajendra Dalal**, 60, passed away from a sudden cardiac event on Feb. 10, 2007, at his home in Fort Myers, Fla. Born in Nadiad, India, he completed his medical education in India and did his diagnostic radiology residency at the State University at Buffalo. He joined Bassett in July 1978 as attending radiologist and soon earned a reputation as an outstanding diagnostic and interventional radiologist, with board certification in both fields. He shared his knowledge freely as a superb teacher and was an assistant clinical professor of radiology at Columbia University and Albany Medical College. Raj Dalal was a caring physician who was loved and deeply respected by his colleagues and staff. He and his family had recently moved to Florida where he planned to retire; at the time of his death he still worked part time for Bassett. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Dr. Anupa Dalal; daughter and physical therapist Anita Dalal of Princeton, N.J.; daughter and lawyer Amy Dalal of Cincinnati, Ohio; son and medical student Ravi Dalal of Miami, Fla.; and by an extended family throughout the United States and India.



Dr. Rajendra Dalal

*We have also received word of the passing of the following former Bassett physicians. Unfortunately, we have only limited information about them:*

**Robert E. Brownlee, M.D.**, date of death unknown. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, he completed a Rotating Internship at Bassett from 1937-38.

**C. Maynard Guest, M.D.**, Bassett Rotating Intern 1945-46, died Sept. 13, 2005. He obtained his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and in his later years was executive secretary of the Board for Professional Misconduct in the New York State Department of Health and had attained the rank of clinical associate professor of medicine at Albany Medical College.

**Jerry Lee Norton, M.D.**, died on Sept. 11, 2004. He obtained his M.D. from the University of North Carolina, was a Rotating Intern at Bassett (1967-68) and an attending psychiatrist from 1971-74.

## ALBUM from page 4

pediatric airway patients primarily and am planning my first trip to Peru in March 2007 with Interplast. I first learned about this group through Dr. Huntsman back in 2000. I am thrilled to finally be appropriately trained to participate in their important humanitarian work. Christina and I miss our many friends from Bassett and hope to renew contact with any in the Boston area."

**Dave Prakash, M.D.**, (Transitional Resident 2003-04) reports that he "graduated from pilot training last November. The picture shows me with the T-38 Talon, which is the jet I flew for my last six months of training. I'm

hoping to get my aerospace medicine rating sometime this year so I can start working double duty and eventually get into the pilot-physician program." Dr. Prakash moved to Shreveport, La., in February where he expects to fly "bombers." ■



Second Lieutenant Dave Prakash

## SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM EXPANDS

Bassett Healthcare has added three new School-Based Health Center (SBHC) programs in Cooperstown, Middleburgh and Worcester. "We wanted to be able to provide the same convenient health care to more students, just as we have done with great success for a number of years in our other centers," said Jane Hamilton, R.N., School-Based Health Program coordinator.

The program received national attention last May when the National Rural Health Association awarded it top honors in the category of Outstanding Rural Health Program. Bassett established the SBHC program in 1991 as part of a regional health initiative providing comprehensive health care services in school settings to K-12 students.

Bassett has SBHCs in six other school districts within its service area. Services offered at most SBHCs include: complete physical examinations, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illness, health education, referral services for specialty medical care, oral screening and dental referrals, first aid, immunizations, mental health screening and referrals, mental health counseling, social work services and basic laboratory testing. ■

# BASSETT LOOKS BACK

From time to time, we'll present a picture or two to capture an event or people in Bassett's past. Enjoy reminiscing!

## HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

In 1916, workers were scarce for building the new hospital in Cooperstown. Volunteers joined the construction crews, and the result was an architectural gem— now nearly hidden by the successive additions over the years!

First opened in 1918 for recuperating World War I aviators suffering from "nerve shock," the institution finally opened to the public in June 1922. It was named by Edward Severin Clark for his physician, Dr. Mary Imogene Bassett, who was appointed the first chief of the medical staff. ■



At left: Members of a construction crew, including Edward Severin Clark, said to be the man in the second row, wearing the flat straw hat with a dark band.

Below: The hospital in 1920.



## BASSETT PHYSICIAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please let us know if you or anyone you know is interested! Contact Denise Harter at (607) 547-6982 or [denise.harter@bassett.org](mailto:denise.harter@bassett.org)

- Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine
- Colorectal Surgeon
- Critical Care
- Dermatologist
- Emergency Medicine
- Cardiologist (Electrophysiologist)
- Family Practice (Cobleskill)
- Family Practice (Delhi)
- Family Practice (Norwich)
- Family Practice (Sherburne/Hamilton)
- Gastroenterologist
- General Surgeon
- Gynecologic Oncologist
- Hospitalist (Cobleskill)
- Infectious Disease
- Internal Medicine, Primary Care (Cooperstown)
- Internal Medicine, Primary Care (Herkimer)
- Neurosurgeon
- OB / GYN Physician
- OB / GYN, Chief
- Ophthalmologist
- Optometrist
- Orthopedic / Hand Surgeon
- Orthopedic / Joint Reconstruction
- Orthopedic Surgeon
- Otolaryngologist
- Pathologist, Chief
- Pediatrician, General (Cooperstown)
- Pediatrician, General (Oneonta)
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation or Pain-Fellowship Anesthesiologist
- Plastic Surgeon
- Radiologist
- Urologist

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