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**EXCELA HEALTH WELCOMES NEW PHYSICIANS  
TO LATROBE HOSPITAL FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

**LATROBE, PA, July 3, 2013** ... Excela Health is pleased to welcome seven new physicians to its Family Medicine Residency Program. Established in 1974, the three-year-program is accredited by the American Osteopathic Associate and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and affiliated with Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM).

These physicians were among 1,622 applicants from allopathic and osteopathic schools looking to join Excela Health's program.

Three of the new residents have roots in western Pennsylvania; the remainder hail from neighboring states.

The new residents, whose training officially began July 1, will alternate between Latrobe and Westmorland Hospitals as they advance through their clinical rotations.

Pittsburgh native **Dominick Trapani, DO**, believes his ties to the area, along with his friendly demeanor make him well-suited to for the family medicine residency program. Dr. Trapani of Oakmont majored in biology at Saint Vincent College before enrolling at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. Focusing on obstetrics and gynecology initially, the 27-year-old decided the scope of practice might be too limiting with only a female population although he expects

to continue providing obstetric care as part of his residency training. “I look forward to the variety of medical conditions and patients – from newborns to elderly - that a family physician encounters each day.”

Forming long-term relationships and providing care over many years appeals to Dr. Trapani, who is heeding the advice of a physician mentor: “Whatever type of medicine you practice you should have a passion for it. Family medicine matches my personality and interests,”

A sports enthusiast, Dr. Trapani has refereed soccer, taught tennis, mentored mentally challenged individuals in swimming and water sports and volunteered at the US Open. He also has experience in veterinary medicine, having volunteered as a technician at an animal hospital. Such experiences will help him to build a rapport with patients of all ages.

Dr. Trapani is assigned to Latrobe Family Medicine.

Capitalizing on that Christmas morning enthusiasm, **Ryan Floyd, MD’s** goal is to wake up excited to greet each day, knowing he’s chosen a career path that makes him eager to get out of bed.

Family and community medicine sum up Dr. Floyd’s passions. “Family and friendship define who we are. Being a central force in a family’s life experience, by saving a life or a simple reassurance that a loved one will be alright, is a very special experience,” said the 25-year-old McMurray resident. “Working a local football game or staffing a volunteer clinic offers the opportunity for shared experiences. Medicine does not just mean the drug we give to treat a patient or even the pathology of disease. It represents a lifelong commitment to learning from literature and mentors to provide an essential service to society.”

Rural family medicine holds particular interest for Dr. Floyd, who studied psychology at Allegheny College in Meadville before enrolling at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. “It’s a perfect fit for the person I am.” Dr. Floyd envisions his future as a community leader, on the sidelines at his children’s soccer games knowing he helped deliver team members, or making house calls for elderly patients.

“From birth to death, each patient is different but equally special. I want to be part of my patients’ lives as both a physician and friend.” Tempering his idealism, Dr. Floyd acknowledges there are challenges inherent in his chosen profession, “but the excitement to tackle them will motivate me to get going and enjoy the experience.”

Latrobe has a special draw for Dr. Floyd; his grandfather, Paul Kerila, is a 50-year resident of the community, and his mother is a Latrobe High School graduate. Dr. Floyd will see patients at Norvelt Family Medicine.

A near drowning experience on the Youghiogheny River in Category 4 rapids, and a near death resuscitation during an emergency department rotation confirmed the direction **Ian Zack, DO**, is headed. The Bedford native plans to follow in the footsteps of many family physicians and concentrate his practice in emergency medicine.

A graduate of Gannon University in Erie with a degree in biology, the 27-year-old completed medical training at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Appreciating the hands-on aspect of care gained during a surgical rotation, he found his niche in the exhilaration of emergency care, where diagnosis and treatment appeals to his dual desire to be both thinker and doer in his scope of practice.

Past part-time work as a resident assistant in a freshman dormitory and shift supervisor in a travel plaza coupled with volunteer experience with various community organizations including Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life and Special Olympics have prepared Dr. Zack for a leadership role and emergency medicine practice.

“My parents raised my sisters and me to strive for careers in which we would enjoy our work. I can confidently say that I have found that calling in medicine.”

A lover of the outdoors, Dr. Zack is a hunter and fisherman and long distance runner. He also enjoys water and winter sports. Dr. Zack is assigned to

Norvelt Family Medicine and will spend time in the Excelsa Health hospital emergency departments as part of his training. .

It was during a rotation in urban medicine that **Claria Prior, DO**, found her calling. “I saw more conditions in two months than I saw during a half-year of other rotations. When I entered medical school, I had no idea this was what family medicine could be like, but I soon realized that is where I am best suited and will be the happiest.”

A native of Ellicott City, MD., the 25-year-old is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in biochemistry and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Much of her volunteer experience during college and medical school involved children and adolescents, and therefore it seemed inevitable that Dr. Prior would pursue pediatric practice. Instead it became the springboard into family medicine where she will find the variety of care, population and interactions that she longs for. “Learning about a person’s life helps form a bond between the doctor and patient. Taking time to establish a rapport builds a relationship that can span a lifetime.”

Fluent in American Sign Language, Dr. Prior enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends and is developing an interest in football. She has special interest in deaf culture, sports injuries and adolescent medicine.

Dr. Prior will see patients at Saltsburg Family Medicine.

A native of the greater Cleveland area, **Justin McCray, MD**, completed his pre-medicine studies at Cleveland State University before enrolling at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He comes to the Excelsa Health program following a four-year residency in anesthesiology, also at Pitt.

Skills learned in that first residency enabled Dr. McCray to volunteer with Surgicorps in Guatemala, providing anesthesia for cleft palate repairs, orthopedic surgeries and other procedures as part of a medical mission. The 38-year-old’s most recent international experience in Thailand involved teaching medical

English to students and physicians from the University of Khon Kaen School of Medicine.

His instructional skills have also been employed preparing students for medical school placement examinations (MCATs) through Kaplan.

A champion BMX cyclist, Dr. McCray enjoys travel, literature and cultural arts as well as cooking, gardening and yoga. He is assigned to Latrobe Family Medicine.

Developing a long-lasting and meaningful doctor-patient relationship should come second nature to **Courtney Sirak, MD**, who hails from Bordentown, NJ. While earning her undergraduate degree in communications studies and biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she served as a student investigator to assess the qualities and skills doctors exhibit that make patients feel satisfied and willing to return. Her senior honors thesis focused on communication competence.

“I place a high level of importance on the quality of interactions between physicians and their patients; family medicine provides the opportunity to achieve this.”

It was at UNC that she also practiced the bedside manner she intends to cultivate, serving as a medical volunteer alongside resident and attending physicians from UNC Hospital, and working in the UNC Children’s Heart Center.

During her medical school training at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Dr. Sirak, 26, maintained her interest in pediatrics, volunteering for Special Olympics, tutoring students in a charter school, raising funds for pediatric centers affiliated with Jefferson University Hospitals as well as providing medical care in homeless shelters.

With aspirations of becoming a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. Sirak discovered “while it’s important to fulfill our goals, sometimes specialties choose us, we don’t always choose them.”

Forging ahead in her life's plan, Dr. Sirak hopes to practice family medicine in a rural community and develop a program to prevent childhood obesity for her patients.

Her recreational interests include cooking, reading, jewelry making and outdoor activities as well as Irish step dancing and soccer, both of which she enjoyed during an undergraduate semester abroad in Ireland at University College Cork.

. Dr. Sirak will see patients at Saltsburg Family Medicine

**Sarah Barlow, MD**, joins the residency program in her second year, having completed a transitional year at Saint Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown Ohio.

Dr. Barlow completed undergraduate studies at the University of Delaware earning dual degrees in biological science and liberal studies for medical scholars. She received her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College, of Thomas Jefferson University.

Augmenting her studies is solid experience as a volunteer promoting children's health. During her undergraduate days, the 27-year-old committed more than 400 hours to Christiana Hospital in Newark, Del., cycling through emergency, medical/surgical, rehabilitation services and labor/delivery. .In medical school, she promoted literacy through a pediatric program at Jefferson University Hospital. She also supported the university's children's health program educating families on the importance of pediatric immunization and asthma management.

Her earliest volunteer experience at age 14 and later shadowing opportunities in her hometown hospital are what sparked her interest in medicine. "Eventually the hospital began to feel like home, and I realized medicine is where I am most comfortable and satisfied."

Having considered a future in surgery, she found her time in operating rooms during medical school rotations devoid of clinical interactions and unsatisfying. "Family medicine fulfills my desire to spend time engaging with my

patients and solving their medical mysteries,” she said. “In what may seem to be a very anxiety provoking and uncertain time in a person’s life, I enjoy being able to answer their questions and comfort them.”

Dr. Barlow enjoys arts and crafts, knitting and caring for her dogs. She is assigned to Latrobe Family Medicine.

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