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Head shots of Drs. Geoffrey Joseph, Geoffrey Bisignani and David Richards
Head shot of Dirk Kalp

**EXCELA HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR,
WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

GREENSBURG, PA, July 26, 2010 ... The Excelsa Health Board of Trustees elected officers for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and welcomed four new members to the board.

Paul Mongell continues for a second term as board chair. Mongell is president of Penn Line Service, Scottdale, where he has been employed for more than three decades. James R. Breisinger has been elected vice chair. Prior to his retirement in 2008, Breisinger served as president of the Advanced Components Group at Kennametal, Inc., where his career spanned 30 years. Board treasurer is Sharon P. Smith, PhD, president, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Serving as secretary is Thomas L. Sochacki, president of the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce since 1994.

Mongell has been a member of the Excelsa Health Board of Trustees since the formation of the health system in 2004. Smith joined the board in 2009 with Breisinger and Sochacki added earlier this year.

The newest members of the Excelsa Board of Trustees are information technology business developer Dirk Kalp and physicians Geoffrey Joseph, MD, FACS, Geoffrey Bisignani, MD and David Richards, MD.

Kalp brings considerable experience in information technology to the Excelsa Health board. A software architect, he co-founded Idapta, a Carnegie Mellon spin-off based in Atlanta, Ga., that designs the underlying software platforms for business to business Internet marketplaces. With a background in research, technology development and information transfer, Kalp's strengths will be particularly beneficial as the health system expands its use of information technology in areas such as electronic medical records. The Mt. Pleasant Township resident received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University, and his master's in computer science from the University of Pittsburgh. Since commercializing his CMU work in software robots at Idapta, his focus continues to be entrepreneurship with Kalp's recent technology startup, Sensitrol, located in Greensburg, and the application of emerging technology in intelligent wireless sensor networks to business and industry problem solving.

"Like most people, I experience health care from the customer/patient perspective. Serving on the board will give me the opportunity to have a more complete perspective on the challenges health care is facing and provide a more competent basis for envisioning what changes might be indicated to Excelsa's business model, organizational structure, delivery mechanisms, patient relationship, etc.," said Kalp. "My impression upon meeting other Excelsa board members is that they have the capacity for innovative and creative thinking to meet these challenges.

"Cost and access to health care are important issues with their immediacy highlighted by the recent debate on reform," Kalp added. "My personal experience in helping a relative with serious health issues to navigate the health care system reveals other important challenges. Among them are making the system more transparent and understandable to the patient; providing simpler and more effective systems to unburden providers in managing patient care data and documentation; achieving more reliable and available communication between patient and providers; and in general,

increasing the overall quality and effectiveness of care with systems that assist patients and doctors rather than frustrate and overwhelm them.”

Since 2006, Dr. Joseph has served as lead quality advocate for the Excelsa Health Medical Staff’s Medical Executive Committee. A member of Westmoreland Hospital’s physician advisory council, the general surgeon chairs the professional practice evaluation committee for the Excelsa Medical Staff. A Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Joseph is a member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and its Westmoreland County affiliate. The Unity Township resident received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his surgical residency with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Maintaining a physician practice in Hempfield Township, Dr. Joseph is certified by the American Board of Surgery.

“I am honored and humbled by the board appointment,” said Dr. Joseph. “I also feel quite a responsibility to represent both the medical staff and the community. I hope I can use this opportunity promote the quality improvements that we have begun in the medical staff, and continue to foster the system thinking that we need to grow as an organization. I believe I will learn much, and expect to contribute much, as well. The focus of the board will be somewhat different than I have experienced previously in medical staff leadership positions, but if we can succeed in those areas, it will be worth the effort.”

The Excelsa Board of Trustees also includes peer-elected representatives from Excelsa Health Medical Staff in Geoffrey Bisignani, MD and David Richards, MD.

Medical Staff president, Dr. Bisignani is a urologist practicing with GU, Inc. in Latrobe and Greensburg. A graduate of Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh, he completed a surgery internship and urology residency training at the Pennsylvania State University. The board certified physician has been a member of the Excelsa Health Medical Staff since 1999, and its Medical Executive Committee for eight years. Like Dr. Joseph, he is a member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and its Westmoreland County affiliate, as well as the American Medical Association.

“As all health systems face major changes and challenges I look forward to working with the existing Excelsa board members and administration to move our system

forward,” said Dr. Bisignani. “Now more than ever it is important that the medical staff and administration work together to face the upcoming changes in health care.”

An internal medicine specialist, Dr. Richards practices with Diagnostic Associates in Latrobe and Greensburg. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and University of Pittsburgh Medical School, he remained at Pitt for specialty training in internal medicine. Board certified, he has been a member of the Excelsa Health medical staff since 1993, and a member of its Quality Council. Currently serving as Vice President of the Medical Staff, he is also part of the physician advisory council at Latrobe Hospital.

Lead physician in his group practice, Dr. Richards serves as a preceptor for the Excelsa Health Family Medicine Residency program, hosting family physicians for an internal medicine rotation on his service.

“It is an honor to be one of the physician representatives on the Board of Trustees,” said Dr. Richards. “It speaks to the stated commitment at the board level to recruit physician input and expertise as Excelsa moves forward.”

The region’s third largest health care provider, Excelsa Health serves Westmoreland, northern Fayette and southern Indiana counties with a workforce of 4,800 employees and 800 physicians and allied health professionals representing 35 specialties.