

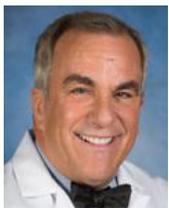
the Pulse

August 2017

News for Mackinac Straits Health System Medical Staff

Welcome...New Providers

Robert M. Currier, DO FOCOO; Ophthalmology



Dr. Currier owns Northern Eye in Alpena and has been in practice for more than 40 years. He offers

complete medical and surgical care of the eye, including cataract surgery. He is seeing patients in St. Ignace and also performing outpatient eye procedures at the Mackinac Straits Surgery Center.

Appointments with Dr. Currier can be made by calling **989-354-3171**.

Gregory Hessler, MD Primary Care



Dr. Hessler has been the primary care physician at the Mackinac Island Medical Center

(MIMC) since November 2016. He is a northern Michigan native, graduating from Frankfort High School before he eventually graduated from Wayne State University Medical School. He was a family medicine doctor at the veterans affairs outpatient clinic in Traverse City before he spent five years as medical director for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

“We see most of what every other medical place sees – we just don’t get much serious high-energy trauma here,” said Dr. Hessler.

“At first, what drew me here was the idea it was more of an adventure. But in addition to the work that I get to do helping patients, there are so many reasons that make me want to stay here. The island is beautiful, and it slows you down. And the people here truly are neighborly. People are thankful that they live here, and they’re aware of what they have to be thankful for. So, there’s a real community feel of people pulling together.”

The MIMC is open four days a week in the winter, and five in the summer with a dedicated staff of nurses, paramedics, and support personnel. Plus, there is someone always on call in case of an emergency 911 call.

“People who live on the island year-round, or those who are here for a long period of time, really need their own family

doctor,” Hessler said. “But we are also here to serve the medical needs for the workers and the tens of thousands who visit the island in the summer season.”

Peter E. Levanovich, MD Cardiology



A familiar face in cardiology can now be found in the Straits area! Dr. Levanovich is now seeing

patients in St. Ignace, providing consultations on a variety of cardiology care, along with stress testing and pacemaker follow-ups. He is accepting patient referrals for congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation, and chronic cardiac care, including hypertension and vascular disease.

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New CEO, Karen Cheeseman

On July 1, 2017, Karen Cheeseman took over as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Mackinac Straits Health System (MSHS). She replaces Rodney Nelson, who had served in that position for 17 years. A St. Ignace native, Karen has been with the organization since 2000. She has served in a couple of different roles, including Vice President of Human Resources and most recently as Chief Operating Officer.

Based in St. Ignace, MSHS is an affiliate of the Munson Healthcare System. It includes the Mackinac Straits Hospital Campus (which houses the St. Ignace Medical Clinic, Mackinac Straits Surgery Center, Evergreen



Living Center, and an Oncology Infusion Clinic), Mackinac Island Medical Center, Bois Blanc Island Medical Clinic, Mackinaw City Medical Clinic, Mackinaw City Specialty Clinic and the Rivertown Medical Clinic in Cheboygan, as well as the Mackinac Straits Health Foundation and the soon-to-be opened Straits Area Pharmacy.

Karen can be reached at **906-643-0457** and **kcheeseman@mshosp.org**.

The Mackinac Straits Health System (MSHS) is proud to announce some recent valuable additions to its Medical Staff:

- Robert M. Currier, DO, FOCOO
Ophthalmology
- Gregory Hessler, MD
Primary Care
- Peter E. Levanovich, MD
Cardiology
- Eve M. Rider, DO
Gynecology
- Kyle Ver Steeg, MD, FACS
Plastic Surgery

All are well known and well respected in the northern Michigan medical community.

"These newly added providers bring a great level of expertise and experience to our medical staff," said Karen Cheeseman, CEO. "They are helping continue our tradition of providing quality patient care for our community."

For more information on new providers and the entire MSHS medical staff, visit mackinacstraitshhealth.org.

"I am thrilled to be back providing patient care in northern Michigan," said Dr. Levanovich. "This is a great opportunity for me and Mackinac Straits, but most of all it is helping to meet a great need for cardiology patients in this area. I encourage my former patients to establish care with me in St. Ignace."

Levanovich will also be overseeing the new cardiac rehab area in the hospital. Plans also call for him to see patients at the Rivertown Medical Clinic in Cheboygan and perform outpatient cardiology procedures at the Mackinac Straits Surgery Center in St. Ignace.

Appointments with Dr. Levanovich can be made by calling **906-643-0466**.

**Eve M. Rider, DO
Gynecology**



Dr. Rider is now providing gynecology consultation services at Mackinac Straits Hospital in St.

Ignace. She is seeing patients by referral one day a week at the St. Ignace Medical Clinic and providing outpatient surgical services, as well.

"Although I won't be doing annual exams, I will make exceptions for those high risk patients/cancer survivors that need long-term specialized management," said Dr. Rider. "I look forward to working

with area providers and patients to provide quality patient care. Please note that I am available if providers would like a consult, or need urgent advice on patient care/management."

Dr. Rider will be concentrating on contraceptive management, tubal ligations, hormonal management, abnormal pap and colposcopy management, abnormal bleeding management and treatment pelvic pain problems and treatment, as well as ovarian pathology and treatment.

Referral appointments with Dr. Rider can be made by calling **906-643-0466**.

**Kyle Ver Steeg, MD, FACS
Plastic Surgery**



Plastic surgery services are now available in the Straits Area!

As of July 13, Dr. Kyle Ver Steeg is now seeing

patients at the Mackinaw City Specialty Clinic and performing outpatient procedures at the Mackinac Straits Surgery Center in St. Ignace. He is an experienced, board certified surgeon providing services ranging from cosmetic surgery to complex reconstructive surgery for trauma and cancer patients.

Dr. Ver Steeg has a practice in Traverse City, Grand Traverse Plastic Surgery, PC. He is board

certified in plastic surgery by the American Board of Plastic Surgery and in general surgery by the American Board of Surgery. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. He is a graduate of Northwestern University Medical School. He started his own solo private practice in Iowa before relocating to Traverse City in 2015.

Some of the services Dr. Ver Steeg will be offering in St. Ignace include: breast reduction and breast reconstruction, blepharoplasty and brow lift for vision problems, burn care, scar revision, liposuction, face lift, and earlobe repair. He will also do complex reconstruction after cancer surgery, skin lesion removal (in-office), skin cancer surgery including melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, and squamous cell carcinoma.

"For patients in the northern part of the lower peninsula and our upper peninsula patients, my goal is to be able to do most of the surgeries at Mackinac Straits Hospital in St. Ignace," said Ver Steeg. "This should help a lot of our patients who live further north, helping cut their cost, making it more convenient and improving their recovery."

Appointments with Dr. Ver Steeg can be made by calling **231-436-5793**.

The Pulse is published six times a year. We welcome your feedback and topic suggestions: pulse@mhc.net
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