

July 17, 2019

## Congratulations to...

Doctors Parr, Park and Tummala ... effective July 1, Dr. Parr and Dr. Park will become Associate Professors, and Dr. Tummala will become a Professor. We are very proud of this well-deserved recognition of their accomplishments! (Watch for a story coming soon to the department website.)

Kelly Mehlhorn for winning the 2019 Jolene and Shelley Chou Excellence in Neuroscience Nursing Award (see story on pg. 2)

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## NeuroSafe symposium in its fourth year

Neurosurgeons, residents, fellows, nurses, advanced practitioners, researchers, and administrators from throughout the nation are coming to the U of M, August 8-9, for NeuroSafe 2019, presented by the Neurosurgery Department.

The only national symposium dedicated to improving the quality and safety of neurosurgery, NeuroSafe 2019 features keynotes and abstracts covering a wide range of topics, from the importance of data to reducing mortality to understanding the barriers to quality improvement efforts in the neurosurgical OR.

NeuroSafe 2019 course directors include Drs. Hunt, Guillaume, Daiker and Jones.

We're very excited that several department members will be featured this year, including Dr. Haines whose topic focuses on dealing with evidence that isn't good enough; Dr. Hamade who will speak to reducing deep-wound infections, and Dr. Do who will focus on reducing narcotic use for endoscopic pituitary resections.



# U of M Neurosurgery This Week

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## Graduating residents look back over the time they spent with the Neurosurgery Department

June 21<sup>st</sup> marked an important date for Chief Residents Molly Hubbard and Josh Lim. That was the day they ended the seven years of their residency. Both are moving on to fellowships. Molly will study pediatric neurosurgery at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. Josh will focus on spinal procedures at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD.

They feel well prepared for their next steps. “A lot of it was the gradual independence that staff and senior residents gave us at the U,” noted Molly. “I always found there was an appropriate amount of supervision – enough to make you feel that you were living on the edge of your comfort zone so you’re pushing yourself to get better without getting complacent.”



### In the future

Molly and Josh see good things happening for the U's Neurosurgery Department. “I'm hoping that with the number of faculty coming, the program will be able to expand, adding another resident,” Molly said. “We're really starting to increase the subspecialties in the department. It's just going to continue to get bigger and better.”

Josh believes the program will change in another way. “There will be additions to the faculty,” he acknowledged. “The department will continue to strengthen while introducing a new culture and environment.”



### Unforgettable

There will be things that neither resident will forget. One of the more unforgettable experiences for Josh happened during his intern year. “I was locked in a room by a psychotic patient,” he said. “He came in with a broken neck and was tied down by security, but somehow broke the restraints and was running around the hospital. He came into the room where I was working and locked the door behind him. He was screaming ... I thought I was in a hostage situation.”

For Molly, it was all about her patients. “Dr. Guillaume was my assigned mentor when I started,” she said. “He taught me the importance of being kind but straightforward with your patients and about the importance of the trust you build with them.”

Congratulations to Molly and Josh as they begin the next step on their journey toward becoming practicing neurosurgeons.

## 2019 Chou Nursing Award highlights recipient's commitment to her patients

Congratulations to Kelly Mehlhorn, CNRN, 2019 winner of the prestigious Jolene and Shelley Chou Excellence in Neuroscience Nursing Award. She is a five-year 6A veteran and was “dazed” when she heard she had won the award during this year's National Nurse's Week, May 6-12.



“It was so nice to be recognized...I didn't expect it at all,” she said. “It's given me a little extra oomph to do the best job I can for my patients and be there for the rest of the staff. It makes

me feel that I'm doing the right things.”

Nominators recognized Kelly's effectiveness as a charge nurse and educator. “She is an excellent preceptor to our new staff, showing patience and kindness while ensuring these new nurses will have the necessary skills and competence to perform at the level needed on our unit,” wrote a nominator. “In addition, she is a knowledgeable teacher for our patients and their families, making sure they display the skills needed to care for themselves after discharge.”

### Many things to consider

Guidance is often needed. “There are many things to consider when you're caring for these patients,” said Kelly. “They may have neurological deficits that make you approach your care in a different way.”

She gets the most reward from the “everyday victories with my patients – getting their pain medication on time, giving a bed bath when they haven't had one. These things matter.”

Kelly realizes that nursing is a team sport. “I couldn't be the nurse I am without my coworkers,” she said. “I really couldn't do my job without any of them.”

## New Department Administrator to focus on growth

Have you met Larry Gunderson yet? He is the new Department Administrator, replacing Barb Daiker.



Larry has extensive experience in healthcare administration, having spent almost 11 years as Senior Director of Cardiology Service for UMP Heart. While in that role, he helped the large practice consistently grow, increase productivity, and achieve top national quality ratings from Healthgrades and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

“What I tell people is that I understand the business side of medicine,” Larry explained. “I'm good at helping people understand finance. There are many nurses and doctors who know the clinical side, but they don't know the business side. I'm coming with the training and the experience on the business side.”

### Helping execute growth plans

He will play a key role in helping to implement the department's growth plans over the next five years.

Larry is excited to be part of the department. “There are so many new and interesting advances in neurosurgery,” he said. “It seems to be one of the areas of medicine that is advancing the fastest right now. It will be fun to be part of that, even if it's just on the administrative side.”

Prior to joining the university, Larry spent almost 15 years in management positions for the Minnesota Heart Clinic, Minnesota Oncology, Riverway Clinics, and at Hennepin County Medical Center.

In addition to his MBA from the Carlson School of Management, and a BS from Minnesota State University – Moorhead, Larry completed a Certificate in Forensic Accounting taught by the SEC and FBI at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

### Empty nesting

On the personal side, Larry and his wife are navigating what it means to be empty nesters. “My two kids are attending the U of M, so we're going through that change,” he said. “We used to follow our kids everywhere and now we're finding that we have time to do other things.”

A resident of Andover, MN, Larry was active in the city's youth baseball program. He also completed eight marathons, is an avid reader and loves to listen to music.

Larry's bottom line? “I just like to help people,” he said. “I find it very satisfying when you can make things work better by collaborating with others.”