

## Ready for anything:

### April Fool's Day norovirus outbreak at MSU brings out the best in the Sparrow Team

As our region's largest and most comprehensive medical center, Sparrow Hospital has to be prepared for everything—natural catastrophes, disease outbreaks, man-made calamities—we have contingency plans for most every scenario. But plans are only as good as the people who execute them. Fortunately, we have great people too.

So, on the early morning of April 1, when first two, then 25 Michigan State University students arrived in our emergency department (ED) with the same symptoms—abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea—the Sparrow team went into high gear, perfectly executing a plan to expand a hospital with an already high census.

"It was a total team effort," said Larry Rawsthorne, MD, senior vice president of medical affairs. "Nearly every unit and every hospital department played a role in opening two units to care for these students."

Two heroes of the effort were ED physicians John Dery, DO and Max Baumgardner, DO. When the second wave of students arrived at Sparrow, Drs. Dery and Baumgardner knew this might be something more than a college dorm party gone awry. "It's not unusual to have one or two students a night arrive here with those symptoms," Dr. Dery said. "But two dozen from the same dormitory? We knew we might have a norovirus outbreak on our hands."

Hands are critical in these situations—helping hands and washing hands. Led by the orders of the two ED physicians, an enormous cooperative effort went forward at high speed. Special sanitary precautions were activated to prevent the spread of the highly contagious virus. The students were segregated into one section of the ED while associates from Infection Control and Prevention, Nursing, Environmental Services, Transport, Engineering and Information Services transformed two wings—2 South and 3 South—into inpatient care areas.

"At 9:30 a.m., 2-South looked like an open space," said Transport Services Manager Carson Randall. "Forty-five minutes later, it looked like a fully equipped patient care unit. It was amazing"

Slightly after noon, all the students had been moved from the ED to inpatient status. Nearly every hospital department and medical unit had pitched in with manpower, supplies or some form of support.

By Friday afternoon, all the students were feeling better and were discharged. In all, 30 students had received care.

"I commend the skill, talent and efficiency of Drs. Dery and Baumgardner who expertly handled this situation in the middle of the night, while most of us were sound asleep," said ED medical director Tony Briningstool, MD.

For their part, Drs. Dery and Baumgardner credit all the members of the Sparrow team whose efficiency enabled the ED to avoid diverting other patients that arrived throughout the night.

"The key was mobilizing all the inpatient resources." Dr. Dery said. "Everyone did a great job. This was definitely a total team effort."



▲ **Night shift heroes.** The enlightened actions taken by Emergency Department physicians from left, Max Baumgardner, DO, and John Dery, DO, were key in mobilizing the Sparrow team to provide expert care to the ill students and preventing a larger outbreak of a contagious norovirus.

**Our region's only Level 1 Trauma Center,** Sparrow Hospital's Emergency Department now ranks as one of the five largest in Michigan.

## Drs. Springer and Clark selected as 2009 Physicians of the Year

Two esteemed physicians who began their careers at Sparrow as residents and today serve as leaders of the medical staff, have been selected as the 2009 Sparrow Physicians of the Year.

Family medicine specialist Dawn Springer, M.D., and emergency medicine specialist Michael Clark, M.D. received the honors at the fourth annual Physicians Recognition Dinner on April 25, at the Country Club of Lansing. Drs. Springer and Clark serve as Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff-elect, respectively, of the Sparrow Medical Staff.

"Dr. Springer is a wise physician, a mentor and an energetic leader," said Dr. Larry Rawsthorne, senior vice president of medical affairs. "She exemplifies what a doctor should be, serving as a remarkable role model for her patients and the community,"



▲ Dr. Clark Dr. Springer ▲

Dr. Springer serves as an Associate Clinical Professor in the MSU Department of Family Practice. As a physician leader, she serves on many boards, including the Sparrow Health System Board of Directors and is the first woman to serve as Chief of the Sparrow Medical Staff.

A longtime attending physician in Sparrow Hospital's Emergency Department, Dr. Clark is a legendary figure in the annals of the mid-Michigan medical community. He has cared for tens of thousands of patients and helped shape the futures of more than 300 emergency medicine residents.

"Dr. Clark is a mentor and friend to many at Sparrow Hospital," Dr. Rawsthorne said. "His outstanding career as an emergency physician is one of leadership, accomplishment and service to the community."

## New Physician Hall of Fame Members

In addition to Drs. Springer and Clark, six legendary physicians were inducted into the Sparrow Physician Hall of Fame:

**Eugene E. Bleil, MD**  
**Roy J. Gerard, MD**  
**Omero S. Iung, MD**  
**Eugene C. Nakfoor, MD**  
**James H. Saker, MD**  
**George D. Stilwill, MD**



◀ James H. Saker, MD

### Mom delivers scholarship baby. ▶

Sparrow patient Shauna Carlson holds her new daughter, Chloe Marie Carlson-Smith who received a two-year scholarship from Lansing Community College (LCC) for being the first baby born in the Greater Lansing area on April 1. This is the 15th year of LCC's Scholarship Program in celebration of National Community College Month. College-bound Chloe was born at 1:35 a.m. at Sparrow Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds, 1/2 oz. at birth.



### obituaries

With deepest regrets, we announce the death of **Mark Harrold, MD**, on April 3. He was 70 years old. A urologist, Dr. Harrold was a member of the Sparrow Medical Staff for more than 30 years. On behalf of the entire Sparrow family, the *Sparrow News* extends our condolences to Dr. Harrold's friends and family.

### License to save lives. ▶

Michigan State Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land presents Sparrow Trauma Services Medical Director John Kepros, MD, a personalized SPARROW Michigan license plate during a news conference at Sparrow to kick off April as Donate Life Month, an observance recognized nationally as well as in the state. Sparrow is one of a handful of Michigan hospitals that received the U.S. Organ Donation Medal of Honor in 2008 for achieving a 75 percent or greater organ donation conversion rate for four consecutive years.



## people news

▼ Leann Holland, RN, is the 2009 recipient of the Womens' Center of Lansing's Sadia Abbasi Excellence in Women's Healthcare Award. Leann currently serves as the SANE Forensic Nurse Program Coordinator for Sparrow Hospital.



▼ Gaylor "Butch" Thompson has joined the Sparrow team as executive director supply chain. Most recently Butch served as director of materials management for SwedishAmerican Health System in Rockford, Illinois.



▼ We say goodbye to Marlyn Smith and Kurt Ritsema, who retire after nearly 33 years and 31 years of service, respectively. Marlyn began her career at St. Lawrence Hospital as a ward secretary and nurses' aide. Kurt, an engineer, has served as a senior project manager for Sparrow's Facilities Management Department. On behalf of the entire Sparrow family, the Sparrow News extends our thanks and happy retirement wishes to Marlyn and Kurt.



## brief mentions

### Lansing parade will restrict Sparrow traffic

On May 16, the Lansing 150 parade to celebrate our city's 150th birthday will be staged on Michigan Avenue, in front of Sparrow Hospital. The parade preparation will restrict traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue to one lane. Michigan Avenue will be closed, except for ambulance traffic.

📍 The Lansing 150 parade will feature a Sparrow float. Anyone interested on working on the float should contact special events coordinator Wendi Ooten, 364.2757 or wendi.ooten@sparrow.org by May 8.

### Nurses' Week Tea

Sparrow's annual Nurses' Week Tea is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, in the Sparrow Hospital auditorium from 1 – 4 p.m. The event will feature the 2009 Sparrow Nurses of the Year and the Jean Granger Award recipient. All Sparrow nurses are invited to attend.

### Helicopter service lifts off

Through an arrangement with LifeNet of Michigan, Sparrow has added 24-hour access to helicopter medical transport service. The State of Michigan recently approved Sparrow's Certificate of Need for the service, which expands the range of transit options to better serve our region. Healthcare facilities and first responders can access Sparrow's new LifeNet air ambulance by calling 1.87.Sparrow1.

### ED opens new minor care area

Sparrow Hospital's Emergency Department is opening a new care unit to care for patients with minor health issues. The new area is opening May 1. The hours of service are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week. As a result of the new unit, the urgent care center on Michigan Avenue is closing, and will no longer see patients after Sunday, May 3.

### CMN Beatles tribute concert

Sam's Club and the Children's Miracle Network invite you to a Beatles tribute concert, featuring musical guests, **The Apples** and mid-Michigan's own, **Yellowsub Marines**, to benefit Sparrow Regional Children's Center. The concert will be held on Saturday, May 9, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased through the Sparrow Foundation by calling 364.5680.

### Infant massage program receives national volunteer honor

Sparrow Volunteer Services Infant Massage program has received the 2009 American Hospital Association's (AHA) Hospital Award of Volunteer Excellence. The honor is awarded to volunteer programs that exceed expectations as a result of innovation, creativity and leadership. Infant Massage Volunteer, Cheryl Amboy received the award on the groups' behalf at the AHA's Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. on April 27.

### Hospitalists honored

Three Sparrow Hospital physicians — James Haering, DO, Carolyn Whatley, MD, and Kelly Morgan, MD have earned the Fellow in Hospital Medicine designation, a special recognition for hospitalists who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues. The Society of Hospital Medicine, the premier national medical society representing hospitalists, inducted this inaugural class of Fellows in Chicago in May.



Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, April 19-25. Sparrow Medical Technologist Leslie Thompson views cells through a high-powered microscope in the St. Lawrence campus laboratory. The work of associates in Sparrow's Department of Laboratories is crucial to diagnosing disease and guiding treatments.

## numbers

# 7,870,000

number of laboratory procedures performed in 2008 by Sparrow's Regional Laboratories. Sparrow's lab ranks 24th in the nation in number of annual procedures performed.

Source: *Laboratory Economics magazine*

Editor: John Lux

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**[www.sparrow.org](http://www.sparrow.org)**

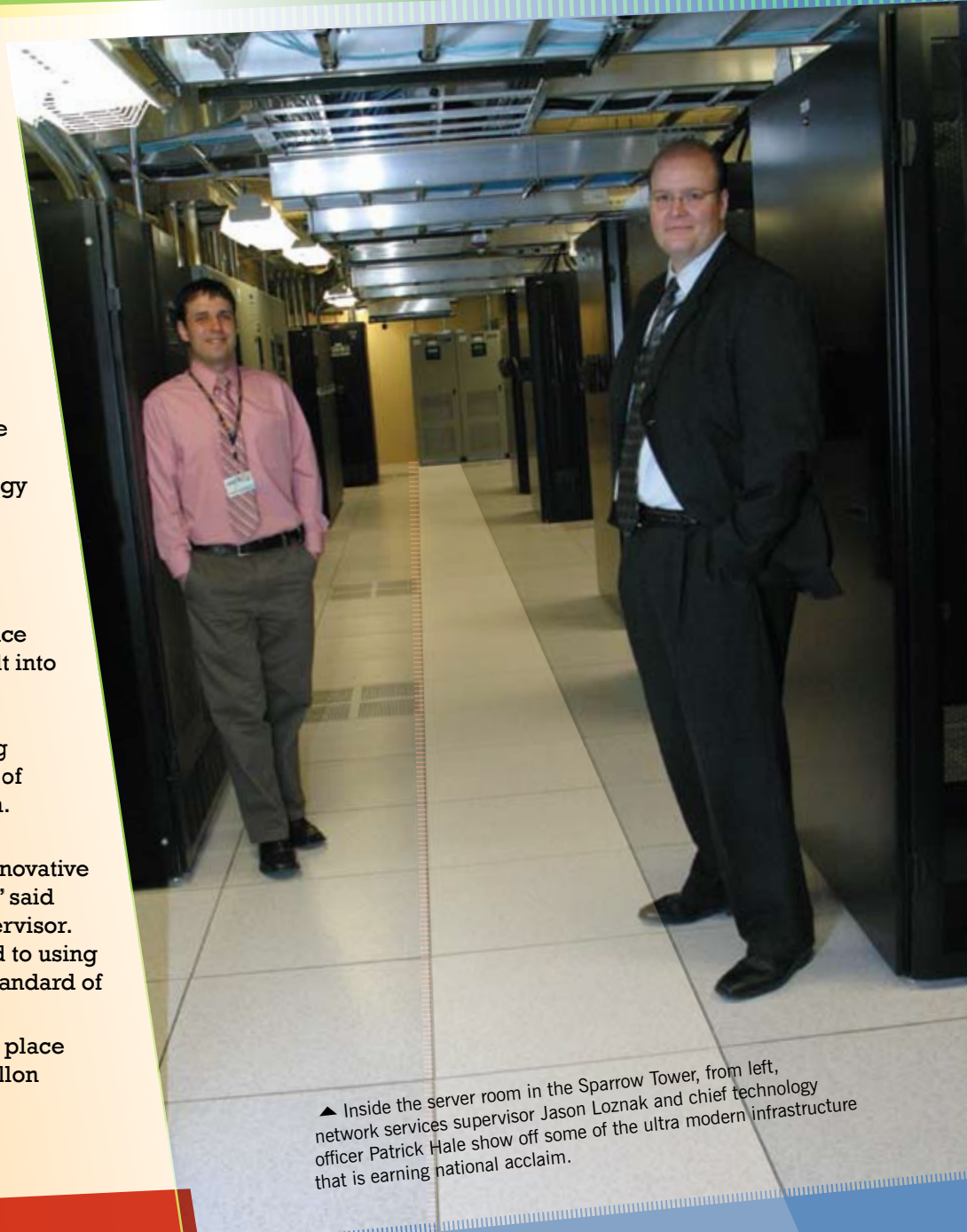
## Sparrow's high-tech capabilities receive *Computerworld* honor

As a result of the impressive, high-tech infrastructure in the new Sparrow Tower, *Computerworld* magazine has honored Sparrow Health System as a member of the *Computerworld* Honors Program Laureates Class of 2009. The laureate program recognizes visionary applications of information technology that promote positive social, economic and educational change.

Sparrow was honored in the health care category for technology transformation. The high performance Cisco information infrastructure built into the Sparrow Tower has increased the capability to deliver patient information to clinicians while laying the groundwork for the deployment of an electronic medical record system.

"We are thrilled to be honored by *Computerworld* for implementing innovative IT projects that benefit our patients," said Jason Loznak, network services supervisor. "Sparrow continues to be committed to using technology to provide the highest standard of care and customer service."

The laureate medal ceremony, takes place on June 1, at the historic Andrew Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.



▲ Inside the server room in the Sparrow Tower, from left, network services supervisor Jason Loznak and chief technology officer Patrick Hale show off some of the ultra modern infrastructure that is earning national acclaim.