It Can Happen to Anyone —
Area Doctor Changes Lifestyle after Receiving Lifesaving Care at WCH

Dr. Ranney’s Story p5
Wooster Community Hospital Celebrates!

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Celebrating Cardiac Survivors and the Team That Supports Them

WCH’s First Annual Cardiac Arrest Survivors Dinner honors cardiac arrest survivors along with the family and community members, first responders, and health professionals who helped save their lives.

Surgical Expertise. Locally Devoted.

WCH Health System is proud to offer expert surgical services through WCH Surgical Associates. Our experienced providers are committed to delivering state-of-the-art, compassionate services to those in our community.

New Joint Replacement Technology

WCH now offers state-of-the-art Mako joint replacement technology for knee and hip procedures. Our orthopedic surgeons can create a personalized surgical plan and use robotic devices that reduce pain and speed recovery time.

Service Spotlight: Community Pharmacy and Rehabilitation

Learn about WCH’s full-service pharmacy and outpatient rehabilitation, providing individual care to help meet your unique needs.

WCH Welcomes Endocrinologist, Dr. Toni King

Say hello to one of the newest WCH team members! Dr. King is accepting new patients at Bloomington Endocrinology for hormone-related conditions, including diabetes management, thyroid dysfunction, osteoporosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, and low testosterone.

Wooster Community Hospital (WCH) has added an online check-in system for patients who need to visit the emergency room (ER) for non-emergent illnesses or injuries.

Patients can check in to the ER on their personal computer, smartphone, or tablet. From the WCH website, users click on the ER Express icon to access a web-based, mobile platform that lets them choose an available ER time slot. Planning their visit ahead of time helps patients shorten the length of their ER stay, which can reduce anxiety and limit exposure to other patients who may be contagious.

“Patients wait from the comfort of their home and show up at their designated arrival time,” says Kim Booth, Director of Emergency Services at WCH. “Patients feel empowered, and it just overall improves the patient experience.”

When a child is sick or injured, parents can’t always get a same-day appointment with their pediatrician. With online check-in, parents can bring their child to the ER at a more convenient time. This limits a child’s exposure to illnesses or traumatic events in the waiting room. “Our society is very tech-savvy these days, and parents want a quick and convenient solution to their children’s health issues,” Booth says.

ER Express users should be aware that wait times are always an estimate. If the ER suddenly becomes busy, staff will notify online check-in users if a time is no longer available. On the other hand, if the ER is especially slow, department staff can open more times for online check-in.

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The Winter Community Focus magazine is a promotional publication of Wooster Community Hospital (WCH) Health System. The intention of this magazine is to provide the reader general information about services available at WCH Health System and is not a substitute for consultation with a personal physician.
When WCH was included in the 100 Top Hospitals in the Country for the fifth time, it was the perfect time for a party—or two! The December event to celebrate the hospital’s award doubled as a surprise party to thank CEO Bill Sheron for his 25 years with WCH.

Sheron spoke about the award’s significance to a gathering of over 130 staff, friends and supporters. “This is the oldest and most prestigious hospital award… the ‘Academy Award,’” he said.

WCH is one of only 20 medium-sized hospitals in the nation that were included in the top 100 list, out of a field of more than 1,000. “We’ve won two times in a row, five times in eleven years, and the way we have done that, the number one job for us, is that we take care of our patients,” Sheron said.

As Sheron ended his speech, he was about to turn the program over to the WCH chief of staff, Dr. Paul Moodispaw. Instead, hospital board member, Dan Wakefield, revealed the second, surprise reason for the party. At that time, guests gave Sheron a standing ovation for his 25 years of dedicated service to the community and the hospital.

The celebration included a video of Sheron’s family, friends, board members and hospital staff praising his years of accomplishments. Board member Yvonne Williams said, “One of the most obvious accomplishments is the landscape of the hospital; the increase in our facilities. It is state-of-the-art and Bill should take a lot of credit for that.”

Scott Boyes, hospital CFO/COO, shared that Sheron is “always pushing everybody to get better. He’s always moving on to the next thing…and that is arguably the largest ingredient in our secret sauce that makes Wooster Community Hospital a special place.”

Wakefield said, “Bill is a true leader and continues to help us develop a culture of hard work, high ethical standards and a real caring and concern for our patients.”

“Bill has a passion for this community and for service to the patients,” said Williams.

At the conclusion of the evening, Sheron was invited back to the podium, where he simply and gratefully stated, “Thank you all.”
When Dr. Christopher Ranney tells his patients to start making healthier choices NOW and not wait for a crisis in their lives, he speaks from experience. The 47-year-old family physician experienced a heart attack while running last November. Now he emphasizes prevention—managing diet, stress and medications in the hopes that others won’t have to go through what he did.

With a mixture of disbelief and calm acceptance, Dr. Ranney remembers every detail of the day he suffered his heart attack. He and his running partner were well into their 5 am seven-mile loop when Dr. Ranney noticed his throat was sore, the air seemed cold and there was a burning in his chest.

On their way back up Oak Hill Road, Dr. Ranney was out of energy and stopped running, something he had never done before. While his running partner sprinted back to the car to come back to pick-up his friend, Dr. Ranney flagged down a “Good Samaritan” for a ride. Meanwhile his running partner sent a text to Dr. Ranney’s wife about his medical concerns. The result was an immediate trip to the Wooster Community Hospital ER.

At the time Dr. Ranney didn’t think his physical problems related to his heart. He had none of the usual symptoms like nausea, dizziness or shortness of breath. Even though his initial vitals were normal, the doctors evaluating him wisely ran a second EKG, which showed he was having a heart attack. Within minutes he was in the cath lab where interventional cardiologist, Dr. Daniel Newton, implanted a stent in his main coronary artery.

“It was literally 45 minutes from stopping my run to being in the cath lab,” said Dr. Ranney.

“Having the ability to do emergent acute angioplasty here at Wooster Community Hospital markedly improves the chance of survival from a myocardial infarction and minimizes the irreversible damage that may occur from a heart attack,” said Dr. Newton. “Without this program here, patients would have to be emergently transported to Akron, Canton or downtown Cleveland, causing a delay with intercepting heart attacks and increasing the chance of death. By placing Dr. Ranney’s stent so quickly, he virtually had no damage to his heart!”

Dr. Newton agrees that Dr. Ranney’s symptoms were not the norm. “What is vital is that Dr. Ranney identified there was something wrong going on. He knew that heart attacks don’t always present in the traditional way and he was wise to seek out medical attention as soon as possible. Around here we go by the motto ‘if in doubt, rule it out.’ Come to the emergency room as Dr. Ranney did and make sure everything is okay.”

Today, Dr. Ranney’s lifestyle reflects this scare. He’s on a diet of “twigs and berries,” he jokes, which he translates as “reducing the amount of sugar and refined carbohydrates and increasing the amount of Omega 3’s, whole grains and vegetables.”

Dr. Ranney also has a new appreciation for safety and disease prevention. He encourages his patients at Milltown Family Physicians to eat healthier, practice stress management and consider prevention medications. He acknowledges that “taking one medication to lower my cholesterol would have been better than having a heart attack and now being on five medications.” If you run, Dr. Ranney advises, “Run with a partner, carry identification and carry a phone,” something he did not have with him the morning of his heart attack.

He also has a new appreciation for health care as seen from the patient’s perspective. “I really appreciated the individual care I received,” he said. The cardiac rehab program at WCH transitioned him back to normal activity and exercise. “They tailored the program to fit my level of fitness.”

Gratitude is his new attitude. He and his wife, Christy, are so thankful for their “church family, coworkers, neighbors, friends and Wooster community,” that supported them during this time. And they are thankful for each new day.

“Don’t wait for something bad to happen to your health in order to start making lifestyle changes. You are only given one body, so why not take care of it,” he says.
A Celebration of Life

In October, WCH held its First Annual Cardiac Arrest Survivors Dinner. This event, the brainchild of WCH’s EMS Coordinator, Ryan Sullivan, honored survivors of cardiac arrest, as well as the entire team of community members, family, first responders and health care professionals responsible for their recovery.

“We wanted to provide an opportunity for the patients to express their thanks and for the team responsible to be able to say, ‘Wow, we did something right. Let’s do that again and again and again,’” said Sullivan.

“We also wanted to emphasize the importance of CPR in the community. A lot of survivors are here today because of bystander CPR.”

Nationally, 8–12% of patients survive a cardiac arrest. At WCH, that number is currently at 19%. The hospital hopes to continually raise that rate through training, protocol adjustments and increasing community CPR awareness and participation.

Cardiac arrest means that the patient has stopped breathing and their heart is not beating. “It takes an entire team to bring that patient back, and it starts in the community,” said Erica Stahl, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Cardiovascular and Emergency Services at WCH. “This event celebrated life and helped us all see why we do what we do. There would’ve been holes left in those families if it weren’t for what everyone did that day.”

Shelly Huff, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer said, “We thought it was a fantastic thing to celebrate—Life!”

Interventional cardiologist Daniel Newton, director of WCH’s Cardiac Cath Lab, was “thrilled and proud of the whole team. This was a wonderful event to celebrate the highlight of our whole program, saving lives that would otherwise have not been saved. This is the meat of what we do and why we do it. It’s a profound and spiritual experience for me.”

“Nothing can speak better than the survivors and their stories,” said Dr. Paul Moodispaw, invasive cardiologist and WCH Chief of Staff. “This event heightened awareness of cardiovascular disease, increased community awareness of both inpatient and outpatient cardiovascular support at WCH and ultimately it was all about the survivors and their stories.”

The event honored three survivors of cardiac arrest: Albert Gingerich, Sylvia Leclear and Ethan Rutherford. Each of them had the opportunity to meet many individuals responsible for their survival. In one case, that included the city snowplow driver who enabled an ambulance to pick up the patient and travel to the hospital.

Attendees of the Cardiac Arrest Survivors Dinner found it to be a moving, unique celebration of life and community. For team members, it served as a vivid reminder that one individual truly can make a difference. For the survivors, the event was all about the joy and gratitude of being alive.

For information regarding community CPR classes, go to www.woosterhospital.org/community/cpr-courses/ or call 330.263.8628.
Dr. Daniel Peabody and Dr. Tony Calabretta are the only two general surgeons in all of Wayne County certified in robotic-assisted surgery. And both are passionate about practicing this cutting-edge technology in the Wooster area.

Robotic-assisted surgery “gives us high definition 3D vision which allows for far more precision,” said Dr. Peabody. While positioned comfortably in front of a monitor, “we can manipulate the instruments and mimic any hand motion in a less invasive manner.”

For the patient, robotic-assisted surgery means “a smaller incision, less pain and a quicker recovery and back to work cycle,” said Dr. Calabretta. “It’s rewarding to be able to bring some of the most advanced medical breakthroughs to the community.”

Dr. Robert Cebul, a second generation general surgeon, practices the same expert and personalized care he watched his father administer for years in the Wooster area. As a partner at WCH Surgical Associates, his practice includes general and vascular surgical procedures with an interest focused on the surgical treatment of GERD.

While gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and hiatal hernias are often related, an accurate diagnosis is the first step, said Dr. Cebul. “We are fortunate to be able to do endoscopy, PH testing and pressure testing in our facility to better diagnose patient problems.”

She also performs breast conservation and mastectomy techniques that treat cancer and improve cosmesis as well as lymph node procedures. While a cancer diagnosis or scare is always traumatic, Dr. Robotham believes her gifts of compassion and caregiving enable her to effectively support women during this difficult time. “Compassion is the difference between a good doctor and a great one,” she says. “Reviewing a patient’s history and planning the best procedure for their treatment is very rewarding.”

Dr. Tamera Robotham came to WCH Surgical Associates three years ago and quickly discovered her passion for helping women during the difficult diagnosis of breast cancer. She performs all general surgeries but specializes in breast procedures. Her fortes include image guided breast biopsies, ultrasound guided and stereotactic biopsies, which utilize two images to precisely pin point a suspicious area. She also performs breast conservation and mastectomy techniques that treat cancer and improve cosmesis as well as lymph node procedures.

For more information call WCH Surgical Associates at 330.287.2595.
A New Option for Joint Replacement

Helps Patients Take Control of Their Pain

As part of its overall commitment to provide the area with the highest quality medical care available, WCH now offers Mako joint replacement technology for knee and hip procedures.

“We are the first in the county to offer the hip-replacement option,” says Rachel Minney, RN, MSN, director of perioperative services at WCH.

The advanced technology in the new Mako system allows physicians to create a personalized surgical plan. During the procedure, a robotic arm guided by the surgeon increases the procedure’s precision, which “leads to better outcomes with less pain and recovery time,” says Minney. The equipment is completely portable, meaning it does not need a dedicated facility or operating room.

Mako also provides ongoing resources to accompany its new equipment, such as sending a technology specialist to the site of every surgical procedure. As Mako expands the technologies it offers on its platform, WCH will be able to absorb these tools and offer additional procedures. “All we have to do is acquire the software and instruments,” says Minney. Individuals who experience hip or knee pain, and are considering a potential replacement, could benefit the most from Mako’s new surgical technology. “It starts in the physician’s office,” says Minney. “If the Mako procedure is the best way to care for the patient, we now have all the tools and technology to make that happen.”

“We are pleased to offer the latest technology to patients here in Wooster,” said Bill Sheron, CEO/President of WCH Health System.

Four orthopedic surgeons on WCH’s active medical staff have completed the extensive training required to use the new equipment for surgical procedures, and are now certified in its use.

For more information about the Mako System contact:

Bloomington Orthopedic Specialists 330.202.3420
Wooster Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Center 330.804.9712

We are a full-service pharmacy serving our community in a professional and caring way. Our pharmacy offers the following benefits:

• Fast, accurate, and friendly service
• Little or no wait
• All major insurance plans accepted
• 24-hour refill requests available online or by phone at 330.202.5570
• Over-the-counter medications available
• No-hassle prescription transfers
• Convenient 15-minute parking spots for pharmacy customers only in parking lot ‘A’ east

Wooster Community Pharmacy located on the ground floor of the main campus

Outpatient Rehabilitation

The goal of outpatient rehab is to restore function and mobility to patients as quickly, safely, and conveniently as possible. The WCH physical, occupational, and speech therapists offer one-on-one care and attention, working with patients to create a customized plan to get them back to their regular daily activities as soon as possible.

HealthPoint located at our north campus, 3727 Friendsville Road.

Visit our website to learn more about our outpatient rehab services:

• Physical Therapy
• Occupational Therapy
• Speech Therapy
• Pediatric Summer Programs
• Chiropractic Services

Our pharmacist will individualize prescriptions specifically for you! Drug compounding is a process of combining ingredients to create a customized medication specific to patient needs.

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I went into the ER Monday morning with chest pains not knowing what was going on they took me right back to a room. Ran a number of test on me before I knew it I was in the cath lab. Come to find out I was having a heart attack. Everyone from the ER to everyone in the cath lab was very warming and friendly. I want to thank everyone from the ER cath lab and the nurses that took care of me especially Dr. Newton. I might not be here if it wasn’t for these people.

Jan 1, 2020

Dr. Toni King welcomes new patients to her Wooster practice. To schedule an appointment, call Bloomington Endocrinology at 330.263.8470.
A gift to Wooster Community Hospital is an investment in your family’s health care. By assuring the best medicine is available right here, more of you can remain closer to home, and to family and support systems through treatment and recovery.

Opportunities to help us continue that mission, through philanthropy, include:

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For more information or to discuss a gift, please contact Angela Rincon, Director of Development, at 330.263.8701.