INDEPENDENT
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals
Fall 2019

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MISSION STATEMENT

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals is a Catholic hospital system that provides physical medicine and rehabilitation services to children and adults throughout the nation. We rehabilitate those who have sustained injuries or disabling conditions so they can fully participate in life. We lead research to improve outcomes and prevent physical disabilities and promote wellness through community programs.

Core Values
Our core values reflect Madonna’s history, mission and beliefs.

Collaboration
Hospitality
Respect
Innovation
Stewardship
Teaching

A letter from the President & CEO

In this issue of the INDEPENDENT we showcase Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals’ complex medical program. The patients who come to Madonna for this program present with life-threatening illnesses and injuries requiring intensive medical and nursing care.

Integrating specialized innovative therapy into the treatment program for these individuals is what makes Madonna’s approach to care different, unique and successful. As you read the patient recovery stories on the following pages, you will recognize the courage of people fighting to regain both their health and independence. Courage is needed to fuel recovery. However, courage alone does not guarantee success.

At Madonna, courage is nurtured by hope, emotional support and expert physician, nursing and therapy staff. Combine this with our world-class research and great things happen.

The possibilities of Madonna’s faith-based rehabilitation programs are endless. But, don’t take my word for it—turn the pages and see for yourself.

Paul Dengilli Jr., Ph.D.,
President and CEO

Visit Madonna.org/VirtualTours for an up close look at our hospitals.
The Madonna Rehabilitation Specialty Hospital–Lincoln Campus recently launched a High Observation Program (HOP) to serve patients that require more intensive care but are ready for a rehabilitation setting.

Madonna’s HOP is designed to improve the patient experience by providing complex patients with access to specialized equipment and technology, including ancillary services like on-site inpatient digital radiography, CT scanning capabilities, continuous cardiac monitoring and after-hours laboratory services.

“The driver for this concept was the premise that a portion of the chronically critically ill and medically complex patients served within the Specialty Hospitals were more complicated, which require more intense care in a designated area of the hospital,” Susan Klanecky, vice president of Patient Care, said.

Kelli Anderson, RN, clinical nursing director, added, “Providing these new programs and services to more medically complex patients is a significant step toward providing greater intense care, with the quality outcomes patients have come to expect from Madonna.”

Ultimately, keeping critically ill patients out of acute care and moving forward in their recovery is the goal of the HOP.

At Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals, individuals with complex medical conditions are treated by a highly specialized network of clinicians who integrate therapy into the acute care process. An interdisciplinary approach combined with excellence in nursing care and intensive rehabilitation sets Madonna apart from post-acute care hospitals.

“When patients come here, we expect that they will be getting out of bed and working with therapy,” Dr. Matthew Driewer, medical director of the Madonna Rehabilitation Specialty Hospital–Lincoln Campus, said. “There aren’t many acute care hospitals in the nation that have rehabilitation associated with it. We are doing the same things they do from a medical standpoint, but people tend to get better with that rehabilitation component.”

Madonna’s medically complex program treats patients with a variety of life-altering infections, injuries and diseases, including cancer, neurological, pulmonary, renal and cardiac conditions.

Regardless of the diagnosis, therapy is at the forefront of patient care. Individuals at Madonna are backed by an expert team of nurses, therapists, and a physician partner, working together to create daily schedules tailored to their needs. Each day typically includes physical, occupational, and speech therapy, with recreational therapy woven in.

Starting treatment early helps recovery. The average length of stay at Madonna’s Specialty Hospitals is 29 days, allowing critically ill individuals time to connect with their clinical teams.

“That’s one of the coolest things about being here versus being in the acute care setting,” Driewer said. “The nurses and therapists are constantly talking to families to learn what our patients’ hobbies are and what they wanted to do before their accident to incorporate that into therapy.”

For some, the level of rehabilitation may start small, but even in the cases of patients in or emerging from a coma, it plays a significant role in recovery.

“In that case, we are trying to move them from what we call a persistent vegetative state to an emerging state where they are interacting more with their surroundings,” Driewer said. “That might be having them hold a ball or putting something cold in their hand. Whatever is new, trying to use that to get them to respond.”

During their recovery at Madonna, patients are seen daily by a hospitalist who is a board certified internal medicine practitioner who oversees their care. Individualized meal plans are set by a registered dietitian and patients have 24-hour nursing and respiratory care as well as an on-site pharmacy.

The goal is to get every patient with a complex medical condition strong enough to continue recovery in Madonna’s rehabilitation hospital. A therapy-based approach to care provides stepping stones for success.
Cindy White walks with confidence alongside Mollie Hope, PT, just a few short months after a stroke robbed much of her mobility. Throughout her recovery, Cindy drew strength and encouragement from her husband, daughters and 10 grandchildren.

Within a week, she became more alert and responsive to her care team’s directions.

Cell phone video captures Cindy White dancing with her husband, Ron, and laughing with her grandchildren as they sit around the kitchen table playing board games. The recent images showcase the Wellington, Kansas, wife and grandmother living her best life and enjoying every moment. Much different than photos taken in late February after Cindy suffered a massive stroke and spent four months recovering at Madonna.

“She came and woke me up and said, ‘Ron, I think there’s something wrong with me,’” Ron said.

Just home from a Caribbean cruise, Cindy was transported to Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas, where doctors determined she was having a brain bleed. After surgeons removed a portion of her skull to relieve swelling, Cindy spent 17 days in the hospital’s intensive care unit. Cindy needed specialized medical care and rehabilitation and Ron chose Madonna for his wife, who arrived at the Omaha Campus Specialty Hospital on March 13, 2019.

At 67, the stroke severely impacted the active wife and grandmother. She was unable to talk, eat or walk. Physical Therapist Taylor Bryson worked with Cindy early on, recalling her struggle to stay awake during therapy sessions.

“Every time I presented her with something new, she would say with a laugh and smile, ‘I’ll try,’” Bryson said. Wearing a helmet to protect her brain from further injury, Cindy completed daily sessions of physical, occupational and speech therapies. Within a week, she became more alert and responsive to her care team’s directions and progressed from using a standing frame to walking longer distances in the hallway. Soon Cindy graduated to using specialty equipment like the Lokomat, a robotic gait-retraining treadmill, and the EksoGT, a bionic suit, improving her ability to walk on ground.

Cindy transferred to Madonna’s Rehabilitation Hospital on the Lincoln Campus. As her mobility returned,

Patients receive 24-hour nursing care and are seen daily by a hospitalist (board certified internal medicine practitioner). Additionally, our specialty programs are complemented by ancillary services designed specifically for medically complex patients.

Cindy’s RDP team honored her with the Madonna Spirit Award July 25, 2019, for her dedication to therapy and positive attitude.

Speech Language Pathologist Rachel Lindstedt focused on helping Cindy find her words. “Whenever I presented her with something new, she would say with a laugh and smile, ‘I’ll try.’”

Cindy made slow but steady progress and transitioned to Madonna’s Rehabilitation Day Program (RDP) to refine her skills and regain more use of her right arm and hand. In late July, Cindy left Madonna with Ron by her side and continues outpatient therapy back home.

High school sweethearts, Cindy draws continual inspiration from her husband, along with their four daughters and 10 grandchildren. Family gatherings now incorporate impromptu speech and physical therapy sessions.

Cindy now walks independently. She’s excited to celebrate her 48th wedding anniversary and dance to ‘60s music with Ron at their 50th high school reunion in October.

“Don’t give up hope. It’s unbelievable what can happen,” Ron said.
Collaboration is key at Madonna’s Institute for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering. The Institute’s researchers and engineers pride themselves on being active members of a patient’s treatment team to generate the best outcomes.

Whether it’s refining current technology to meet the needs of critically injured patients, or consulting with industry partners to develop new technologies for individuals across the globe, the Institute’s researchers and engineers provide tools needed to regain independence.

Susan Fager, director of the Institute’s Communication Center of Excellence, understands the importance of building relationships. With the help of federal funding, she and Occupational Therapist Tabatha Sorenson develop and adapt technology to help Madonna’s most complex patients achieve greater independence.

“Building close connections between researchers, engineers, therapists, patients and families is critical to our work,” Fager said. “Everyone comes to the table with their own perspective to develop and implement technology that impacts our patients in meaningful, life-changing ways.”

Recently, the broader Research Institute team partnered with Curbell Medical to advance another Madonna innovation, the First Hope system, into clinical practice. First Hope allows those with limited physical mobility to communicate and control their environment.

“Madonna’s Institute generates practical and affordable solutions to advance patient independence, rehabilitation care and clinical outcomes at Madonna and across the globe,” Institute Director Dr. Judy Burnfield said. “The First Hope system emerges from this focus, and we’re very excited to partner with Curbell to translate this technology into practice beyond Madonna’s walls.”

The Madonna Research Institute created the First Hope technology with the goal to empower individuals who have experienced dramatically life-changing events. First Hope allows those with even the most limited mobility to turn on the lights, control the television, close window shades and command other everyday environmental factors.

Currently, patients at Madonna use First Hope to control their rooms and to call their nurses, but by partnering with Curbell, First Hope will soon be available to patients at rehabilitation facilities, hospitals and nursing homes across the country.

Learn more about Madonna’s Institute at: Madonna.org/institute
Chris Maxwell, of Fort Pierre, South Dakota, channels the spirited energy of his young family as motivation during his lengthy recovery from Guillain-Barre syndrome.

(Left to right) Sam, Ben, Isaac, Chris, Mollie and Hannah.

Chris Maxwell treasures a poster-sized print hanging on the wall of his room at Madonna’s Lincoln Campus. The photograph captures the infectious energy of his four young children—Ben, 9, Sam, 6, Isaac, 4 and Hannah, 15 months. “My daily motivation,” Chris says, smiling. He’s winning the war against a baffling neurological disorder that’s upended his world.

In early February 2019, Chris experienced numbness and tingling in his fingers and toes, back pain and insomnia. The annoying symptoms escalated. After a routine work presentation left him exhausted, Chris sought advice from a physician friend. Following admission to a local hospital and a battery of tests, including a spinal tap, Chris was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS). The autoimmune disorder is rare—affecting only 1-2 in 100,000 people worldwide each year.

GBS occurs when the body attacks the peripheral nerves outside the brain and spinal cord. Severe cases can lead to devastating paralysis.

“It was completely brand new to me, but frankly, I was relieved,” Chris said, the diagnosis replacing fears of an inoperable cancer. “The one thing GBS gives you along the way is hope; there’s a chance for a full recovery.”

Chris was flown to Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where IVIG treatments, an intravenous process, removed damaging immune substances from his blood. During six weeks of hospitalization, his diaphragm collapsed. A ventilator and feeding tube became his lifelines.

Needing extensive rehabilitation, Chris transferred to Madonna’s Specialty Hospital in Lincoln. GBS had taken a toll on his body. He’d lost 60 pounds off his 6-foot frame, and couldn’t breathe, eat, talk or even blink. His wife Mollie, and mother, Barb, took turns gently opening and closing his eyes. “I’d lost the use of my nervous system about as far as you could go,” Chris said, but his optimistic spirit remained intact. Goals written on his whiteboard served as a daily reminder: Get off the ventilator and get stronger!

Progress was painstakingly slow. “Chris was fragile, but motivated to try any tasks,” Michelle Claycomb, PT, said. “We worked together; little wins like bed mobility made a difference.” His team patiently challenged Chris to swallow, rebuild core and diaphragm muscles, and run a power wheelchair. A Passy Muir Valve atop his tracheostomy allowed the outgoing South Dakota to find his voice and communicate.

In 10 weeks, Chris moved to the Rehabilitation Hospital, breathing and eating on his own. Reaching his final goal to walk involved rigorous, repetitive therapies including aquatic therapy, Lokomat, robotic gait retraining tecSolygr; and electrical muscle stimulation pedaling a FES bike.

“I had to reteach my body, a total remapping,” Chris said.forging bonds with his team proved invaluable. “It becomes like your family; you build those relationships, laugh together, you can trust these people.”

Reflecting on Chris’ six month transition—from wheelchair to walker to cane and walking—is astounding. His progress continues at a post-acute rehab center. One step closer to reuniting with those smiling faces back home.

Chris appreciated the involvement of his family in therapy throughout his continuum of care. From bowling in the hallway to a simple game of catch with his sons, the interaction restored a sense of normalcy to life. “It gave them a chance to understand, have a little fun with me and break down those barriers that are a wheelchair, a hospital bed and the hospital in general,” Chris said.

In his six months of care, Madonna’s interdisciplinary team approach to patient care, including a positive, enthusiastic attitude infused with gratitude and hope, served patients through collaboration and shared decision-making. The team employs innovative technologies to empower the most complex patients.'
Kris Peterson is a familiar face on Madonna’s Lincoln Campus. Rain or shine, Kris can be seen almost weekly accompanying Madonna residents to doctors’ appointments, assisting with recreational activities and volunteering in the Madonna Foundation office.

Volunteering at Madonna runs in her family. Kris’ mom, Mary Zender, was a dedicated welcome desk volunteer for many years. When Kris’ father, Bob, was a patient and resident at Madonna, Kris discovered many ways she could get involved as well.

However, time isn’t the only treasure Kris gives to Madonna. She is continually finding new ways to invest in Madonna’s mission through generous gifts that impact patients, residents and staff.

Kris and her late, husband, Don, helped fund the Zender Meditation Garden in memory of her parents. Located near the Madonna chapel, the garden is a welcome respite for patients and employees alike.

While accompanying residents on one of Madonna’s wheelchair accessible vans over the years, Kris noticed that staff members would struggle with the old, high mileage van. The amount of wheelchair positions in the van also limited the number of residents who could participate in outings.

“Kris came to me with the idea to donate a new van that could accommodate more residents,” said Suzanne Sughroue, director of Development, Madonna Foundation. “I was completely overwhelmed by her generosity.”

One vehicle Kris uses for her charitable giving is her IRA. “I feel very blessed that I do not need an IRA distribution to live on, so I am able to donate it to Madonna,” Kris explained. She appreciates seeing her funds at work when she volunteers.

This past year, Kris made significant gifts in support of expanding research technology to Madonna’s Omaha Campus and helped kickstart a special staff recognition fund.

When she’s not volunteering, Kris enjoys spending time with her dachshund, Jack, whom she adopted as a rescue dog three years ago. The dearly loved pup shares a home with many pieces of decoratively displayed dachshund collectibles which has earned Kris the nickname of “Doxy Ldy” on her car license plate.

Kris recently named Madonna in her estate as the beneficiary of her IRA. "Kris’ generosity honors her family’s deep connection to Madonna while providing a future gift that will impact the children and adults we serve into perpetuity,” Sughroue said. “We are so grateful to Kris for her generous gifts of time, talent and treasure.”

The 4th Annual Miles for Madonna 5K Run/1-Mile Walk provided miles of smiles for runners and walkers alike on Sept. 21, 2019, at Zorinsky Lake in Omaha, Nebraska.

Participants raised dollars for a special emergency financial fund for Madonna patients. The event featured fun for the whole family including door prizes and a Kids’ Zone with games, face painting and a balloon artist.

Special thanks to the 2019 Miles for Madonna sponsors: Scheels, Cox Business, Omaha Media Group, Home2, Mobility Motoring, Redstone, Kiewit, HyVee, Pitch, Cunningham’s Pub & Grill, Regal Printing Company and Village Pointe.
After surviving a serious, complex injury, Kansas farmer Loren Koester, and his wife, Norine, are paying it forward to help other patients through generous annual IRA gifts.

“My therapists worked me pretty hard. I feel like I gained just about everything back,” he said. “I never knew anything about Madonna before my accident, but since my stay, I have known three other people from the community who have been treated at Madonna.”

The 84-year-old is grateful to Madonna for returning him to Norine, his three children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He enjoys staying active on his farm southeast of Concordia, Kansas, with the help of his son and grandson. “I am thankful for the nurses, therapists, my family and my ability to walk and have a normal life for the last 12 years.”

Through the IRA Charitable Rollover option, donors can:

• Avoid taxes on transfers of up to $100,000 from an IRA to Madonna
• Satisfy the yearly required minimum distribution
• Reduce taxable income
• Make a gift that is not subject to the 50 percent deduction limits on charitable gifts

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Remember to consult your financial advisor to ensure the gift you are considering is right for you.

Note: An IRA Rollover gift does not qualify for a charitable gift deduction but simply reduces your taxable income.

I first became acquainted with Madonna following my husband’s severe traumatic brain injury in 2014. At that time, I knew nothing about Madonna. I had to make a decision of where to send my husband for rehabilitation and the providers at Nebraska Medicine recommended Madonna.

Over the years, I’ve discovered that Madonna is an inspiring place where staff works hard to restore patients to a place where they can lead meaningful and purposeful lives following a traumatic event. We are so fortunate in Nebraska and the region to have the availability of a rehabilitation hospital like Madonna.

It is an honor to serve on the Madonna Foundation Board of Directors. For me, it is a way to give back to Madonna and the community. We went through a lot following my husband’s accident. Because of what I have learned along his rehabilitation journey, board service is a way for me to help others get the best possible care following an illness or traumatic injury.

An honor to serve
By Maria Lighthall, J.D.
Madonna Foundation Board Member

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Madonna Foundation Board Member
You breathe, never giving it a thought. People take this bodily process for granted until suddenly, due to an illness or injury, it’s gone. Madonna serves patients from across the country, with varied diagnoses, dependent on tracheostomy tubes and/or mechanical ventilation. Being robbed of the ability to breathe independently is frightening.

Madonna’s Pulmonary Program encompasses all levels of care and is recognized by the American Association of Respiratory Care as a Quality Respiratory Care Provider. A specialized team helps adults and children with acute or chronic pulmonary impairments overcome challenges to achieve their highest possible level of independence.

Our 76 respiratory therapists (RTs) work closely with interdisciplinary team members on ventilator and tracheostomy tube weaning, as well as promoting overall pulmonary health, including secretion clearance, disease management and educating the patient and family.

Last year, Madonna’s Respiratory Care team:
- Cared for an average of 23 ventilator-dependent patients daily;
- Helped 89 patients completely wean off the ventilator;
- Celebrated the 140 patients who had been admitted with tracheostomy tubes and had them successfully removed before discharge; and
- Performed more than 229,000 breathing treatments and other diagnostic monitoring procedures and interventions to promote patient independence and lung health.

Madonna continues to raise the bar by incorporating leading-edge technologies and treatments for pulmonary patients. Both campuses are designated Centers of Excellence for Passy Muir Valve (PMV) and Vapotherm. The designation is awarded to facilities demonstrating interdisciplinary teamwork and advanced education while using the technologies as a standard of care. "Innovation is one of Madonna’s core values; we embrace new treatments and technologies,” said Jim Pelton, director of Respiratory Therapy. “We’re committed to getting the best possible outcomes for our complex patients.”

"Trach T.O.M.

Intubation, tracheostomy, ventilator—often medical terms can be intimidating to patients and their families. Tracheostomy Tube Observation Model or Trach T.O.M. is a non-threatening, anatomical model for clinicians to demonstrate tracheostomy care and nasogastric tube placement.

The portable model depicts the anatomy of a person with a tracheostomy from an interior side view. Depending on the patient, Madonna respiratory therapists use either an adult or pediatric Trach T.O.M. for hands-on education and instruction.

"TRACH T.O.M.

Trach T.O.M. helps Laura Benson, RT, explain the various tracheostomy parts to Madi, who is recovering from a car crash."
Brian Hanson, the facilities maintenance manager at Calvary Baptist Church, is used to fixing things. Two years ago, he faced the daunting challenge of piecing his life back together.

On Sept. 26, 2017, Brian was driving his work truck to Home Depot in Alton, Illinois, for supplies. As Brian entered the intersection, a young driver ran a red light and slammed into Brian’s truck going 70 miles per hour. Brian was airlifted from his hometown to Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. The high-speed impact severely damaged Brian’s cervical spine. He endured three surgeries including fusing together his C6-C7 vertebrae and repairing a deep facial wound. Surgeons doubted Brian would ever walk again. He felt no sensation from the chest down and had no leg movement.

Faced with extensive rehabilitation, Brian and his wife, Amy, chose Madonna on a recommendation from Kim Roberts, case manager with Paradigm, a workers’ catastrophic care management company. “There are no options for specialized spinal cord injury in the St. Louis area,” Roberts said. “Madonna is one of the closest centers of excellence.” The Hansons prayed about it and felt they made the right decision.

Within three weeks, Brian weaned off the prescriptions and could transfer in and out of his chair. Through challenging daily therapies and encouragement from his team, Brian discovered reaching small goals made a huge difference. “It was a lot of little victories,” Brian said, recalling celebrating the milestones of feeding and dressing himself. Repetitive sessions on the Lokomat, robotic gait retraining technology, led to his first steps in the aquatic therapy pool.

Three months post-injury, Brian carefully maneuvered his walker out the doors of Madonna. He continued to heal at a post-acute rehab center before discharging to home. A grateful Brian celebrated the return to his wife and their two teenagers.

Brian Hanson leaned on his strong faith and family bonds during his rehabilitation from a spinal cord injury. Pictured with Brian is his wife Amy, daughter Haley and son Ben.

In March 2018, Brian stood and thanked roughly 400 of his fellow parishioners who’d rallied behind his recovery. “It’s been a humbling experience,” Brian said, grateful for regaining his responsibilities as a husband, father and the church work he loves. Brian’s advice to others starting their rehab is simple. “Hang in there; keep going, God’s got a plan.”

Amy is proud of her husband who overcame a grim diagnosis. “With God’s healing, Brian’s hard work and the talented therapy staff, he is walking unassisted!”

Through his resilient spirit and determination, Brian fought hard to regain his life roles.

Learn more about our spinal cord injury program at: Madonna.org/SCI

Since 2012, Madonna’s Work Re-Entry Program has supported individuals motivated to resume their careers or volunteer positions. The program includes a comprehensive review of the person’s previous employment, any barriers returning to work, a neuropsychology assessment and an individualized return to work plan. If needed, a therapy plan to build physical, cognitive or behavioral strengths is developed. For others, the next step is a work simulation. A person may participate in a work trial completing tasks similar to those in a real work environment by volunteering at Madonna. In 2019, 34 patients benefited from this unique transitional program as volunteers in 11 different departments at Madonna.

Learn more about our spinal cord injury program at: Madonna.org/SCI
Doctors choose path to COMPLEX MEDICAL

Dr. Matthew Driewer enjoyed all of his clinical rotations so much that he had a difficult time choosing a career path. Ultimately the variety and complexity of patients drew him to internal medicine and Madonna’s Lincoln Campus, where he currently serves as medical director for the specialty hospital.

Dr. Susan O’Soutka was an acute care hospitalist for 11 years before coming to Madonna. Serving as Driewer’s medical director counterpart on the Omaha Campus, O’Soutka also enjoys the medical complexity. The rehabilitation focus along with the opportunity to develop relationships with her patients is what keeps her energized for the day.

“Patients stay with us for weeks rather than a few days, so I get to know our patient population well. As patients and their families go through some of the worst experiences of their lives, it’s important to demonstrate compassion at the same time as treating the complex medical issues,” O’Soutka said.

Nebraska natives, Driewer and O’Soutka both earned medical degrees from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. While O’Soutka stayed in Omaha to complete her residency, Driewer chose the University of Iowa.

During daily rounds, Driewer and O’Soutka work closely with care teams to individually treat and manage each patient’s care.

Additionally, Driewer was instrumental in developing the High Observation Program on the Lincoln Campus to effectively monitor higher level acuity patients and avoid the return to acute care. “We will have the capability for closer monitoring, testing and intense nursing education for our patients’ benefits,” Driewer said.

New physicians join TEAM

Madonna recently welcomed two new staff physicians: Drs. Beth Rawlings and Yevgeny Zadov.

A Lincoln native, Rawlings is board certified in internal medicine with special interests in stroke, geriatrics, end of life ethics and hospital medicine. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and completed a residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. In her new role, Rawlings joins the Lincoln Campus hospitalist group as attending physician for patients in the specialty hospital.

An East Coast native, Zadov is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R), earning his doctor of Osteopathic medical degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and completing his residency at Long Beach Medical Center in Long Beach, New York. He also has a master’s degree in health administration. His interests are in clinical administration along with brain, stroke and musculoskeletal rehabilitation for the benefit of improving patient outcomes. He will care for a diverse patient population on the Omaha Campus, including individuals recovering from cancer, brain injury, stroke or other neurological conditions and TherapyPlus patients.

PM&R RESIDENCY PROGRAM ENTERS YEAR TWO

Ten medical residents have now matched to the physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) program under the direction of Dr. Samuel Bierner, a physiatrist who chairs the program and is the medical director of the Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital- Omaha Campus. The program is a partnership between Madonna and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

Beginning July 1, the first-year residents include: Drs. Graeme Boyter, Matthew Gerrelts, Grant Langhofer and Nikita Wagle. Second-year residents are Drs. Alexander Jacobsen, Seella Nimmo, Sonia Shah and Brett Rosauer, also part of the inaugural class in 2018 that included Drs. Bryan Baker and Rohit Nalamasu. This partnership is the only PM&R residency program in Nebraska and one of few in the region.

Residents receive hands-on training in the areas of stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury and pediatrics on both Madonna campuses, in addition to clinical rotations at UNMC/Nebraska Medicine and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs hospital in Omaha.
Celebrating 25 years of rehab

GOAL AWARDS

GOAL Awards: In 1994, Madonna created the Chairman’s GOAL Awards to honor patients for their outstanding courage and resilience throughout their rehabilitation; celebrating as they rejoined their communities and gave back to others. The GOAL Award recipients represent the thousands of individuals Madonna is privileged to serve annually. Care teams submit nominations and a committee of staff members select the honorees. Their photographs and recovery stories are prominently displayed on their respective campuses as an inspiration to everyone.

GOAL Award Honorees
Lincoln Campus

John Abkes
Spinal Cord Injury Survivor
Omaha, Nebraska

“Situations like this can bring families together. Faith, family and friends; those three will take you into the new world.”

Brandon Breunig
Spinal Cord Injury Survivor
Weston, Nebraska

“Faith played a big role in my recovery. After what I’ve gone through, it makes you appreciate the smaller things.”

Sheila Copley
Spinal Cord Injury Survivor
Denton, Nebraska

“My faith in God, I leaned on him so much. I feel so blessed. He took care of us that day. I’m thankful, I really am.”

Ulises Ornelas
Brain Injury Survivor
Garden City, Kansas

“What Ulises has gone through has taught us so much. It’s changed us because we see things differently now.”

Karina Ornelas, mother of Ulises

GOAL Award Honorees
Omaha Campus

Tom Bartek
Brain Injury Survivor
Omaha, Nebraska

“There’s not a thing I do throughout the day that doesn’t remind me, ’Wow you are so lucky and so blessed.’”

Benjamin Ryan
Cancer Survivor
Omaha, Nebraska

“There are a lot of people holding your hand and over time you’re going to be able to let those hands go. But they’re ready to catch you when you fall. They’re ready to help you along the way.”

Levi Weber
Brain Injury Survivor
Sioux City, Iowa

“I still find myself thinking how lucky I am to be able to walk. Not only should I not be walking I don’t think I really should be alive either.”

See the GOAL Award stories at: Madonna.org/2019GOALAwards
At Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals, we combine heartfelt hospitality with unmatched innovation and education. Our rehabilitation programs are world class. Our clinical expertise, rehabilitation research and state-of-the-art equipment provide the tools to help all patients, even those whose diagnoses pose the most complex challenges. Our investment in exceptional talent, groundbreaking technology and progressive treatments is changing the face of rehabilitation.

On the front: During his six month rehabilitation, Chris Maxwell overcame a paralyzing diagnosis from Guillain-Barre syndrome, motivated by his young family, including son Isaac, age 4.

Hospital: 402.413.3000
Admissions: 402.486.8260
Toll Free: 800.676.5448
Locations in Omaha and Lincoln
madonna.org

Learn more about the Angel Dog program and other fulfilling volunteer opportunities at: Madonna.org/Volunteer

Dylan Huskey enjoys a visit from Louie, a Labrador, and his handler, Judy. They are one of the volunteer Angel Dog teams at the Lincoln Campus.