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Physician Profile: Jamie Grebosky, MD

Jamie Grebosky, MD, has served since January as chief quality and patient safety officer for Asante, after being promoted from his previous position as vice president for medical affairs at Asante Rogue Regional. He continues to serve as vice president for medical affairs at Asante Ashland and is filling the vice president role on an interim basis at Asante Rogue Regional during the recruitment of his successor.



Dr. Grebosky was being recruited to Asante in 2012 when he had a chance encounter with a medical malpractice attorney who told him the health care organization is “the best place on earth.” He has spent the past four years helping Asante live up to that description.

Dr. Grebosky is a board-certified family medicine physician who received his master’s degree in health-care management from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. He received his medical degree from the Penn State University College of Medicine in Hershey, Pa., and completed his medical internship and residency at Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine in Norfolk, Va.

He served previously as vice president for medical affairs at Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, Va., and before that as director of clinical improvement and joint ventures, and medical director for the Family Practice Center, at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque.

Q: What does your role as Asante’s first chief quality and patient safety officer encompass?

A: I’m focusing on quality and patient safety in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Our aim is to ensure we provide excellent care 100 percent of the time.

Q: What changes can people expect to see?

A: We do great work, which has made us a Truven 15 Top health system four years in a row. So the goal is to maintain that high level of quality. That said, we will pay close attention to hospital-acquired infections, medication safety and ambulatory quality.

Q: What drew you to the administrative side of health care?

A: My wife, Becky, has a master’s degree in human factors and my mother-in-law holds a PhD in the subject. Both worked in quality with Lovelace-Sandia Health Systems in New Mexico, where I started, so they dragged me into quality projects early on in my career. I decided I wanted to do leadership work full-time so I went back to school and joined MediCorp Health System in Virginia as vice president of medical affairs.

I like the work. I’m able to impact patients on a different level. With direct patient care, 99.9 percent of the time when you’ve helped a patient, everybody’s happy. In this kind of work, the rewards are more diffused and delayed.

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Q: Why did you decide to join Asante?

A: When I came out to look at the area four years ago, a really interesting thing happened. After taking a trail run on Grizzly Peak (it was a stunningly beautiful fall day) I stopped into Standing Stone brewery in Ashland and struck up a conversation with someone at the bar. When I told him I was interviewing for a job at Asante he said, "Let me tell you, that is the best place on earth." It turns out he was a medical malpractice attorney in California. He said when he had a heart attack, he insisted on going to Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center rather than another hospital. I talked with three or four other people that day – I think they were Scott Kelly and Roy Vinyard "plants" – and they all gave glowing reviews about the community and about Asante in particular.

Q: Where else has your career taken you?

A: In 2002 I took a sabbatical and led community-based care team operations for the Whangarei division of Maori Health Centers in New Zealand. Practicing medicine in another country was always something Becky and I wanted to do.

Q: For the past six months, you have led Asante's hand-hygiene campaign. How is it going?

A: The results have been good. Compliance rose at all three hospitals, especially right after the campaign launched. Some of that, however, was because staff members knew they were being observed. The goal now is to create a culture of safety in which all employees practice good hand hygiene at all critical points of care – even if they're not being watched.

Q: What are the hand-washing rules around your house?

A: Becky is tough about that. Our two boys are 14 and 16 and they're not allowed *not* to wash their hands. The dogs have been harder to train.

Asante News is published every Tuesday. Deadline for submission of articles is every Friday. Send via e-mail to asantenews@asante.org.

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