Redefined Physician and Administrative Leadership Roles for Pediatric Surgery; Search for the Chief Progresses

While recruitment for a Chief of Pediatric Surgery progresses in collaboration with the University at Buffalo, physician and administrative leadership roles in the Department of Pediatric Surgery have been redefined to support continued advancement of this important service line for families throughout Western New York and beyond.

This realignment includes Dr. Kathryn Bass, who will expand her role as Medical Director, Pediatric Trauma, and the appointment of Dr. Kaveh Vali as Medical Director, Pediatric Surgery, for Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

These physician leaders will be supported by Sean Collins, Director of Ambulatory Services, and Tasha Brown, Physician Practice Manager of Pediatric Surgery, for Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo. Each are appointed to their respective positions as health care professionals with extensive experience in successfully managing inpatient and outpatient hospital-based services.

A key member of the hospital’s leadership team, Sean is responsible for setting strategic direction, providing leadership and driving a successful business model for top quality pediatric primary care practices, pediatric specialty care clinics and pediatric surgery for Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo.

As Physician Practice Manager, Tasha is responsible for managing day to day operations for Pediatric Surgery and working with staff and related departments to collaborate on strategic and annual budget planning.

The appointment of this physician and administrative leadership occurs as Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo instituted a new model for the Department of Pediatric Surgery. Already proven to be a successful for model OB/GYN, ENT, ophthalmology and dermatology services, the pediatric surgery physician team and staff are now full-time employees of Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo. This model also includes the hospital now operating the Pediatric Surgery outpatient clinic.

As with the other services that have implemented this model, it will ensure Pediatric Surgery’s long-term stability, increases its potential for growth and further enables Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo to direct recruitment efforts in collaboration with the University at Buffalo.

Recruitment for a new Chief of Pediatric Surgery is ongoing with several strong candidates identified during interviews that began in late 2012 and will continue toward selection of the physician who will lead the department into the new John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital.

The Department of Pediatric Surgery offers comprehensive surgical care to patients up to 22 years of age with Dr. Bass and Dr. Vali as full time Pediatric Surgery attendings and University at Buffalo faculty. The fellowship program remains fully accredited.

The Department of Pediatric Surgery was established in 1957 and specializes in general and thoracic surgery for the care of fetuses, infants, toddlers, children, adolescents and young adults. This training program in Pediatric Surgery is one of the original nine training programs in Pediatric Surgery in the United States.