

FROM: Elaine Couture, Executive VP/Chief Executive WA & MT Region
DATE: Oct. 22, 2019
RE: Jeff Collins, MD, retirement

Today I am sharing news of the well-earned retirement of Jeff Collins, M.D., Chief Physician Executive for the Washington & Montana Region. Dr. Collins has been a physician leader at Providence for 13 years, beginning as Chief Medical Officer for Providence Health Care in 2006. He will retire at the end of the year. **An open house is schedule Friday, Dec. 6, 3-5 p.m., in Providence Auditorium on the Sacred Heart Medical Center campus.**

Dr. Collins has had a profound influence on Providence, helping develop a leadership model that not only included physician leaders in administration, but inspired physician and administrative leaders to engage as partners in planning and strategy. In his words: "By working together, and keeping quality and compassionate care for patients at the center of the conversation, we are able to find solutions to difficult problems."

Dr. Collins' perspective on leadership was founded in his clinical experience. After finishing his Internal Medicine Residency in Spokane in 1984 and then serving as Chief Resident in 1985, Dr. Collins began practicing internal medicine at Inland Empire Internal Medicine, which later became Physicians Clinic of Spokane. He quickly became known as the kind of doctor who provided "patient centered care," long before the term became widely used throughout health care. He provided patient care for 21 years before joining Providence as a physician leader.

He said leadership found him, rather than the other way around. He served as a leader in his clinics, was active on numerous medical committees and in a variety of organizations, and served as president of the Spokane County Medical Society in 1994 and the Washington State Medical Association in 2004. He became known as an advocate for physicians and medical education, while constantly promoting better access to health care and preventive measures to improve the care of those in need. In 2016, he was named Physician Citizen of the Year by the Spokane County Medical Society.

Dr. Collins is looking forward to retirement. He is an avid reader with a wide range of interests, and confesses to having a long reading list to tackle as part of his retirement. He and his wife Barbara plan to travel, and visit family across the country.

"I have greatly appreciated the level of professionalism and mutual respect that exists at Providence," says Dr. Collins. "I will miss working with a unique team of leaders who support open dialog in order to address the challenges that face health care."

We at Providence have been fortunate to have had Dr. Collins on our team for all these years. We will miss all the books and articles he shares weekly, his expertise and sense of humor. Most of all, we will miss working with him on a daily basis, and wish him well in his next adventure.

Providence is recruiting for the position held by Dr. Collins.