

# MEDIA PLANET

March 2011

## HEALTH CARE APPRECIATION



3  
FACTS

### CROSS COUNTRY FOR A CAUSE

Dr. Katherine Jeter explains why she is cycling 3,100 miles to raise awareness for a vital field of nursing

PHOTO: WOON SOCIETY

Locum tenens  
For the  
semi-retired  
physician

Educating  
our youth  
How critical they  
are to our future

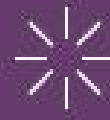
## CHALLENGES

**For the past 40 years,** we've weathered shortages of nurses and doctors, with this issue ebbing and flowing since the health care industry exploded in the 1970s.

FACT

1

BY 2020, 37,600  
NEW HOSPITAL  
JOBS WILL BE  
CREATED IN  
CHICAGO ALONE



### WE RECOMMEND



**Therus Koff** speaks about a new environment for physicians.

PAGE 6

"Locum tenens is very important because it allows physicians to semi-retire."

# A resolution on the horizon

Our country's health care system and higher education institutions met these challenges head-on and did a yeoman's job of preparing our workforce to meet the health care needs of our nation. That is until now. Health care reform coupled with the beginning of the mass exodus of one of our country's largest generations, the baby boomers, have put a strain on our nation's hospitals and health care centers that may alter our delivery of services forever.

We need highly-skilled people to fill these new, well-paying jobs being created in health care. As a former high school educator, I truly subscribe to the notion that our nation's youth hold the solutions to issues currently facing our na-

tion. In 2010, the Chicago Public School System, with support from the Instituto del Progreso, the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and other partners, opened the Insittuto Health Science Career Academy (IHSCA). IHSCA is a charter high school dedicated to preparing our next generation of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals for success in college and entry-level positions in the health care industry.

#### Increasing our workforce

More inventive approaches, like IHSCA, are needed to increase our health care workforce. This "grow your own" approach to addressing the workforce shortage doesn't stop with our youngest citizens. You will read in this issue about efforts that are under way to strengthen our skilled workforce in hospitals and health care centers by targeting



**Kevin Scanlan**  
President and CEO,  
Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council

"We must remain committed to identifying innovative solutions to this workforce shortage."

existing staff working in entry-level positions. MCHC is also helping master's prepared nurses learn the skills necessary to teach at nursing schools. By growing the number of available teachers for associate and baccalaureate nursing programs we can increase student capacity and continue to educate the next generation of nurses.

The ingenuity that has been harnessed to change the health care workforce is impressive and historic. We must remain committed to identifying innovative solutions to this workforce shortage as it is estimated that more than 37,600 new hospital jobs will be created in the metropolitan Chicago area alone by 2020. I believe that the implementation of health care reform and the continuation of our region's world-renowned health care hinges on the successful resolution of the health care workforce shortage.

Becoming a member of your professional organization p. 6  
ILOTA highlights the networking opportunities and lobbying benefits.

## MEDIA PLANET

HEALTH CARE APPRECIATION  
1ST EDITION, MARCH 2011

**Managing Director:**  
Geraldine Delacuesta  
geraldine.delacuesta@mediaplanet.com  
**Editorial Manager:** Jackie McDermott  
jackie.mcdermott@mediaplanet.com

Responsible for this issue  
**Publisher:** Jessica Stanek  
jessica.stanek@mediaplanet.com  
**Business Developer:** Brandon Hale  
brandon.hale@mediaplanet.com  
**Designer:** Mariel Fitzgerald  
mariel.fitzgerald@mediaplanet.com  
**Contributors:** Carolyn Calamia, Petra Canan, Therus Koff, Mary Pat Olson, Donna Reigstad, Kevin Scanlan, Jacqueline Stoey

**Distributed within:**  
Chicago Sun-Times, March 2011  
This section was created by Mediaplanet and did not involve the Chicago Sun-Times or its Editorial Departments.

Mediaplanet's business is to create new customers for our advertisers by providing readers with high-quality editorial content that motivates them to act.

# Physicians find alternative path

**After witnessing the burnout of doctors working in rural areas, Therus Kolff saw an opportunity to help meet the needs of both the physicians and the communities they served.**

While attending the University of Utah Medical School, he started CompHealth (now CHG Healthcare Services), to provide locum tenens—doctors who fill in for physicians, either temporarily or permanently.

## **A new environment**

One of the main benefits of this practice is that it removes physicians from the business side of health care, so they can focus more on their patients and remain motivated, Kolff says.

According to Kolff, locum tenens physicians fall into three categories. The first are new physicians who are not sure what type of environment they want to work in. Second are physicians that are either in transition from their previous work



**Therus Kolff**  
Founder of  
CompHealth

environment or those with additional interests or careers. Last are highly skilled, older physicians who do not want to leave medical work entirely.

“Locum tenens is very important because it allows physicians to semi-retire,” Kolff says.

## **Moving health care forward**

With reforms in health care, Kolff says the U.S. needs physicians educated within the country, as more and more Americans obtain insurance and the elderly population grows.

“We are still putting out the same number of physicians, but we have 30 percent more people living in the United States,” Kolff says. “We don’t have enough physicians in the U.S.”

## **Locum tenens today**

Kolff remained CEO of CompHealth

until 1994, and now serves as Healthcare Strategic Advisor. Today, CompHealth is a \$300 million company that paved the way for a multi-billion dollar industry.

“One of the things that was really so key early on, and it persists today, is almost a fanatical attention to detail,” he says. “We believe very strongly in quality care.”

**PETRA CANAN**  
editorial@mediaplanet.com