



PCH Welcomes
Dr. Gene Duremdes
to Mercer Medical
Group General
Surgery

*Dr. Gene Duremdes in
his new office in the
Medical Arts Building,
Suite 7, 508 New Hope
Road, Princeton,
West Virginia.*

For the past 29 years, Dr. Gene Duremdes (Dr. Gene) has been in private practice here in Princeton with his father, Dr. Generoso Duremdes (lovingly known as Dr. Dad). Dr. Dad will celebrate his 85th birthday this year. The West Virginia State Board of Medicine does not renew clinical practice licenses for physicians after age 85. With Dr. Dad coming to the end of his surgical career, the timing was right for Dr. Gene to consider joining the hospital.

The opportunity at MMG General Surgery will enable him to continue to practice surgery in Princeton and

care for his patients but will lift some of the administrative responsibilities – running a practice, human resource issues, and billing and coding. Dr. Gene said, “All of that responsibility was going to be taking a lot of time away from my ability to take care of my patients, and that’s the most important thing for me. Caring for my patients is what I want to enjoy, especially as I enter the latter part of my career. I am now 60 and, Lord willing, I am hoping for another seven to ten years of practice. I want to be able to devote all my time to the care of my patients. I don’t want to feel overburdened by other responsibilities.”

The integration of Dr. Gene with the other surgeons at MMG General Surgery, Dr. David Mullins and Dr. Eric Hopkins, will lead to more comprehensive surgical services for the people of southern West Virginia. Dr. Gene explained, "We have been blessed with a very nice culture here at Princeton Community Hospital for many, many years. The surgeons get along with one another. We are friends, we talk often, and we cover for one another on weekends. The transition to MMG General Surgery has not been a significant change for me. What it has done is integrate all of us into one group, so we all have the same focus and the same attention to caring for patients, with the same mindset and goals of PCH and WVU Medicine. We are full partners in different locations, but we are working toward the same goal."

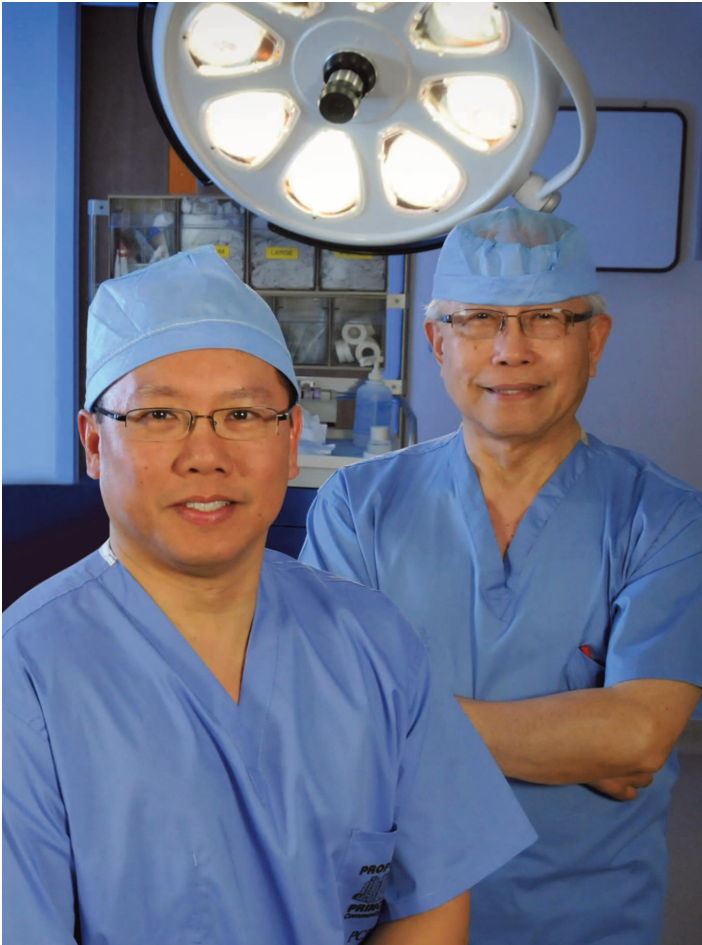
Dr. Gene is enthusiastic and fully supportive of PCH's full integration into the WVU Medicine healthcare system. He said, "I think this is one of the greatest things that's happened to healthcare in the southern part of the state. Many of the physicians have always

thought that having a real, dedicated, well developed medical center in southern West Virginia is what the area needs. Now that Princeton has joined forces with WVU Medicine, that goal is about to be realized. WVU Medicine has the resources, the personnel, and the network to provide a comprehensive approach to healthcare for all patients in southern West Virginia. Anchoring the southern part of the state, PCH/WVU Medicine will be in a position to provide that care. With WVU Medicine's resources, they will begin to build up this hospital so that it will become a regional medical center. In that, we will see the recruitment of highly needed specialties that we've had difficulty fulfilling in the past.

"Princeton is a wonderful place to live and to practice. When some of the younger doctors begin coming here to see what the area is like, they will realize that it is a jewel. Many people, including students that rotate here, see what a wonderful place this is to live and work. People just need to come here and experience it. The affiliation with WVU



Father and son team, Dr. Gene Duremdes and Dr. Generoso Duremdes performing surgery at PCH in the 1990s.



Drs. Gene and Generoso Duremdes.

Medicine is a wonderful development. It has been a long time coming, and I think it is exciting to know that we've got the full support of an extensive WVU network. With PCH as the southern anchor, they will now cover the entire state. That will enable us to provide much-needed specialty care, right here at home.

"The thing I've always enjoyed about practicing in Princeton is this culture we have among the physicians. It is a tribute to the doctors and staff who came before us and developed that culture over many years. We have a very collegial atmosphere.

Everyone gets along. We work well together and there is no animosity. We are all friends, we are all busy, and we all have one common goal and that is to provide the best possible care for the people in this area."

President and CEO Karen Bowling said, "We are proud and honored to welcome Dr. Gene Duremdes to Mercer Medical Group General Surgery. Of course, Dr. Gene grew up in this hospital and has practiced alongside his father for nearly three decades. This new role will enable him to devote even more time to caring for his patients."

Dr. Generoso Duremdes is the longest serving physician at PCH, having joined Princeton Memorial Hospital in 1969. In 1989, he introduced laparoscopic gallbladder surgery to PCH. He was the first surgeon in southern West Virginia to operate using the new technology.

In 1993, Dr. Gene joined his father at PCH as a general surgeon. For many years he performed traditional laparoscopy alongside his father. In June 2013, he took the procedure to the next level when he was certified on the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System.

Dr. Gene is an internationally published contributing author with the January 2015 publication of "Advanced Surgical Techniques for Rural Surgeons," a textbook used by surgeons in the United States and abroad.

Ms. Bowling added, "Both Dr. Gene and his father enjoy stellar reputations in the area as respected members of the community as well as outstandingly gifted surgeons. I am excited that Dr. Gene will be joining in full partnership with PCH and the WVU Medicine family of physicians."

Dear 3-South Staff,

Thank you all for the wonderful care, kindness, and compassion you provided Romie Coe during his hospital stay. Romie loved all the wonderful staff! May God bless you all!

We greatly appreciate everything,
Joyce Coe (wife), Karen Thorn (niece)

Debbie Perkins, MSN, CCRN, Retires After 40 Years of Dedicated Service

Debbie Perkins, MSN, CCRN, joined Princeton Community Hospital in 1982. She worked in the nursing supervisor's office and the Cancer Center before moving to the critical care unit.

Debbie is originally from Lashmeet, West Virginia. She married her high school sweetheart Randy, and they have two sons. Randy is the general manager at Bluefield Retread in Bluefield, West Virginia. Their oldest son Joshua retired with 20 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard. He has a BS degree in wildlife management and an MA in Christian studies. His family is currently relocating to West Virginia. Joshua and his wife have four sons. Their youngest son Brandon has a BS degree in mechanical engineering and is an engineering manager at Clarios in Kernersville, North Carolina. He and his wife have eight children: six daughters and two sons.

Debbie said, "I love this hospital and would encourage anybody to use our facility because it is the best. The nurses, the doctors, the employees, the teamwork – all are awesome. You will not find better care anywhere else in this area. I love nursing and there is never a day that I regret going into this profession. And I can say that after doing it for 40 years."

Debbie earned associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing from Bluefield State College, along with an associate degree in pre-med. She received her master's degree in nursing education in 2012 from Marshall University, and she has since taught adjunct clinicals at Bluefield State College.

All IV classes at PCH (offered quarterly) were taught by Debbie. She was the IV therapy coordinator the last year that the department existed prior to reintegrating IV therapy back onto the floors. She also taught Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) at the hospital when needed.

Debbie enjoys reading, fishing, and getting together with the family as often as possible. She has a passion for writing and has kept a journal for years, recording the significant events in her life.

Debbie's family enjoys all styles of music, especially bluegrass and country.



Debbie Perkins, MSN, CCRN.

She said, "I really enjoyed being around people and being a registered nurse. As my boys were growing up, I told them to please choose a profession that they love since they will spend so much time doing it. They took my advice and now live fulfilling lives. They are my two biggest accomplishments in life – my boys. And my husband has been my biggest supporter no matter what I want to do.

"The last two years have been a humbling experience for me as an RN. I have found the strength to get through these COVID years with my faith in God and the support and encouragement of the staff at PCH."

Thank you, Debbie, for devoting 40 years of your career in dedicated service to this hospital and its patients! Your work has been invaluable, and you will be greatly missed!

Letters of Appreciation

Dear Charge Nurse Michele Farmer, Day Surgery,

Your team is absolutely fabulous!!!!!! My boyfriend received excellent care this morning starting with the greeter & registration attendant at Parkview all the way up to discharge.

Jennifer set the pace with her very informative approach explaining what was going to happen this morning. She helped reduce the anxiety and got him settled in quickly. Ashton followed through with her caring technique as she explained every step and ensured she would be by his side through it all. Then he woke up with a wonderful recovery nurse, Rashia Redden, who was just amazing. He also mentioned how kind the nurse Alyssa was to him and how much he appreciated her as well. Dr. Duremedes is such a blessing as well. He is empathetic and extremely informative.

To every single person who made this unpleasant but necessary procedure happen today...we just want to say thank you! We couldn't have asked for a better experience! You have a top notch precise process with an extremely caring team-and that is an unbeatable combination! Thanks again for everything!!!

May God bless each of you,
With Great Appreciation

Dear 3-South,

My father, Fred Duley, was a patient on your floor in mid-April. The following went above and beyond their duties – they showed real warmth and caring:

Dani, RN
Lakisha, Tech
Brittany, Tech
Summer, Unit Clerk
Kathy, RN
Anthony, Transporter
Kristin, LPN

Dad had never been in the hospital to spend the night and you all helped our stay.

PCH is blessed to have such employees.

Thank you,
Rhonda Barber (daughter)

Jackie Nunn, LPN, Retires After 15 Years of Dedicated Service to the Cancer Center

Originally from Bluefield, West Virginia, Jackie Nunn earned an LPN degree from Mercer County Technical Education Center. After graduation, she worked for a dialysis unit in Green Valley, near Princeton, before joining St. Luke's Hospital in Bluefield, where she spent 19 years as a floor nurse and dialysis unit nurse. Between Green Valley and Bluefield, she spent 34 years serving dialysis patients.

When St. Luke's was closed, Jackie came to PCH. She has been employed as an LPN floor nurse in the oncology department for the past 15 years. She said, "My job has been very interesting. We often see the same patients over an extended period since they come in weekly for treatments. As an LPN, I can't administer the chemotherapy, but I take care of patients in other ways. I have enjoyed working here. I love my coworkers and my patients. I'm going to miss them."

Jackie plans to remain in the area after retirement, at least in the short-term. Two of her daughters live in Florida and they are hoping to convince her to move south. She enjoys visiting Florida, but she is not ready to relocate permanently.

Cancer Center Nursing Director Khristy Shrewsbury said, "Jackie will be missed on our unit. She truly cares, not only for our patients, but she shows love and compassion to everyone she meets. She is someone that truly was meant to be a nurse and has given true meaning to what our profession stands for."



Jackie Nunn, LPN.

Thank you, Jackie, for your many years of service to this hospital. We wish you all the best in retirement.

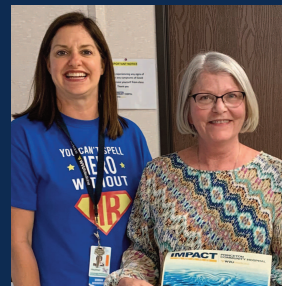
IMPACT Award

The IMPACT Award is the new employee recognition program created by the Employee IMPACT Committee so that coworkers, supervisors, patients, and visitors can nominate staff that have made an IMPACT on patient care, patient satisfaction, their work unit, or other areas in the organization.

From the nominations submitted in the month of April, the top three were selected by the committee as having the greatest IMPACT.



Vice President of Human Resources Heather Poff presenting award to John Purdy, Plant Operations, Mechanic II.



Heather Poff presenting award to Amanda Pauley, RN, Education Instructor.



Heather Poff presenting award to Nancy Riggs, Environmental Services Aide.



A special thank you to all nurses at PCH, PCH Bluefield Campus, The Behavioral Health Pavilion, and all Mercer Medical Group/Bluefield Clinics on Nurses Day and always. You are the heart and soul of our healthcare organization!

Karen Bowling
President and Chief Executive Officer

During Nurses Week, many of our physicians donated money to provide all nurses and support staff at Princeton Community Hospital, PCH Bluefield Campus, The Behavioral Health Pavilion, and Mercer Medical Group/Bluefield clinics with a boxed lunch. It was the twelfth straight year physicians performed this random act of kindness and generosity. This year, 546 lunches were prepared by Kathy's Custom Catering and delivered to the staff. A special thanks to Leigh Anne Brogan in Nursing Administration for coordinating the effort.



Nursing Administration secretary Leigh Anne Brogan, left, and Interim Vice President of Patient Care Services/CNO Carol Miller.



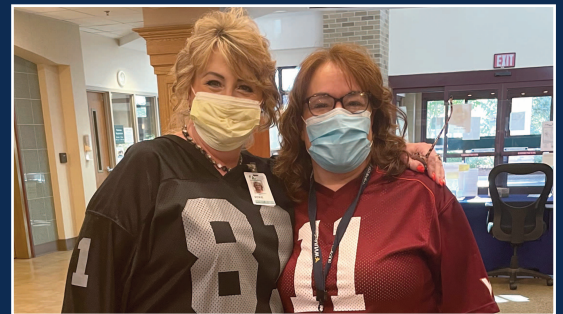
W E L O V E O U R N U R S E S !



National Hospital Week: Five Days of Employee Celebrations!

May 9 - 13, 2022: National Hospital Week is set aside each May to celebrate the hard work and dedication of care team members throughout the year. This year's dress-up theme days included Cinema Day, Sports Team, Decades, and PCH T-shirt Day. Special foods served to all shifts on various days included pretzels, pizza, nachos, ice cream, and culminated with an employee picnic on Friday, May 13. It was a great week of fun and fellowship! A special thank you to the HR Department for organizing the events, to Nutrition Services for preparing the food, and to the many managers that helped serve. We'll do it again next year!

- A Photo Montage -









Our new Pavilion Nutrition Services Team. From left, Joan Taylor, Tammy Martin, Lark Skipworth, Chentrel Harris, and Beckey Bennett.

