

Marengo Memorial Hospital Welcomes New General Surgeon

If you've ever undergone a surgical procedure, whether planned or unexpected, chances are you found it a bit unsettling: strange terminology, new procedures, unfamiliar faces and surroundings. Wouldn't it be nice to have a more personal experience?

Now you have just that option. In mid-August, Marengo Memorial Hospital welcomed Nicholas Kuiper, D.O., providing general surgical care for a broad range of surgery needs.

"The addition of Dr. Kuiper to our medical staff provides the availability of a general surgeon who performs comprehensive surgical services from minimally invasive laparoscopic cases to complex, lengthy procedures. This will allow our community to have access to more services at MMH," said Gregory Neyman, MD at Marengo Memorial.

Some of the procedures Dr. Kuiper (pronounced K-EYE-per) will provide at MMH include: breast cancer surgery, carpal tunnel release, endocrine procedures (thyroid and parathyroid surgery), endoscopy procedures (colonoscopies and upper GI), hernia repairs, laparoscopic procedures (gallbladders, hernias, anti-reflux) (Nissen), OB/GYN procedures (hysterectomies, tubal ligations, D&C, hysteroscopy), skin lesions and skin cancer, trauma care, varicose veins and vasectomy procedures.

"I'm really looking forward to being here at MMH," said Dr. Kuiper. "The idea of a smaller medical staff means we can work closer together to provide more a personal experience for each of our patients. And MMH can now offer a broader range of surgical care locally instead of referring patients on to other institutions."

Marengo Memorial CEO Barry Goettsch agreed, "Dr. Kuiper will not only be enhancing our surgical expertise for the communities we serve now and into the future, but also brings a spirit of community and partnership along with a "can do" attitude. Dr. Kuiper shares our philosophy



Nicholas Kuiper, D.O.

and objective of both living up to our potential for our communities and giving our patients and their families the opportunity to stay close to home when receiving medical care. We understand that the citizens of our communities have choices in healthcare and the addition of Dr. Kuiper is one example of MMH's continued efforts to earn the role as healthcare provider of choice."

He added, "We have further been impressed with Dr. Kuiper's acute understanding of all the benefits the smaller organizations bring to service delivery and patient care. He recognizes that this is the best place to care for people and in addition to ability, quality and efficiency, we are able to provide the hometown touch that oftentimes is absent in larger institutions. Dr. Kuiper is also dedicated to doing his part to help our communities gain a better understanding of the true resource the communities have in Marengo Memorial Hospital."

Dr. Neyman added, "Working with Dr. Kuiper is always a pleasure; he is willing to share his expertise at all hours and adds to our goal of expanding services to our community."

Dr. Kuiper is a native of Sheldon, Iowa. He attended Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa and then Des Moines University

for his medical school and residency. Along with providing care at MMH, he is also a member of Surgical Associates, LLP, of Grinnell. He has one daughter, Khloe, age 3, and he and his fiancé Stacy are planning an October wedding this fall. In his spare time, he likes to fit in a game of golf and is looking forward to trying out the area courses.

At a time when many are choosing to specialize closely in their fields, Dr. Kuiper said he enjoys being a "general" surgeon and all the variety that offers. He added that he is especially interested in the technique of laparoscopic surgery and is planning to study robotic laparoscopic also. "I really think these fields are the technique for the future," he said. He's a strong advocate of breast cancer awareness and also colon cancer awareness.

He is currently at Marengo Memorial Hospital on Fridays. "I anticipate my services being needed most for colonoscopies, hernia repairs, gall bladder surgeries and breast disease procedures, especially breast cancer," he said, based on the types of surgeries he performs most often. He added he is hoping area residents take advantage of this opportunity for advanced services and will gladly increase his time spent at MMH if the need is shown.

"I entered the field of general surgery because I believe it allows me to see all sides of a patient's journey," he said, explaining that he is a part of determining a treatment for an illness and then is able to continue through with the patient and perform the surgery. "It is a challenging profession," he said, which is the main reason he chose the career. "And it is one of the few professions that allow me to use both my hands and my mind to help cure disease."

Appointments with Dr. Kuiper can be made by calling Marengo Memorial Hospital at 319-642-5543 or 888-642-5543.