

When Joseph Hope, DO, joined Michael Shank, DO, at Rose Tree Medical Associates nearly 15 years ago, he knew he was signing up for much more than a 9-to-5 job. With a large population of elderly patients, this primary care practice is committed to seeing patients not only at its office in Riddle's Health Center 3, but wherever they need care: in their homes, at local nursing homes, at Riddle Hospital, in hospice. Dr. Hope wears many hats in testimony to that commitment. In addition to holding office hours, he is an attending physician at Riddle Village; he is medical director at both Heartland Hospice in Chadds Ford and Naamans Creek Country Manor in Boothwyn; and he follows his patients at several nursing homes.

Yes, it's challenging, but Dr. Hope would not have it any other way. He likes the fact that "every week is different," but even more importantly, he enjoys building the kinds of close relationships that are the foundation of excellent primary care. He worries that this philosophy could become a thing of the past.

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"When a primary care physician follows the patient through the entire care process, things are less likely to go wrong," Dr. Hope says. "When practicing medicine becomes only about having office hours—not going to the hospital or nursing home or even making a house call if needed—it becomes much too fragmented to truly help the

Joseph D. Hope, DO

Leading by Example as New Medical Staff President



patient. We have to find ways to get primary care physicians to every setting of care."

It's an attitude he hopes to promote during his two-year term as president of the medical staff at Riddle Hospital, a post to which he was elected in May. Dr. Hope has been a member of the Medical Executive Committee for nine years and chief of Internal Medicine at Riddle for three years—so this role represents a natural progression for him.

"I like to be involved," he says. "There is a renewed sense of energy and momentum at Riddle, and our physicians have an important role to play in its future."

His main goal is to work with fellow physician leaders and administrators in looking for opportunities to improve the quality of care. He also wants to engage the more than 600 physicians on staff at Riddle in the day-to-day life of

the hospital. Dr. Hope believes that their input and leadership are critical as administrators work to move the hospital forward in a number of different areas—including the improvement of facilities.

"Our patient satisfaction scores are very good, but we are limited by certain aspects of the physical plant," he says. "We have the space to build, and if we can start with the Emergency Department and then move on to other floors, I think we can make Riddle the absolute best it can be for our patients and for us."

"The potential is tremendous and the time is now," Dr. Hope adds. "For me and so many of my colleagues, Riddle isn't just the hospital where we work. It's where our family members come to receive care, it's the place that is here for us in case of emergency. We all have a vested interest in the future of Riddle Hospital."