

Doctor joins JMHCC staff

Dr. Elizabeth Sundberg has joined Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center in Elgin, with extensive experience in nephrology and internal medicine, and a particular interest in emergency care and hospital medicine.

Dr. Sundberg joined the medical staff in late April, coming from the Wishek Community Hospital.

Sundberg has a bachelor of science degree in medical technology and a master's, doctorate and medical degree in biochemistry from the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Ore. She also did further training in internal medicine and nephrology, and also developed an interest in emergency room and trauma medicine.

"As a nephrology specialist, Dr. Sundberg is a great addition to JMHCC. Her expertise will be a valuable asset," said JMHCC CEO Theo Stoller.

While she was born in Michigan, Dr. Sundberg grew up in Oregon. She worked for 10 years in Spokane, Wash., as a nephrologist, helping patients with all phases of kidney disease, dialysis and transplants. Following the death of her husband in 1999, Dr. Sundberg moved to Bismarck, choosing the community because it offered high school girls hockey as a high school sport, in which her daughter, Rebecca, excelled. The family moved to Bismarck in 2002 and Rebecca played on two state title hockey teams.

Dr. Sundberg continued her work in nephrology in Bismarck until her three children had all graduated from high school. She then spent two years at the veterans facility in Hot Springs, S.D., and a year in Lexington, Mo. She then returned to North Dakota and has been working for the past two years in Wishek, practicing general medicine.

"Ever since getting the kids out of school and finishing my 20 years in transplant and dialysis, I wanted to live and work in a smaller town, smaller hospital and bring big city medicine to a smaller town," she said. She believes small communities deserve top-shelf health care, and hopes to help provide that type of care at JMHCC.

Becoming a doctor is something Dr. Sundberg was always drawn to do, she said.

"It's just something I always wanted to do," she said. "It's always something different happening, and that keeps it interesting. Even if it sometimes looks the same, it isn't always the same, and trying to separate out the things that look similar, but aren't, is part of the art of medicine."

She describes her bedside manner as being honest and open.

"You can get the most done efficiently when everybody is willing to be open about what's going on," she said.

Dr. Sundberg's daughter, Rebecca, now lives in Oregon with her own family, her son, John, is a long-haul truck driver and her youngest son, David, is a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, currently stationed in Florida.

Dr. Sundberg and her 19-year-old tabby cat plan to live in Elgin, and will be joined by John's family, including his wife, Samantha, and their three children, Louise, 12, James, 8, and Luke, 5, who plan to attend school in Elgin.

Dr. Sundberg's entire family pursued hockey as a pastime, starting with roller hockey in the street. Dr. Sundberg joined her children in roller hockey, then also began playing ice hockey herself.

One of Dr. Sundberg's newer interests is long-range target shooting, and she enjoys the outdoors and camping as well.

Dr. Sundberg joins Dr. Alan Lindemann, MD; Carey Rivinius, DNP, FNP-C; Lori Hill, FNP-C; Carrie Gerving, FNP-C; and Rhonda Schmidt, FNP-C; at JMHCC and its clinics in Elgin and Glen Ullin. Appointments with Dr. Sundberg may be made by calling the Elgin Community Clinic at 584-3338. She will also assist emergency room and hospital patients.