

Meet Our Medical Staff



Douglas Tucker, MD, Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Tucker completed his residency at Upstate Medical Center and is certified in internal medicine. He spent 12 years practicing internal medicine and was an attending physician at many skilled nursing facilities including Loretto. He worked for PACE in 2005-2006. Just prior to rejoining PACE as Medical Director in September 2013, he was the VP of Quality Improvement at MVP Healthcare's corporate office. Dr. Tucker is committed to maintaining a high level of participant satisfaction with our program, and delivering the highest quality of care to our PACE participants.



David Heisig, MD, Medical Director

Dr. Heisig graduated from Albany Medical College of Union University and completed his Internal Medicine training at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. He was an Academic Gastroenterologist on staff at Upstate, and also served as the Residency Program Director for the Department of Medicine there. Dr. Heisig joined Associated Gastroenterologists of CNY and practiced there for 10 years, and then returned to teaching as a Professor of Medicine at SUNY Upstate.



Twinkle Patel, MD

The structure of PACE CNY treatment, which is the multi-disciplinary team approach to elderly care and the interaction between patients and family, was the determining factor in Dr. Patel's joining PACE CNY. A graduate of medical school in Gujarat, India, Dr. Patel served her residency at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, PA, where she won the best residency award for scholarly achievement, professionalism and high moral and ethical conduct. She is a member of the American Board of Family Practice.



Kime Ristoff, MD

Dr. Ristoff has been working with PACE CNY since 2003 and has been associated with Loretto since 1991. First hand experience and frustration trying to care for his mother at home with Alzheimer's demonstrated the advantages of PACE CNY which he strongly endorses for its caring, professional staff. He is currently an associate medical director for the McAuliffe Diagnostic and Treatment Center and medical director for Loretto employee health as well as a practicing physician for Family Care Medical Group.



Jennifer Weinraub, MD

Dr. Jennifer Weinraub brings 20 years of medical expertise to PACE CNY. Dr. Weinraub is certified by the American Board of Family Practice and is certified in geriatric care. She earned a medical degree from the University of Vermont's College of Medicine, received training in geriatrics from the Family Medicine Program at the University of Rochester, completed her family medicine residency at Highland Hospital in Rochester, and serves as associate medical director of Beechtree Care Center in Ithaca.



Karen Heitzman, MD

Dr. Heitzman is a Syracuse native. She received her BS from St. Lawrence University and her MD from SUNY Upstate Medical Center. She completed her Internal Medicine training at SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse, where she also served as Chief Resident. Dr. Heitzman became Board Certified in Geriatric Medicine in 1994 and has worked at Upstate Medical Center for over 20 years, as well as a decade at Crouse Medical Practice.



Leah Weinberg, MD

Dr. Weinberg completed her residency in internal medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University. She has worked for 31 years taking care of patients in the emergency care setting at Auburn Memorial Hospital Emergency Care Unit (ECU) and subsequently worked at St Joseph's ECU in Syracuse.



Margaret Wade, PhD, DNP, FNP-C

Margie Wade joined the PACE CNY staff in 2003 and states, "I would want my elderly parent to be cared for by PACE. Participants here receive optimal care by a team of providers dedicated to each participant's well-being." Margie has 25 years of experience as a nurse practitioner and was a clinical assistant professor at SUNY Upstate Medical University College of Nursing for 10 years. She is board certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and is an active member of the Nurse Practitioner Association of New York State, Syracuse Chapter.



Desta Anthony, NP

Desta Anthony is a graduate of Upstate Medical University and was the owner of the independent Nurse Practitioner house call practice, MobileMed. In addition, she was a preceptor for the Nurse Practitioner program at Le Moyne College. Desta is a member of the American Academy of House Call Providers and is board certified with the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.



Jennifer Winiarczyk-Nalle, PMHNP-BC

Jennifer Winiarczyk-Nalle is a Board Certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. A native of Syracuse, Jennifer has worked within our local healthcare community as a Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse and now Nurse Practitioner. Jennifer has over 20 years of experience working with the geriatric population; 7 of those years dedicated to working with patients suffering from Alzheimer's and/or dementia. Jennifer obtained her Master's Degree from Stony Brook University and is Board Certified through the American Nurse Credentialing Center.



Christopher Norman, NP

Chris Norman is a Board Certified Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and Holistic Nurse. A native of the Southern Tier, he earned his Master's Degree with Honors at Yale University, completed an Advance Practice Nurse Fellowship in Geriatrics at NYU, and worked with University Geriatricians at Upstate Medical prior to coming to PACE. Chris is Board Certified through the American Nurse Credentialing Center, is a member of the Gerontological Society of America, and the Nurse Practitioner Association of NY - Syracuse Chapter. Chris is currently a clinical preceptor and guest lecturer in Geriatrics for Nurse Practitioner students at the Upstate College of Nursing.



Paula Jessmore, RN, FNP

Paula Jessmore has worked within our local healthcare community as a Registered Nurse and as a Nurse Practitioner. She has over 40 years of experience; many of those working with the geriatric population. She joined the PACE CNY team in 2015.

Community Physician Waivers

Part of the PACE Federal Regulation requires that primary care be delivered by a PACE physician or nurse practitioner. PACE CNY was authorized to add up to ten physicians from the community using our approved community physician waiver.

The following physicians have contracted with PACE CNY to be part of the waiver program:

Dr. Andrea Berg

Dr. Sharon Brangman

Dr. Suzanne Lamanna

Dr. Jeanne Bishop

Dr. Dennis Daly

Dr. David Page

Sally Coyne Center

100 Malta Lane, North Syracuse, NY 13212

McAuliffe Health Center

115 Creek Circle, East Syracuse, NY 13057

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For outside the Onondaga County service area, call toll free 1-888-728-7223.

www.pacecny.org