**A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Winter:

It is hard to believe that winter is here! I hope everyone was able to enjoy the beautiful fall that we had. As the cold arrives, we have lots to look forward to. Make sure to mark your calendars to join us at the downtown restaurant, One Twenty Six on February 12th for our annual Medical Partners Winter/Valentine’s Dinner. This is always a fun event and a great way to socialize during the winter months. We have some fun planned for the kids as well. There are fantastic children’s activities coming up in the next few months! Our playgroups are a great way to stay connected with warm friendships during the cold winter months. With your busy schedules try to make time to unwind and join us for a couple of Spouses out Socializing and Entertainment Club events.

As 2012 approaches, we will need volunteers to fill the roles of our officers. These individuals will be involved in planning our many activities and running the day to day business of the group. As you read this newsletter, pay close attention to the different activities we have and the officer positions listed on the back to see if any job might interest you. Our group is solely based on volunteers, so any way you could assist would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in a particular position, talk to the current officer to see what their role entails and you can also contact me at 512-6529 or medical\_partners@hotmail.com and I can put you in touch. Turnover of officers begins Feb/March 2012.

Hope to see you out and about at our activities during these busy winter months.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Spring:

I hope you all are looking forward to warmer temperatures and outdoor fun as spring arrives! Medical Partners has recently undergone our officer transitions and the new officers have planned out great activities for the next three months to fill your calendars. Thank you to all of the previous officers and a big welcome to the new officers. If you have any events or activities that you would like to see planned, please feel free to contact the respective officers or myself.

Our annual packet-stuffing event will take place at 11:30am on Wednesday, March 23rd, at the Robert A. Lee Community Center, Social Hall, downtown Iowa City. Local businesses/individuals pay a fee to include their ads/house listings in packets that we send to all incoming medical and dental residents and fellows. Their information is also included on our website that continues to be a great resource for new and current residents and their families. This is the annual fundraiser for Medical Partners that allows us to provide so many activities for no or little charge throughout the year. Any assistance at the packet stuffing or spreading the word would be greatly appreciated. Please e-mail medical\_partners@hotmail.com if you know of any potential businesses or individuals who might be interested please send them our website, www.iowamedicalpartners.com , or send us their information and we will be sure to send them a letter explaining the event and the cost to advertise in the packet. Just as the transitions of officers take place, it is also getting close to being time to say goodbye to all of our friends who will be moving this summer. Look for information about our Goodbye Party in your email, it will be coming up in May or June and we will set the date and location soon. We will celebrate the good times we have had and congratulate our Medical Partner friends who are beginning the next chapter of their lives.

I am very excited to be able to continue serving Medical Partners as President and am looking forward to another great year. If you have any questions or suggestions for our group please don’t hesitate to contact me. It will be good to see many of you out and about this spring!

Summer:

Summer has arrived! I hope everyone is able to get out and enjoy the weather and take advantage of all the outdoor activities that our area offers. We hope to see you at many of the great events our officers have planned for this summer! With summer, new residents, medical students and fellows are also arriving in our area. We look forward to meeting lots of their families through Medical Partners. As you meet new people please encourage them to join, we love meeting new people!

We had our annual packet stuffing in April and had a great turn out from local area businesses and home owners. Thanks to all of you helped out with the event or participated by purchasing an ad and to Chad Burtch, State Farm for providing postage to mail our packets. We use the profits from the packet stuffing for all of our activities throughout the year.There are several events over the next few months that I would like to not and encourage everyone to attend. First, we will be having a goodbye party at the Airliner in Iowa City on Thursday, June 9th at 7:00. This is to celebrate all of the fun times we’ve had as we thank our past officers and congratulate our Medical Partner friends as they are moving on to the next chapter of their lives.

Second, our Welcome Reception is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, July 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the East Room on the 8th floor of the hospital. Courtesy childcare will be available. Please let me know if you plan on utilizing this service. This is a great time to meet new people and introduce them to Medical Partners as well as the local area. Please help us welcome the incoming spouses and significant others.

If you know of spouses who are not new to residency, but may not have heard of our group, encourage them to join also. \*We will again be soliciting door prizes for this reception (another wonderful reason to come!) If anyone has something they would like to donate or if you know of a business that might donate, please let me know as soon as possible.

Also, we will be having the Welcome Picnic at Willow Creek Park on Sunday, July 24 at 5:00 p.m, sponsored by North Star. This is an event for all current members' families and the incoming families. It will be catered by Jimmy Jacks BBQ. Come outand enjoy a free meal in the park. We will also have a clown and activities for the kids. We look forward to seeing you there!

As always, we have planned children's activities, entertainment clubs, playgroups and S.O.S. each month this summer. Take advantage of the events throughout the summer and enjoy the occasional night out!

Fall:

Welcome to the Iowa City area and to Medical Partners! We are thrilled to have so many new and returning members. We are off to a great start having excellent turnouts at our Welcome Reception and Picnic. There are many exciting new activities we have planned for the upcoming year. Please take advantage of the opportunity to socialize and/or have a night out with other members. If you are hesitant at all about attending events, you aren’t sure you will know anyone, your spouse was late getting home, or naptime ran into playgroup time, still come meet up with us! You will be able to enjoy the company of others who are in the same situation and completely understand unpredictable schedules. By coming to these events, you will find a great place to converse and meet new people. I have enjoyed meeting many of our new members and look forward to getting to know you all better over the next year. I am eager to see many of you out and about!

We are happy to say that North Star Resource Group is partnering with us again this year and through their sponsorship, we are able to have some great events. An enormous thank you to them for sponsoring our Welcome Picnic! We also thank University of Iowa Community Credit Union, who is partnering with us and sponsored the Welcome Brunch.

If you run into someone who is a significant other of a resident, fellow or medical student who is not currently a member, please send them my way and encourage them to check out our website at http://www.iowamedicalpartners.com to see some of the fun activities our group has to offer. We always look forward to welcoming new members to Medical Partners. If you ever have any questions about Medical Partners or the area, suggestions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to call me at (319) 775-0603 or email iowamedicalpartners@gmail.com. We appreciate any and all feedback as it helps us grow as a group. As summer winds down, enjoy the fall activities coming up. I look forward to meeting more of you!