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## **Kenmore Mercy welcomes Eric Koch, DO, as new Vice President of Medical Affairs**

Eric Koch, DO, FACP, has been named Vice President of Medical Affairs at Kenmore Mercy, making him only the fifth physician to service at the helm of the hospital's medical staff. He succeeds James Fitzpatrick, MD, who has served in the role since 2006.

In his new administrative role, effective April 24, Dr. Koch will provide medical leadership for clinical and quality performance, and serve as a liaison and partner between the medical staff and the hospital's administrative team.

An internist and hospitalist, Dr. Koch currently serves as managing partner of Buffalo Niagara Hospitalists and was responsible for implementing a 24/7 inpatient coverage group at Kenmore Mercy. In addition to serving on a number of Catholic Health and Kenmore Mercy medical committees, he presently serves as a physician advisor to Catholic Health and as medical director of the Surgical Optimization Clinic at Kenmore Mercy.

"I am pleased to welcome Dr. Koch as a valuable new member of our leadership team," said hospital Walt Ludwig. "Bringing a wealth of skills, experience and commitment, Dr. Koch will serve as a driving force to continually improve the quality of care to our patients."

Formerly a commissioned officer and physician for the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard, Dr. Koch has been with Kenmore Mercy for seventeen years. Certified by the National Board of Physicians & Surgeons and the American Board of Internal Medicine, he is a graduate of the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed an Internal Medicine residency at Sisters of Charity Hospital. In 2021, he received the Sister Mary Mechtilde Memorial Award from the Kenmore Mercy Foundation, recognizing his work caring for critical care patients during the pandemic. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

"As we congratulate Dr. Koch and wish him success in his new medical staff leadership role, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Fitzpatrick for his three decades of service and leadership, not only to Kenmore Mercy Hospital and Catholic Health, but to patients throughout the region." added Hans Cassagnol, MD, MMM, Executive Vice President/Chief Physician Executive.

Among Dr. Fitzpatrick's many accomplishments, he helped establish the Kenmore Mercy's Critical Care Intensivist Program, Palliative Care Program and Nurse Champions, elevating patient care and garnering national recognition for the hospital. A specialist in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Dr. "Fitz" will continue to see patients at the Kenmore Specialty Center.

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