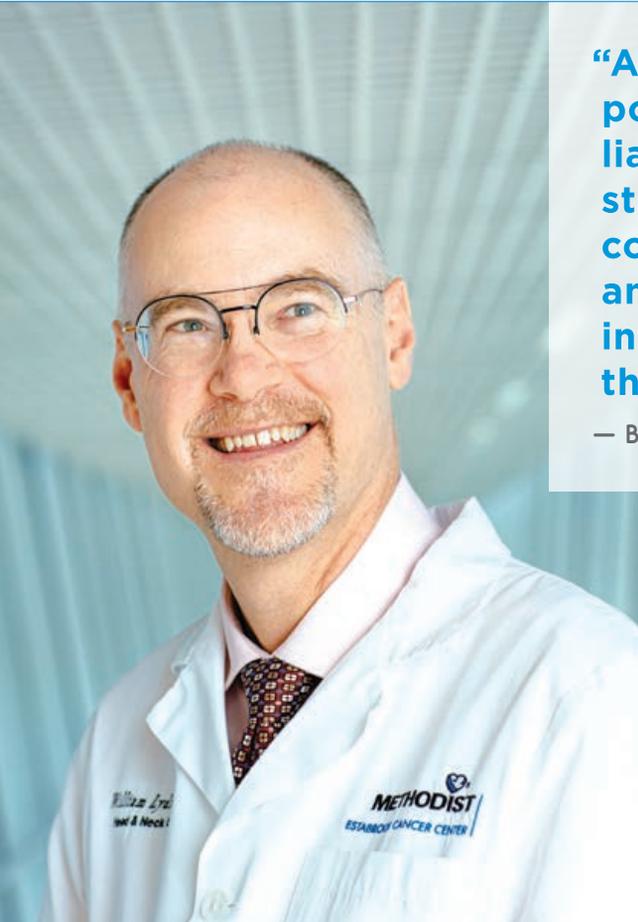


CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP: CONTINUITY OF MISSION





“A major role in this position is to serve as the liaison between medical staff and administration—communicating the needs and desires of both, and informing each group of the other’s position.”

— BILL LYDIATT, M.D.

Dr. Lydiatt, who joined Methodist’s medical staff in 1996 and now serves as chairman of its Department of Surgery, said he will follow his predecessor’s lead and continue his clinical practice and surgery schedule on a part-time basis. “I feel very strongly and the administration agrees that being in the practice of medicine was essential. Dr. Shiffermiller understood that it’s important to remain involved in practice to better understand the changing needs of medicine.”

He added: “I gain insight and joy from my clinical practice. I certainly am not ready to give that up.”

He already has his schedule figured out: Tuesdays and part of Fridays in surgery, Thursdays in clinic. Mondays and Wednesday on administrative matters, along with early mornings and late afternoons on days he is in clinic and surgery.

As a new physician, Dr. Lydiatt said, he initially thought he would spend his career providing primary care in western Nebraska where he grew up. He found he enjoyed his time in surgery and, over the years, became more interested in the strategic aspect of medicine and how to improve care across the continuum.

An initial focus will be to guide Methodist Hospital in its transition to value-based care. “It’s a new field. It’s not exactly clear how we should negotiate that terrain—how we continue to provide meaning of care while moving into a different method of reimbursement.”

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Bill Lydiatt, M.D., is grateful for the lessons he’s learned from the man he soon will succeed as Methodist Hospital’s vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer. In the same vein, Dr. Lydiatt describes the many qualities William Shiffermiller, M.D., displayed during his two decades leading Methodist’s medical staff.

“Dr. Shiffermiller is a tremendous mentor to the medical and support staff,” Dr. Lydiatt said. “He has fulfilled the role of liaison between administration and staff for 20 years, and has done so in mutual trust and collegiality.”

In his new role as vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer at Methodist Hospital, Dr. Lydiatt will help develop the health system’s strategic plan, implement new developments in medical techniques, assist in recruiting and retaining medical providers, and oversee the leadership and services of the medical staff department.

He said communication is key. “A major role in this position is to serve as the liaison between medical staff and administration—communicating the needs and desires of both, and informing each group of the other’s position.”



The Lydiatt File

Hometown

Chappell, Nebraska

Undergraduate Degree

Stanford University in biology

Medical Degree

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Residency

UNMC in otolaryngology

Fellowship

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York in head and neck oncologic surgery

Title

Vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer (Starting Jan. 1)

Institution

Methodist Hospital

Hobbies

Playing with his dogs and collecting ancient coins

Family

Wife, Kathy Lydiatt; children, Max, Joey and Samantha

Why He Joined MOMS

“The reason I joined MOMS is because I believe very strongly in the necessity of connectedness among medical professionals across the region.”



The Shiffermiller File

Hometown

Ainsworth, Nebraska

Undergraduate Degree

University of Nebraska-Lincoln in psychology and biology

Medical Degree

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Residency

UNMC in internal medicine

Title

Vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer (Retiring Dec. 31)

Institution

Methodist Hospital

Hobbies

Reading, exercise, golf, travel and family

Family

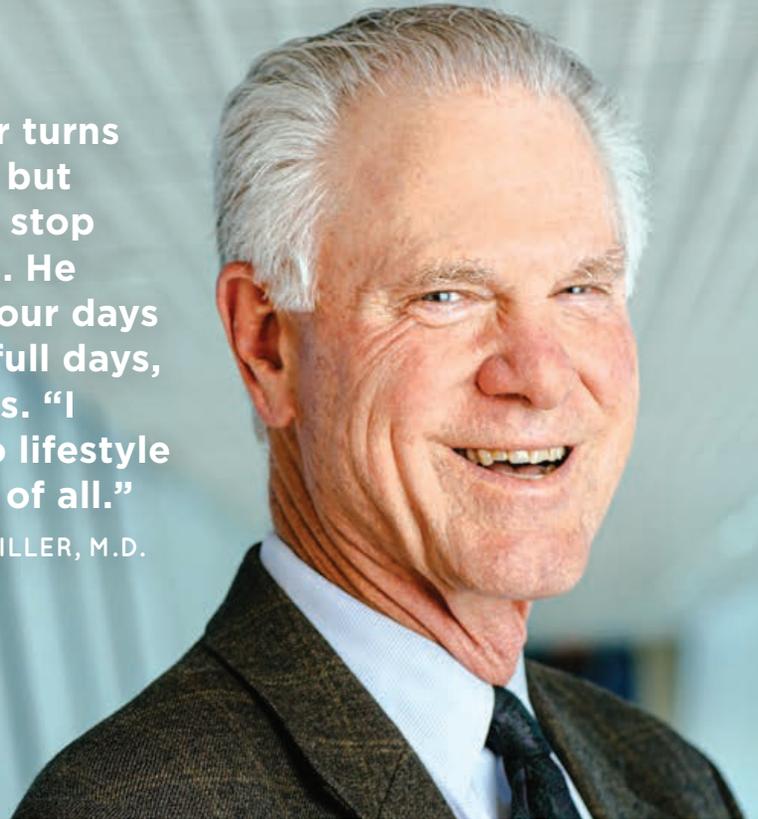
Wife, Laura; children, Jason M.D., Matthew J.D., Alexander and Anne

Why He Joined MOMS

"For collegial interaction with physicians and hopefully improving the health of the community."

Dr. Shiffermiller turns 70 in February, but has no plans to stop seeing patients. He plans to work four days a week—some full days, others half-days. "I look forward to lifestyle flexibility most of all."

— WILLIAM SHIFFERMILLER, M.D.



FROM PAGE 23

Dr. Shiffermiller has served as Methodist's vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer since 1998. He said his goal always has been to create a supportive environment in which physicians are able to focus on their patients and not be hindered by unnecessary process.

During his tenure as vice president and chief medical officer, Methodist has seen the implementation of its hospitalist program, launched Methodist Women's Hospital, became one of the first accountable care organizations in the region in cooperation with Nebraska Medicine and welcomed Methodist Fremont Health to the Methodist family.

And Dr. Shiffermiller, who steps away from his leadership role on Dec. 31, is quick to deflect any attention from himself, stating that institutional accomplishments occur through teamwork. He also deflects by pointing out that, during his tenure, he served under three hospital presidents "whose main focus always was providing the best quality care for our patients."

Dr. Shiffermiller turns 70 in February, but has no plans to stop seeing patients. He plans to work four days a week—some full days, others half-days. "I look forward to lifestyle flexibility most of all," he said.

Dr. Lydiatt said he has two requests of Dr. Shiffermiller in retirement:

- "Number one is to always have his telephone on."
- "I wish him well on the golf course. I know that will be where he will spend much of his time in retirement."

Dr. Shiffermiller returned the favor with some advice of his own for Dr. Lydiatt: When dealing with physicians about a complaint, a business proposal or regulatory inhibition—and there is disagreement—he encouraged Dr. Lydiatt to have the ability to see the position from the physician's perspective.

"In doing so, goals are more easily achieved and the collegial nature of our practice is better preserved. Bill has the skills to do this. That's what I wish for him." 