A physician assistant is a healthcare professional who is licensed to practice medicine as part of a team with physicians. The physician assistant profession was first proposed in the United States in 1961 by Charles Hudson. Hu Myers launched a physician assistant program at Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia, in the late 1960s. The first employer of physician assistants was the VA, now known as the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The Clark K. Sleeth Family Medicine Center has utilized physician assistants since the late 1980s and early 1990s. Currently, we employ three physician assistants who are very special to us. They are special as they play a key role in team based care in our Patient Centered Medical Home.

Kelly McBee received a BA from Asbury University in 1988 and a BS from Alderson Broaddus in 1993. She grew up on a farm in Monongalia county, graduated from Morgantown High in 1984 and played in the band. She has been married 16 years, has 2 children and enjoys gardening and running kids to activities. Her practice experience has been in surgery, pediatrics and urgent care. She has been in our department 7 years and works in the outpatient setting providing an essential link between patients and staff physicians.

Kiley Iams received a BS in biology from Geneva College in 2009. She completed her physician assistant studies in 2012 at Marietta College. Kiley grew up in East Aurora, New York. She has been married 2-1/2 years and reports no children yet, but has 2 dogs. She and her husband, Josh, love anything outside; skiing in the winter, camping and hiking with the dogs the rest of the year. Kiley is part of our inpatient team and provides continuity that is essential for a practice striving to be designated as a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH).

Natalie McCready received a BS in nuclear medicine technology in 2002 from Wheeling Jesuit University. She graduated from Chatham University with a master’s in physician assistant studies in 2012. She grew up in Wheeling, West Virginia, and currently lives in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. Natalie and her husband, Jesse, have been married almost 2 years. “No children yet,” she states, but she has amazing pets: 2 cats, Muphasa and CeeCee, an English mastiff named Casey Jo and a red tail boa constrictor named Yeungling. Natalie, too, loves outdoor activities such as motorcycle riding, horseback riding and running road races. Natalie, along with Kelly McBee, provides team based care in the outpatient setting to our patients in keeping with the philosophy of a Patient Centered Medical Home.

Photo: L-R: Natalie McCready, Kiley Iams and Kelly McBee
Following the model of the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), the Clark K. Sleeth Family Medicine Center now offers a weekly Intensive Diabetes Clinic (IDC) for patients of the practice.

The IDC is staffed by a multi-disciplinary team that includes a board-certified Family Medicine Physician, a Family Medicine Resident Physician, Nursing staff, a Dietitian / Certified Diabetes Educator, and Nurse Case Managers, and available assistance from a Psychologist and a Clinical Pharmacist. At the request of the patient’s Primary Care Physician, this diverse group collaborates with each patient to address issues that may not be readily apparent during their routine medical appointments.

A typical IDC visit may include the following:

- Review of diabetic medications
- Assessment of diet and lifestyle
- Review of diabetic laboratory studies
- Diabetic foot examination
- Screening evaluation of the retina
- Discussion of behavioral concerns
- Discussion of socio-economic concerns
- Arrangements for further specialist care

By exploring the multiple factors contributing to diabetic management, the IDC and patient formulate a unique, personalized plan of action in order to achieve better control of the disease.

The IDC’s ultimate goal is for the patient to have a happier, healthier life through optimal glycemic control and prevention/reduction of diabetes-associated complications.
The 40th Annual Hal Wanger Family Medicine Conference will be held on September 18-20, 2014 at Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa in Morgantown. This year’s milestone meeting also marks the 40th anniversary of the WVU Family Medicine Residency program.

Dr. David Deci, former WVU faculty, and currently Associate Professor and Director of Medical Student Education at the University of Wisconsin, will serve as the Mesaros Scholar Lecturer. He will discuss Rural Family Medicine Education. Other topics to be presented include: environmental pollutants, oral cancer, treatments for depression, acute stroke, coronary artery disease, and pediatric asthma.

Thursday evening features a Welcome Back banquet for alumni, friends, faculty, and past chairs to reminisce and catch up with each other.

Registration opens July 1, 2014 and can be found online at www.medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/fammed