



For information:  
Colleen Swanson  
218.999.1454  
[colleen.swanson@granditasca.org](mailto:colleen.swanson@granditasca.org)

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For more information, contact:  
Colleen Swanson  
Director of Marketing  
Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital  
218/999-1454

### **Dr. Paul Palecek Joins the Emergency Department at Grand Itasca**

**Grand Rapids** – On August 1, 2009, Paul Palecek, M.D., joined the Emergency Department at Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital. Dr. Palecek, board certified in family medicine, most recently worked as a staff family physician at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in Grand Forks, ND.

Dr. Palecek attended the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and German Studies. After receiving a United States Air Force Health Profession Scholarship, Dr. Palecek attended the University of Minnesota Medical School where he completed his Doctor of Medicine in 2002. As a Captain in the Air Force, Dr. Palecek completed his residency in Family Medicine at Offutt Air Force Base and the University of Nebraska in 2005. During this period, he also worked as an Emergency Medicine physician in Broken Bow, NE where he provided emergency care and stabilization to patients.

In 2005, Dr. Palecek became a staff physician at the Grand Forks Air Base in Grand Forks, ND. Having special interests in Allergy/Immunology, he served as the Officer in Charge of Allergy/Immunizations at the base. During this period, he also held a key leadership role as the Chief of Family Medicine and served as an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of North Dakota Medical School. Dr. Palecek also notes that his special interests include emergency medicine and geriatrics.

“It is a pleasure to add Dr. Palecek to our growing number of Emergency Room professionals,” stated Debra Nyquist, MD and Emergency Department Director at Grand Itasca. “His varied training and experience has distinguished him not only as a skilled physician in the emergency room but as a medical leader and teacher.”

“We are excited to make Grand Rapids our home. My wife, Antoinette Youngdahl Palecek is also a family physician and will be joining Grand Itasca in September,” said Dr. Palecek. “She is currently getting our two children settled into their new surroundings and overseeing the construction of our new home on BlueWater Lake.” Dr. Palecek continued, “Our family is excited about all activities living on a lake can bring. We picked this area because of the beautiful lakes and its proximity to family. Dr. Palecek is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hunting, fishing, skiing, traditional archery and kayaking.

Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital is a non-profit, integrated delivery system that employs nearly 600 people. The integrated clinic and hospital, described as a “modern expression of hospitality and healing” is home to over 40 physicians and other providers including specialists in Orthopedics, Ob/Gyn, Pediatrics, Podiatry, Radiology, Urology, and Acute Rehabilitation.

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