**WELCOME SPEECH (CONFERENCE)**

**FOR**

**MICHAEL TREVISANI**

Hello everyone and welcome to this year’s Campaign for Quality Conference. (**If there is anyone in particular you would like to acknowledge for coordinating the event, do that here**) I would like to extend particular gratitude to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for doing such a great job \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I think we all know by now that none of us works autonomously....every project, every challenge we face... both as professionals and private citizens, requires thoughtfulness, cooperation, teamwork, and tenacity, and all of us here at Mohawk Valley Health Systems appreciate all efforts, expressions of support, and enthusiasm as we continue to build a **workable** healthcare system for ourselves and our community.

I know I speak for everyone in the executive and management sectors of MVHS when I say how pleased we are to welcome so many of you here today. This is now the **SEVENTEENTH** year that we’ve coordinated and provided this forum for all of you, and I really believe that as we advance in experience, technology, expertise, and, yes, even some “red tape,” this campaign, as an information sharing resource, becomes increasingly more vital and needed. Every single person in this room has a part .... **LITERALLY**... in the health and future of this industry, and whether you are a medical professional, a volunteer, an administrator, an understandably concerned consumer... whatever function you serve, each of us, at sometime or another, was, is, or will be a patient. As such, it’s crucial that we all understand and respect every layer of the healthcare system, its shortfalls, its potential, it’s innovations, and its room for growth, improvement, and ultimately, its success. By promoting this conference and establishing a really viable and multi-faceted forum for education, discourse, and idea exchange, MVHS demonstrates substantial support and encouragement of you, our constituents, and of the critical contribution we all make to the well being of this region.

We are also fortunate that we have been, and are able, to offer so much knowledge, insight, and access to all of you, free of charge. This educational event is open to.... well, actually, **anyone with a pulse**... **LITERALLY**... (**Wait for the laugh**)... employees, medical staff and volunteers from hospitals across New York State, as well as the general public. In 2017, more than 500 physicians, healthcare workers, students and community members were in attendance with more than 50 hospitals and healthcare organizations across New York State represented.

I’m not sure if any of you are familiar with the wit and wisdom of the late comedian, Rodney Dangerfield. He said **LOTS** of things, but in particular he confessed, “When I was born, I was so ugly the doctor slapped my mother...” (**Wait for the laugh**)... fortunately in this day and age, we have rules about that, but healthcare and its process have grown progressively overwhelming. Although we have many technological advancements to supposedly make life easier, it doesn’t seem to be the case. But with forums like Campaign for Quality, we can take proactive steps as professionals and as consumers, to learn how to maximize our participation in our work and in our personal lives. With sessions focusing on crucial topics like the one led by Trisha Melli, we learn the importance of support in patient recovery... for those of you that may not know, Ms. Meili is also known as “The Central Park Jogger.” The potentially tragic story of the attack she had to endure has inspired her narrative to be a positive one... one of healing and resilience. Dr. Bryan Sexton inspires us with his focus on thriving and not merely surviving.... a perfect place to take some time we didn’t know we had in order to learn how caregivers can maximize overly scheduled lives by hopefully transforming overwhelm into manageability. There are also fascinating sessions and demonstrations designed to inform about advancements in radioembolization of liver tumors, innovations in cardiac surgery, insights into palliative care, and other compelling, informative, and provocative topics, all curated with the intention of showing the commitment we maintain to you, **OUR** network.

We, of Mohawk Valley Health Systems, know the challenges we face in our lives and in navigating the increasing complexities of the health care system are daunting. We are committed to providing as many modern tools as we possibly can in order for all of us to operate with clarity, efficiency, and respect for the profession and the patient. Our purpose is to provide increasing excellence in all aspects and functions of our network, and to that end, as a network, every action we take or receive creates another reaction. We are all connected. We are in this together, and together we will learn how to achieve our goals... not only of wellness, but also of **well-being.** While Alexander the Great is rumored to have stated, “I am dying from the treatment of too many physicians...”... **THANKS**, Alex!! (**Wait for the laugh**), it was William Osler who said, “The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient...”. Here at MVHS, we believe in supporting everyone with whom we interact. Remember that you are not alone... you truly are part of a vital, living, breathing network of information, support, and quality care.... and while we may not yet have **ALL** of the answers, we are confident that we’re on the right track. As we work together towards a common goal, we will all learn, grow, get well, and **be well**. Thank you all and enjoy the day!!