**WELCOME SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MICHAEL TREVISANI**

Good evening everyone!!! I want to acknowledge and thank all of you for being here to herald another exciting new year dedicated to making an indelible contribution to our neighbors, friends, and patients of the Mohawk Valley Health System. It’s always gratifying to see so many of you at this event, and whether you are doctors, board members, support staff, colleagues, family, or friends, it is always interesting to have the opportunity to literally “see you in a new light.” At a time when life itself seems to be getting more detailed, more challenging, and more frustrating, knowing that we have a team on our side... knowing we are partners in a worthwhile mission, really does help to make all of our hard work worthwhile. (**If there is anyone in particular you would like to thank. Please do that here**). I would like to extend special thanks to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the dedication and perseverance invested in planning this wonderful evening.

I think it’s so exciting to be in this venue for our annual reception and it’s such a treat to be here at the Munson-Williams Proctor Art Institute. Being here, surrounded by such an impressive body of varied and respected self expression reminds me of a couple of important points... I am not sure who first coined this phrase, however, there is truth to the expression, “The **earth** without **art** is just ‘**EH**.’” (**Wait for the laugh**)... we, as residents of the Mohawk Valley are very fortunate to have the chance to explore the collections and events offered here.... just being here is a tonic for the soul.... It also reminds me, as I see some of the more abstract offerings, to paraphrase the words of the comedienne Rita Rudner who said, “If I were considering having a facelift, I don’t think it would be a good idea to use a plastic surgeon that had Picasso paintings all over the walls... (**Wait for the laugh**).... Definitely something to keep in mind, but tonight we celebrate clarity, purpose, and contribution to the common good.

It’s no secret that the challenges facing the medical profession at all levels and in all sectors is increasingly daunting with each successive year. As we all know, Mohawk Valley Health System was created as a counterpoint to a challenge that was spiraling out of manageability and control. We saw the issues... we confronted the problems... and we addressed and implemented ongoing solutions. And very little of our progress and positive response would have been possible without your partnership, willingness, and common sense. We are so fortunate here at MVHS to have diverse and enthusiastic doctors, administrators, managers, and staff. Each one of you represents the possibility of solutions... of finding the way to navigate that behemoth of a challenge that affects all of us... both as doctors and as patients. Because we have such a varied group of professionals, our ability to address and resolve issues is accelerated, and that is so gratifying.

Whether you are new on staff or a twenty-five year veteran of this system, your contribution is critical to our success. To those of you who are just joining us, we welcome you. We look forward to observing your fresh and enthusiastic approach to medical care. We eagerly anticipate having you as part of our team and the infusion of “new blood” gives us all a much appreciated jolt.... without all of the sugar and calories of a Red Bull ... 37 grams of sugar in a 12 ounce can... **REALLY**??? (**Wait for the laugh**). To all of you talented professionals who have called MVHS your “home” and are continuing, we’re thrilled that you believe in us and the work that we do. You represent the foundation and the legacy that MVHS brings to our communities. You know the systems, you’ve proven your abilities, and patients really appreciate the comfort level that only a veteran professional can provide. There is a very special subset of doctors in this group... to those of you that have been with us for twenty-five years...or even more, your dedication and continuity has done more than we can express. The world has taken beyond a quantum leap since you began your tenure with us twenty-five years ago....can we even remember those simpler times... when we didn’t even know what an “**emoji**” was? **UNIMAGINABLE**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And to you doctors, administrators, and friends who have chosen to retire this year, just as in the Wizard of Oz, you have been the heart of this enterprise. You brought your well honed skills and shared them with us. You diagnosed, guided, and healed.... and you helped the patients too!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Most of all, you share your wisdom with us.... that is something to not treat lightly. Many younger or less experienced people take for granted what years of practice and constant challenge can do **FOR** a person, especially a doctor. Experience brings wisdom, hindsight, and expertise... all traits that will be sorely missed as you “graduate” to the next, exciting and vital phases of your lives. As you formally... or informally add the word “emeritus” to your CV, know that we will always think of you and invoke your considerable contribution to MVHS. We wish you all the best and want you to know that we are here... wondering if we will be able to call you... in a pinch... (**Wait for the laugh**).

To all of you, I applaud you for your cooperation, diligence, and intention to insure that MVHS provides the most top tier and effective health solutions possibleto all that seek our care. Thank you all and let’s work together to have a banner 2019!