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Local Physician Chosen As Physician Ambassador to South Africa

The National Physician Ambassadors Program has chosen local Ukiah physician, Bernard Lemke, MD, as a Physician Ambassador to South Africa. The program is part of an educational and cultural experience for US physicians to have rare access and insights to healthcare programs abroad.

“I am delighted to have this opportunity to represent the United States and our local community,” said Lemke. “I know this will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will enrich my personal and professional life.”

Lemke is scheduled to depart on April 16, 2005 and will be in South Africa until May 1, 2005. The program is sponsored by the National Physician Ambassadors Program located in Virginia. Physicians from the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins University Hospital and Cleveland Clinic are among the founders of the program.

According to Regan Armstrong, Director of the National Physician Ambassadors Program, Lemke is a member of a select group of America’s most accomplished physicians. “As a distinguished member of this delegation, Dr. Lemke will have privileges far surpassing other VIP delegations to South Africa,” said Armstrong.

Lemke is a longtime resident of Ukiah. He attended medical school at Wayne State University in Michigan and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Butter Worth Hospital in Grand Rapids.

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Ukiah Valley Medical Center is a member of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit health care system affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with headquarters in Roseville, California. Spanning California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, the organization is comprised of 85 distinct business units, including 20 acute care facilities—controlled, managed or leased—with more than 3,100 beds, 17,200 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 18 home health agencies and two retirement centers. For more information, visit www.uvmc.org or www.adventisthealth.org.