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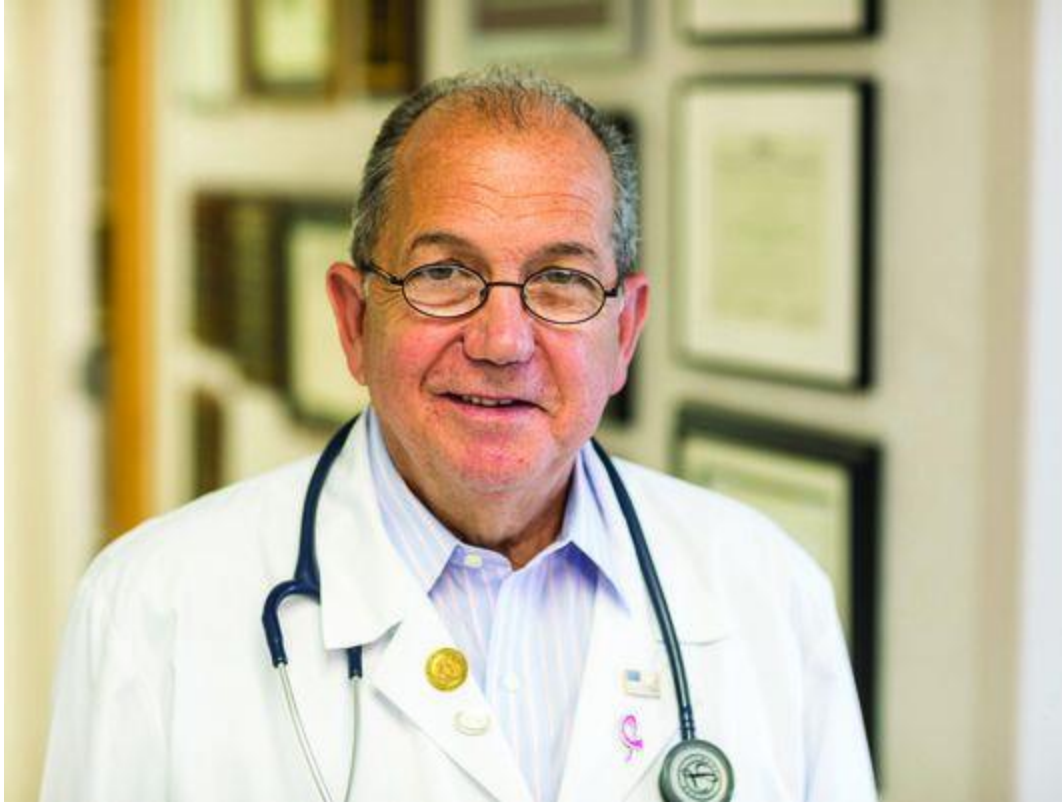
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Morristown doctor receives award for work with women's clinics

Michael Izzo, @MIzzoDR Published 5:00 a.m. ET Oct. 5, 2017



A Jets player and a helicopter are highlights of the Morristown event. 4/27/17 Michael Izzo



(Photo: Richard Titus)
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A Morristown obstetrician will be honored later this month for his work in the community, specifically with women's clinics and Planned Parenthood.

Frank Centanni, an OB/GYN at Morristown Medical Center, will receive the Physician Award at the fourth annual Atlantic Health Empower Awards on Oct. 18.

The Physician Award is given to a doctor who has gone above and beyond to improve health care within the community.

Centanni worked at a Morris Plains private practice for 23 years before he developed a heart condition in 1995, prompting him to step away from the job.

In 1999 he began working two half days per week at the Women's Health and Prenatal clinics in Morristown Medical Center. Two days soon turned into five days per week as the program became a full-time clinic.

Centanni now sees about 1,000 patients each month, about 80 percent of whom are Hispanic. The clinic now delivers between 550 and 600 babies each year.

“The patients we see are so appreciative of everything we do for them,” Centanni said. “It’s a very rewarding feeling for us, seeing all of these patients that are without medical care anywhere else.”

The doctor said he shares the award with the rest of the clinic. “The nursing staff, ancillaries, and my fellow physicians, I really owe a lot to them.”

Centanni has also spent 10 years providing screenings and gynecology services for patients at Morristown’s Planned Parenthood. He has also led an education affiliation between Morristown Medical Center and the town’s Planned Parenthood, allowing for offsite training for medical students and residents. Residents now spend part of their rotation serving patients at the Planned Parenthood clinic.

The 71-year-old doctor is also part of a residency program for OB/GYN residents, training them and encouraging them to contribute in the community. He said he has no plans to leave the medical field anytime soon.

“I plan to keep doing what I do for my patients,” Centanni said. “It’s very, very rewarding. I know they appreciate what we do for them.”

The Empower Awards seek to recognize local organizations, hospital staff and individuals who have gone the extra mile to improve the health of their communities.

The Lincoln Park Health Department, Home Instead Senior Care, and the Sussex County NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection program will each be honored with the Community Partner Award, recognizing organizations that have worked closely with Atlantic Health System to build healthier communities.

Jeanne Kerwin, manager for palliative care and bioethics at Atlantic Health System will receive the Vicki Hughes Community Health Leader Award.

Atlantic Health System’s Altitude Program, based at Newton Medical Center in Sussex County, will receive the Innovative Community Program Award.

The Empower Awards will be held at the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morris Township Oct. 18 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

People can call 1-800-247-9580 for more information or to register for the event.

Atlantic Health System is headquartered in Morristown and includes 350 health care sites including six hospitals, employing a workforce of 16,000 people.

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