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**Carle Foundation Hospital names new director of research;
Carle patients to have more opportunities to participate in research projects**

Carle Foundation Hospital is furthering its mission of discovering healthcare advances right here in central Illinois. Today the hospital announced the hiring of a research director who will serve as a liaison between university researchers and hospital and clinic physicians. Suzanne Stratton, Ph.D., a prostate cancer researcher, is hoping to launch new research projects in a variety of areas from cancer to cardiology to digestive diseases.

“Carle Foundation Hospital is discovering healthcare advances right here in central Illinois,” said Dr. Stratton. “In addition to establishing the infrastructure to make more research possible, part of my role will be to facilitate establishment of collaborations—bringing together university researchers and practicing physicians to discover medical advances more quickly.”

Dr. Stratton was selected because of her background in obtaining government funding and managing clinical trials, as well as her experience in discovering a potentially new way to more accurately diagnose prostate cancer. Dr. Stratton discovered how a certain protein is expressed. Further research is showing that protein is a more accurate diagnostic marker of prostate cancer than a traditional PSA test—an advancement that could lead to lives saved.

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“Dr. Stratton’s background is suited for this position,” said James C. Leonard, M.D., president and CEO, The Carle Foundation. “She has proven that she can take an idea for a research project and turn that into a full-fledged, funded study with results that could very well lead to a breakthrough in patient care. Dr. Stratton is exactly the type of person we want as we further our mission of discovering healthcare advances.”

Dr. Stratton heads an extensive team of Carle researchers who are already conducting research into cancer, bone reconstruction, and the best ways to care for seniors. She hopes to launch new projects in those areas and branch into new research areas.

“Medical advances happen with the help of our patients who are willing to participate in projects,” said Dr. Stratton. “Carle patients will have more opportunities to participate in research projects as we develop more relationships between university researchers and hospital and clinic physicians.”

Dr. Stratton came to Carle Foundation Hospital from the Arizona Cancer Center at the University of Arizona. She was a research assistant professor of medicine and director of the Prostate Cancer Prevention Program.

Dr. Stratton holds a Ph.D. in cancer biology from the University of Arizona, Tuscon, and a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from the University of California, Irvine.

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