



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Nebraska VA Health System Chief of Staff Appointed Asst. Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations

OMAHA, Neb. — A Cedar Rapids, Iowa, native, and the current chief of staff for the Department of Veterans Affairs Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System was selected to become the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health and Clinical Operations for the Veterans Health Administration in Washington, effective Dec. 2.

Dr. Thomas G. Lynch has been the chief of staff for the VA NWIHCS since March 2011. He has been the acting chief of staff since 2009.

In his new role, Dr. Lynch will be responsible for the policy and oversight of the 132 Veterans Health Administration surgical programs. In addition, he will be responsible for providing oversight and leadership to 16 surgical advisory boards, the Veterans Affairs Surgical Quality Improvement Program and the Surgical Quality Data Use Group.

As chief of staff at NWIHCS, Lynch was accountable for the delivery of evidence-based, high-quality patient-centered care to nearly 54,000 enrolled Veterans across a service area that spans 104 counties in Nebraska and western Iowa.

Dr. Lynch was also the director of the Midwest Health Care Network's Surgical Specialty Service Line, where he represented the interests of surgical services of eight VA medical centers within a five-state region to the network director and chief medical officer.

During his 24-years caring for Veterans at the Omaha VA Medical Center, he served in a variety of roles, including chief of surgery and chief of vascular surgery. During his tenure as chief of surgery, Dr. Lynch chaired a committee chartered by the VA's Undersecretary of Health to develop a model that identified the appropriate surgical infrastructure based upon the complexity of surgical procedures performed at VA medical centers nationwide.

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Lynch also served as chief of vascular surgery at the VA medical center in East Orange, N.J., from 1980 to 1986; and associate chief of surgery at the Boston (Jamaica Plain) VA medical center from 1986 to 1988.

He previously served as chief of vascular surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center until 2007, where he remains a professor of surgery.

Lynch earned his undergraduate degree from John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio; and a medical degree from Georgetown University in 1973. He completed his internship at the Medical Center of Vermont, his residency in general surgery at Georgetown and a fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics. He is board certified in general vascular surgery.

He completed his master's degree in Health Care Management from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2012.

Lynch is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a member of the American Surgical Association, the Society for Vascular Surgery and the Society of University Surgeons. He is the former president of the Association for Surgical Education. Lynch has more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. He is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Vascular Surgery and the American Journal of Surgery.

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWIHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O'Neill, Neb. For more information, visit www.nebraska.va.gov.

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