



Western Sierra Medical Clinic has recently opened a health center at 12183 Locksley Lane in Auburn, with a second – and larger – health center to open at 3111 Professional Drive during the next several weeks. The Auburn staff includes (left to right) Physician Assistant Kristen George, Dr. Derek Hughes, a pediatrician, and Physician Assistant Katherine Giersch.

WESTERN SIERRA MEDICAL CLINIC ADDS DR. DEREK HUGHES, AN EXPERIENCED PEDIATRICIAN, TO AUBURN LINEUP

Longtime pediatrician joins Physician Assistants at new Auburn health centers

AUBURN – Dr. Derek Hughes, who has almost two decades of experience as a pediatrician, has joined Western Sierra Medical Clinic and will help meet the burgeoning demand for pediatric services in Auburn.

Dr. Hughes, who has practiced with Sacramento-area pediatric groups since 1998, will begin treating patients at Western Sierra’s recently opened health center at 12183 Locksley Lane and the soon-to-open health center at 3111 Professional Drive in Auburn.

The Auburn community has a critical need for pediatricians, where almost one of every four residents is less than 18 years old – including about 1,500 children younger than 5 years old.

“There is clearly a need for pediatricians in the region,” said Scott McFarland, Chief Executive Officer of Western Sierra Medical Clinic. “Our health centers in Auburn will allow busy parents accessible, high-quality and close-to-home pediatric care for their children.”

Dr. Hughes earned his medical degree from Rosalind Franklin University of Health Sciences, the Chicago Medical School, and completed his pediatric residency from the University of

California, San Francisco-University Medical Center. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

“I’m extremely excited about the opportunity of being part of the staff to open two health centers in a community with an obvious need for more pediatricians,” said Hughes, who has served as head physician for several mission groups to Haiti. “Western Sierra’s approach to health care very much matches how I practice medicine, especially when it comes to learning as much as possible about your patients and meeting their needs.”

Dr. Hughes, past president of the Yuba-Sutter-Colusa Medical Society, joins Physician Assistants Katherine Giersch and Kirsten George as clinicians at the Auburn health centers.

Giersch has a Masters of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Giersch, who is bilingual and speaks Spanish, has an interest in rural family medicine and nutrition. She moved to Nevada County to be closer to family – her husband was born in Grass Valley and she has family in Folsom.

Kirsten George completed her Physician Assistant training from Midwestern University, a graduate and professional school specializing in health sciences education. Her training included geriatric medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, general surgery and internal medicine. George, who earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Brigham Young University, formerly worked as a phlebotomist and medical assistant.

Western Sierra Medical Clinic opened its first Auburn health center – and its first in Placer County – in early October. A second and larger health center on Professional Drive will open for patients during the next several weeks after completing an extensive renovation.

Western Sierra, which has its primary health center in Grass Valley, has more than 20,000 patients, including more than 1,000 in the Auburn community. The new clinics will allow Western Sierra to better serve those patients.

“We’ve put together a first-rate team of clinicians who can provide top-notch health care to the Auburn community,” McFarland said. “We will be adding more health care professionals in the coming weeks and months to meet the needs of residents.”

About Western Sierra Medical Clinic

Western Sierra Medical Clinic provides comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health care in Nevada, Sierra, Yuba counties, and recently expanded to Placer County. Western Sierra has opened an Auburn health center, with another health center to open soon in the community. Western Sierra will also open a health center in Kings Beach. Founded in 1975, Western Sierra emphasizes preventive care, education and empowering patients to make informed decisions.

You can learn more about Western Sierra Medical Clinic at www.wsmcmed.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WesternSierraMedicalClinic.