

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) joined with executives at Erie County Medical Center to announce 25 new jobs as they opened their newly renovated, state-of-the-art Emergency Department, featuring eight new exam rooms and a major trauma treatment room.

Slaughter secured critical funding, obtaining nearly \$300,000 for the project from the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

“Thousands of lives depend on the continued excellence of ECMC, so I’m always pleased to work with the hospital and make sure this great facility has the federal funding needed to continue superior patient care,” said Slaughter, whose district includes Buffalo’s East Side. “Today I’m proud to join ECMC in unveiling the refurbished emergency department, and I am equally delighted to announce 25 new jobs that will come as a result of the federal funding. I have no doubt that ECMC will continue to meet the growing demands of our community with distinction.”

ECMC operates at nearly full capacity on a regular basis and 35 percent of its patients receive financial assistance. More than 300,000 outpatients are also served by ECMC each year in its clinic system, making the new emergency department and additional positions vital assets to the health center.

“We are pleased to open this new ER, which is an expansion to meet increased demand. Our trauma center needed more space because of the increased demand from patients and doctors in Western New York who are choosing ECMC for care,” said ECMC CEO Jody L. Lomeo. “As ECMC moves to combine with Kaleida and Great Lakes Health System under the leadership of the ECMCC Board of Directors, we want the region’s only Adult Regional Trauma Center to continue to be the one with some of the best outcomes in New York State.”

The department handles almost 60,000 visits a year, and the hospital recently received a top ranking in the New York State Department of Health's Trauma System Report. The official

opening is scheduled for June 14, pending state Department of Health approval.

The \$2.9 million project also added two trauma operating rooms at ECMC to its existing 10 operating rooms, where trauma surgeries rose from 6,749 in 2002 to 8,919 in 2009. Surgeries and ER visits are expected to increase by double-digit percentages in the next decade.

In April 2009, ECMC received \$282,150 secured by Slaughter to help pay for the expansion. The federal "Health Care and Other Facilities" appropriation comes from the Health Resources Services Agency at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In December 2009, Slaughter secured an additional \$300,000 in the Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act for the development of ECMC's Women's Bone Health Center. The Women's Bone Health Center is part of ECMC's expanded orthopedic health care services to provide superior musculoskeletal care to patients, particularly in light of Western New York's aging population.

The biggest surgical increases at ECMC in recent years came in orthopedics, general surgery and vascular surgery. Since 2006, additional surgeons joined the staff, including three general surgeons, one vascular surgeon and one plastic surgeon.

"These Emergency Department additions, which Rep. Slaughter so clearly saw the need for, are designed to help our excellent physicians, nurses and staff serve the patients from Western New York's eight counties, and beyond, in the best, most sophisticated ways possible," said Sharon L. Hanson, chairwoman of the ECMCC board of directors.

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