

# Debbie Gregory

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**WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU ON THE JOB?** When you see a need in the industry, have an idea of a solution and then see that come to fruition — that is memorable. It creates a “track record” of sorts for trusting your instinct and pushing through. It is an extra bonus that I have a supportive company that allows me to take risks and follow my instincts.

**IF YOU HAD TO WORK ANOTHER JOB IN HEALTH CARE, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?** I would be a nurse practitioner. In today’s health care market, a nurse practitioner can be an innovative business owner. With the development of so many job opportunities for nurse practitioners, I would be creative and start my own practice.

**WHAT ADVANCEMENT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS MADE YOUR JOB EASIER?** The Internet and social media has allowed a forum and platform on which people with similar interests and missions can connect. Nurses in the health care design arena are a rare group and we have been able to connect through the Internet. This provides for a stronger voice and a development of best practices for health care design from a clinical perspective.



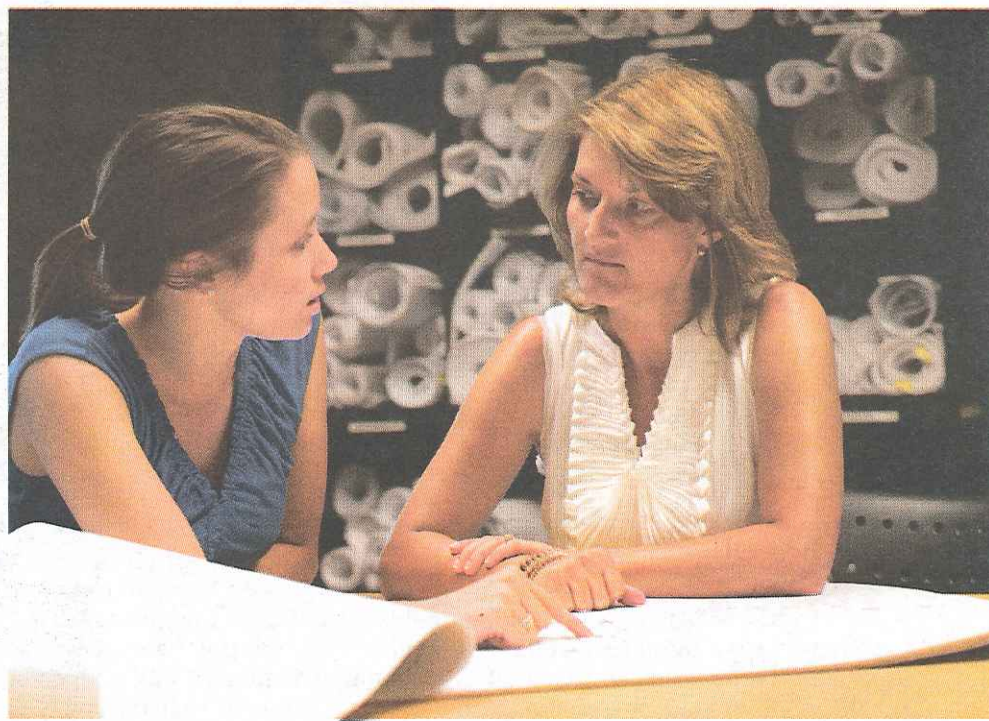
INNOVATOR

**WHAT IS ONE THING THOSE INTERESTED IN ENTERING THE HEALTH CARE FIELD SHOULD KEEP IN MIND?** The health care system is broken and needs fresh ideas and innovative solutions. Those who have been in other industries

might bring value and new processes to improve our health care as we know it today. Being open and understanding of the history of health care from an economic and business perspective will help us create new models for the future with the customer in mind.

**WHAT IS YOUR MOST UNHEALTHY HABIT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KICK?** I am terrible with names and memory. I remember things by experience, which does not help in names sticking when you first meet someone. I am trying to learn a method of memorization that will stick.

**IF YOU ARE OR WERE A PARENT, WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE OR DISSUADE YOUR CHILDREN ON A CAREER IN HEALTH CARE? WHY OR WHY NOT?** I would encourage my children to aim at the top but work their way up from the bottom. If health care is their



Debbie Gregory talks with Julia Doolittle, communications consultant at Smith Seckman Reid.

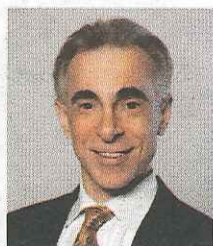
interest, it is helpful to get exposure with a different variety of jobs. One could start as a volunteer while in high school, then move into other positions to find out how hospitals function at all levels.

**WHAT IS THE NEXT HEALTH ISSUE OR GREAT MEDICAL ADVANCEMENT WE WILL ALL BE TALKING ABOUT?** Mobile health care technology is the next wave of change in the health care landscape. Tools are being placed in patients’ hands that allow

them to be more accountable and connected to their care and providers. As today’s young generation moves into the work force and becomes in charge of their own insurance and health, mobile health will be a part of life. Over dinner someone might compare their lab values on their iPhone, a recent broken arm X-ray over their iPad or make and cancel appointments from Facebook. Mobile health care is a fast-moving train and we all need to get on or we will get run over.

## Congratulations to our very own Health Care Heroes!

We are proud to announce that the following members of the Saint Thomas Health family have been awarded this esteemed honor. These dedicated men exemplify Saint Thomas Health’s commitment to excellence in health care.



**Dr. Richard Orland**  
Saint Thomas Health  
Medical Advisor  
Care Management



**Bernie Sherry**  
Baptist Hospital  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer



Baptist Hospital · Hickman Community Hospital · Middle Tennessee Medical Center  
Saint Thomas Hospital · The Center for Spinal Surgery