O’Brien and Willis Join SLHS’s Emergency Team

POTSDAM, NY – Physician Assistants Megan O’Brien and Zachary Willis have joined St. Lawrence Health System’s Emergency Department team at Canton-Potsdam Hospital, 50 Leroy Street, Potsdam.

They are both certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, and earned their degrees in Physician Assistant Studies at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY.

Ms. O’Brien underwent clinical rotations in nine areas, two of which were at Canton-Potsdam Hospital, and one at Massena Hospital. Her rotations were in emergency medicine, general surgery, primary care, behavioral health, women’s health, internal medicine, pediatrics, cardiology, and orthopedics. She is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, Clarkson University Physician Assistant Student Society, and Le Moyne College National Psychology Honor Society.

“The decision to make Potsdam my permanent home was an easy one for me. Clarkson University provided me with a great education and the local hospitals, clinics, and providers gave me excellent hands-on experience during my clinical year,” Ms. O’Brien said. “The environment at Canton-Potsdam Hospital is friendly and welcoming, and has provided me with amazing learning opportunities.”

“I have developed a love for all of the nature and scenery the North Country has to offer. In my free time, I enjoy hiking and kayaking, and I’ll never pass up the opportunity to attend a Golden Knights hockey game on the weekends,” she added.

Mr. Willis underwent nine clinical rotations, of which three were at Canton-Potsdam Hospital. He conducted two rotations in emergency medicine, and one each in the areas of general surgery, psychiatry, women’s health, ambulatory medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, and cardiology. He is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, and New York Society of Physician Assistants.

“I am excited and grateful to be joining the team at Canton-Potsdam Hospital, and to be serving the North Country community,” Mr. Willis said. “Canton-Potsdam Hospital provided an exceptional learning experience during my time as a student. The patient care team is among the best I have worked with, and I am excited to be alongside them.”

“My wife and I became part of this community when we uprooted from Maryland to Potsdam, where I obtained my Master of Science degree at Clarkson University. We quickly fell in love with the beauty of the North Country, and spend our time off hiking with our golden retrievers, kayaking, and enjoying the breathtaking views of the region,” he added.

Ms. O’Brien and Mr. Willis are certified in Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and CDC Heads Up To Clinicians Concussion Training. Ms. O’Brien is also certified in NYS Infection Control and Barrier Precautions, and as a Certified Phlebotomy Technician. Mr. Willis additionally holds his Infection Control Certification and has training as a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner.

As Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants, Ms. O’Brien and Mr. Willis are licensed medical professionals who work under the guidance of a physician. They conduct physical examinations, diagnose illnesses, prescribe medications, and are qualified to assist in a multitude of medical and surgical procedures. They order and interpret diagnostic tests, perform suturing and castings, and work beside physicians in the operating room.

For more information on Megan O’Brien, PA, visit https://www.stlawrencehealthsystem.org/providers/megan-obrien.

For more information on Zachary Willis, PA, visit https://www.stlawrencehealthsystem.org/providers/zachary-willis.