Amy Yaeger
Director of Strategic Marketing and Business Development
Amy.yaeger@asterahealth.org
218-631-5234

Astera Health Welcomes General Surgeon Dr. Ryan Chupp

WADENA, Minn. — Nov. 12, 2026 — Astera Health is pleased to announce that Ryan Ernest Chupp, MD, FACS, has accepted a full-time position as General Surgeon and Medical Director of its Surgical Robotics Program, beginning January 4, 2027.

Dr. Chupp brings extensive experience in general, robotic, and trauma surgery, along with a strong background in surgical innovation and physician education. He currently provides on-call surgical services at Astera Health and will continue in that capacity through the end of 2026 before transitioning to his full-time role.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Chupp to our team full-time," said Mike Schramm, Interim CEO of Astera Health. "His expertise in robotic surgery and commitment to high-quality patient care make him an outstanding addition to our surgical team. His leadership will be instrumental as we continue expanding our surgical capabilities and bringing advanced care closer to home for the communities we serve."

Dr. Chupp embraced robotic surgery early in his career, becoming the first resident to graduate from Henry Ford Health – St. John Hospital's General Surgery Residency Program fully certified in robotic surgery. He went on to help expand the use of robotic surgical techniques, performing several procedures that were the first of their kind at their respective hospitals throughout the Twin Cities metro area. He has also served as a robotic surgery proctor for Intuitive Surgical, helping fellow surgeons throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin develop and refine their robotic surgical skills.

His clinical experience spans general surgery, minimally invasive and robotic procedures, trauma surgery, cancer surgery, hernia surgery, upper endoscopy, and colonoscopy. He has also contributed to surgical education through lectures, teaching, and evaluating general surgery residents from the University of Minnesota.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of this region and for the trust placed in me," said Dr. Chupp. "My wife has family roots in nearby Vining, making this moment especially meaningful. As its name and reputation suggest, I believe Astera has a bright future, and I look forward to building on the excellent surgical care already being provided."

Dr. Chupp earned his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, and completed his general surgery residency at Henry Ford Health –

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St. John Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, where he served as Chief Resident. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and has received multiple peer-recognized distinctions for his surgical care. He was named a Top Doctor: Rising Star by *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine* for three consecutive years (2022-2024) and a Top Doctor by *Minnesota Monthly* in both 2026 and 2025. He was also recognized by *Minnesota Monthly* as a Top Doctor for Women in 2023.

In his role as Medical Director of the Surgical Robotics Program, Dr. Chupp will provide clinical leadership as Astera Health develops and expands its robotic-assisted surgery capabilities. Robotic-assisted surgery allows surgeons to perform certain procedures with enhanced precision and visualization using advanced surgical instruments. For patients, this minimally invasive approach can mean smaller incisions, less blood loss, less post-operative pain, shorter hospital stays, and a quicker return to normal activities.

"Adding a surgeon with Dr. Chupp's experience represents an exciting step forward for Astera Health," Schramm added. "We are committed to investing in the people, technology and services that help our patients receive exceptional care without traveling far from home."

Dr. Chupp will officially begin his full-time role on January 4, 2027.

ABOUT ASTERA HEALTH
Astera Health is a private, not-for-profit health care system based in Wadena, Minnesota. It offers care services such as primary health, surgery, cancer care, diagnostic imaging, obstetrics, orthopedics and rehabilitation. Astera Health operates a hospital and medical clinic in Wadena, and serves the counties of Wadena, Todd and Otter Tail through five satellite clinics and two physical therapy clinics in Bertha, Henning, Ottertail, Sebeka and Verndale. Visit asterahealth.org.

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