

## Physician SpotLight

Carlos Fonts, M.D., FACS, first knew he wanted to be a surgeon when he was 12-years-old and living in Florida. “I was always fascinated by surgery,” he said recently at his office at Southeastern Surgical Associates in Hyannis.

He realized his dream when he graduated from the University of Miami School of Medicine and completed his residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. He practiced for one year in Ft. Lauderdale before moving to Cape Cod 19 years ago to be closer to his wife, Anna’s, family. The couple has four children, ranging in age from 12 to 20.

Dr. Fonts, who is certified in general surgery by the American Board of Surgery, brought more than his family with him when he moved to Cape Cod. His surgical skills enabled him to perform the first laparoscopic gall bladder removal in New England in 1991.

The technique amounted to a sea-change for abdominal surgeries, since it allowed patients to recover more quickly, in less pain and with fewer complications. About 98 percent of gall bladder removals are done laparoscopically, he said. Many other abdominal surgeries are also done using the same technique, such as colectomies, hernias and splenectomies, he said.

In his leisure time, Dr. Fonts can be found on his boat fishing “for everything that swims,” ideally striped bass or tuna.

But, his main passion is in the surgical theater.

“It’s an intellectual and technical challenge. It never gets routine,” he said. “And you get a lot of pleasure out of getting good results and having happy patients.”

Dr. Fonts is proud of the reputation the Cape Cod medical community and hospitals have built over the last two decades.

“When I first got here, it was a battle to convince people to have surgery at Cape Cod Hospital. Now people want to have it there. It’s a credit to the hospital.”

**On the cover:** Several Process Improvement team members gather in the CCH Emergency Center. (left-to-right): Michael Lauf, CCHC COO; Kathy Bonino, RN; Lori Jewett, CCH ICU Nurse Manager; Barbara Carroll, RN; Debra Robinson, CCH EC Director; Judy Quinn, Vice President of Patient Care.



CAPE COD HOSPITAL  
Cape Cod Healthcare

**Carlos Fonts, M.D., FACS**  
General Surgery

## TechWatch

### IT Vendor Selection Process Nears Completion

During April, May and June, managers and staff from departments throughout Cape Cod Hospital and Falmouth Hospital, as well as physicians, had the opportunity to see computer system applications demonstrated by three vendors: Meditech (a newer version of the software that we currently use), McKesson and Siemens. Vendors demonstrated a variety of systems including, but not limited to; Laboratory, Pharmacy, Diagnostic Imaging, Nursing, Physician Order Entry, Electronic Medical Record, Patient Access, Revenue Cycle, Materials Management and General Ledger.

Everyone who attended the demonstrations had the opportunity to provide feedback through standardized evaluations. Focus groups were held in late June to gather additional feedback to inform the IT Steering Committee’s selection of a vendor of choice.

The IT Steering Committee will meet at the end of July to select our vendor of choice and a second choice vendor. This selection is the beginning of a negotiation process that will take several months to complete. During the months of August and September, the IT team will work with the vendor of choice to negotiate a contract and plan the implementation of the new systems.

“Whether we stay with Meditech or choose a new vendor, this will be a complete system conversion,” said Sheryl Crowley, Cape Cod Healthcare’s Chief Information Officer. “It will be a 12- to 18-month process that will impact computer system users across the organization.”