

## [PeaceHealth honors 2011 Physicians of Excellence](#)

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The medical staff of PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center honored radiation oncologist Ian Thompson and obstetrician-gynecologist Hull “Cactus” Cook as 2011 Physicians of Excellence.

The two physicians were honored at the annual medical staff dinner in January, hosted by PeaceHealth.

Thompson, of Washington Radiation Oncology Associates in Bellingham, recently stepped down after serving for 28 years as chair of the PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center multidisciplinary Tumor Board, which helps determine appropriate treatment and follow-up options to improve cancer care and survival rates.

Thompson continues to serve as chair of the region’s Cancer Committee which, under his leadership, has led to improved coordination of cancer care in Whatcom County where survival rates are now better than the national average for lung, breast, prostate and colorectal cancers.

Cook, who will retire on Nov. 11, 2011, after 30 years in obstetrics and gynecology, was recognized for delivering an average of 230 babies per year since 1981 — perhaps the most in PeaceHealth St. Joseph history.

He was honored for his compassion and dedication to patients, his exceptional skills, and, according to colleague Harry Herdman, his role as a “teacher, mentor and thoughtful role model” for fellow physicians.

Previous recipients of the Physician of Excellence honor, which was first presented in 2007, are Marvin Wayne, Emily Gibson, Claire Beiser, Kenneth Bachenberg, William Lombard, Marcy Hipkind, Margaret Jacobson and Kenneth Gass.