

**Idaho Business Review online, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011 – by Anne Wallace Allen**

## **St. Luke's Health System acquires Intermountain Orthopaedics**

St. Luke's Health System has bought Intermountain Orthopaedics, the largest orthopedics clinic in Idaho.

The Boise-based health system acquired all the physical assets of Intermountain Orthopaedics and now directly employs the group's 12 physicians, said St. Luke's spokeswoman Beth Toal. The acquisition went into effect Jan 1. St. Luke's is not revealing how much it paid for the practice.

Intermountain Orthopaedics has three clinics and 148 staff. One of its orthopedic surgeons, Dennis McGee, recently chose to leave the practice to work at Saint Alphonsus Health System, said a staff member of Intermountain Orthopaedics. Intermountain recently hired a rheumatologist from Colorado, that staff member said.

Saint Alphonsus spokeswoman Elizabeth Duncan noted Jan. 4 that Saint Alphonsus recently was ranked among the top 10 percent of hospitals in the nation for joint replacement in 2011.

"Saint Alphonsus is a significant provider of outstanding orthopedic services in this community," she said. "Saint Alphonsus supports both employed and entrepreneurial orthopedic physicians who want to remain independent."

With nearly 8,700 workers, St. Luke's is Idaho's largest employer and the largest health system in Idaho. Saint Alphonsus is the second-largest. Both have recently acquired clinics and hospitals in a pattern of consolidations that is being seen with health providers around the United States.

"St. Luke's is working toward an integrated delivery system," Toal said. "It's our vision for the future. It's what the evolution of the health care delivery system requires."