Cindy McCall, ARNP joins surgical practice

So what's new about seeing this intrepid pair together?

Nothing, really. For the last several years, both have been seen wearing their trusty (and somewhat trendy) surgical scrub blue and sporting those jaunty hair nets as they bustle about the surgical suite together.

Although it's surgery as usual, the big news is how they'll be working together on a clinical basis.

"My surgical practice is growing every day," says Dr. Huntwork. "It's expanded to a point where I'm having to schedule appointments out by a month. That's not what I want for my patients. I don't want them to have to wait for their medical procedures, but I can't be in surgery and see patients at the clinic at the same time."

So Cindy McCall, a Board Certified Nurse Practitioner as well as the Surgical Supervisor, is teaming up with Dr. Huntwork on the clinical side of surgery as well. She will be seeing patients in Dr. Huntwork's offices two afternoons a week for clinical work-ups, surgical follow-ups and repeat procedures.

"In short, she'll be doing lots of paperwork," Dr. Huntwork laughs. Seriously, Cindy joining the clinical practice is a big positive for Dr. Huntwork.

"Cindy is no ordinary Nurse Practitioner. She has more experience because of her surgical skills. Because she's already on the surgical team, she sees patients before their procedures, during and after. She not only has knowledge of my cases, but she understands how I work. There's a huge advantage to having her join the practice."

One such advantage is Cindy herself.

"Cindy has an excellent personality, the patients love her and she's very thorough and conscientious. We share the same philosophy of patient care. I trust her because she's not a know-it-all. She comes to the source when she needs to and finds answers."

Cindy, a Reardan High School grad, says the respect is mutual.

"By working with her all these years in the OR, I've learned how caring and thorough she is," says Cindy. "I try to emulate that and practice like she does."

When Cindy first started helping Dr. Huntwork out in September, she was surprised by the sheer volume of work. "I couldn't see how she could possibly see her patients for their 2-week surgical follow-ups and see her consults," says Cindy. "I don't know how she was doing it before."

The pair saw that collaboration held real promise for all involved, especially the patients. "The goal here is to get patients in to surgery within one to two weeks. This translates into happier, healthier patients and a happier surgeon," laughs Cindy, knowing that it's been discouraging for Dr. Huntwork to not be able to see all of her patients in as timely a manner as she'd like.

"In short, it's a beautiful fit for me. I'm thrilled to be able to use my Nurse Practitioner training and surgery is my first love. This way I get to do both."

For both women, the bottom line is quality of care.

"Patients will get in for consults faster and have their procedures and follow-ups in a more timely manner," says Dr. Huntwork. "Patients deserve that."