

# QVMC releases Cornu-Labat

*No reason given for dismissal*

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Gaston Cornu-Labat, the Quincy Valley Medical Center's head of surgery, has been terminated, according to a medical center memo obtained by the Quincy Valley Post-Register.

Cornu-Labat was given a 90-day notice on the morning of Oct. 29 and was told his employment at the hospital will end Jan. 27. Cornu-Labat will not return to work during that 90-day period.

"Dr. (Thomas) Steffens has committed to provide



Gaston Cornu-Labat

general surgery services until the end of November," chief executive officer Mehdi Merred wrote in the memo, addressed to all staff. "I am in the process of exploring

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## Cornu-Labat: Surgeon came to Quincy hospital in 2007

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long-term plans for our surgery program, including negotiations with Dr. Steffens.

"I understand the last three months have been challenging, but I am looking forward to our next steps in securing the future of our surgical services."

When reached by phone last Thursday, Merred declined to add more detail or clarification regarding the reasons why Cornu-Labat was let go.

"I cannot share more than what I've already provided," he said.

"To be honest, we need to protect the confidentiality of Dr. Cornu-Labat. I'm sensitive to sharing information or criticizing or making statements about any of the physicians or the conditions of the hospital."

The Post-Register contacted Cornu-Labat, but he declined to comment at this time.

Cornu-Labat was hired by the medical center in early 2007 to restart the center's surgery programs.

Cornu-Labat, who grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, graduated from the University of Buenos Aires medical college.

In 1994, he moved to Youngstown, Ohio, where he fulfilled his surgical residency.

He spent seven years there before coming to Washington to work at Virginia Mason in Seattle.

Then he moved to Gordon, Neb., where he worked for four years as a surgeon, including three with Merred, who recruited him to work in Quincy.

"There is a lot of challenges here, but there is also a lot of room for growth," Cornu-Labat told the Post-Register in 2007. "Because of my experiences, I hope to have the opportunity to serve all parts of the community and help work to unite the community."