Children’s medicine at Iowa

It is truly an exciting time for children’s medicine at Iowa. We were delighted to hear last week that UI Children’s Hospital yet again ranked among the nation’s “Best Children’s Hospitals” according to U.S. News & World Report. Congratulations to everyone who played a role in the achievement of this fantastic honor!

We also hit another major milestone in our efforts to create a system of care for Iowa’s children, when the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, last week approved the revised schematic design and budget for our new UI Children’s Hospital. This new facility is vital to advancing our aims to improve access, enhance care, and provide greater value in caring for the needs of our young patients. As part of the Board’s action in endorsing this landmark project, they also approved plans for the Hospital Ramp 2 replacement project, which includes razing the current ramp, construction of an underground replacement parking facility, and development of interim patient and staff parking facilities. The replacement of Ramp 2 with an underground parking facility in the same location will facilitate development of a visible new front entry to UI Hospitals and Clinics with a landscaped plaza entryway and a simpler, clearer, more convenient arrival experience for patients and visitors.

We look forward to keeping everyone apprised of our progress on this important project made possible by the skill, determination, and dedication of our faculty and staff. My thanks for all of your hard work and caring hearts, as we continue our efforts to provide the best possible care and service to the children and families we serve.

U.S. News & World Report’s 2012-2013 “Best Children’s Hospitals”

UI Children’s Hospital again ranks among the top children’s hospitals in the nation, according to the 2012-2013 listing of “Best Children’s Hospitals” released last week by U.S. News & World Report magazine. For the second straight year, UI Children’s Hospital ranked in all 10 children’s specialties, including the areas of neonatology (18); orthopedics (18); nephrology (21); neurology and neurosurgery (24); cardiology and heart surgery (29); gastroenterology (36); diabetes and endocrinology (42); pulmonology (44); cancer (50); and urology (50).

UI Children’s Hospital is the only hospital in Iowa to be nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report for children’s care. To determine the 2012-13 rankings, U.S. News surveyed 178 pediatric centers to obtain clinical data such as availability of key resources and ability to prevent complications and infections. The hospital survey made up 75 percent of the rankings. A separate reputational survey in which 1,500 pediatric specialists—150 in each specialty—were asked where they would send the sickest children in their specialty—were made up the remaining 25 percent.

People’s Choice Award Winner

The People’s Choice Award for Service Excellence was selected by popular vote from the faculty and staff that attended the Hospital Week Luau celebration in May. Of the 10 nominees, Suzanne Hammer-White, RN, BSN, CNML, nurse manager of 2BT Epilepsy Monitoring unit, was selected as this year’s Service Excellence People’s Choice Award recipient.

Service Star Award Winner

Congratulations to Becky Couch, IT Support Consultant, Health Care Information Systems, for winning the April Service Star Award. The Service Star is a way for UI Health Care staff to recognize each other for modeling the key behaviors of Service Excellence.

Public forums for Dean candidates

The search committee for the UI Carver College of Medicine Dean continues to host a series of public forums for candidates under consideration for the position. The public forums will all be held from noon to 1 p.m. in 2117 MERF, the Urmila Sahai Conference Room. A reception will follow from 1 to 1:30 p.m. in the MERF atrium. For more information about upcoming candidate visits go to http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/deansearch/.

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Pay co-pays with your badge

UI Health Care employees (in non-student classifications) can now charge their family’s health insurance co-payments to their ID badge. Employees must activate charging privileges on their badge through Employee Self Service. After log in, click Charging and Payroll Deduction under the Payroll tab. Other payments are also acceptable: cash, check, and credit cards. Some conditions do apply. For more information, please visit The Point.

Health at Iowa

The summer edition of Health at Iowa is now available. To access the free health newsletter, visit http://www.uihealthcare.org/healthatiowa. The issue features stories about centering pregnancy; personalized cancer care; women and heart disease; “sitting disease;” and good health recipes.

Outdoor summer concert series

Join your colleagues on the Rooftop Terrace (Elevator F, Level 8) from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday through July to enjoy music and promotional specials during the 2012 Summer Concert Series. The concerts are presented by Project Art and Volunteer Services. Rain location is the Solarium (Elevator F, Level 8). This week’s performance is by The Sapwoods—a rock, indie, folksy blues group with vocal and guitar.

Epic Help Desk Button

When signed on to Epic, click on the ‘Help Desk’ button in the tool bar next to the ‘Log Out’ button. Information about the session is captured as well as any comments. This information is routed to a Help Desk folder managed by Clinical Applications Division of Health Care Information Systems. The folder is monitored Monday–Friday and should be used for non-critical issues. Critical and time sensitive issues should be addressed by contacting the Help Desk at 356-0001.

Online bill pay

UI Health Care now offers online bill-paying services. Through a partnership with Wells Fargo and InstaMed™, a link is available on www.uihealthcare.org. Making an online payment is easy and secure. Patients may pay with a credit card or directly through a bank account. Complete information is available on the website and in all the ambulatory clinics. Any questions can be directed to Alicia Dohrer at alicia-dohrer@uiowa.edu.

Free REACH screening

People who have a family member with diabetes; are overweight; have high blood pressure or cholesterol levels; had diabetes during a pregnancy; delivered a baby that weighed more than nine pounds; or are of Native American, African American, or Hispanic descent, are at risk for impaired glucose tolerance or diabetes. A free REACH screening (risk assessment, fasting blood sugar, and recommendations for follow-up of test results) is available by calling 384-8442.

Did you know?

In honor of the Department of Nursing’s Magnet Journey to Re-designation, 119 departments, units, and clinics created more than 141 gardens in pots. Visit the Container Garden on the Carver Patio outside the Fountain Lobby (Elevator C, Level 1). On July 9, the containers will be judged in various categories: best use of native plants, best use of color, most unusual, most original, best represents department, most artistic, and people’s choice.

Please share your comments and suggestions via e-mail at vpma@uiowa.edu.