Lung function tests are about to get more convenient and more accessible for patients at UI Hospitals and Clinics—Iowa River Landing. Beginning in July, a new Pulmonary Function Lab will open at the Iowa River Landing location for adult and pediatric patients.

Patients will no longer need to go to the main hospital to undergo these tests, and they will typically be done the same day as the provider orders the test. The services will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Providers will be able to order three types of lung function tests:

- Spirometry: measures air moving in and out of the lungs
- Lung volume
- Diffusion capacity: measures how well oxygen moves into the bloodstream

"Lung function tests are an essential part of the evaluation and management of patients with respiratory symptoms such as shortness of breath and cough, and conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)," said Jeff Wilson, MD, Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine - Pulmonary, Critical Care and Occupational Medicine, and Medical Director of the Adult Pulmonary Function Lab.

“These conditions cannot be accurately diagnosed or treated without measuring lung function.”

Lung function tests are often underutilized by referring providers. Patients may be tested for a wide range of different conditions. Pediatric patients are often seen for asthma. Adult patients are commonly referred from cardiology, general medicine, otolaryngology, and other clinics.

To order tests from the new Pulmonary Function Lab, providers will need to complete the electronic order in Epic, the same way that other tests are ordered. Results will also be in Epic.

Any provider who would like to discuss the use and interpretation of lung function tests may contact Dr. Wilson at 356-2752 or jeff-wilson@uiowa.edu.

The CDC estimates that 15 million, or 6.3%, of U.S. adults have COPD. (2012)

In 2014, asthma affected more than 24 million U.S. residents: over 6 million children and more than 17 million adults.
GI Infusions at IRL—Creating Space

Patients receiving infusion treatments for gastrointestinal diseases have a new option: getting those treatments at Iowa River Landing.

Since 2011, all infusion patients have been treated at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center in the Pomerantz Family Pavilion. The completion of this state-of-the-art facility increased infusion capacity to 40 chairs, but the patient population has since grown significantly.

"By moving some of our treatments to IRL, we can help solve some facility load issues, and give our GI patients a place with more ease of access," said David Elliott, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Currently, IRL serves several GI infusion patients each day. Though infusions there are now limited to treatments for Inflammatory Bowel Disease and iron infusions for anemia, Elliott foresees future expansion to other conditions.

"More and more medications are being developed that require infusion," he said. "Biologics, for example, are medications that mimic the body's own proteins but block inflammatory pathways. We are staying in front of the curve, starting down a path to creating an infusion suite at IRL."

"This is all about decreasing barriers to care," Elliott added, "and increasing both patient access and satisfaction."

Pain Management Clinic
Extending Relief to Iowa River Landing

Using a multidisciplinary approach to the management of long-term, treatment-resistant pain, UI Hospitals and Clinics Pain Management Clinic provides complex referral reviews by physicians to formulate comprehensive treatment plans. Recommendations focus on holistic care through medication management (anti-depressant, anti-convulsion, steroid, and anti-inflammatory medications) along with physical therapy, psychotherapy, and other interventions.

The Pain Management Clinic will expand its services June 15 with the opening of an outpatient clinic at Iowa River Landing. The clinic will operate for three half-days per week beginning in July, including clinic appointments and procedures, and will provide care for even the most complex pain cases.

"We put an extraordinary amount of physician’s time into reviewing the chart of each patient that is sent for referral," said Rahul Rastogi, MD, Director of Pain Medicine Specialists. "It takes more time, but the process creates a better experience for both the patient and referring provider by managing expectations, safety precautions, and goals."

Interventions, such as nerve blocks, celiac plexus block, hypogastric plexus blocks, spinal cord stimulators, and radio frequency ablation, can all be performed in an outpatient setting to assist with pain.

These modalities can also relieve cancer patients of pain caused through earlier interventions. Tools like nerve blocks can provide significant relief, explained Rastogi.

"We are focused on providing the highest quality care for each patient and reducing unnecessary burden," Rastogi said. "If our clinic cannot provide additional pain treatment options, we do not recommend patients for treatment."
Breast Center at IRL: Enhanced Options, Improved Convenience

Patients seeking breast care from University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics now have an additional option: extensive services are now available at Iowa River Landing.

Breast surgeons Lillian Erdahl, MD, Ingrid Lizarraga, MBBS, and Sonia Sugg, MD, along with Diana Besler, ARNP, DNP, all have office hours at the IRL facility. Patients with all kinds of benign and malignant breast diseases are welcome at the main hospital and IRL.

IRL offers a wide range of breast imaging services, including automated whole-breast ultrasound and all digital 3D mammography (tomo synthesis), allowing tests to be completed the same day as clinic visits.

The IRL breast clinic does not offer MRI imaging, and patients who need to coordinate same-day visits with radiation oncology, plastic surgery, etc., may be better served at the main hospital. Nurse Navigator Jean Arndt, MSN, RN, APN, can help determine which facility is the best option for referred patients.

The easily accessible location also makes it an excellent location for survivorship clinics.

“The environment at IRL is very calm and welcoming,” said Sonia Sugg, Holden Clinical Professor of Surgery and Medical Director of the Breast Health Clinic. “Patients coming back for follow-up visits after treatment at the cancer center like having a new place to go.”

UIP Clinical Recognition and Awards Program

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 UIP Clinical Recognition and Awards program. These annual awards are an excellent way to demonstrate through peer recognition that our faculty’s efforts are valued. Six recognition categories are offered:

- Clinician of the Year
- Innovations in Clinical Care
- Best Consulting Provider
- Patient Satisfaction and Service Excellence
- Excellence in Quality
- Excellence in our Workplace Award

Nominations can be made in any or all six areas. All UIP members and participants are eligible to nominate, and be nominated by, their peers. Nominations must be received by June 13, 2016.

The UIP Clinical Recognition Selection Committee will evaluate the nominations, and forward a slate of finalists to the UIP Executive Committee for a secret ballot vote, to be taken up by the UIP Board at its July meeting.

Recipients will be recognized at an annual awards presentation ceremony with a plaque and a financial award. In addition, their story will be featured in internal publications and electronic media.

Please contact diane-crossett@uiowa.edu for a nomination form. Remember you can submit a nomination in any or all six categories, but all nominations must be on a single form. Last year we had exceptional nominees and the awards were well deserved. We hope you will help identify and recognize those superb UIP members and participants you work with who are making a real difference.

New Sites Extend Reach

UI Health Care continues to expand in and around Iowa City, growing its commitment to expanded primary care opportunities that ensure convenient engagement with new and existing patients.

Nearing completion are three new primary care clinics: UI Health Care—Iowa River Landing East (set to open June 6; see related story in this issue), UI Health Care—East Iowa City, and UI Health Care—North-East Iowa City.

UI Health Care—East Iowa City, scheduled to open in the winter of 2017 at Olde Towne Village near the Blackstone Grill, will deliver family medicine care convenient to residents of the rapidly growing eastern edge of town.

UI Health Care—North-East Iowa City will be located at the intersection of North Dodge Street and North Dubuque Road and will be the new home for Pediatric Associates of the UI Children’s Hospital as well as a general internal medicine practice and an OB-GYN practice.

In addition, UI QuickCare Express—North Dodge, the seventh UI QuickCare location, opened in January in the Hy-Vee store at 1125 North Dodge Street, Iowa City. QuickCare Express introduces the QuickCare concept to a new audience of big-box store shoppers.

Opening in spring of 2017, UI Health Care—North-East Iowa City will be located at the growing eastern edge of town.

“UI Health Care is committed to providing high-quality, convenient, easy-to-access primary care throughout Johnson County,” said Brandon Johnson, administrative services director, UI Health Care Strategic Relations. These new locations will bring our services closer to our patients, in the communities where they live, and make it easier than ever to seek primary care.”
Friends of Stacey Cyphert Scholarship Fund

Stacey Cyphert’s impact on health care in Iowa will be felt for generations to come.

Cyphert earned his PhD in health management and policy from the University of Iowa in 1990. In the 25 years that followed, he dedicated himself to University of Iowa Health Care, and to the care and wellness of hundreds of thousands of Iowans.

In a number of high-profile roles for UI Health Care, Cyphert was a dynamic and effective advocate for health care access for all Iowans. He worked closely with state legislators to positively impact a rapidly changing health care environment, while always looking out for Iowa’s most medically vulnerable residents.

In October 2015, he was posthumously honored with a Hospital Hero Award from the Iowa Hospital Association.

In honor of Cyphert’s extraordinary legacy, UI Health Care and the University of Iowa Foundation have proposed “The Friends of UI Health Care Stacey Cyphert Scholarship Fund.” Once established the Fund will support an annual scholarship for a graduate student pursuing a career in health policy, health administration or health care innovation.

To learn more about the Fund, or to make a contribution, please contact Bridget Hoffmann, Executive Director of Development, Regional Gifts, UI Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, at 467-3470 or bridget-hoffmann@uiowa.edu.

America’s Best, Again

Forbes Magazine has released its 2016 list of “America’s Best Employers” and UI Health Care was again ranked No. 1 among health care employers. Our overall ranking was No. 7, a leap from last year’s No. 12 placement.

A State for Physicians

Personal finance site WalletHub named Iowa the second best state for doctors, noting that physicians in the Hawkeye state earn the fourth highest median annual wages (adjusted for cost of living) and enjoy some of the country’s least expensive medical malpractice insurance.

Equality in Health Care

UI Hospitals and Clinics was recognized as a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the country’s largest LGBT civil rights organization.

Women in the Workforce

Nerdwallet, a financial education site, analyzed 529 American cities and determined that Iowa City is the fourth best in the nation for women in the workforce, noting low unemployment rates and a higher percentage of women working than men.

Blue Distinction Center+

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield designated University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as a Blue Distinction® Center+ for spine surgery and knee and hip replacement, part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated health care facilities shown to deliver improved patient safety and better health outcomes.