

pulse



A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

Bed needs call for changes

Since 1995 Lodi Memorial Hospital has operated a long-term care, sub-acute program for patients with ventilator and tracheostomy needs. LMH has had a continuous agreement with the California Department of Health Services, Medi-Cal Operations Division, for the care of patients who are covered under the Medi-Cal program. The hospital's sub-acute unit is home to these patients, and the staff appreciates the trust patients and referring facilities have placed in the care provided by this unit since its inception. Unfortunately LMH has made the difficult decision to not renew the agreement with the Medi-Cal Operations Division when it expires June 30. The 14 remaining sub-acute residents will be transferred to other appropriate facilities when beds become available. Patients and their family members were invited to a courtesy advisory meeting at West last Wednesday. Official notification is expected mid March. This decision was made based on LMH's continual evaluation of community-wide bed needs. Due to a shortage of acute-care and skilled-nursing beds that increases each year, LMH's current acute-care bed capacity does not sufficiently meet the community's demands. As a result, LMH will begin transitioning sub-acute patients' care to other facilities licensed by the California Department of Public Health and contracted with the California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Operations Division; the 14 beds will then be used as skilled-nursing beds for which they are licensed. A team has been developed to assist patients with this transition. LMH will make arrangements for the safe transport to a new facility to meet the needs of these patients and work with residents and families to ensure the best possible placement is made. LMH will also work closely with the receiving facility to provide information on each resident's daily patterns, routines, current medical and psychosocial concerns to minimize any discomfort for patients and their family members, *(Joe Harrington, ext. 7560)*.

Unique nursing survey launched

At LMH our nurses are critical to our success. Nurses' daily activities – from reporting errors to communicating with other members of the care team – have a profound impact on care quality and patient outcomes. That's why, as LMH works to improve quality and outcomes, nursing input is needed. The Nursing Executive Center, a research program in Washington, DC, which is dedicated to advancing nursing best practice, now offers its Clinical-Practice-Environment Survey. LMH will be participating in this exciting research. The goal of the survey is to better understand what is happening on LMH units each day. Do we report errors? Do we understand each patient's daily goals? Do we suggest improvements? Responses to this important survey will help LMH assess its strengths and weaknesses across a variety of quality-related activities and behaviors. Findings will be used to compare LMH to peer hospitals; celebrate successes; and further improve care quality and patient outcomes. The online-only survey will be available for three weeks, beginning Feb. 14. All responses will be confidential and all data blinded. Only each nurse will know how she/he responded. It is critical that all nurses respond. Any questions can be directed to Glenda Concepcion, ext. 7519, or Sony Fua, ext. 7592, or any nursing director or manager, *(Judy Begley, ext. 7507)*.

Joe kicks off campaign with \$100K

By now most employees will have received a letter and project overview from LMH President and CEO Joe Harrington, Board Chair Cecil Dillon, Foundation Chair Joe Handel and Foundation VP Rob Wooton asking employees to consider contributing to the LMH South Wing Capital Campaign. The South Wing is the hospital's biggest capital project in its 56 year history. It will provide additional bed capacity for patients and allow for greater comfort, privacy and quality care. The project cost is about \$187 million. It will be funded by \$150 million in bonds, \$20 million from the capital campaign and the remainder from operational revenues. Board members, foundation members, employees and community members will all be asked to consider a contribution. Joe Harrington was among the first to pledge to the campaign, with \$100,000 over five years. His pledge was made, in part, to honor all the employees working at LMH. One of the campaign goals will be to be able to tell community members that LMH employees are a major partner in this expansion project. So it's not the dollar amount of the pledge, but each employee's commitment to contribute to the campaign. The campaign will be short, and it's hoped that pledge forms will be returned within 30 days. The foundation will be accounting for all employee forms and appreciates forms returned as soon as possible. Employees with questions can call Rob Wooton, ext. 7630; Donna Shaw, ext. 7582; or Jill Carleton, ext. 7833, *(Donna Shaw, ext. 7582)*.

Wound center now open

The LMH Wound Treatment Center successfully completed licensing Jan. 24. The first patient entered treatment the next day. LMH is extremely pleased to have this new and much-needed service for residents of Lodi and beyond. Two hyperbaric chambers and proven, sophisticated medical protocols will help patients with complex, chronic wounds whose open sores have resisted traditional treatment. The center intends to heal at least 80 percent of its patients within 12-16 weeks. Harvey Hashimoto, MD, is the center's medical director. Doctors Frank Huang, AnnieMarie Santos and Rolando Simeon join the physician staff of the center to provide wound-related care. The clinic's hours are M-F, 8a-4:30p. Hats off to a great staff and all those who had a part in the birth of this new LMH clinic! *(Pam Schneider, 642-4477)*.

LMH loses exceptional doc, dear friend



Russell Steele, MD, recently lost his battle with cancer. We will miss him. A gifted athlete, physician and exceptional human being, Dr. Steele practiced at the West Primary Care Clinic and volunteered at the LMH Outreach Clinic at the Salvation Army. His life was full of triumph, as well as adversity; and his special empathy for patients and direct approach with everyone earned him tremendous respect and love from all of us at LMH. Among his many accolades, Dr. Steele was selected by physicians and LMH staffers as the LMH Physician of the Year in 2005. For those wishing to honor Dr. Steele's memory, his family asks that donations be directed to the LMH Foundation for the LMH Outreach Clinic at the Salvation Army or the Salvation Army Hope Harbor. Additionally LMH will rename its annual, fund-raising golf tournament the Russell Steele Memorial Tournament. We are very grateful to have known him. He was a gift to us all, *(Joe Harrington, ext. 7560)*.

Congratulations, Brenda



Left to right: Ted Holmstrom Heart awardees Brenda Neto, Melanie Petrone, Terri Whitmire, Joanne Augusto and Jimmy Perryman

Brenda Neto, in Education, was presented with the Ted Holmstrom Heart Award at the annual employee-awards dinner on Jan. 25. The eight-year employee received this honor from LMH President and CEO Joe Harrington. He presented her with a \$1,000 check and a commemorative plaque. With the money, Brenda plans to visit her friend and former LMHer Teresa Newby in Minnesota. More than the check, Brenda appreciates the plaque, which she keeps near her desk. "I love my job," says Brenda. Brenda is responsible for a variety of activities in the Education Department, and she joins LMHer Martha Brodbeck in volunteering to serve as an emergency, on-call chaplain for LMH patients who don't have relationships with local clergy. She joins other Ted Holmstrom Heart awardees Jimmy Perryman, Terri Whitmire, Joanne Augusto and Melanie Petrone. Ted Holmstrom, though not an employee, spent 20 years as a hospital board member. In his voluntary position, Ted recognized and appreciated the dedication of LMH's employees. This special award, though named after Ted, is presented to the employee who best meets the following criteria: lives the LMH mission and practices its values; views herself as an employee, not of just one department, but of the whole hospital, of a team; goes out of her way to help others; takes it upon herself to know what is going on at the hospital and stays current with policies, practices and events; recognizes that the hospital's customers – in addition to its patients – are physicians, volunteers, visitors and other employees; and takes each day in stride with humor, courtesy, patience and wisdom. Nominations for this award are sought from employees, and the hospital's Rewards and Recognition Task Force selects the employee who best meets the criteria, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

Welcome, Dr. Nguyen



Trung Nguyen, MD, joins the LMH urgent-care clinic. Dr. Nguyen graduated from the Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in Downers Grove, IL. He served his internship and residency at the Osteopathic Medical Center in Texas. Dr. Nguyen finished a residency program at the Bay Regional Medical Center in Bay City, MI, (Linda Brown, ext. 7669).

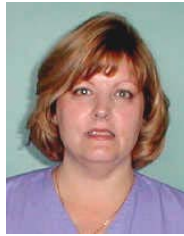
LMH expands capacity

Rooms 233 and 207 are back in commission as med/surg patient-care rooms. All efforts to ready these rooms for patient care have been greatly appreciated, (Glenda Concepcion, ext. 7519).

Way to go, Thong and Sarah!

Congratulations to Thong Tuon, certified-nursing assistant, and Sarah Adams, certified-nursing assistant, from LMH's Med/Surg Department on their acceptance to the San Joaquin Delta College registered-nursing program. Also congratulations to Kay Galvan and Monica Barba, from the Med/Surg Department, who have been selected for LMH's Nursing-Residency Program, (Glenda Concepcion, ext. 7519).

New charge nurse in OB



Laurie Synowicki, RN, was recently promoted to charge nurse in the Perinatal Department. Laurie was hired as a Perinatal ward clerk in 1994. She attended San Joaquin Delta College and received her Associate Degree in Nursing in 1996. Laurie is cross trained to all four areas of the department. She also circulates for c-sections. We look forward to working with Laurie in her new role, (Lesley Muscha, ext. 7554).

Give daffodils, give hope

Give hope this spring by participating in the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days fundraiser. For 35 years, Daffodil Days has empowered people to make a difference in the fight against cancer by raising funds and awareness to beat cancer. Daffodil Days involves offering daffodils every spring to donors in appreciation for their contributions, but it is about more than just giving – it is everyone's opportunity to share hope for a world free of cancer. By giving daffodils, donors are really giving hope by enabling the ACS to offer free programs and services for people facing cancer. Daffodils range from \$10-35 for bouquets. To order daffodils, contact Debbie Sellers, ext. 7392, or Trish Flanagan, ext. 7967, (Becky Olvera, ext. 7597).

Here's a chance to "pay it forward"



Attention all LMHers – here is another wonderful chance to "pay it forward" to the Lodi community. The Lodi Animal Shelter and P.A.L.S. are in desperate need of supplies for their four-legged friends. From now until Feb. 15, TCU will collect new and used blankets, dog or cat beds, dry or canned dog and cat food, dog and cat treats, cat litter, litter boxes, dog and cat toys, cleaning supplies and laundry soap. Those who wish to simply make a financial contribution can make checks out to either Lodi Animal Shelter or P.A.L.S. Donations may be dropped off in the clearly marked bins located in the front entrance of both East and West campuses. Those with questions should contact Mari Herman, ext. 3085, (Lynne Mantz, ext. 3181).

Save the date

Attention all nursing departments – save the date, Thurs., May 8, for the Nurses' Day celebration. Stay posted for more information to come, (Mary Brown, ext. 7504).

"Who in the heck?" answered



For those who weren't at the Jan. 25 employee awards dinner to hear the answer – yes, the ironing cutie featured in the last issue of "Pulse" was none other than clinical educator Mary Lou Jenkins, who was honored at the dinner for 30 years of service to LMH. Mary Lou, also known as the "bags and holes" lady, is working on toward a doctorate degree in education.

How to submit to/find "Pulse"

All medical staff, hospital staff and volunteers are welcomed to submit items for "Pulse." Items should be between 50-150 words and pertain to LMH news, milestones or events. Items should be directed via in-house mail to the Community Development Department or via email to Lori Horan or Carol Farron. "Pulse" is published every other Monday, and items for the newsletter should be received by 8a the preceding Friday. Dates for 2008 "Pulse" issues and submission deadlines can be found on the LMH network (L:\News & Announcements\Internal\Pulse). "Pulse" can be also be accessed electronically via the LMH network (in the "Pulse" folder) or on the LMH website, www.lodihealth.org. Those wishing to receive "Pulse" via e-mail should contact Lori Horan, ext. 7590, or e-mail lhoran@lodihealth.org, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).