

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008

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

Congrats to Dr. Felber... again!



Rod Felber, DO, was named the LMH Physician of the Year last October after being selected for the honor by hospital staff and medical staff alike. And at a Team Health conference last Thursday evening in Las Vegas, Dr. Felber was named physician of the year by that organization. Team Health is a national organization that contracts

with hospitals to provide physicians and other services. LMH contracts with Team Health to provide hospitalist physicians for the LMH hospitalist program. Dr. Felber is the medical director of the LMH hospitalist program and is much respected and appreciated by patients and colleagues alike. Congratulations, Dr. Felber! (Judy Begley, ext. 7407).

LMH Association elects Kirst

At its annual business meeting and dinner at Wine and Roses on Apr. 16, LMH Election-Committee Chair Margaret Corda announced that Jeff Kirst had been elected by the membership to serve on the LMH Board of Directors. The local developer will serve a three-year term. Board members are elected by association members to represent the community's interest at LMH and provide direction to the president and CEO and other staff. Board members serve in a volunteer capacity. Also at the annual meeting, LMH Association Board Chair Cecil Dillon announced that in May local CPA Dan Phelps will be appointed to fill the seat of board member Param Gill, MD, who did not run for re-election due to her current obligations at St. Joe's as chief of staff. Dr. Gill served on the LMH board for a total of 14 years. Her work and was much appreciated, as the board chair noted in his presentation of many accolades to her. At the same meeting LMH President and CEO Joe Harrington reported on key hospital activities in 2007 and those expected in 2008, many of which focused on the south-wing project. In 2007 LMH admitted 7,888 patients, delivered 1,293 newborns and saw 21,863 emergency patients. Peds-clinic visits totaled 23,476, respiratory treatments totaled 647,516 and MACU visits reached 4,362. For more on 2007 activities that were reported at the meeting, see the 2007 annual reports that are available throughout the hospital. Key 2007 activities are listed in there as well, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

Register to "Walk"

Registrations are still being accepted for the LMH Foundation's annual "Walk for the Health of It," set for May 10. Thanks to all who have generously volunteered to help at the "Walk." Dr. Brizendine's office has volunteered as cheerleaders throughout the route. They will bring their kids, chairs and a boom box and set up at Hutchins Street Square to cheer the runners and walkers. Those wishing to participate in this way will be assigned to different areas along the route. The "Walk" starts at 9a and the last 5k walkers are in by about 9:45a. You can also cheer along the route for the One-Mile Walk and Rollers (wheelchairs, strollers, etc.) and Fun Run student participants. Please contact Donna Shaw, ext. 7582, to help out in this area. Thanks so much for supporting this great community event, (Donna Shaw, ext. 7582).

Help save hospitals and the poor

Recent budget cuts to the state's Medi-Cal program will put patients and the state's hospitals at great risk. In February of this year, the governor signed into law a 10-percent budget cut to the Medi-Cal program, which serves our state's most vulnerable patients – the uninsured, underinsured and working poor, disabled and seniors. These cuts take effect July 1, and this will likely result in more hospital closures or reductions in critical, emergency and trauma-care services on which all Californians depend. When health-care services are lost, it impacts the entire community. The new Medi-Cal cuts will further erode an already under-funded program. Medi-Cal already ranks dead last in the nation in payments to health-care providers. In fact, California's hospitals lost a total of \$2.8 billion in 2007 from inadequate payments for care provided to Medi-Cal patients. In this latest round of cuts, hospitals are facing another loss of \$500 million. Adding insult to injury, the budget also calls for payment delays to doctors and hospitals in June and August. For some hospitals, delays will mean laying off health-care workers, suspending services and perhaps closing altogether. Many Californians may have to drive an hour or more to obtain essential health-care services. A growing number of physicians are already canceling their Medi-Cal contracts due to the poor reimbursement rates. That means there are fewer physicians treating Medi-Cal patients, and there's less access to care for patients. Patients who are unable to receive care from their doctors will turn to hospital emergency rooms – the most expensive setting for providing health care. With a \$14-billion budget deficit, California is undoubtedly in a fiscal crisis. But so is California's health-care system. During the past decade, more than 70 California hospitals and emergency rooms have closed. Nearly 50 percent of hospitals are operating in the red, and several are either near or already in bankruptcy proceedings. The Medi-Cal budget cuts are bound to cause more hospitals to curtail essential services and more emergency rooms and hospitals to close. LMH recognizes that the enormity of the state's fiscal problems will require budget cuts to all state programs, including those affecting hospitals. But it is simply not feasible to cut our way out of a \$14-billion deficit. A more balanced approach is needed to solve this fiscal emergency. The state's current health-care crisis could get much worse. Critical health-care services must not be allowed to further erode or be lost altogether. Lives will be at risk if the cuts to Medi-Cal are not reversed. Please take a moment in the next 10 days to complete the post cards that are available in the lobbies and other areas throughout LMH to let our legislators know how you feel. All you need to do is sign your name and put the post card in the mail. No stamps needed, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

Please welcome this new doc



Ashraf Elsayegh, MD, graduated from Ross Medical School in Edison, New Jersey. He served an internship program and residency program in internal medicine at State University of New York. He then served a fellowship at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. He is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonology and critical care and is certified by the American Board of Sleep Medicine. He will provide coverage for Dr. Connolly, (Linda Brown, ext. 7669).

Apr. 23-30, is communications week



Whether it's answering the telephone, activating an emergency code, processing the outgoing mail or assisting other departments, these ladies always provide great customer service. Each one is appreciated for their commitment to LMH and their consistent, awesome teamwork. Pick up the phone, or stop by, this week to let them know you appreciate their commitment. From left to right: Jennifer Mills-Topping, Cynthia Mocko, Erika Haas, Barbara Sams, Janet Dee, Chelle Clark-Martinez, Carrie McGill, Michele Milton, and Mae Lopez.

South-Wing campaign continues

It's not too late to be a part of LMH Employee South-Wing Campaign. Remember, it is not the dollar amount but the fact that we are all joining together to leave this legacy, not only to our kids and their kids, but to an entire community. To date we have 100-percent participation from the LMH Management Team, Directors, Executive Committee, LRHS Physician Billing and both Foundation and Hospital Board Members. Many LMH departments are joining the South-Wing capital campaign in unique ways. Mark Sey, CAO, has challenged his employees to join him in raising \$50,000 so that a room can be named in memory of Robert Hunnell. ICU director Sony Fua has agreed to match \$2 for each employee in his department who contributes. The LMH Clinic-Billing Department has finished its fund-raising drive, as that department has 100-percent participation. Employees who have already designated United Way contributions to the South Wing should note that on the pledge form. Keep those pledge forms coming. Those with questions should call Rob Wooton, Donna Shaw or Jill Carleton, ext. 7833, (Donna Shaw, ext. 7582).

LMH says thanks to volunteers

Don't forget Apr. 27-May 3, is national, volunteer-appreciation week. Please take a moment to thank the volunteers for all their work. Although volunteers are awarded pins for their dedication, a "thank you" from staff means just as much. Many volunteers view LMH as part of their extended family. For those like gift-shop volunteer Gladys Mattice, whose daughter, Cindy Brown, is a hospital employee and gift-shop "stager," LMH is family, (Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616).

Nurses honored in May

Just a reminder – tickets are available for purchase for the May 8, Nurses' Week Celebration. Tickets are \$20 and are non-refundable. This year the money is needed to help provide for expenses that have risen from past experiences and to secure an accurate reservation for all those who are interested. All departments are encouraged to put together a five-minute, fun skit or entertaining piece. Come join the celebration, (Mary Brown, ext. 7504).

PRU staff achieve RIM certification

Congratulations to the LMH Physical-Rehabilitation-Unit staff on their FIM certification. FIM stands for "Functional-Independence Measurement," which measures patients' FIM scores on admission, discharge and weekly during their rehab stay. FIM scores are entered into Inpatient Rehab Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF PAI) in the Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation (UDSMR) and sent to CMS, which is part of the prospective-payment system. Every one of the licensed rehab-unit staff has passed the FIM test. It is a special requirement for the rehab unit that 80 percent of the licensed staff be FIM certified to keep the facility's credentials, (Monique Bedi, ext. 3092).

CME program covers privacy

A CME program, "HIPAA Privacy and the Electronic Medical Record," is set for Mon., Apr. 28, 12:30-1:30p, in Classrooms F and G. Course objectives are to understand the requirements of HIPAA Privacy Rules; be aware of LMH's responsibilities that accompany remote access; to understand training and security responsibilities that accompany remote access; to understand the differences between the terms "authorization," "authentication" and "electronic signature;" and to understand the impact of the new federal rules for civil discovery that address electronic-health records, (Donna Schulz, 642-4985).

Congratulations, Dennis

It is a pleasure to announce that Dennis Trainor has accepted the supervisor position for Respiratory Therapy, West. Dennis' dedication and organizational skills, as well as his years of clinical experience, will be a great asset to the department. Please welcome this exceptional individual to his new position and offer him any help he may need to get up and running, (Willis Marzolf, ext. 7421).

Way to go, James

James Myers, PA-C, passed his physician-assistant board examination and ranked in the top 10 percent. James provides services at Galt Medical Services, the LMH Urgent-Care Clinic and at the LMH Outreach Clinic at Salvation Army. James is truly an asset to the medical-provider team in the clinic-services department. Congratulations, James, (Pam Schneider, ext. 7450).

"Better Breathers" meet

LMH's Respiratory Therapy Department and the American Lung Association continue to sponsor the Better Breathers' Club – now in its third year of operations. This educational class focuses on individuals with breathing or lung-related illnesses. A great deal of information is provided by guest speakers. The classes also provide information helpful for family and friends. The meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 10a in the boardroom. Please remind patients and family about this class and how informative and helpful it can be. There is no cost for this class. For more information, call LMH's Cardiopulmonary Department, ext. 7515, (Willis Marzolf, ext. 7421).

Colon sales aid cancer society

The sixth annual LMH colon-cancer-awareness booth in the cafeteria last month promoted awareness about colorectal cancer – the third leading cause of cancer deaths. The booth was managed by a wonderful group of high-school seniors who volunteered during spring break. Thanks to those who stopped by and donated to the American Cancer Society. Colon sales earned \$352. And remember – What's up your butt? Get the test, get the polyp, get the cure, (Mary Lou Jenkins, 642-4984).

Home health "pays it forward"

Home health thanks everyone in the LMH family for their support with its "pay-it-forward" patient. Sadly, the patient passed away on Apr. 14, with her daughter by her side. She continually expressed her gratitude for all the generosity and support. Her husband wouldn't have been able to remain at home without it, (Rose Mary Radotic, ext. 3116).

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. "Pulse" can be accessed electronically via the LMH network (L:\NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS\Internal\PULSE) 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).