

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 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

## ***"Walk" brings in \$140k***



**Cardiopulmonary staffers turn out in force for the "Walk."**

The LMH Foundation's May 10 "Walk for the Health of It" was one of the most successful to date. More than 1,000 individuals registered to walk, and 350-plus health screenings were administered. With the help of amazing volunteers and sponsors and outstanding community participation, more than \$140,000 was raised for adult-day care, the Outreach Clinic at the Salvation Army, a recumbent bike for cardiac rehab, a portable x-ray unit for diagnostic imaging, an Acudose-Rx nursing cabinet for the pharmacy and treadmills for the West Fitness Center. This year's first "fun run" was an overwhelming success, thanks to facilities management's Nancy Reich. Students from Heritage, Lawrence and Ansel Adams schools participated in the run – 125 in all. OB director Lesley Muscha was responsible for 72 "Walk" sign-ups and kept human resources hopping to keep up with her orders. A big thank you to HR, who sold the majority of the "Walk" t-shirts, for all their hard work and dedication. Thanks, also, to West Fitness for selling shirts. Displaying the best hospital participation ever, nearly 100 employees volunteered for the event. Many thanks to materials management's Jimmy Perryman, environmental-services and facilities-management staff who went above and beyond to make this event happen, (Donna Shaw, ext. 7582).

## ***Welcome, Dr. Gonzales***



Please welcome family practitioner Carina Gonzalez, MD. Dr. Gonzalez graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Rosario in Rosario, Argentina. She completed a residency program at Bella Vista Family Practice in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. She works in the Sutter-Gould group, (Linda Brown, ext. 7669).

## ***Rx formulary available on LMH intranet***

The LMH Pharmacy Department is pleased to announce the drug formulary is now available as a link on the LMH intranet. To access the formulary, just click on the "Pharmacy Formulary" tab on the LMH intranet home page. The drug list opens as a PDF file and is sorted alphabetically by therapeutic drug class. The formulary may also be searched by brand or generic drug name and lists restrictions and other important information. The list is updated on a monthly basis in order to provide the most accurate information to physicians, nurses and other clinical staff, (Sandy Atwater, ext. 7555).

## ***CMS audits on hold***

As many may be aware, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) audits have halted. LMH was never contacted because its Fiscal Intermediary (FI) had not provided claim information to PRG Schulz. The audits will resume around January 2009, once the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) are up and running. MACs process both Part A and Part B claims, which will eliminate FIs and carriers beginning August 2008. Some changes regarding future RAC audits include:

- All audits must be approved by CMS;
- RACs can audit claims less than a year old;
- RACs can only go back three years, but no further back than October 2007 (MS-DRGs);
- CMS will set monthly chart-request limits based on provider type and size;
- RAC is required to have an MD on staff;
- RAC must reimburse for copies on a monthly basis;
- RAC coders must be certified; and
- RAC medical-necessity reviews must be completed by RNs or therapists.

Some facilities have reported some rehabs that were denied previously due to RAC audits have been reversed and now have 100 percent of the claims paid, (Nancy Moran, ext. 7531).

## ***Don't forget to give***

The Delta Blood Bank will hold a blood drive at LMH on Tues., June 17, from 8:30a-2p, in Classrooms F and G. All those who donate will receive coupons for Baskin Robbins ice cream. Five donors will be drawn at random for a three-day, two-night hotel accommodation at a participating hotel. A sign-up sheet is available in the gift shop, but walk-ins are welcome as well, (Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616).

## ***Festa nets \$75K for homeless***



Last year LMH board member Annette Murdaca organized Festa della Donna, a fund raiser for local homeless shelters Lodi House and Hope Harbor. The event was so successful it was held again this year and yielded

\$75,000 for the two shelters. That goes a long way to helping Lodi's homeless. The event, a garden luncheon with exquisitely decorated tables, has sold out these last two years. It's the tables that are the big draw to the event. LMH was one of the table sponsors and donated its tickets back so they could be resold. Edith England, of OB, who has quite the flair for design and decoration, was selected to be one of the table designers for this year's event. She was happy to volunteer to do so, and her theme was – what else? – babies! Thank you Annette, Edith and all the others at LMH who work with our homeless patients each and every day, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

## ***Theme park discounts available***

Discount theme-park tickets are available to LMHers for the following parks:

- Paramount's Great America, San Jose, \$32;
- Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo, \$26;
- Universal Studios, Hollywood, \$48;
- Legoland, San Diego, \$41;
- Gilroy Gardens, Gilroy, \$23; and
- Sunsplash Water Park, Roseville, \$17.50; kids two and under, \$1.

Kids two and under get in free at the parks. Tickets can be purchased in the LMH Human Resources Department, (Larry Heller, ext. 7337).

## ***Share input and register to win***

Voice your opinion about how you get paid. Take the 2008 "Getting Paid In America" survey to be entered into a drawing to win a free paycheck and a trip for two to Las Vegas. The National Payroll Week survey lets respondents express opinions on issues that affect their paychecks. Take the survey from your home computer at [www.nationalpayrollweek.com](http://www.nationalpayrollweek.com). More than 47,000 people took the survey last year. With the information taken from the results, the payroll industry is better able to grow and respond to workers' needs. Share the "Getting Paid In America" survey with co-workers, friends and family so they can weigh in on their paychecks. The survey only takes about five minutes, (Cindy Butler, ext. 7513).

## ***TCU welcomes staffer***



Please welcome Kimberly Luke, new PM ward clerk in TCU. We are pleased to have her on the team. Welcome, Kim, (Cynthia Dennis, ext. 3168).

## ***Healthy eating made simple***

Here are some tips for making healthier food choices:

- Split an entrée with a friend, and save on calories and fat.
- Use balsamic vinegar on salad instead of regular dressing (add crumbled bleu cheese for added zest and little guilt).
- Eliminate the tortilla from wraps and burritos or tortilla chips from taco salad to save on calories.
- Make your favorite sandwich on a bagel to reduce fat.
- Cut down on fat and calories by using light mayonnaise or mustard. Make your own spread by mixing light cream cheese with cranberry sauce or Dijon mustard.
- Enjoy a frozen-fruit bar or Italian ice instead of ice cream or cheesecake.
- Pair one of LMH's heart-healthy soups with a side salad using light dressing for a healthy lunch or dinner, (Kathleen Jory, ext. 7580).

## ***Staffers receive training***

Congratulations to communications-staff members Carrie McGill and Jennifer Mills-Topping and facilities-management-staff members Gayle Moses, Robert Higgs and Tim Duncan. After a day of testing, all received their HAM Operator Technicians Licenses. As part of the hospital's emergency-management system, one of these individuals could be called on to operate the hospital's HAM radio for communication during an emergency. Thank you, all, for stepping up, (Barbara Sams, ext. 7529).

## ***Home-health patients educated***

Hospital liaison Terry Stormes has taken on an extra project for the LMH Home Health Department. She has developed information/instruction packets to be used in conjunction with patient teaching. To date she has completed packets on total-knee replacement, total-hip replacement, congestive-heart failure and diabetes. The patients and nurses find the packets very useful. They include specific instruction, illustrations, information on what to expect and what to do if problems arise. Thank you, Terry, for this very beneficial service, (Rose Mary Radotic, ext. 3116).

## ***Future RCP born***



Michelle Chandler, day-shift respiratory therapist, delivered baby girl Bailey Jean on Apr. 13. Bailey weighed in at five pounds, 13 ounces and measured 18 inches, (Willis Marzolf, ext. 7421).

## ***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. Direct items 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](http://www.lodihealth.org), (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).