

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

# 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

## **LMH gets building approvals**



**Tak Saito, Joe Harrington and Cecil Dillon, board chair**

At mid day Thursday, whoops could be heard from all around the East campus when the call came that LMH had just received final approval from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to go ahead and build the new South Wing. About 10 separate plans had been submitted for approval to both OSHPD and to City of Lodi. Plans included site and related work. Each separate plan included many disciplines (mechanical, structural, architectural, electrical, fire and life safety, plumbing and more). In turn, each plan had to be reviewed by many disciplines at the state and local levels before approval. The long process to develop and submit the plans began in 1997 and kicked into full throttle four years ago. It was a monumental team effort to develop and submit the plans. So, thank you very much to the internal team, our architects and building contractors for keeping the gray hairs to a minimum. Now that the plans have been okayed, the real work and real noise will begin (thanks everyone, in advance, for your tolerance and cooperation). Also, the effort to fund the project can now move forward. LMH's Finance Department will continue its huge effort with CalMortgage to secure \$150 million in bonds to fund the \$200 million project. LMH's Foundation will launch its campaign to obtain donations for the new South Wing. In all, the new South Wing will bring the hospital from the 173 beds we have now to 260 in 2010 when the doors and rooms open to patients. 2010 can't come soon enough, (*Tak Saito, ext. 7680*).

## **Many switching from Blue Cross**

Despite LMH's termination of its contract with Blue Cross on Apr. 1, the hospital continues to see a number of Blue Cross patients and has been successful in working with many of the Blue Cross union payors to negotiate rates for their members that take the financial strain off of what would otherwise be billed to those members as having gone to a non-contracted facility. Due to the number of calls received, many other employers and individuals are switching from Blue Cross to other health plans when possible. The good news on the horizon is that Lodi Unified School District employees recently had the option during open enrollment to switch to PacifiCare, effective Oct. 1, 2007. We look forward to again being able to provide services to LUSD employees in our community. Those with questions or concerns regarding Blue Cross or any other insurance, please feel free to call the contracts and recovery department, (*Karel Cole, ext. 7650*).

## **Construction ratchets up**

This week a new phase begins for the South Wing project. Since OSHPD has granted approval for the building, construction can now begin on the structure. Last week the grass area east of the main entrance was fenced, and on Mon., Sept. 24, vegetation will be cleared in that area. On Wed., Sept. 26, modifications begin on the exterior of the existing hospital to accept the new addition connection. This work will involve saw cutting and removal of exterior concrete portions of the existing building. Unfortunately it will be noisy on the south east end of the building as the activity will be in close proximity to the following areas: basement: hospitalist room; first floor: radiologist's office; second floor: rooms 212 and 214; and third floor: rooms 312 and 314. The most concentrated noise and vibration will occur during the modifications which are anticipated to occur intermittently over the next two weeks. The hours of construction work will occur Monday-Friday, 7a-3:30p. In order to minimize the disturbance to patients, we suggest that rooms in this vicinity be used only as a last resort. Please contact Nancy Reich with any questions. Thank you for your continued patience during the hospital expansion project, (*Nancy Reich, ext. 7612*).

## **Docs join medical staff**

Please welcome these new docs to LMH: Eric Yasumoto, MD, is affiliated with Delta Radiology. He graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. His internship was done at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. His residency program was at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland. Michael Catz, MD, is the new medical director of anesthesiology, affiliated with Premier Anesthesia. He graduated from Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara in San Antonio, TX. His internship in OB/GYN was done at Interfaith Medical Center (formerly Jewish Hospital and Medical Center of Brooklyn, New York). His residency programs were at University of Texas Science Center, in OB/GYN; Lady Davis Carmel Hospital in Haifa, Israel, in anesthesiology; and SUNY at Buffalo Anesthesiology Department. Types of training at SUNY included both OB and anesthesia fellowship. Suchdeep "Raj" Bains, MD, is affiliated with Pacific Heart and Vascular Medical Group. He graduated from New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY. His residency was done at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, a major teaching hospital for Stanford University School of Medicine. His fellowship was done at University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Dr. Bains also served as an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at UC Davis Medical Center. Renuka Nandan, MD, is affiliated with Premier Anesthesia. She graduated from Ross University, Dominica. Her internship and residency programs in general surgery and anesthesiology were done at Montefiore Medical Center, in the Bronx, NY, (*Linda Brown, ext. 7669*).

## **Foundation hosts open house**

Come see our new digs! The Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation will host an open house at its new location, 845 S. Fairmont Ave., Ste. 3, on Thurs., Sept. 27, from 4-6p. Please join us for wine and appetizers. Hope to see you there, (*Donna Shaw, ext. 7582*).



**Send "Pulse" articles to Community Development**

## **West campus showcases services**



**Last Thursday the staff at West hosted a very welcoming open house to showcase the continuum of care offered at that campus. The physical-rehabilitation unit for inpatients, the transitional-care units for inpatients, outpatient-physical therapy, home health and West Fitness wanted to thank all those who stopped by. They especially want to thank the East-campus staff and LMH board members who took time out of their busy days to visit.**

## **Smoke-free campus to go-live**

Lodi Memorial Hospital continues its move toward becoming a smoke-free campus on Nov. 15. Watch for signs around the campus with the daily countdown posted. Becoming a smoke-free hospital reflects LMH's goal of improving community health by promoting a healthy atmosphere for employees, patients, visitors and physicians. LMH will prohibit smoking or the use of tobacco products on all LMH-owned or leased buildings, grounds, parking lots, ramps, plazas, vehicles and sidewalks adjacent to LMH property. As employees, it will be all our responsibilities to support and help enforce this new policy. In-servicing will be done prior to the smoke-free-campus policy taking effect. Smoking-cessation classes will be offered to those smokers who wish to quit. Also, those with LMH's medical benefits qualify for treatment coverage with approved smoking-cessation aids in the amount of \$500 lifetime limit for these drugs, including nicotine patches, gum, Wellbutrin/Zyban, etc. Watch for further information and staff training, (Susan Henderson, ext. 7961).

## **Cash out PTO now**

The holidays are just around the corner and so is the PTO payout. This is the time of year when employees can cash out up to 40 hours of their Personal-Time Off (PTO). The qualifications for this cash pay out are that an employee must have at least 120 hours in his or her PTO bank to qualify. Example: If employee has 130 hours of PTO, they may cash out up to 10 hours. If they have 200 hours in their PTO bank, they will only be able to cash out 40 hours. The minimum payout will be eight hours. A Personnel Action Form (PAF) must be completed and turned in to human resources indicating the number of hours employees wish to cash out. These PAFs do not have to be approved by directors. These PAFs must be submitted to HR no later than Oct. 25. The actual check for PTO cash out will be Nov. 2. This check will be a separate check and will not go into direct deposit. Normal taxes and 403(b) contributions will be deducted as well from this check. If you have any questions, please contact the Human Resources Department, (Judi Simon, ext. 7443).

## **CMEs scheduled**

A CME is set for Tues., Oct. 2, from 12:30-1:30p, in Classrooms A and B. The topic is "DVT prophylaxis update and ACC guidelines," and the speaker is Brad Lewis, MD. On Thurs., Oct. 4, John Connolly, MD, will present "Community Acquired Pneumonia," from 12:30-1:30p, in Classrooms A and B, (Donna Schulz, ext. 7609).

## **Don't miss out on open enrollment**

Reminder! The whole month of October is LMH's health-insurance open-enrollment period. This is a great opportunity for those wishing to enroll or make changes to their existing health plans. Non-benefited employees will have the opportunity to enroll in the voluntary plans as well. Benefits specialist Lynette Havens will be available in a classroom setting Oct. 15-18 and for the rest of the month. A benefits fair has been scheduled to be held on Oct. 22. Come meet representatives from companies who offer benefits to LMH employees, get valuable information and don't miss the chance to enter your name in one of the drawings to be held. All open enrollment changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2008. Deadline to turn in all completed forms is Oct. 31. Those with questions should contact Lynette, ext. 7598, (Lynette Havens, ext. 7598).

## **Book fair set for October**

A book fair will be at LMH Fri., Oct. 5, from 8a-4p, in Classrooms A and B. Proceeds from the book fair will be used by the Rewards and Recognition Committee for activities to benefit the employees. Payroll deduction is available. Those with questions should call education services, ext. 7520, (Donna Schulz, ext. 7609).

## **Save the date**

The LMH Foundation will hold its annual Donor Recognition Reception on Thurs., Oct. 25, at 6p. Those wishing to set up department displays or volunteer for the event should contact Donna Shaw, (Donna Shaw, ext. 7582).

## **Kudos, BSNs**

Congratulations to Heather Bickford, RN, BSN, (PACU); Shiela Coito, RN, BSN, (OB); and Maria Lowe, RN, BSN, (OR), who recently received bachelor's degrees in nursing from the University of Phoenix. Your pursuit of an advanced degree is commendable, (Mary Lou Jenkins, ext. 7615).

## **Consider transportation alternatives**

With construction for the South Wing underway, finding a parking place can be rather difficult. This might be the ideal time to try alternate modes of transportation. Oct. 1-5 is the 24th annual Rideshare Week. Yvette Davis from commute connection will be in the LMH dining room on Mon., Oct. 1, from 11:30a-2p to promote Rideshare Week. Those thinking about carpooling or just looking for information about possible transportation options should be sure to stop by. Yvette will have plenty of information, a drawing to sign up for and maybe even some goodies. For more information call 1-800-52-SHARE or check out their website at [www.commuteconnection.com](http://www.commuteconnection.com), (Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616).

## **Who in the heck answered**



The last issue of "Pulse" contained a photo of a Duarte High School student. Though a number of guesses were submitted, only half were correct in guessing that it was none other than information technology's Ben Scott. For those who guessed the young man was environmental services' Randy Fields, better luck next time. Stay tuned for more "Who in the Heck?" in the next issue of "Pulse."

## **Fan mail**

LMH outpatient physical therapist Linda Muhlenkamp writes: *On Sept. 15, I gave birth to my first child here at LMH. Having never been an inpatient in a hospital, I was a little nervous before going in for inducement. However, after the experience, I have nothing but praise for our wonderful OB department. They were very professional and caring and gave us excellent customer service. I was able to have my extensive family support with me throughout, even though my birthing process was not always smooth and easy. I am very grateful for the wonderful care we got, and it makes me proud to be an employee of LMH. I especially want to thank nurses Jill Ross and Kim Gibson and Dr. Leslie Sackschewsky for their extra efforts and encouragement.*