

DECEMBER 2013



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## New Workspace 'Open to Ideas'

UC Health and the UC College of Nursing are partnering to develop an "open workspace of the future" in the College of Nursing's Procter Hall on UC's medical campus.

Supported by \$1.2 million over two years from UC Health, the renovated space will be home to approximately three dozen current UC faculty and staff, and will include another dozen open meeting areas and "touchdown" spots. Technology will be embedded throughout to allow for greater mobility across the space. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2014.

The open workspace will serve as a meeting place for UC Health and UC thought leaders to gather and plan for educational preparation of nursing students; a think tank for the development of future models of professional practice; and a training location for the ever-expanding use of technology in health care.

"The UC College of Nursing is on the cutting edge of technology and innovation, and UC Health is committed to being a part of the future of collaborative nursing education and research in Cincinnati," says James Kingsbury, retired president and CEO of UC Health.

Last spring, UC College of Nursing Dean Greer Glazer, PhD, was invited to



Kingsbury



Glazer



Courtesy of Steekase, Inc.



Courtesy of Haworth

a think tank of nursing college deans to brainstorm about the academic workspace of the future and how design could improve multi- and interdisciplinary team work.

"We all could agree that simulation labs, like the one we have in the College of Nursing, are the right way to go with regard to clinical training, but no one really had a plan for how to address other spaces important for faculty, staff and students."

Following that meeting, Glazer and her college developed a plan that, with built in flexibility and "living" and gathering spaces, is expected to optimize productivity and effectiveness and improve employee satisfaction, health and well-being.

"By removing the barriers created by traditional offices and replacing them with open, collaborative space, we expect the College of Nursing and UC Health will be able to work together to break down traditional silos and encourage a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving." ●

### Open Workspace for Nursing Education Innovation

Renovation of space at UC College of Nursing will feature:

- **7,200 square feet of open workspace**
- **Embedded technology for greater mobility and flexibility**
- **'Touchdown' spots for quick meetings** (concept shown above in insert)
- **Built-in 'living' spaces for improved workplace satisfaction**

## New President and CEO Excited to Lead UC Health

COLLEAGUES,  
I am deeply honored and humbled to be able to write this letter to you as your new president and chief executive



*Richard P. Lofgren*

officer. The board's faith in me to serve in this capacity is second only to the trust and confidence I hope to earn from each of you.

When I came to UC Health to interview for the position, what became immediately clear to me was the incredible, positive energy and enthusiasm that permeated the organization.

Frankly, they were downright contagious. I returned home to Chicago energized and excited by the possibility of leading such a focused, engaged and driven health system that is on the move and growing. My wife, Lynn, knew right away that I had been bitten by the UC Health bug; I am just grateful the UC Health board felt the same toward me and chose me to serve both them and you in this capacity.

As I begin my new role, I want you to know that I believe deeply in the importance and value of teams. We can

only achieve our goals, dreams and aspirations together as a unified and cohesive team bound by a common vision, purpose and set of values.

As the region's only academic medical center whose roots extend far and deep into Cincinnati and whose rich history spans nearly 200 years, UC Health is in a truly unique and enviable position to impact the community, drive the discussion about all things related to health and wellness and meet the challenges in a new and rapidly changing environment due to health care reform.

We have aspirations to become a regional market leader while building and extending our presence and brand across the nation and globe. Our tripartite mission of research, education and clinical care, as well as our unique role in providing advanced specialty care, give us a natural advantage to achieve those goals and further differentiate ourselves from our fellow hospitals and health systems.

Not only do we want our neighbors, friends and family members to know that they can get world-class care right here at UC Health, we want people all over the world to know the same!

These are all lofty but achievable goals that together we can attain, and I believe in your abilities to help us get there. Your full engagement and putting forth your best effort each and every day will help us achieve our goals.

Over the next several weeks, I will be spending time at each of the service sites getting to know you and your leaders. I will do so through a series of town halls that will have already commenced by the time this letter is published.

Much of my initial and sustained focus will be around four critical areas that will help further position us favorably in this market and establish our national and international reputation: quality, safety, patient satisfaction and efficiency. I also plan to round at each of our service sites to learn more about your jobs and the roles that you all have in helping achieve our goals.

I look forward to this shared journey and continuing the legacy that Jim Kingsbury created with the formation of UC Health. Together, we will achieve great things.

**RICK LOFGREN, MD, MPH, FACP**  
President and Chief Executive Officer,  
UC Health

### Connected

Connected is a monthly publication for clinicians and associates of UC Health. Send your comments and ideas to CorporatePR & Marketing @uhealth.com.

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# Robotic Surgery Offers Less-invasive Option

## UC Health first in region to offer single-site robotic hysterectomy

**H**ysterectomy, a surgery to remove the uterus, is done for a number of reasons, including cancer, irregular bleeding, fibroid tumors, prolapse (slippage) of the uterus and endometriosis.

However, like any surgery, the procedure can leave visible scars, and it can take a woman weeks to recuperate.

Now, gynecological oncologists at UC Health are offering single-site robotic hysterectomy using the da Vinci Surgical System, reducing the surgical site to a single one-inch incision.

UC Health is the only medical system in Cincinnati offering this procedure.

"This technique allows me to perform a hysterectomy through a single site—the navel. Therefore, the patient can still wear a variety of clothing and swimwear after surgery without showing scars," says Eric

Eisenhauer, MD, medical director of gynecologic oncology at UC Health and associate professor at the UC College of



**Eisenhauer**

Medicine. "Pain is minimized, and most patients go home after a day in the hospital."

During the procedure, the surgeon sits at a console, viewing the

pelvis through a 3-D, high-definition scope, and uses controls below the viewer to move the instrument arms and camera.

In real time, the system translates the surgeon's movements into more precise movements of the miniature instruments that are inserted through a port at the navel.

"Our goal is to get women recovered

from their surgery as soon as possible. We're very excited to be offering this service for our patients, making it possible for them to resume and enjoy their lives," Eisenhauer says.

In addition to hysterectomies, the system may be used for single-site robotic gallbladder surgery as well as gastric bypass surgery; however, these services will not be offered until a later date. ●

### Robotic Surgery Benefits Both Patient and Surgeon

Minimally invasive (robotic) surgery offers many advantages, including:

- **Smaller incisions**
- **Less pain**
- **Less blood loss**
- **Less scarring**
- **Fewer complications**
- **Shorter hospital stay**
- **Faster return to normal activities**

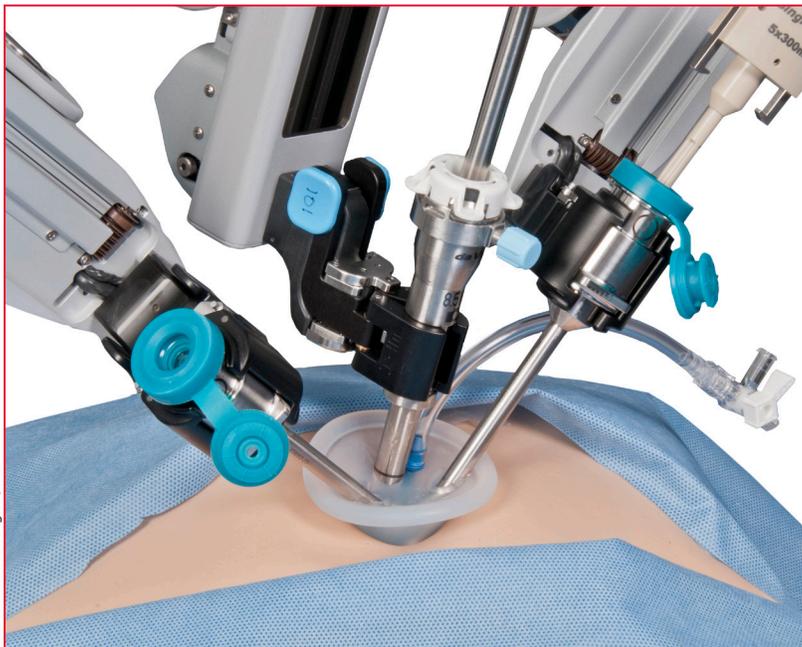
Major advantages for surgeons using robotic surgery include:

- **Greater visualization**
- **Enhanced dexterity**
- **Greater precision**

### >> **APPOINTMENTS & REFERRALS**

Eisenhauer sees patients in Clifton. To schedule an appointment, call 513-584-6373.

To learn more about the single-site robotic hysterectomy, visit [uhealth.com/robotic-surgery/single-site-hysterectomy](http://uhealth.com/robotic-surgery/single-site-hysterectomy).



© 2013 Intuitive Surgical, Inc.

**UC Health gynecological oncologists are first in the region to offer single-site robotic hysterectomy—reducing the surgical site to a single one-inch incision in the navel.**

## GUEST COLUMN

## Let's Help Our Patients 'Make the Right Call'

For many of our patients, navigating the health care system can be a daunting task—and may become particularly overwhelming for those who think they may require urgent care.

To assist patients in determining the appropriate level of medical care needed to address their particular condition, the Health Collaborative has created the “Make the Right Call” public service campaign.

A joint effort amongst the Health Collaborative, the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio, Health Care Access Now and the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio, the “Make the Right Call” initiative is designed to help patients make informed decisions about whether to seek treatment from an emergency department, or to seek care from their primary care physician. Its organizers aim to reduce the number of unnecessary visits to local emergency departments by 10 percent within the next two years.

As we are all aware, unnecessary emergency department visits often lead to facility overcrowding, create bottlenecks and limit the number of hospital beds available for patients in greater need. Further, the influx of patients into the emergency department by this population serves as a continual distraction to department personnel who are put in place to address life-threatening emergencies.

While urgent conditions such as stroke-like symptoms, chest pain and trouble breathing require immediate emergency department evaluation, it is common for patients to seek emergency treatment for more routine symptoms that, while uncomfortable, are not life-threatening.

The “Make the Right Call” program not only works to educate patients regarding the appropriate use of emergency departments, but also utilizes [yourhealthmatters.org](http://yourhealthmatters.org) to connect patients with primary care physicians if needed.

I encourage you to learn more about this important campaign, while continuing to assist all our patients in identifying the most appropriate level of health care service.

Thank you.

### Kevin Joseph, MD

President and CEO, West Chester Hospital

Assistant Professor, UC Department of Emergency Medicine



Kevin Joseph

UC Health's physicians are taking part in sharing the “Make the Right Call” message. Chris Miller, MD, UC Health emergency medicine physician and director of the emergency department at UC Medical Center, appeared in a “Make the Right Call” video with a local primary care physician to explain when it's best to go to an emergency department.

# Award-Winning NICU Prepared to Handle Toughest Cases

## Excellence by staff, volunteers brings honors from March of Dimes

**W**hether a baby is expected to be born early, or it's an unexpected event, the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at UC Medical Center is prepared to take on the challenges associated with premature birth.

This is not only visible by the thousands of healthy babies who have gone home from the UC Medical Center NICU, but also by the awards and recognitions that the unit—and the individuals who work there—have recently received from the state and the March of Dimes, the national nonprofit that researches and tracks infant mortality and works to educate the public on premature birth.

### Family Support Program/ Friends of Tiny Hearts

Kudos for the Level 3 NICU kicked off in September, when the unit's providers, staff and volunteers learned that the March of Dimes had awarded the NICU a \$90,000 grant to establish a March of Dimes Family Support Program. The highly sought-after program is in place at only 120 out of approximately 1,500 NICUs in the country and puts a March of Dimes representative in the unit part-time to assist family members with additional education and support.

The award validates the tremendous efforts of UC Medical Center's "Friends of Tiny Hearts" program, a volunteer organization formed in April 2013. Made up of UC Medical Center providers, staff and parents of patients, Friends of Tiny Hearts works to increase local awareness on premature birth by holding after-hours education programs for parents of premature babies and mothers at risk for premature birth. The group wrote the Family Support Program grant proposal and readied for the March of Dimes site visit.

"The March of Dimes was very impressed and said that our parent engagement through 'Friends of Tiny Hearts' and our clinical research were two of the deciding factors," says Ruby Crawford-Hemphill, assistant chief



**Crawford-Hemphill**

nursing officer, patient care services, at UC Medical Center.

### Medical Director Honored

In November, Prematurity Awareness Month, more recognition followed for the NICU.

The March of Dimes Cincinnati chapter named the NICU's medical director, Vivek Narendran, MD, as



**Narendran**

honoree at the organization's fifth annual "Signature Chefs Auction," fundraising event. Narendran is also UC professor of pediatrics and on the medical staff at

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

"While I am humbled and deeply honored with the recognition, this demonstrates that my team is energized and we will continue to work closely with the March of Dimes," says Narendran, who earlier this year was also named to Ohio's Maternity and Newborn Advisory Council, through 2017.

### Nurses Nominated

Also in November, March of Dimes Ohio Chapter held its first Nurse of the Year Awards. Among the nominees were two nurses from UC Medical Center's NICU. Emily Rosenberg, RN, NICU educator with 11 years of service, was nominated in two categories (Critical Care and



*In the U.S., more than 450,000 babies are born too soon each year, according to the March of Dimes, which works aggressively to track and improve the country's preterm birth rate. Research has shown that risks associated with prematurity include cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing problems.*

Women's Health & Centering), and Katie Framer, RN, mother/baby charge nurse with 2.5 years of service, was nominated in the Women's Health & Centering category. ●

# in brief

## Liver Transplant Clinic Opens at West Chester Hospital Campus

UC Health has expanded its transplant program by opening a liver transplant clinic on the West Chester Hospital campus.

This new clinic, which began seeing patients in October, is located at 7675 Wellness Way in the UC Health Physicians Office South Building, Suite 202.

With the opening of the liver transplant clinic at West Chester, more patients from Ohio cities like Dayton, Toledo and Lima will have convenient access to UC Health's transplant program, says Shimul Shah, MD, director of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary

Surgery at UC Health.

The UC Health liver transplant clinic in West Chester is open Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment or receive a physician referral, call 513-584-9999.



Shah

## Area Institutions Collaborate on Clinical Research Review

UC Health hospitals are among a group of hospitals and research institutions across Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky that has

formed a collaborative Institutional Review Board (IRB) agreement allowing any of the participating sites to serve as the IRB of record for human subjects research conducted across multiple participating study sites.

The new collaborative agreement, spearheaded by UC's Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CCTST) and the Greater Cincinnati Health Council, could increase study enrollment, speed the recruitment process for studies and expand access to clinical trials for people interested in participating.

Participants in the collaborative IRB agreement—all members of the Consortium of Greater Cincinnati IRBs (CGCI)—are Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, The Jewish Hospital – Mercy Health (serving as the IRB of record for Mercy Health), Northern Kentucky University, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, TriHealth Inc. and the

University of Cincinnati (serving as the IRB of record for UC Health.)

IRBs, required for institutions conducting research involving human subjects, are the infrastructure used to protect research study participants. Until now, collaborations across participating institutions locally had required redundant review at each individual institution—a multi-step process that could impede multi-site studies essential to developing new treatments and therapies to improve human health.

The new collaborative agreement reduces redundancies in the review process.

CCTST has experience developing multi-site IRB agreements. In 2012, CCTST leaders worked with partnering institutions in Ohio to develop a statewide process for IRB approval on multi-center trials. More than 25 studies have already passed through this statewide "reliant" IRB.

## Chair Named for Newly Formed Biomedical Informatics Department

Peter White, PhD, has been named the Rieveschl Chair of the new department of biomedical informatics at the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Medicine and director of the division of biomedical informatics in the department of pediatrics and Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation.



White

His appointment is effective Feb. 1, 2014, pending approval of the UC Board of Trustees.

The mission of the department of biomedical informatics is to use data to effectively create and apply knowledge to improve the understanding, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of health care issues.

In his role as chair, White will develop research and education programs in biomedical informatics. College of Medicine Dean Thomas Boat, MD, says the department will be the academic home for informatics faculty and will assist with collaborations and data sharing among UC, Children's Hospital and UC Health.

White, who will have a secondary appointment as professor of pediatrics, will lead efforts to develop a collaborative service core to support institutional needs for both bioinformatics expertise and medical informatics research. Additionally, he will develop a medical fellowship program for clinical informatics at University of Cincinnati Medical Center, with the first fellow expected during the 2016 fiscal year, and a doctoral program in biomedical informatics, pending UC and Ohio Board of Regents approval.

## Air Force Critical Care Instructors Training Launches in West Chester

West Chester Hospital, awarded provisional Level III Trauma Center status by the American College of Surgeons last July, has begun hosting C-STARS program instructors who work in critical care areas of the hospital and shadow clinicians to help keep their medical skills sharp.

In conjunction with UC Medical Center and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, the C-STARS (Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills) program is designed to prepare medical personnel for military evacuation missions using state-of-the-art equipment to simulate war zone conditions. After two weeks of intense training, graduates can then be deployed to Critical Care Air Transport Teams (CCATT), which staff medical evacuation helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to treat critically wounded soldiers removed from the field.

Through the C-STARS program, field medics undergo significant retraining each year. While at West Chester Hospital, C-STARS program instructors ensure their competency to teach C-STARS flight teams by completing clinical hours to maintain their knowledge of advanced care techniques, new equipment/instrumentation and the latest technology. •



**HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

# Her World Changed, Local Woman Still Keeps Singing

## Breast cancer could not stop traveling, inspiring and praising in faith

**N**edra Groggins-Sage says nothing can hold her back from singing—not even breast cancer.

Groggins-Sage, who is involved in World Beat Connection and other missionary organizations to spread her faith and lend her voice for praise, relocated to Cincinnati in 2010 for work.

"I didn't really enjoy Cincinnati, but now I know I was put here for a reason," she says, as two years later, she noticed a large lump under her arm which brought her to the UC Cancer Institute and UC Health breast specialists. "At first, they just thought it was a cyst. However, the day I was diagnosed, I remember sitting in the waiting room and hearing the song, 'Waiting on the World to Change.'

"They called me back and read me the results: It was cancer. I cried, and they hugged me, and then, I remembered that song and thought, 'My world has changed, but I'm not going to let this beat me down.'"

She had a rarer form of cancer, says Jaime Lewis, MD, surgical oncologist



Lewis

with the UC Cancer Institute who helped care for Groggins-Sage.

"We did several breast biopsies, but we couldn't find out its origin. We only found cancer in her

right axillary lymph nodes," she says, adding that precancerous cells were

found in the left breast.

Groggins-Sage began chemotherapy, which made her feel bad, but that still didn't stop her as she traveled to Jamaica and beyond, singing and praising.

To help with coping, she also began writing a blog, which has touched thousands of people who are also battling breast cancer.

"I was inspiring people from as far across the globe as the Netherlands and Russia," she says.

However, the therapy wasn't working, and it was impacting her quality of life.

"In August 2013, I had a double mastectomy and removal of my right lymph nodes, after much deliberation," she says, adding that her "readers" supported her and kept her optimistic. "Now, I'm cancer free.

"My physician team at the UC Cancer Institute was fantastic, and I really couldn't ask for better doctors—or people—to handle my care. Besides helping me through all of these hurdles, they laughed and cried with me. Now, I'm glad I live in Cincinnati.

"Most of all, with help from the team and my God, I can continue to use my voice to inspire and encourage people for years to come." ●

### >> **APPOINTMENTS & REFERRALS**

UC Health Surgical Oncology can be reached at 513-584-8900.

To learn more about the UC Cancer Institute Comprehensive Breast Cancer Center, visit [uccancer.com/breast](http://uccancer.com/breast).



Nedra Groggins-Sage with her husband

*"My physician team at the UC Cancer Institute was fantastic, and **I REALLY COULDN'T ASK FOR BETTER DOCTORS—OR PEOPLE—TO HANDLE MY CARE. ...***

*Now, I'm glad I live in Cincinnati."*

*Nedra Groggins-Sage*

# We're all UC Health

## Rhonda Stanford

Environmental Services Assistant  
UC Health Daniel Drake Center for Post-Acute Care

**TO SAY THAT RHONDA** Stanford is a giver is an understatement.

Stanford has worked in environmental services at Daniel Drake Center for Post-Acute Care for five years and sees every room that needs cleaning as a 15-minute opportunity to encourage the patient who is there.

"I enjoy talking to patients," she says.

"I like doing small things for them so the nurses don't have to, like turning on their televisions, changing the channel or getting them ice, if it's OK. I give them words of encouragement. I just try to fill in like family, while I'm cleaning."

Recently, a patient who had been at Daniel Drake Center for a long time wrote, "Rhonda always has a smile on her face. I called her my morning sunshine ... seeing Rhonda's smile would make my day."

Joe Kempe, Stanford's manager, spoke to the former patient and found out even more. The patient told him she believed that Stanford's smile and positive encouragement helped her to heal. "I thought that was a powerful remark," says Kempe.

If they desire it, Stanford says she prays with patients, holding their right hand and saying, "For I, the Lord thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, fear not, I will help thee."

She added, "If they shed a tear, I do, too, and then I give them a hug."

Stanford is a bundle of positive energy, always upbeat and smiling, which prompted one patient to ask her, "Are you always happy? Are you ever sad?"

Her response was she's never sad, angry or upset around patients. "I'm human, too, but I'm not going to bring that here to you,

because you're not well, and you need to get well," she said.

Stanford has a special place in her heart for cancer patients, maybe because her mother has fought successfully both lung and breast cancer. She offers cancer patients who have lost their hair a stylish knit hat, the color of their choice!



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- MT. AUBURN
- RED BANK
- SPRINGDALE
- TRENTON
- TRI-COUNTY
- WEST CHESTER
- WESTERN HILLS
- WHITE OAK
- WILMINGTON
- WYOMING
- KENTUCKY**
- FLORENCE
- LEXINGTON
- MAYSVILLE
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- INDIANA**
- AURORA
- BATESVILLE
- GREENSBURG
- MADISON
- NORTH VERNON
- RUSHVILLE



Rhonda Stanford

**Rhonda sees every room that needs cleaning as a 15-minute opportunity to encourage the patient who is there.**