

STRATEGIC PLAN TO SERVE AS A COMPASS

Annual Operating Plan to Chart Medical Center's Course

KEVIN BARRETT
STAFF WRITER

Guided by a recently approved five-year Strategic Plan, the University of Chicago Medicine has rolled out its Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Operating Plan, which sets the agenda for the coming year and positions UChicago Medicine to tackle the unprecedented changes occurring in the U.S. health care system.



SHARON O'KEEFE The Strategic Plan is the result of a year-long effort by Medical Center leaders, aided by outside consultant BDC Advisors, to identify challenges and opportunities in the near future. Approved by the Board of Trustees in May, the Strategic Plan sets five-year revenue goals and cost targets, as well as strategies to overcome the challenges faced by health care providers across the country.

The Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is integrated with the Strategic Plan and is the Medical Center's road map to ongoing improvement for the coming year.

Such long-term thinking is key, Medical Center President Sharon O'Keefe said at a



TOM ROSSITER

THE ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN, INTEGRATED WITH THE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN, IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ENHANCE THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE IN A CHANGING HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY.

recent forum. UChicago Medicine and other health care providers face an overhaul of Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement policies resulting from the Affordable Care Act, consolidation in the local health care market and other significant changes to the health care industry.

"Amid all these unprecedented challenges, we must not lose focus on our primary goals: setting the standard for safety and quality and providing unsurpassed patient care across the University of Chicago Medicine," she said.

The FY14 AOP incorporates the Strategic

Plan's imperatives, turning them into an action plan for the coming year. Those imperatives are outlined in five key domains — People, Patient Experience and Service, Safety and Quality, Finance and Long-Term Positioning. Some objectives for each domain:

People: Improve diversity and inclusion, develop new training, improve benefits

Patient Experience and Service:

Improve the overall patient experience, align service standards

Safety and Quality: Maximize coordination, enhance service

Finance: Transformation of supply chain, improve cost position, optimize the revenue cycle

Long-Term Positioning: Develop outside relationships and ventures, improve external recognition

By keeping the UChicago Medicine on a solid financial footing, the Strategic Plan and AOP ensure that our caregivers can continue to provide world-class care to our patients as the U.S. health care systems evolve.

Job Satisfaction on Rise at Medical Center, BSD

KEVIN BARRETT
STAFF WRITER

Scores on the University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Sciences' annual Employee Engagement Survey continued their upward climb in 2013, showing a strong commitment among employees and staff to their work.

The survey, which was administered to all Medical Center employees and Biological Sciences staff in May, posed 64 questions covering the areas of workplace engagement, diversity, wellness and culture of safety. The responses are used by administrators to improve the workplace and to better engage Medical Center and BSD staff.

"We are progressing in many key areas, helping us gain the momentum to create the best experience for patients, employees and staff," said Terry Solem, Vice President, Human Resources.

The overall participation of 77.2 percent — with a full 80 percent response rate from the Medical Center — was above the national average on such surveys.

According to high-level preliminary results, both Medical Center and BSD staff indicate continued improvement in many areas. For the Medical Center, the 2013 total Commitment Indicator score rose to 3.85 from 3.80 last year.

While the BSD's overall score was down slightly from the previous poll, BSD



MORE THAN 6,000 MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYEES AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES STAFF RESPONDED TO THE ONLINE 2013 EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY.

scores improved on 95 percent of the 64 core survey questions. The Medical Center's scores rose on 100 percent of the core questions.

Notable strengths for both the Medical Center and BSD were satisfaction with benefits, pay, and use of employees' skills and abilities, Solem said.

The Medical Center and BSD management team will receive specific group-level results this month. Those results will be shared with directors and managers, who will share them with their teams and use them to build action plans to improve employees' engagement and satisfaction and to sustain the Medical Center's positive momentum.

Organizational Development will be

offering classes for leaders and managers on creating action plans. In addition to offerings for new managers, refresher courses for those who were here for the last survey will be available.

Previous Employee Engagement Surveys have led to substantial improvements in workplace practices, benefits and wellness offerings, and overall Medical Center performance.

"We have our employees' efforts to thank for that,"

said Solem, who is looking forward to seeing the improvements sparked by the recent survey.

EES 2013 Numbers at a Glance

4,616	UCMC Respondents
1,482	BSD Respondents
250	Ambassadors
17	Team Captains
50	Kiosks
13	Prize Winners
\$1,525	Total Value of Gift Cards

Next Up

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

AUGUST 1: National Minority Donor Awareness Day, join Secretary of State Jesse White, the UChicago Medicine and more at the Thompson Center, 9:30 a.m. at 100 W. Randolph St., to "Wave Away the Waiting," contact f.lee08@gmail.com.

AUGUST 10: Marchers needed! Join faculty, staff and employees for the 84th Bud Billiken Parade, the South Side's annual back-to-school extravaganza and picnic. Buses leave from the Friend Family Health Center at 8:15 a.m. at 55th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue, register at 855-433-6727 or at <http://ucmbudbillikenparade2013.eventbrite.com>.

AUGUST 11: White Coat Ceremony, traditional welcome of first-year students to the Pritzker School of Medicine, keynote address by Mark Siegler, MD, Professor of Medicine and Surgery and Executive Director of the Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence, 3 p.m. at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel.

SEPTEMBER 27: Sign up now for the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, 11 a.m. in Grant Park. Our goal: \$70,000. Top Medical Center/BSD teams include Heart of the U, Leading by Example, FD&C Walks with Heart, CBIS and UCPG, www.metrochicago-heartwalk.org.

ADVANCING OUR MISSIONS

- PEOPLE
- PATIENT EXPERIENCE
- SAFETY & QUALITY: OBSTETRICS
- NEUROSCIENCES

Mother of Triplets Regains Health, Appetite for Family Life

MATTHEW WOOD
STAFF WRITER



MATTHEW WOOD

TRISH DILG, RIGHT, SHOWN WITH HER HUSBAND, ANDREW, AND TRIPLET DAUGHTERS MARY, CLARE AND ADDISON, WAS UNABLE TO EAT NORMAL MEALS UNTIL UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE EXPERTS DIAGNOSED AND TREATED A RARE DIGESTIVE DISORDER.

For three years after she gave birth to triplets, Trish Dilg suffered from gastro-intestinal issues. She had trouble keeping food down and lacked the energy to keep up with her three little girls.

“By the time my daughters were 3, even they were asking, ‘Aren’t you hungry?’” she said.

Dilg, 34, who used to work in the IT Department at the University of Chicago Medicine, moved to Allentown, Penn., to be closer to family when the children were born. She learned to live with the discomfort, eating small amounts and drinking more liquids.

But her aunt had an idea. Eve Tyree, a member of the Kovler Diabetes Center Leadership Board, suggested she come to the UChicago Medicine, home to one of the best digestive disorders programs in the nation.

Gastroenterologist Sonia Kupfer, MD, arranged for a battery of tests and radiologist Arunas Gasparaitis, MD, who specializes in abdominal imaging, spotted the problem. Dilg had a rare condition called superior mesenteric artery (SMA) syndrome, where two of the large arteries in the abdominal cavity compress the duodenum, or upper portion of the small intestine.

Normally a pad of fat protects the intestine and provides separation from the arteries. But with SMA syndrome, this fat pad is reduced or missing, allowing the arteries to squeeze the intestine and cause blockage. In many cases, significant weight loss can lead to loss of this fat pad and to disease. An untreated patient can suffer malnutrition, weight loss, pain and discomfort.

Dilg was relieved. “It was proof that I wasn’t making this up,” she said.

She met with John Alverdy, MD, Vice Chairman of Surgery, who specializes in a variety of gastrointestinal surgical procedures. Dilg eventually opted for laparoscopic surgery, which Alverdy performed through a few small incisions. The procedure bypasses the blockage by creating a connection between the duodenum and the jejunum, a lower portion of the small intestine.

Now, Dilg feels like a new person. “I remember my first actual meal when I got to go to a restaurant and eat a whole meal,” she said. “It was such a nice thing.”

Building a Better Doctor-Patient Relationship Through Ongoing Care

AMY ALDERMAN
STAFF WRITER

David Meltzer, MD, PhD, associate professor and chief of the Section of Hospital Medicine, is rethinking “the way we do everything” when it comes to professional care. And he’s calling on University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Sciences employees to help him find answers.

Meltzer and his colleagues are evaluating the outcomes and costs of patients at high risk of hospitalization who see the same physician for most of their clinic and hospital care compared to those who see different doctors. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid is funding the \$6.1 million Comprehensive Care Program study through a Health Care Innovation Award.

“The people I worry about most with our current system are the patients who come into the hospital often,” Meltzer said. “They see a different doctor every time.”

His hope is that the study’s results will inspire changes, leading to more physicians nationally to provide care for patients both in the hospital and in clinic. The hope is that patients’ health will improve and costs will decline, Meltzer said.

In comparison to most primary care providers, who treat an average of 2,000 patients, CCP physicians each have a caseload of 200 patients, allowing them more time to learn about and treat each patient in clinic and in the hospital.

The program, an updated version of the traditional model of general practitioners, is founded on the concept that trust and communication are key factors in developing a better patient-physician relationship.



PHOTO PROVIDED

JERALDINE JOHNSON, LEFT, TALKS WITH ELIZABETH PAESCH, MD, AT THE COMPREHENSIVE CARE PROGRAM STUDY CLINIC. THE STUDY IS DESIGNED TO INSPIRE DOCTORS TO OVERSEE THEIR PATIENTS’ CARE IN BOTH CLINIC AND HOSPITAL SETTINGS.

This bond makes for a deeper understanding of the whole patient, providing for more comprehensive care for patients who are most likely to be hospitalized repeatedly.

The Comprehensive Care Program has been funded by Medicare, and it is only open to Medicare patients who have been hospitalized one or more times in the last year. Employees can get involved by sharing information about the program with patients, loved ones, and through local organizations.

For more information, visit ccpstudy.uchicago.edu, contact ccpresearch@bsd.uchicago.edu or call 773-702-4444.

Paging Dr. Stork! New System Preps Staff, Moms for Emergencies

MARY STROKA
STAFF WRITER

The “Dr. Stork” team, on call since July 2, is delivering the resources of the Women’s Care Center to patients across the medical campus.

“Emergency situations involving pregnant women can be challenging,” said Kenneth Nunes, MD, Associate Professor of General Obstetrics and Gynecology and Executive Medical Director of the Women’s Care Center. “We are caring for two patients—mother and baby. It requires us to respond as a multidisciplinary team.”



MARY STROKA

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN PERPETUA GOODALL, MD-OB/GYN, GREETES PATIENT ZINEISHA STANLEY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE. THE NEW DR. STORK PAGING SYSTEM ENSURES THAT MOTHERS-TO-BE RECEIVE EXPERT HELP ACROSS THE MEDICAL CAMPUS.

The goal of Dr. Stork is to bring the best treatment and equipment to a setting that may not be optimal for women facing spontaneous deliveries or other obstetric emergencies, said TaShunda Green, RN, MBA, director of the NICU/CTCU/MTCU and the Women’s Care Center.

When an expecting mother at 18-plus weeks is admitted to any hospital department outside the Women’s Care Center, the obstetrics medical staff is advised of her location.

The alert ensures that a portable tower of equipment for labor and delivery arrives at her bedside. This measure prepares for a successful intervention and/or arrival of the newborn and treatment of the mother anywhere in the Medical Center.

When the Dr. Stork call is made, the charge nurse for labor and delivery, the obstetrics attending doctor, obstetrics residents, the labor and delivery OR tech, the NICU Code Blue team, and respiratory therapy staff are dispatched to the patient’s unit.

The Dr. Stork team may supplement, but does not replace, other emergency responses. But it also gives expecting mothers facing medical challenges the peace of mind that the right team and right equipment are available should there be complications.

The University of the Chicago Medicine is at the forefront of high-risk infant care, with one of the largest Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) in the Midwest. Comer’s Children’s Hospital records about 1,000 admissions annually.

For more information on Dr. Stork, contact Nhu Trinh, Dr. Nunes’ assistant, at 2-6127. Staff members can page the Dr. Stork team via the Call Center.

Black Americans Vulnerable to Decline In Sense of Smell

JOHN EASTON
STAFF WRITER

The ability to distinguish odors declines with age, but a new study shows that African-Americans have a much greater decrease in their sense of smell than Caucasians.

The consequences are serious. Olfactory loss can lead to impaired nutrition and may be an early symptom of such neurodegenerative diseases as Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s.

The study, published online in the *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, found that aging African-Americans and Hispanics had comparable deficits. For Hispanics, social and cultural factors — such as disparities in education, household assets and health-related cognitive problems — accounted for the sensory loss. Yet premature presbyosmia, or age-related declines in the ability to smell, could not be explained by social, environmental or medical factors in the black population.

“We have long known that men begin to lose their sense of smell some years sooner than women, but this is the first study to point to racial or ethnic differences,” said study author Jayant Pinto, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Chicago Medicine.



PHOTO PROVIDED

ACCORDING TO THE NEW STUDY, NON-WHITE SUBJECTS EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF SMELLING ACUITY AS THEY AGE, SCORING 47 PERCENT LOWER THAN CAUCASIAN SUBJECTS IN OLFACTORY TESTS.

This study was one component of the UChicago Medicine-based National Social Life, Health and Aging Project (NSHAP), the first in-home study of social relationships and health in a large, nationally representative sample of adults ages 57 to 85. Subjects provided personal information about race, ethnicity, their health and resources.

Genetic variation may play a role, as could exposure to nerve-damaging substances in the environment, or both. “Race likely serves as a proxy for differential environmental exposures and life experiences, which may interact with biological differences,” the authors note.

For example, certain medications or exposure to various volatile chemicals can harm olfactory function. “Sanitation workers, for example, are often affected,” Pinto said. “They are routinely exposed to noxious odors that can trigger inflammation.”

Follow-up interviews with study subjects confirmed earlier findings that impaired olfaction is a harbinger of mortality. Those with the poorest sense of smell in 2006 were three times more likely to have died by 2011 than those with normal smell function.

“Olfaction is the canary in the coal mine of human health,” Pinto said.

Volunteers Bring ‘Colors and Smiles’ to Cancer Patients



CAROL MICHALOWSKI PAINTS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF CARING ARTS FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER JORDI PEDROLA, CENTER, AS HER HUSBAND, LARRY MICHALOWSKI, WORKS ON A LANDSCAPE AS HE UNDERGOES CHEMOTHERAPY.

AMY ALDERMAN
STAFF WRITER

With paint brushes sprouting from his blue volunteer’s jacket, artist Jordi Pedrola peeks around a curtain in an adult oncology unit, smiles and says in his thick Catalanian accent, “Hello! Would you like to paint?” Larry Michalowski, 62, undergoing his first chemotherapy treatment in the Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine, looks up from his book, unsure.

With gentle encouragement from his wife, Carol, the junior high school teacher of 40 years closes his book. “OK, sure,” he says.

Chalk up another victory for Jordi. A highly accomplished painter, the Spanish

immigrant is a volunteer with the Caring Arts Foundation, a Chicago-based organization that brings the arts to cancer patients at local hospitals. These painters and musicians, trained to work in hospitals, volunteer more than 1,000 hours a year at the University of Chicago Medicine alone, adding their artistic flair to the cause of healing.

Recreational therapist Bridget Hanson says Pedrola and his fellow Caring Artists help patients process their emotions and provide some well-needed fun.

“Many of these patients endure lengthy hospital stays and prolonged stress related to their conditions. In addition to their medical needs, patients may need help to

deal with the stress of illness,” Hanson said. “All of the Caring Arts volunteers are extremely important and amazingly successful in helping patients feel better by attending to their emotional needs.”

A Musical Lift

Two other Caring Arts Foundation artists found regularly at UChicago Medicine are guitarist Bill Syniar and classical cellist Petar Kecenovici. Syniar, a former bassist for the rock band Survivor, and Kecenovici, who has toured with international stars, play in the Center for Care and Discovery’s Oncology and Stem Cell Transplant areas from 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Recently, in a 10W exercise room-turned-music hall, Deborah Ward snapped her fingers, clapped, and sang along with the duo’s rendition of Fleetwood Mac’s “Dreams.”



FORMER SURVIVOR BASSIST BILL SYNIAR ENTERTAINS ONCOLOGY PATIENTS IN THE CENTER FOR CARE AND DISCOVERY.

“It really made my day,” said Ward, finishing up her fifth cycle of treatments for larynx cancer. “I’ve been in here for five days this week. You don’t get to breathe fresh air. You can look outside, but this (the music) lifts your spirits.”

Jordi’s Rounds

As he walks from patient to patient and from adult to pediatric oncology clinics, many of Pedrola’s potential “customers” shy away. But the few who pick up a brush look up with wonder or delight as they create art.

“I bring color and smiles,” Pedrola says. This is his way of giving back.

“My mother is a cancer survivor twice,” Pedrola says. “I wanted to do something.” He dedicates three days a week to bringing art supplies and talent to UChicago Medicine, Gilda’s Club Chicago and other sites.

Back on Larry Michalowski’s unit, Pedrola fills two palettes with 10 colors of paint. Michalowski dabs up the paint and applies it to a penciled drawing of a mountain scene outlined by Pedrola.

“At first, I didn’t want to do it,” Michalowski admits between brush strokes. “But I’m enjoying it. It helps to pass the time, and I like trying to figure it all out. It’s nice.”

Michalowski finished his mountain landscape, and it is now framed and hanging on a wall at home — a serene memory from a troubled time. “Jordi is an angel who gives people inspiration during situations that would otherwise be very difficult,” he said.

‘Warp and Weft’ Weave New Visions of Identity

A sprawling, black, squid-like dress and fiberglass crochet grids are among the various forms of contemporary media now lining the walls of the Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine Sky Bridge.

The pieces are part of “Warp and Weft: Deviations Away from the Woven Image,” an exhibit sponsored by the University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Sciences Division Healing Arts Program. The collection is on display until September 18.

Each artist used fabric to explore the realm of free interpretation or borrowed implications of its textural influence.

Monica Hork, president of Arts in Health and art advisor to UChicago Medicine, and Kathy DeVries, Vice President of Marketing and Communications and a fiber artist herself, worked with members of the UChicago Medicine and BSD Healing Arts Program Committee to bring the collection to the medical campus. “The artists in ‘Warp and Weft’ chose to veer from the traditional aspects of various media to create innovative and thought-provoking interpretations of the human identity,” DeVries said. “I am proud that we can dedicate this space to these talented artists, who are providing a healing and meditative outlet for our patients and staff.”



PERFORMANCE ARTIST JULIE LAFFIN’S 60-FOOT BLACK GOWN OCCUPIES NEARLY AN ENTIRE WALL IN THE DUCHOSSOIS CENTER FOR ADVANCED MEDICINE SKY BRIDGE, 5758 S. MARYLAND AVE. THE IRONIC SYMBOL OF THE FEMININE ROLE IS SHOWCASED IN “WARP AND WEAFT: DEVIATIONS AWAY FROM THE WOVEN IMAGE,” ON DISPLAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18.

GRIME-FIGHTING ADVENTURES AT COMER



THIS FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN — WINDOW WASHER VICTOR ORTIZ OF CORPORATE CLEANING SERVICES, INC. — DELIGHTED YOUNG PATIENTS JULY 8 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE COMER CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL. COSTUMED SUPERHEROES WAVED, FLEXED A LITTLE MUSCLE AND POSED FOR PICTURES DURING THEIR GRIME-FIGHTING MISSION. JARARDO VACA, AKA CAPTAIN AMERICA, JOINED THE WEB-SLINGER ON THIS MULTISTORY CAPER. THE DUO WENT ON TO WASH THE REST OF THE WINDOWS ON THE MEDICAL CAMPUS. THE REAL-LIFE HEROES “LOVE TO TREAT THE KIDS. THEY GET A KICK OUT OF IT,” SAID CHARLES ADKINS OF CORPORATE CLEANING SERVICES. “IT MAKES THE KIDS HAPPY, SO WE’RE HAPPY TO DO IT.” — **BY CHANDLER MOORE**

AT THE SCENE — EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS



A 75-MEMBER TEAM FROM THE YEAR-OLD UCHICAGO COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER AT SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL HELPED RAISE MORE THAN \$75,000 FOR THE CANCER SUPPORT CENTER’S WALK OF HOPE.



REAL DOCS GRILL! FROM LEFT, VOLUNTEER CHEFS PHILIP VERHOEF, MD, CHARLES BARRON, MD, AND ATTORNEY JESSE HARRIS WORK THE SHISH KEBAB DETAIL AT THE REAL MEN COOK BENEFIT JUNE 16 IN CHICAGO.



ANNE HONG, MD, LEFT, WAS NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE PRITZKER FACULTY PHYSICIAN PEER ROLE MODEL AWARD AT THE JUNE 20 STUDENT CLINICIAN CEREMONY. GUESTS INCLUDED SCOTT STERN, MD, CENTER, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND GERARD MIKOLS, MBA, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION.



PITCHER CHASE DOREMUS COACHES CANCER SURVIVOR JANET CASCETTA BEFORE SHE THROWS THE FIRST PITCH AT A JOLIET SLAMMERS GAME JUNE 23 AT SILVER CROSS FIELD. THE UCHICAGO COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER AT SILVER CROSS SPONSORED CANCER SURVIVORS DAY AT THE PARK.

Medical Center Expands HIV Testing and Outreach



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT STAFF NURSE DESHARA SMITH, RN, BSN, RIGHT, DISCUSSES HIV TESTING WITH A PATIENT. THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AVERAGES 340 HIV TESTS PER MONTH.

JEFFREY BISHKU-AYKUL
STAFF WRITER

University of Chicago Medicine nurses and physicians are taking a lead in the fight against HIV transmission, ramping up testing and linking patients who test positive to care.

Expanded HIV testing and care outreach is a major focus of the Chicago Department of Public Health. According to a recent CDPH report, UChicago Medicine accounted for more than half of all HIV tests performed for CDPH programs in clinical settings city-wide in 2012.

“A big part of HIV prevention is testing people, making a diagnosis, linking them

to care and getting them on therapy in order to prevent HIV transmission to other individuals,” said David Pitrak, MD, Chief of the Section of Infectious Diseases.

Pitrak is co-director of the Biological Sciences Division’s new Chicago Center for HIV Elimination, which has the goal of eliminating new HIV transmission events over the next 30 years. He and co-director John Schneider, MD, MPH, along with James Walter, MD, Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of Emergency Services, are especially focused on high-risk areas.

The rate of HIV prevalence among Chicagoans stood at more than 756

“A big part of HIV prevention is testing people, making a diagnosis, linking them to care and getting them on therapy in order to prevent HIV transmission to other individuals.”

—David Pitrak, MD, Chief of the Section of Infectious Diseases

individuals per 100,000 in 2011, more than twice the national rate, according to a CDPH study.

Chicago’s “three high-risk spots,” Pitrak said, can be found on the Near West Side, the North Side and the South Side, and some of the highest rates of infection are in the Greater Grand Crossing, South Shore, Washington Park and West Englewood neighborhoods surrounding the Medical Center.

The Emergency Department has averaged 340 tests per month so far in 2013, up from the average of 89 a month in 2011. Across the Medical Center, an average of 1,060 patients have been tested each month this year, up from 587 a month in 2011.

Triage nurses DeShara Smith, RN, BSN, Maria Handley, RN, ECRN, CEN, and Avery Kueck, RN, BSN, CEN, took the initiative in 2011 to create a system to flag patients who agreed to HIV screening. That system has been the key to raising efforts to test more patients and to connect them with care.

Emergency Department medical staff have identified 54 patients who tested positive for HIV, 31 of whom were new diagnoses. Of those, 26 were linked to care with UChicago Medicine faculty

members who are experienced HIV providers, either at the Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine or the Access Grand Boulevard Health Center, which is a partner with the Urban Health Initiative.

Both sites receive U.S. Department of Health and Services Administration Ryan White HIV/AIDS funding for comprehensive HIV care.

Testing and care take place at a host of other sites, including the UChicago Medicine’s inpatient and general medicine units and outpatient clinics, as well as nine city clinics.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ... TOTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE

BIGGEST LOSERS ARE THE BIGGEST WINNERS

Total Health Challenge Results Exceed Expectations



LOOKING UP AND LOOKING AHEAD: WELLNESS AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR JASON WHETSEL AND MEDICAL CENTER PRESIDENT SHARON O'KEEFE, CENTER, CONGRATULATE THE WINNERS OF THE TOTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE, THE HOSPITAL-WIDE FITNESS AND WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM.

AMY ALDERMAN
STAFF WRITER

University of Chicago Medicine employees shed more than 2.7 tons of body weight and logged 36,440 hours of exercise in the Total Health Challenge, a hospital-wide fitness and weight-loss program.

The results of the free competition exceeded expectations, said Jason Whetsel, Director of Wellness and Health Management.

“Our goal was to log 180 minutes of exercise a week,” Whetsel said. “We blew that goal out of the water. The average participant in the Total Health Challenge logged 262 minutes of exercise a week. Overall, I’m very pleased with the way we finished.”

More than 1,000 employees completed the eight-week Challenge. The average participant lost 5.2 pounds and 5.4 inches, and dropped two points in blood pressure.

Employees competed in six-person and two-person teams, and individually.

Veronica Stroud won the goal prize of an elliptical trainer. The top-finishing teams are **The Original Walkers**, **STAT (Smart, Thin, and Trim) Ladies**, and **The Greene Losers**.

William Pharr and **Amanda Patz** joined forces to win the buddy team category.

Susan Munger and **James Lung** placed first among their competitors in the 30 and under age group. **Chandra Jackson** and **Clement Lam** ruled the 31 to 40 age category while **Lili Qi** and **Dereck Williams** dominated the 41 to 50 bracket. **Anita Williams** and **Carlos McCain** triumphed in the over-50 category.

STREETTALK

AROUND THE MEDICAL CAMPUS
CUBS OR SOX?

“The Cubs, because they’re overdue.”
Elia Martinez, RN, OCN
Research Nurse

“The Sox, because I live in the South Loop.”
Rajan Gopalakrishnan, MS
Director for Informatics, Comprehensive Cancer Center

“The Cubs, because they’re one of the original teams.”
H. Barrett Fromme, MD
Pediatrician

“Sox, because of the fans’ pride.”
Tyrone Shannon
Housekeeping Assistant

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR DREAM VACATION?
SEND YOUR THOUGHTS TO MOLLY WOULFE AT MOLLYWOULFE@UCHOSPITALS.EDU AND INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER.