

ECMO team wins ELSO Award



The MCGHealth Children's Medical Center ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) team won the Award of Excellence from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization. This marks the third time the ECMO team has won the two-year award.

The award, which recognizes ongoing programming

excellence, will be presented at the 21st Annual ELSO Conference in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Pictured (front row, from left) are Linda Turner, Linda Wise, Carmen Burdette, Patricia Parker and Marnita Wade; and (back row) Rachael Stenger, Deborah Wall, Ida Blackstone, Dr. Jatinder Bhatia, Dr. Walter Pipkin,

and Dr. Charles Howell. Team members not pictured are Dr. Rick Boedy, Dr. Oommen Mathew, Dr. Anjali Parish, Dr. Chantrapa Bunyapen, Dr. Jennifer Martinez, Dr. Bradley Buckler, Dr. Erwinson Bassig, Dr. Robyn Hatley, Don Lipscomb, Elizabeth Curry, Dana Dudley, Tamara Collier, Becky Hollins and Bobbie Sconyers.

The Children's Medical Center became the first hospital in the Southeast to offer ECMO to newborns experiencing respiratory failure, and today remains one of only two in the state. ♦

Sparks named administrative fellow



Corey Sparks has joined us as an administrative fellow after graduating from

Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs with a master's degree in health administration.

His experience has included intern assignments at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind., and

Bloomington Hospital in Bloomington, Ind., where he worked on patient satisfaction, space planning, safety and financial performance projects.

He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. ♦

Community leaders scrub in



Phil Wahl of First Citizens Bank gets a lesson in performing minimally invasive surgery from Dr. Todd Merchen.

Posing for their class photo are (first row, from left): Cindy Azziz, MCG first lady and community advocate; Nadia Butler, ESI Acquisition, Inc.; Connie Melear, R. W. Allen; Rebekah Henry, Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art; Stacie Adkins, Columbia County Community Events; Susy Allen, Learning Express Toys; Lisa Dorn, Augusta Chronicle; Phyllis Giddens, Morris Museum of Art; (back row, from left) David Fritz, Augusta State University; Phil Wahl, First Citizens Bank; Frank Spears, State Farm Insurance; Scott Johnson, Columbia County Board of Commissioners; Chris McLaughlin, Georgia Bank and Trust; Doug Johnson, Columbia County Magazine; Mark Herbert, Herbert Homes; Darrell Byrd, First Bank of Georgia; Bill Gibbs, Jim Hudson Lexus; and William Weston, Blanchard and Calhoun Insurance.

Twenty business and civic leaders, including Medical College of Georgia first lady Cindy Azziz, participated in the recent CSRA in Scrubs,

which began in August 2007 with a class of 16 community influentials.

CSRA in Scrubs allows participants to walk in the shoes of health care professionals as they don scrubs and go “Inside the Children’s Medical Center,” “Collaborate to Conquer Cancer,” “Cut on the Dotted Line (simulated surgery)” and more. The full-day program also gives participants the opportunity to follow a true-to-life, but fictitious patient and family through some difficult end-of-life decisions in “Tough Questions, Tough

Decisions” and lunch with patient advisors to learn how they plan everything from patient menus to facilities in “It Pays to Listen.” ♦



Dr. Adam Berman (left) briefs William Weston of Blanchard and Calhoun Insurance, Doug Johnson of Columbia County Magazine and Lisa Dorn of the Augusta Chronicle on the operations of the Electrophysiology Lab as Dr. Robert Sorrentino, Pam Higby and Marcia Frye (background) observe.

Free screenings offered

Otolaryngology will host free thyroid cancer screenings, Sept. 9, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its practice site on the fourth floor of the Medical Office Building. To avoid waiting, please make an appointment by calling 706-721-4400. ♦

Roberson named administrative director



Anthony “Bernard” Roberson has been named administrative director of Patient Family

Centered Care. He is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of programs designed to make patients and families partners in the delivery of health care – a nationally acclaimed philosophy pioneered by MCGHealth.

Roberson joined us in 2000 as a social worker/case manager. In 2007, he was promoted to director of family services development. Prior to that, he served as the director of community development at the United Way of Aiken County and was the resident services coordinator at the Aiken Housing Authority.

Roberson earned a BA degree in psychology at Augusta College and an MS degree in management/hospital

administration at Troy State University.

He holds a Human Services Certification from the University of Georgia’s Fanning Leadership Center; a Certification in Public Housing Management from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organization; and successfully completed the Team STEPPS Master Trainer Preparation Course of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. ♦

Enterprise-Wide Strategic Planning initiative off to rapid start

Medical College of Georgia President Ricardo Azziz recently charged a team with shepherding the Enterprise-Wide Strategic Planning (ESP) initiative, a three-month effort that will produce a road map to guide and focus our efforts over the next three years.

The ESP initiative, which began Aug. 2, is led by Dr. Peter Buckley, MCG senior associate dean for leadership and chairman and clinical chief of the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior, and Joe Thornton, MCGHealth assistant vice president of ambulatory care finance.

The planning process will rejuvenate the MCG enter-

prise, Buckley said. “We’re going to collaboratively search for innovative solutions and strategies and take steps in a new direction together.”

Buckley and Thornton have formed a steering team to motivate, monitor and support work groups exploring strategic direction for four primary pillars: educational excellence, research growth, clinical integration/development and workforce development.

The teams have broad, enterprise-wide representation and will obtain feedback from the entire MCG community.

“This is an exciting effort and we want to ensure that every voice is heard,” Thornton said. “Ultimately,

the team will create a meaningful plan with tangible results and attainable goals.” The final plan will be presented by early November.

Please visit esp.mcg.edu frequently for updates on the ESP initiative and how to participate. Your suggestions are also welcome at esp@mcg.edu. ♦

Help wanted

Volunteer Services is looking for additional volunteers and more spots to assign volunteers. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please leave a name and phone number at 706-721-7608 or 706-721-3596. ♦

MCGHealth achieves successful pneumonia outcomes

A team of MCGHealth clinicians and support personnel recently had the honor of being one of three hospitals selected to participate in a nationally broadcast “Spotlight Webcast” hosted by the University HealthSystem Consortium. This recognition came as a result of MCGHealth’s performance after enrolling in the 14-week UHC Collaborative Pneumonia Core Measure initiative.

The team, led by Tracie Sowinski (Emergency Medicine), consisted of Dr. Bruce Janiak (Emergency Medicine), Kasey McGill (Emergency Medicine), Nurse Managers Carol Puz and Homer Barnes, Dr. David Snyder (executive champion), Kim Wood (Medical ICU), Cynthia Pruet (Clinical Informatics), Shirley Williams (Quality Management) and Peppy McBride (Quality Management).

“It is very difficult to make a quick diagnosis of pneumonia when the patient comes through the door. We developed a list of seven common symp-

toms and if the patient has any three of them, we now flag that patient for expedited care,” Sowinski said.

Based on best practices, the team decided to flag patient charts to identify those with pneumonia. The flag consists of a bright orange form that has two sections. The top section is for Emergency Department care, and the bottom section is for inpatients. The top section calls for placing an orange form in the patient’s chart to expedite the patient’s ED care. It also has information about antibiotic timing and the need to obtain blood cultures before administering antibiotics. “Our success in obtaining blood cultures prior to giving antibiotics went from 83 percent to 93 percent as a result of the collaborative,” said Dr. Snyder.

The bottom section of the flag addresses patient assessment for needed vaccinations and for antibiotic selection. “A major problem we were having with the vaccination assess-

ment was that a significant percentage of our patients are confused or unable to answer questions, and we have no other sources of information about their immunization status. After Epidemiology researched the issue and determined that it was safer to give an immunization than to omit it for patients with an uncertain history, our nurses agreed to give the vaccine to those patients within 24 hours. Our baseline performance in giving indicated immunizations was 61 percent. It went to 100 percent after implementing this simple change,” Dr. Snyder said. “We had improvements in all the areas we addressed, and MCGHealth actually led the collaborative in terms of our Medical Center’s performance.”

The UHC is an alliance of 103 academic medical centers and 191 of their affiliated hospitals representing approximately 90 percent of the nation’s nonprofit academic medical centers. ♦

Bloodless Medicine seminar held

The Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program will host a free seminar for the community, Sept. 11, 1 to 5 p.m. at the MCG Alumni Center, 919 15th St. Keynote speakers will be Dr.

Colville Ferdinand, medical director of the program, and Dr. John Lue, assistant professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. All are invited to attend.

The bloodless medicine program, the first in the CSRA, is a specialized service for patients who wish to avoid the use of donor blood during medical and surgical procedures. ♦

Fair will help you change your life in just one day

Not eating well? Are you sleepless? Feeling sluggish, rundown? Want to make a change in your well being, but just don't know how to get started? The Women's Health Fair can help you change your life.

The Sept. 8 fair, open to all MCGHealth employees, their family members and friends, will be held in the Dogwood and Magnolia Rooms of Terrace Dining

from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Services include blood pressure screenings, glucometer and cholesterol screenings and body mass index evaluations.

Representatives from Cardiology, Family Medicine, Breast Health, Palliative Care, Rehab Services, Sleep Center, Pediatrics and many other clinical areas will be available to provide you with general information, talk to you

about available resources and discuss your health concerns.

As an added bonus, some of the participating clinical services will have a gift basket drawing.

The opportunity to feel better and get more enjoyment out of life, combined with the chance to win prizes...what more do you need to mark Sept. 8 on your calendar? Please mark the date and plan to attend. ♦

Pro Bowl jersey raffle nets \$1,000



A raffle of the Pro Bowl jersey worn and signed by Atlanta Falcon's receiver Roddy White was recently organized by the Roddy White Keep the Faith Foundation and Choices – A Lifetime Development, Inc. with the proceeds of the raffle benefiting the MCGHealth Children's Medical Center.

Sabrina Thomas, Joenethia White (Roddy's mom), Errol Thomas, Rosalee Mitchell (Roddy's grandmother) and Helen Brown (Roddy's great grandmother) present a check for \$1,000 to Jim Mumford, administrative director of pediatric ambulatory services at MCGHealth. ♦

MS Family Day 2010 draws 130



The Augusta Multiple Sclerosis Center at MCGHealth recently hosted a record 130 people at its annual "Living with MS as a Family" event. Clinicians spoke and conducted interactive exercises to help family members better understand what MS is like for someone living with the disorder. Dencondria and Marion Garrett (foreground) were among the participants. ♦

Welcome new team members

Nancy Abercrombie, 3 North
Neuroscience

Bonita Bennett, Dining Services

James Borden, 5 West Medicine

Karlin DiMarcello, 6 South Telemetry

Deiadra Edwards, 7 South

Constance Ennis, IS Planning and
Administration

Ronda Eskew, 5 West Medicine

Darryl Fowler, Emergency Medicine

Dianne Furniss, Equipment Cart
Services

Annie Huerta, Pediatric IV Team

Nathalie Lindroth, 5 West Medicine

Lindsay Maloney, 5 South Stem Cell
Transplantation

Shannon Mills, Occupational Health

Meredith Newman, 3 North
Neuroscience

Angela Paschal, Medical ICU

Abigail Peed, Surgical ICU

Brian Pruitt, Electrophysiology Lab

Adrian Rhynes, 6 South Telemetry

David Sherman, Environmental
Services

George Singleton, IS Planning and
Administration

Kyle Smith, 6 North Cardio
Pulmonary Care

Erin Solem, 4 South Surgery

Lisa Strickland, Cancer Clinic

Ashley Stroup, Eye Clinic ♦

Need a personal trainer?

The MCG Wellness Center offers a \$49 introductory package and 10 percent off all other packages during September. The introductory discount applies to members only; the rate is \$79 for non-members.

For further information, call 706-721-6800 or visit mcg.edu/wellness. Or, stop by for a tour. ♦

CSRA beats the heat with a Miracle Treat



The CSRA recently supported the renovation of the pediatric hematology/oncology clinic by purchasing a Blizzard® from participating Dairy Queens. This year's event is expected to raise about the same as last year — \$9,000.

Five-year-old Duncan Johnson (second from right) helped serve Blizzards along with (from left) his cousin Hannah Corbitt, mom Kaci and sister Morgan. Duncan is being treated at the MCGHealth Children's Medical Center for Burkitt's Lymphoma. ♦

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