

Howard named AVP of Facilities



Philip Howard has been named Assistant Vice President of Facilities

Support Services.

Before joining MCG Health, Inc., Howard was Vice President of Campus Services at LifeBridge Health in Baltimore. Previously, he

served as Director of Facilities Management and Construction at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.; as a Project Manager at Kroll Construction in Owings Mill, Md.; and as Director of Facilities at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. Howard also has served in various capacities in facilities management at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Howard received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the

University of Maryland in College Park and a Master of Science degree in Business Management from Johns Hopkins University.

He is a member of the American Society for Healthcare Engineers, the American College of Healthcare Executives and the University of Maryland Alumni Association. He is also an alumnus of Leadership Baltimore County. ♦

McGuire named Director of Employee Relations



Tiffany McGuire has been named Director of Employee Relations.

Before joining MCG Health, Inc., McGuire was a Human Resources Business Consultant at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah.

Previously, she held roles as Employment Specialist, Employment Coordinator and HR Consultant at University Health Care System.

McGuire received a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resource Management and an MBA with an emphasis on Health Care Administration from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. She completed HR

internships at University Health Care System and at the Medical College of Georgia.

She has been a national member of the Society for Human Resource Management since 1997, was previously a member of the Savannah Area Chapter and is currently a member of the Augusta-Aiken Chapter. McGuire is a certified Professional in Human Resources. ♦

Echocardiography Lab reaccredited

The Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories recently reaccredited the MCGHealth Adult Echocardiography Lab for demonstrating a high level of commitment to quality patient care in Adult Transthoracic, Stress and Transesophageal Echocardiography. The MCGHealth Echo Lab is the only one in the area that is ICAEL-accredited in all three diagnostic areas. Additionally, the Adult Echo Lab is one of only five in the state to be ICAEL-accredited in Adult Transesophageal Echo.

“We are pleased to be recognized for excellence in all areas of echocardiography. ICAEL accreditation is evidence that the diagnostic services our Adult Echo Lab performs are in sync with the national standards for image acquisition and interpretation,” said Dr. Gyanendra Sharma, Medical Director of the MCGHealth Cardiovascular Center and Interim Medical Director of the Adult Echo Lab.

Echocardiography is used to detect cardiac structure and flow patterns that may indicate

cardiovascular disorders and heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. An estimated 10 million echocardiograms are performed annually in the nation.

The ICAEL is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring high quality patient care and to promoting health

care. Accreditation is based on an extensive self-evaluation and case studies. Because renewal requires reapplying to the ICAEL every three years, a long-term commitment to quality and self-assessment must be developed and maintained by accredited medical centers. ♦

New Pediatric Cath Suite opens



Faculty and staff recently gathered in the newly expanded pediatric cath suite for an open house. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon are (left to right): Don Snell, President and CEO; Dr. Kenneth Murdison, pediatric cardiologist; Dr. Bernard Maria, Medical Director of the MCGHealth Children’s Medical Center; patient advisors Edyth

Martin and Deborah Wall; and Barbara Meeks, Vice President of Pediatric Patient Care Services. It is the only facility of its kind in the region with hybrid technology that allows physicians to perform certain surgical procedures in the suite rather than having to move patients to the operating room or schedule surgeries at a later date. ♦

Ten things you need to know about flu

The following is a series of frequently asked questions prepared by Dr. James Wilde, Emergency Department Physician at the MCGHealth Children's Medical Center, to help you prepare for the anticipated pandemic this fall and winter.

What is H1N1?

Swine flu started in pigs. Swine flu viruses have been known for decades. The official designation for this new form of flu is "novel H1N1". Novel H1N1 is a strain that has mutated to allow it to attack humans.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of this flu are basically the same as seasonal influenza symptoms and include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue

Some people also experience vomiting or diarrhea. The flu usually runs its course within three to five days.

What treatments are available?

Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu and Relenza can shorten flu symptoms by 12 to 36 hours if taken soon after symptoms appear. However, most experts do not recommend antiviral medications for otherwise healthy people who become infected with ordinary seasonal flu since most recover in three to five days with little or no intervention. Thus far, H1N1 is no more dangerous than seasonal flu, so most people will not require antivirals.

When should I see my doctor?

If you are under age 65 and do not have serious health problems, you probably do not need medical attention. Most people should be able to care for themselves at home with bed rest, fluids and fever-lowering medications, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. However, contact your doctor if you have:

- Fever with a cough or sore throat and either a pre-existing serious illness or pregnancy.
- Flu symptoms and you are older than 65 or under 2 years of age.

- Flu that does not improve after five days.
- Flu accompanied by difficulty breathing or continued dizziness while standing.

Will antibiotics help?

Antibiotics are for bacterial illnesses and are useless against viruses. Influenza is a virus, so antibiotics are not typically prescribed for simple flu.

However, if your doctor believes you have a complication of the flu such as pneumonia caused by bacteria that are infecting on top of the flu virus, antibiotics may be necessary. Clues to this type of complication are difficulty breathing, chest pain or fever that does not resolve after four to six days.

Is H1N1 flu in this area?

Yes, there have been a number of confirmed cases of H1N1 in the Augusta region over the summer months. It has become so common as a cause of flu that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention no longer recommends routine testing to confirm it except in hospitalized patients.

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Willson selected as CAA surveyor



Jane Willson, Director of Rehab Services, was selected by the Council

on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to attend its site visitor training class. The class prepared

Willson to be a site surveyor for graduate speech and audiology programs for the next four years.

Prior to joining MCGHealth in 1999, Willson was Manager of Clinical Operations for NovaCare Incorporated. Before that, she was a speech therapist in the public school system of Montgomery County, Pa.

She earned her B.A. degree in Speech Communication

from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, an M.A. degree in Speech Pathology from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and a doctoral degree in Speech Language Pathology from Nova Southeastern University (Florida).

Willson is a member of the Georgia Speech and Hearing Association and the American Speech Language Hearing Association. ♦

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Will there be an H1N1 vaccine?

Two doses of vaccines may be needed for H1N1. The first doses of H1N1 vaccine are expected to be available soon.

Is the H1N1 vaccine safe?

The safety and effectiveness of the H1N1 vaccine is currently being tested at hospitals across the nation, including Emory in Atlanta. Health officials are conducting thorough tests and proceeding cautiously because they vividly recall the swine flu vaccine campaign of 1976. Although official investigations have cleared the vaccine

of culpability, the number of patients who contracted Guillain-Barre Syndrome was high.

What are MCG Health, Inc.'s plans?

Our exact plans are not yet clear due to the evolving nature of international, national and state recommendations regarding H1N1 and the yet unresolved questions around the availability of an H1N1 flu vaccine. We will bring you details of our preparations as they become available.

Where can I get more information about H1N1 or seasonal flu?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

maintains information on influenza at cdc.gov/flu. The CDC site is updated daily. Also, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a website, pandemicflu.gov. ♦

Cast your vote now

Between now and October 16, 2009, go to xbox.childrensmiraclenet.org to vote for the MCGHealth Children's Medical Center to become one of three children's hospitals to win a Microsoft Xbox 360. You can vote up to 10 times a day. ♦

Hodge named Director of HR Communications and Retention Programs



Diana L. Hodge has joined MCG Health, Inc. as Director of Human Resource

Communications and

Retention Programs. In this position, Hodge will be responsible for developing and implementing employee communications and retention strategies.

Hodge earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in business from the University of North

Carolina in Chapel Hill and her MBA degree in marketing and finance from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Hodge is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the American Marketing Association. ♦

Groups benefit MCGHealth patients

MCGHealth and the Medical College of Georgia receive support from a number of civic organizations. For example, the American Heart Association contributes more than \$6.1 million to fund heart research, making MCG number one for AHA funding in the state. The Georgia Transplant Foundation is another such organization.

In 2008, the GTF provided transplant program candidates and recipients with more than \$170,000 in monetary assistance. The GTF will match funds up to \$10,000 for transplant-related expenses, including the necessary yet expensive immunosuppressant medications. Transplant recipients can use GTF assistance for emergency medication assistance, lodging for transplant evaluation visits, post-

transplant accommodations for themselves or their families, insurance premium assistance and dental services.

Living donors may also apply for assistance related to being tested for and facilitating a living kidney donation, including funds for lodging, transportation, meals and household expenses.

Monies also go to help families of transplant candidates, recipients and donors with scholarships and counseling.

“In addition to monetary assistance, the GTF has a number of programs that our transplant patients find invaluable,” said Connie Haney, MSM, CNMT, Administrative Officer of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program. “Their services include vocational training, marriage counseling

seminars, fundraising seminars, mentor programs for donors and recipients and regional health education seminars.” ♦

GTF benefit concert

Zac Brown Band will perform on Thursday, November 12 at 8 p.m. at the Bell Auditorium. “The Beat Goes On” will benefit the Georgia Transplant Foundation. Tickets are \$100, \$35, \$30 and \$25 and go on sale October 1. A special \$3 per ticket discount is available for MCGHealth, MCG and PPG employees until October 8. You can purchase tickets at crsatic.com and enter code GZZB. Tickets can also be purchased at the box office by showing your employee ID. ♦

Welcome new team members

Denita Alhammad, *Operating Room*

Shacoyia Brown, *Operating Room*

Kevin Bryan, *Abdominal Imaging*

Bradley Clark, *Supply Distribution*

Ashley Edwards, *GRTC
Administration*

John Gordon, *Nursing
Administration*

Brittany Hammett, *7 West
Obstetrics*

Thomas Harris, *Radiology Neurology*

Patricia Jones, *Family Medicine
Model Office*

Beverly Kline, *Operating Room*

Linda Ledger, *4 South Surgery*

Albert Marble, *Application
Installation & Support*

Angela McIntosh, *Staffing Office*

Cynthia Moncrief, *Family Medicine
Model Office*

Jacqueline Parham, *Operating Room*

Joan Smith, *Environmental Services* ♦

It's a jungle out there

The United Way of the CSRA kicked off its 2009 campaign with the theme "Jungle Escape," a motif that recognizes the adversity of the current economic climate and the challenge of reaching the United Way's \$4.4 million

fundraising goal. Dr. J. Michael Ash, Vice President for Administration at the Medical College of Georgia is chairing the campaign.

Details about the MCG Health, Inc. campaign will soon be available. ♦

Walk4Hearing slated

The local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America is 52 percent of the way toward achieving its 2009 fundraising goal of \$30,000, but the organization still needs your help.

The group will hold its Walk4Hearing, Saturday, October 20 at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion, 3300 Evans to Locks Rd, Martinez. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m.

You can walk as an individual, start a team or join a team. For further information, go to walk4hearing.org and click on the link to the Martinez walk. ♦

Breast health month celebrated

Numerous activities are being planned to salute National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Among them are:

Lunch and Learns. Dr. Robert Pendergrast will talk about complementary medicine October 7 and Dr. Thomas Samuel will speak on "Reducing Your Risk of Breast Cancer" October 14. Both

events will be held in the Magnolia and Dogwood Rooms of Terrace Dining from noon to 1 p.m. A light lunch will be provided so space is limited. Reserve your space by calling 706-721-4109.

Faces of Hope. The faces of our breast cancer patients will be rotated among the plasma screens at the main entrances to health system buildings.

Real Men Wear Pink. Each Thursday, the construction workers building the new outpatient cancer facility will wear pink t-shirts proclaiming that "Real Men Wear Pink."

Other events are in the planning stages and will be announced throughout the month. For further information, please contact 706-721-4109. ♦