UChicago Medicine leads new pediatric asthma center on the South Side

Center to combat condition’s disproportionate impact on local children

David Rudd

Recognizing that asthma affects children on Chicago’s South Side more than in many other communities in the city, the University of Chicago Medicine’s Urban Health Initiative and the Department of Pediatrics will lead a collaboration of health providers to develop the South Side Pediatric Asthma Center.

The objective of the center is to develop a collaborative, innovative and high-quality system of care for pediatric asthma management on the South Side.

The Urban Health Initiative and the Department of Pediatrics will be joined by La Rabida Children’s Hospital, the Friend Family Health Center, St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center. These partners intend to adopt a pediatric asthma management model with first-year goals to standardize patient care to ensure a comfortable environment for medical care and a secure workplace.

“We have a lot of different systems, technology and staff certified to use them to maintain a very secure environment through our seven million square feet of space that we monitor,” said Scott Levy, Director of Public Safety and Parking.

“The Public Safety team includes more than 100 men and women who work across three shifts each day, Levy said. They are the public safety coordinators who staff entrances to the Medical Center, checking for badges and helping those who need directions, as well as public safety officers who patrol the campus and respond to incidents.

In December, the Public Safety team activated a new command center from which it can monitor the entire medical campus. This center utilizes 2,100 security cameras, 3,245 card reader-access controlled doors, more than 900 panic buttons, 50 protected doorways for the HUGS Infant Security System, and more than 20 types of alarms — including fire and radiation signals — that feed into it.

From the command center, security staff can automatically lock any card reader-access controlled door. Also, if a panic alarm is triggered, images from cameras closest to the scene immediately appear on the command center console.

Even though alarms are silent to respect patient care, the public safety team averages a response time of less than two minutes to arrive at the location of an alarm.

“All available officers respond as quickly as possible,” Levy said. “Alarms remain in an ‘active’ status until a public safety officer manually turns off the panic alarm with a key. Despite many false pulses (alarms), we respond to all alarms with urgency.”

“Safety tips on page 4.

David Rudd

Staff Writer

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UChicago Medicine awards grants to support local grassroots violence prevention programs during summer

David Good

Staff Writer

The University of Chicago Medicine (UCM) has awarded seven capacity-building grants to provide immediate support to existing community-based violence prevention, intervention, and recovery efforts on Chicago’s South Side.

The grant money will allow the selected community organizations to fund new counselors, new equipment, and program expansion to include more participants. The grants are designed to support programs that will help create safer spaces during the summer.

“Violent incidents in our community are more prevalent during summer months,” said Brenda Bartle, Vice President, Urban Health Initiative and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the University of Chicago Medicine. “As a community partner, it is imperative that we work with local grassroots organizations to identify and activate solutions that will help keep children and adults safe.”

The concept of responding to the immediate need to address violence while working together on a long-term solution was developed at the suggestion of UChicago Medicine’s Community Advisory Council and its Trauma Care and Violence Prevention work group.

The group recommended that UChicago Medicine proactively respond to increasing violence at the close of the school year and the beginning of the summer. The recipients of the grants are located in UChicago Medicine’s service area. Awards include:

• Breaking Bread: The organization mentors at-risk, young African-American men and hosts workshops that will focus on violence, substance abuse, self-awareness and cultural respect.

• Crushers Club: Utilizing the sport of boxing and music to develop bonds among at-risk young men, the program discourages them from joining gangs and promotes education.

• Gary Comer Youth Center: Youth at the facility will be engaged in social activities that support positive social interactions, and a teen career development program helps youth learn the necessary skills to obtain jobs.

• Global Girls, Inc.: The organization provides a safe space for girls ages 8-18 to learn the arts while gaining social, emotional, leadership and communications skills.

• Kids Off the Block, Inc.: A holistic care center for prevention, personal growth and empowerment. KOB provides a safe place, especially for youngsters who do not feel welcomed by traditional youth programs.

• Mothers Against Senseless Killing Foundation (MASK): The foundation aims to prevent and disrupt violence in targeted communities by promoting good health and addressing safety issues.

• Woodlawn East Community and Neighbors: The group thwart gang-related violence by developing youth leadership skills, connecting young people to social services, and demonstrating freedom through artistic expression.

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The center will receive initial funding of $750,000, which includes a $500,000 matching grant from the Chicago-based Coleman Foundation to encourage other donors, and a $250,000 gift from another donor. These donations, plus additional funding to be sought, will be used to hire needed community health workers who will provide training to asthma patients, their parents, school nurses, teachers and others.

Initially, the center will identify children with asthma and then help lead them to primary care physicians for treatment.

“We are excited to work with all the organizations involved,” said Michael Hennessy, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Coleman Foundation. The center will receive initial funding of $750,000, which includes a $500,000 match- ing grant from the Chicago-based Coleman Foundation to encourage other donors, and a $250,000 gift from another donor. These donations, plus additional funding to be sought, will be used to hire needed community health workers who will provide training to asthma patients, their parents, school nurses, teachers and others.

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“We are excited to work with all the organizations involved,” said Michael Hennessy, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Coleman Foundation.
When Gregory Fulham, 62, thinks of the extra weight he used to carry, he visualizes three new nonsurgical weight loss procedures offered at UChicago Medicine.

In January 2017, Fulham had endoscopic sleeve gastroplasty (ESG), one of the few nonsurgical weight loss procedures offered at UChicago Medicine. "It's designed to jump-start weight loss," said gastroenterologist Christopher Chapman, PhD, who performed the minimally invasive, endoscopic technique that reduced Fulham's stomach by 70 percent.

A dietitian worked with Fulham to plan his new diet, which entailed eating smaller portions of calorie-packed meals. He lost nearly 15 percent of his weight in the first three months after the procedure and his BMI dropped from 39.7 to 33.9.

"This procedure has been a miracle for me," said Fulham. "And it may have even saved my life."

**Reducing the stomach without surgery**

A more direct alternative to traditional obesity surgery is a helping people jump-start their weight loss. Our Center for Endoscopic Research and Therapy (CERT) is the first center in the nation to offer most of the nonsurgical procedures to shrink the size and volume of the stomach. Christopher Chapman, PhD, Director of Barrettic and Metabolic Endoscopy, answers your questions about endoscopic stomach gastroplasty (ESG), which can help patients lose nearly 20 percent of their total body weight.

**Who is a good candidate for ESG?**

Endoscopic sleeve gastroplasty (ESG) is an endoscopic weight loss procedure for patients with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 and 40. However, this minimally invasive technique may be an option for you if you have already tried diet and exercise to lose weight and still want to consider procedures with higher BMI.

**What happens during the procedure?**

Endoscopic sleeve is a minimally invasive procedure that creates a small tube — called an endoscope — through the mouth, down the esophagus and into the stomach. Using a device attached to the endoscope, we can create a narrow row of stitches that put the stomach in two parts: a small pouch and a larger, more flexible tube that allows nutrients to pass through. Patients experiencing ESG said the procedure takes about an hour and most patients go home the same day.

**What kind of results can patients expect?**

Changes in lifestyle and diet are always the most important factors in maximizing weight loss. In the first three to six months, patients can expect to lose 10 to 15 percent of their total body weight. Typical weight loss in the first year after an ESG procedure ranges from 30 to 60 pounds.

**Advantages of endoscopic sleeve gastroplasty**

- Fast recovery
- No incision
- No scarring
- No hospital stay
- Reversible
- Can be repeated

**OUTSTANDING DOCTOR Nominates Christopher Chapman, Ph.D., for the Illinois Medical Education Foundation’s Joseph G. Nagler, Ph.D., Professor of Pathology (Senior Award) and Monica Vela, MD, Professor of Medicine (Junior Award) and talks with physicians.

As their future unfolds!

**Distinguished Leader in Divercity and Inclusivity**

Sonia Kupfer, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Junior Award) and Cathryn Nagler, PhD, Professor of Pathology (Senior Award)

**Distinguished Clinician**

Kamala Corre, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Junior Award) and Edward Gartmy, MD, Professor of Medicine (Senior Award), and Wendy Steck, MD, Professor of Medicine (Senior Award)

**Distinguished Leader in Program Innovation**

Eugene Haegt-Schutz, MD, and Katherine Thompson, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Junior Award) and Cathryn Nagler, PhD, Professor of Pathology (Senior Award)

**Distinguished Educator/Mentor**

So Gilbert, Faculty Deputy of the School of Medicine and Rob Knapke, PhD, Director of the Center for Microbiome Innovation at the University of California, San Diego, wanted to provide some answers to their new book, “The Advantage of Germs for Your Child’s Developing Immune System.” (Houghton, Pan, $29.95). The book is an encyclopedic guide to the role of trillions of microbes, viruses, and fungi that live on and around our bodies — in health and wellness.

In the introduction, the authors note that the goal is “to show you, to the best of our scientific data and knowledge, how the microbes and your child’s health and development.”

The award shows the strength of raising their own children. Their explanations combine common sense with scientific insight. Here are a few answers to the questions above — for more detail, you’ll have to read the book.

1. Your second worst role in a month. Many people. I do not want to be a nurse...

2. "What was the most important factor in maximizing weight loss for you?"

3. If you had more time and energy to identify green opportunities on the medical campus. They are the most important factors in maximizing weight loss. In the first three to six months, patients can expect to lose 10 to 15 percent of their total body weight. Typical weight loss in the first year after an ESG procedure ranges from 30 to 60 pounds.

4. "I was never a fan of exercise, but I forced myself to do it. I could have been more active, but I was too busy."

5. What was the most important factor in maximizing weight loss for you?

6. Answering parents’ questions about kids and germs

NOURISHING JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

MYCOSURGERY

A webinar presented by the University of Chicago Medicine Department of Pediatrics.

You can also view our Making a Difference Every Day photo album on the University of Chicago Medicine Facebook page.

**Proforefront Staff**

**Biological Sciences**

**Faculty members honored for excellence**

**Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring, which was believed to be the nation’s oldest prize for undergraduate teaching.**

His courses in immunology and immunopathology are considered to be the nation’s oldest prize for undergraduate teaching.

"I have always been interested in teaching," said Kupfer. "I have always believed that teaching is the most important part of being a scientist."

Kupfer is a member of the University of Chicago Medicine Jack Gilbert, PhD, leads a consortium aimed at discovering new treatments for patients who suffer from radiation or chemotherapy-induced fatigue. "I believe that there is a lot of potential for the field of degenerative diseases," said Kupfer. "I think that there is a lot of potential for the field of degenerative diseases."

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Spotlight on:

Bridging the cultural divide in science

HANNAH BRECHKA
Correspondent

Almost 100 students, faculty and staff from multi-cultural backgrounds gathered recently for the annual conference of the University of Chicago’s Chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Hispanic/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (UC SACNAS). UC SACNAS is an example of diversity and inclusion working together on campus to support the success of future scientists from different backgrounds.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Diverse Perspectives in STEM: Communication, Collaboration and Community.” The conference, held May 20 at the sparkling new William Eckhardt Research Center, also extended beyond the University of Chicago campus by inviting other students from academic institutions for a day of learning and networking, including University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University, Northeastern Illinois University and DePaul University.

“It is an inclusive organization dedicated to fostering the success of scientists from diverse backgrounds,” said Mathew Perez-Netz, co-president of the University of Chicago chapter. “All are welcomed.” Engaging young students as early as possible in the excitement of science was the call to action of keynote speaker and alumna Rabiah Mayas, Ph.D. Mayas, who earned degrees in biochemistry and molecular biology, is now the director of science and integrated strategies for the Advancement of Science Education at the Museum of Science and Industry.

Mayas started off her PhD with a passion for scientific research, analytical thinking, and enticing biological questions. Around Mayas’ third year, she started seeking a larger social component to her graduate career. She was particularly interested in the perspectives and relationship between scientists and the general public.

Fortuitously, a short-term position as director for one of MSI’s outreach programs, Science Chicago, opened up. As a part of Science Chicago, with its tagline, “Life is a Lab,” Mayas was able to combine her background with the missing component of her graduate life. She joined the group as the team’s only scientist. Working with communications and public event professionals, she and her team collaborated with 140 partners to increase science education in Chicago.

Widening the pool of diverse talent in science also requires breaking down barriers to access higher education. Conference workshops, such as “Getting into Grad School — Asking the Right Questions,” “Balancing Science and Family,” and “How to deal with the Impostor Syndrome,” provided a forum for undergraduates to navigate hurdles as they contemplate graduate school.

Keep yourself and others safe around campus

The UCM Public Safety Department includes more than 100 men and women who control access to UCM buildings, patrol the campus, and monitor security systems to help keep everyone safe. However, Scott Levy, Director of Public Safety and Parking, says he really has “10,000” people on the security team because all faculty and staff should lend their eyes and ears to keep the campus safe.

Here are things that all faculty and staff should pay close attention to and report to UCM Public Safety Command Center at 2-6262 or (773) 702-6262:

• Violent or disruptive activity
• Doors that aren’t secured
• Unusually dark areas
• Suspicious packages
• A suspicious person
• Things that are missing or in disarray

UCM celebrates Pride Day

STUDENTS, STAFF AND PATRONS FROM UCHICAGO MEDICINE SUPPORTED THE LIBERTY CORPUS’ HOSTING CHICAGO’S 48TH ANNUAL PRIDE PARADE ON JUNE 25. THE PARADE OCCURRED IN THE LAKEVIEW AND UPTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS ON CHICA- GO’S NORTH SIDE, ATTRACT-ING AN ESTIMATED 1 MILLION PEOPLE. PHOTO BY TOBIAS SPEARE.

Next Up

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

JULY 12: INTRODUCING IBD 360°: Comprehensive Care for Crohn’s and Colitis from 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Westin Chicago River North, 320 N. Dearborn St.

JULY 14: ATTEND THE HEART WALK KICKOFF: On the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors of the Clinical Science Center.

JULY 15: SCHOOL, PHYSICALS, DENTAL SCREENINGS AND IMMUNIZATIONS will be provided by Ingalls Memorial Hospital at 8 a.m., in partnership with the Family Christian Health Center. located at 1551 and Paulina Streets in Harvey Services are free with current medical card.

JULY 20: THE BOWMAN SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS DORIANE C. MILLER, Director of the Center for Community Health and Vitality, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Knapp Center auditorium 103. Miller’s talk: Reflection on a Career in Community Engagement and Health: Listening, Learning and Action.

UCM set to exceed spend with MBE/WBE firms

The University of Chicago Medicine’s Supplier Diversity Program is on track to exceed the $9.4 million spent in Fiscal Year 2016 with minority-owned business enterprises (MBE) and women-owned business enterprises (WBE). The program opens the doors for the Medical Center to work with new and diverse firms to supply the goods and services needed to support hospital operations,” said David Spence, Manager of Business Diversity. “Additionally, the program aligns with the organization’s goals of supporting local economies that surround the medical campus.”

The Supplier Diversity Program is an integral part of Medical Center operations, directly affecting the quality of care and services provided to patients and others. UChicago Medicine recently earned the “Anchor of the Year” award from Chicago Anchors for a Strong Economy (CASE) for the growth of its supplier diversity program.

EMPLOYEE EXPRESS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Employee appreciation ice cream social is coming soon

On July 12, all employees of the University of Chicago Medicine & Biological Sciences are invited to our annual social to enjoy your favorite flavors of ice cream treats. Times are: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wyler Courtyard (Enter through north side of the Wyler Courtyard) and 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., DCAM, 4th floor Atrium. The ice cream social is for employees only. An ice cream ID badge will be required for admission.

2017 Employee Engagement Survey

July 10-30. The Employee Engagement Survey will be open to help our employees gauge workplace satisfaction. Contact hrservices_uchospitals.edu with any questions.

OPERATION MEDICATION BRING-BACK

Doing our part to solve the opioid crisis.

Opioid Facts:
• 70% of post-operative patients go unused.
• 70% of unused opioids remain after hospital discharge.
• 70% of patients can easily get prescription drugs from friends or family members.
• Flushing unused medications in the toilet affects our drinking water.

Leftover medicine after surgery? Don’t flush it!

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Follow us on LinkedIn
University of Chicago Medicine

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