Community Advisory Council provides advice on trauma center

DAVID RUDD STAFF WRITER

The University of Chicago Medicine Community Advisory Council is engaging with UChicago Medicine leadership to shape the establishment of the Medical Center’s adult trauma services, scheduled to launch May 1, 2018.

“The voice of the community is critical to the university’s plan for trauma care,” said Damon Arnold, MD, chairman of the Trauma Care and Violence Prevention work group and former director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. “Our dialogue with the hospital’s leaders has been good, and we look forward to helping create a great trauma center.”

UChicago Medicine’s director of neurovascular surgery, will also become director of the Saafad Program of Excellence in Clinical and Translational Neuroscience for the Medical Center. He will oversee the program’s strategic direction and work with neurology and neurosurgery leadership to determine programmatic goals.

The council serves as a university-wide ceremony to empower them to speak up from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Gary Comer Youth Center, 7200 S. Ingleside Avenue. For more information, contact Natalie Watson at 773-834-7200. For more information, contact Natalie Watson at 773-834-7200.

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Innovative thyroid surgery leaves no visible scar

**HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER SHARED CANCER, THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE HAS HOSTED AN ONCOLOGY SEMINAR FOCUSED ON흡이 POSITIVE PROGRAMMERS WITH INDUSTRY TO STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY’S ROLE IN CANCER EDUCATION.**

TWO WEEKS AFTER SCAR- the front of the neck, an inch or two below the chin — using an approach that leaves no visible mark, surgeons can remove cancerous tissue, restore function, and help prevent future cases.

The incision is made inside the mouth, at the crease between the gums and lower lip. “No one but your dentist will see this, and most dentists will not notice,” said Raymon Grogan, MD, and surgical colleague Zhen Gooi, MD, who specializes in head and neck tumors, spent two days observing and understanding Grogan’s approach.

The standard thyroid operation performed through a 2- or 3-inch incision in the neck, leaving a permanent, obvious scar. For nearly a decade, surgeons have been searching for a smaller, less invasive approach to a procedure that involves removing a section of the patient’s thyroid gland, usually several months after a diagnosis of cancer. In the transoral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach (TOVET), the surgeon makes a tiny incision in the lower neck, where the scar will be concealed by the hairline.

“The scar mattered to me,” she explained. “It would be a lifelong daily reminder that I had cancer.” Caines admitted the scar wasn’t the only factor in her decision to undergo the procedure, but it wasn’t something she wanted to look at all day. “I was just more comfortable with the idea of this,” she said.

Grogan explained the options to her: the traditional method, with its larger incision and resulting scar, which leaves no room for future growth; the total laryngectomy, which would remove the vocal cords; and the new transoral endoscopic approach.

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**STAFF WRITER**

Sharon Grogan

**JOHN EISTEDT**

Oak Forest, had been diagnosed with a small thyroid cancer.

Sheri Caine, a high school physics teacher from suburban Chicago, and a cancer survivor, had been looking at her options carefully. “I was just more comfortable with the idea of this,” she said.

Grogan explained the options to her: the traditional method, with its larger incision and resulting scar, which leaves no room for future growth; the total laryngectomy, which would remove the vocal cords; and the new transoral endoscopic approach.

“THERE’S ZERO WAY ANYONE APPEARS SICK,” Ms. Shaheen (D-NH) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), co-chairs of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, said at the event. “We need to do more.”

The Comer Emergency Department’s little-known service is offering survivors a day to celebrate their recovery.

“The results are impressive, given that 2017 Call to Congress advocacy day. More than 180 advocates from 33 states came to Washington, D.C., to call for the immediate implementation of trans fat bans and to raise awareness of the disease.

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When you analyzed patients with a history of hospitalizations for heart attack and stroke, you found that those who had a trans fat ban in the last 10 years had fewer hospitalizations for heart attack and stroke.

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BEYOND THE FOREFRONT:
The March for Science is for everyone

HANNAH BRECINKA
STAFF WRITER

More than 40,000 scientists and science-enthusiasts flooded Columbus Drive in downtown Chicago recently for the first- ever “March for Science” events to coincide with Earth Day. Joining the rally were many Pritzker School of Medicine students and University of Chicago graduate students in the Biological Sciences Division who took a study break to exercise their voices on this bright and sun-soaked day.

“Science makes our lives better, and for too long scientists have remained silent on why their work matters,” said Maya Zafrir-Springer, a University of Chicago graduate student in the Biological Sciences Division.

Marchers worldwide showed support for science-based political policy, action against global warming, and funding for clinical trials. Similar rallies were held in more than 600 cities on April 22, including Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Berlin. Here in Chicago, organizer Kristin Aloma, a doctoral student, said the goal of the march is to bridge the gap between science and society while calling attention to recent federal cuts that threaten scientific funding.

Chicago’s march appeared peaceful and cheerful. Colorful signs hoisted in the air had science puns like “If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the precipitate”! Some marchers had more serious posters like ‘Science not silence’ and some combination of the two in one sign that read ‘Got pets? Me neither! Thanks, Science.’

Marchers also emphasized a message of diversity and inclusion. As rally speaker Gary Cooper, Ph.D., put it: “Science is for everyone and science is done by everyone.”

The theme of inclusion in science was apparent in the diverse array of marchers. Groups from across Chicagoland, such as environmental group Habitat 2030, biomedical research lab members, science-supportive Chicagoans, professors and small children marched together chanting “Chicago! Science!”

Some University of Chicago volunteers held poster-making sessions, a letter-writing campaign to elected officials, and encouraged volunteers to sign up to be march marshals and science expo presenters.

“I hope that local Chicago legislators will realize how many people are passionate about science and scientific funding,” said Mariana Johnson, a University of Chicago graduate student and March for Science organizer. “[The March for Science] is all driven by our passion for science and making sure that science is at the forefront of society so that it’s no longer a question of whether science informs policy.”

INGALLS/UCHICAGO MEDICINE INTEGRATION
A double dose of care saves a Markham man

KIMBERLY GARRISON
STAFF WRITER

The new Ingalls/UCHICAGO Medicine partnership is already showing signs of lifesaving results.

“The proof rests in the recent case of a 7-year-old Markham man with a dangerously blocked coronary artery who was fortunate enough to have an introductory meeting earli- est this year between heart specialists at Ingalls and the University of Chicago Medicine. This episode unfolded when an angiogram at Ingalls last January showed that Steven Pilgrim would “die on the spot” if his left main coronary artery closed completely, said Ingalls cardiologist Dilip Shah, MD.

“He couldn’t go home,” he said. But with- out 24/7 cardiac anesthesia care coverage at Ingalls, Pilgrim could not remain at Ingalls, either. Shah knew that Pilgrim’s condition, though stable at the moment, could change at any time. He needed a hospital with around- the-clock cardiac anesthesia availability. Shah said he knew exactly what to do. He picked up the phone and called Vascular Jerven- dam, MD, Chief of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery at UChicago Medicine. Within minutes, Jervenadam was clear- ing the way for Pilgrim’s seamless transfer from south suburban Harvey to Hyde Park. While Pilgrim was transported by ambu- lance from Ingalls to UCMC, his wife Leslie followed in her car.

“[It] was a very smooth referral,” Shah said. Pilgrim was transferred to UCMC on Friday, Feb. 3, and had the surgery the next Monday. Takeyoshi Ota, MD, PhD, performed Pilgrim’s successful double-bypass surgery, following a 10-day stay at UCMC. Pilgrim was transferred back to Ingalls for inpatient rehabilitation. Today, the retired electrical en- gineer is feeling better than ever and is forever grateful he received the care he needed when he needed it.

Everything was well coordinated and organized,” Pilgrim said. He said he will never forget the personalized care he received by one of the male members of UCMC staff.

“He asked me when was the last time I was able to shave,” Pilgrim recalled. “He shaved me, washed my hair and gave it a trim. I went in a grubby old man, and he really cleaned up my act.”

“Mr. Pilgrim’s case demonstrated to me firsthand the real value proposition of merging with the U of C,” Shah added. “I had an immediate option for my patient with a trusted physician and medical center. The referral and transfer was smooth and seamless as was the transfer back to Ingalls. It was defi- nitely a win-win for me and my patient.”

EMPLOYEE EXPRESS
NEWS IN BRIEF

New opportunities ahead
May 26, 2017, is the deadline to sign up or change insurance coverage during the annual open enrollment period for 2017/2018 UCMC benefits. You should know that there are some changes for 2017/2018, including cost increases for some medical plans and cover- age levels. It is important that you take time to review your benefits so you can be sure that you have the coverage that best fits your needs. If you don’t enroll or make changes to your benefits elections by May 26, 2017, your cur- rent elections will carry over to 2017/2018.

What’s New for 2017/2018
• Modest increases in prescription drug out-of-pocket maximum for PPO Premier and PPO Standard Plans. In both plans, the annual out-of-pocket maximum for prescription drugs will increase to $850 for individual coverage and $1,700 for family coverage.
• The University of Chicago Health Plan (UCHP) will have cost changes. There are two cost changes to the UCHP for 2017/2018: The $75 hospital inpatient copay will be eliminated, and the annual out-of-pocket maximum for medical and prescription drug expenses will increase to $890 for individual coverage and $1,700 for family coverage.
• New providers are added to the UCMC network. You will have more options when it comes to choosing UCMC network providers, including Ingalls Health System (starting July 1, 2017).
• Covered spouses can earn Well Rewards. If your spouse is enrolled in a UCMC medical plan, he or she can earn a $200 credit toward your medical plan premium by completing Well Rewards requirements by June 16, 2017. That’s in addition to the $400 credit you can earn for participating.

Important dates ahead
Tuesday, May 16
Employee Health & Benefits Fair at Finance/Burr Ridge and Darien North
• 8:30 – 13:00 a.m., Finance/Burr Ridge, 150 Harvester Drive, Suite 300 – 1:30 p.m., Darien North, 7955 S. Cass

Friday, May 26
Annual Open Enrollment ends
• Deadline to provide proof of dependent eligibility
• Deadline for NNU nurses to provide proof of health coverage if waiving UCMC medical coverage
• Confirmation statements mailed to employees’ homes

Week of June 5
Deadline to make changes/corrections to 2017/2018 benefit elections

Saturday, July 1
Benefit elections and costs for 2017/2018 take effect

If you have any questions about the annual enrollment process, please contact HR Shared Services.

Diversity: Honoring the power of different backgrounds and perspectives
Excellence: A commitment to do our best at all times
MAY 2017
OUR VALUES
Participation: A spirit of teamwork and sharing
Respect: A consideration and appreciation for others
Integrity: Honesty in our words and actions

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