A new home for rehabilitation care

Opening June 24, unit offers more space, new technology for patients

When its doors open next week, The University of Kansas Hospital’s Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation unit will expand a comprehensive program for patients who require rehab therapy and nursing care.

Located just west of the main campus, the state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility offers 29 private rooms and 27,800 square feet, more than double its current space.

“The expansion of our Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation unit ensures our patients receive comprehensive care and a high level of customized therapies,” said Patricia Sanders-Hall, vice president of the hospital’s Ancillary Diagnostic and Therapeutic Care.

The unit is fitted with advanced rehabilitation equipment and technologies to enhance patient outcomes. It also includes a telehealth robot if a patient requires additional assessment.

The rehab unit is on the second floor of the new 39Rainbow building at 3910 Rainbow Blvd. The first floor includes retail space. Kansas City Transitional Care Center, owned by Skilled Healthcare Inc., operates a skilled nursing facility on floors three and four and the outdoor rooftop patient recreation area.

The hospital’s rehab team provides customized care to patients after an injury, serious illness or surgery that has resulted in significant functional limitations. The 90-person interdisciplinary team includes specialty-trained physicians, rehabilitation nurses, therapists, psychologists, social workers and others.

Patients who need rehabilitation care are often in the hospital for several weeks or even months. Many comfort-enhancing amenities in the new facility make them and their guests feel right at home.

Features include a large interdisciplinary rehabilitation gym, therapeutic kitchen facilities, patient dining area, multipurpose room, a family lounge and an apartment for patients to prepare to go home.

“Our goal,” said Sanders-Hall, “is to provide world-class care and services to help our patients adjust to physical and cognitive changes so they can recover quickly and successfully return home to their families.”

By the Numbers: Indian Creek Hospital

Since becoming part of The University of Kansas Hospital two years ago, the Indian Creek Campus Hospital in south Johnson County has experienced significant growth.

2,017

Indian Creek patient encounters in April 2014
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Sarcoma Center expands, tripling size

Sarcoma Center staff and patients have found a new home at The University of Kansas Hospital’s Indian Creek Campus in Overland Park.

A nationally renowned authority in rare bone and soft tissue cancers, Howard Rosenthal, MD, and the center’s care team experienced such high demand for services during the first year with The University of Kansas Cancer Center they tripled their space this spring.

The expansion nearly doubled the number of exam rooms and the size of patient waiting areas, added a procedure room and larger areas for consultation and integrated care.

“With more than 20 types of bone sarcomas and 40 types of soft tissue sarcomas, it takes a village to treat these complex cancers,” Rosenthal said. “Our multidisciplinary team of specialists has combined experience with more than 10,000 bone and soft tissue tumor cases.”

Sarcomas are rare, accounting for 1 percent of cancers in adults and 7 percent in children, most often in the arms and legs. There are two types: bone sarcomas, and soft tissue sarcomas that form in fat cells, muscles, blood vessels and other connective tissues.

Often slow-growing and painless in early stages, sarcomas can go undetected to become the size of a softball, even a watermelon.

Specializing in limb-preservation techniques, the team uses state-of-the-art bone implants, pediatric prostheses that “grow” with the child, bone transplants, advanced nonsurgical treatments and other limb-sparing strategies, plus chemotherapy and radiation.

As a result, Rosenthal said, “Our patients not only have functional and aesthetic limbs, but a 70 to 75 percent long-term survival rate—significantly better outcomes than at other academic medical centers.”

The center has quickly become a destination for patients from as far away as Alaska, Idaho, Texas and Washington, DC. The team treated 180 sarcoma patients this past year, one-third of them children and teens, Rosenthal estimates. He also performed about 320 procedures to treat noncancerous tumors, tumor-like bone conditions and metastatic disease.

Learn more: kucancercenter.org/sarcoma

EXPOSURE

Courage against cancer

Since beginning her journey with breast cancer, Heather Sebel understands “nobody goes through cancer alone.” She now oversees Courage Kits of Kansas City, which involves care packages filled with DVDs, fuzzy socks and other items for women undergoing breast cancer treatment. On June 13 she delivered dozens of Courage Kits to The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s Westwood Campus. Read more at facebook.com/CourageKitsofKansasCity.
In the News
A recap of recent articles, TV segments and other media coverage of the region’s leading academic medical center

► New mosquito threat – Kansas City Kansan, June 12. The latest threat from mosquitoes is the chikungunya virus. While area health officials study the disease and the mosquito that carries it, Lee Norman, MD, chief medical officer at The University of Kansas Hospital, is keeping a watchful eye for the symptoms in people who fall sick – especially after traveling to the Caribbean. “The name describes the posture of people who suffer chikungunya as they stoop from the pain in their joints,” he said. “Chikungunya sufferers say it feels like a combination of severe flu and severe arthritis.”

► Diabetes reaches epidemic level – KMBC-TV 9, June 11. The number of U.S. diabetes cases has jumped 12 percent in the past two years. Endocrinology’s David Robbins, MD, of the University of Kansas Medical Center, said the medical community expected the increase. The medical center is one of 20 sites studying the effects of vitamin D on prediabetes. “If it’s caught early, with weight loss, exercise, and good medical management, we can turn it around and certainly make it much milder,” Robbins said.

► The dangers of bounce houses – KCTV-5 News, June 10. A Journal of American Pediatrics study found 31 children go to the emergency room every day for bounce house-related incidents. “The issue is the kids bouncing on top of each other, accidentally landing on somebody’s head,” said Sarah Hoehn, MD, medical director at The University of Kansas Hospital’s Pediatric Intensive Care. “Especially when you have a size discrepancy and you have a 15-year-old who lands on a 5-year-old, that’s when you tend to see injuries.”

► Professional tips on sunscreen – St. Joseph News Press, June 9. With temperatures on the rise, Daniel Aires, MD, director of Dermatology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, offered a range of sunscreen thoughts on the subject. “I’d rather see someone put on SPF 30 and reapply it every two hours than put on SPF 100 once for the whole day.”

Racing for children’s health
Colin Braun, Prototype racecar driver from CORE Autosport, on June 5 visited young patients and families at The University of Kansas Hospital. Tragen Kieffer, 4, and her mom, Janessa Kieffer, and others made their way to the Pediatrics playroom, where Braun and his crew helped kids build customized Pinewood Derby cars, which they raced against each other. The visit was in association with the Austin Hatcher Foundation for Pediatric Cancer. Days later, Braun won his race at Kansas Speedway.

Cambridge North receives $2M donation
The Sunderland Foundation has donated $2 million to support construction of Cambridge North, The University of Kansas Hospital’s new 92-bed hospital for surgical oncology and neurosurgery. The donation is the largest in the foundation’s history. Foundation President Kent Sunderland and Charles Sunderland, chairman of Ash Grove Cement, announced the gift June 10. Watch a video of the announcement at youtube.com/kuhospital.

“I have watched this hospital grow into a national leader in quality patient care and an economic force in the Kansas City area,” said Charles Sunderland, a longtime member of the hospital’s board. “Patients need access to the leading-edge services The University of Kansas Hospital provides, and the Sunderland Foundation is pleased to do our part to support this community asset.”

Cambridge North is slated for the northeast side of the main campus, at 39th Street and Cambridge Road. The construction schedule will depend on philanthropy. Deanna and Greg Graves in February announced a $1 million个人 donation to go along with the Burns & McDonnell Foundation’s $2.5 million gift. “It is the record of the hospital itself that is building the momentum for Cambridge North,” said Greg Graves, chairman and CEO of Burns & McDonnell. “Community leaders are expressing interest in the hospital’s plans. Deanna and I are working hard to turn that interest into philanthropy for this project.”

Need an X-ray this weekend? No problem
Starting Saturday, June 21, Radiology services at the Medical Office Building will expand to the weekends. The University of Kansas Hospital’s Radiology staff will offer MRI, CT scans, ultrasound and X-ray services 7 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Those services currently are available 7 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays.

The expanded hours support increasing imaging needs on the main campus. They also offer more convenient options for patients who prefer weekend exams or aren’t available during the week. Radiology staff at the hospital also offer MRI, CT, ultrasound and X-ray services on the weekends for inpatients, as well as on-call services for IR and Nuclear Medicine.

Grandview cardiology office relocates
Blue Ridge Mid-America Cardiology, in Grandview, is on the move to the Indian Creek Campus in Overland Park. Starting Monday, June 30, physicians and staff will see their existing patients at the larger Mid-America Cardiology clinic. The clinic is at I-435 and Nall Avenue, about 10 minutes west of the former Grandview location.

As part of The University of Kansas Hospital, Mid-America Cardiology and MidAmerica Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons have built one of the nation’s top 25 heart programs, according to U.S. News & World Report.
Our People

► Student now nursing dean in Indonesia – When she moved with her family to Indonesia in 2012, Christine Sommers planned to teach nursing part time at the local university. What she didn’t anticipate: becoming the university’s dean of nursing little more than a year later.

Sommers, also a doctoral student at the University of Kansas School of Nursing, recalls what happened when she learned the executive dean of nursing at the Universitas Pelita Harapan was leaving to care for her parents.

“I let the administration know I was willing to teach full time to help out, though I would still need to continue my studies in the PhD in Nursing program at KU,” Sommers said. “A week later they offered me the position of executive dean of the nursing faculty.”

While she acknowledged she has experience as an intensive care nurse and nurse educator, she was caught off guard by the offer. She isn’t fluent in the national language, Bahasa Indonesia, and teaches class in English with a translator.

Despite the challenges, Sommers accepted the offer in December. She oversees a staff of about 30 people, including administration and support staff, lecturers and clinical educators. The university is in Lippo Village, a township on the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia’s capital.

About 350 nursing students attend the Universitas Pelita Harapan, but the university expects to expand to more than 600 nursing students next academic year.

“We’re delighted Christine has taken on a leadership position,” said Cynthia Teel, RN, PhD, associate dean of graduate programs at the University of Kansas School of Nursing, and Sommers’ advisor. “As she progresses through our program, she undoubtedly will develop more skills that will benefit her students, faculty and the school there.”

The School of Nursing doctoral program was one of the first in the United States when it was begun in 1983, and it remains the only school in the region to offer a doctorate in nursing.

► Donor-supported awards honor caregivers – Thanks to generous giving, The University of Kansas Hospital every spring honors outstanding nurses and other caregivers at the hospital.

This is the 13th year for the awards, which were established by grateful patient families, along with physicians and hospital departments. The 16 winners were formally recognized June 17.

Riss Family Award for Excellence in Neuroscience Nursing
• Nancy Sullivan, RN, Nursing Clinical Excellence
• Becca Heidrick, RN, Neuroscience and ENT ICU (HC 9)

Pulmonary and Critical Care Nursing Excellence Award
• Katie Mayer, RN, Medical ICU (Unit 65)
• Katie McCune, RN, Medical-Surgical ICU (Unit 61)

Sutherland Family Nursing Excellence Award in Surgical Intensive Care
• Rob Schobert, RN, Surgical ICU

Thomas McCool Award for Excellence in Burn Nursing
• Julia Pena, RN, Outpatient Burn and Wound Care Center

Cardiovascular and Cardiothoracic Surgical Nursing Excellence Award
• Sarah Anderson, RN, Cardiothoracic Surgery Progressive Care (HC 4)
• Teresa Hoskins, RN, Cardiovascular Progressive Care (HC 5)

Jodie C. Hatzenbihler Clinical Excellence Education Award
• Donna Stevens, RN, Cardiovascular Progressive Care (HC 5)

Award for Excellence in Hematology/Oncology Nursing
• Victoria Liston, RN, Radiation Oncology

• Kodee Sims, RN, Hematology/Oncology (Unit 42)
• Kim Sherman, RN, The University of Kansas Cancer Center-Overland Park

Elizabeth Wisdom Award for Excellence in Medical Intensive Care
• Janell Reichenburger, RN, Medical ICU (Unit 65)

Patricia A. Huffman Award for Excellence in Maternal/Child Nursing
• Debbie Pennington, RN, Neonatal Medical Home

Elizabeth Page Award for Excellence in Rehabilitative Care
• Tamara Neff, PT, Rehabilitation Services
• Liz Bohrer, RN, Rehabilitation Services

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