



Emergency Preparedness

Forums Help Staff Ensure Their Families are Well Prepared in the Event of a Major Disaster

As part of the extensive efforts University Health Care has put into emergency preparedness, a series of free forums are being offered to help staff and their families prepare for a crisis. Administrators recognize that, in the event of a disaster, many employees will remain at work to provide care to the injured, making it even more critical that they have explicit emergency plans to help take care of their families. Forum organizers recommend that all staff members bookmark University Health Care's crisis communications page on their computers: <http://intranet.uuhsc.utah.edu/emergency>.

You're awakened from a sound sleep in the middle of the night and feel the earth shaking, what should you do? By the time that question was posed to us three-quarters of the way through an informative emergency preparedness forum, we were feeling pretty confident. The crowd of 40 University Health Care employees cast its vote: quickly get out of bed and curl up underneath it.

A slow smile crept across Colleen Connelly's face as she informed us that glass most likely would be showered all over the floor and that we should, in fact, cover up and stay put. "Every 7-year-old in California knows to keep a pair of shoes under the bed," she continued. "You're going to have to get out of bed sometime, and there will be glass on the floor."

Colleen Connelly, R.N., emergency preparedness manager for University Health Care, captivated the audience with her endless energy and practical advice during the inaugural Staff and Family Emergency Preparedness Forum in August. During the hour-long gathering, we came to understand that wildfires, winter storms, summer heat, biological pandemics and terrorism are all potential disasters that should concern us locally. Connelly discussed how mobile phones most likely will not work during and after a natural disaster and how she is trying to build a base of HAM radio operators at the hospital. (Contact her if you are a HAM operator.)

Practical tips from audience members complemented Connelly's presentation. One staff member shared how to get 65 hours of light out of flashlight batteries by replacing the bulb with an LED one.

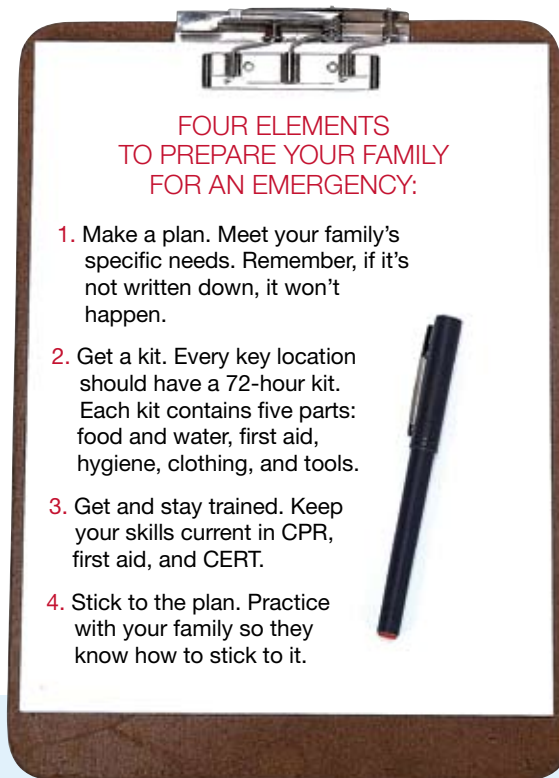
We learned how to create individual family emergency plans and kits and were sent home with a hefty packet of informative materials. A successful emergency plan, Connelly stressed, must account for the special needs of your family: their ages, mobility, medications, and include emergency plans for different locations, such as school and workplace.

"Many of our employees will need to be at the hospital during a disaster, caring for the community," said **David Entwistle**, University Hospital CEO. "It's important that a well-thought-out emergency plan is in place for their families, which is why we're offering these forums."

Some staff brought their families to the forum, which Connelly encourages. "True preparedness is not what you plan to do," she clarifies, "it's what you already do right now." That might explain why she has emergency kits in her car and house, for each person in her family—and even one for her dogs.

One of the things you can do right now is sign up for the next staff forum. Oh, and keep a pair of shoes under the bed!

—by *Michael Mozdy*, internal communications manager, University Health Care's Office of Public Affairs.



FOUR ELEMENTS TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR AN EMERGENCY:

1. Make a plan. Meet your family's specific needs. Remember, if it's not written down, it won't happen.
2. Get a kit. Every key location should have a 72-hour kit. Each kit contains five parts: food and water, first aid, hygiene, clothing, and tools.
3. Get and stay trained. Keep your skills current in CPR, first aid, and CERT.
4. Stick to the plan. Practice with your family so they know how to stick to it.

Upcoming Staff & Family Emergency Preparedness Forums

09/24/08..... 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. ... Classroom A
10/30/08..... 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Classroom A
11/21/08..... 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Classroom A

More information available at: http://intranet.uuhsc.utah.edu/emergency/FORUM_FLYER_7_22_08.pdf

Register for a class at: <http://uuhsc.utah.edu/cse/>

Awards & Honors



University Health Care's gynecologic and cancer care are rated 21st and 40th in the country in *U.S. News & World Reports'* 19th annual survey of America's Best Hospitals. The rankings place University Health Care among the nation's top providers for the 15th time.

Making the cut was not easy. Only 170 U.S. hospitals of the

5,453 that were initially evaluated by *U.S. News* made the list. "This recognition truly reflects the hard work and dedication of our physicians and staff to provide the best health care possible to our patients," said **David Entwistle**, chief executive officer of University Hospitals & Clinics. "They should be proud."



STEVEN LEITCH

Twenty-nine R.N.s recently received their CCRN certificate including: (top row) Antonio Bucio, MICU; Tari Turnbow, MICU; Bruce Garrett, NCCU; Jeanette Crosbie, CCNI/ MICU; Aaron Lancaster, MICU; Brad Wiggins, BTICU; (bottom row) Nelson Tan, MICU; Kate Layne, MICU; Kindi Hess, BTICU; Annette Matherly, BTICU.

Twenty-nine University Health Care R.N.s recently passed a national certification training program for advanced skills in critical care. The CCRN certification, awarded to nurses serving in the Medical ICU, Surgical ICU, Burn Trauma ICU, Neuro-Critical Care Unit, and Air Med, is one of the most advanced professional credentials a critical care nurse can attain. Another 20 nurses are on

track to receive their certification by the end of November. "Their collective knowledge and clinical expertise helps make University Health Care the very best in the care of critically ill patients," said **Jeanette Crosbie, R.N.**, critical care internship coordinator.

Continues on reverse



When University Health Care patients were asked to rank the “courtesy of person cleaning the room,” they resoundingly responded with high marks. The positive feedback earned **Environmental Services** the ASSET award for the most improved score in the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2007-2008. The ASSET award honors outstanding departments in Ancillary Services, as determined by the Press-Gainey patient satisfaction survey.



Roscoe G. Pixton was recently honored for 40 years of service

Forty years is a milestone for many—mostly as a benchmark birthday—but for a dedicated few, 40 marks the number of years they’ve been a part of the University team. Three devoted University Health Care employees were honored at the 2008 Staff Service Awards, which recognized 141 employees who have notched 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years on their belts. The University of Utah thanked **Rick M. Mortensen**, Office of Comparative Medicine, **Roscoe G. Pixton**, Patient Accounting, and **Kurt Stauffer**, Nutrition Care Service Patient, for their 40 years of service.

The August 2008 issue of *Utah Business* magazine featured six University Health Care staff members and a volunteer as Health Care Heroes. **Margaret Pearce, Ph.D., R.N.**, chief nursing officer, and **Sunny Vance-Lauritzen**, director of the Rehabilitation Center, were highlighted for bringing passion, persistence and a clear personal philosophy to bear on their respective areas. **Susan Daynes** and her golden retriever Colonel were acknowledged for their time spent in the Rehabilitation Center, Burn Trauma ICU, and Huntsman Cancer Hospital. **Dwayne R. Westenskow, Ph.D.**, **Joseph A. Orr, Ph.D.**, and **Derek J. Sakata, M.D.**, were spotlighted for their invention of the Anecare QED-100, a device that helps patients recover from general anesthesia more quickly and with fewer side effects.



Margaret Pearce, Ph.D., R.N.



Sunny Vance-Lauritzen



Susan L. Beck, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., has been selected as the inaugural holder of the Robert S. and Beth M. Carter Endowed Chair in Nursing. The Carter Endowment supports a distinguished nurse scholar with a sustained program of research and area of expertise that will benefit the people of Utah and the Intermountain region for many generations. Beck, who has more than 25 years’ experience as an advanced practice oncology nurse, is a professor and associate dean for academic programs in the College of Nursing. Her research interests include the management of symptoms in cancer patients and organizational interventions to improve care.

Mary C. Beckerle, Ph.D., Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) executive director and distinguished professor of biology, was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honorary societies and independent policy research centers. This prestigious post adds to Beckerle’s many accomplishments. This year she was appointed to the Scientific Review Board of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Board of the Coalition for Life Sciences, and to the National Institutes of Health Advisory Committee to the Director.



Milomirka Miholjic, University Hospital trauma registrar, became the first person in Utah and one of only 40 nationwide to become a Certified Abbreviated Injury Scale Specialist (CAISS). She has already begun to train residents and attending physicians about the documentation changes necessary to meet the AIS coding requirements. Miholjic is the first of several in the U’s Trauma Program who plan to become CAISS certified.



Green Space

A Green Oasis in Research Park

Take a drive through Research Park and, with a little imagination, you might think you were driving through the rolling hills of . . . well, Kentucky, what with all those fields of bluegrass. There are a few places, however, where the sprinklers are turned off and the landscape offers a welcome reminder that we live in the second driest state in the nation. The headquarters for Associated Regional and University Pathologists (ARUP) is one of them.

Six years ago, ARUP watered nearly 150,000 square feet of grass with about 3 million gallons of drinking-quality water per year. ARUP employee Hal Fordham proposed an ambitious 10-year xeriscape project to reduce the company’s water consumption by up to 70 percent. Now halfway through the project, the company’s water consumption is down 34 percent.

The xeriscape project is only one of many environmentally sustainable practices ARUP has instituted over the last several years. Five years ago, the University of Utah-owned enterprise, which was founded and is run by faculty from the Department of Pathology, created an extensive recycling program. The company built a state-of-the-art recycling dock, placed recycling containers throughout the building, and educated employees

about the program. Last year, ARUP recycled more than 750,000 pounds of paper, metal, and electronic and flammable waste and won the 2008 Recycling Coalition of Utah’s (RCU) Business Recycler of the Year award.

The recycling program also focuses on ways to reuse and reduce. Eighty percent of the company’s cleaning chemicals are “green seal;” the heating and air conditioning are set on timers; and the lights have motions sensors. To reduce the company’s carbon footprint from hundreds of employees commuting, ARUP offers discounted public transport passes and subsidizes the cost of van pools by 75 percent. Employees can access a car pool sign-up sheet on the company’s intranet sight and then park in one of the premium parking spots reserved only for carpools. Twenty bike lockers were built to keep bikes safe and dry.

Another company perk? Choose the salad bar over the cheeseburger and fries at the company’s 24/7 cafeteria and ARUP will subsidize a big chunk of the cost.

“We want to be a responsible corporate citizen and plan to continue our efforts in recycling, sustainability, and continued stewardship of our Earth,” said **Ronald L. Weiss, M.D.**, professor of pathology and president and chief operating officer of ARUP Laboratories.

Off the Clock

Couldwell Completes a Race Across America



William Couldwell, M.D., Ph.D., was part of the four-person Team Utah Neurosciences Research that rode 24 hours a day from coast to coast in the Race Across America. The team reached the finish line at the Chesapeake Bay in six days and 21 hours.

William Couldwell, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, knows something about endurance. As a neurosurgeon, his toughest cases—the removal of skull-based tumors—have lasted up to 24 hours.

The endurance demonstrated inside the operating room is also visible in Couldwell’s passion for cycling. In June, the 52-year-old rode in the Race Across America (RAAM), a 3,000-mile grind billed as the “world’s premiere ultra-endurance cycling event.” The race began in Oceanside, Calif., on

“We’ve ridden the Baja Peninsula 10 times and the length of Chile twice,” says Couldwell, who adds that the arid and desolate conditions in Baja make for a great 1,000-mile ride. A light packer, Couldwell only takes an extra pair of bike shorts and running shoes, and sticks a credit card in his back pocket. During the week-long ride, he averages eight hours a day on the bike for about 100-120 miles a day.

But most of his riding occurs on the weekends around the Salt Lake valley. “If you’re interested in cycling—or skiing—Salt Lake is about as good as it gets,” he says.



June 11 and stretched across 15 states, across the Rockies and through the heartland of America, to the finish line in Annapolis, Md.

The experience was mostly a blur for Couldwell who was either eating, sleeping or riding. But the most memorable stretch for him was cycling through the extreme landscapes of the West. “In one day, we went from 100 degree temperatures in the desert to 24 degrees in the Rockies around Durango, [Colo.],” he says. The toughest part of the ride was the Appalachians through West Virginia where he had relentless 1,000 foot climbs for almost an entire day.

When a knee injury from skiing in his youth left him unable to run in his 30s, a friend from medical school encouraged him to take up cycling. For the past 15 years, the two physicians have taken annual bike trips to the Baja Peninsula and Chile.



a note from david entwistle

“These forums are an important part of the way we communicate at our organization, and I encourage all of you to take time to attend one of the hour-long sessions.”

Dear Colleagues:

Last month hospitals and clinics employees had a chance to share their opinions about our organization. The purpose of the survey was to measure employee satisfaction and engagement, and to provide valuable feedback to our administrative team. I'm pleased to report that 4,666 of you participated in the survey—almost 70 percent of our workforce. I'm told this is one of the highest response rates in the country and I'm pleased to report, based just on the response rate, that we have a very engaged group of employees.

I invite all of you to hear more about what we learned from the survey at the upcoming employee forum sessions which begin Oct. 3 and run through November. As you know, we host the forums twice a year at various locations across University Health Care so that employees can get an update on our organization directly from senior leadership. These forums are an important part of the way we communicate at our organization, and I encourage all of you to take time to attend one of the hour-long sessions.

Next month's forums will also give us a chance to update you on our patient satisfaction, financial performance, and quality goals. We'll also share some exceptional patient experiences.

If you've never taken time to attend a forum, I challenge you to make time this next month. I think you'll find them an informative and helpful way to understand where as an organization we're headed.

Sincerely,




David Entwistle,
CEO, University Hospitals & Clinics

Upcoming Employee Forums

Classroom A

Monday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.
Thursday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 16 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 24 at 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m.

Business Services Building

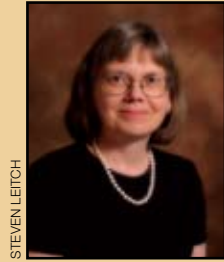
Friday, Oct. 3 at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Neurosciences and Imaging Center (formerly CAMT)

Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 2 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 20 at 10 a.m.

This is only a partial list of upcoming employee forums. For the full list visit <http://intranet.uuhsc.utah.edu/>

Awards & Honors Continued



STEVEN LEITCH

Kathleen B. Digre, M.D., a professor of neurology and ophthalmology and the director of the National Center for Excellence in Women's Health at the U., received the 2008 Linda K. Amos Award for Distinguished Service to Women at the University of

Utah. Nominations from across campus demonstrated that Digre represents the ideals and actions of Linda Amos, the founding chair of the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. Digre is known for her research on migraines and headaches and established the University Headache Clinic 20 years ago. She became the first female president of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society and helped the Eccles Medical Library to establish the first known Neuro-Ophthalmology Virtual Educational Library, which has helped clinicians from hundreds of countries better diagnose and practice medicine.

Student Managers for the Fourth Street Saturday Homeless Clinic, **Janie Pak** and **Ravinder Ahluwalia**, presented **Larry G.**



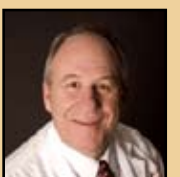
Reimer, M.D., professor of pathology, with the 2007-2008 Heather Belsey Award. This is the second time Reimer has received this honor. The annual award, given in honor of Heather Belsey, a former University of Utah medical student, recognizes a faculty member who has made significant contributions to the student-run clinic during the past year. "Every month, without fail, Dr. Reimer is at the Fourth Street Clinic volunteering his time and knowledge to the homeless population of Salt Lake City," said Ahluwalia. "Through both example and words, Dr. Reimer stands as an inspiring figure whose commitment to students and the underserved is seldom matched."

The Dean's Office of the School of Medicine announced the 2008-2009 Medical Scholars. They are **Brad S. Burlew, M.D.**, professor of internal medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine; **Randy L. Jensen, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of neurosurgery and radiation oncology; **Therese Jones, Ph.D.**, associate professor of internal medicine, Division of Medical Ethics & Humanities; **Sara M. Lamb, M.D.**, instructor in the Divisions of General Internal Medicine & Inpatient Pediatrics, co-director of Med Peds Residency Program; **Anne Marie Rich, M.D.**, instructor of psychiatry, director of Psychiatric Consult Service; and **Adam T. Stevenson, M.D.**, assistant professor of pediatrics, Pediatric Inpatient Medicine Division. The Medical Scholars program is a competitive program that offers advanced training to faculty members who are committed to excellence in education.



Abinash C. Roy, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, was recently awarded the Golden Award for Clinical Excellence by the Intermountain End-Stage Renal Disease Network in appreciation of exceptional performance and contributions to the care of patients with chronic kidney disease. Roy is the nephrologist for University Health Care's Dixie Dialysis Center in St. George and Iron Mission Dialysis Center in Cedar City. He also oversees care for patients at the U's Nephrology Clinic. Roy was the only doctor in Utah to receive the award.

In a first for Utah and for University Health Care, **Jim Meeks, PA**, was elected president of the Association of Family Practice Physician Assistants (AFPPA) and **Wendy Macey, PA**, vice president of the national association. Meeks practices at the University Hospital Urology Clinic and Macey at the Greenwood Health Center. "It's estimated that there are more than 68,000 PAs practicing in the United States," says Meeks. "We have an amazing opportunity to impact the health and well-being of so many people."



Jim Meeks, PA



Wendy Macey, PA

Quality Improvement Proper Hand Hygiene is the Most Important Intervention to Prevent Spread of Disease



Clean Hands. It's a concept that seems so simple. So intuitive. But improper hand hygiene is one of the primary causes of health-care-associated infections (HAIs), which cause approximately 90,000 deaths a year in the United States, and lead to more than \$4.5 billion in excess health-care costs, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HAIs increase the average hospital stay from 4.5 to 20.6 days and the average patient bill from about \$30,000 to nearly \$200,000. Thirty percent of critically ill patients develop HAIs.

Many of these infections are preventable with strict adherence to hand hygiene. Following are guidelines for when all University Health Care workers must perform hand-hygiene:

- Before and after every patient contact
- After the removal of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, face protection, gowns, even if PPE is not visibly soiled
- Before the performance of any invasive procedure, such as placement of urinary catheters, NG tubes, IV's, central lines, etc.
- After handling equipment in the immediate patient environment

When hands are visibly soiled, health-care workers should wash hands using soap, water, and friction on all hand surfaces for at least 10 seconds. Rinse and dry hands with a paper towel. Turn faucet off with paper towel. When hands are not visibly soiled and when speed counts, sanitize hands by dispensing a single squirt of alcohol-based sanitizer into hands and rubbing onto all hand surfaces (remember fingertips) until dried. Do not rinse or dry hands.

- After handling contaminated patient-care equipment, items, specimens, etc.
- As needed during patient care

Gloves reduce hand contamination by 70 percent to 80 percent, prevent cross-contamination, and protect patients and health-care personnel from infection. However, wearing gloves does not eliminate the need for hand hygiene. Likewise, proper hand hygiene does not eliminate the need for gloves. Gloves should be changed before and after each patient and also during patient care if moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site. Staff also should wash hands before and after glove usage.

"It's important to remember that patients are an important part of the Hand Hygiene Program," says **Carol Hadlock**, director of quality and patient safety. "It's OK for patients to ask their care providers to clean their hands and staff members should respond graciously and positively if someone asks you to wash or gel."

If you have any quality or patient safety questions, contact Carol Hadlock at carol.hadlock@hsc.utah.edu.

In response to a rising national concern for patient safety, The Joint Commission established the National Patient Safety Goals (NPSG). Each of the goals has one or two safety improvement strategies scored like other standards during survey. University Hospitals & Clinics must demonstrate compliance with the NPSG strategies and all employees must be familiar with our improvement strategies and our compliance to receive accreditation.

Transitions

University of Utah



After serving as interim vice president for research at the University of Utah, **Thomas N. Parks, Ph.D.**, has been selected to serve in the position permanently. Parks, a professor and former chair of the Department of Neurobiology, says he's looking forward to continuing

the positive momentum at the U by providing further support for research. "We want to provide more help for faculty who are submitting large, multidisciplinary research proposals. We want to upgrade research facilities and resources on the campus," said Parks. "And we want to do more to help the public understand why it's worth spending a little extra money to send their children to a research university." A 30-year university employee, Parks has directed a Ph.D. program, served as a department chair, and maintained his position as executive director of the Brain Institute from 2004 until 2008. He co-founded NPS Pharmaceuticals and served on its board until 2006.

Loretta F. Harper, Ph.D., has retired as vice president for human resources to pursue personal interests. "Dr. Harper has transformed human resources at the University in myriad ways that have significantly improved our work environment and our benefits, and I am deeply grateful for her extraordinary service to the University community," said U President Michael K. Young.

Joan Gines, associate vice president for human resources, has accepted the position of Interim Vice President for Human Resources. A search committee chaired by Vice President for Student Affairs **Barbara Snyder, Ph.D.**, has been formed to find Harper's replacement.



Joan Gines

University Health Care



James Turnbull joined University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics as the new chief information officer (CIO). Before joining the U, Jim served as vice president and CIO of The Children's Hospital in Denver, one of the

nation's most respected pediatric hospitals. As CIO, Jim oversees all information technology systems and applications, the innovation of new technology and systems, and the health information department. "We are excited to have someone of Jim's reputation and stature join our organization," said David Entwistle, CEO, University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics.

Michael Strong, M.D., was selected as the chief medical information officer (CMIO) for University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics. The CMIO will work closely with the chief medical officer and the chief informatics officer and act as a liaison between the clinical faculty and the Department of Information Technology. Strong's primary responsibility is to develop and implement computerized systems to assist staff members in providing excellent patient care.



STEVEN LEITCH



Linda Tyler, Pharm. D., was appointed to serve as interim administrative director for the Department of Pharmacy upon the departure of Jim Jorgenson. A national search will be conducted to find a permanent replacement. **Tom Miller, M.D.**, chief medical officer, has agreed to chair the committee.

STEVEN LEITCH

studies, research & grants

Studies

A new trial to see whether a patient's own stem cells can regrow blood vessels in their legs—possibly preventing amputation—is looking for participants. Study leader, **Larry W. Kraiss, M.D.**, professor and chief of vascular surgery, is looking for five patients with critical limb ischemia, a form of peripheral artery disease so severe that not even angioplasty or bypass surgery always works to restore blood flow to the leg. For some patients with the disease, amputation is the only alternative. Participants must be between 21-80 years old, not currently sick or in renal failure, and must have exhausted all other treatment options. For information call (801) 585-3663 or 1-800-824-2073 and ask for Maria.

People with shrimp allergies are sought in a trial to develop a vaccine for people allergic to the small shellfish. Allergy specialist **Gerald J. Gleich, M.D.**, research professor of dermatology, wants to find out if there is more than one type of sensitivity to shrimp and then test whether that sensitivity can be reduced when people are vaccinated with small pieces of the shrimp protein that causes allergy. Study participants, who will receive compensation, will be given skin tests and blood tests to check for sensitivity to shrimp and related foods, such as crab and lobster. People interested in participating in the study can call (801) 581-6465 for more information.

Research



STEVEN LEITCH

Robert W. Weiss, Ph.D., professor of human genetics, found that European Americans with a specific genetic variation have a higher risk for tobacco addiction.

Americans of European descent are more likely to have a serious, lifelong tobacco addiction if they possess a specific genetic variation and start smoking before age 17, U researchers reported in *Public Library of Science Genetics*. European Americans who started smoking before that age and who also have two copies of the genetic variation were 1.6 to five times more likely to face a serious, lifetime addiction, according to the study, led by **Robert W. Weiss, Ph.D.**, professor of human genetics.

Grants

A University study led by **Marcia L. Feldkamp, Ph.D., P.A.**, assistant professor of pediatrics at the U School of Medicine, found that women who reported having both a sexually transmitted disease (STD) and urinary tract infection (UTI) just before or during early pregnancy were four times more likely to have babies with gastroschisis—a severe birth defect in which infants are born with their intestines and other internal organs outside the abdomen. The study, reported in the *British Medical Journal*, found that mothers under age 25 whose babies had gastroschisis reported having both an STD and UTI nearly five times more than mothers of children who didn't have the birth defect.

The University of Utah has received a \$22.5 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as part of a nationwide consortium the NIH is building to speed the time it takes for basic science research to be put into clinical use for patients. The five-year award, one of only 14 the NIH funded this year, will be used to establish a Center for Clinical and Translational Science, expanding on the School of Medicine's current clinical research center. **James P. Kushner, M.D.**, associate vice president for clinical research and distinguished professor of internal medicine, is principal investigator on the grant.



SEAN GRAFF

Larry W. Kraiss, M.D., professor and chief of vascular surgery, is conducting a new trial to see whether patient's own stem cells can regrow blood vessels in their legs—possibly preventing amputation.

Quality Improvement

How to Prevent Sound-Alike, Look-Alike Errors

Each year, an estimated 1.5 million Americans are harmed from medication errors, according to a new study by Pharmacopeia. One-quarter of those errors occur when health-care workers mix up similarly named drugs. For example, the antibiotic Cefazolin, which the study reports is the most commonly confused medication, has been mixed up with 15 other drugs, including Cephalexin, Ceftriaxone, Cefoxitin, and Cefotaxime. Other examples are Hep-lock, a blood thinning medication, confused with Heparin, which is 1,000 times stronger, and Lidocaine, a pediatric anesthetic, mixed up with a lithium oral solution used to treat bipolar disorder.

"Sound-alike, look-alike (SALA) medications errors can cause adverse, and even fatal reactions," says **Carol Hadlock**, director of quality and patient safety. "University Health Care annually reviews a list of sound-a-like, look-a-like medications used by us and takes action to prevent errors involving the interchange of these medications."

Errors can occur for a variety of reasons: a pharmacist can't read the prescriber's handwriting; a provider clicks on the wrong medication when entering a computerized prescription; a health-care worker grabs a medication that looks deceptively similar to the prescribed medication.

Strategies that help prevent SALA problems include:

- Always clarify with the prescriber if you are unsure which drug was ordered, or should be ordered.
- Use automation when feasible
- Use tall man lettering to distinguish between drugs with similar names.
- Check the UHC formulary, available at <http://online.lexi.com/crlsql/servlet/crlonline>.
- Inform pharmacist if SALA medications are not separated on shelves and in Omnicell.

Tall Man Lettering Examples:

Alprazolam
Lorazepam
Bupropion
Buspirone
Clomiphene
Clomipramine

Tall man lettering—writing part of the drug name in upper case letters to highlight its primary dissimilarities with look-alike drug names—has proven to be an effective strategy to reduce errors between sound-alike medications. For example, writing PredniSONE to avoid confusion with PrednisOLONE; or writing TOLAZamide to avoid confusion with TOLBUamide. Tall man lettering should be used in the following locations: Order entry computer (PharmNet); Automated dispensing machines; Medication admission records (MARs); and prescription labels.

If you have any quality or patient safety questions or concerns, please contact Carol Hadlock at carol.hadlock@hsc.utah.edu or at (801) 587-3793. You can receive SALA Alerts online by visiting http://uuhs.utah.edu/pharmacy/alerts/index_sala.htm.

U Community Events

The Evolution of Size

Kent Sanders, M.D., associate professor of radiology, will be featured on an upcoming History Channel special called *Evolve*, in an episode documenting the evolution of size. Sanders has collaborated with Matthew Wedel, Ph.D., University of California Merced School of Natural Sciences, since 1994, and they were recently filmed taking CT scans of dinosaur bones at University Hospital. The late Jurassic period Brachiosaur and Diplodocus bones, around 150 million years old, demonstrate the concept of skeletal pneumatization. "We've been able to show how a lot of soft tissue volume was replaced with air in dinosaur neck bones, allowing them to grow to enormous sizes," says Sanders. "It was an honor to get that kind of recognition for the work that we do." Look for the program to air this fall.



Tour of Utah

David Entwistle, CEO of University Hospitals & Clinics, congratulates Tour of Utah third place finisher Jeffrey Louder of the BMC Pro Cycling team. Nationally ranked teams gathered for the five-stage race Aug. 13-17. University Health Care sponsored the grueling second stage, which started in Ogden and climbed through Huntsville, Morgan and East Canyon before speeding down Emigration Canyon to the finish at the University Orthopaedic Center on Wakara Way.



Brain Health Learning Center

Stefan Pulst, M.D., Department of Neurology chair welcomed people to the University of Utah's Brain Health Learning Center (BHLC), which officially opened on Sept. 5th. Located in Research Park at the Imaging and Neurosciences Center (formerly CAMT), the BHLC will serve patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and movement disorders. Patients and their families can access online and community resources, find support groups, and meet with health educators and social workers to help manage their disease. The facility also has offices for the Center for Alzheimer's Care, Imaging, and Research, the National MS Society, and the American Parkinson Disease Association.



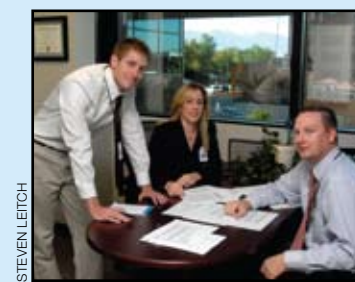
STEVEN LEITCH

Stephen C. Alder, Ph.D., is the new chief of the Division of Public Health in the Department of Family & Preventative Medicine. Alder says now is a critical time to expand depth of study within the division, which is an important part of his overall goal as chief. Furthermore, he's looking forward to propelling the University of Utah forward as a global name in public health research. Alder earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from the U. He joined the Division of Public Health in 1998 and has since served in various faculty and administrative positions. His focus of study includes global health concerns, pandemic flu, antibacterial resistance, and health issues related to nuclear fallout.

Michael Mozdy has joined University Health Care's Office of Public Affairs as the new internal communications manager. Mozdy's position was created to better coordinate and direct internal messaging throughout the hospitals, clinics, colleges, schools, and institutes within health sciences. Prior to joining the University, Mozdy served as director of marketing and communications for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Utah State Chapter. He also worked for nonprofits including public broadcasting, environmental organizations, and Intermountain Healthcare.



STEVEN LEITCH



STEVEN LEITCH

The Department of Decision Support has welcomed **Nicole Omer**, senior business intelligence analyst for Huntsman Cancer Institute

(HCI) and the Stem Cell Therapy Program, **Randall Sherwood**, financial modeling and feasibility manager, and **Eric Allen**, financial management analyst for nursing, to the team. "We are excited to have these three extremely talented people join our Decision Support team," said **Jann Lefler**, director of Decision Support.

Omer comes to University Health Care after serving as president of a private equity firm in Salt Lake City. Before that, Omer managed the gastrointestinal clinical research program at HCI. Sherwood has seven years' experience at the U, most recently in capital and operations budgeting. For the past four years, Allen was a data consultant working closely with the hospital for Phase 2 Consulting. He was involved in operational assessments and implementations for Peri-Operative Services, Emergency Services, Case Management and Materials Management.



STEVEN LEITCH

Janell Madonna has been appointed the director of contracting for University of Utah Medical Group (UUMG). Most recently, Madonna served as a member of the patient access management team. "Janell is truly amazing and a very talented individual," said Patient Access Director **Sherrie Woodmancy**. "She has made a huge difference not only within our department but also for the entire organization."

Pepper Card, R.N., has accepted the position of operating room manager in the new Clinical Neurosciences Center. The operating rooms will begin functioning on Oct. 1st. Pepper began working for University Health Care in January 2001 and served as the clinical nurse coordinator for the Department of Neurosurgery's main operating room for the past two years. "Pepper has done an excellent job as a clinical nurse coordinator, and we all look forward to working with her in her new role," said **Kathy Adamson, R.N.**, director of Patient Care Services.



Protect Patients and Info by Being Aware

University Health Care is committed to protecting patients and patient information—whether electronic or on paper. AWARE is an acronym to help employees know what to do when someone may be accessing patient areas when they should not be:

AWARE

Approach and Ask...

"Who are you?" and, politely, "Can I help you?"

Assist with any questions.

Redirect to proper areas.

Escort (if necessary, call Security).

All staff members must wear an ID badge on the upper part of the body. If you are unfamiliar with someone who is not in a public area, you should use AWARE. On units where family visitors are common, use AWARE when an unfamiliar person is:

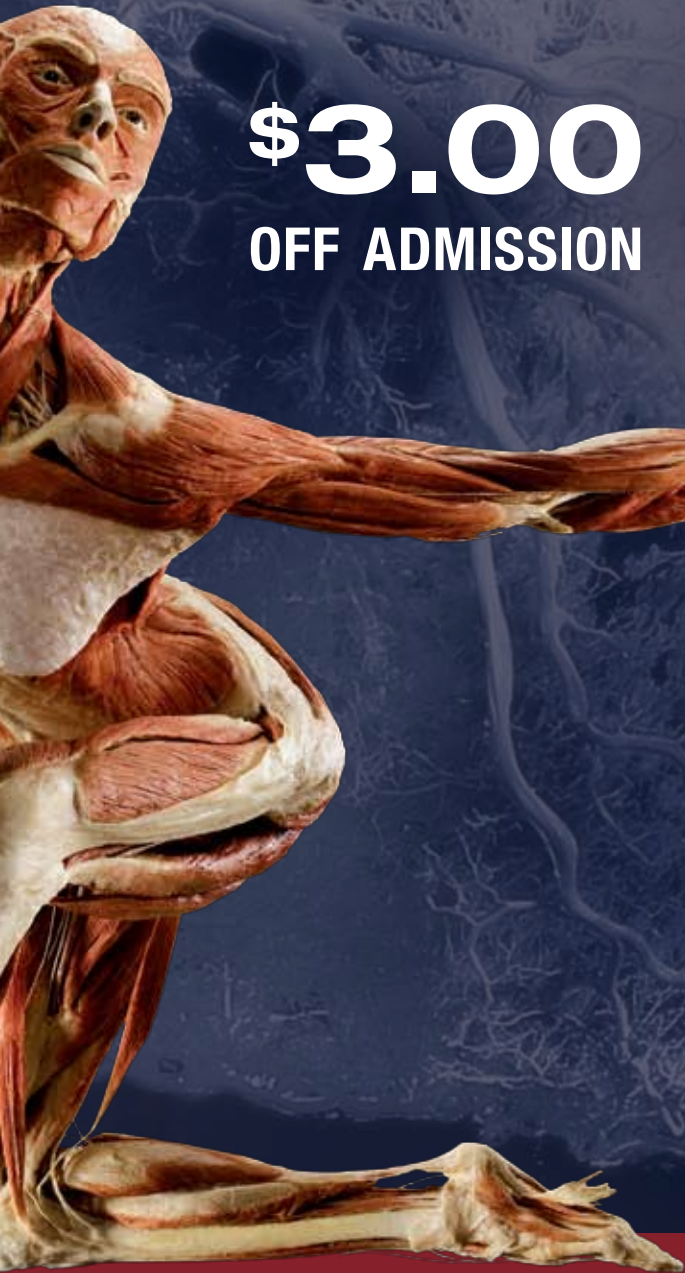
- Looking at patient information, such as paper medical records.
- Using workstations or other computer devices.
- Accessing unauthorized areas.



STUFF HAPPENS at the U—snow closures, blocked roads, power outages, gas leaks—but how are you going to find out about it? The new U of U Campus Alert system will advise you via email, text message, or telephone voice message, so you get the information when and where you need it. Sign up for the Campus Alert System through the CIS portal <http://cis.utah.edu>. Faculty/staff members look for the Campus Alert link in the "My Human Resources/Payroll" menu. Students look under "Update Student Profile" menu. Rest assured, your info will only be used for these alerts.

Gunther von Hagens' **BODY WORLDS 3**
The Original Exhibition of Real Human Bodies
& The Story of the Heart

\$3.00
OFF ADMISSION



Gunther von Hagens' *BODY WORLDS 3* & *The Story of the Heart* presents the form, function, complexity and beauty of the human body. Featuring a unique collection of more than 200 authentic human specimens including whole-body plastinates, organs and translucent body slices

Log onto www.theleonardo.org or call 1-888-695-0888 and use the following code to receive your discount admission.*

code: UHC2CV

*Discount can be redeemed online, by phone or at The Leonardo box office. Good for \$3 off one BODY WORLDS 3 regular adult admission ticket. Valid September 22 – December 19, 2008. Good Monday – Friday only. Last timed ticket one hour before closing. Subject to availability. Not valid Saturdays or Sundays. Not valid the week of November 23 – 29, 2008. Not valid for audio guide. May not be combined with other offers. No cash value. Not for resale.

The Leonardo is looking for enthusiastic volunteers, who are at least 16 years old, to serve as hosts, greeters, reservationists and presenters Sept. 18 thru Jan. 11. If you are interested in being part of the largest exhibit in Utah's history, please call (801) 937-4219, email volunteer@theleonardo.org, or complete an online application at <http://theleonardo.org/bodyworlds/get-involved/>.

mark it down



Eccles Institute of Human Genetics Helps Exhibit Explain How DNA is Put to Work

Not all scientists, let alone a Nobel Prize winner, will take the time to personally answer questions about their research. But since mid-June, U geneticist **Mario R. Capecchi, Ph.D.**, has been fielding questions and sending electronic responses to people who are sincerely interested in better understanding human genetics.

These curious minds submitted their questions at a Nobel Kiosk set up at the Putting DNA to Work exhibit, which is on display through Oct. 12 at the Utah Museum of Natural History. The exhibit, which was developed by the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences, offers interactive multimedia activities to help people understand how DNA is taken out of the laboratory and put to work. Detecting disease, improving crops, catching criminals (and freeing the innocent) are just a few of the myriad of ways DNA research has been harnessed for practical applications.

"The Eccles Institute of Human Genetics was delighted to collaborate with the museum on this exhibit and share information about the institute's exciting human genetic research," said **Mark F. Leppert, Ph.D.**, distinguished professor and chair of the U's Department of Human Genetics.

Putting DNA to Work is open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. at the Utah Museum of Natural History. Families can visit the museum for free on Monday, Oct. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call (801) 581-6927.

Women in Medicine Program Focuses on Mentoring

Fifty years ago, women comprised a mere 8 percent of U.S. medical school graduates. Today, nearly 50 percent of U.S. medical school graduates are women. The number of women attaining senior faculty ranks and leadership positions within health sciences centers, however, remains less equitable: 36 percent of faculty members are women, and only 15 women are deans of U.S. medical schools.

The University of Utah Health Sciences Women in Medicine program strives to foster the academic progress of women faculty, housestaff, graduate students, and medical students through education, advocacy, mentoring, and networking. To this end, they have invited Joan Lakoski, M.D., to the University of Utah for a two-day event. On Monday, Sept. 22, Lakoski will present two lectures: one discussing mentoring of junior faculty and the other addressing the institutional approach to mentoring. On Sept. 23, Lakoski will be the keynote speaker and a participant in the annual School of Medicine "Mentoring for U" workshop.

For more information about these events, contact Angelo Ziakas at (801) 587-9105 or angelo.ziakas@hsc.utah.edu.

Employee Benefits



New Farmer's Market on Campus

Next Thursday, grab your reusable bag, hop on the red, blue or green shuttle and head to the U's Farmer's Market, just east of Pioneer Memorial Theater. New this year, the market offers a variety of produce grown by local farmers. You can fill your bags with fresh tomatoes, peaches, corn, and peppers, grab lunch from one of the many food vendors, and enjoy live music. The Farmer's Market runs every Thursday through Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call Brooke Gardner at (801) 587-9608.

Flex Spending Deadline: Sept. 30

September means it's time to gather all those receipts for health-care and child-care spending and submit them to ASIFlex, the administrator of the University's flexible spending account (FSA) program. All claims for reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, must be submitted to ASIFlex by Sept. 30, 2008. After Sept. 30, any money left in your FSA account from the 2007/2008 Plan Year will be forfeited. Remember, there is a "grace period," which allows you to use any remaining 2007/2008 Plan Year FSA dollars for eligible expenses incurred through Sept. 15, 2008. If you have any questions on your FSA account, contact: ASIFlex at 1-800-659-3035. For forms or information on eligible expenses, see ASIFlex's Web site at www.asiflex.com.

Well U Extends Preventive Care Benefit

WellU, in partnership with University of Utah benefits department, has extended the preventive care benefit once again, this time until Dec. 31, 2008. That means that if you're enrolled in one of the U's health-care plans, all co-pays and co-insurance fees for qualifying preventive care services will be waived. This offer is good for you and your enrolled dependents. For detailed descriptions of qualifying services and restrictions visit www.hr.utah.edu/wellu.

