June marks the end of another academic year. This month, we celebrate the graduation of our 13 senior residents from our pediatric residency program. They have been a particularly strong and talented class. We are sad to see them leave, but are proud of their accomplishments. They will be starting their professional careers in varied positions, including primary care, subspecialty fellowships, or as inpatient hospitalists.

We are also excited to welcome 13 new pediatric first-year residents. They come to us from medical schools across the country, including three students from UC Davis. We look forward to welcoming them.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we will be expanding our pediatric hospitalist service to a 24-hour inpatient presence. We believe increasing the hospitalist presence will improve our efficiency in moving our pediatric patients through their inpatient stay and on to discharge home.

We also look forward to adding new pediatric faculty in the year ahead. We will provide those exciting details in the next newsletter.

Kevin Coulter, interim chair of the Department of Pediatrics

New ambulance begins service

The best care begins not only with the right team, but also the right equipment. The new Children’s Hospital Critical Care Ambulance began service in May. At nearly 14 feet long and 8 feet wide, the new ambulance is equipped with:

- A compressible water system, as opposed to conventional shock absorbers, making for a quieter, more comfortable ride.
- A patient-care compartment built with a steel safety cage to protect occupants in the event of a broadside impact or rollover accident.
- Automatic Vehicle Locator and Global Positioning Satellite System to track the vehicle throughout transport.
- Five-point restraint systems that include single-button release for rapid evacuation.
- Ventilators, capable of multiple modes of ventilation, appropriate for neonates and pediatric patients. Nitric oxide is available.
- Dual-functioning air conditioning and heater system.
- A double-locked safe to ensure safe narcotics storage.
- Two state-of-the-art transport isolettes, equipped with the latest medical equipment, for the most vulnerable neonatal patients.

“See it up close!”

“The new ambulance is built to the specifications of the team to enhance delivery of patient care and better support family-centered care.”

– Debra Bamber, Critical Care Transport Team program manager
Internationally renowned fetal and neonatal surgeon Diana Farmer was inducted for a one-year term as president of the American Pediatric Surgical Association during the organization’s annual meeting held in May in San Diego.

Farmer’s first priority was to lead the association’s Global Initiative for Children’s Surgery. Members of the association joined forces with the British Association of Pediatric Surgeons and children’s surgeons worldwide in London on May 27-28 to discuss ways to improve the surgical care for children throughout the world. The goal is to unite leaders in her field to improve access to quality surgical services for children in developing nations.

Farmer, chair of the UC Davis Department of Surgery, Pearl Stamps Stewart Professor and surgeon-in-chief of UC Davis Children’s Hospital, is known for her groundbreaking surgical treatments of congenital anomalies and her expertise in cancer, airway and intestinal surgeries in newborns. She is recognized for her investigations on the safety and effectiveness of providing spina bifida treatments before birth, and she is currently developing a stem cell treatment that can reduce the paralysis associated with spina bifida.

The American Pediatric Surgical Association has 1200 members and is the nation’s largest professional organization dedicated to the pediatric surgical specialty—from academia to government and private practice. More information is on the association’s website.

Dear Mrs. Rice,

We would like you to know how grateful we are for the wonderful, attentive care our 16-year-old son, Zack, received at UC Davis Children’s Hospital last week. He was a patient in your hospital for several days last week, admitted after sudden weight loss and a diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes by his UC Davis Medical Group pediatrician, Dr. Marcy Afton. The speed and efficiency with which Zack was admitted, settled into a comfortable room on Davis Tower seventh floor, and treated speak to both the professionalism and attentiveness of the staff. The doctors, nurses, and dietitians were reassuring, informative, and gracious, and willingly answered the numerous questions we posed about Type 1 diabetes.

Dr. Cherry Gilwaller was more than willing to discuss Zack’s health not only with us, but with Zack himself. Dr. Dennis Styne made a strong impression on Zack, reassuring him and assuaging his doubts that a long, healthy, productive life still lay ahead of him. Two nurses, Jennie Sutherland and David Rova, were also of particular help and incredibly supportive of Zack. They, and the childbirth life specialists, made Zack feel both welcome and as comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

Last week was the longest period that Zack has ever spent away from family. The fact that he was willing to send us home each night attests to the warmth and skill of those who cared for him during the nighttime hours. Thanks to the kind and competent care Zack received at UC Davis Children’s Hospital, by the time he was discharged, he was not only healthier, but also more accepting of his condition and the requirements of managing a life with Type 1 diabetes.

Again, we would like to thank the UC Davis Children’s Hospital for the excellent care Zack received. Regards,

Susan and Joel Swift

Zack Swift with his mom, Susan Swift.
The promise of cord blood and California’s Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program

As the founding administrator for California’s Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program (UCBCP), UC Davis Health System has aimed to capture the rich genetic diversity of Californians by collecting donated cord blood units for use in potentially life-saving therapies and research.

Previously discarded as medical waste, cord blood is a highly promising alternative to bone marrow transplantation for treating a host of diseases such as anemia, leukemia, lymphomas, sickle cell disease and severe combined immunodeficiency, and is easier to match across donor and recipient.

Public cord blood donation is free and painless to mother and child. The UCBCP has successfully listed more than 1,200 cord blood units on the national registry, with approximately 80 percent from minority and mixed-race heritage. A more varied pool increases the likelihood that members of minority groups and mixed heritage can find a match. At least 21 units have already been used in life-saving transplants.

Cord blood also holds great potential for researchers as a potential source of regenerative medical therapies and treatments. UC Davis Health System is grateful to all who have participated in the program and who work to help it thrive.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR Children’s Miracle Achievement Award

The Children’s Miracle Achievement Award honors a caregiver or team which has significantly elevated the care of children and has specifically been impacted by Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals’ (CMN) funds.

The recipient of the UC Davis Children’s Miracle Achievement Award will be recognized during ABC10’s Give4Kids telethon on Aug. 12, 2016.

The UC Davis Children’s Miracle Achievement Award top nominee applications will be forwarded on to the national Children’s Miracle Network to compete to be reviewed against nominees from 170 other CMN hospitals. Children’s Miracle Network will select one national award winner, who will be recognized during the Spring 2017 national CMN meeting in Orlando, Florida. The winning caregiver or team will receive two round-trip plane tickets and two nights’ accommodations.

Submit your nomination by July 15 here.

In the summer of 2012, 2½-year-old Timmy Brown was going through chemotherapy treatments at UC Davis Children’s Hospital for medulloblastoma, a type of brain cancer.

When his mom, Maryanne, realized that he would be in the hospital for the 4th of July, she volunteered to organize a parade on the unit.

“The 4th of July is one of our favorite holidays,” said Maryanne Brown. “We enjoy the fireworks, spending time with friends and family and celebrating the country’s birthday.”

The annual parade is a group effort between the Brown family, Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department and Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) at UC Davis.

The first year started out with music and a parade of patients on Davis 7. Children decorate their beds, wheelchairs or IV poles. If any patients are unable to participate, volunteers bring items to their beds for decorating.

This year, there will be a barbecue for the families of pediatric patients, while Food and Nutrition services will prepare a holiday-themed lunch for patients on the unit. A CMN donor will provide the food for the barbecue, while Dairy Queen is donating 4th of July-themed cakes. Additionally, there will be picnic games, prizes and a photo booth.

“It’s just our way of giving back to UC Davis Children’s Hospital and giving parents and kids a bit of an escape,” said Maryanne Brown.

The new East 7 acute care pediatric unit opens

The new East 7 acute care pediatric unit is now open. The purpose of the new six-bed unit is to provide care to stable pediatric patients, ages 5 and older. East 7 is designed for patients with a length of stay shorter than 24 hours, but it is equipped to care for patients with a longer length of stay.

The unit has a dedicated staff of nurses and hospital unit service coordinators, with support from the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department. The unit is open Monday through Friday, 6:45 a.m. to 8 p.m., or last discharged patient.

“The new East 7 unit means we’re now better able to provide for the needs of our patients,” said Calene Roseman, nurse manager of East 7.
**UPCOMING events**

**July 9: Sacramento Extra Life Guild Meeting** – Meet other Extra Life members, who want to raise money for Children’s Miracle Network at UC Davis through gaming. 2 - 4 p.m. Bunz, 311 Judah St., Roseville. Contact mmthompson@ucdavis.edu for more information.

**July 19-20: Miracle Treat Day** – Dairy Queen sells blizzards in support of Children’s Miracle Network at UC Davis. $5. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on July 19 at Lawrence Ellison Building courtyard.

7 - 9 p.m. on July 20 Location TBD. Contact mmthompson@ucdavis.edu for more information.

**July 22: Celebrate our Partnership with Sacramento Republic FC** – Food and fun. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Main hospital parking lot.

**July 23: ACE Bucket promotion** – Make a $5 donation to UC Davis Children’s Hospital (a Children’s Miracle Network Hospital) for a limited-edition five-gallon bucket and receive 20% off everything that fits in the bucket. 100% of your donation will benefit UC Davis Children’s Hospital. Participating ACE Hardware locations. Contact lmwnguyen@ucdavis.edu for more information.

**Aug. 12: ABC10 Give4Kids Telethon** – Help create a miracle by supporting Children’s Miracle Network at UC Davis. 4:30 a.m. - 11:35 p.m. 877-719-5437.

**Aug. 13: Duck Dash** – Adopt a rubber ducky and give back to the Child Life program at UC Davis Children’s Hospital. 2 ducks = $15. 5 p.m. Raging Waters, Sacramento. theduckdash.com

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**CHILDREN’S SURGERY CENTER employees raise more than $25,000 for kids with cancer**

Seven people dared to “brave a shave” on April 12 to raise funds for pediatric cancer research. Children’s Surgery Center employees Heather Sims, Melody Hillstrom, Trudee Murray, Aida Benitez-Alvarez and Attila Bertalan were joined by Bertalan’s wife, Alina, and Lisa Baker, mother of pediatric cancer patient Reese Baker, as they shave their heads. The team, Children’s Surgery Center, raised $26,108 for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

Three barbers volunteered their time, led by Ginger Layton, a UC Davis child life specialist and licensed hairdresser.

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**GET SOCIAL – LIKE US, FOLLOW US share with your networks!**

Facebook.com/ucdavischildrenshospital has 10,397 likes!
Twitter.com/ucdavischildren has 2,262 followers!
Instagram.com/ucdavischildren has 1,042 followers!

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**SRFC 3RD SEASON sponsorship!**

UC Davis Children’s Hospital sponsors Sacramento Republic FC!

We’re looking for volunteers to help staff our booth at their games. All home games are held at Bonney Field at Cal Expo. Free parking.

Click here to volunteer!