Sparrow Neurosciences Center celebrates a grand opening

A standing-room only crowd of nearly 200 gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the Sparrow Neurosciences Center on July 31.

The dedication ceremony reflected on the history of the project, the partnership between Sparrow and Michigan State University in advancing neuro care for the region, and the tremendous support from our community donors to make this possible.

Guests were invited to tour the 10th floor, which opened to Patients on Aug. 6, and Caregivers were on hand to talk about the features of the Center, the technology and how the modern new Patient-centered location will provide care in a more healing environment.

Construction on Floor 9, also a part of the Sparrow Neurosciences Center, is expected to finish in September.

Celebrating 30 years of Sparrow Hospice Services

The 2013 Hike/Bike for Hospice will be held Sept. 22 at Granger Meadows Park in DeWitt to support the future of compassionate care at Sparrow Hospice.

This year’s event features a 5K hike and 40 mile bike ride and is extra special as Sparrow celebrates 30 years of providing compassionate hospice care.

Participants will include the family of Ken Curtin, a Sparrow Hospice Patient who died in December 2012. His wife, Shari Curtin, called his time at Sparrow Hospice “a gift” and said their family is thankful for the compassionate care they received.

“Every person working there has a gift. They ministered to his needs so tenderly,” said Shari. “It was a gift to us, his family, to see him at peace, talking, laughing with his many, many visitors up until the very end.”

For more information and to register, visit SparrowFoundation.org/HikeBike4Hospice.
Sparrow earns new Cardiac Care distinction

Sparrow Health System has joined only about 500 other facilities in the country by earning the designation as a Blue Distinction Center+ for Cardiac CareSM by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

“I’m proud that we’ve earned this notable distinction, proving that we can provide state-of-the-science technology and the best Patient care, right here in mid-Michigan,” said Joel Cohn, M.D., FACC, Director of the Sparrow Heart and Vascular Center.

The + distinction indicates that Sparrow not only meets the quality-focused, Patient safety and outcome criteria required to be a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care®, but also undertakes cost of care measures to do it efficiently.

Sparrow Medical Group practices earn PCMH designation

All nominated Sparrow Medical Group practices received Patient-Centered Medical Home Designation from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

The DeWitt, Eastside, Okemos, West, North, Lansing, Potterville and Mason SMG practices all successfully achieved this important designation. SMG Holt, which opened in July, was not in existence early enough to be nominated.

This designation means our practices organize care around Patients, work in teams, and coordinate and track care over time to improve primary care for the people in our region.

Safety reminders: Help keep Sparrow safe!

The safety of our Patients and Caregivers is Sparrow’s top priority, and it’s important that everyone plays their part in keeping Sparrow safe. Don’t forget these important reminders to promote safety:

» Never prop doors open, even for a short time, especially fire doors.

» Keep your purse, wallet, keys and other valuable items with you or locked in a drawer or closet.

» Check the identity of any strangers. Ask whom they are visiting and if you can help them find that person.

» Report any suspicious behavior to a supervisor/manager or Security. Remember the individual’s appearance to relay to the dispatcher, and do not confront the individual.

» You can help keep your belongings safe in your vehicle by keeping them out of sight and locking your doors and closing your windows.

Call Security to report any suspicious behavior at 517.364.2000 or x42000.

Tea honors Dr. Horowitz

Sparrow celebrated the retirement of Ronald Horowitz, M.D., longtime Medical Director of Sparrow Laboratories, during a tea in late July. Dr. Horowitz served at Sparrow for more than 35 years and led Sparrow Laboratories to become one of the largest hospital-based outreach labs in the country. He was named to the Sparrow Physician Hall of Fame in 2011, and has served as a president of the Ingham County Medical Society and is a Michigan delegate to the College of American Pathologists’ House of Delegates.

Caregiver memorialized in Heart & Vascular Center

The late Marjorie Wellington, Sparrow’s first Director of Cardiopulmonary, was memorialized with a new plaque in the Heart and Vascular Center. Among her many contributions, Marjorie is recognized for starting the Pulmonary Function Lab, exercise stress testing, 24-hour EKG testing, and echocardiography. She helped begin Sparrow’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and was named to the American Association for Respiratory Therapy Neonatal-Pediatric Committee.

Marjorie died in 1995. Sparrow’s original Cath Labs were named for her because of her devoted service and remarkable efforts to bring innovation to the hospital.

Her service was recently recognized again with the dedication of a new plaque during a ceremony attended by her colleagues and family.

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New website puts PHP service at your fingertips

Physicians Health Plan (PHP), known for its award-winning customer service, has launched a new website at phpmichigan.com to help members manage their plan, understand coverage and access valuable health and wellness tools.

The new site puts easy-to-use and easy-to-understand information, tools, forms and more at your fingertips, whether you’re a PHP member, a healthcare provider, an individual searching for health insurance or an employer in the market to cover your workforce.

Interpreter Services enhances safety for Patients

Wireless headsets have been deployed in the Heart and Vascular Center so that Patients with limited English abilities can safely use interpreter services during certain procedures, such as treadmill tests. Corded telephones typically used to provide interpreter services pose a safety hazard during these tests. The headsets allow the Patient to communicate effectively and safely.

“Interpreter services are crucial to ensuring our Patients have the best possible experience at Sparrow,” said Lucianna Solis, who oversees interpreter services in the Patient Experience Department. “It’s great that we are able to offer these services in a safe manner for the Patients who need them.”

Sparrow offers Phone Interpreter Services in more than 200 languages and American Sign Language 24/7. In-person and video translation can be scheduled with the Patient Experience Department, though fewer languages are available with those services.

Caregivers who need Phone Interpreter Services can call 1.800.650.1310 and select Option 3. Account numbers for each Sparrow location are available on reference cards in each unit.

For more information, call Lucianna in the Patient Experience Department at 517.364.2814 (pager 517.360.1544).

Did you know it’s been close to 275 days, more than 8 ½ months, since we went live with the iSparrow Hospital-Based EMR on Dec. 1, 2012?

Here is a snapshot of the active projects the iSparrow EMR Team is working on to enhance the functionality of the EMR:

» Discharge/transfer process
» Scanning workflow
» Downtime process
» Bar code medication administration – drilling down the data to optimize the scanning of medications and the Patient’s ID wristband
» Prioritizing enhancements available on the Epic 2012 Upgrade – to be implemented November 2013
» Orienting our Caregivers and Providers on the impacts of the transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 in 2014

If you have questions about the iSparrow EMR or need assistance, please call the HelpDesk at 44357 or 517.364.4357.

Sparrow Caregivers serve as resource for new novel

Sparrow Caregivers Kathy Marble and Maureen Dillon served as resources for Michigan author Lori Nelson Spielman as she was writing her new novel.

The novel, The Life List, thanks the two Sparrow Caregivers in the acknowledgements. The two told the author about life in the NICU, how premature babies improve and other information to help her make the novel as factual as possible. Kathy is the RNICU Department Manager and Maureen is Lactation Consultant.

The Life List was released at the end of July, and Spielman gave signed copies to Kathy and Maureen.

Check out some of the latest videos featured on SparrowTV.org:
The August Sparrow News Video Edition  |  Sparrow Neurosciences Center Grand Opening  |  Aerial Yoga at the MAC
Sparrow Specialty Hospital Caregivers double engagement with Sparrow Foundation

Sparrow Specialty Hospital recently ran a very successful campaign to increase Caregiver donations to the Sparrow Foundation.

More than 22 percent of the 149 SSH Caregivers donated to the Foundation so far this year, up from 8.7 percent in 2012. The effort was spearheaded by PCT Jamie Mitchell who wanted to increase SSH’s visibility in the organization while supporting Sparrow and the community.

“It just wanted to do something positive for the unit,” said Jamie. “If we donate within the health system, it’s for a good cause.”

Our Caregivers’ personal gifts along with the care they provide send a powerful message to the community and assist the Foundation in leveraging additional support. For more information or to get involved, visit SparrowFoundation.org/caregivers.

Mark your calendar for these exciting upcoming events:

**Women Working Wonders (W3) 5K/5K**

Sunday, Sept. 8 | 9:30 a.m.
Sparrow Hospital Cancer Center parking lot
Support women’s health in mid-Michigan as we run, walk and revitalize! Register at www.sparrow.org/w3race.
For more information, call 517.364.5680.

**Spartan Marching Band for Kids Concert**

Sunday, Sept. 8 | 3-7 p.m.
Tim & Kathy Staudt’s home
Join us for a backyard concert to benefit the Sparrow Children’s Center and the MSU Marching Band.
Tickets are $75 per person.
For more information, call 517.364.5680.

**Cancer Survivors’ Day Picnic**

Sunday, Sept. 15 | 1-4 p.m.
Marshall Street Armory, 330 Marshall St., Lansing
Sparrow Cancer Center invites all cancer survivors and their families to attend this free picnic, featuring children’s activities, music, and more.
For more information, call 517.364.2689.

When Sparrow Caregiver Debbie Lopez, B.S., R.N., was just 14 years old, her brother, Nathaniel Moreno, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. He was 4.

“It was a scary time for my entire family,” said Debbie, who grew up in Lansing and is now 35. “But the compassionate care he received at Sparrow really inspired me to become a Nurse.”

Nathaniel made a full recovery and Debbie has been a Nurse at Sparrow for the past 13 years. She is being honored this month in the RN Caregiver Spotlight for her compassionate care and her commitment to Nursing at Sparrow.

Debbie and her brother are also featured in a new ad campaign currently airing locally. A TV commercial details Debbie’s experience and how it helped shape her desire to become a Nurse. You can see the commercial and other Nurses’ stories at Sparrow.org/NurseMagnet.

Get a story you’d like to share?
E-mail your news tip to us at sparrownews@sparrow.org and we may include it in future editions.