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Fiscal Year 2011 was a year of decisive action for Loyola University Health System (LUHS) and Loyola University Chicago (LUC) in order to prepare for the changes coming to all U.S. health care providers. LUHS, formerly a wholly owned subsidiary of LUC, consolidated with Trinity Health to bring patients new, innovative and more efficient health care. Joining forces brings increased resources and greater efficiencies for patients who rely on the health system’s leading-edge treatments and exceptional care. At the same time, LUHS will work closely with LUC’s recently reorganized Health Sciences Division to support health-science education and research. The entities will work collaboratively to become one of the nation’s leading providers of Catholic health care, research and medical education.

As the national health care landscape evolves, LUHS leaders will continually look forward and plan to proactively meet these changes with confidence, enabling the health system to serve with the level of excellence and value that both patients and health sciences alumni expect and deserve.

Amidst all of the change LUHS had a very successful fundraising year for the medical center and health sciences division, raising an extraordinary $24.5 million to be used toward patient care enhancements, scholarship and academic support for health-care professionals and leading-edge research projects.

The impact of philanthropy on the health system campus is a noticeable one. The renovation of the Emergency Department is well underway with an anticipated opening in spring, 2012. Substantial progress has been made on the new school of nursing building and Center for Collaborative learning. Plans have been approved and permit requests submitted to create new bone marrow transplant and oncology care wings on the sixth floor of Loyola Hospital. All of these projects would not be possible without the generous support of philanthropic partners.

This issue of Vision contains more about LUHS’s commitment to patient safety in a Q&A with Robert Cherry, MD. The recently established Loyola Children’s Committee is working to increase awareness of children’s health issues and the need to update Loyola’s neonatal intensive care unit. Alumni of the LUC Stritch School of Medicine are committing to record levels of scholarship support. The outlook is optimistic for LUHS’s efforts to continue providing an excellent patient experience, educate the next generation of health-care professionals and conduct research that changes lives, all while being careful financial stewards of donor generosity.

Loyola’s philanthropic partners are helping to turn the impossible into reality everyday.

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Loyola Celebrates the Completion of $500 Million Partner Campaign

On Saturday, June 11, 2011, at the annual Founders’ Dinner celebration, Loyola University President Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., announced the successful completion of Partner: The Campaign for the Future of Loyola. The $500 million campaign, launched in September 2008, had a target end date of 2013. Having raised more than $530 million, the campaign wrapped up two years ahead of schedule. Of the $500 million, the goal for the Maywood campus was $250 million and the campaign closed at $275 million.

Over 50,000 donors contributed to the campaign helping to support major projects at both Loyola University Chicago and the Loyola University Health System, including:

- Loyola Hospital Tower
- The Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing and Center for Collaborative Learning

The Partner campaign was co-chaired by Nancy Knowles and William J. Hank and was supported by a Campaign Leadership Committee, many of whom were some of the campaign’s most significant contributors.

“The success of this campaign is an example of what can be achieved when individuals band together for a common cause. It’s a testament to the spirit of generosity,” said Father Garanzini. “I’m exceedingly grateful to all of our partners who supported the campaign. Their generosity will make a difference for years to come.”

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Michael and Kay Birck: Working Hard, Giving Generously

Michael and Kay Birck make their philanthropic decisions in the same way they’ve lived their lives: as a team. One of the latest of those decisions is to support stroke-related programs at Loyola University Health System (LUHS) through a $1 million gift. In recognition of their generosity, LUHS has named the Michael and Katherine Birck Rehabilitation Unit, located at the Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge, in their honor.

“You get to know people at places and understand that there are legitimate needs,” said Mr. Birck. “We talk about it and over time come to a conclusion that is a joint one,” added Mrs. Birck. “We are both drawn to the same things, for the most part.”

That includes being drawn to one another – they met at a dance where they both came with other dates. Mr. Birck’s sister, a classmate of the future Mrs. Birck at St. Anthony’s Hospital School of Nursing (now part of Indiana State University), introduced them that evening. Following their graduations three and a half years later, they were married. “Our honeymoon was a drive to New Jersey,” quips Mr. Birck, recalling that his first job as a newly minted engineer out of Purdue University’s School of Electrical and Computer Engineering was to take a job at Bell Labs there. Mrs. Birck found a nursing job.
For two young people who might never have expected to graduate from college, it was, in retrospect, an auspicious beginning. Mrs. Birck, whose mother died when she was just 5, was raised by great aunts who both worked in a Clabber Girl baking soda factory in Terre Haute, Ind. By working herself, and with the assistance of scholarships, she completed her nursing degree. Mr. Birck, one of five children of a U.S. postal carrier, also worked his way through college—substituting for his dad on the mail route, working in the Purdue cafeteria, at a Dog ‘n Suds, and, in the summer, for Indiana Bell.

His just-out-of-college position in the telecommunications field would be the first in a series of jobs and training (he also completed a master’s degree in electrical engineering through New York University) that ultimately led him to found, with five others, Tellabs, Inc. in Naperville, Ill. He is now the chairman of the board of this multibillion dollar world-wide corporation whose equipment is used in most telephone calls and Internet sessions in the U.S.

But it didn’t get there overnight. The Bircks recall that when Tellabs was a fledgling company, they sat their three children (then 14, 13, and 10) down and, “told them how life was going to be on no salary for a year—lots of hamburgers and hotdogs for dinner.” Mrs. Birck, along with the wives of the five other principals at Tellabs, went back to work. Mr. Birck, if he wasn't at one of their children's baseball games, typically worked seven days a week until 8 or 9 p.m., stopping for dinner when one of the wives brought it in.

Aside from hard work and sacrifice, what does it take to create a company that is a leading communications carrier in more than 80 countries worldwide? “I have some business acumen,” Mr. Birck affirms, but adds quickly “you have to know your stuff. I’m an engineer by training and inclination. I like to see how things behave under certain conditions and designed most of our early products.” He waxes eloquent about the “echo canceller,” their first big product, as well as the Titan, a high-speed, digital, cross-connect system that is still sold 22 years after it was introduced. “Engineering teaches you to think: it is too deep a subject to learn everything by rote,” he says—but perhaps more important to his business success was, “knowing how to get along with people, whether customers or employees. And a big part of that is fairness. If you’re not going to pay people, as we couldn’t at the start, you’ve got to treat them right, give them the opportunity to present their goals and aspirations.”

With success has come the opportunity to expand that idea into philanthropy. Perhaps it isn’t surprising, for an engineer and a nurse, that supporting research and addressing people’s educational and health-care needs has been the focus of the Bircks’ philanthropic work for some time now, particularly through Catholic institutions.

In addition to their most recent gift in support of stroke care, the Bircks have also supported cancer research at the Loyola University Health System through a $2 million gift to the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center. “Mr. and Mrs. Birck’s generosity to the health system over the years has always been very forward-thinking and this gift shows the same commitment to supporting innovation in patient care,” said Tony Englert, vice president, Development & External Affairs.

The Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge project attracted them especially for its focus on compassionate design. Mrs. Birck, a stroke survivor who spent a lot of time in rehabilitation, knows well the importance of thoughtful care and tranquil surroundings in the healing process. The innovative care model at Burr Ridge reduces waiting times, emphasizes accessibility, and makes it possible to see a physician, have a test, and work with a physical therapist in one visit in a light-filled, serene space. It is, says Mr. Birck, a continuation of the health system’s commitment to “also treat the human spirit.”

For information on supporting innovative health care and research at Loyola University Health System, please contact the Office of Development & External Affairs, at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.
He was a big White Sox fan, loved to read and liked to play the horses a bit. Kind, caring, strong and always there for his family, the late Anthony Catino is being honored by his grandson, Anthony Stella, through the creation of a garden at Loyola University Health System.

Nestled into the exterior north corner of the Loyola Outpatient Center on the Maywood campus, the garden is centered on a contemporary fountain and surrounded by redbud trees, boxwood, a Japanese maple, a variety of perennials and decorative planters. Café tables and chairs provide an outdoor extension of the Jazzman Café for patients and their families to enjoy a restful outdoor space in fine weather.

Mr. Stella thinks it is a fitting way to honor a man who loved life and was relentlessly positive, even in the face of many health issues, including an aortic aneurysm, bladder cancer, and a brain tumor. “Even with his last illness, he didn’t get depressed—he was always optimistic and trusted his Loyola doctors, especially Dr. [Maureen] Fearon,” Mr. Stella recalled. “When he found out he had the brain tumor I came into the room and he was doing bed exercises. ‘I’ve got to be strong if they’re going to operate’ he said. And he was 90 years old.”

“The Catino Garden will provide visitors to the Outpatient Center an oasis of beauty and calm in keeping with our philosophy to treat the whole person.”

Daniel Post, senior vice president for Ambulatory Programs & System Services

Anthony Stella Gift
Creating an Oasis for Healing

Anthony Stella, third from left, and members of his family at the Catino Garden dedication and blessing.
A highly informed newshound who kept up on politics, the economy and medicine all his life, Mr. Catino was, according to his grandson, “a blue-collar Republican” dedicated to making a better life for his family. He also was extremely handy, willing to roll up his sleeves and help whenever a carpentry, plumbing or electrical problem presented itself. Mr. Stella had ample time to witness his grandfather’s character in action. Growing up, “a week didn’t go by that we didn’t see my grandparents,” he said, and he and his grandfather spent a good deal of time together at the office after Mr. Stella founded his commercial real estate company, Stellco Properties, Inc. in Naperville, Ill.

Unable to attend college himself, Mr. Catino advocated wide-ranging reading and urged his grandson to get an education; Mr. Stella graduated from DePaul University, where he majored in business administration. Early on, real estate fascinated him and he “dabbled a bit” on his parent’s behalf. Later, he began looking for properties to acquire and manage. Then, as now, he finds the process interesting and closing a deal to be an especially satisfying challenge. Many of the properties he has acquired have needed renovation and his grandfather was always ready to climb a ladder to help. But perhaps more important was his grandfather’s advice always to be ahead of the curve and avoid problems by anticipating what was coming in the marketplace. Following that advice has been critical to his success, he says.

Mr. Stella has found that fostering good relationships and dealing with integrity — values that both his grandfather and his parents (also independent business owners) inculcated in him from the start — are critical to drive a successful business. “People need to get a sense of fairness from you. And if you promote a culture where you value those things, that gives you a competitive advantage,” he said. With his own success based on the lessons he learned from others, he is happy to have the means to give something back. The garden will be a fitting tribute to a man who tried to make things nicer for others, Mr. Stella believes. “My grandfather was a practical, Depression-era guy and might be embarrassed a bit at this. But then he’d say ‘Ahhh, Tony. Do what you want to do!’”

For more information about supporting patient care at Loyola University Health System, contact the Office of Development & External Affairs at development@lumc.edu or call (708) 216-3201.
More than 350 friends and supporters gathered on the Loyola University Medical Center campus in May to celebrate the second annual Loyola University Health System Gala, which honored Hinsdale residents Mary A. and William G. Ryan as recipients of the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service. The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exemplary philanthropic support, advocacy, community outreach and volunteerism that strengthens the mission of the health system.

During the Gala, the medical center campus was transformed into a setting to match the celebratory mood of the evening. The transformation included the hospital’s soaring lobby, where guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres before the dedication ceremony recognizing the health system’s Leadership Society Stewards — donors with lifetime giving to the health system of $250,000 or more.

Following the reception, guests boarded trolleys for a campus tour. Arriving at the south end of campus, a red carpet led friends and supporters to a tent surrounded with boxwood topiaries for a night of dinner and dancing amidst a profusion of flowers and colored lights.

In addition to the Ryans, whose $5 million gift to LUHS in 2007 created the William G. and Mary A. Ryan Center for Heart & Vascular Medicine, which helped to bring next-generation technology to the cardiac electrophysiology laboratory, the evening’s program honored individuals and organizations whose gifts have funded building improvements to advance the health system’s mission. These included renovations to the Emergency Department made possible through support from the Keeley Family, the McCormick Foundation and Jim and Sally Dowdle; the opening of the Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge, supported by the vision and backing of Michael and Katherine Birck; and the construction of the Outpatient Healing Garden made possible by a gift from Anthony J. Stella.
William and Mary Ryan, along with all seven of their children, respective spouses and 30 grandchildren attended the 2011 Loyola University Health System Gala. The story of the Ryan family is one of deep faith, perseverance and success, based on some deeply engrained values: remember your roots; practice your faith; have a strong sense of “stick-to-it-iveness;” teach by example and, most importantly, love each other. The health system is a part of this remarkable family story because giving back to the community is one of the “Ryan Family Values.”

“Reaching out to others is part of the fabric of the Ryan family and their gifts are improving lives here every day,” said David Wilber, MD, the George M. Eisenberg Professor of Cardiovascular Sciences and the director of the Division of Cardiology and the Cardiovascular Institute. “Our facilities and options for patients with cardiac problems have expanded significantly thanks to their gift to our health system.”

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan founded their successful business, Town & Country Homes, in 1958, the year they were married. It grew,
at the same time their own family was growing, to be one of the largest residential builders in metropolitan Chicago. While William Ryan might shrug off the company’s success as “the luck of the Irish,” he believes that his wife and children played key roles in that success. Each of the Ryans’ three sons spent a period running Town & Country, while their four daughters brought legal and sales expertise to the company. The business was sold in March 2005.

Along the way, the Ryans have shared their talent and resources with numerous organizations, including Misericordia Homes, the University of Notre Dame, St. Mary’s College, the Wellness House of Hinsdale, several area hospitals and the Lost Tree Foundation, based near their Florida home. Now, they watch with pleasure as their children and grandchildren follow their lead. “The kids have been fabulous about giving back. What we have started, they are continuing,” said Mrs. Ryan.
It was a gut-wrenching decision to leave her private practice and take a position at Illinois Bell, said Fern Asma, MD, a 1946 graduate of Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch), but it was the right one. “Salaried positions were not respected. Being in private practice was the ideal,” she said. “But the chance to do occupational health research at Illinois Bell really appealed to me.” Now retired, she has made another decision she believes is right for her: a provision in her estate plan to endow two scholarships for Stritch medical students.

“These poor kids are graduating with horrible student loans,” she said. “I wanted to do something about it.” The Fredinand Asma, MD, Family Medical Student Scholarship will help to alleviate the debt burden for these future physicians. The scholarship honors her own parents, especially her mother, who held the family together and was critical to her father’s success. The second scholarship will be named the Dr. Fern E. Asma MD/PhD Student Scholarship and is aimed at students enrolled in the MD/PhD program who plan to pursue a research-focused medical career, especially those engaged in alcohol-related research.

“Fern understands firsthand the pressures of medical school and the key place of original research in promoting better medical care down the road,” said colleague and friend Elizabeth J. Kovacs, PhD, professor and vice chair for research, Department of Surgery; professor, Microbiology & Immunology; and director, Alcohol Research Program. “These endowments are going to help students make the contributions to society that they want to make.”

Dr. Asma grew up on Chicago’s South Side and knows what it means to have the support to follow your dreams. Although few women went into medicine in the 1940s, her family supported her goal both financially and emotionally. One of the first hurdles she overcame was her mother’s initial reservations about the idea of a daughter becoming a doctor. “It helped,” she recalls, “that there was a Catholic medical school in town.” And it helped, too, that her father (class of 1913) was a physician — he had a practice in Chicago’s Roseland neighborhood where she got her own start in private practice.

She also recalls mentors who helped her along the way, particularly Herbert Ratner, MD, who, with his wife, had frequent get-togethers for students in their home. “He was a great influence on us all; he kind of glued us together.” She recalls how Dr. Ratner would debate ethical issues with the Jesuits at these gatherings and how fellow students would sit around talking about God and life. Most crucially, she remembers his advice: “You deal with the whole person. He always stressed that we are physical, emotional, and spiritual beings, not a collection of organs jumping around,” she said.

This philosophy was crucial to her success in occupational health, where she did seminal alcoholism and substance-abuse research, eventually leading the creation of an employee-treatment program at Illinois Bell. She continued to be an advocate for Employee Assistance Programs across the country after her retirement and currently promotes adult rehabilitation for substance abuse in her work as a volunteer for The Salvation Army. This personal commitment mirrors her lifelong active membership in professional organizations (often as an officer) for which she has received national and international recognition. Her expertise, data, and statistics were instrumental in passing the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act, which led to the establishment of the National Institute of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse.

At some of the toughest points in her career, Dr. Asma found support from family those she met along the way. She is happy to respond in kind. “People are my hobby,” she says. “I’m a soft touch.”

For more information about starting a scholarship to Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, contact the Office of Advancement at alumni-ssom@lumc.edu or (708) 216-6576. ~
Robert Cherry, MD: 
Chief Medical Officer
Question and Answer

Robert Cherry, MD, was named Loyola University Health Center’s first chief medical officer in January 2011. Dr. Cherry also serves as vice president of clinical effectiveness. He is an accomplished and active trauma surgeon with a master’s degree in health-care management and a robust record as a clinical investigator. He also is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Dr. Cherry lives in Hinsdale, Ill., with his wife and three daughters.

What are the primary responsibilities of a chief medical officer (CMO)?

Maybe the most important is to think strategically about how we can develop systems to deliver optimal patient safety and best outcomes at a reasonable cost. A lot of this has to do with promoting research about how to do things better and with assessing and analyzing how the institution’s health-care providers collaborate and work as a team. Health-care isn’t a solo activity. To achieve best outcomes we need to look at all the moving parts and it’s most effective in a large organization if someone is delegated to oversee that process.

Can you give an example of the strategic thinking required of a CMO?

We know that falls are a serious issue for patients. If we minimize falls for fragile patients, we prevent them from being injured in ways that require additional procedures, a longer hospital stay, perhaps more physical therapy. We maximize the outcome and minimize the costs. To do this on an institutional level and see if we’re successful we’d gather data about how many falls occur; evaluate and implement strategies to minimize them (instituting patient education and staff-training options, installing lower beds and bed alarms), analyze data over time to see if we’re successful and then evaluate next steps. To do this involves coordinating activities in many departments and that requires strategy, planning, implementation and oversight.

What are some of your goals to promote clinical quality and safety?

Two of my short-term goals are to make serious progress against hospital-acquired infections, which is a national issue, and to reduce the incidence of deep venous and pulmonary embolisms. Both can be addressed through strategic thinking and rigorous application of evidence-based care for every patient.

How about long-term goals?

One of my overarching long-term goals is to constantly look for ways to provide value as we face the realities of constrained resources and an aging population. We will need to use our resources strategically, providing the same or better care with the same or reduced resources. I’m committed to Loyola’s promise to “also treat the human spirit” and will focus on ways to optimize the patient experience through good communication and exceptionally compassionate care. Whether we’re dealing with a pretty routine procedure or difficult end-of-life issues, people want to be treated with dignity and we can always look for more effective ways to do that.

Can you reflect a bit on the satisfaction you derive from your job?

I really enjoy problem-solving issues in collaboration with my colleagues. Health-care is incredibly complex and challenging today and when colleagues approach me to have conversations about providing better care and feel good about the outcome, that is very satisfying. I also like to work with departments who are considering ways to organize their teams to assess issues, select goals, innovate and measure progress. And lately, I’ve gone back to being on-call as a trauma surgeon in the Emergency Department. When I care for the critically ill patients who come in, I think “This is who I am.”

Robert Cherry, MD
Volunteer Profile:

Carol Woniakowski, Chairperson, Loyola Children’s Committee

“My training is in law and business—but this is my calling,” said Carol Wolniakowski, chairperson of the recently founded Loyola Children’s Committee. Passionate about whatever she does, she is currently bringing some of her considerable energy to the committee, whose immediate goal is to raise $10 million to renovate the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Ronald McDonald® Children’s Hospital of Loyola University Medical Center (RMCH).

Five years ago, Carol gave birth to identical twins Matthew, who weighed 21 ounces and Jeffrey, who weighed 29 ounces. The boys were hospitalized in Loyola’s NICU for 13 weeks before she and her husband, Brian Birnbaum, could take them home. “Micropreemies,” as they are called, require expert care, since they often face big challenges in the first weeks of life, including brain hemorrhages, respiratory distress and serious infection. And for her boys, like others, those challenges can continue—Matthew and Jeffrey have both been diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

So Carol has taken on advocacy for children with health challenges as her full-time job. Taking time to reflect on the past few years, both on the ways in which she missed her work as a corporate attorney and on the care she’s witnessed at Loyola, she said, “I asked myself: What is my path? And all roads pointed to this committee, which allows me to use my skills and training in a very personal way.”

But it has been clear to her from the start that the level of commitment among members is unlike other organizations where she’s served. The difference? Carol ascribes it to something that can be expressed in these few words: “We also treat the human spirit.” She believes that this phrase comes to life for patients and families. “The care here is just different, the doctors are different,” she said, observing that once, when she tried to give a NICU physician credit for his skill, he demurred, lauded the NICU nurses, and said: “God is working through us.”

To date, the Loyola Children’s Committee has sponsored several events to engage new members and raise awareness, including an evening at the chic Western Springs restaurant Vie, and is also planning a 5K charity run for June 2012. Although, “as a committee, we’re still in the infancy stage,” she said, she has found both fellow committee members and Loyola staff “wonderful, can-do people” committed to raising awareness about the quality of RMCH and to making sure the hospital has the tools it needs to care for the babies and children who come through the door. She’s excited about doing everything she can to make that a reality.

“I’ve received two degrees, a husband and two children from Loyola,” Carol said. “I guess I’m here to stay.”
Meet Some of Our Volunteers

Michelle M. Moore
Active as a community volunteer and mother of five children, Michelle Moore worked at a commodities firm and taught at a business school before starting her family. She said of her commitment to the Loyola Children’s Committee, “As a traditional Catholic, when I see the care and concern for life I see at Loyola, I want to be part of it. The mission is consistent with who I am.”

Grant M. Mulvey, Treasurer
As a former Chicago Blackhawk, Grant has made his home in the Chicago area while dedicating time to his family, business, Blackhawk Alumni Association and the Loyola Children’s Committee. Grant, as with many former athletes in Chicago, values the opportunity to give back to the community by supporting many great charities, with the most important to him being the Ronald McDonald® Children’s Hospital of Loyola University Medical Center. The committee’s mission to raise awareness and the necessary funds for the neonatal intensive care unit renovation is his passion.

Patricia Lekacz
Retired large-event planner, avid runner, volunteer and mother of two teenage sons, Patricia Lekacz was a founding member of the Tucson Marathon. At Loyola, she sees a unique kind of spirit: “It’s hard to describe—but you know when people would do anything they can to help you.” She is delighted to be part of the “unbridled enthusiasm” she finds on the Loyola Children’s Committee and is dedicated to seeing the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit renovated.

Sally D. Gibbs, Vice Chairperson
Having worked both as a registered nurse and the CEO of a physician management group, Sally Gibbs is currently devoting her time to family and to volunteer projects. Her life-threatening experience delivering her twins gave her a different outlook on life. “I’ve lived the need for quality care,” she said, and wants to use her background and experience both to raise funds and to raise awareness of RMCH’s services and specialties.

If you are interested in being a part of the Loyola Children’s Committee, please contact Peggy LaFleur at (708) 216-5197.
AHA Check Presentation
The American Heart Association (AHA) awarded the Cardiovascular Institute of Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine $194,772 for cardiac research during a ceremony on campus. This brings to $10.1 million the lifetime total awarded to Loyola. AHA Board Chairman William Roach Jr., Esq. (right) presented a symbolic check to David Wilber, MD, (left) director of the Cardiovascular Institute and Richard Kennedy, PhD, (center) vice provost for Research and Graduate Programs.

Trauma Survivors Barbecue
Hundreds of trauma survivors and their families came together to share a meal and their astonishing stories of survival at Loyola Level 1 Trauma Center’s Big Save Barbecue at Loyola University Medical Center. Joined by Loyola medical staff, patients ages 17 to 80 recounted tales of recovery from gunshot wounds, motorcycle crashes, falls from rooftops and other critical injuries. The event is the brainchild of Thomas Esposito, MD, MPH, FCO, director of the Division of Trauma, Surgical Critical Care & Burns in the Department of Surgery. Loyola is the only Level 1 Trauma Center certified by the American College of Surgeons in Illinois.

2011 White Coat Ceremony
For more than 20 years at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, the first rite of medical school passage has been the White Coat Ceremony. In August, new students gathered with their families, friends and the Stritch community to receive the symbol of their future profession—a white lab coat—and mark a milestone in their education: entry into clinical medicine.
Emergency Department Construction

Phase I of Loyola’s Emergency Department is nearly complete. The multimillion-dollar renovation will refurbish and update patient care areas; improve the staff work areas by making them more ergonomically functional; and improve the patient waiting area. These changes will enable the ED staff to serve the more than 50,000 seriously ill and injured patients treated in the department every year by providing them the most compassionate, highest-level care possible. At the same time, it will create a living legacy to John L. Keely, MD, who served as chair of the Department of Medicine of Stritch School of Medicine from 1958-1969 and was a surgeon in Loyola’s Emergency Department. He was highly valued by colleagues throughout Loyola’s health system.

Niehoff Construction

Ground was broken April 9th for the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing building and Center for Collaborative Learning on the Maywood campus. A joint project between the School of Nursing and the Stritch School of Medicine, the building is located just west of the medical school building. The project includes classrooms and administrative space for the school of nursing; shared learning space for nursing and medical students; a virtual information commons; a state-of-the-art clinical simulation lab that includes a six-bed virtual hospital; and a simulated home-care environment.

Hope on Wheels

During an October ceremony, Hyundai’s Hope on Wheels program presented Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine a symbolic $100,000 check to support research to treat an aggressive form of pediatric leukemia. The research studies will evaluate a new class of drugs and will be led by Charles Hemenway, MD, PhD, Ronald McDonald House Charities® Endowed Professor in Pediatric Oncology and division director of pediatric hematology/oncology at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.
LUHS Names New President and CEO

Larry M. Goldberg comes to LUHS from his position as chief executive officer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn., where he led a multi-year strategic positioning initiative for the medical center, including the clinical, academic and research enterprises aimed at improving profitability. Also while at Vanderbilt, he oversaw the planning and construction of a 141-bed critical-care patient tower and supported the development of the Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute. Previously, Mr. Goldberg served as vice president of hospital operations at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago. In that role, he directly managed all support, diagnostic, therapeutic and ambulatory care services. In addition to direct line management, he led critical operational activities, including inpatient capacity, hospital-wide information systems, and program development for the hospital’s centers of excellence, including cardiovascular services, neurological sciences, oncology, solid organ transplantation and women’s health.

Loyola’s On-Site Cardiology Team Dramatically Improves Care for Heart Attack Patients

Data gathered by Loyola researchers and presented at the American College of Cardiology (ACC) annual meeting this year show that Loyola’s interventional cardiology team has far exceeded the ACC’s recommendations that heart attack patients receive balloon angioplasty within 90 minutes of arriving at an emergency department. Since Loyola launched its Heart Attack Rapid Response Team (HARRT) program in 2009, all patients received angioplasties within 90 minutes and 82 percent received them within 60 minutes, greatly exceeding the national standards and results from the best hospitals in the country. Start-up funding for the HARRT program was provided by Jim and Sally Dowdle and Bill and Jean Divane.

Chicago Magazine Recognizes Loyola’s Pediatric and Women’s Physicians

Twenty-two Loyola physicians were named to Chicago magazine’s lists of “Top Doctors for Women” and “Top Kids’ Docs.” The data was compiled by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd, a health-care research and information company. Sixteen Loyola physicians were named to the publication’s list of “Top Doctors for Women,” in specialties ranging from cardiology to cancer. Linda Brubaker, MD, MS, interim dean at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, appeared on the cover.

Six Loyola pediatric physicians were named to Chicago magazine’s list of “Top Kids’ Docs.” Doctor’s specialties included general pediatrics as well as pediatric nephrology, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology and cardiology.

Loyola Opens Children’s Headache Clinic

A headache clinic devoted exclusively to children opened at the Loyola Outpatient Center in Maywood. Staffed by board-certified pediatric neurologists, the clinic offers care for adolescents suffering from stress-related, cluster and migraine headaches. Children seen at the clinic have access to the latest diagnostic testing available, including MRI, CAT scan, EEG/EMG, PET scan, epilepsy monitoring and sleep studies. Nutrition referral, psychological and psychiatric consultations and ophthalmology evaluations are available as well as access to the latest in research and clinical trials.

Patients Introduced to Online Health Connection

Loyola University Health System became the first in the west and southwest suburbs to allow patients to see test results, communicate with their doctors and make appointments online while being logged onto a secure Web site. The online health connection, called myLoyola Select®, is free and has apps for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. To sign up, patients obtain an activation code from their physicians and use that code to create a user ID and password. A parent or guardian can connect to a child’s information by completing a proxy consent form.
Loyola Researcher Publishes Study on Treating Parkinson's Disease

Frances Weaver, PhD, was one of the three lead investigators in a major study on treating Parkinson’s disease, published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study followed 299 patients and showed that a “brain pacemaker” called deep brain stimulation (DBS) is an effective treatment for the disease, resulting in motor function improvements for patients who no longer benefit from drugs, or who experience unacceptable side effects. Dr. Weaver is director of the Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital. She has a joint appointment at Loyola and Hines.

Loyola Creates New Health Sciences Division

The University announced the creation of the new Loyola University Chicago Health Sciences Division to promote its academic and research enterprises at the health sciences campus. The division, including the Stritch School of Medicine, the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, the biomedical sciences graduate school programs and several key research programs and initiatives, enhances Loyola’s commitment to growing the education and research programs in the health sciences. Along with Trinity Health, the division will remain a leader in Catholic health care, education and research. Richard L. Gamelli, MD, FACS, was named senior vice president and provost of the Health Sciences Division at Loyola.

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital’s Emerald Ball

More than 300 guests attended Gottlieb Memorial Hospital’s (GMH) Emerald Ball this year to celebrate the institution’s 50th anniversary. As part of the festivities, the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Auxiliary announced a $150,000 gift to fund renovation of the hospital’s medical conference and learning center. Costs for the black tie fundraiser were underwritten by the Gottlieb Memorial Foundation, whose chairman, Glencoe businessman Jack Weinberg, is the grandson of hospital founders Dorothy and David Gottlieb. GMH, with its 36-acre Melrose Park campus and 255-licensed-bed community hospital, became part of Loyola University Health System in 2008.

Study Offers Hope for Babies with MLL Leukemia

The results of a study led by senior author Charles Hemenway, MD, PhD, offers a promising new approach to treating an aggressive and usually fatal leukemia in babies. The study involved a type of leukemia called mixed lineage leukemia, or MLL leukemia. Only 25 to 50 percent of babies diagnosed with MLL leukemia survive the disease. The study demonstrated how it may be possible to kill cancerous MLL cells by targeting a protein called DOT1. The study was presented at the 2011 meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in Orlando, Fla. Dr. Hemenway is the Ronald McDonald House Charities® Endowed Professor in Pediatric Oncology and division director of pediatric hematology/oncology at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

Loyola Employees Give Life to Kidney Patients

Loyola University Medical Center is believed to be the first organization in the country, and perhaps the world, in which a total of seven employees have each donated a kidney to a complete stranger or casual acquaintance, asking nothing in return. The good Samaritan donors are known as “The Seven Sisters of Loyola.” Through Loyola’s Pay-It-Forward Kidney Transplant Program, led by co-directors John Milner, MD, and David Holt, MD, a total of 28 kidney patients, drained after years of dialysis, were able to return to normal healthy lives. Often a kidney patient has someone who wants to donate to them but isn’t a match. When an altruistic donor gives a kidney to this patient, their would-be donor can give to someone else and it creates a chain that has the potential of saving hundreds of people. Since it started, the Pay-It-Forward Kidney Transplant Program has helped 19 altruistic donors start chains that led to 96 kidney transplants across the nation.
Save the Date

For the Burr Ridge Health Lecture Series. Loyola health professionals speak on a series of topics at the Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge, 6800 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge. Registration is recommended. Please call (888) LUHS-888 to register.

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7 – 8 p.m,
Topic: Staying Healthy on Your Trip
Speaker: Jan Duffy, RN

If you are planning a trip abroad, join us to learn about travel preparedness and immunization recommendations for various regions of the world.

For more information about these upcoming events, please contact us at (708) 216-3201 or development@lumc.edu.