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What a Difference a Gift Makes

We’re now more than halfway through it, and I’m happy to report that Loyola University Health System (LUHS) is having a great philanthropic year. This issue of Vision covers several significant projects moving forward on our campus, including the start of construction on the inpatient cancer care floor at Loyola Hospital. We also share the stories of two families whose battles against cancer inspired them to support research at LUHS. And we have included an interview with new LUHS President and CEO, Larry Goldberg, who answers the most common questions we have been hearing from our donors.

As Mr. Goldberg points out in his interview, the new partnership between LUHS and Trinity Health offers many opportunities for growth and expansion in Loyola’s mission to provide the best health care and conduct leading-edge medical research. The LUHS development team is here to collaborate with philanthropic partners who believe, as we do, that Loyola is a special place for healing. Our partners make an impact by supporting a variety of strategic initiatives: facility enhancements (including new equipment and technology); patient education, community outreach, and care enhancement programs; and research conducted at LUHS or through collaboration with the Loyola University Chicago Health Sciences Division.

Donors have several options for giving to LUHS:

• Individual Gifts: Donors contribute one-time gifts, often on a consistent basis, for the greatest needs of the health system. For example, through our Tribute to a Loyola Caregiver (TLC) program, a patient can say “thank you” for exceptional care by making a gift in honor of a physician, nurse or other Loyola caregiver.

• Major Gifts: Donors wishing to make a significant, leadership-level gift work with the Major Gifts team. Major gifts are often structured as pledges and are usually restricted to specific projects. Many major gifts include naming and recognition opportunities on campus.

• Planned Gifts: Donors who wish to make a future major gift may support Loyola through their estate plans. Planned gifts can include bequests, charitable trusts, annuities and other options. The Office of Development gladly works with a donor’s financial advisor to find the right strategy for each individual.

• Fundraising Events: The Office of Development hosts several fundraising events during the year to support specific campus projects; this year, the events include a Spring Benefit held in May and a 5K race in June.

The Office of Development welcomes the opportunity to talk with you about the exciting changes going on at LUHS. Please feel free to personally contact me at (708) 216-3601 or aenglert@lumc.edu.
The journey for one German lady from a post-World War II Russian internment camp to Geneva, Ill., was a long one. But Christl Weis Burgess made that eventful journey, touching many along the way with her grace, charm and indomitable spirit. Jack, her husband for 51 years, recently created the Christl Burgess Memorial Endowment Fund for Early Detection, Treatment and Research of Ovarian Cancer to honor his late wife.

A woman who ate right, didn’t drink or smoke, swam and walked almost daily, Christl Burgess was in good health and was the last person her family expected to have to confront cancer. Together with them, however, she battled the disease for more than seven years, through remission and recurrence.

“She was a fighter” said Ronald Potkul, MD, who managed Christl’s care, “but she was always smiling and appreciated everything people did for her.”

“The support she got helped her deal with her disease,” added Kathleen Bettis, RN, nurse coordinator, who came to know Christl well. Through it all, her family said, she never thought of herself as a victim. She often expressed concern for those younger than she undergoing chemotherapy and even said to her children during her own, “I’m glad it is me, not you.”

“We found the right place,” Mitzi Burgess Weiss said of their eventual choice to seek treatment for her mother at Loyola’s Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center (CBCC) under Dr. Potkul’s guidance. “With cancer, you need to be at a place like Loyola, where all the resources are first-rate,” added Jack. And son Tom noted “We all become soldiers when going through this. What you need is information.” Each expressed gratitude that Christl was given the chance to participate in a clinical trial of a cancer vaccine at the CBCC, and they are interested in seeing the new endowment used to promote earlier detection and advance vaccine studies. “Ovarian cancer hides very well from the immune system,” said Dr. Potkul, “so while we can often get it into remission, currently there’s a 75 percent recurrence rate. That is where a vaccine comes into use and where more research is needed.”

Christl was a woman of strong faith who loved people, gardening and her many pets. A photographer by profession, she left the family with a lifetime of pictures. She and Jack lived for more than 50 years in the same house in Geneva, the town where he had grown up. For many of those years, she and the children sold Christmas trees grown at their Wisconsin farm from their front yard, and Jack worked as plant engineer at Burgess-Norton (BN), the business his grandfather had started in 1903. It was Jack’s family business, in some ways, that had brought the couple together.

BN, as it is known today, is still the world’s largest supplier of piston pins for the truck, tractor and heavy equipment industry. When a steel strike in 1959 forced the company to look for this critical material abroad, Jack went to Europe in search of it. While there, he took the opportunity to look up “a young fräulein” he had met at a camera store in 1953 when stationed in Munich with the U.S. Army. At that point, memories of the war and their years in internment camps before being displaced to Germany were painfully fresh and Christl’s father wouldn’t let her date anyone in uniform. But after six years, he relented. At dinner under a chestnut tree, Jack recalled, “I asked her if she’d marry me if I returned by Easter. She said ‘yes’ and we were married in Fraunau in 1960.”

For Jack and his children, wonderful memories help fuel their determination to help others find ways to fight the disease that claimed Christl’s life. It’s a battle she herself led, telling Dr. Potkul at the start of her vaccine trial “My body’s yours—do whatever you need to do to find out how to help other people with this disease.”

For more information about supporting critical research projects at Loyola, contact the Office of Development at (708) 216-3201 or development@lumc.edu.
A burn injury can change a person’s life forever, leaving physical and emotional scars that cannot be erased. But the faculty and staff who care for patients at Loyola’s Burn Center are dedicated to helping patients make it through these difficult experiences. Patients are frequently transferred to Loyola’s Burn Center because their local hospitals are not equipped to care for their injuries. This was the case for Dori Mleczko’s daughter, Sydney, who was burned when hot tea water was spilled in her lap. “Loyola provides the very best care for burns, and I immediately felt confident when I knew Sydney would be treated there,” said Ms. Mleczko.

“A child psychologist worked with Sydney to cope with the pain,” added Ms. Mleczko. “The physical therapy team brought her a Wii to preoccupy her. She joined the pediatrics unit in arts and craft classes – I cannot say enough about the personal and professional care that Sydney received at Loyola.”

Loyola’s Burn Center, the busiest in metropolitan Chicago, is also one of the busiest in the Midwest, treating more than 700 patients annually. Approximately 40 percent of these patients are children, about 80 percent of whom are under 2 years old. The burn center’s multidisciplinary team includes resuscitation, pulmonary support, wound management, nutritional support and rehabilitation personnel. The center also offers special services, including a summer camp for burned children as well as support groups for patients and their families.

For Jeanie Leggett, RN, BSN, who has been the nurse manager of Loyola’s Burn Center for the past 6 ½ of the 17 years she’s worked at Loyola, the most satisfying part of her job is seeing the positive outcomes of patients that result from her staff’s remarkable efforts. From daily dressing changes to holding patients’ hands during painful procedures, she said, “My staff always strives to deliver the best quality patient care, and I’m very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a great team.”

Committed to improving the well-being of people whose lives have been altered as a result of a burn injury, two Illinois fire prevention organizations hold annual golf outings to benefit Loyola’s Burn Center. For the Illinois Burn Prevention Association, Richard L. Gamelli, MD, FACS, medical director of Loyola’s Burn Center, is the reason the organization regularly donates their annual golf outing proceeds to the center. Robert Kleinheinz, north central regional manager for the National Fire Sprinkler Association, said of their support, “Dr. Gamelli has done amazing things for the Burn Center. It is our privilege to support his efforts.”

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) chooses to support Loyola because of its impressive reputation both locally and nationally. According to Nicholas Ozog, secretary of the SFPE’s Chicago chapter and co-chair of the golf outing committee, “It only seemed natural for an organization like ours, committed to fire protection and safety, to donate to victims who have been impacted by burns.”

Since 2003, the Illinois Burn Prevention Association has donated $328,000 to Loyola’s Burn Center. Meanwhile, the Chicago Chapter of the SFPE has donated $52,815 since 2001. Gifts from these organizations have enabled the Burn Center to purchase new equipment, to conduct research, and to buy furniture and toys that improve patient care.

The Illinois Burn Prevention Association and SFPE welcome new participants for their annual golf outings. To participate in the Illinois Burn Prevention Association’s next outing, contact Bob Kleinheinz at (914) 671-1975 or kleinheinz@nfsa.org, or visit their Web site at www.ilburnpreventionassoc.com. To participate in the SFPE’s next outing, contact Tammy Johnson or Nicholas Ozog at (312) 879-7200 or tjohnson@rjagroup.com, or visit their Web site at www.chicagosfpe.org.

For information on supporting the Burn Center or Loyola University Health System, please contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.
New Cancer Facilities will Provide Innovative Inpatient Care

Visionaries in patient care have never accepted the status quo. From Hippocrates to Florence Nightingale, they have brought observation, experience and rigor to improving patient outcomes. At Loyola University Health System, that vision and pioneering spirit is clearly present in the renovation of the hospital’s inpatient cancer care facility.

By the beginning of the twenty-first century, Loyola’s cancer treatment spaces, staff wanted improved infection control. Patients and their families wanted greater privacy. As a result, chief among the changes identified were fully private rooms fitted with HEPA-filtered air to minimize infection.

During the fact-finding design stage, patients, families and staff all identified the need to add warmth, color and personality to spaces. Since inpatient cancer care often involves hospital stays of three weeks or more, providing some sense of normalcy for patients and their caregivers improves the treatment experience for everyone. SmithGroup’s design team also demonstrated that the long “travel time” required for nurses and patient technicians to obtain linens and pharmaceuticals reduced their available patient-care time.

When completed, the redesign will provide 39 private patient rooms, more efficient supply access for staff and include a central area that offers a café space, great rooms/family activity area, exercise room and meditation space.

Construction began in December 2011 and renovation of the east and north wings is expected to be complete by late fall, 2012, with completion of the central core scheduled for early spring 2013. Gifts totaling $13 million have supported these patient-care advances to date. This total includes leadership gifts from The Coleman Foundation, the Donald P. and Byrd M. Kelly Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew and Judy Konitzer, Mr. Shari Lichtenstein and Mr. and Mrs. Mario and Mary Kay Pasin. Completing the vision through renovation of the south and west wings will require additional gifts of $2 million.

The firm conducted months of interviews, staff shadowing and focus groups to develop a clear understanding of the way patient care functioned in its current space and to identify the improvements physicians, nurses, staff, patients and their families would like to see. Every aspect of patient care was considered, from housekeeping to nutrition services and from location of supplies to the way the pharmacy functions. Analysis revealed some critical intersections. The medical staff wanted improved infection control. Patients and their families wanted greater privacy. As a result, chief among the changes identified were fully private rooms fitted with HEPA-filtered air to minimize infection.

Janet Krabec
Sharing Her Good Fortune

Janet and Frank Krabec met at Chicago’s Triamom Ballroom and were married in 1960. She was 19 and he was 42. “We had a good life together,” said Mrs. Krabec of their 27-year marriage. And they fox-trotted and waltzed through many of those years. Now 90 years old, Mrs. Krabec has been a dedicated donor to cancer research at Loyola, fulfilling Frank’s wishes to use some of their resources to fight the disease that claimed his life and those of his mother, father and only brother.

Together, they decided that cancer research at Loyola would be their charitable focus, and Mrs. Krabec’s generosity has resulted in generous annual gifts over the last 25 years. She also has made provisions in her estate plan to continue this charitable work. The youngest of six girls, Mrs. Krabec grew up in the Roseland neighborhood on Chicago’s South Side, speaking Polish at home with her immigrant parents and attending St. Salomea School and Fenger High School. Her mother, a homemaker, and her father, a laborer at the Pullman Car Co., were devout people who centered family life on parish activities. “We went through tough times, but we didn’t know it,” said Mrs. Krabec, who was a teenager during the worst years of the Depression. She recalled having to rely on a neighbor’s charity after her father was hit by a car and until her eldest sister could finagle her way (at 14 years old) into a stenographer’s job to support the family—which she did for 30 years.

She herself spent much of her married life working as a secretary for a large South Side commercial upholstery firm until Frank convinced her to join him after he retired from his position as general manager at Duo-Fast, a commercial fastener firm. When he wasn’t golfing, they loved to travel together from their Cicero home to many continental U.S. states, as well as to Costa Rica, Hawaii, Poland and Czechoslovakia. “The nuns taught us Polish, so that came in handy,” she said of her trips to Europe. Today, although she attends only an occasional dance, Mrs. Krabec continues to be active, driving herself to church, appointments and lunch with friends from the south-suburban home that she and a sister purchased together after Frank’s death. She keeps it immaculate, a skill no doubt learned from her mother, who, she noted, faithfully washed, stretched and starched the white curtains of their two-flat twice each month. Frank’s clocks, photos of her sisters, her watercolors, family mementos and an oil portrait of she and Frank bicycling in the woods hold places of honor in her home. Talking about her good health, ability to give back and her friendly neighbors, she said simply, “I have it good.”

Isaac and Janet Krabec met at Chicago’s Triamom Ballroom and were married in 1960. She was 19 and he was 42. “We had a good life together,” said Mrs. Krabec of their 27-year marriage. And they fox-trotted and waltzed through many of those years. Now 90 years old, Mrs. Krabec has been a dedicated donor to cancer research at Loyola, fulfilling Frank’s wishes to use some of their resources to fight the disease that claimed his life and those of his mother, father and only brother.

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Tzedakah is Hebrew for giving aid and assistance to people in need and money to worthy causes. It was the spirit of tzedakah that inspired Gottlieb Memorial Hospital’s (GMH) founders to build a non-sectarian hospital in Melrose Park, said Sheila Newman Glazov, whose father, Alexander Newman, chaired the building committee. Thanks to those visionaries, 2011 was a milestone year for GMH, marking two generations of service to people of all faiths in the community.

The anniversary year included two celebrations. Members of the community, faculty, staff, local dignitaries and guests, including members of the founding families, attended a birthday party in the hospital’s recently renovated lobby. The event included tours of the new mammography unit and surgery waiting room, and dignitaries unveiled an enormous photo collage highlighting key events and personalities from the hospital’s past. “My dad would have been as elated as I am to see the party and know the hospital is still serving the community,” said Alvin Gottlieb, who oversaw the hospital’s construction at the behest of his father, David, the hospital’s first president.

More than 300 guests gathered to continue the celebration and to reminisce the following evening at the hospital’s 50th annual Emerald Ball. Reflecting on the milestone, Jack Weinberg, grandson of David Gottlieb, said of the founders, “They came from humble beginnings but they never looked at something as impossible—that’s the way they approached life.” His grandfather, like Mrs. Glazov’s father and the others who led the project, were successful businessmen who donated both time and money to see the hospital completed.

Mrs. Glazov vividly remembers the planning and fundraising for the project among her tightly knit community in the Western suburbs of post-war Chicago. From a Jewish perspective, she noted, such endeavors are understood not so much as magnanimous acts, but as ethical acts of justice and righteousness often directed at non-sectarian causes like GMH. Giving back to society was a way of life for her parents and their friends, who instilled the value in their children, too. These leaders, along with a group of two dozen area businessmen, spent almost four years raising the $4 million needed for planning and completion of the four-story, 122-bed hospital. Gifts included a $750,000 donation from David Gottlieb and his wife, Dorothy.

The “can do” and community-service attitude toward supporting the hospital is still very much alive at Gottlieb, now part of Loyola University Health System. At this year’s Emerald Ball, Dorry LaSpisa, president of the Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, announced the group’s $150,000 pledge to fund a renovation of the hospital’s medical conference and learning center. The Auxiliary has hosted the ball since its inception, and has raised millions of dollars to fund many important additions.

For those who know the place well, the animating spirit of community service goes even deeper, to a sense of the hospital as a family endeavor. Mr. Weinberg pointed out that many of Gottlieb’s current administrators have served there for most of their professional careers because they believe so deeply in the mission. According to Mrs. Glazov, from its beginning, “The hospital was a family. That’s what made it special.” The Emerald Ball itself continues to be more intimate than most charity events, Mr. Weinberg believes, because everybody there has a connection to the hospital. His aunt, Irene Gottlieb, along with Julie Newman and other prominent west suburban women, founded the Auxiliary and planned the event for many years. Later, his mother, Marjorie, infused the event with her style and taste. These days, Mr. Weinberg’s sons, ages 23 and 26 years old, continue the family tradition of involvement.

Today, the 36-acre Gottlieb campus in Melrose Park offers a 255-licensed-bed community hospital with a Professional Office Building housing 150 private practice clinics; an Adult Day Care Facility; the Gottlieb Center for Fitness; and Loyola Cancer Care & Research at the Marjorie G. Weinberg Cancer Center. “My father would think the affiliation with Loyola was grand: more knowledge, more resources, helping more people,” said Mrs. Glazov. “He was a visionary and would have been thrilled with the collaboration.”
Larry Goldberg
LUHS President and CEO

Tell us a bit about your background and how you view your work.

As an undergraduate at UNC Chapel Hill, I played soccer, including serving as team captain. That experience helped me better understand the importance of teamwork and how a group becomes stronger when it works to achieve a shared goal. I have carried these ideas with me throughout my career. Collaboration has been a key part of my leadership style. And so, after finishing my MBA at Duke, I worked in health-care consulting — especially for large teaching hospitals and academic medical centers. After that I held hospital leadership positions at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. So I’ve been in the health care arena my whole career. In the short time that I have been at Loyola, I have recognized that teamwork and collaboration are among the values that exist here. This aligns nicely with my style and background.

What are the benefits for Loyola of a Trinity affiliation?

Our health system’s affiliation with Trinity Health allows us to be the best academic medical center we can be. Resources and expertise from Trinity Health will allow us to improve clinical quality, to strengthen our financial management and access to capital, to help us support growth and increase revenue, to improve our labor cost-management practices, to enhance our supply chain and expense-management practices and to invest in human capital.

Trinity Health also brings a lot of expertise in managing high-priority risk and compliance issues and resources to help us improve our core infrastructure. The affiliation also makes it possible to expand our mission and increase the reach of our world-class clinical programs by bringing our services to other hospitals within Trinity Health’s nationwide network of 49 hospitals. Beyond providing financial resources, the affiliation helps Loyola University Medical Center and Gottlieb Memorial Hospital achieve their goals and visions.

Will Loyola University Hospital retain its unique identity now that it’s part of a larger system?

Absolutely. We are a part of Trinity Health but we are still Loyola University Health System. We remain committed to the values and mission we’ve held from the beginning. Over time, we hope the large presence of Catholic institutions in the Chicago metro area can foster cooperation around a central community service mission and vision we share.

What appealed to you about this position?

Of all the places I’ve served, this is the place where I feel most comfortable. There’s a feel of doing the right thing for the patient above all. It’s not a corporate feel. And I’ve been really impressed at how long people have been here.

What are your major goals for the institution?

First, we need to get bigger to create more market leverage. Secondly, we need to continue to define our brand and focus on consistently delivering our unique patient experience, whether that happens in the hospital, in the outpatient centers or in the specialty clinics and units. And we need to do that for all patients. Third, we need to successfully transition into the new health care environment by positioning ourselves well strategically.

As a donor, why would I continue to give to LUHS now that Trinity has brought its resources to the table? Will gifts I make to the health system stay here?

Trinity Health’s resources will allow us to upgrade our facility and take on some projects to help us stay competitive. However, as a leading academic medical center we also are interested in offering innovative teaching programs, developing unique services and facilities and being a home for leading-edge research. For many of these things, there is no designated funding source. Philanthropy allows us to accomplish these goals in unique ways and often more expeditiously then we could do otherwise. We are currently looking at our strategic plan to identify and align programs, bricks-and-mortar projects, and clinical research with philanthropic support. And to answer the last question: I want to say categorically that donor funds stay here at Loyola.

What is the health system’s relationship with Loyola University Chicago as we go forward?

With Loyola University Chicago, we will maintain our strong relationship as one academic medical center. We share one campus and, to the outside world, we are one entity. We have to work together and to support each other so that we can grow stronger. In the process of consolidation with Trinity Health, we learned new ways that we can support each other and how to make some of our processes more efficient.

We are working together to plan a research facility on this campus that will benefit both institutions. We know that a solid research enterprise helps us to build our reputation and attracts top talent. With the university, we will maintain and grow our identity as a center for teaching the physicians and nurses of tomorrow, offering the latest treatments and cures through research.

Larry Goldberg
The Comfort Care Project
Volunteers Help Treat the Human Spirit

It’s a beautiful thing when a good idea snowballs into a great one. In 2009, two girls who needed a project to fulfill the service requirement in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation agreed to make and donate fleece blankets to hospitalized patients at Loyola University Medical Center. Inspired by the passage from Matthew’s Gospel, “When I was ill, you comforted me,” the idea had been germinated among the hospital’s pastoral care staff, who saw an opportunity to fulfill Loyola’s promise to “treat the human spirit” for patients and families in difficult situations.

The blanket-making program continues to grow and now has the name Comfort Care Project. Joanne Kusy, secretary in the pastoral care office, has been an enthusiastic blanket maker since the beginning, having made more than 750 herself. The blankets, she believes, provide that “something extra” to show patients how much the Loyola staff cares for them. And the crafting process helps keep her connected to them. “I always buy uplifting, happy, bright fabrics,” she said, “and when I make blankets it calms me.”

Other Loyola staff members have become dedicated Comfort Care Project volunteers, including nurses from several units as well as staff from the hospital’s clinical lab, who produced 165 blankets in 2010 by cutting and knotting over the lunch hour. And chaplains have found that there’s blanket-making interest among patients who are hospitalized for extended stays, such as women with high-risk pregnancies who are on total bed rest.

Personal responses and heartfelt notes are clear signs that patients are deeply moved by the gesture of receiving a blanket. Recipients often are surprised to hear that the blanket is not just a blanket, either. As they’re cut and knotted, many of the volunteers who make them pray quietly for the patients who will receive them. These blanket crafters include congregants of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, the sisters of the Wheaton Franciscan order, Girl Scout troops, and students from area Catholic high schools. And the prayers can go the other way too. A recent widow hospitalized after a car accident told chaplain Fran Glowinski, OSE, “I pray my rosary on the knots, but there are only 48…”

Loyola’s 10 full-time chaplains, who staff the hospital 24/7, see patients in some of the most challenging and stressful health situations imaginable. Chaplain Robert Andorka values the chance to give patients a blanket at these times because it is one of the ways that he and his colleagues can “be the eyes and the hands and the voice of God” with people in search of healing. The Comfort Care Project would like to expand the number of blankets available for distribution, and the team eagerly welcomes volunteers and donations to support the project.

In the meantime, Ms. Kusy will be among its most ardent supporters: “I will do this until the project ends, and I hope it never does,” she said. If you would like to make a gift for the purchase of blanket-making materials or volunteer your time to make blankets, please contact Eva Moss at evmoss@lumc.edu or by phone at (708) 216-8249.

The Gottlieb Center for Immediate Care at River Forest

Loyola Expands Outpatient Services

Loyola expanded its outpatient services by opening a state-of-the-art sinus allergy program at the Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge and celebrating the grand opening of the Gottlieb Center for Immediate Care at River Forest. The allergy program provides nasal, sinus and allergy screening, patient education, treatment for seasonal allergies (tree, grass and weed pollen) and perennial allergies (dust mites, molds, dogs, cats and cockroaches). At the Gottlieb Center for Immediate Care at River Forest, Loyola physicians treat minor illnesses and injuries, including sprains, fevers, infections and allergic reactions. In addition to immediate care, Loyola physicians at the center offer care in orthopedics, podiatry, primary care, and obstetrics & gynecology.

News in Brief

Physicians Find Link Between Celiac Disease and Osteoporosis

Loyola physicians have found that people with celiac disease are at risk for osteoporosis. A 2009 New England Journal of Medicine study supports this correlation. Researchers believe that people with celiac disease may develop osteoporosis because their bodies do not absorb calcium and vitamin D well, which is necessary for bone health.

“Many people with celiac disease go on to develop osteoporosis later in life,” said Pauline Camacho, MD, director of the LUHS Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease Center. “We attribute this to the fact that patients with celiac disease do not get the proper amount of nutrients necessary for bone function, which leads to rapid bone destruction and severe osteoporosis,” Dr. Camacho added.
Researchers Study New Technique for Battling Infections and Cancer

In a study published in Nature Medicine, Loyola researchers report on a promising new technique that potentially could turn immune system killer T cells into more effective weapons against infections and possibly cancer.

The technique involves delivering DNA into the immune system's instructor cells. The DNA directs these cells to overproduce a specific protein that jumpstarts killer T cells — immune system cells that attack cancer cells and pathogens.

José A. Guevara-Patino, MD, PhD, senior author of the study, and colleagues reported their technique proved effective in jumpstarting defective immune systems in immunocompromised mice and in human killer T cells taken from people with HIV. Dr. Guevara is an associate professor in the Oncology Institute of Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

The study received major funding from the national office of the American Cancer Society, the Illinois chapter of the Illinois Cancer Council and the University of Chicago.

Mercy Joins Trinity Health System

On April 1, Mercy Health System in Chicago's South Loop joined Loyola University Health System as a member of Trinity Health. The addition of Mercy Hospital and Medical Center brings the number of hospitals in the Trinity Health network to 33.

The agreement allows Mercy, as well as the remaining hospitals in the system, to share resources with Loyola, as it has done with Trinity Health hospitals in Indiana and Michigan.

Mercy Hospital & Medical Center, Chicago's first teaching hospital, has served Chicago for 160 years. Today, Mercy includes 325 licensed beds and has Level II trauma center designation. Trinity Health is one of the largest Catholic health systems in the United States (based on operating revenue). It encompasses more than 56,000 full-time equivalent employees, more than 11,000 active staff physicians and 432 outpatient centers.

Pediatrics Celebrates Two Milestones

The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Loyola University Medical Center celebrated its 25th anniversary in March. Former NICU patients and their families were reunited with the doctors and nurses who cared for them.

Since the unit opened its doors in 1987, more than 18,000 babies have been cared for by Loyola doctors and nurses in Loyola's NICU. These patients have included the world's smallest surviving baby, born at 9.2 ounces in 2004, and more than 3,000 newborns who have weighed less than 2 pounds. The overall survival rate of infants in the unit has been 98 percent.

Also in March, the Pediatric Mobile Health Unit of the Ronald McDonald Children's Hospital of Loyola University Medical Center treated its 100,000th patient.

The mobile unit is a 13-ton, 40-foot health facility that travels to schools throughout Chicago and its suburbs to treat medically underserved children each weekday. The clinic on wheels was the first of its kind in the Midwest. It offers routine physical examinations, immunizations, health screenings, educational sessions, lab tests and asthma checks. The program has treated thousands of patients since it opened in 1998.

This has led to reduced school absences and emergency department visits.

Pilot Study Shows Great Promise for Treating Breast Cancer

In a novel therapeutic approach to treating breast cancer, Loyola University Medical Center researchers are reporting positive results from a clinical trial of a drug that targets tumor stem cells.

Existing cancer drugs are effective in killing mature cancer cells, but a handful of cancer stem cells are resistant to such drugs. They survive and go on to develop into new tumor cells.

A pilot study at Loyola found that an experimental drug known as a “notch inhibitor” appears to block this process by turning off key genes. The purpose of the study was to determine how well the notch inhibitor is tolerated and how it affects the expression of critical genes in cancer stem cells.

The next step is to determine how effective the drug would be in treating breast cancer.

“Our results suggest a potential role that notch inhibitors could play in optimizing existing therapies and in overcoming resistance to cancer drugs,” said Kathy Albain, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

Dr. Albain led the study with colleagues from Loyola, University of Mississippi Cancer Center, Baylor Breast Center and Merck Oncology. They presented their findings at the 2011 CTRC-AACR San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

New President of Loyola's Gottlieb Medical Staff Appointed

Dulces Leon-Jauregui, MD, who specializes in family medicine and joined Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in 1994, was recently appointed president of Loyola's Gottlieb medical staff.

The addition of Dr. Leon-Jauregui as president means the physicians at Gottlieb are being led by an all-female team of medical officers for the first time in its 50-year history.

The 2012 physician executive team is Dulces Leon-Jauregui, MD, president; Janet Aganad, DO, president-elect; and Laura Cozzi, MD, secretary/treasurer. Mary Uckerman, MD, is the first woman to serve as credentialing chairman at Gottlieb.
The LUHS Tribute to a Loyola Caregiver (TLC) program gives patients and their families an opportunity to say “thank you” for exceptional care by making a gift in honor of a caregiver. We share these inspirational tributes to some of our caregivers with you.

Tribute to
Bruce E. Lewis, MD
You saved my life in 1995. How can you ever thank someone enough? I am still going strong 16 years later. You are a great man. Thanks again!

Tribute to
Patrick Stiff, MD
It gives us great confidence to know that the best bone marrow transplant specialist in the world has our backs. We are grateful for you.

Tribute to
Suzanne M. Miceli, RN
I was very fortunate that Sue was assigned to me as she is an excellent caregiver. I never would have recovered without all of her care and support.

Tribute to
Home Care & Hospice
We will always remember the compassionate care you gave both our parents and how you supported our family at our time of need. May God bless you.

Tribute to
John K. Boblick, MD
Dr. Boblick typifies the word "doctor": he is a kind, compassionate man. I will never forget how he took care of my husband in his last days. What a blessing he was to us all!

Tribute to
Suzanne M. Miceli, RN
I had mitral valve repair surgery on April 5, 2011. Through the coordinated efforts of the Loyola team, I am doing very well. Working together they have indeed restored my human spirit. I will be forever grateful for the expertise and care that was given to me.

Tribute to
Kevin P. Barton, MD
Being a cancer patient in Clinic B of the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center for approximately seven years, I can only say that everyone from receptionist, doctors, nurses, the lab, the super nurses in chemo, all deserve recognition. But most of all, Dr. Barton and his nurse Jeannine in what seems to me like a personal curing of my cancer. I cannot thank all of them enough.

Tribute to
Jill M. Gruzlewski, RN
Jill, out of all the care I have ever received in a hospital, you have been the best. Professional yet totally concerned and caring, gentle and uplifting. It was truly a joy being cared for by you in my time of need. Thanks.

If you would like to make a tribute to a Loyola Caregiver, contact Jackie Lowe at jlowe@lumc.edu or (708) 216-4328.

The Loyola Children’s Committee’s first major fundraising event in support of a $10 million renovation of Loyola’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) will be a Race/Walk and Children’s Character Competition June 10, 2012 on the campuses of Loyola University Medical Center and Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Maywood, Ill. The committee was founded in 2010 by a core group of dedicated volunteers to advocate for children’s health issues; raise funds for pediatric programs; and drive awareness of the programs and expertise at Ronald McDonald® Children’s Hospital (RMCH) at Loyola University Medical Center. The committee plans for the race to become an annual summer event.

Patricia Lekacz, LCC member, is chairperson of the race. She has significant race-management experience as co-founder and race director of the Southwest Airlines Tucson Marathon and race director of Jack’s 5K Race in Glen Ellyn, Ill. “I think we’ve got the makings of a perfect event here: a scenic, flat and fast course for the runners, events and activities for the kids, and an unbeatable cause to support,” Patricia said. Co-race directors include Sally and Mike Gibbs, founders of the Brian Piccolo Race and Jassen Strokosch, triathlete and USATF and IHSA track official.

Built in 1987, Loyola’s RMCH NICU is a nationally recognized leader in neonatal care. It carries the unique distinction of having nurtured the survival of the world’s two smallest babies (9.2 oz in 2004 and 9.9 oz in 1989), with an overall survival rate of 98 percent. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, the unit is in urgent need of renovation to serve Loyola’s tiniest and most vulnerable patients, and to meet the ongoing requirements and expectations of their families.

Children at the 5K can dash toward the finish line with:
- Ronald McDonald
- Staley, Chicago Bears
- LU Wolf, Loyola University Chicago
- J. L. Bird, Joliet Slammers
- Spikes, Joliet Slammers
- Wilbur the Pig, Famous Dave’s
- Chuck E. Cheese
- Skates, Chicago Wolves
- Sparky, Chicago Fire
- Ozzie T. Cougar, Kane County Cougars
- Sarge, Chicago Slaughter
- and many others!

For more information or to register, visit: LoyolaMedicine5K.org

5K Race Will Support NICU
Saturday, May 19, 6 p.m.,
at the Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge
A sparkling evening of action-packed fun, food and drink benefiting Loyola Hospital’s inpatient cancer-care treatment facility.

Hear
Scott Hamilton
Olympic gold medalist, share the story of his triumph over cancer

Register today and Spring into Action
Tickets $250
Order online at loyolamedicine.org/heroes or by phone at (708) 216-8531

Sunday, June 10
8 a.m. Race start
9 a.m. Children’s character competition start
Maywood campuses
of Loyola University Medical Center
and Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
Race proceeds will benefit the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Ronald McDonald® Children’s Hospital at Loyola University Medical Center.

Interested in volunteering?
Service hours are available.
For more information or to register, visit: LoyolaMedicine5K.org