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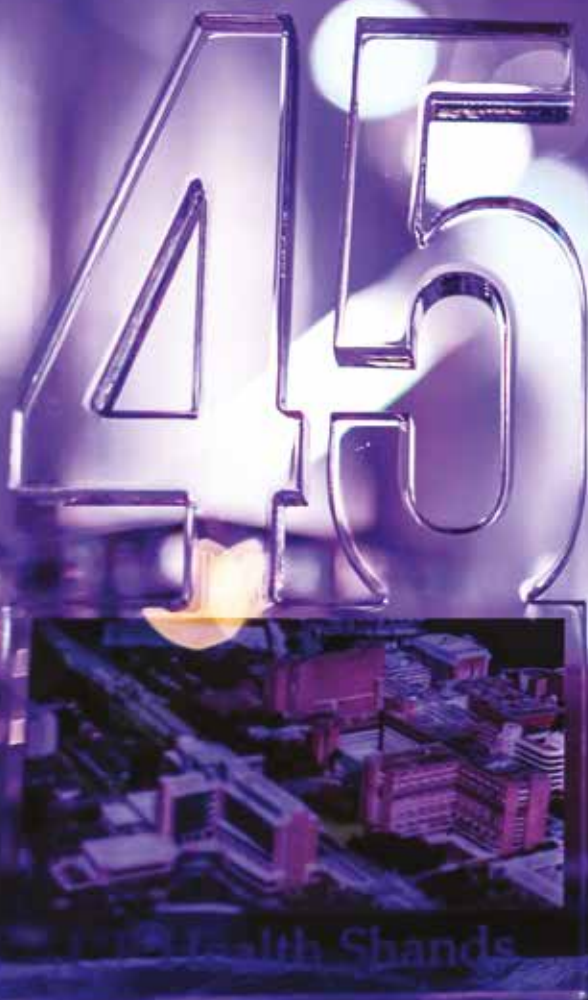
NEWS+NOTES

UF HEALTH SHANDS

PAGE 8: A HELPING HAND AT HOME
HomeCare team provides expert service across 12 Florida counties.

PAGE 10: NURSING TEAM EARNS GOLD
Five of our nursing care units currently hold active Beacon Awards for Excellence.

PAGE 16: DOUBLE THE HUDDLES
Team takes Hospitality Huddles to the next level.



CELEBRATING OUR STARS

**Milestones banquet honors
long-term employees**

UF HEALTH | HOSPITALITY+SERVICE

HELP US TELL YOUR STORIES

Let us know about newsworthy happenings in your area!

BY TODD TAYLOR

I'm constantly amazed by the size and scope of our organization. Whenever it feels like I'm beginning to grasp all of our academic health center's intricacies, something inevitably arises to show me how much more there is to learn.

When I became News+Notes editor three-plus years ago, one of my goals was to shine light on as many areas of UF Health as possible. To that end, we've introduced many new features. We cover patient journey stories — walking readers through how patients interact with various individuals and health care teams to receive specialized care. We also offer department profiles, like the one featuring the HomeCare division and its many services on page 8 in this edition. I quickly realized that it would likely take decades to include every team in News+Notes, but that won't stop us from trying!

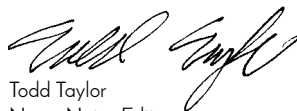
Of course, highlighting our teams is only the tip of the iceberg. There are countless stories about how our employees are improving the lives of our patients and of their colleagues — and there are always newsworthy success stories, projects, technologies and research findings that are strengthening our organization.

While it's impossible to feature everyone and everything in a newsletter that's published nine times a year, we're doing our best. And you can help: We're always looking for story ideas, so please let us know about the great work going on in your area.

In recent years, we've also changed the format of UF Health Shands CEO **Ed Jimenez's** column on page 3. While I always have questions ready for Ed, he's much more interested in answering yours, so please send them in. Depending on the topic, some questions will be answered in Ed's newsletter column, while he may prefer to respond to others with a personal email.

In this edition, read about our recent Milestones Service Awards banquet, which honors long-term employees — some have been with us 40-plus years. And stay tuned for future editions of News+Notes as we begin sharing more information about our new UF Health Heart & Vascular and Neuromedicine hospitals opening in December!

News+Notes is distributed throughout UF Health Shands and UF Health Physicians and its recently redesigned website (news+notes.UFHealth.org) gets thousands of views each month. To submit a story idea or a question for Ed's column, please email me at taylt@shands.ufl.edu.



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 FSC LOGO

UF HEALTH SHANDS | CARE+QUALITY

Q&A WITH THE CEO – ED JIMENEZ

Curious to know what's on the mind of our UF Health Shands CEO?

We caught up with CEO **Ed Jimenez** and asked him several questions for this edition of News+Notes. See how to submit your question at the bottom of the page!

What do you enjoy most about the Milestones Service Awards banquet to honor long-term employees?

The Milestones banquet allows us to thank our long-term employees who have committed large portions of their lives to serving patients and supporting co-workers. They are dedicated to UF Health Shands and are a part of what makes it so great. The banquet also provides us an opportunity to thank their families. When you factor in the waking hours we spend here along with the amount of time that work is on our brain, it really adds up. I like to let employees' families know that we appreciate them sharing their loved ones with us. The Milestones banquet also reminds me that UF Health Shands is a family — all 9,500-plus of us are a part of something bigger and I'm so thankful to be included! These folks inspire me so much.

Turn to page 4 to read more about the Milestones Service Awards banquet.

What would you like staff to know about the UF Health Heart & Vascular and Neuromedicine hospitals opening in December?

The new hospitals will allow us to do something that very few places can do — bring almost all of the clinical care we have in those specialties into one building for our patients. For example, if a patient visits us for a problem with seizures and may require surgery and admission, they may go to nine different locations currently. In the new hospital? Everything they need is in one building. That's remarkable and will make a huge difference for our patients and their families. Additionally, our faculty, residents and staff are eager to be located together in a building designed for their needs.



Ed Jimenez recently visited with UF Health Rehab Center Hand and Upper Extremity team occupational therapists (from left) Jennifer Korona, OTR/L, and Caroline Davidson, M.O.T., OTR/L, and occupational therapy assistant Ronald Jimenez, COTA/L.

How will the new hospitals benefit other faculty and staff who aren't working in them?

By having faculty and staff move into the new hospitals, we will have available space for some areas to move, and for some areas to grow. We're working on this "backfill" plan for vacated space at UF Health Shands Hospital. It creates elbowroom to allow us to do renovations and expansions. In the coming months, we'll have a better idea of who's moving and who's growing. We committed years ago to providing facilities that match the talent of our faculty and staff and this presents another opportunity to do that. ■

WANT TO SUBMIT A QUESTION?

Email taylt@shands.ufl.edu and we'll consider it for an upcoming edition.

UF HEALTH SHANDS | AWARDS+KUDOS

CELEBRATING THE STARS AMONG US

Banquet honors long-term employees for their commitment

BY JACKY SCOTT • PHOTOS BY MINDY MILLER



At UF Health, we believe our staff is among the most committed in the health care industry. Our employees' passion for providing quality patient care and service and their genuine desire to move our organization forward makes this such a strong and successful organization able to meet our patients' needs. Many of our employees have spent over 10 years with us, and some have even spent 40 years or more! From name changes to new hospitals, these employees have evolved along with our organization and helped propel us forward. Each year, we recognize our long-term employees for their contributions at the annual Milestones Service Awards banquet.

Kristi Gaver, UF Health Shands Human Resources Employee Relations event planner and project coordinator, works with a team to oversee each detail of the event. They spend months planning to ensure that attendees feel like stars.

"My goal is to create an experience that is fun, memorable and meaningful to each guest," Gaver said. "It is so rewarding to hear guests 'oooh' and 'ahhh' about the décor, sing along to music in the program or laugh at jokes in the script."

Honorees attend the March banquet following their 10th year of service, and every five years thereafter. For this year's event, the newly renovated Exactech Arena at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center morphed into a chic VIP lounge to highlight the rock star theme.

A DJ, glamorous lounge furniture and a photo booth were among the treats in store for our guests of honor and their loved ones. Staff members dressed as rock icons made table visits, while the program highlighted UF Health Shands' history through the years the honorees were hired. The night also included a special tribute to our 45-year honoree **Rhea Broyles, M.S.N., R.N.** (Turn to page 6 to learn more about Broyles and her roles with UF Health Shands over the years.)

"Planning the Milestone Awards is my favorite part of my job," Gaver said. "The whole evening is about our employees and making them feel special and proud about their service to our organization, and I am honored to have a part in that."

To view more photos of the event, visit news-notes.UFHealth.org and search "Milestone Service Awards banquet photos."

To see more photos from the Milestones Service Awards banquet, please visit news-notes.UFHealth.org.



Long-term UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital and UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital employees were honored in April during a ceremony held at Embers Wood Grill. (Center left) Laurel Bangstad, R.N., psychiatric nurse, was honored for 30 years of service with an award presented by (left) Ashley McReynolds, interim clinical coordinator; (center right) Marina Cecchini, M.P.A., UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital CEO and former UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital administrator; and (right) Holly Wojcik, R.N., psychiatric programs director.

YEARS OF SERVICE THIS YEAR'S MILESTONE
HONOREES HAVE GIVEN TO UF HEALTH SHANDS: **13,505**



ROCKING THROUGH THE YEARS

*Milestones Service Awards banquet
honorees by the numbers*

<u>ATTENDEES:</u>	<u>EMPLOYEES</u>
10 years	322
15 years	206
20 years	102
25 years	95
30 years	53
35 years	19
40 years	12
45 years	1





(Center) Rhea Broyles, M.S.N., R.N., celebrated 45 years of service with (from left) Ed Jimenez, UF Health Shands CEO; Janet Christie, UF Health Shands Human Resources senior vice president; and James J. Kelly Jr., UF Health Senior vice president and chief financial officer.

UF HEALTH SHANDS | AWARDS+KUDOS

MILESTONE MAKERS

Meet this year's "Shining Star" and other long-term employees

BY COURTNEY GRIGSBY, NACUYA LEWIS AND JACKY SCOTT • PHOTOS BY MINDY MILLER

At this year's Milestones Service Awards banquet, our leadership team and fellow attendees acknowledged this year's "shining star" — **Rhea Broyles, M.S.N., R.N.**, the evening's only 45-year Milestone Award recipient.

In 1971, Broyles began her journey with our organization at what was then Alachua General Hospital, or AGH. During her time there, Broyles earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in

nursing. She held a position as a graduate nurse and then was promoted to nurse manager.


As the hospital evolved as part of the UF Health Shands system, Broyles built a challenging and rewarding career.

"I only planned to stay a few years after nursing school, but there were all types of opportunities there," Broyles said.

Following the community hospital's closure, Broyles took on a new role at the UF Health Sebastian Ferrero Office of Clinical Quality and Patient Safety. In 2010, she became a senior quality improvement specialist, supporting our patient care providers by analyzing current hospital processes and finding new ways to improve them. The updated procedures on which Broyles worked have become hardwired in the organization and have helped improve quality patient care at UF Health. She attributes much of her success in this role to her nursing experience.

"As nurses, we understand how patient care should be delivered," Broyles said. "We're able to look at things very objectively."

After 45 years of service here, Broyles retired in February. During her time at UF Health, she said she witnessed and experienced many changes across the organization and believes that the patient focus remains our priority.

"Over the years, I've seen so much growth and change as to how we provide patient care," she said. "Although technology has improved the care we provide, our foundation is still the patient. No matter how technical we get and depend on new inventions, we continue to look at the patient as a person." 

MEET OTHER LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES HONORED AT THE BANQUET



LARRY MCDOWELL
SENIOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL
UF HEALTH SHANDS LEGAL SERVICES
10 YEARS



VANECIA PROCTOR, R.N.
NURSE
UF HEALTH SHANDS BURN ICU
21 YEARS



FELICIA FAIR
SENIOR MANAGER
UF HEALTH SHANDS BILLING
AND ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
35 YEARS

What has made you stay with UF Health for so long?

"I love working here and learning every day at my job. It is an amazing organization with endless opportunities to learn and grow both professionally and personally. It is extremely rewarding to know that I contribute behind the scenes to the mission of UF Health."

What makes UF Health unique?

"I learn something every day. I meet people from all over the planet from a wide array of settings. Not only is our hospital the place where people from everywhere imaginable come for their health care needs, it is where I want my loved ones to come for their care. I trust these people. They provide unbelievable care and love what they do."

Why do you enjoy working at UF Health?

"I am fortunate to work with a great group of people. My staff have faith in the decisions I make and that gives me a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment in my role. I feel very supported and appreciated for the work I do and that makes it easy to come to work every day."

UF HEALTH SHANDS | CARE+QUALITY

A HELPING HAND AT HOME

HomeCare team provides expert service across 12 counties

BY COURTNEY GRIGSBY • PHOTO BY MINDY MILLER



For many patients, being discharged from the hospital isn't the end of their medical journey. Patients often require continuing care that takes place in the home. That's when the UF Health Shands HomeCare team steps in.

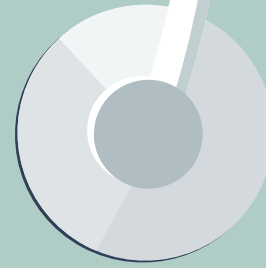
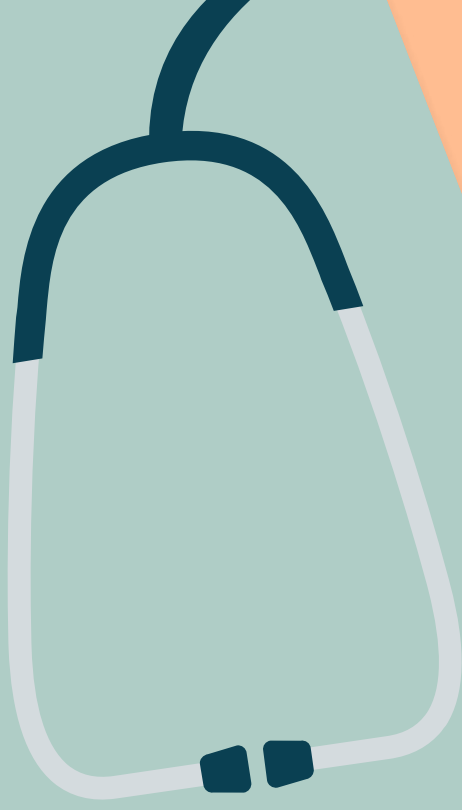
"HomeCare is a service provided to individuals who are recently discharged from the hospital and need ongoing care," said **Anthony Clarizio**, UF Health Shands HomeCare executive director. "The skilled nurse, the physical therapist, the occupational therapist, the speech language pathologist, the medical social worker and the home health aid can all visit a patient at their home to support their success after hospitalization."

With 160 health care professionals and 28 administrative support staff members, the team handles an average of 600 cases at any given time and serves patients across 12 North Central Florida counties.

They provide care for patients who no longer require acute care services but have medical or therapy needs, patients with chronic conditions and/or patients with high-risk health factors that could lead to readmission. To support the care provided in the home, the team also uses telehealth technology to monitor patients remotely.

The HomeCare team empowers patients to maintain an independent lifestyle at home. A recent example was its important role in the follow-up care of conjoined twins Savannah and Scarlett after they were separated and returned home from UF Health Shands Children's Hospital.

"One of HomeCare's missions is to assist patients and caregivers in achieving their health care goals," said **Christine Knowles, M.S.N., R.N., COS-C**, HomeCare's clinical practice director. "It's very gratifying to know that the education, support and care our team provided aided the twins and their parents' success, along with the success of all of our patients."



HERE ARE SOME OF THE HOMECARE TEAM MEMBERS A PATIENT MAY ENCOUNTER WHEN RECEIVING CARE AT HOME.

SKILLED NURSES

Skilled nurses educate patients about new diagnoses, medication management and lifestyle choices. They provide wound and catheter care and assist with infusions, feeding tubes and ostomies.

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Physical therapists work with patients to help them regain strength and range of motion through exercise. They help patients prevent falls and provide training for use of crutches, wheelchairs and other assistive devices.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Occupational therapists help patients adjust to their home environment. This can include retraining of everyday living tasks; balance training for dressing, bathing and self-care; and providing home safety evaluations.


SPEECH THERAPISTS

Speech therapists offer speech and language training; evaluate patients for swallowing problems and communicative disorders; and provide assistance and training following surgery.

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

Medical social workers help patients plan for the road ahead with counseling, advance directive assistance, information about palliative care, transportation planning and community resource education.

HOME HEALTH AIDES

Home health aides assist patients with a variety of day-to-day tasks, including bathing, light housekeeping, meal preparation, dressing, vital sign monitoring and personal care. 

UF HEALTH SHANDS | AWARDS+KUDOS

NURSING EARNS FIFTH BEACON AWARD

Three-year designation recognizes nursing units focused on improving patient care

BY NACUYA LEWIS • PHOTO BY JESSE S. JONES



The Trauma/Lung Transplant Unit nursing team at UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital earned its second gold Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

This accomplishment bumps our total number of active Beacon Awards to five, making UF Health Shands tied for first place for the hospital system with the most current gold-level Beacon Awards in Florida.

The hybrid trauma and lung transplant nursing and patient services team received its first Beacon Award in 2014. It is now the second nursing unit at the hospital to receive two awards at this level.

The Beacon Award is a three-year designation that recognizes individual nursing units focused on improving every aspect of patient care.

“I’m proud to say that we have some of the best nurses in the industry,” said **Irene Alexaitis, D.N.P., R.N., NEA-BC**, UF Health Shands Hospital chief nursing officer and nursing and patient services vice president. “Our skilled nurses and UF physicians work hand-in-hand to create a holistic approach to patient care. Quality outcomes and safety are first, along with compassionate and attentive caring. This achievement is a testament to our teams’ dedication to delivering the best possible patient experience.”

Awardees meet stringent criteria consistent with other well-respected honors, such as Magnet recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the National Quality Healthcare Award. Beacon Award criteria include leadership structures and systems; appropriate staffing and staff engagement; effective communication, knowledge management, learning and development; and evidence-based practices and processes.

“We are proud of the Trauma/Lung Transplant Unit team for achieving Beacon status for the second time,” said **Colleen Counsell, M.S.N., R.N.**, the team’s nurse manager. “They are an exceptional team that provides the highest-quality care.”

Five of our UF Health Shands nursing care units currently hold active Beacon Awards for Excellence issued by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses: the Cardiac ICU (gold), the Pediatric ICU (gold), the Surgical/Trauma ICU (gold), the Trauma/Lung transplant unit (gold) and the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (silver).

“Our nursing staff are devoted to the highest standards of nursing practice,” said **Ed Jimenez**, UF Health Shands CEO. “The academic environment requires highly qualified and skilled nurses to serve patients with all kinds of conditions, including critical and complex medical needs. Our nurses are experienced and also caring. They put their hearts into their nursing careers and it shows.”

UF HEALTH SHANDS | CARE+QUALITY

NEWLY RENOVATED NEONATAL ICU IS OPEN

Our tiniest patients and their families benefit from the new, welcoming space

BY NACUYA LEWIS • PHOTO BY MINDY MILLER



Each year, the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital supports nearly 3,000 infant deliveries and 850 infant admissions of all gestational ages, of which approximately 500 are babies born at this facility. While most families go home within a couple of days, some babies require longer-term critical health care.

Our Neonatal ICU team serves approximately 850 newborns each year, providing specialized around-the-clock attention and often lifesaving support until their patients are ready to leave. The team also supports these babies' families while they watch over them.

For these parents, balancing work and older children while nurturing their babies in the NICU can be challenging. In response, our new NICU opened on Feb. 27, revealing a renovated space for our tiniest patients with an area specifically designed to make families feel at home.

Phase 1 unveiled a 68-bed space filled with semiprivate areas and private rooms, divided into four "neighborhoods," and was completed in November. Phase 2, the final addition, added 1,000 square feet featuring a large family and visitor waiting area, sibling play space and a family support room.

"Families and staff love the new space, and one of the things they consistently comment on is the privacy," said **Beth Talaga, M.S.N., ARNP**, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital Neonatal ICU nurse manager. "Parents are able to spend quality time with their babies, while patient care providers can still monitor these still fragile patients without being intrusive."

Equipped with a refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, comfortable seating and lockers, the renovation supports families' physical and emotional needs. It provides resources to help them relax away from the bedside, but close to their infants. Guests also have access to a March of Dimes-trained family support team member who staffs the area to aid them during their time in the unit.

The sibling play space is monitored by trained volunteers, who help parents find relief when caring for multiple children. While parents are tending to their NICU babies, siblings can participate in 90 minutes of supervised play in the area, which is filled with toys. The visitor space is staffed daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., and it is secured but accessible for families after hours.

"It was amazing to watch the energy, creativity and enthusiasm of staff and faculty merge with the generous contributions of patrons to build this space that supports the needs of our smallest patients and their families," said **Brad Pollitt, A.I.A.**, UF Health Shands Facilities Development vice president. "From spaces that support the highest level of care to the transition home for families, this environment has been built with the patient in mind." ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION regarding other construction and renovation projects, visit Blueprints.UFHealth.org. Stay tuned for a new Bridge site, Blueprints on Bridge, with staff-focused news about improvement projects.

UF HEALTH | CARE+QUALITY

INNOVATIVE APP HELPS PATIENTS WITH CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS

New technology allows caregivers to submit data to clinicians in real time

BY ALISHA KINMAN • PHOTO BY JESSE S. JONES



Jennifer Co-Vu, M.D., FAAP, a UF College of Medicine pediatric cardiologist and UF Health Congenital Heart Center Single Ventricle Program director, demonstrates how to use a new iPad app that allows caregivers to submit data to clinicians in real time.

This spring, families of infants diagnosed with high-risk single-ventricle heart defects were sent home with specially configured iPads and apps that help send important monitoring data to their UF Health care team. These young patients from the UF Health Congenital Heart Center, part of UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, were the first in the state to use this technology that sends real-time vital signs and other data to their clinicians.

In the past, each infant's at-home caregiver wrote down the patient's vital signs, calculated them manually and submitted them to the clinicians in a binder during an in-person visit. This new app allows these family members to submit their baby's

vital signs directly to an online portal and engage with the clinical team instantly via secure video, messaging and photo sharing.

"Some of the problems associated with the binder is that, invariably, as parents are rushing to a doctor appointment they sometimes forget to bring the binder, which is vital for patient care," said **Jennifer Co-Vu, M.D., FAAP**, a UF College of Medicine pediatric cardiologist and UF Health Congenital Heart Center Single Ventricle Program director. "With this app, we can track their weight, the oxygen saturation and their intake."

Added **Mark Bleiweis, M.D.**, UF College of Medicine pediatric and congenital cardiovascular surgery chief and UF Health

Congenital Heart Center director, "This new technology is a wonderful resource for our high-risk cardiology patients and their families, many of whom travel from hours away to get to our center. We're confident that the program will allow for better engagement between families and our clinical staff, giving everyone confidence that our infants are doing well during the critical at-home monitoring period. It will also allow us to troubleshoot problems remotely and better serve patients from further distances than we were ever able to see prior to the app."

The app is another example of how faculty and staff at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital are providing innovative care to high-risk patients. In addition, the Single Ventricle Home Monitoring Program has reduced the mortality rate for UF Health patients with hypoplastic left-heart syndrome to zero. This remarkable lifesaving program was initiated and is led at UF Health by the single ventricle home monitoring team at the Congenital Heart Center. **+**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT the UF Health Congenital Heart Center, visit UFHealth.org/chc.

UF HEALTH | RESEARCH+DISCOVERY

LAB NOTES

Check out recent research developments at UF Health



STOPPING TYPE 1 DIABETES

UF Health researchers have found a way to preserve and expand certain umbilical cord blood cells as a potential treatment for Type 1 diabetes. The findings involve thymic regulatory T cells, or Tregs — a type of white blood cell that prevents autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes. The researchers found that Tregs can be frozen at birth and later multiplied in a lab. Having a large, pure population of Tregs is a crucial step toward the ultimate goal of stopping type 1 diabetes in its early stages. ■

STEM CELL STUDIES APPROVED

A series of stem cell studies that could potentially lead to breakthroughs in medicine has been approved to take place at the UF College of Medicine — Jacksonville. The research will use adipose-derived stem cells taken from a patient's own body fat, mainly from areas around the abdomen. The first study will last for one year and will attempt to determine whether human adipose-derived stem cells will retain their original relevant biological characteristics after they are isolated from the body.



♂ TESTOSTERONE TREATMENT EFFECTS

A team including UF Health researchers has discovered that a year of testosterone treatment improved bone density and anemia among older men with low testosterone but also increased coronary artery plaque and had no effect on patients' cognitive function. They found bone strength was especially improved in the spine of those who received testosterone treatment.

UF HEALTH | CARE+QUALITY

NEW RESIDENTS JOIN THE UF HEALTH FAMILY

Housestaff begin advanced clinical education

BY TODD TAYLOR

Each summer, medical school graduates start training at UF Health Shands hospitals and outpatient programs and UF Health Physicians primary care and specialty care medical practices. These new physicians are introduced to our organization with a series of informative sessions to help familiarize them with our clinical programs, processes and resources.

On July 1, 220 residents will participate in UF College of Medicine Housestaff Orientation, conducted by the COM Graduate Medical Education, or GME, Housestaff Affairs

office. The office supports residents and fellows for three to seven years while they continue their training at UF Health.

At orientation, leaders welcome the housestaff and teach them about our patient safety and quality initiatives, clinical programs and resources. Housestaff also complete UF Health Hospitality & Service training, which reinforces standards of behavior that help ensure staff provide the best possible experience for patients, visitors and colleagues.

Please welcome new residents to your unit or team and help them become part of the UF Health family. 🇺🇸



220 new residents | from 29 states | 63 from Florida | 25 UF graduates

UF HEALTH | CARE+QUALITY

INTAKE TEAM REVAMPS INPATIENT REFERRAL PROCESS

Patients, health care providers and in-house physicians now have a streamlined, single point of entry for psychiatric inpatient referrals at UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital and UF Health Shands Hospital. The 24-hour intake system has been revamped, and the resulting Inpatient Psychiatry Intake Center, or IPIC, is helping to improve customer service and efficient care delivery.

"When people are in a crisis, they need to be able to access the most appropriate level of care as quickly as possible," said **Marina Cecchini, M.P.A.**, UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital CEO and former UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital administrator. "The IPIC is an important part of integrating our system to meet patient needs."

The IPIC provides callers with a single access point to admit patients to the psychiatric medical unit at UF Health Shands

Hospital and all five units at UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital, including the child/adolescent unit, the adult addiction unit, two adult inpatient psychiatric units and the geriatric psychiatry unit. IPIC staff, working with psychiatrists and addiction medicine physicians, will help get patients to the most suitable inpatient setting to meet their needs.

Regina Bussing, M.D., UF College of Medicine psychiatry chair, said UF Health offers a full continuum of psychiatric inpatient services, including a psychiatric medical unit for patients requiring complex psychiatric and medical treatment at the same time.

She said, "The IPIC will make it easy to access the best level of inpatient care with one phone call."

Call the IPIC team 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 352-265-5481.

UF HEALTH SHANDS | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

LOOK FOR GATORCARE POINTS ELIGIBLE ICON!

It's easy to earn points toward a \$100 online shopping experience through the Blue Rewards Wellness Program. This is a bonus for benefits-eligible faculty and staff at UF Health who are GatorCare subscribers or waive GatorCare coverage.

In April, GatorCare and the UF and UF Health Wellness Committee debuted the Points Eligible icon to help employees identify which activities, when completed and logged, can earn them points.

The Points Eligible icon is found on print and online materials promoting GatorCare activities, challenges or programs that will help staff earn points.

To earn the \$100 online shopping experience, 300 points must be accumulated by the Sept. 30 deadline.

Points Eligible activities include the Spring Walking Challenge, any of the 12 Tweaks monthly challenges and health management programs like inControl.

"The icon will help employees understand that being healthy continues after having a health assessment at one of our annual wellness events," said **Morgan Papworth**, GatorCare wellness coordinator. "It will help employees find resources to help them work on their wellness all year long."



Visit GatorCare.org/blue-rewards to learn more about the Blue Rewards Wellness Program and how to log activities and earn additional points.

UF HEALTH | HOSPITALITY+SERVICE

DOUBLE THE HUDDLES

Teams unite for fun, twice-daily Hospitality Huddles

BY COURTNEY GRIGSBY AND TODD TAYLOR • PHOTO BY JESSE S. JONES



During the Hospitality Huddles attended by the UF Health Physicians Medical Oncology and UF Health Shands Adult Infusion Center teams, you'll find that dancing, eating, laughing and answering trivia questions are regular occurrences.

Not long after UF Health launched twice-monthly Hospitality Huddles in October 2015 to reinforce our Hospitality and Service Standards of Behavior, these staff took them to the next level and began huddling daily.

"Everyone has to step away and take a break every once in a while, so I figured, why don't we do it together?" said **Michele Scavone Stone**, manager of both teams. "So we began huddling twice a day to make sure everyone has a chance to attend no matter what their schedule is."

The teams address UF Health's monthly Hospitality Huddle topic, and also tackle a variety of subjects specific to their units, including staff outages, events, workflow and policies.

"Without our daily Huddles, I'm probably not going to reach every person each day, but I can make great connections during and after these Huddles and it's not too time-consuming," Scavone Stone said. "For me, it's rounding with the staff and I want them to walk away refreshed to finish up or start their day feeling informed and connected to all of the disciplines on our team."

The teams' Huddles are fun and engaging, with a theme for each day: Motivational Monday, Trivia Tuesday, Wellness Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Fun Friday. Trivia Tuesdays are a staff favorite

— those who answer questions correctly earn candy bars. On Fun Friday, the Huddles begin with uplifting music ranging from The Jackson 5 to Sai.

"I'm definitely an advocate for these Huddles. I think they are a great thing," said **Devra Mathis**, UF Health Physicians Medical Oncology service specialist. "My favorite aspect is that they create a platform for people to address concerns and suggest changes to improve our workplace."

The Huddles only last five to seven minutes and have increased team unity.

Scavone Stone said, "If you are trying to engage a team for a Huddle, I recommend making it fun. It really does foster great teamwork and we feel that the morale is better than ever." ■

UF HEALTH SHANDS | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

ASPIRING FOR ADVENTURE

Photo voice project shines light on those living with spinal cord injuries

BY COURTNEY GRIGSBY • PHOTO BY MINDY MILLER



(From left) Visual storytellers Dug Jones, Mary Stevic, Mark Brisbane and Cliff Deyampert took part in a photo voice project hosted by UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital and the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida.

In April, UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital and the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida hosted the inaugural photo voice project, “My life beyond the lens: Stories of spinal cord injuries” at the Historic Thomas Center. The event featured four visual storytellers who illustrated how they can still accomplish their goals despite enduring a life-altering spinal cord injury.

“There is life beyond everything that happens to us,” said Mary Stevic, a quadriplegic and active advocate for those with spinal cord injuries throughout Florida and the U.S. “My passion is still being able to go out there and show other people that it’s possible to have meaningful experiences. By sharing our experiences, we see it helping others, and it ends up helping us as well.”

The event aspired to increase the awareness of disability within the Gainesville community. The storytellers provided glimpses into the thought process and motivation it took to accept their disabilities and embrace their current abilities.

Striking photos of the storytellers were displayed throughout a gallery for guests to admire prior to a slideshow presentation and panel discussion. Stevic and three other individuals with spinal cord injuries shared their stories during a Q&A session, where they answered questions regarding their journey to recovery and views on everyday life.

Despite her spinal injury sustained in a car accident in 2005, Stevic is an adventurous traveler at heart. She enjoys nature photography, camping and ATV riding.

Alongside Stevic, the panel included Mark Brisbane and Cliff Deyampert, who are quadriplegics, and Dug Jones, who is paraplegic. Brisbane was injured in a diving accident when he was 17, Deyampert sustained a gunshot wound about two years ago and Jones suffered a serious injury in high school.

Like Stevic, the other panelists are proof that life can be lived to the fullest while adjusting to serious spinal injuries. Brisbane graduated from high school, learned how to drive and currently works at the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida; Deyampert began driving again, attends weekly physical therapy sessions and is starting his own T-shirt company; and Jones is an athlete, community servant, father and associate vice president for economic development at Santa Fe College.

“People don’t always take the time to think about disabilities from a lifelong perspective,” said **Lana Watson, M.H.S., OTR/L**, UF Health Shands Rehab Services director. “If we just share what we are going through, it connects people in a genuine way where people feel the freedom to talk about deeper topics.”



Visit preventchildabuse.org to learn more about Pinwheels for Prevention.

UF HEALTH SHANDS HOSPITAL | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

PINWHEELS RAISED CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month and 1,000 pinwheels graced the lawn of UF Health Shands Hospital along Southwest Archer Road to raise awareness about preventing child abuse and neglect and promote

child and family well-being. The visible reminders were part of Prevent Child Abuse Florida's Pinwheels for Prevention, a national movement that started in 2008.

More than 30 UF Health Shands staff and volunteers from Healthy Families Alachua and the Alachua County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force placed the pinwheels in front of the hospital.



UF HEALTH SHANDS | HOSPITALITY+SERVICE

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

In January, **Colton Jones, R.N.**, a UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital Surgical/Trauma ICU 4 East nurse, was driving to work on Interstate 75 when he witnessed a brutal car accident. His instincts kicked in to help the family that desperately needed his expert care.

Slate Hodges and his two sons, Liam and Lucas, were hit by a semitruck that tossed their car into the air. Jones was quick to help. He crawled into the car and pulled out the two young boys to safety.

After a month of searching, the forever-grateful family found their hero. The Hodges visited Jones on his unit, with many thanks and a photo collage. The experience was emotional for everyone.

Not all heroes wear capes — some wear scrubs!



UF HEALTH SHANDS | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

SWEET SERENADE

On March 7, patients, staff and visitors at the UF Health Shands Hospital Atrium were treated to classical music played by The Florida Orchestra, the state's largest professional orchestra. The UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine program arranged the performance by 40 members of the ensemble. The free concert was part of the orchestra's community-focused 2017 State Residency project to share symphonic music across Florida. Director Michael Francis and orchestra members serenaded their audience with the rich, full notes of well-known classical pieces.



UF HEALTH SHANDS | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

GIVING ON THE GRIDIRON

In April, the inaugural Celebrity Gridiron Challenge fundraising event kicked off to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and UF Health Shands Children's Hospital. The event raised \$169,000.

A flag football tournament featured 14 teams of various ages and skill levels, while guests enjoyed a family-friendly tailgate, including food trucks, face painting, cornhole and crafts. Albert and Alberta joined the festivities to take pictures with participants and guests.

UF HEALTH | FINANCE+FUNDRAISING

RAISING HOPE AT WORK BENEFITS PATIENT CARE, EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Last summer, UF Health Shands employees and UF College of Medicine faculty and staff members joined for the annual Raising Hope at Work giving campaign in support of the George T. Harrell, M.D., Medical Education Building and the UF Health Heart & Vascular and Neuromedicine hospitals. This joint campaign raised more than \$206,000, with 1,650 donors participating.



This year, participants can choose to support areas that directly impact education and patient care, including:

- **UF College of Medicine student scholarships**
- **UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine**
- **UF Health Shands women and children's inpatient services**
- **UF Health patient experience initiatives**

Every dollar given by faculty and staff through Raising Hope at Work is invested back into our organization. All UF Health Shands employees and UF College of Medicine faculty and staff members will receive additional communication throughout the duration of the campaign.

To learn more about each area you can support and to make your online gift, visit RaisingHopeAtWork.org.

UF HEALTH | NEWS+COMMUNICATION

HELP SPREAD UF HEALTH'S GREAT NEWS

Inspiration and recognition go hand-in-hand at UF Health. It's encouraging when we see our teams acknowledged in U.S. News & World Report or when our colleagues receive Beacon Awards and other honors. When someone at work makes the headlines, we often feel pride. When you work with great people at a great organization, sometimes you want to share your story with everyone you know!

Engage with the official UF Health Facebook page, Twitter feed and Instagram account to like and repost our inspirational stories, activities and initiatives that happen every day at UF Health.

You can also follow the Twitter feed of **David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D.**, UF senior vice president for health affairs and UF Health president, and **Michael Good, M.D.**, UF College of Medicine dean, to learn about research studies and other news from throughout our organizations at [@DavidSGuzick](https://twitter.com/DavidSGuzick) and [@DrMikeGood](https://twitter.com/DrMikeGood).

With over 23,000 faculty and staff across Gainesville and Jacksonville, we can tell our own stories while engaging with the community and UF Health leaders. That's 23,000 ways to express our commitment to providing fantastic patient care!

When it comes to posting your own content, please keep in mind that we cannot share protected patient health information or confidential business information on social media platforms. Be sure to read the UF Health Shands Social Media Policy: Search "social media policy" on Bridge and click on the first link. It's a good practice to simply repost and add your kudos to existing stories we're already telling.

Now you can start sharing with [@UFHealth](https://twitter.com/UFHealth), [@DavidSGuzick](https://twitter.com/DavidSGuzick), [@DrMikeGood](https://twitter.com/DrMikeGood) and your social media community!

To see all official UF Health social media accounts in one place, visit social.UFHealth.org.