

**Page 6: TINY FIREBALL RECEIVES
LIFESAVING SURGERY**

Congenital Heart Center team helps 6-day-old girl

**Page 14: CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NATIONALLY
RANKED IN FIVE SPECIALTIES**

Hospital makes big gains in three areas

**Page 18: BRANDT NAMED VP AND
HOSPITAL CHIEF OF STAFF**

Role focuses on operational excellence

Heroic teamwork at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital

A cure for the summertime blues



UF HEALTH | CARE+QUALITY

Q&A WITH ED JIMENEZ

Why families choose UF Health for their children's care

UF Health Shands CEO **Ed Jimenez** answers questions in each issue of News+Notes, the newsletter for staff who provide and support patient care in the UF Health Shands hospital system. This month, we're highlighting children's services.

What would you like our faculty and staff to know about children's health care at UF Health?

Not everyone realizes the regional nature of our pediatric services. The families with children in our hospital often travel a great distance to be here. I'm a parent and I put myself in their shoes. If you were to get the news that your child needed serious medical attention, you'd want to go to the best place, not just the closest or second-best place, for help. You'd also drive hours if needed. Our patients travel for the expertise and caring of the very best providers, our colleagues. Our goal is to be the regional children's hospital destination for families in crisis — we're here to help.

What makes our pediatric care exceptional?

There's an AT&T commercial with the theme, "Just OK is not OK." When you need the very best medical care, just OK isn't enough. We offer outstanding care. That's why families trust us, choose our doctors and nurses, rely on our research and innovation, and talk about us the way they do and become ambassadors. And I love the way our staff talk about their work — the pride and enthusiasm of our pediatrics faculty and staff is inspiring.*

We have physician-scientists advancing research that leads to innovative care in children's brain tumor immunotherapy ... We have incredible survival rates for children with congenital heart defects ... The U.S. News & World Report national rankings of the Best Children's Hospitals place UF Health Shands Children's Hospital in multiple specialties annually. It's awesome, what we have going on here, as one of the nation's top kids' hospitals.

Jimenez also posts regularly on the Bridge intranet, so check out "Leaders Online" and "Leadership Status Updates" on the Bridge.UFHealth.org homepage.

**Visit the Bridge homepage and type "2019 Nurses Week video" to see several of our nursing colleagues from pediatrics and other specialties share their passion. +*

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FSC LOGO

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE CEO? Email Kim Rose, director of strategic communications with UF Health Communications, at roseka@shands.ufl.edu and she'll share your question with Ed Jimenez for an upcoming CEO column.



(TOP) UF Health Shands CEO Ed Jimenez (L) recently visited with team members from the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital Pediatric ICU and UF Health Shands Environmental Services.

(Bottom) Captain America, Spider-Man, Iron Man and Batman toured the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital with one of our superheroes — CEO Ed Jimenez.



#1 ISSUE

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★ HIGH QUALITY ★
COMICS!
54 PAGES

**EXTRA BONUS:
1 POSTER
INSIDE!**



UF HEALTH SHANDS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

IT WAS ANOTHER DAY OF HEROIC TEAMWORK

Superheroes chase away the summertime blues

BY AYN SLEY FANIZZI AND MICHELLE MOORE



It's not every day that you look out of your window and see Batman, Spider-Man, Captain America and Iron Man waving at you. However, patients at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital got that opportunity when some of their favorite characters united and rappelled from the roof to brighten their day.


Black Panther, The Flash and Loki also visited with patients as the other heroes swung around outside.

Once Spidey and his friends finished scaling the building, they joined forces with the real superheroes — our patients. The masked crusaders roamed the halls of the children's hospital visiting with patients, taking pictures, giving hugs and meeting with our top superhero, UF Health CEO **Ed Jimenez**.

All in all, the day was tons of fun and the reactions from our patients, visitors and staff were priceless. One child approached the heroes with excitement and said, "I never knew you all were REAL."

So how did our hospital pop up on the superheroes' radar? Here's the backstory: Jimenez learned that window-washers would be coming to our Archer Road hospitals and they often dressed as superheroes. How could we take this a step further to engage our youngest patients and their families? The UF Health Communications team jumped into action with the superheroes to help find a cure for the summertime blues. The Batmobile and the UF Health ShandsCair helicopter rushed the masked crusaders to the children's hospital to save the day!

Special thanks to everyone who partnered to make this a memorable experience for our patients and their family members — employees from Security, Nursing and Patient Services, ShandsCair, Child Life and many more. You share your superpowers each and every day!

To view the superhero video and see photos from that special day, visit Bridge.UFHealth.org and type "heroic teamwork" in the search bar of the Bridge homepage. 

REAL SUPERHEROES!

UF HEALTH SHANDS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | CARE+QUALITY

TINY FIREBALL RECEIVES LIFESAVING SURGERY

Congenital Heart Center team helps 6-day-old girl

BY KELLY DALY



Erin Campbell was only in her second trimester when she found out that the course of her entire pregnancy would be altered.

At 18 weeks, Erin's baby girl, Riley, was diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, or HLHS, a birth defect that hinders normal blood flow through the heart, as the left side of the heart does not form correctly.

"My husband and I were really broken up about it," Campbell said. "You can't change the situation, and we just made the best out of it. We'll do whatever we can for our little girl."

Erin and her husband, Rory, immediately delved into research and went to three different hospitals for a second and third opinion. They were in search of the right medical team to give Riley the best chance. Their research led them to UF Health Shands Children's Hospital.

"It was an easy decision," Campbell said. "There's a family feel. It was more of a one-on-one experience, and we had a lot of attentiveness from the doctors and nurses."

The Campbell family is from Fort Pierce, about three and a half hours from Gainesville, but Campbell said the time spent traveling was no problem. They were confident in the care of their UF College of Medicine experts **Jennifer Co-Vu, M.D., FAAP**, a pediatric cardiologist and the director of the single ventricle and fetal cardiac programs at the UF Health Congenital Heart Center, and **Mark Bleiweis, M.D.**, pediatric and congenital cardiovascular surgery chief and the center director. The team made every drive worth it.


"We clicked with Dr. Co-Vu almost instantly," Campbell said. "We're cut from the same cloth. It's so nice and refreshing to have that in more of a personal setting."

Riley had her first surgery, known as a Norwood procedure, when she was just 6 days old. Surgeons reconstructed her

heart to allow the right side to become the main pumping chamber instead of the left side. The Campbells were in the Pediatric Cardiac ICU for less than a month when they got to bring Riley home.

"We knew that when she was in my belly that she was a fighter," Campbell said. "She's chill when she wants to be, but she's a fireball at the same time."

Riley is now 6 months old, and her mother said her daughter is doing great. She loves to play and is also starting to babble. The infant is at home with her furry brother and sister, Australian shepherds Brody and Stella.

"They are just smitten with her," Campbell added. "They stay by her side as she grows stronger each day." 



UF HEALTH SHANDS | GROWTH+EXPANSION

UF HEALTH SHANDS HOSPITAL SECOND FLOOR RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

Project will roll out in phases to maintain current number of open ORs

BY RACHEL RIVERA



A multiyear renovation project at UF Health Shands Hospital will modernize our ORs with new state-of-the-art equipment, expand our Pediatric and Adult Preoperative and Post Anesthesia Care Unit, or Pre-op/PACU, suite and provide a new Pediatric Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Lab and Electrophysiology Hybrid Lab. These renovations will help further update the hospital and improve our patient experience. In total, the project will renovate 82,000 square feet.

These new OR and Pre-op/PACU spaces will be the fourth generation of development and improvements to surgical services. They began with renovations to the outpatient UF Health Florida Surgical Center and improvements at the cancer hospital and heart and neuro hospitals. These changes included building improvements and technology updates.

Physicians and staff who will work in these renovated spaces partnered with designers and engineers. They used 3D computer modeling to create the most efficient placement of fixed equipment and to test different room configurations. Our teams bring tremendous knowledge and experience to the design process, which leads to spaces that support efficient performance.

RENOVATION PHASES FOR 2019


- MAY-AUGUST: Two new training rooms will be built to replace existing training rooms and make room for new OR locker rooms and a staff lounge.
- MAY-NOVEMBER: Renovation will begin for four ORs and the Pediatric Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Lab.
- Existing training room 2147 will move to new Training Room 2160.
- Existing training room 2149 will move to new Training Room 2055.
- AUGUST: Conference Room 2154 will be vacated permanently to make space for the OR locker rooms.
- SEPTEMBER-MARCH: Construction will start on new OR locker rooms and a staff lounge.

PEDIATRIC AND ADULT PRE-OP/PACU FEATURES

- Pediatric Pre-op/PACU bed count: 24
- Adult Pre-op/PACU bed count: 39
- Pediatric Procedure Room

OR RENOVATION FEATURES

- 20 modernized general ORs
- Pediatric Hybrid Cath Lab
- Pediatric Hybrid EP Lab

The project will roll out in phases to maintain the current number of open ORs and avoid disruptions to surgical services. There should be little to no disruption to patients and families during renovations. 

NEW COVERED CANOPY TO CONNECT 1329 BUILDING TO CIRCLE OF HOPE

In early May, installation began on a new 750-foot covered walkway, or canopy, connecting the 1329 Building to the Circle of Hope, across from the UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital. The project should be complete in September.

Features include LED lighting, new landscaping, benches along the pathway, free Wi-Fi connection and three Blue Light emergency phones. The canopy will have a break in coverage between the new hotel and the 1329 Building service drive.

FACULTY AND STAFF PARKING UPDATE FOR SOUTH AND HVN GARAGES

Lottery opportunity for decals is open Aug. 1-31

BY KIM ROSE

On July 1, following a series of parking focus groups involving UF Health Shands employees and College of Medicine faculty and staff, leaders announced a new plan to address staff parking challenges in the South Employee Garage and HVN Garage.

Faculty and staff who wish to park in either of these two garages are invited to participate in a lottery process starting Aug. 1. Leaders selected this solution to give faculty and staff a fair opportunity to park close to their workplace. Several improvements to UF Health parking services will also go into effect in the coming months.

The lottery is open Aug. 1-31. Faculty and staff randomly selected for a decal for one of these garages through the lottery process will be contacted by Sept. 16 and asked to purchase their new decals. The new decals go into effect for the two garages Oct. 1. Faculty and staff will have the month of October to pick up their decals from UF Parking and Transportation Services so they can begin using the garage.

Parking services will remain a top focus, with many improvements coming.

- Starting Oct. 1, all morning direct-express shuttles will start at 5:15 a.m., including a new morning direct-express shuttle between Garage IX/9, the Triangle Lot and the 1329 Building.
- Lighting along Archer Road sidewalks/walkways as well as lighting in our garages will be improved.

- Starting Oct. 1, digital displays showing available parking spaces (known as capacity counters) will be visible outside high-traffic garages — the South Employee Garage and Garage IX/9 near the UF Health ShandsCair heliport — to help users decide where to park.

Please visit the Bridge parking site for details.

Visit Bridge.UFHealth.org and type “Employee Parking – Shands Facilities” in the Bridge homepage search box. The direct link is <https://Bridge.UFHealth.org/shands-facilities/services/parking-services/employee-parking/>

The parking site will be updated periodically to address new FAQs. Information will continue to be posted on the Bridge and in a variety of internal print and electronic communications tools.

Please submit parking questions via the Bridge homepage suggestion box.

The Bridge site has many more details, instructions and FAQs. Thank you for visiting it and sharing the information with your colleagues.

UF Health leaders appreciate your input and your ongoing support as we improve parking options for faculty and staff. ➦



There will be new space and decal assignments for two parking garages on the south side of Archer Road:

PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

There will be a net increase of 260 additional decals combined for faculty and staff parking in the HVN Garage and South Employee Garage.

HVN GARAGE

- Patient, visitor and employee parking (adjacent to the heart/vascular and neuro hospitals, off Southwest 13th Street)
- 200 employee parking spaces will be reserved for Silver and Gold decals only, assigned via a lottery system open to all UF Health faculty and staff.

SOUTH EMPLOYEE GARAGE

- Predominantly employee parking (next to HVN Garage, off Southwest 13th Street)
- 486 spaces in the South Employee Garage will remain Yellow decal. Current Yellow decal holders of this garage as well as Red/Yellow decal holders who park in the HVN Garage will be granted access to this garage. Additional Yellow decal spaces in this garage will be assigned via a lottery system open to all UF Health faculty and staff.

PARKING SERVICES

- Starting Oct. 1, all morning direct-express shuttles will start at 5:15 a.m., including a new morning direct-express shuttle between Garage IX/9, the Triangle Lot and the 1329 Building.
- We will improve lighting along Archer Road sidewalks/walkways.
- We will improve lighting in our garages.
- Digital displays showing available parking spaces (known as capacity counters) will be visible outside high-traffic garages — the South Employee Garage and Garage IX/9 near the ShandsCair heliport — to help users decide where to park.



Aug. 1-31 — Faculty and staff interested in decals for the HVN Garage or South Employee Garage can visit Bridge.UFHealth.org and type “Employee Parking — Shands Facilities” in the search bar to find details online and submit information for one or both of the two decal lotteries.

Sept. 16 — Lottery participants selected for a decal will be notified.

Oct. 1-31 — Approved faculty and staff have 30 days to visit UF Transportation and Parking Services in person to pick up new decals and turn in old ones. As soon as the new decal is in use, the faculty/staff member can begin parking their vehicle in the assigned garage.

Oct. 1 — New decal requirements effective for HVN and South Employee garages.

Note: Faculty and staff who are granted decals through the lottery system but do not pick up their new decals by Oct. 31 will lose their approved status. They must go online to manually re-enter the lottery system. As new decals become available for these two garages, lottery participants granted access will be notified.

UF HEALTH IS GOING GREENER!

Responsible resource use continues

BY KIM ROSE



Here in North Central Florida, starting Jan. 1, 2020, Alachua County and the city of Gainesville will ban the use of single-use plastic bags (such as grocery store shopping bags) and Styrofoam (polystyrene) food containers by restaurants and commercial retailers. UF Health's food retailers will be compliant with all these guidelines.

UF Health leaders are preparing for and support these changes. We already have a robust recycling program, ongoing sustainability practices and plans to step up our efforts.

"We've always made it a priority to be responsible stewards of the significant resources we manage in the health system," said **Brad Pollitt**, UF Health Shands vice president of Facilities, a longtime sustainability advocate for our organization. "We follow sustainable practices wherever possible to avoid or moderate waste and manage our ecological footprint."

Besides our ongoing building and construction efforts (see page 13), our leaders have long supported recycling and "green" waste-management processes. A group recently met with Alachua County recycling officials to ensure we're on the right path. We comply with all necessary guidelines but there's more we want to do.

"We have developed a robust recycling program, and we're going to communicate more about our sustainability efforts to get everyone on board," said **Lara Zamajtuk**, associate vice president for Operations. "We're striving to do a better job explaining the recycling and waste management do's and don'ts so everyone understands positive steps we can take, as well as the challenges we face here and in the community."

Future goals include broader recycling and the use of more alternative products made with sustainable materials that are compostable and recyclable. We're working

with our food services and environmental services leaders. Meanwhile, UF's Gator Dining programs eliminated single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam food containers in 2011 and have reduced straw use while using greener alternative products.

At UF Health, we have expanded recycling efforts not only at our Archer Road hospitals and buildings but also at all our UF Health satellite locations throughout the county, including our office/administration buildings, freestanding emergency centers, physician medical practice sites and outpatient service facilities. That's more than 30 facilities!

There should be easily accessible recycling containers on each floor of our buildings. Food-related recycling bins are most often found in dining areas and break rooms; and paper-related recycling bins are most often centrally located in office areas or copy areas.

Our Environmental Services department has plans to put up more signs by trash and recycling areas to remove some of the guesswork. In Gainesville, our UF Health recycling goes to the same sorting facilities as our home recycling, and the guidelines are the same for what can and cannot be recycled at this time. (Please see list on page 12.)

"The Alachua County recycling program has helped us build on our own recycling efforts, and we're working hard to keep expanding on what we're doing," said **Tim Underwood**, UF Health Shands Environmental Services director. "They've noticed the difference and they're very appreciative of our proactive approach and partnership." ■

Let's do our part!

Quick tips for daily habit changes

Please encourage these behaviors in your department. If you don't know where your office/unit recycling containers are, or you need more, please talk with your building manager or call Environmental Services. For clinical-related, medical equipment or hazardous waste management practices, please get instructions from your manager.

PRINT LESS

Paper waste can easily be reduced when we address our habits versus needs.

What to do: Print only when necessary, print two-sided whenever possible — and always recycle! Each department should have a large centralized, labeled paper recycling can or bin that is emptied regularly.

CRUSH CARDBOARD

The WCA Waste Corporation hauls away our corrugated cardboard and pasteboard for recycling.

What to do: Break down cardboard boxes and lids and leave them stacked by your department's paper recycling containers for pick up.

BIN BOTTLES

(aluminum cans and glass and plastic bottles)

Beverage containers — items with a pourable spout or neck up to 2 gallons in size — should be deposited in the recycling bins labeled "Cans & Bottles." Remove caps and lids before recycling. Unfortunately, other glass and plastic items, such as food containers and lids, shouldn't be put in these containers.

What to do: Please recycle your aluminum beverage cans, glass and plastic bottles in our blue, labeled recycling containers.

IT'S FINE TO TOSS ALKALINE

Regular single-use household and workplace alkaline batteries (like AAA, AA, 9-volt, etc.) can be safely tossed in the trash, per Alachua County recommendation.

What to do: Use regular trash to dispose of regular alkaline batteries.

UF Health Shands Sustainability Committee

A new committee has formed to address sustainability opportunities in our UF Health Gainesville hospital and outpatient facilities. It is led by **Tedd Comerford**, associate vice president of Supply Chain Services and Materials Management for UF Health Shands, and **Lauren Berkow, M.D., FASA**, UF College of Medicine professor of neuroanesthesia. The group's mission includes the call "to lead passionately, by example, to inspire others to reduce our carbon footprint." In an upcoming edition of News+Notes, we will share more about this new group and their vision and goals — and how you can get involved!

Hospitals earn two national Environmental Excellence awards

In May, UF Health Shands Hospital received two Environmental Excellence awards from Practice Greenhealth, a leading organization that promotes sustainable health care and environmental solutions. We received a Partner Recognition Award and a Greening the OR Environmental Excellence Award. These awards resulted from hospital system efforts that included saving more than \$180,000 by reprocessing single-use medical supply items; saving more than \$78,000 by diverting 27,000 pounds of waste with reusable sharps containers; collecting more than 1,400 tons of recycling materials; and composting more than 54,000 gallons of food waste.



BE GREEN AT HOME

Alachua County weighs in

BY KIM ROSE

The Alachua County Solid Waste Department website outlines these guidelines. When you set your recycling bins by the street, place the blue bin on top of the orange bin to prevent paper litter.

Blue Bin

- + Rinse, remove caps and lids and crush to save space
- + Plastic bottles and jars (including margarine tubs and yogurt cups)
- + Metal cans (including empty aerosol cans)
- + Glass bottles and jars
- + Beverage cartons
- + Plastic containers with a pourable spout or neck (up to 2 gallons)

The county CANNOT recycle the following at this time: plastic bags, frozen food trays, black plastic, clamshell containers, plastic cups, take-out containers, polystyrene/Styrofoam and egg cartons.

Orange Bin

- + Brown paper bags
- + Newspapers
- + Magazines, catalogs, phone books
- + Corrugated cardboard and pasteboard
- + Office paper, junk mail
- + Paperback books, workbooks, softcover textbooks



The county CANNOT recycle: plastic credit cards or shredded paper. Visit AlachuaCountyRecycles.com for more info.





It's not easy being green ... unless you're UF Health Facilities

Brad Pollitt and our construction partners led the charge for our cancer hospital to become the Southeast's first hospital awarded a gold-level LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, designation in 2010. And in 2017, the heart and neuro hospital facility earned four Green Globes® certifications by the Green Building Initiative®, a distinction held by only two other buildings in Florida.

The final straw

"Would you like a straw with your drink?"

Perhaps this now-commonplace question has prompted you to consider your personal impact on the environment? If we all make small changes, they add up.

Meanwhile, commercial giants Starbucks, American Airlines and the Hyatt hotel group are phasing out plastic straws globally. And nationwide, county and city governments are increasingly moving to ban straws and other non-biodegradable items that contribute to the landfill and pollution. Changes may be coming to Alachua County in the new year. Stay tuned!



UF HEALTH SHANDS | AWARDS+KUDOS

UF HEALTH SHANDS AMONG BECKER'S 100 GREAT HOSPITALS IN AMERICA

UF Health Shands was named to the Becker's Healthcare 2019 list of 100 Great Hospitals in America.

The organizations included are nationally recognized for excellence in clinical care, patient outcomes and staff and physician satisfaction, as well as patient satisfaction and industry innovation, according to Becker's.

"Our physicians and hospital staff are passionate about delivering the best possible medical care and results for our patients. Their skill, dedication and compassionate service is at the heart of all our accomplishments and continual progress," UF Health Shands CEO **Ed Jimenez** said.

To be included among those recognized, Becker's looks at the hospitals' rankings in U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals listings and their nationally reported patient outcomes data.

The publication is produced by Chicago-based Becker's Healthcare and includes Becker's Hospital Review, a monthly report geared toward high-level leaders of hospitals and health systems, as well as other trade publications and reports.

Visit <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/lists/100-great-hospitals-in-america-2019.html> for the full listing.

UF HEALTH SHANDS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | AWARDS+KUDOS

UF HEALTH SHANDS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NATIONALLY RANKED IN FIVE SPECIALTIES

Hospital makes big gains in three areas

BY DOUG BENNETT



UF Health Shands Children's Hospital has been nationally ranked in five medical specialties, making significant gains in three areas — pediatric cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, and diabetes/endocrinology — according to the 2019-20 Best Children's Hospitals rankings released by U.S. News & World Report.

UF Health's pediatric cardiology and heart surgery program achieved a historically high ranking, moving up eight places to 11th in the nation. Two other specialties also made big jumps: Diabetes and endocrinology is ranked No. 19 (up from 27th), and cancer rose to No. 25 (up 24 spots from last year). Two other specialties — neurology and neurosurgery (42nd, up from 50th) and pulmonology (22nd, same as last year) — are also ranked among the nation's elite programs.

"These rankings validate the dedication and skill of our physicians, nurses and staff members," said **David R. Nelson, M.D.**, senior vice president for health affairs at UF and president of UF Health. "Parents of our young patients trust us with their children's treatment. It is particularly gratifying to know that the care they receive across five specialties is among the very best in the country."

The hospital's pediatric cardiology and heart surgery program was the highest-rated in Florida for the fourth consecutive year. Also ranked highest in Florida were cancer, diabetes and endocrinology, and pulmonology. The neurology and neurosurgery program is the second-highest ranked program in the state.

Mark Bleiweis, M.D., director of the UF Health Congenital Heart Center, said it is a privilege to lead a team that continues to

achieve higher rankings and improved outcomes. The center has recently seen an increase in the number of complex cases and a higher percentage of small infants, which makes the strong patient outcome figures even more impressive.

"We have great specialists taking care of heart disease. We have outstanding surgical and medical teams and great postoperative care. All of those factors have come together to achieve the best outcomes in the country. This could not be achieved without the seamless collaboration of our physicians, nursing staff and dynamic care team," Bleiweis said.

Pediatric cancer made the largest jump. **William Slayton, M.D.**, chief of pediatric hematology/oncology, said his division's unprecedented rise in the rankings is a result of many factors: improvement in the rate of bloodstream infections; five-year cancer survival rates; a one-year survival rate for bone marrow transplant patients; and a trio of ongoing clinical trials involving pediatric brain tumors and immunotherapy.

"I'm extremely proud of the inspired efforts by everyone in the division. We have always focused on looking out for patients' best interests. This ranking honors all of that hard work," Slayton said.

In diabetes and endocrinology, ongoing efforts to improve patient care and expand research opportunities demonstrate our dedication to moving the field forward, said **Michael Haller, M.D.**, chief of pediatric endocrinology. The division optimized automated electronic medical records and now offers retinal screenings in its clinics.

"We're very excited to see that our team continues to be recognized for the outstanding efforts being made to improve the lives of children affected by diabetes and endocrine disorders," Haller said.

Ed Jimenez, UF Health Shands CEO, said the overall rankings reflect the staff's unwavering commitment to innovation and patient care.

"Providing the best possible patient experience requires dedication, focus and teamwork. Our expertise and outcomes are why parents continue to turn to UF Health Shands Children's Hospital to solve their child's complex medical issues," he said. "These rankings from a respected, external group confirm that we have some of the best clinical programs in the United States." ■

UF HEALTH | RESEARCH+DISCOVERY


LAB NOTES

Check out recent research developments at UF Health

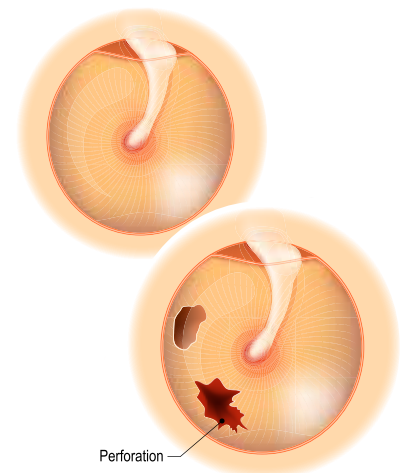


UF INSTITUTE ON AGING STUDY SHOWS CHRONIC PAIN MIGHT

ACCELERATE BRAIN AGING

Scientists have long recognized that the human brain appears to keep time to its own internal clock, its biological age speeding or slowing depending on a host of factors. A study led by a UF Institute on Aging researcher has found the brain age of older adults with chronic pain had accelerated by an average of two years. Individuals without chronic pain on average had a brain that appeared four years younger than their actual age. In previous studies, each year of older brain age relative to a person's chronological age was predictive of about a 6% increase in the risk of death. 

A normal human right tympanic membrane



UF HEALTH STUDY: POPULAR QUINOLONE EARDROPS CARRY RISK OF EARDRUM PERFORATION

A study by UF Health researchers shows antibiotic quinolone eardrops might cause a perforated eardrum, which can lead to hearing loss. Researchers in the UF colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine analyzed data from 94,000 children and adults with the acute otitis externa infection: They found more than a twofold increased risk of a perforated eardrum among patients receiving quinolone eardrops compared with those receiving another common antibiotic eardrop containing neomycin. That equated to 38 patients with a perforated eardrum among the 43,653 who received quinolone eardrops, compared with 25 among the 50,680 who received neomycin.

UF HEALTH | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

NEW LEADERSHIP ERA BEGINS

Welcome event unites UF Health community with enthusiasm for the future

BY AYNISLEY FANIZZI



The family of David R. Nelson, M.D., played a big role during his welcome event, including starring in a surprise video. (L-R) Ben Nelson, David R. Nelson, M.D., and Jill Freedman, M.D., posed for photos after the event. (Not pictured: Josh Nelson)

Excitement filled the UF Health Shands Hospital Atrium on June 5 when faculty and staff joined UF President **Kent Fuchs** to congratulate **David R. Nelson, M.D.**, on his new position as senior vice president for health affairs at UF and president of UF Health.

“Dr. Nelson is a highly respected and remarkably talented physician, researcher, scholar and educator — all qualities that make him the right leader for UF Health at a key moment in its trajectory,” Fuchs said. “With him at the helm, I am confident that UF Health in Gainesville, Jacksonville and throughout the state will accelerate its rise as one of the most exceptional and influential academic health centers in the Southeast and beyond.”

Following Fuchs’ comments, **Julie Johnson, Pharm.D.**, UF College of Pharmacy dean, spoke on Nelson’s success during his time in the interim role.

“From the outset, Dr. Nelson’s focus was on thinking and acting strategically to advance and help secure success for our academic health center and UF Health, well into the future,” Johnson said. “And this includes the future for our colleges, the clinical enterprise

and research. And now that he is our permanent leader, just think what we will be able to accomplish together.”

UF Health Shands CEO **Ed Jimenez** was traveling during the event but provided remarks via video.

Jimenez mentioned Nelson’s dedication to UF Health, as well as his many professional accomplishments during his 26 years at UF Health, including his extensive scientific research and internationally recognized expertise in hepatitis C.

“We are fortunate that he will take his accomplishments and do more by becoming the most important administrative leader for our health center,” Jimenez said.

Diana Richardson, UF Health Shands vice president of Operations, spoke about her enthusiasm for the future of UF Health with Nelson in charge.

“As a leader I’ve found him to value and challenge us to the very highest levels of performance and achievement,” Richardson said. “But he does that with a collaborative and grounded mindset that will help us set and achieve those goals.”



“With him at the helm, I am confident that UF Health in Gainesville, Jacksonville and throughout the state will accelerate its rise as one of the most exceptional and influential academic health centers in the Southeast and beyond.”

— UF PRESIDENT KENT FUCHS

A highlight of the event was a surprise video featuring Nelson’s family, describing his unique qualities and talents.

His wife, **Jill Freedman, M.D.**, a UF College of Medicine anesthesiologist; his son Ben; and his twin brother, sister and brother-in-law all made appearances on the video. Molly, the family dog, also got some camera time. The family testimonies contributed to a well-rounded picture of our new leader, confirming his dedication, warmth and humor.

Nelson took the stage to express his gratitude and explain his plans for the future. He said it is crucial for UF Health to continue our existing mission to provide high-quality clinical care, advance scientific research and deliver innovative education. He proposed five areas of immediate focus:


- *Preparing UF Health to transition to population health management and value-based care.*
- *Expanding our primary care footprint and improving patient access to care.*

- *Investing in women’s health and mental health services.*
- *Developing innovative care models and expanding telehealth.*
- *Continuing to focus on our unique destination programs. These include UF Health’s world-class efforts in areas such as cancer, immunotherapy, gene therapy, pediatrics, diabetes, heart and vascular medicine, neuromedicine, transplantation, healthy aging and precision health care.*

Nelson said he will “lead from the trenches” while continuing to see patients and conduct research.

He concluded with accolades for the faculty and staff across UF Health. He promised to stay “connected to all of you ... you have the ideas, you have the passion.”

Attendees described Nelson as down-to-earth, an attentive listener, dedicated, humble, sincere and optimistic.

To watch the event video, please visit news.my.shands.org and search for “David Nelson welcome event.” 

UF HEALTH SHANDS | AWARDS+KUDOS

BRANDT NAMED VICE PRESIDENT AND HOSPITAL CHIEF OF STAFF

New role focuses on operational excellence and positive patient experience

BY KIM ROSE



“This expanded role will provide her with even more opportunities to focus on operational excellence, quality clinical care and our positive patient experience.”

— ED JIMENEZ

Our hospital executive team welcomed **Anna Michelle Brandt** to a new role in May — a promotion to vice president and hospital chief of staff for UF Health Shands. Brandt served as associate vice president of Operations since June 2011.

“This expanded role will provide her with even more opportunities to focus on operational excellence, quality clinical care and our positive patient experience,” said UF Health Shands CEO **Ed Jimenez** in his announcement posted on the Bridge intranet portal.

Brandt has had oversight for multiple, complex hospital departments and has successfully spearheaded growth and expansion of services as well as improved processes and workflows. Jimenez noted that the leadership team has appreciated “her track record of strong leadership and collaboration with operations, nursing and College of Medicine colleagues.” Her accomplishments have included taking a lead role developing strategic external relationships and executing affiliations plans with other health care organizations.

In this new position, Brandt will maintain operational oversight for several hospital departments and services. She will partner with physician and nursing leaders to help ensure that staffing and environment of care supports the best possible quality clinical outcomes and patient experience. She will provide executive oversight for a variety of hospital system initiatives and committees requiring teamwork across the organization. Additionally, she will continue as key liaison and executive leader to help guide our external relationships and regional activities.

Brandt joined the organization as an administrative resident in 2005 while completing her master’s degrees in health administration and business administration. She was assistant administrator of Shands AGH (2006-2009) and director of Operations for UF Health Shands Hospital (2009-2011) before becoming associate vice president.

“We’re extremely glad to recognize Anna Michelle’s outstanding contributions with this promotion,” Jimenez said. “Please join our executive team in congratulating and supporting her in her new role.” 📌

EXPERIENCE BOLSTERS VETERAN SECURITY LEADERSHIP

Skilled officers provide round-the-clock protection, service and support

BY KIM ROSE

With extensive career backgrounds in law enforcement, corrections, the U.S. Armed Forces and diverse security roles and environments, our UF Health Shands Security department officers are experienced and trained to serve and protect. Their internal customers include everyone who receives, provides and supports care in our hospitals, outpatient facilities and administrative settings.

Gary Neal joined the UF Health Shands Safety, Security and Transportation team as a security supervisor in March last year and was promoted to security operations manager in December (the role previously held by **Gussie Boatwright**). Before coming to Gainesville, Neal served as a police sergeant for 27 years in Elgin, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Prior to that, he served four years in the U.S. Army as an airborne infantryman.

"I'm committed to our team's ongoing development through knowledge, leadership and passion for the services we provide," he said. "We take pride in being reliable and available to support anyone in need."

Neal emphasizes that his team is here to serve, no matter the task.

"We go beyond the scope of our job," he said, "and we do it proudly."

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

Security provides 24/7 coverage of our UF Health Shands facilities for a variety of services, from simple assistance to response in potentially sensitive and threatening situations.

SECURITY OFFICERS PROVIDE:

- ✦ Building/campus/parking area security patrol
- ✦ Directions and wayfinding assistance
- ✦ After-hours escort to and from buildings and vehicles
- ✦ Partnering in workplace safety solutions
- ✦ Support on patient care units
- ✦ Security for emergency and trauma facilities
- ✦ Response to issues in outpatient settings
- ✦ Security in hospital-managed administrative areas
- ✦ Conflict mitigation, de-escalation and resolution (violence prevention)
- ✦ On-site emergency and crisis response
- ✦ Partnership with UF Police Department, Alachua County Sheriff's Office and collaboration with other law enforcement and first-responder agencies

TEAM FACTS

**61
SECURITY
OFFICERS**

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS/TRAINING

- ✦ Law enforcement
- ✦ Corrections
- ✦ Military
- ✦ Security

"Many of our officers are former and retired career veterans from other backgrounds. This unique blend of experience helps us provide mentorship and training to younger and less experienced staff." — Gary Neal

The department also includes 18 Guest Services staff who are available at information desks in several hospital and building lobbies to serve patients, visitors and internal customers with a hospitable and welcoming experience.

WHO'S WHO

- ✦ Brad Pollitt, vice president
(UF Health Shands Facilities)
- ✦ Suzanne DeKay, director
(Safety, Security and Transportation)

Administration Supervisors

- ✦ Gary Neal, operations manager
- ✦ Jacqueline Bradley,
field training officer
- ✦ Marion Clark, field training officer
- ✦ Tim Kozlowski, security coordinator

Security Officer Supervisors

UF Health Shands Hospital day shift

- ✦ Herb Hernandez
- ✦ Don Wallace

UF Health Shands Hospital night shift

- ✦ James Minter
- ✦ Sid Porter

UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital and UF Health Heart & Vascular and Neuromedicine hospitals day shift

- ✦ Leonard Griffin
- ✦ Lionel Tatro

UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital and UF Health Heart & Vascular and Neuromedicine hospitals night shift

- ✦ Ron Kee
- ✦ Thomas Penney

Our Security teams serve many satellite facilities in other Gainesville locations in addition to the Archer Road main campus. 📍

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS

Congratulations to winners honored during 2019 National Nurses Week

BY MICHELLE MOORE

National Nurses Week is our time to recognize the selfless Nursing and Patient Services staff, UF College of Nursing faculty and UF College of Medicine faculty who are committed to quality care, ethical practice and exceptional clinical results. The compassionate attention they provide is at the heart of our patients' experience.

We celebrate their contributions during the annual Nightingale Award Ceremony, which commemorates Florence Nightingale,

the founder of modern nursing. It is a chance to highlight unit and individual accomplishments across UF Health Shands.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients, and thank you to all of our nurses for shaping lives at UF Health. You truly embody your "Experienced care, expert caring" motto. **+**



NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Tori Adams, B.S.N., R.N., registered nurse,
UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital
Adult Oncology Unit 8East



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Rodericka Belt, A.S.N., R.N., registered nurse,
UF Health Shands Children's Hospital Pediatric ICU



FACILITATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Karah Kittrell, administrative assistant, Patient
Experience department, UF Health Sebastian Ferrero
Office of Clinical Quality and Patient Safety



NURSE LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Beth Talaga, M.S.N., R.N., APRN, RNC-NIC,
nurse manager, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital
Neonatal ICU



STAFF QUALITY AWARD:

Vicky Klink, B.S.N., R.N., VA-BC,
registered nurse, UF Health Shands Cancer Hospital
PICC department



**KATHRYN GAMBLE AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN NURSING QUALITY:**

Tara Jendzio, D.N.P., R.N., APRN, NNP-BC,
clinical leader, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital
Neonatal ICU



ROSE RIVERS CHRYSALIS AWARD FOR EVOLVING NURSING RESEARCH:

(L-R) Ann Horgas, Ph.D., M.S.N., B.S.N., R.N., FAAN, associate professor and chair, UF College of Nursing; Nicolle Davis, B.S.N., R.N., SCR.N., principal investigator, stroke program coordinator, UF Health Shands Comprehensive Stroke Center; and Debra Lynch Kelly, Ph.D., R.N., O.C.N., assistant professor, UF College of Nursing. (Not pictured) Yi Guo, Ph.D., research assistant professor, UF Health Cancer Center, department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics; and Saun-Joo Yoon, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor, UF College of Nursing

ROSE RIVERS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING RESEARCH:

(L-R) Zachary Smith, B.S.N., R.N., CCRN-CSC, registered nurse, UF Health Heart & Vascular Hospital Cardiac ICU 77; Lars Beattie, M.D., FACEP, associate professor, UF Department of Emergency Medicine and Residency Program director. (Not pictured) David Crabb, M.D., principal investigator, clinical assistant professor, UF Department of Emergency Medicine; and Emmett Martin, M.P.H., research coordinator, UF Department of Emergency Medicine



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD:
UF Health ShandsCair



BEST TEAM AWARD:
UF Health Heart & Vascular Hospital
Cardiac ICU/IMC Unit 76

UF HEALTH | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

FOOD CELEBRATIONS FOCUS ON FUN

Leaders recognize staff as a thank you during National Hospital Week

BY MICHELLE MOORE



UFHealth
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HEALTH
**NATIONAL
HOSPITAL
WEEK**

Thank You!

Events during National Hospital Week, May 12-18, gave our leaders the opportunity to serve and hand-deliver a variety of snacks, food and desserts across many locations to thank staff for their positive impact and commitment to our patients each day. Events took place in our hospitals and main campus buildings, and our satellite locations had special deliveries during the week. An ice cream truck again visited about a dozen satellite locations, with leaders on board to distribute goodies.

Doctors, residents, nurses, staff and volunteers — thank you for all that you do to provide and support patient care for our hospital system! You make UF Health a rewarding and fun place to work.

UF HEALTH SHANDS | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

MELODIES OF COMPASSION

Calling all musicians — there's a spot in the ensemble for you!

BY AYNSLEY FANIZZI

The UF Health Staff Music Ensemble, a part of UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine, made its grand debut in May 2016. Since then, the program has allowed faculty, staff and students to collaborate through the sound of music.

Primarily made up of string instruments, the UF Health Staff Music Ensemble is hoping to expand into a full orchestra. They are looking for recruits — faculty, staff, volunteers, alumni and students — who have had some form of musical experience and can read sheet music. The ensemble usually performs at least once every semester.

The program is led by **Ferol Carytsas, M.M.**, lecturer and undergraduate adviser with the UF Center for Arts in Medicine. Carytsas hopes to recruit 20 people for the group.

“The ensemble started with two musicians and has grown to as many as 12,” Carytsas said. “Our primary performance venue has been the UF Health Shands Hospital Atrium, but we have also been able to go into the community and perform at Oak Hammock.”

Carytsas got the idea for the ensemble from similar programs at other medical centers.

“There are a lot of studies that show how music improves well-being,” Carytsas said. “It’s about building community and coming together in a creative and nonthreatening environment.”

As a group, the ensemble decides what pieces they will play, with songs ranging from light classical and pop to Disney tunes, oldies and more.

“The UF Health Music Ensemble is an amateur ensemble,” Carytsas said. “But we are a dedicated and supportive community where every musician has a voice.”

Maria Kuge, an ensemble violinist, is a UF student who is currently working toward a combined bachelor’s degree in music with a Master of Arts degree in Arts in Medicine. She has been in the ensemble for two years and got involved while looking for ways to be active within Arts in Medicine.

Linda Morris, M.S.N., R.N., NE-BC, a UF Health Shands Hospital SAGE registered nurse, was the program’s first “recruit.” Morris has been playing the cello with the ensemble since the beginning and says she likes performing with the group because it gives her the chance to make music for patients.

“The music we’re playing is fun and accessible to both ourselves and our audience,” Morris said. “I really enjoy playing with other employees, and I know there are many others in the organization who are musically gifted. I encourage them to check it out.”

Visit the UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine website at artsinmedicine.UFHealth.org for recruitment forms or contact Carytsas at fcarytsas@arts.ufl.edu for more information. 

Rehearsals are held 5-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Facilities Administration Building. They will begin in late August.



+ TO DO



UF HEALTH | EVENTS+ACTIVITIES

OUR MARCH OF DIMES TEAMS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD

Teams from UF Health blasted off on a mission to save babies at the annual March of Dimes March for Babies event. On April 13, more than 60 employees volunteered or walked and “reached for the stars” to raise more than \$40,778 for the cause.

Congratulations are in order for the UF Health Women’s Center team, which raised \$6,282, finishing in second place overall for fundraising and first place among UF Health teams.

Thank you to all who participated and donated to fight for the health of moms and babies!

WANT TO SUPPORT THE MISSION NEXT YEAR? Email marchforbabies@health.ufl.edu and check the Bridge for updates. Visit marchforbabies.org to make a direct donation.

UF HEALTH | NEWS+COMMUNICATION

LET’S GET SOCIAL

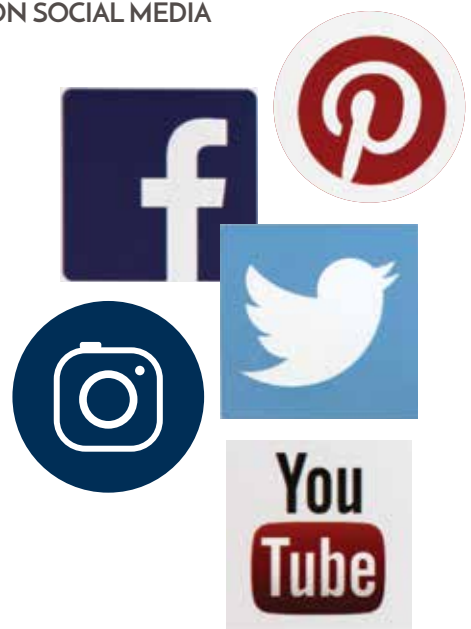
Following UF Health’s accounts on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Pinterest, you can read — as well as like and share — posts about patient care, education, research, growth and expansion. Be a UF Health ambassador and help share these updates with your followers!

Note: When using these internal and social tools, please remember our policies about keeping patient health information and sensitive work-related information confidential. Please read the UF Health Shands Social Media Policy before posting content on social media platforms. Search “social media policy” on the Bridge intranet portal.

UF Health is an exciting and vibrant place — help us share our stories!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- YouTube
- Pinterest



Visit UFHealth.org/social for the full list of UF Health social media channels.