

ROUNDUP



Hospital & Clinics | August 2021

Congratulations to Our 2021 Award Winners!

Employee, Resident/Fellow, Advanced Practice Provider, and Physician of the Year



Congratulations to Our Award Winners

It is with great pleasure that UI Health recognizes our 'of the year' awardees.

2021 Employee of the Year

Jonathan Lopez — Central Stores Manager II, Materials Management



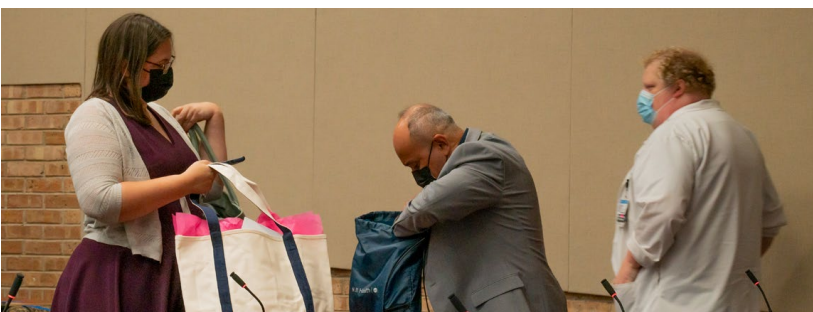
The Employee of the Year is awarded to a UI Health employee who is a great inspiration to all staff members and personifies the core values of UI Health — Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence.

Jonathan is an exemplary employee who demonstrates extraordinary work. He was vital to the support of the hospital during the pandemic, which illuminated to every area of the hospital how vital the Materials Management department is to maintaining safety and operations. Jonathan was consistently reliable, helpful, and always friendly and supportive, regardless of the need or ask. When special projects developed — such as the Employee Vaccine Clinic or the Credit Union 1 Arena mass-vaccination site — Jonathan always found a way to design and implement an effective process for receiving and maintaining supplies. When an item was needed on an urgent basis, Jonathan himself frequently made the delivery.

His leadership was and is crucial in maintaining safety and operations at UI Health. He is one of the most collaborative professionals at UI Health and is a trusted partner in our supply management. Without people like Jonathan, we would not be successful in securing the supplies needed for patients to receive the best care.

Jonathan is the behind-the-scenes extraordinaire who knows how to quickly respond to changing needs.

[\('Winners' continued next page\)](#)



Congratulations to Our Award Winners (continued)

2021 Fellow of the Year

Dr. Christen Vagts — Pulmonary Medicine

The Fellow of the Year personifies the core values of UI Health: Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence. These physicians put their patients first in all encounters and consistently contribute to the delivery of world class patient care.



Dr. Vagts is the ultimate example of what it means to live up to our clinical mission in everyday work. Dr. Vagts spent several weeks directly caring for our sickest COVID patients. During the most difficult and grueling clinical work, she served on the front line in an environment that posed significant risk to our providers. She cared for patients with this life-threatening illness — one we did not fully understand, had limited ability to treat, and at the time, very limited PPE — with leadership and excellence. She took on extra clinical obligations, and because of her leadership we were able to deliver the highest levels of patient care and provider safety.

Dr. Vagts is an exemplary fellow who has demonstrated a high degree of passion for her work, including a dedication to her dual roles as educator and clinician. She has the promise of a remarkable career going forward.

Advanced Practice Provider of the Year

Trinnette Zahakaylo — University Health Service



The Advanced Practice Provider (APP) of the year celebrates trusted medical professionals who work hand in hand with physicians and nurses to create a seamless environment of care. Our APPs are a critical part of the care team at UI Health and are fundamental to medical education, mentoring, and advocating for our patient population. Our APPs are true role models of our core values and consistently deliver world class patient care.

Prior to the pandemic, Trinnette touched many lives through her expertise related to illness, injury, and disability, including her work with our surveillance programs to monitor the health of our employees.

This year, however, her skills were challenged, and her true talent was revealed. She was responsible for oversight of the COVID Response Teams. During the initial phases of the pandemic, Trinnette experienced the overwhelming challenge of consulting with over 100 students and volunteers on COVID exposures, travel consultations, and return-to-work issues. This quickly evolved into the COVID Response Teams — still maintained today.

Trinnette was instrumental in the review and frequent re-evaluation to our processes. She collaborated with leadership from multiple disciplines. She is the comforting hand in times of crisis.

[\('Winners' continued next page\)](#)

Congratulations to Our Award Winners (continued)

Physician of the Year

Dr. Janet Lin — Emergency Medicine



The Physician of the Year personifies the core values of UI Health: Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence. These physicians put their patients first in all encounters and consistently contribute to the delivery of world class patient care.

Dr. Lin was an integral part of the incident command structure during the COVID crisis. Her position required significant oversight of the response in an iterative fashion and real-time alterations to the response were required.

While her leadership in the response to the initial phases of the pandemic were pivotal, her work with UI Health and the UI Health physicians was also remarkable. Dr. Lin was responsible for allocation of scarce resources, and these allocations were performed in a fair, equitable, and decisive fashion. She worked through staffing issues — many of which required high-risk exposure to individuals on the front line — in an equitable manner with a focus on both staff safety and critical patient care.

While Dr. Lin proved to be an incredible manager of these operations, her true contribution to the COVID response was in the leadership she showed during this crisis. Her constant and transparent communications to the medical staff were informative and comforting. During the initial surge, she provided a stable and calming influence on the physicians, trainees, and staff, which allowed providers to feel more in control of a very difficult situation. Her approach was firm but compassionate and was just what was needed to shepherd the system through a very difficult and trying time.

Dr. Lin always has a desire to improve patient care while adhering to evidence-based guidelines. She has worked with the Center for Global Health and is an international expert on disaster preparedness, which was instrumental in leading UI Health through the pandemic.

Dr. Lin has adeptly and graciously led us through this past year and a half maintaining her steady, calm, demeanor. ■





MIKE'S CORNER

Living Our Public Health Commitment: Vaccine Mandate

Throughout our COVID-19 response, the University of Illinois Hospital & Clinics has been steadfast in our goal of minimizing the risk of COVID exposure to our patients, visitors, community, and staff. It is why we implemented policies like universal masking and protocols like temperature screening and saliva testing — and it is now why **we are requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for all staff, volunteers, and contractors.**

Simply put: Ensuring our healthcare workers are vaccinated is part of our commitment to patient and staff safety and our continued efforts to protect our staff, patients, and communities from COVID-19.

This decision was not made hastily. Since our first staff became eligible for the vaccine in December 2020, we have been vigilant in monitoring recommended actions regarding vaccination. We have reviewed guidance from a number of public health organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the Chicago Department of Health (CDPH). We also have done our own scientific modeling of the risks associated with the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, especially as we see the contagious Delta variant spread in hotspots across the country.

Until everyone is vaccinated, unvaccinated individuals will continue to spread COVID-19, and we risk exposures and increases in cases. This new vaccine requirement is a most critical action we can take to protect ourselves, our peers, and our patients. It will be a part of what allows all of us to continue to enjoy the activities we have reintroduced to our lives.

Right now, Chicago is just over 50% fully vaccinated. Though this is not yet where we want our community to be, all of us at UI Health should be proud of the efforts we made and continue to make in providing the vaccine to our patients, neighbors, and communities throughout the city.

We were one of the first health systems to stand up a public vaccination site when we launched our Credit Union 1 Arena vaccine site in February. Our CU1 site and staff vaccine site in the College of Pharmacy combined to administer more than 111,000 vaccines, including more than 55,000 second doses. And we continue to vaccinate our staff and patients at the University Village Vaccine Site and in the Eye & Ear Infirmary.

Yet, as the recent Delta variant spikes have shown, we know we have not yet defeated COVID — and vaccination is the best thing we can do to protect ourselves.

Healthcare settings are at an increased risk for contracting infectious diseases and transmitting them to vulnerable populations. We must continue to be disciplined in our safety practices — including masking, distancing, and increasing our rates of vaccination.

Thank you for all who already have completed vaccination, and thank you to all staff for your cooperation in ensuring we create the safest environment for us to work and care for our patients. ■

OPERATION VACCINE

Vaccine Updates: Staff Requirement, Campus Vaccine Sites, Visitor Guidelines

As part of our ongoing commitment to staff and patient safety, the University of Illinois Hospital & Clinics will require all staff, volunteers, and contractors to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Individuals will be required to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 1.

This requirement is consistent with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), a number of medical organizations, and our own scientific modeling of the risks associated with the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

Ensuring vaccination of healthcare workers is part of our commitment to patient and staff safety and aligns with our continued efforts to protect our staff, patients, and communities from COVID-19.

Healthcare environments are high-risk settings. Our staff are at an increased risk for contracting infectious diseases and transmitting them to vulnerable populations. This is why we require the flu shot every year, and why we now will require the COVID-19 vaccine. We want to build confidence in our patients and in our communities, so they feel safe and assured when they come to our facilities to receive care.

We recognize that some individuals are not able to be vaccinated. Exemptions are available for religious or health reasons and must be formally requested, documented, and approved.

Those with an approved vaccine exception will be required to participate in regular saliva testing for COVID-19. Staff who do not meet criteria for exemption and fail to show proof of vaccination may be subject to progressive disciplinary action.

This new vaccine requirement is the most important thing we can do to protect ourselves, our peers, and our patients. Until everyone is vaccinated, unvaccinated individuals will continue to spread COVID-19, and we risk exposures and increases in cases. We want everyone to be safe and continue to enjoy the activities we have reintroduced to our lives.

We will follow up with additional guidance on vaccinations and other safety measures planned for the fall. We also will continue to closely monitor our policies, adjusting where appropriate based on advances in scientific understanding and updated guidance from public health authorities.

Where to Get the Vaccine

Staff can get the vaccine on campus at the following locations:

University Village Vaccine Site

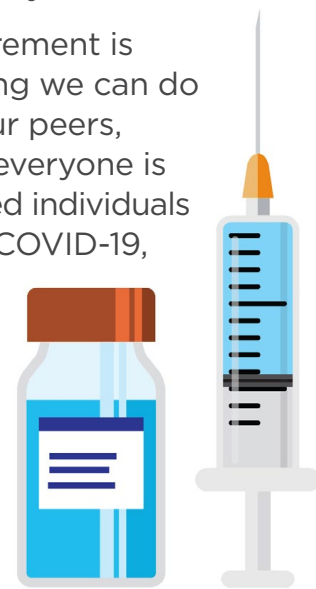
(Pfizer vaccine)

724 W. Maxwell St.

Tuesday, Wednesday: 1-4 pm

Thursday: 8:30 am to 4 pm

[\(Vaccine Updates continued next page\)](#)



OPERATION VACCINE

Vaccine Updates *(continued)*

Appointments available online and by phone; walk-ins welcome.

Eye & Ear Infirmiry Auditorium (Pfizer)

1855 W. Taylor St.

Monday-Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Employees can call **312.996.6565** to make an appointment.

The Mobile Vaccine Cart (Pfizer) also

can be requested for departments/units by emailing uhsclinic@uic.edu.

Staff who received the vaccine outside of UI Health can submit proof of vaccine

status via Immuware. Visit the Vaccine intranet for details on how to submit.

Visitor Guidelines

With increased vaccination, our guidelines have been modified to enhance patient visitation while preserving the health and safety of our patients, staff, and visitors. As of July 22, we are allowing (2) visitors per patient per day for COVID-negative patients. We will continue to evaluate and adjust our policy with the guidance of our infectious disease experts and city and state public health officials. ■

ENGAGEMENT

It Takes a Village to Celebrate Summer! Thank you to all who stopped by our Ice Cream Social event in July! 3,900 employees attended the event to enjoy rainbow ice cream, fruit, and giveaways. It was the perfect way to kick-off summer! ■



31 UPDATES/EPIC

EPIC Efficiencies: E-prescribing, Lab Orders, Mmodal

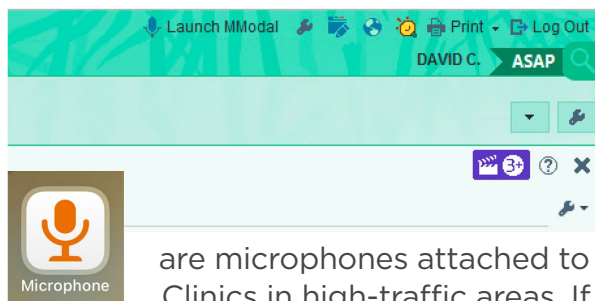
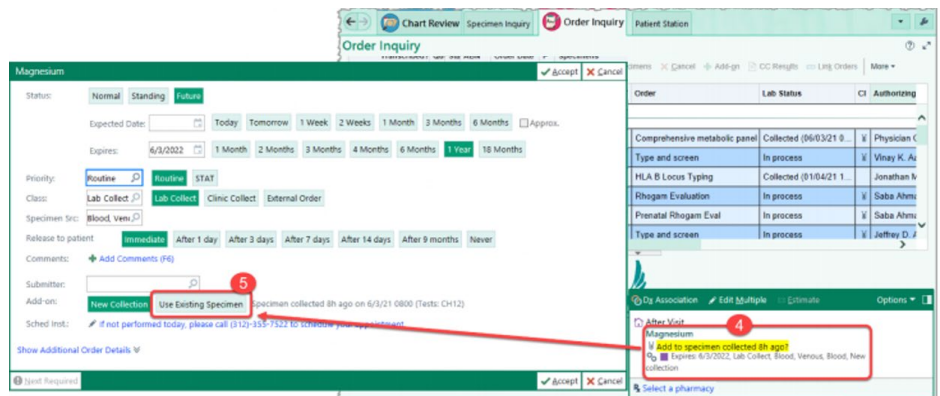
As we hit 11 months on EPIC, we have transitioned from EPIC Go-Live to Epic Stabilization — and now to Epic Optimization. Optimization allows us to begin to work on the system to make it more efficient for us. Here are some changes we put into the system earlier this summer to help with efficiency.

E-Prescribing

We heard from many users that when residents write a controlled substance prescription (in outpatient or upon discharge from inpatient), it is difficult for faculty to find that prescription to co-sign and complete the e-prescribing. Now, these prescriptions will show up in your in-basket as soon as the resident completes them. From your in-basket in the “Second Sign Needed” folder, click the prescription, and then click “Second Sign.” This will allow you to easily e-prescribe the controlled substance. (Remember that there remains a requirement to view the Illinois Prescription Monitoring data feed prior to writing most controlled substance prescriptions.)

Lab Orders

The second change that we put into the system earlier this summer was around adding on lab orders to specimens already in lab (both on the inpatient and outpatient side). When you are ordering any labs — if there is specimen available in the lab that can be used — you will see the “Use Existing Specimen” button in the lab order. Just click that and the lab will add on the order.



M*Modal

Another efficiency tool you may not be aware of is M*Modal real-time voice dictation. You speak, it types for you! Everyone has access to it; you just have to click the “Launch M*Modal” icon to bring it up. There

are microphones attached to the computers throughout the Hospital & Clinics in high-traffic areas. If there is no microphone, it also works with your cell phone if you download the M*Modal app. Please reach out to Caryn Griffith at cgriffi@UIC.EDU for access issues or training questions.

Clinical Help Desk

As additional questions come up, please reach out to the new Clinical Help Desk. You can reach them at 312.413.7717 (x37717) and then select the “Clinical Help Desk” option. ■

/// MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

New Efforts to Conserve Surgical Gloves

Distributors of sterile surgical gloves are informing hospitals to conserve supplies to ensure appropriate reserves to continue safe, necessary patient care. **The shortage of surgical gloves is expected to continue for the next 6-12 months.** In order to conserve our supplies, we are asking everyone to stop unnecessary usage of sterile gloves to help decrease our burn rate and increase supplies within our healthcare system.

In order to conserve our supplies, we ask everyone to:

- Stop unnecessary usage of sterile gloves to help decrease our burn rate and increase supplies
- Avoid situations where you may need to break scrub multiple times during surgical cases

Be prepared to assist in conservation:

- Everyone may be asked to upsize or downsize to more available sizes, or use different brands/types
- Residents should not scrub into a case unless actively involved in the surgery

- Students should volunteer to not scrub into cases, unless they are required for their rotation
- Surgeons should have a second alternative in mind, in case their first brand/size preference becomes unavailable



The sterile latex glove shortage stems from increased lead time due to global capacity constraints and transportation issues, combined with increased global demand. Other factors include decreased yield from rubber trees due to disease, countries stockpiling supplies, and just-in-time manufacturing practices.

We are evaluating supplies on an ongoing basis. We realize that some of these actions will create inconveniences, but our early diligence and awareness will prevent last-minute problems and limit disruptions in patient care.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. ■

/// ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

2021 Flu Shots – Get It Done for Everyone!



Two Days: Sept. 27 & 28

6:30 am to 7 pm

College of Pharmacy, Room B8

Compliance date: Oct. 31

The flu shot is mandatory for all UI Health staff and volunteers. Hospital ID and I-Card are required. More information will be available on the intranet soon! ■

RECOGNITION

UI Health featured in U.S. News & World Report Rankings

UI Health was featured in recent hospital rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

Five service areas were included in the U.S. News Best Hospitals 2021-22 list.



The following services were listed as “High Performing”:

- Heart Failure
- Heart Attack
- Kidney Failure
- Stroke
- Pneumonia

The Children’s Hospital University of Illinois (CHUI) also scored in 7/10 specialties in the U.S. News and World Report Best Children’s Hospitals 2021-22 rankings, including pediatric cancer, gastroenterology and GI surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, and pulmonology and lung surgery.

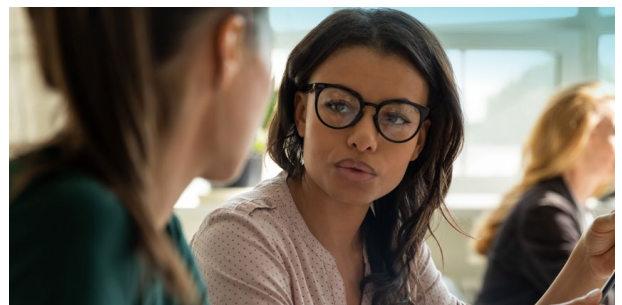
UI Health also performed highly in Health Equity, which was surveyed for the first time. ■

SERVICE LINE UPDATES

Mile Square Health Center Expands Behavioral Health, Substance-Use Disorder Services

Mile Square Health Center (MSHC) has increased its Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder services to seven of its clinic sites located throughout Chicagoland.

The MSHC specialists recognize the challenges and barriers patients face to get the care they need — from understanding insurance coverage to finding the right provider. The mission of this program is to provide access to all-inclusive physical health, behavioral health, and substance-use disorder services to patients through co-location and integrated healthcare utilizing a patient-centered team-based approach.



The MSHC team is dedicated to making it easier for all patients to access behavioral healthcare that addresses their individual needs, and they are proud to be expanding these services throughout their clinic network.

To learn more, visit [MSHC.UIHealth.Care](https://www.mshc.uihealthcare.com). ■



11TH ANNUAL QUALITY & SAFETY FAIR

CALL FOR POSTERS

Showcase your initiatives at the Quality & Safety Fair

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER
10th

7 AM – 4 PM

The Quality & Safety Fair is an opportunity to share improvement projects, research, and innovative ideas for patient care with your colleagues in the hospital, clinic, or college! For details, visit QualityFair.UIHealth.Care

Has your team, department, or unit made substantial gains in patient care?

Have you designed an innovative technique to improve clinical performance or participated in a research project?

SOME POSTER CONTEST TOPICS:

- COVID-19-Related Work
- Research-Related Work
- Patient Satisfaction
- Employee and Patient Safety
- Medication Safety
- Infection Control
- Clinical Practice Improvement
- Process Improvement

Submission Deadline: Friday, Oct. 22, 2021

Want to submit your poster? Not sure about your poster topic? Want more information or have a question? Email: Zohair Hameed at zhamee2@uic.edu and Priyanka Nasa at pnasa2@uic.edu, or call 312.996.2367.

LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED (virtual if necessary)

Award ceremony 12:15 pm to 1 pm

Winners will receive cash prizes which can be used to book a conference, buy educational material, or for other department use.