

# ROUNDUP



Hospital & Clinics | May 2022

## New Clinics, Partnerships Expanding Our Footprint



Leaders from UI Health, Alivio Medical Center, Friend Health, and the Healthcare Transformation Collaboratives initiative at the 55th & Pulaski ribbon cutting May 20.



Dr. Heather Prendergast, associate dean of clinical affairs, UIC College of Medicine.



Dr. Robert Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs, UI Health.

## New Clinics, Partnerships Expanding our Footprint

A recent ribbon cutting for **55th & Pulaski Health Collaborative** both celebrated the clinic’s opening and marked another important milestone in UI Health’s growing clinical footprint and service area.



The 55th & Pulaski clinic, which opened in March, is one of several new openings planned throughout 2022 as part of the clinic-expansion activities that are laid out in UI Health’s Strategic Plan.

A part of the TARGET Health Collaborative Partnership, which includes Alivio Medical Center and Friend Family Health, the 55th & Pulaski Health Collaborative was funded by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Healthcare Transformation Collaboratives award. A \$15 million grant was used to purchase renovate and expand the facility at 5525 S. Pulaski Road, which previously was operated by Mercy Medical Center.

The new facility increases access to specialty care, care coordination, urgent care, behavioral health, dental care, women’s health, and advanced

diagnostics for the residents of Chicago’s Gage Park and West Elsdon communities. (The \$15 million transformation award also covered the purchase of advanced diagnostic and other medical equipment.)

When the clinic was announced in October 2021, Dr. Heather Prendergast, associate dean of clinical affairs at the UIC College of Medicine and an emergency room physician at UI Health, said: “The overarching goal of this [clinic] is to provide enhanced access to specialty care, state-of-the-art

advanced diagnostics, much-needed behavioral health and mental health resources, and a women’s wellness center, all within the Gage Park and West Elsdon community, in order to improve the health outcomes in this community. Together, the providers in the TARGET Health Collaborative hope to improve healthcare outcomes, reduce healthcare disparities, and realign resources in distressed communities throughout Illinois.”



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## Expanding our Footprint (continued)



**Next month, the Mile Square Health Center (MSHC) network of federally qualified health centers will open a new clinic in the Auburn Gresham community.**

In partnership with Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation’s “Always Growing, Auburn Gresham” project, **UI Health Mile Square Health Center Immediate & Primary Care**, at 839 W. 79th St., will aim to serve more than 8,000 individuals with primary, dental, and behavioral health services.

MSHC Immediate & Primary Care will be part of a new UIC Community Center lifestyle hub in Auburn Gresham that will bring lifesaving healthcare resources to a neighborhood in dire need of access to these services, while creating more than 300 local jobs.

The goal of the clinic is to provide quality healthcare closer to home by using the best approaches to healthcare. In addition to meeting primary care needs, the immediate care facility will offer professional medical care for walk-in patients seeking non-emergency/non-life-threatening health services.

**Of course, this summer will be busy with a flurry of activities in preparation of the opening on the Specialty Care Building (SCB) this fall.**

Announced in the fall of 2019, the SCB has come to life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Groundbreaking took place in August 2020, and we had the top-off celebration in June of last year.



**The SCB will be a new home for state-of-the-art care, including:**

- **Eye Care**
- **Ear, Nose, Throat**
- **Gastroenterology**
- **Transplant**
- **Urology**
- **Same-day Surgery**

Over the next few months, services will be moving into their new spaces, and Ambulatory leaders will be getting their staffs and operations prepared for bringing the new facility online.

We look forward to sharing more details on the Specialty Care Building, and events and activities surrounding its opening, in the coming months. ■



## MIKE'S CORNER

### Turning Our Attention to a Summer of Significant Activities

Let's start by thanking the more than 4,000 practitioners and employees who participated in our 2022 Engagement Survey. This information will again be helpful as we determine our activities for the next fiscal year. This confidential survey provides trends and potential focus areas that will be explored throughout the coming year. We also received many comments as an optional portion of the survey; these, too, will serve as valuable insights. Although it is impossible to address each of these specifically, they do provide common themes that can become actionable in the future. Again, thank you to everyone who participated!

As we approach summer, there are many significant activities that will require the full attention of all of us. The most intense include:

- The activation and opening of the Specialty Care Building (SCB) and Hospital Welcome Atrium
- The Perioperative Services proficiency project, which encompasses both the main Hospital Operating Rooms and new SCB operating and procedural areas

- The restructuring of our Quality & Safety infrastructure
- The re-emphasizing of all requirements related to the maintaining of our Joint Commission Accreditation
- Communicating and understanding the tenets and challenges of our latest iteration of our strategic plan

These activities will require our full attention for the next five months, as all of the above items will happen by the end of September. This includes our three-year Joint Commission accreditation site survey. To this end, we need to be disciplined in our choices of what new projects we work on, with consideration to scheduling most all new potentials to a timeframe after successful completion of the initiatives above.

The summer is also the time when all of us accomplish our annual evaluations. As a part of this, I would ask that each of us spend time as a part of this process reviewing our Strategic Plan and organizational initiatives, including our updated values. You will be hearing more about this in the next few months.

The past two years have required our significant focus to be on issues of pandemic management, to which I believe we have all reached a certain level of weariness. It is my hope that by turning our attention to these important and meaningful endeavors, we can collectively recover a part of our normalcy, both as an organization and as individuals. I am looking forward to it, and I hope others will join in fully engaging in these forward-looking endeavors. ■

**ENGAGEMENT**

## Celebrating Nurses' Week

UI Health celebrated Nurses' Week from May 1-6. We'd like to express our gratitude to the Professional Development Council for organizing the full week of events to honor and recognize our frontline nurses. To all our nurses at UI Health, thank you for the excellence, dedication, skill, and compassion you bring to your roles every day. ■



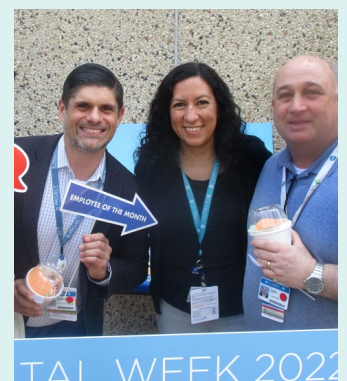
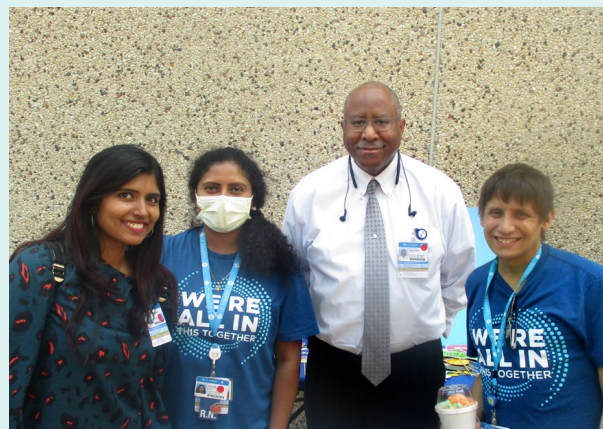
*Nursing Excellence Award Winners, from left: Ghiana Expiritu, PICU; Raquel Bridges, SurgiCenter; Shirley Belocura, Peds, PICU, and Neonatal ICU; Michelle Lagrimas, PICU; Victoria Spivak, 7E Medicine & 7E Stepdown. Back: CEO Mike Zenn and Chief Nursing Officer Tiesa Hughes-Dillard.*

## Hospital Week a Sweet Success!

Thanks to all who came out to celebrate hospital week! ■

# 2900+

Stopped by to visit and have ice cream or fruit.



## Celebrating Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Join UI Health in paying tribute to the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that have enriched American history and healthcare.

**View our employee spotlights at [Celebrate.UIHealth.Care](https://Celebrate.UIHealth.Care). ■**

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Calling All Volunteers!

Would you like to be featured during an upcoming Cultural Heritage Celebration campaign? We are accepting staff, trainees, and faculty that are interested in being highlighted during:

- Disability Awareness Month (July)
- Hispanic American Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct 15)
- Native American Heritage Month (Nov.)

**If interested, please email [uihealthdiversity@uic.edu](mailto:uihealthdiversity@uic.edu).**

Additionally, the Committee for Anti-Racism & Equity is seeking volunteers for two (2) spots that have opened up on the committee. If you are interested in applying, please complete this survey by June 10: [Click here](#). Applicants will be notified of their status by July 1. ■



### Save the Date! Engagement Survey Town Hall

Leadership will hold two town halls to share results from the Employee & Practitioner Engagement Survey. All employees are welcome to join. A zoom link will be available on the intranet in the coming weeks.

**Town hall to review employee findings: July 7 at 12pm**

**Town hall to review practitioner findings: July 11 at 12pm ■**

**ENGAGEMENT**

## UI Health named a ‘LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader’

UI Health has been designated as a “LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader” by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Healthcare Equality Index (HEI). UI Health is one of 496 healthcare facilities across the country who have received leader designation.

The Human Rights Campaign awards leadership status to healthcare facilities who achieve a top score of 100 based on training, practices, and policies that validate equity and inclusion of our LGBTQ+ patients, visitors, and employees. This designation confirms our commitment to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion practices across the organization, in building a health system that is welcoming to all.



Thank you to Cotis Mitchell, Paige Doran, Mary Kate Titus, Robbe Walton, and our executive sponsor, Nick Haubach, for their collaborative work on survey completion and submission. Learn more about UI Health’s LGBTQ+ inclusive care at [LGBTQ.UIHealth.Care](https://LGBTQ.UIHealth.Care). ■

**ENGAGEMENT**

## 6ESD and NSICU Units Receive Silver-Level Beacon Award of Excellence

The 6ESD and NSICU nursing units recently were both honored with a silver-level Beacon Award of Excellence by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The Beacon Award for Excellence — a significant milestone on the path to exceptional patient care and healthy work environments — recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with

AACN’s six Healthy Work Environment Standards. Units that achieve this three-year, three-level award with a gold, silver, or bronze designation meet national criteria consistent with the ANCC Magnet Recognition Program®. This was the first time both units have received the Beacon Award.

A recognition ceremony is being planned for later this summer. Congratulations! ■

