Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

As April approaches, we feel the warmth of spring sunlight and see evidence of tulips and daffodils peaking through the once snow-covered ground. We are reminded that the seasons are changing and new life is rising up once again. At Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, April is a time for celebrating and giving thanks for our dedicated volunteers. Each day, visitors are welcomed, families awaiting a loved one’s surgery are comforted, children are consoled, papers are sorted and filed, flowers are delivered, and phones are answered by those who generously give their time to assist us in our healing ministry. To date, over 1,000 individuals ranging in age from 14-94 provide nearly 45 full-time equivalents each year, assisting us in providing excellent, compassionate service to those who enter this place of healing ministry. We are grateful for their tireless efforts.

Staff in the mission and spiritual care department are interested in adding a cadre of volunteers to assist us in providing spiritual care by visiting patients who are newly admitted to the hospital. Are you or someone you know a retired pastor or priest who would enjoy spending four hours per week making these visits as a spiritual care volunteer? Does your congregation have trained lay caregivers who might be interested in serving Lutheran General in this way? Those who are interested in serving as volunteers will be asked to submit an application, and to participate in a screening and orientation process. In return, you will receive the support of volunteer services and the mission and spiritual care department as well as the satisfaction that comes from brightening someone else’s day or making another’s pain and loneliness a bit more bearable. Please contact chaplain Andy Travis, manager of spiritual care services, at 847-723-5894 to let him know you are interested, or to receive further information. We look forward to serving with you in this way.

With thanks to God for all you do,

Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich
Vice President
Mission and Spiritual Care
Advocate Lutheran General surgeon travels to Dominican Republic to treat Haitian quake victims

Watching the daily reports of the devastation in Haiti, Jesse Butler, MD, an Advocate Lutheran General Hospital spine surgeon, "felt the trauma was so overwhelming that I had to get involved to provide my expertise with what I knew would be numerous spine injury victims."

Dr. Butler reached out to contacts in the Dominican Republic as well as friends and colleagues from Lutheran General to accompany him on a mission to heal. Within days, he'd organized a group of six care providers - including Lutheran General physician's assistant Alicia Granger-Carlson - and $10,000 in surgical equipment. With everything packed in their own checked luggage, they headed to Dario Contreras Hospital in Santo Domingo.

Under crude conditions of unbearable heat, little sterilization and no anesthetic save for over-the-counter analgesics, the nurses on the team treated 28 patients a day, while Dr. Butler performed 11 surgeries in five days. The patients ranged in age from 12 to 50 years -- most of them paraplegics.

"The force of the walls, ceilings and buildings that hit these victims was such that it literally separated their spines through the disk and the ligaments," he said, adding that the fortitude of the people they treated was like nothing he's experienced. "The youth and stoicism of these patients, under such dire conditions, still haunts me."

Adding to the nightmare the Haitian patients already experienced are the long-term health care needs. "They are going to need constant, ongoing health care - long after they've been treated at the hospital," Dr. Butler said. He is already putting together "teams of people," including more physicians from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/Lutheran General Children's Hospital to "go down and do what they can to continue our efforts."

The experience of going to Dario Contreras Hospital and taking care of these earthquake victims has "reminded me why we go into medicine," Dr. Butler said. "It's to take care of people." "This experience," he said, "makes me proud to be part of Advocate Health Care."
Connections

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE):
Snapshot of an Extended Program from January 5 through June 17, 2010
By Joseph Tamborini Czolgosz, manager of clinical and pastoral education

I describe our Extended CPE programs as “market-driven” because so much of the program is dependent on the “market” in which students focus their ministry. Recently, it became clear that applicants for our current program fell into two types. In the first type, more typical of the majority of Extended CPE programs, students’ learning goals were limited to one unit. The second type of applicant, with prior units of CPE, is currently engaged in ministry of some sort, and looking to become a certified professional chaplain.

With this combination in mind, I began learning and ministry with a group of “externs,” each with his or her unique story. Let me introduce them to you.

Chaplain Michele Gaspar, a doctor of veterinary medicine, is pursuing a joint program in pastoral studies and chaplaincy to better serve her veterinary peers and their clients as a consulting veterinary specialist. During this program, she serves as chaplain to some of the adult critical care areas of the hospital.

Chaplain Connie Choi is still in formation as a Presbyterian minister, yet seeks to specialize in pediatric chaplaincy. Chaplain Choi currently provides ministry on our medical/surgical 14th floor, which provides care for many patients facing long-term illness and the prospects of hospice care.

Chaplain Patrick Ames is part-time chaplain at Advocate Condell Medical Center. In this, his second unit of CPE, Chaplain Ames is focusing on critical care ministry, especially in the surgical intensive care unit and part of the cardiac telemetry areas on the fourth floor of the hospital.

Chaplain Hazan Fortunee’ Belilos is invested as cantor in the Conservative Jewish tradition and working as cantor at a Reform Temple in Glencoe, IL. Her goal in taking this fourth unit of CPE is to continue on the road toward certification as a chaplain and to create a blended ministry of part-time chaplaincy and part-time pulpit responsibilities. Chaplain Belilos is on the obstetrics and labor and delivery units of the hospital.

Rev. Shiju Samuel, an ordained Anglican priest of the Church of South India (CSI), is in his fourth CPE unit to continue his quest to be certified as an associate chaplain before returning to India later this spring. The Rev. Samuel is the pastor of St. Mark’s Church CSI, Park Ridge. During this program, Chaplain Samuel is ministering to patients on the oncology units of the new patient tower.

Deacon Louisett Ness of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago is the pastor of Church of the Incarnation and administrator of the Multi-Cultural Worship and Ministry Center in Bloomingdale. This is her third unit of CPE as she moves toward certification as a chaplain. She serves as chaplain to the orthopedic and rehabilitation units, and is gaining some experience with one of the outpatient psychiatric spirituality groups.

Rev. Peter Wojcik, associate pastor at St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church, enters his third unit of CPE as he prepares for professional pediatric chaplaincy. He serves as chaplain on the neo-natal intensive care unit and also helps provide sacramental ministry to Roman Catholic inpatients throughout the hospital.

We are grateful for this experientially varied group of CPE externs who are ministering and learning alongside our staff chaplains here. You may have an opportunity to work with one of them in the provision of spiritual care to one of your faith community members. If so, I hope you will ask them about their ministry and learning. They look forward to interacting with you at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.
Family Resource Library

How can we best serve our patients and their families while they are waiting for their loved ones undergoing surgery? We can do that by providing a comfortable and private waiting area, by keeping family members informed of the status of the surgery and answering any questions they might have.

At Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and Advocate Lutheran General Children’s Hospital, we take it to another level by offering families an opportunity to utilize the Family Resource Library.

The purpose of the Family Resource Library, donated by the John and Barbara Timmer family, is to provide a quiet setting for those who need to do some work, learn more about their loved one’s condition or just take their minds off the surgery. Family members have a variety of resources to refer to – a listing of trusted and reliable websites, and many books and materials that offer information on medical conditions as well as the emotional aspects of patient care.

The library is equipped with two computers, a printer, plenty of room and comfortable seating to allow family members to do work or research in a conducive space. The library is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The operations of the library are overseen by hospital volunteers.

Community Events

Holy Week Services:
Maundy Thursday (Roman Catholic Mass)
Thursday, April 1
3:30 p.m.
A.D. Johnson Chapel

Good Friday (Ecumenical)
Friday, April 2
Noon
A.D. Johnson Chapel

Easter
Sunday, April 4
Christian Worship Service (pre-recorded on Carevision)
11 a.m.
Carevision, channel 12

Roman Catholic Mass
3:30 p.m.
Johnson Auditorium

Brain Injury Support Group
Saturday, April 17
10 – 11:30 a.m.
Lutheran General Hospital, 10th Floor
Refreshments will be served
Call 847-723-6690 for more information

Doctors’ Day at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Lutheran General Hospital celebrated Doctors’ Day on March 15.

Doctors’ Day has been celebrated since March 30, 1933, the date marking the anniversary of the first use of general anesthetic in surgery. In 1990, a National Doctors’ Day was established by the U.S. Senate, and the first National Doctors’ Day was celebrated in 1991.

This year, as a way of recognizing and celebrating our doctors, the Department of Mission and Spiritual Care offered patients and associates a way to say “thank you” to the many doctors they encounter daily by completing a “Thank You Card” for a doctor that had touched their life in some meaningful way. The department collected the cards and on Doctors’ Day, we displayed the over 300 cards outside of the physicians lounge.

Docs vs Jocks (flyer attached)
Fundraiser for Midwest Children’s Brain Tumor Center at Advocate Lutheran General Children’s Hospital
Friday, April 23
6:45 – 10 p.m.
North Shore Ice Arena, 2111 Founders Drive, Northbrook, IL
To purchase tickets, visit www.advocatehealth.com/MCBTChockey

KIDS Fair – FREE! (flyer attached)
(Knowledge, Information, and Decisions on Safety)
Sunday, May 2
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Maine Township High School East
2601 Dempster Street, Park Ridge

Domestic Abuse Workshop (flyer attached)
Keeping All God’s People Safe
Wednesday, May 5
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Save the Date! 35th Annual Men & Women’s Association Golf Outing
Tuesday, June 8
Registration – 10 a.m.
Shot Gun Start – 12:30 p.m.
White Deer Run Golf Club
250 West Greggs Parkway, Vernon Hills
To register, call 847-723-8518
Questions and Answers
Hospital Visitation

As a patient, nothing can take the place of the presence of one’s own clergy; you give patients a sense of community and connection to their families of faith. We are grateful to have you here with patients as a part of the continuum of care in this place of healing.

Q: When I try to get information about one of my hospitalized parishioners, it is difficult due to the HIPAA Laws. What can I do?
A: There are several things you can do so HIPAA works in your favor.

- Make sure your congregation knows they can alert you, in advance, if they are going to be hospitalized. Ask them for as much information as you can - hospital name, date of hospitalization, type of surgery, doctor’s name. You may also ask for the name of a family ‘spokesperson’ who can give you continuing information.

- In cases of an emergency, make sure your congregation knows family members of a parishioner can alert you that the parishioner has been hospitalized. Again, get as much information as you can, especially the contact information from the notifying family member.

- HIPAA is most helpful in protecting patients privacy and giving them choices about who receives information. Make sure your congregation knows that, as a patient, they may have to list you, their clergyperson, as a contact. Also encourage your parishioners to choose a contact person within the family.

- Lastly, you can always call the department of mission and spiritual care office. Department secretaries keep updated census sheets, including denomination or faith community. If the patient’s name is listed on the census sheets, we will be able to provide you with that information; however if a patient chooses not to have their name listed, we may not be able to help.

Q: How can Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Chaplains help me and my parishioners during their hospital stay?
A: Part of our job is to assist you in taking care of your parishioners’ needs while they are hospitalized at Lutheran General Hospital. You can leave your phone number with us and we will be glad to contact you, with the patient’s permission, with updates or emergency information. Our chaplaincy staff also is available to provide support in specific areas including, but not limited to, pediatric ministry, trauma/emergency room ministry, end-of-life care and psychiatry. These chaplains are not meant to replace your ministry, but rather to supplement and augment the care you give.

Q: Can I call on Lutheran General Hospital chaplains for support even if I don't have parishioners in the hospital?
A: Yes! We are here for you and your community of faith. As stated above, many of our chaplains are trained in various specialty areas. We are available to consult with you concerning any questions you might have. We also are available to give educational talks and seminars at your places of worship about a variety of topics related to healthcare and ministry issues.

Q: How do I avoid getting sick if I keep visiting sick people?
A: First, be aware of your surroundings. One area of great importance is the outside of the patient's door. Watch for signs telling you if the patient is on any type of isolation or precautions. If you see any signage, ask a nurse what you need to do before entering/leaving the room. Many of these precautions are not only to keep you safe, but to insure that we do not bring any type of "bug" into the room to harm the patient. It is important to wash your hands before and after visiting with patients. If you cannot find a sink, there are hand sanitizers mounted on walls throughout the hospital. Again, this precaution is used to keep both you and the patient safe. It also halts the spread of bacteria throughout the hospital.

We are grateful for your presence and partnership as together we care for the members of your faith community. If there is anything we can do to help you in your ministry, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We look forward to answering your questions. Please send them to LGH-Mission-SpiritualCare@advocatehealth.com and watch for your answers in the next issue of Connections.
PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE
Wednesday, May 5th, 2010
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Please join us for:
Keeping ALL God’s People Safe:
compelling conversations about the presence of domestic abuse in our communities of faith

To be held at:
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
1775 Dempster, Park Ridge, Illinois

This conference is planned to engage clergy leaders of all faith traditions, chaplains, lay leaders, adult and child educators, all members of faith communities interested in being a part of creating a safe sanctuary for families when domestic violence is present.

Workshops will address the pastoral imperative of caring for the whole family: men, women and children. Denominational leaders can explore the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago’s mandatory, “Keeping God’s People Safe Abuse and Prevention Curriculum,” including the new curriculum for domestic violence.

Topics covered will include:
The role of pastoral care in intervention
The impact of domestic violence on the child witness
Men who batter and God’s Forgiveness
The connection between animal abuse and abuse of humans
Much more

For more information please contact:
Mission & Spiritual Care
847.723.6395

A brochure with registration information will follow.
CALLING ALL KIDS

KIDS FAIR
(Knowledge, Information, and Decisions on Safety)

May 2, 2010
11 am – 3 pm

Maine Township High School East
2601 Dempster Street, Park Ridge, IL

This community health and safety fair is for children of all ages. Featured activities include interactive fun with THE MIX 101.9 FM road crew, a bicycle obstacle course and helmet sale, family disaster preparedness, fire and train safety tips, DUI simulation, and Internet and cell phone safety. Enjoy special guest appearances and much more!

The KIDS Fair is sponsored by Advocate Lutheran General Children’s Hospital, the Park Ridge police and fire departments, and many other local organizations.

Don’t miss this free fair, which will provide “KIDS” and their families with “Knowledge, Information and Decisions on Safety.”
DOCS vs JOCKS
FOR THE MIDWEST CHILDREN’S BRAIN TUMOR CENTER
Advocate Lutheran General Children’s Hospital

FRIDAY, APRIL 23RD  6:45 - 10:00PM
OPENING CEREMONY 7:00 PM
GAME TIME: 7:15PM

!!! DRESS WARMLY !!!

North Shore Ice Arena
2111 Founders Drive
Northbrook, IL 60062

Ticket Prices:
$50.00 - Adult
$35.00 - Under 21
5 and under free

Price includes: Indoor Tailgating Party: Brats, Beef and Beer

To purchase tickets:
www.advocatehealth.com/MCBTChockey
Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Coach:
Dr. Dolan, obstetrics/gynecology

Honorary Coach:
Dr. Ruge, pediatric neurosurgery

Roster:
Dr. Aronov, pediatric anesthesiology
Dr. Bresch, orthopedic surgery
Dr. Chang, radiation oncology
Dr. Colombo, anesthesiology
Dr. Gordon, orthopedic surgery
Dr. Joob, cardiovascular surgery
Dr. Lazar, internal medicine
Dr. Locker, obstetrics/gynecology
Dr. Lygizos, otolaryngology
Dr. O’Leary, neurosurgery
Dr. Silas, gastroenterology
Dr. Williams, orthopedic surgery
Michael Verdonck

All proceeds to benefit the
Midwest Children’s Brain Tumor Center

Questions?
Contact Grace O’Connor, 847-723-5183

Auctioning a Patrick Kane autographed USA Olympic Jersey