to our friends and neighbors

DAVID L. CALLENDER, M.D
ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR, HOSPITAL SYSTEM, AND DIRECTOR, UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

Next July, we will celebrate 50 years of providing leading-edge care for patients who come from around the world to access our expertise. As we’ve provided compassionate care to many thousands of people over the past 50 years, we’ve also helped train thousands of new healthcare professionals to use the very latest approaches and techniques, and continued to advance the science of medicine through outstanding research. The dedication and commitment of our physicians and staff to our mission has resulted in our ongoing recognition as “Best in the West” for the past 15 years by U.S. News & World Report’s annual Best Hospitals survey. The great work of the people of UCLA Healthcare, begun so long ago, is continuing into the 21st century. We are extremely pleased that this work will take place in beautiful new hospitals.

Our new Westwood hospital will be ready for occupancy in 2006. The building, designed by renowned architect I. M. Pei, allows great flexibility for ongoing modification so that we can develop and quickly embrace new technologies and new approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

The new Santa Monica hospital, designed by Robert A. M. Stern, will be somewhat larger than our existing facility in Santa Monica, and will be a fitting location for existing and new programs. We are extremely pleased that our colleagues from Orthopaedic Hospital, located in downtown Los Angeles, will be joining our UCLA Orthopaedic Surgery service at our new Santa Monica facility. Santa Monica–UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital will offer access to one of the finest constellations of orthopaedic specialists in the world. The entire medical staff will be composed of outstanding community and university physicians who will provide a broad spectrum of leading-edge care and the highest levels of service to Santa Monica and the surrounding communities.

Considering the accomplishments of the past 50 years, we can take great pride in being a part of UCLA Healthcare. We accept the immense responsibility to continue the legacy left to us, and plan to use our modern new facilities to enhance our efforts to advance medicine, train the best healthcare providers, and provide excellent care and service to our community of patients. We are honored to serve you and we thank you very much for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

David L. Calleender

ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR, HOSPITAL SYSTEM, AND DIRECTOR, UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
re:building construction updates fall ’04

UCLA Alum Oversees Construction Team

In 1959, UCLA freshman Dale Gold witnessed first hand the growth of the young campus. He was among the first group of students to move into the newly built Dykstra Hall dormitory. Across campus, UCLA Medical Center, which opened in 1955, was serving the community in what was then a modern, state-of-the-art facility.

Dale has returned to his roots as senior project manager for Tutor Saliba, the general contractor for the Westwood replacement medical center. Dale is responsible for "taking the planning documents and producing a product."

His 60-hour workweek involves coordinating upwards of 50 contractors. Once a week, he tries to walk the entire construction site, an endeavor that takes him eight hours. "I ride the elevator up to the eighth floor of each of the four towers and walk each floor, spiraling down while making mental notes. There are 1.2 million square feet to cover!" he relates.

Early on, Dale was directed to UCLA. Born in Oklahoma but raised in Los Angeles, his 11th grade English teacher (a UCLA alumna) encouraged him to apply to the college. During his UCLA years, he married, started a family, and worked in construction for his father. Dale graduated in 1965 with a bachelor’s degree in civil structures that dates you!" he muses.

"When I went to work for Newberg Construction in 1968, my first job was right here on campus. I physically participated in a significant amount of the construction on the campus. Some of the buildings we built will be torn down when the new hospital opens; that’s my affiliation with the school," he observes. "This is a dormitory. Across campus, UCLA Medical Center, which opened in 1955, was serving the community in what was then a modern, state-of-the-art facility.

How Do You Move a Hospital?

A Anyone who has ever moved residences knows, planning a few weeks ahead cuts costs and chaos. Coordinating a hospital’s move—complete with equipment, staff and patients—takes years of planning.

“Our transition planning began in Spring 2000 with interviews of all the departments moving to the new Westwood replacement hospital. From those interviews, we put together a milestone list of what needs to be accomplished in order to move into the hospital, the approximately 650 milestones range from validating the new locks to developing and implementing new staffing models,” reflects Kelly Guzman, R.N., director of transition planning. “A steering committee with multiple sub-committees was developed to oversee these tasks.

Flexibility is key. Guzman says, and multiple contingency plans are a must. She, along with other transition leaders, confers with other hospitals that have made similar moves to share ideas and plans.

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center will start moving in November 2005, beginning with the emergency department and labs. The bulk of the Westwood move will occur in a four- to six-week time period in the summer of 2006. Six months prior to that, many of the support services will begin moving into the new hospital to prepare the building for the patient move. Administrators and others not directly impacted by patient care will begin moving approximately 20 days out.

With this advance preparation, only patients will travel on patient-move day. In Santa Monica, patients will be transferred via the corridors that connect throughout the hospital. Since the Westwood hospital is moving across the street, patients will be transported by shuttle or ambulance, with appropriate medical staff.

Similar to the disaster drills in which staff frequently participates, Guzman plans to stage several mock moves using pretend patients beginning six weeks before the actual day. The drills will take place on a Sunday, at the exact time planned for the move. Guzman notes, “We have great doctors and nurses who are very protective of their patients and I have no doubt that the patient move will go smoothly.”

Who to call with questions or concerns about either of our building projects:

Westwood: Melinda Bittan 310-794-6824
Santa Monica: Jean McNeil Wyner 310-319-4471

To discontinue receiving this newsletter, call 1-800-UCLA-MD1.

spotlight

SURGICAL SUITES OF THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE

The design of the new surgical suites in the Westwood and Santa Monica replacement hospitals reflects the way surgery is done today, and how it is envisioned for the future.

A sophisticated level of recording and control systems will easily incorporate new equipment. In addition to reducing cost and clutter, the surgeon’s job will be made easier, he or she will view images, for example, on an ergonomically positioned flat-screen monitor placed on an articulating arm that can be brought into the surgical field, so that the surgeon is looking directly at the working area rather than having to look across the room at a TV monitor mounted atop another piece of equipment.

UCLA’s new facilities will include technology designed to enhance educational capabilities. Cameras built into the handles of the operating room lights will enable images to be displayed on a wall-mounted plasma screen—which will also broadcast images from endoscopic cameras within patients—for medical students, residents, nurses and visiting surgeons.

Two-way videoconferencing capabilities will make it possible for full-motion, high-quality images and audio to be transmitted within or outside the hospital for both teaching and consultation during surgeries. "We’ll be able to teach beyond our borders, as well as to learn from others and assist with surgeries in remote locations,” notes James Atkinson, M.D., chief of pediatric surgery at Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA. “Community medical centers will have access to our university resources for education, proctoring and assistance with real-time access to our facilities.”

All of a patient’s healthcare providers will benefit from the new technology. “We can record selected images and append those as files to the electronic medical record with the operative reports so that anyone taking care of the patient who needs to understand the diagnosis and treatment can go to that report, click on an attachment, and actually see the findings and pathology,” Dr. Atkinson explains. In addition, the Center for Advanced Surgical and Interventional Technology (CASIT), a UCLA-based collaboration among surgery, engineering, and industry, is exploring innovative surgical approaches for the future, including robotics to perform minimally invasive procedures.