Welcome to the current edition of re:building, our newsletter designed to keep you up to date on the construction plans for UCLA’s replacement hospitals in Santa Monica and in Westwood. We think it is important for you to understand that both Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center in Westwood are essential parts of UCLA Healthcare.

In this issue, we highlight UCLA’s alliance with Orthopaedic Hospital. We are proud of this new arrangement and look forward to the day when we will be working together on our Santa Monica campus. The relationship with Orthopaedic Hospital will expand and strengthen our mission of providing excellent service in a teaching and research environment. Orthopaedic Hospital will be a wonderful partner for us; they have demonstrated over their more than 100-year-long history their capacity for innovation and dedicated service to those most in need of help in our community.

If you drive past Wilshire Boulevard and 15th Street in Santa Monica, you will see visible progress on our hospital there. The steel structure is well underway and we believe it makes a positive statement to our neighbors that we are here, and we are getting ready to serve our community in a unique role. We want our friends and neighbors in Santa Monica especially to see us as their resource for healthcare and as an asset to the community. We want you to be proud to have us in your midst and we will work hard to earn your trust and confidence in us as a good neighbor.

A key challenge that we also are addressing at both hospital projects, although it is not readily visible, is the transition planning process. This difficult and complex initiative is well underway. Hundreds of people are working together on teams to acquire the equipment we need, to plan the logistics of actually moving into the new hospitals, and to plan the development and implementation of the new systems that will permit us to operate in these new environments. This is a multi-year task that will take our dedicated staff many thousands of hours to complete.

Thank you for your interest in and support of our projects.

Sincerely,

Michael Karpf, M.D.
Westwood

Passers-by can now easily view the UCLA Westwood replacement medical center, located between Gayley Avenue and Westwood Boulevard, adjacent to the UCLA Medical Plaza complex. The steel structure has risen to eight stories above ground (two below), boasting four towers covered with travertine marble imported from Tivoli, Italy. The attachment of the marble and windows to the exterior, known as the “skin” of the building, will be completed by this summer (see cover photo).

“With 800 to 900 construction workers on the site daily, the pace we are keeping is equivalent to building one nice tract home per day!” notes Alvin Lee, AIA, UCLA project director. “We are on target to complete construction in 2004. The replacement hospital is slated to open in 2005.”

What people cannot see is the interior work underway. In the northeast tower, the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and dry wall placement will soon be completed. Several “construction mock-up” rooms are in progress to give an opportunity for the architectural team to review the colors, materials and placement of floors, tile, and cabinetry to make sure all was interpreted correctly from the plans. The “construction mock-up” rooms will include standard patient, psychiatric patient, labor and delivery, neonatal intensive care, operating, and intensive care rooms.

The Westwood replacement medical center is being built to replace the current structure that was built in 1951 and weakened in the 1994 Northridge earthquake. The new structure will be one of the first in the state to meet stringent new 2008 California seismic safety standards. The 1,050,000-square-foot hospital will house 525 beds in private rooms and 63 observational beds. The structure will combine the operations of UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital, and Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA.

Santa Monica

Construction continues on Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital’s 271-bed replacement hospital, taking shape around the existing Santa Monica-UCLA facility in Santa Monica. Presently, construction is focused on three aspects of the $260-million project: (1) a new Central Plant, (2) the Southwest Wing featuring a new Emergency Center, and (3) the Orthopaedic Hospital facility.

Central Plant: Final preparations are being made to the Central Plant, which will power both the existing and replacement hospitals. In addition to being seismically safer than its predecessor, the new plant will feature advanced technology that is more energy-efficient and reliable than the current equipment.

It also will be more environmentally friendly. The plant will generate fewer emissions and make it easier for the new hospital to meet future—likely more stringent—air-quality standards. Construction officials expect the new plant to be operational before summer.

Southwest Wing: Adjacent to the Central Plant, construction progresses on the Southwest Wing, which will house inpatient units and a new, 13,000-square-foot Emergency Center to better meet the needs of the 25,000 patients who seek emergency care from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center each year.

“One of the best features of the new Emergency Center will be the capability of providing fast-track service to patients with minor illnesses and injuries,” says Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Emergency Center. “Its design will also enable us to provide more efficient and compassionate care, thanks to a better layout, centralized work station, and an observation unit where patients can be continuously observed and monitored before being admitted to the hospital or discharged home.”

In addition to containing state-of-the-art medical equipment, the new Emergency Center will feature rooms that provide greater versatility for diagnosis and treatment and afford maximum privacy, Dr. Ghurabi adds.

Plans call for the new center to open in September 2004.

Orthopaedic Hospital: The structural steel framework for the new Orthopaedic Hospital facility was recently completed and is clearly visible at Wilshire Boulevard and 15th Street in Santa Monica. When this facility is finished, it will house an outpatient clinic, the UCLA Department of Orthopaedics’ administrative and faculty offices, other administrative offices, a library, and a museum.
spotlight
UNIQUE ALLIANCE EXPANDS ORTHOPAEDIC CARE

In 2005, when the replacement project is completed, Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center will have not only undergone renovation, but also will boast a new name: Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital. The name reflects a unique alliance between UCLA Healthcare and Orthopaedic Hospital in downtown Los Angeles that will expand and enhance the clinical, teaching, and research capabilities of both institutions.

For more than 90 years, Orthopaedic Hospital has been a recognized leader in research, teaching, and patient care in orthopaedic medicine, resulting in an improved quality of life for children and adults with crippling diseases. Orthopaedic Hospital has helped countless children receive the finest care in the world, regardless of their families’ ability to pay. Orthopaedic Hospital will relocate its inpatient services to Santa Monica, while continuing to provide outpatient services at its downtown facility.

Some of the highlights of the alliance include:

❖ A separate entrance to orthopaedic services in Santa Monica will be located on the corner of 15th Street and Wilshire Boulevard and will include an outpatient clinic for patients of all ages, as well as inpatient facilities. UCLA Medical Center in Westwood will continue to treat level-one orthopaedic trauma cases.

❖ The new Orthopaedic Hospital Institute recently opened adjacent to Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center at 1245 16th Street and offers comprehensive medical care for musculoskeletal conditions, including a children’s clinic, which provides care to all pediatric patients without regard to financial circumstances.

❖ Construction will begin on the UCLA Westwood campus of a 100,000-square-foot basic science/muscular research center to enhance collaboration among researchers. The Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital Foundation provided $30 million toward this project.

❖ The Orthopaedic Hospital Medical Magnet High School is being constructed by the Los Angeles Unified School District on part of the downtown site and will expose students to the healthcare field.

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

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