SAFETY COACHES CELEBRATED AT RECOGNITION EVENTS

Mercy’s safety coaches play a very important role in the organization, assuring our patients and staff have a safe and remarkable Mercy Experience. Recently, recognition events took place at Mercy central campus and Mercy West Lakes to honor the coaches’ important efforts within the organization. “We Celebrate You” was the theme for the second annual Safety Coach Recognition Events, with members of senior leadership in attendance at the celebrations highlighting the program’s people and successes.

Mercy has approximately 70 safety coaches, housed on most nursing floors/units and departments throughout the organization. The safety coaches receive special training to provide peer checking and peer coaching in and outside of their departments. They make observations and encourage the use of error prevention techniques to help provide a safe environment for our patients and staff. Safety coaches meet monthly to review observation tools, discuss safety coach challenges, share best practices and lessons learned, and review safety initiatives from the SafetyFirst Top Ten Focus List departments are working on.

Safety is important in everything we do at Mercy. Thank you to the safety coaches for their dedication to keeping our patients and staff safe by putting SafetyFirst!

THANKS FOR CREATING A REMARKABLE (AND SAFE) MERCY EXPERIENCE!

MERCY CENTRAL CAMPUS
Mary Beth Aguire
Alex Algreen
Sara Appletoft
Jess Bair
Tiffany Beyer
Breann Bowe
Kerrie Bunnell
Angie Carroll
Cory Castaner
Amanda Dahlstrom
Dona Duve
Katrina Emery
Ruth Flaherty
Candice Gries
Rachel Hall
Jessica Halsted
Sharon Hanson
Kari Haskin
Courtney Held
Kasey Heuton
Tracy Hilsabeck
Nicole Hines
Stefanie Hingtgen
Katlyn Hohl
Ellyn Houdeshell
Ebonie Jackson
Derrick Jefferson
Maria Johnson
Matt Klein
Sara Kraus
Terra Lacina
Allison Larson
Eileen Le
Susan Leatherman
Anthony Livingston
Michelle McGrath-Rothmeyer
Kathy Naja
Veronica Natera
Ethan Nelson
Matt Pasma
Sarah Pederson
Nicole Perrault
Jessica Perry
Ryan Pollock
Amber Probasco
Tim Puck
Jennifer Rouse
Jorden Rudolph
Mia Ruh
Ronda Saltzman-Cameron
Shelley Sanford
Barb Saville
Kelli Schnurr
Michelle Sevier
Deb Sirfus
Josh Steeples
Jeanie Stickman
Bill Stirling
Brenda Sullivan
Ashley Sunderman
Beckye Tate
Anne Timmerman
Keith Wachter
Lisa Walker

MERCY WEST LAKES
Corrine Conley
Karen Dluhos
Jordyn Fontenot
Connie Foreman
Ashley Geyerman
Brian Hardie
Ann Moylan
Jacque Perkins
Kristin Platz
Katie Popp
Kalli Shields
Annie Stella
The Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA) recently named Aneesa Afroze, M.D., this year’s recipient of its Patient Care Partner Award. Dr. Afroze is an infectious disease consultant with CIC Associates, P.C., serving as director of the Anti-Microbial Stewardship program, and is the current chair of the Internal Medicine Department at Mercy. She was recognized for her efforts to include pharmacists on infectious disease teams at Mercy Medical Center and for expanding learning opportunities for medical residents, pharmacy residents and pharmacy students.

“It is exciting to see the expansion of pharmacists on infectious disease teams to improve stewardship. Dr. Afoze has been a leader, and her team-based approach to care exemplifies the intent of IPA’s Patient Care Partner Award,” said Kate Gainer, Pharm.D., IPA’s executive vice president and CEO.

The Patient Care Partner Award is presented to a physician, medical practice, clinic or other health care provider who has developed a patient care program that works cooperatively with patients and pharmacists to optimize care. With an emphasis on collaboration, the award recognizes an innovative and creative practice that demonstrates an enhanced level of care in an Iowa community and brings health care providers together to better serve their patients.

Changes in OB services starting Aug. 1

The Birthing Unit at Mercy West Lakes will be closing and moving all services to Mercy’s central campus as of Monday, Aug. 1. This move comes as part of Mercy’s efforts to better utilize available facilities and staff.

The decision to consolidate obstetric services was made in response to the changing health care needs of the community. While birthing rates have held fairly steady, demand for specialty and elective surgical cases like joint replacement and weight loss surgery have continued to rise. Consolidating obstetric services to Mercy central campus will allow staff to better serve the ever-increasing volumes of high-acuity patients in need of intensive medical care.

With the closure of the Birthing Unit at Mercy West Lakes, there have been a few changes in the birthing services offered. A popular amenity at Mercy West Lakes will now be available at Mercy’s central campus. Volunteer birth doulas will be available to patients on a first-come, first-served basis. All birthing classes will be moving to central campus starting in August. Visit mercy.dm/babyclasses to see the updated class schedule and to register.

Dr. Aneesa Afroze was recently awarded special recognition from the Iowa Pharmacy Association. She is pictured receiving the award. Present for the award were (l-r): IPA Executive Vice President and CEO Kate Gainer; Dr. Afroze; nominators Kelly Percival and Jeff Brock; and IPA President Bob Greenwood.

More than 100 people gathered Friday, July 15, to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new Mercy Ottumwa Medical Clinic. The expanded clinic, slated to open by late Spring 2017, will provide family medicine, internal medicine, urgent care and physical therapy in a 32,800 square-foot facility. Nineteen new staff members – including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other medical professionals – are expected to be added to the clinic’s current staff of 38. The project was made possible, in part, thanks to a grant award from the Ottumwa Regional Legacy Foundation, which has committed $600,000 to the project.

Before a ceremonial turning of dirt, remarks were given by Bob Ritz, president of Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines; Dr. Peter Reiter, medical director of Mercy Ottumwa Medical Clinic; Joe LeValley, senior vice president, planning and advocacy for Mercy Health Network; and Ottumwa Mayor Tom Lazio. A benediction was delivered by Fr. Patrick Hilgendorf, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Ottumwa.