MERCY CANCER CENTER WELCOMES NEW PATIENT NAVIGATOR

Mercy Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society (ACS) recently entered into a partnership that created a new patient navigator position at Mercy. The patient navigator program is based on a nationwide ACS initiative which includes 109 patient navigators in approximately 100 cancer centers.

Connie Mensing is the face of the program at Mercy. She started in the role Sept. 6, and has since been learning the inner workings of the Cancer Center and shadowing in the center’s various departments. Connie’s experience includes teaching, volunteering for hospice and being a LiveStrong program instructor at the YMCA Healthy Living Center.

“The partnership between the American Cancer Society and Mercy Cancer Center presents a wonderful opportunity to assist newly-diagnosed cancer patients (and those facing a recurrence) who are receiving treatment at Mercy,” according to Liddy Hora, health systems manager, hospitals for the American Cancer Society. “Connie will be fully integrated into the Mercy Cancer Center team, and will be able to help patients and caregivers identify resources such as transportation, lodging and other resources to help eliminate barriers to treatment for patients being cared for.”

ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING

It is truly a privilege to serve the needs of every person who needs our care – this is the essence of The Remarkable Mercy Experience. We invite you to read our 2016 Annual Report for examples of how you - Mercy’s health care providers and staff – have joined together to Live Up in support of our patients, guests and each other. Click here.
In honor of National Diabetes Month, we’re proud to highlight Mercy’s DiaBEATes champions! Formed in Sept. 2010, the members of this group work to, as their name suggests, wage a battle against diabetes – a disease affecting 27 million Americans.

One of the goals of this group is to increase the diabetes management skills of nurses throughout the hospital. Currently, most units at Mercy have two DiaBEATes champions to serve as a resource for staff and to aid in improving patient outcomes.

Brenda Dolan, clinical nurse specialist, developed the program at Mercy hoping to empower caregivers to serve as advocates for patients with diabetes. “I’m proud of the work we’ve done to improve glucose management in the hospital through training, pen/syringe conversions and ongoing updates on the latest in diabetes care,” she said.

Take an opportunity to thank your DiaBEATes champions at Mercy for their role in improving the quality of life for our patients living with diabetes!

**DIABETES CHAMPIONS HELP IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

DiaBEATes champions at Mercy work to help patients improve their quality of life through better management of their diabetes symptoms. They include, back row (l-r): Kristen Meyer, Abbey Modlin, Kelly Potthoff, Amber Mauritiz, Jill Cooley, Hailey Shireman, Courtney Miller, Melinda Brosh, Tammy Hardy, Jill Davis and Gina Havelick. Front row (l-r): Andrea Rose, Mollie McNitt, Mary Ann Hatfield, Becky Sapp and Sara Kraus. DiaBEATes champions not pictured are: Hannah Gonneman, Baylee Davidson, Heather Kellner, Melissa Mozena, Allison Harrington, Laura Jetter, Brittany Weg, Sue Warnell, Doreen Pearson, Anne Murphy, Mary James, Sherri Biederman and Alexis Caluzzi.

**NEWS BRIEFS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congratulations to . . .**

Shelley Bartz, NICU, and Nick, on the birth of their daughter, Eden. Eden was born on Nov. 4, and was welcomed home by Emme, 18 months.

Heather Mills, Cath Lab Recovery, and Adam, on the birth of their son, Kason Asher. Kason was born on Nov. 7, and was welcomed home by Cameron, 4, and Kyle, 1.

Sam Schone, Mercy Connect, and Cate, on the birth of their daughter, Jane Cecilia. Jane was born on Nov. 10, and was welcomed home by George, 2.

Ashley Connell, 8 South, and Kevin, on the birth of their daughter, Lydia. Lydia was born on Nov. 11, and was welcomed home by Eliza, 5, and Rowan, 2.

**With sympathy to . . .**

Susan Allender, Medical Education & Research, on the death of her mother.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

The editorial team for Mercy’s “Bulletin” newsletter sends warm Thanksgiving wishes to the entire Mercy Family. Due to the holiday, there will be no “Bulletin” published on Friday, Nov. 25.

**Meet our latest Spirit of Mercy Award winner!**

Shawna Gunn, RN, BSN

Every day offers a new learning opportunity for Shawna Gunn, RN, BSN, nursing supervisor on 7 South – Telemetry, and she really enjoys that! It is this positive outlook that played a role in her being named the latest Spirit of Mercy Award winner.

“I love getting to know my patients and their families. I also love the team I work with,” Shawna said. “Nursing is a challenging profession, and some days the demands can be pretty overwhelming. We have a phenomenal team on 7 South, though. We work together to ensure our patients are well taken care and our team members have the help they need throughout the day.”

Shawna, who has been with Mercy for about eight years, strongly believes that Living Up is simply doing whatever you can to make someone’s day a little brighter. “We all do small “Live Up” gestures every day,” she said, “which is a big part of what makes Mercy such a great place to work and visit!”

In her time away from Mercy, Shawna keeps busy with her family – husband, Matthew, and her three children, ages 9, 7 and 5.

**CONTACT US**

The Bulletin is published weekly for staff and friends of Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2611

If you are interested in submitting information to be printed in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.

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