A SMILE AND KINDNESS DELIVER CARE IN THE SPIRIT OF MERCY

Medical testing can be challenging for a patient, depending on the test and the outcome. For a patient who is unable to communicate during a test because of a behavioral handicap, the experience can be extremely unsettling. This month’s Spirit of Mercy Award winner, Danielle Waful, recently used her smile and gift of compassion to assure a patient she would stay by his side — calming his fears — and providing peace during a stressful time.

Danielle is keenly aware of the care environment in the ultrasound department at central campus. Her patients receive her complete attention and when a patient or staff member might need extra help, she is there always there.

Danielle’s supervisor explained that even though it was not her patient, she could see the patient’s discomfort and fear. She knew this patient needed someone and she filled that need. She was able to calm the patient and was able to get him to talk. She stayed by the patient’s side throughout the procedure.

With the patient more at ease, Danielle and the ultrasound team were able to complete the testing.

Colleagues say this is the type of care Danielle provides daily. Her patients receive excellent care and it is delivered with the respect and integrity she would want her family to receive. Through her actions, Danielle has shown the healing power of a smile and the importance of listening and sharing a kind word.

Clinical excellence is an expectation. Attending to the human needs of our patients continues the ministry of the Sisters of Mercy.

Congratulations, Danielle, on your Spirit of Mercy Award and thank you for providing us with a great example of caring for the medical and human needs of the patients we have the privilege to serve.

ACR ACCREDITATION GRANTED
MERCY CANCER CENTER RADIATION ONCOLOGY (MCCRO)

Mercy Cancer Center’s central campus and West Lakes Radiation Oncology centers have been granted full reaccreditation through the American College of Radiology (ACR)’s Radiation Oncology Practice Accreditation program through July 2020. Mercy’s is the only radiation oncology practice in central Iowa to obtain this accreditation.

The ACR awards accreditation for the achievement of high practice standards after a peer-review evaluation of a practice. Image quality, procedure evaluations, quality control procedures and quality assurance are conducted by board-certified radiologists and medical physicists who are experts in the field.

“MCCRO remains one of only two radiation oncology departments in Iowa to voluntarily submit to this comprehensive and rigorous review of all facets of our patient care. This accreditation is a strong testament to the outstanding work each of our colleagues does every day with expertise, compassion and empathy,” said Dr. Phil Colletier, Mercy Cancer Center Radiation Oncology Medical Director.
**NO SHOT NO SCHOOL INITIATIVE FIGHTS MENINGITIS**

Spending a lot of time together, sharing food and being involved in group activities can be all it takes to expose middle and high school students to the meningitis virus.

Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics, the Polk County Health Department and the Des Moines medical community have banded together to get the word out that seventh and 12th grade students must now be vaccinated to prevent meningitis.

Through the “No Shot No School” campaign, Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics is reminding Iowa parents on TV, radio, social media and billboards that a new state law requires the shots. Meningitis can be deadly if left unchecked. It can start with a high fever, muscle pain and nausea, and may lead to swelling of the brain and even death.

The Des Moines Public Schools Communications Officer says the district is thankful to have help sharing this important message. “With Iowa’s largest and most diverse student population, reaching every new seventh and 12th grade student who needs the vaccine is a challenge. It’s great to have support from our partners in the medical community.”

The meningitis vaccine is available at Mercy pediatric, family medicine and quick care clinics. Students can get the vaccine at the same time they get their back-to-school or athletic physicals.

**NEW CLINICAL TRIAL TARGETS AFIB PATIENTS**

Mercy and Iowa Heart Center are participating in a clinical trial evaluating a new treatment option for patients with persistent and/or longstanding atrial fibrillation (AFib).

The AMAZE clinical trial is evaluating a new approach that combines catheter ablation with the use of a device called the LARIAT Suture Delivery Device to close off the heart’s left atrial appendage (LAA), a muscular pouch connected to the left atrium of the heart. The LARIAT is a permanent, non-surgical option for LAA closure that uses remote suture delivery to close the LAA from the outside of the heart.

In some patients with AFib (quivering or irregular heartbeat), the LAA does not contract effectively and can become a source of stroke-causing blood clots. The LAA may also be a source of abnormal electrical activity that triggers AFib.

Catheter ablation, a common treatment for AFib, is a technique used to destroy small areas in the heart that may be causing rhythm issues by sending electrical (or sometimes cold) energy to the problem area.

The randomized, controlled AMAZE trial is enrolling 600 persistent and/or longstanding persistent AFib patients who are candidates for pulmonary vein isolation (PVI) catheter ablation. The objective of AMAZE is to determine if the LARIAT procedure, plus a PVI ablation, will lead to a reduced incidence of recurrent AFib compared to PVI alone.

"The AMAZE trial could help validate the mechanical and electrical isolation benefits of the LARIAT device and demonstrate that it will reduce or eliminate these electrical triggers. It may eventually become an important component in reducing recurrence in patients with persistent AFib," says site principal investigator Troy Hounshell, D.O., electrophysiologist at Iowa Heart Center.

To find out more about the AMAZE trial at Mercy, please call Iowa Heart Center Research at (515) 633-3842.

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**

**LAUREN GRUNDMEIER, MS, RD, CSP, CNSC, LD**

Lauren is a Clinical Pediatric Dietitian Specialist who works with patients, families and physicians to provide education and nutritional guidance to best fit each patient’s dietetic needs.

In Lauren’s 10 years at Mercy, she has enjoyed seeing the substantial role nutrition has in the development and healing processes of every patient she is privileged to serve. She is also excited to continue working on a project that will improve ways of diagnosing and treating patients suffering from malnutrition!

**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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