NEW PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM WILL ADDRESS SHORTAGE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines, a major provider of inpatient and outpatient services for children and adults in need of behavioral, substance abuse or addiction care, has received approval to begin training of psychiatric residency physicians in July 2018.

“This new program will help us address a growing public health crisis and the shortage of providers taking care of mental health in the state of Iowa,” said Mercy chief physician officer and vice president of medical affairs Tommy Ibrahim, M.D., MHA, CPE, FHM, FACHE. “We are especially thankful for the state’s willingness to fund a portion of the program. It demonstrates the state’s acknowledgement of the need for behavioral health improvements.”

Following a site review visit earlier this year, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved a three-year accreditation for the Iowa Medical Education Collaborative Psychiatry Residency Program at Mercy – Des Moines. The ACGME Institutional Residency Review Committee commended Mercy for its demonstrated substantial compliance with the ACGME’s Institutional Requirements. The residency program is a collaborative effort involving Mercy – Des Moines and the Iowa Department of Public Health and is expected to help improve access to behavioral health services in Iowa.

“This initiative represents Mercy’s firm commitment to invest in mental health and establish more resources for our state,” said Mercy psychiatry residency program director and medical director of behavioral health Sasha Khosravi, D.O. “We look forward to the challenge of creating an outstanding program that produces excellent and compassionate care for a population sorely in need of more providers.”

Mercy has started the recruitment process for four first-year students. Students will be matched and selected in the spring of 2018. The four-year program will have a total of 16 residents when all classes have been filled. Residents will receive training in inpatient care, pediatric behavioral care, neurology, emergency behavioral care, substance abuse and community health.

Stroke survivors can do anything they put their hearts to - including being an artist! On May 4, Mercy partnered with the American Heart Association Iowa to kick – off Stroke Month with Strokes 4 Life – a new socializing event aimed to connect younger stroke survivors and their families with one another. Artwork from this event will be turned into a mural and displayed on one of the walls leading to McDonalds on A Level at Mercy central campus.
Todd Eberle, D.O., resident with the Mercy Family Medicine Residency Program, was recently selected to receive the Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award by the third-year students of the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, this award is given annually to resident physicians who demonstrate “commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients and families, students and colleagues.”

Dr. Eberle will be formally recognized at the annual Gold Foundation banquet on June 7.

International Kangaroo Care Awareness Day is celebrated on Monday, May 15, and the Mercy Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) will be celebrating by kicking off a two-week long “Kangaroo-athon.”

Kangaroo care is a developmentally supportive practice that allows parents to hold their baby with direct skin-to-skin contact. This research-based intervention has been shown to stabilize heart rate and oxygen levels, support brain growth and development, improve sleep cycles, feeding and digestion, and reduce pain and stress in the infant. It also supports parent infant bonding and reduces caregiver anxiety following a NICU admission.

Staff in the Mercy NICU recognize the extreme importance of this special infant/parent experience and encourage parents to begin kangaroo care as soon as possible following admission – even with the very smallest and sickest babies requiring mechanical ventilation. During the Mercy kangaroo-athon, parents will engage in skin-to-skin contact as often and as long as the infant can tolerate; frequency of holding will be recorded and posted in the unit and all participants will be eligible for prize drawings.

Take this opportunity to recognize our speech-language pathologists during Better Speech and Hearing Month! Speech-language pathologists identify, assess and treat speech and language problems, which an estimated 40 million Americans experience.