



the *Connection*

An online publication of CUMC

March 3, 2010

Creighton University Medical Center is proud to present *The Connection*. We hope you'll enjoy the new format, layout and detailed stories. *The Connection* will now be delivered in a bi-weekly format so that we can provide better information.

Enjoy!

Spotlight

Another Chance: CUMC Trauma Program Plays Key Role in Saving Life of Patient with Brain Injury

"I didn't know if he would survive. I was hysterical."

After arriving in the emergency room at Midlands, a cat scan showed brain damage and Tony was immediately air lifted to Creighton University Medical Center as a trauma patient.

People First: Behind the Scenes- Human Resources

Meet the team of CUMC's Human Resources Department.

Leader's Voice: Building Primary Care

A message from CEO Gary Honts

Patient Focus: Patient Safety Week

This week is **National Patient Safety Awareness Week (PSAW)**, a national education and awareness-building campaign for improving patient safety at the local level.

News & Announcements

- CUMC Named Blue Cross Blue Shield Distinction Center
- March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month
- Employee Forums- March 17!
- CUMC Hosts Trauma Symposium

Another Chance: CUMC Trauma Program Plays Key Role in Saving Life of Patient with Brain Injury



On October 10, 2009, the first snowfall of the season had just fallen in the Omaha metro area. 24-year-old Tony Speth was leaving for the day to run errands. His mother Gayle Novotny-Morin says she had a strange feeling and didn't want him to go.

"I had a sinking feeling that day, I remember it so well. He had moved in with me two weeks before. It was the first snow of the season he was already in his coat and he said he was leaving. Something just didn't feel right that day. He left the house," Gayle recalls.

Tony a healthy and busy, working student, first stopped at the Pinnacle Bank in Papillion to open a bank account. He was standing in front of a bank teller when he had a sudden seizure and fell to the hard tile floor, hitting his head. Bank employees immediately jumped into action and an ambulance arrived within minutes taking Tony to the nearest hospital, Midlands, in Papillion.

"I remember looking out the window and I just got a bad feeling. I got a call 45 minutes later. They said, you should probably come right away."

Tony's mother, Gayle, who had just finished working as a NORS (Nebraska Organ Recovery System) representative, meeting with families of possible organ donors, says she feared the worst.

"I knew too much and I didn't know if he would survive. I was hysterical."

After arriving in the emergency room at Midlands, a cat scan showed brain damage and Tony was immediately air lifted to Creighton University Medical Center as a trauma patient.



Gayle says she was impressed with how fast Tony was able to get into surgery, “The fact that he was in surgery within three and 1/2 hours of his accident, is why he survived.”

Sylvanus Ayeni, M.D. was the neurosurgeon on call. He says timing played a factor in Tony’s case.

“Timing is very critical in the treatment of patients with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The earlier the patient is taken to a Medical Center with expertise to manage TBI, the better the outcome.”

Each day stretched on as Gayle, and Tony’s father, his step parents, family and friends waited for his condition to improve. They chronicled his journey on his caringbridge.org page, as they held vigil for him by his bedside and in the ICU waiting room.

Slowly, signs of moving, following commands, and coughing on his own, Tony began his path toward recovery.

Now, more than four months after his brain injury, Tony has no memory of what happened that day or the next 20 days in the hospital. He has recovered relatively quickly. He is back to work and normal activities and starts school again this summer.

“My word memory, sometimes I can’t remember words, but it’s gotten a lot better. I have nerve damage on my left arm—wrist, and fingers don’t work,” says Tony.

After a follow up appointment, February 19, Tony says he was thankful he had Dr. Ayeni on his case.

“He is really nice. He did a really good job. He basically saved my life.”

Tony’s family is also extremely thankful for the support and care he received at Creighton University Medical Center.

“I have such gratitude and count my blessings everyday that he survived. I am so thankful to the medical team at Creighton, everybody, the bank personal, medical team at Midlands, the medical team here. Also, for the Trauma team, the ICU staff, the Pulmonary Critical Care team, Critical Care nurses, ICU nurses, residents, fellows, Pastoral Care, Social workers, everybody. Family, friends. My heart swells with gratitude with all the people who supported us,” says Gayle.



Tony has had to listen to what others have told him about his time in the hospital, but he says he does now have a different outlook on life.

“I deal with life in a different way. I’m more appreciative. It makes me feel really good, it’s a lot easier, things don’t bother me as much as they used to. It’s an eye-opener I guess.”

One on One with Dr. Ayeni

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month, so we asked neurosurgeon Dr. Ayeni to answer a few questions about brain injuries.



Q: How critical is time in treating a brain injury patient?

A: "Timing is very critical in the treatment of patients with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The earlier the patient is taken to a Medical Center with expertise to manage TBI, the better the outcome."

Q: How important of a role does our trauma program, (having access to trauma surgeons, neurosurgeons, radiology technicians, etc.) for treating brain injuries?

A: "Having a comprehensive trauma program with the expertise you mentioned including Critical Care/Pulmonary specialists is the key to the successful management of these patients."

Q: Can something like what happened with Tony happen to anyone?

A: "Absolutely. It can certainly happen to anyone."

Q: Obviously you can't prevent what happened, but is there something people should know about brain injuries, or treatment of brain injuries?

A: "The important thing to do is to recognize the situation. For example if there is a brain injury or the possibility of a brain injury, you should immediately call 911 or the EMS right away. Also, avoid moving the patient until the EMS or Paramedics arrive. Obviously, if the patient stops breathing before EMS arrives, CPR should be performed."

Q: Anything else you would like to add?

A: "The treatment of patients with TBI continues to evolve. We have certainly come a long way in the last several decades. These improvements have been powered by basic research and further understanding of brain function, by improvement in surgical techniques and by technology. However, we still have a lot to learn about the brain and this mission is being pursued vigorously in several academic and research institutions around the world."



Meet Dr. Ayeni

Sylvanus Ayeni, M.D.

Neurosurgeon, Associate Professor of Surgery

Dr. Ayeni joined the Creighton University Medical Center Neurosurgery Division in 2008.

Dr. Ayeni's areas of focus are:

- Brain tumor surgery
- Skull base surgery
- Vascular neurosurgery (brain aneurysm)
- Basic spine surgery
- General neurosurgery

Prior to joining Creighton, Dr. Ayeni held professional appointments at several institutions, including Howard University College of Medicine in

Washington, D.C., Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX and U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland, CA.

Ayeni graduated in 1972 from University of Lagos, College of Medicine, in Lagos, Nigeria. He completed a rotating internship at University College Hospital in Nigeria and a surgical internship and general surgery residency training at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. Ayeni trained as a neurosurgeon at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics and completed a microvascular fellowship at Saint Louis University Health Sciences Center. He later completed fellowship training in skull-base surgery in Germany and Japan.

People First: Behind the Scenes- Human Resources

Meet the team of CUMC's Human Resources Department.



The Human Resource Department is responsible for the employment related functions for all of our 1,100 hospital employees. Because our mission and function is to serve employees we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce our staff and help explain the primary functions each team member is responsible for along with their contact information. Representatives from the Human Resource Department will also be making rounds to all Department meetings in the next few months to introduce ourselves, be available to answer your questions, and most importantly seek your input on how we can better serve you. It is our desire to care for the employees here at CUMC so that we may all care for the patients we serve.



Jeremy Falke – HR Director

Ext. 4553 – jeremy.falke@tenethealth.com

Works with the both hospital leaders and employees to better understand employee needs, organizational process, and the HR policy for CUMC where the two meet. With a focus on key people metrics such as recruitment of new staff and retention of our talented current staff he works to develop continual programmatic employee improvements. Jeremy also serves as a member of the hospital's Senior Management team to ensure that our people processes are a part of the hospital's strategy, vision and progress.



Kris Nielsen – HR Manager

Ext. 4447 – kristine.nielsen@tenethealth.com

- Updates and enforces HR Policies
- Maintains compensation program
- Oversee all HR functions



Amber Derickson – HR Representative

Ext. 4460 – amberr.derickson@tenethealth.com

- Administers tuition reimbursement and loan repayment programs
- Assists visitors with completing job applications
- Handles sale of books for BCLS, ACLS and PALS classes
- Responsible for all status changes in the HR system



Laura Clark – HR Generalist

Ext. 4462 – laurab.clark@tenethealth.com

- Administers benefit programs
- Handles leave of absence requests
- Tracks licensures and certifications
- Responsible for the performance appraisal and merit process
- Coordinates worker's compensation



Ann Correll – Recruiter

Ext. 5436 – ann.correll@tenethealth.com

- Responsible for job postings and recruitment of all positions
- Coordinates hire process for CU scholarship students and Versant program
- Hiring for external candidates and internal transfers
- Performs exit interviews on employees leaving CUMC

Leader's Voice: Growth Initiative for CUMC & Creighton University

A message from CEO Gary Honts



This year, the LLC (Tenet & Creighton University Partnership) will add a new primary care clinic to the hospital system. We are excited about this new business venture and how it will support the growth of our hospital as well as our Creighton Medical Associates partner.

Primary care physicians and mid-level practitioners are essential to the continuum of care for any healthcare delivery system. Expanding our base will allow us to serve a larger patient base here in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area. Additionally, they will provide a direct referral link to our specialists, and help support the growth of the hospital in all of our specialized service areas.

In 2009, Creighton University Medical Center, Creighton University and Creighton Medical Associates participated in joint strategic planning. One of the key strategies identified from this process, and a major initiative in the Affiliation Agreement, is the expansion of our primary care base.

Over the next few years, the LLC plans to build a total of three clinic sites and recruit new providers to staff these clinics. The first of the three clinics is planned to open by 4th quarter 2010.

The hospital will work closely with Creighton Medical Associates to strategically place the new clinics in areas that are currently underserved, and that will ultimately increase our collective market share.

MED3000, a national practice management company, will manage the day-to-day operations of the clinics, with CUMC's Senior Leadership having administrative oversight.

We're excited about what we will be able to offer patients at these new clinics.

Highlights include:

- Extended hours
- Ease of scheduling and access
- Electronic Medical Records

Patient Focus: Patient Safety Awareness Week



This week is **National Patient Safety Awareness Week (PSAW)**, a national education and awareness-building campaign for improving patient safety at the local level.

The campaign was designed to educate clinicians and patients on how to build awareness for improving the safety of health care. Patient safety is one of our nation's most pressing health care challenges.

The PSAW was created after a 1999 report by the Institute of Medicine that estimated as many as 44,000 to 98,000 people die in U.S. hospitals each year as a result of lapses in patient safety.

This is the eighth year for the week, which includes activities promoting patient safety, improving health care quality and strengthening alliances between patients, families and their health care providers.

You can make a difference! This year's PSAW theme is: "*Let's Talk: Healthy Conversations for Safer Healthcare.*" This theme is meant to emphasize that clear and open communication between patients and their health care providers is fundamental to safe care.

News & Announcements

Creighton University Medical Center Designated as Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement



Creighton University Medical Center has been designated by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement for the medical center's clinical expertise and quality of care. Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement are part of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association's expansion of its Blue Distinction® designation.

"Creighton University Medical Center is proud to be recognized as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement," said Creighton University Medical Center President and CEO Gary Honts. "This designation is a testament to our medical center's outstanding commitment to quality

patient care and outcomes, and it reflects the expertise of our staff including our orthopedic and surgical support teams, nursing, physical therapy, and anesthesiology.”

“We want to recognize and reward those network providers who are setting new standards of excellence in the quality of health care,” said Dr. Bill Minier, Chief Medical Officer at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska. “We are pleased at the level of outstanding specialty care available to our members right here in our state.”

Blue Distinction recognizes medical facilities nationally that have demonstrated a commitment to providing quality care, resulting in better outcomes for patients. The selection criteria used to evaluate facilities were developed with input from a panel of expert physicians. To be designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement, the following types of criteria were evaluated. More information on selection criteria is available on www.bcbs.com:

- Established acute care inpatient facility, including intensive care, emergency care, and a full range of patient support services with full accreditation by a CMS-deemed national accreditation organization
- Experience and training of program surgeons, including case volume
- Quality management programs, including surgical checklists as well as tracking and evaluation of clinical outcomes and process of care
- Multi-disciplinary clinical pathways and teams to coordinate and streamline care, including transitions of care
- Shared decision making and preoperative patient education

The Blue Distinction designation is awarded by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacement, spine surgery and transplants. The program is part of The Blues® efforts to collaborate with physicians and medical facilities to improve the overall quality and safety of specialty care.

The additional Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement designations will bring the nation’s number of Blue Distinction designations to more than 1,600—and this number is expected to increase in the coming years.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month!

Did you know that...

- Every seven seconds, someone turns 50 years old?
- Every nine minutes, someone dies from colorectal cancer?
- Every five seconds someone who should be screened for colorectal cancer is not?
- One in 18 people will develop colon cancer?

Colorectal cancer screening saves lives. If everyone aged 50 years old or older were screened regularly, as many as 60 percent of deaths from this cancer could be avoided.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

With recommended screening, this cancer can be prevented (by removing polyps before they become cancerous) or detected early, when it can be more easily and successfully treated.

Colorectal Cancer Risk Factors:

- Over age 50

- History of colorectal cancer or adenomatous polyps
- History of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBS), Crohn's disease or colitis
- Strong family history of colorectal cancer or polyps
- History of hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes or polyps

Join us for a **FREE** seminar with a colonoscopy demonstration presented by Creighton Gastroenterologist Bennie R. Upchurch, M.D. and Eric Peters, M.D.



**Colorectal Cancer;
Screening & Prevention**

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Creighton University Medical Center
Morrison Seminar Room

Call: 1-800-253-1414

Or sign up online at
www.creightonhospital.com, click on
"Events"

Employee Forums to be held March 17



Why Should You Attend?

- Ask questions of our hospital's leaders!
- Find out about new exciting projects and future strategies of our organization!
- Have something to say? Concerns? Questions? This is your opportunity to speak up!

Join Creighton University Medical Center's President and CEO, Gary Honts for an employee forum. Come to hear about the future strategy and vision for CUMC along with your opportunity to ask questions. There are a lot of new and exciting things going on at CUMC and this is your chance to hear all about it.

**Employee Forum Times
(Becic Dining Room)**

7:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

3:30 a.m.

Employee forums will be held on March 17, 2010 in the Becic Dining Room at 7:30am, 11:30am, and 3:30pm.

Creighton University Medical Center and Omaha Trauma System Host Nebraska Trauma Symposium

On February 6, Creighton University Medical Center and the Omaha Trauma System partnered with Faith Regional Hospital and Life Net Norfolk to host the first northeast Nebraska Trauma Symposium.

Representatives from each organization spent the past several months planning the event. There were 130 physicians, PA's, nurses, paramedics and EMTs from all over the area gathered at Northeast Community College in Norfolk for a day filled with information on trauma care. CUMC's Trauma Director Samuel Cemaj, M.D., was one of the featured speakers and offered information on decision making when transferring an injured patient and experiences in the health care system from the patient's perspective. The event was extremely successful and the committee hopes to continue it in the future.

Creighton Medical Associates Welcomes New Pulmonologist

Bryan J. Krajicek, M.D., has joined Creighton Medical Associates as a pulmonologist and critical care specialist in the Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine Division of the Internal Medicine Department.

He will see patients at Creighton University Medical Center, 601 N. 30th St., and Montgomery County Memorial Hospital in Red Oak, Iowa. Krajicek, an assistant professor of medicine at Creighton, is board certified in internal medicine and pulmonary diseases. His clinical interests include lung cancer and bronchoscopy, and he has a special interest in endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) and bronchoscopy technology.

Krajicek received his fellowship training in pulmonary and critical-care medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minn. He also completed his internal medicine residency at Mayo, where he served as chief resident, and his undergraduate medical degrees at Creighton University.

To schedule a patient appointment, call 402.449.4486.

Creighton University Medical Center Human Resources Goes Green!

The revised Employee Handbook is now available online!

In conjunction with the new Tenet Goes Green program, which aims to institute more environmentally friendly practices in our company, we will no longer be printing Employee Handbooks. The revised Employee Handbook can be found on the eTenet web site under the departments tab, Human Resources, HR Customer Service or from the link below. If you have questions, please call Human Resources at x4460.

<https://secure.etenet.com/eTenetContent/Departments/HumanResources/Custom+Pages/Employee+Handbooks.htm>

Creighton Raises \$220,000 for Haiti Earthquake Victims

Creighton University has received \$220,000 to date from donors interested in helping to fund the University's efforts to provide relief to victims of Haiti's Jan. 12 earthquake, University officials announced today, Feb. 25.

About 200 donors have contributed money thus far. The amount raised does not reflect in-kind donations such as air transportation and medical supplies of more than \$100,000.

"Creighton supporters and the Omaha community have been very generous in their support of the University's efforts to help meet the overwhelming medical needs of the earthquake survivors," said the Rev. Andrew Alexander, S.J., Creighton Vice President for University Ministry.



So far, five Creighton-led health care teams have traveled to the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in Santiago, Dominican Republic. There they have boarded a bus for a seven-hour trip to the Dominican border town of Jimani, about 30 miles from Port-au-Prince, to care for Haiti earthquake victims. The first team arrived in Jimani on Jan. 16.

A large part of Creighton's success in reaching earthquake victims only days after the disaster stems from the University's long-term relationship with ILAC, Fr. Alexander noted. For more than 20 years, Creighton health sciences faculty and students have conducted many health clinics throughout the year at ILAC.



To date, Creighton and Creighton University Medical Center with the help of such community partners as Alegant Health, Midwest Surgical Hospital and others, has sent a total 38 health care professionals to help the Haiti earthquake victims as well as thousands of pounds of medical supplies.

Creighton is evaluating how it can best continue to meet Haiti's earthquake relief needs, Fr. Alexander said. "The need is still great and will be for a long time to come."



To make financial donations visit [CREIGHTON'S RELIEF EFFORT](#).

Creighton Medical Student Issues Fundraising Challenge

Following Haiti's devastating Jan. 12 earthquake, Creighton University medical student Andrew Troia issued a

challenge to Creighton School of Medicine students and faculty to raise money for American Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti. On Feb. 24, Troia presented Tina Price, CEO of the Red Cross Heartland Chapter with a check for \$4,750 as Medical School Dean Rowen Zetterman looks on.

Five Creighton Students Get Awards for Biomedical Research Efforts

Creighton University medical and graduate students walked away with 5 of 16 awards presented at the 41st Annual Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum (MSBRF) on Feb. 20.

This year's event, cosponsored by Creighton University Medical Center and University of Nebraska Medical (UNMC), attracted 105 students from Creighton, UNMC, University of Michigan, University of Iowa, University of Manitoba (Canada), University of Minnesota and Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine (Chicago). Creighton had a total of 17 participants, accounting for 31 percent of the awards.

Award-winning entries from Creighton were:

- First place for medical student poster presentation (\$500 and plaque) – Edward Mrachek on “3D Volumetric MRI Measurements of Glioblastoma Multiforme to Predict Directional Tumor Progression: Modification and Validation of 3D Glioma Growth Model.” Advisor: Mark Preul, M.D. Barrow Neurological Institute and Medical Center, St Joseph's Hospital, Phoenix.
- First place for graduate student poster presentation (\$500 and plaque) Joju George on “Sodium Channel Activator-Induced Neuronal Development is NMDA Receptor Dependent and Involves a Ca²⁺/Calmodulin Kinase (CaMK) – CREB – BDNF Signaling Pathway. Advisor: Thomas Murray, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology, Creighton University School of Medicine.
- Third place for medical student poster presentation (\$100 and certificate) – Sam Hauck on “An Antillatoxin Analog Stimulates Neurite Outgrowth in DIV-1 Embryonic Cerebrocortical Neurons.” Advisor: Thomas Murray, Ph.D.
- Third place for medical student oral presentation (\$100 and certificate) – Jacob Miller on “cAMP-Independent Expression of Canonical WNT Signaling Pathway-Regulated Genes.” Advisor: Dr. Diane Cullen, Ph.D., Department of Biomedical Sciences, Creighton University School of Medicine.
- Sigm Xi Award of Merit for medical student oral presentation (\$25 and certificate) – Geoffrey Hays on “Laser Lipolysis/Radiofrequency: Combined Skin Tightening and Fat Reduction.” Advisor: Dr. Tamela Tripp, M.D., private-practice dermatologist, Phoenix.

Sen. Nelson Recognized by Creighton Pharmacy Honor Society

Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson has been awarded the 2010 Distinguished Lecture Award by the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Rho Chi, the academic honor society for Creighton University pharmacy students.

Each year, the honor society seeks to recognize a nationally known individual who can speak on a contemporary topic important to the advancement of the public health and the pharmacy profession.

Nelson has been a pivotal figure in health care reform currently under consideration by Congress. He received the award during a Feb. 26 event on the University's campus, where he spoke on "Health Care Reform: Perspectives from the Hill."

Gift Shop Closed Due to Construction

The Creighton University Medical Center Gift Shop will be closed for several days due to construction.

The gift shop will close on Wednesday, March 10th and reopen on Monday, March 15th.
Thank you!



Healthy at Tenet

Commitment to People

WIN THESE TWO ITEMS!

If you earn 50 points AND complete your Health Assessment on the Healthy at Tenet website (total of 60 points) by April 30th you will receive a CUMC workout bag & water bottle!



Sponsored by your CUMC Wellness Team!

Creighton University Medical Center Retirement Tea for Martha Bain, Nurse Auditor

You are cordially invited to attend a Retirement Tea honoring Martha for her 17 years of service to Creighton University Medical Center.

Wednesday, March 31st
2 - 3:30 p.m. in the Beca Dining Room
Come wish Martha well!

Stay Healthy – Online

Creightonhospital.com is your source for health information.

What's New:

FREE Seminar Signup

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month. You can sign up for a FREE Seminar on colonoscopy. The seminar is called *Colorectal Cancer; Screening and Prevention*. Visit us at www.creightonhospital.com and click on events to sign up for this seminar.



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CUMC Offers Incisionless Surgery option for treatment of GERD. Check out the Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication online. Click on the picture for more details.



Creighton University Medical Center has been designated by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement for the medical center's clinical expertise and quality of care. Learn more online!

Have you had a chance to visit our new libraries?



A pregnancy library for expecting mothers, which includes articles on having a healthy pregnancy as well as links to important information.



Senior Partners goes online! Do you know someone who might be interested in joining our Senior Partners program? The program is for adults 50 years young and older! Look online for all the benefits Senior Partners has to offer. Plus Senior Partners now has a Senior Partners Online Library, full of great tips for aging healthy.

**Join Senior
Partners**

Visit www.creightonhospital.com for news, information and health advice.