

This Week at MCL

A Memorandum to the Employees of the Medical Center of Louisiana, New Orleans
Charity Campus ■ University Campus

August 25-September 1, 2003



Mary Kay Bader, Guest Speaker, far right, and some members of our Neuroscience Center.

Neuroscience & Trauma Prove: *Mission Possible!*

Sometimes the best way to report the success of a venture comes in the words of those directly involved:

■ The incredible success of “Mission Impossible: Maximizing Outcomes in the Brain Injured Population” on August 14 at MCL is another example of what can happen when intelligent, dedicated and enthusiastic professionals work together! I am so proud of ***Eileen Mederos, Teresa Romano, Jody Zanca, Carolyn Robinson-Thomas, Troy Wells, Elaine Nicholas, Patricia Plant, Debra Rodgers, Shalonda Hill, and the entire staffs of Neuroscience Center and Trauma Center*** who worked diligently to make this presentation happen. The 119 nurses, physical therapists, teachers and nurses from other hospitals who attended expressed their appreciation for the informative day.

Prior to the four-hour presentation for nurses, ***Mary Kay Bader, RN, MSN, CCRN, CNRN***, a Neuro Clinical Nurse Specialist at Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center in Mission Viejo, CA, shared her experiences with a large group of MCL physicians. Their questions, comments and participation in clinical rounds with her and ***Dr. Robert Kline*** reinforces my belief that all members of the health-care team are important. MCL provides wonderful opportunities for us to learn and share, and our patients are the beneficiaries. Thank you to our staff for a job well done and to Integra

NeuroSciences, sponsor of the event.”

– *Betty Adams, Associate Nursing Administrator for Perioperative & Critical Care Services*

■ This was an event that I will never forget. It was absolutely “fantabulous!” I am so very excited and proud to be a part of this team, and I was so thankful that our Neuroscience nurses were able to hear from such an incredible individual that what they do each day is so valuable and downright miraculous! The representation that we had from the community was excellent, and I know that they left believing that what we do at the Medical Center of Louisiana is exciting and progressive.

I hope that much more will come from this event. We are certainly on the right track and primed for action! We are proud that our neuro care is one of a kind. The encouragement and support we receive from Nursing Administration make that quality care possible.

– *Teresa Romano, Neuroscience Clinical Nurse Specialist*

■ I was so impressed with the caring and dedication of the Charity Team – to them anything and everything is possible! I could feel the warmth, enthusiasm and love for their profession. Charity’s building may be aging, but the nurses and physicians who give their minds and hearts to care for your patients are true jewels!

– *Mary Kay Bader, Neuro Clinical Nurse Specialist, Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center, Mission Viejo, CA*



Pictured are four of the five people who make the gift cart a popular offering on University Campus: Volunteers Janice Romig, who serves as buyer for the cart, Betsey Bernhard and Jane Bauer, and Gay Cassreino, Marketing, who is coordinator.

Gift Cart Marks Three Years of Success!

The gift cart on University Campus marked its third year in operation last week. The occasion included a birthday cake shared with some of the many customers who have made the cart a successful venture for the Medical Center of Louisiana Foundation. Proceeds from the cart help support our Employee Emergency Relief Fund and other projects which promote employee morale at MCL.

Not pictured with those, to the left, who keep the gift cart in operation, is *Sister Evelyn Marchand, OP*, a member of the Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Dominic. Sister faithfully volunteers her time each Monday morning at the cart.

The gift cart was developed by the Marketing & Public Relations Department as a service to our patients, their families and visitors. While most hospitals have a gift shop, the problem here was available space. So the cart, popular in shopping malls, was thought to be the answer. And it has been!

Thank You

To the Givers: During the beginning of the U.S. deployment in Iran, *Rebecca Rodriquez, RN3*, Radiology Department, spearheaded a drive among the Radiology staff for

donations for care packages for six service men/women who are MCL employees or relatives of employees. With the donations collected Rebecca and her husband, Phillip, purchased, packaged and mailed the items. **From One of the Receivers:** The package you sent me during my time of fighting this war on terrorism was "just what the doctor ordered!" People like you make me proud and happy to do my job. I salute your efforts.

– Sgt. Johnney Terrell, United States Marine Corps,
(son of Carole J. Charles, MCL Pharmacy)

Happenings & Deadlines.

■ Parking Contract Renewals This Week.

August 25, 26 & 27 – South Johnson and Orange parking sites; August 27 & 28 – Tulane and Yellow parking sites; and August 29 through September 15 – those who did not appear during their previously designated time periods. Bring a copy of your vehicle's registration to the Parking Coordinator in the MCL Parking Office located in the University Medical Office Building, 2025 Gravier Street, room 702, to finalize your paperwork. All parkers must be wearing their MCL ID badge.

■ **LSU/Tulane Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Conference.** Each Monday, 4-5 p.m., 1542 Tulane Avenue, room 507. Physicians who wish to have a case presented, call Nicole Chatelain at 568-4765.

■ **Microsoft PowerPoint Class.** August 27,

9-11 a.m. in E805, Charity Campus. To register, call 2-6369.

■ **Tulane University Health Sciences Center Medicine Grand Rounds.** August 27, noon-1 p.m., 1st floor auditorium, 1430 Tulane Avenue. "A 20-year-old Hospitalized Man with Sudden Onset Tachycardia," presented by **Dr. Chukwuma Eze**, Resident, and discussed by **Dr. Paolo Raggi**, Director of Noninvasive Cardiology.

■ **Cancer Activities Committee.** August 27, Medical Staff Services Conference Room, 4th floor, west. Lunch at 11:30; meeting at noon.

■ **CPR Classes.** *Heartsaver* – August 27, noon-4 p.m.; *Health-care Provider* – September 9, 7:30 a.m.-noon. In Staff Development, C-900, Charity Campus. Must register in person with \$4 per class, payable by check or money order to MCLNO Foundation. Call 2-2854 or 2-2057.

■ **LSU Health Sciences Center Medicine Grand Rounds.** August 28, 8-9 a.m., 1542 Tulane Avenue, 1st floor auditorium. "Antiphospholipid Syndrome," with **Dr. Wendell Wilson**, Professor of Medicine, Section of Rheumatology.

■ **Health Call.** **Dr. John A. Rock**, Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center, will discuss "The Future of the Public Hospital System in Louisiana." Because this show is being pre-recorded, Dr. Rock will be unable to take calls during the program. August 28, WLAE TV, 8 p.m., and rebroadcast August 31 at 12:30 p.m. Now in its 13th year, Health Call is sponsored by the Medical Center of Louisiana.

■ **Crime Prevention & Safety Awareness Inservice.** Tuesday, September 2, 8-10 a.m., 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., University Campus auditorium. A member of the National Crime Prevention Task Force will talk about personal safety awareness and crime prevention. Free. Each session limited to 100 people, so pre-registration is recommended by calling 2-3372.

■ **Critical Care Course Offering #3:** "Cardiovascular System: Module I." September 9, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Charity Campus, 9th floor, Staff Development & Education. 8.1 AACN contact hours. Call 2-2854 for cost and registration.

■ **ACLS for Non-Critical Care.** September 10 & 11 in Education & Staff Development, C-900, Charity Campus. Call 2-2854 to register.

■ **Hazardous Material Team Training.** September 15 & 18. Covers skills and knowledge required to be a HazMat Team member. 16.8 contact hours/CEUs for RNs, radiology techs, and respiratory therapists. To register call Tim Butcher, 2-2687.

■ **Exercise Classes.** *Exercise* – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m, Education, 9 center, Charity Campus. □ *Tai Chi* – Thursdays, noon-1 p.m., Lions Clinic, Neuroscience Center. Free.

■ **Employee Assistance Programs.** All the following groups meet at LSU Lions Clinic, 2020 Gravier Street, 5th floor. Call 568-3931 with questions or for full details: *Codependency Anonymous*, Mondays at noon, free; *AA*, Tuesdays at noon, free; and *a psycho-educational group* for those who may be chemically dependent or have family members who are, Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., \$10 per week for 10 weeks.

Let's All Walk Together to Fight AIDS!



In the past years, teams representing different departments within MCL have walked in the annual NO/AIDS Walk. Patrice Jenkins, Volunteers, sends an appeal that this year MCL join forces with the LSU Health Science Center and

walk as a unified team. The 2003 walk, which spans 3.2 miles, will take place on September 14 in Audubon Park beginning at 10 a.m. If you pre-register with Patrice, you won't have to register the day of the walk; registration that day begins at 8 a.m. Patrice requests that leaders of teams which have already formed or individuals who wish to join the MCL team please contact her at 2-3021. If you are unable to walk, please sign up for a donation with either a walker or by calling Patrice. Checks should be made payable to NO/AIDS Task Force.

The AIDS epidemic continues to spread at an alarming rate. Of the 42 million people worldwide who are known to be infected with HIV, 3.2 million are under the age of 15. More than 20,000 people have been reported to have HIV/AIDS in Louisiana; 50 percent of those live in the Greater New Orleans Area. We urge you to support the NO/AIDS Walk in whatever way you can.



Performance Improvement

**Save a Life:
Wash your Hands!**

Many of the infections people acquire in the hospital are from the staff who come in contact with them. Infections can go from patient to patient, then unit to unit, department to department. Good hand hygiene (which includes the use of waterless, alcohol-based antiseptics) is the main way to prevent the spread of infection. Please follow these do's and don'ts.

DO:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water when visibly soiled or following contact with blood or body fluids.
- Use waterless alcohol-based antiseptic for routine decontamination if hands are not visibly soiled.
- Wash your hands before and after every patient contact; before and after eating; before preparing food or medications; before and after donning gloves; after using the bathroom; after contact with any contaminated equipment, object, supplies, materials.
- Use Standard Precautions when taking care of any patient or when coming in contact with any patient equipment, waste, etc.

DON'T:

- Wear the same gloves when moving from one job to another.
- Forget to wash your hands.
- Go from one area to another wearing the same gloves.
- Ride in an elevator and push the buttons with a gloved hand.
- Open doors with a gloved hand.
- Forget to use Standard Precautions when coming in contact, or anticipating contact, with any bodily fluid, secretion and excretion.
- Wear chipped nail polish.
- Wear artificial nails, acrylics, wraps, tips, gels or glue to nails in high risk direct care areas, such as intensive care areas, operating rooms, oncology units, neonatal units, labor & delivery.

For more information, call Infection Control at 2-0074 or refer to Infection Control Manual Hand Hygiene Policy 3.01.

From the Mailbox.

■ I send a belated yet hearty *Thank You* to **the nurses and staff on W408 and SICA** for their unstinting care during my hospitalization July 10-19.

Thank God for all of them, I was able to return home when I did. My nurses on SICA were especially wonderful. Charity Hospital New Orleans will always be my choice for medical care!



– Elizabeth Hamm

■ My children's father, Barry, was admitted to your Medical Intensive Care Unit on Charity Campus on July 17 and put on life support. The children and I came to see him the next day and his nurse, **Laura Lobrano**, was wonderful. Her concern for us, as well as Barry, was so genuine. She treated him with the type of kindness that I feel she would have treated her own relative. After we decided to take Barry off life support Laura and **Joe Giangrosso, RN**, explained exactly what was going to be done and made us as comfortable as possible. They both made our decision and the time with Barry while he expired so much easier. I work at a hospital, and I hope that our CCU/ICU nurses show the same kindness and compassion to the patients and their families as your nurses do. They were a Godsend at this terrible time in our lives.

– Debbie M. Williams

1-2-3 Imagine!

Sesame Street Live is offering discount tickets to MCL employees for its "1-2-3 Imagine!" show at the UNO Lakefront Arena for the following shows: November 7th at 7:30 p.m.; November 8th at 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.; and November 9th at 1 and 4:30 p.m. Call 455-6285 or 455-7677 Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 4:30 for price, ordering and other information.

This Week at MCL is published through MCL Marketing & Public Relations, suite 518, 2025 Gravier Street, New Orleans 70112, Jerry Romig, Director, Lynn Lorando, Editor. **Because of the Labor Day holiday, the deadline for the September 8-14, 2003 issue is 5 p.m. Friday, August 29.** All items submitted must have prior supervisory approval. Please send information to Lynn Lorando on e-mail to mloran@lsuhsc.edu; by fax to her attention at 903-3699; or to her attention through interoffice mail. Thank you.