A rare liver disease threatened Dave’s life, but he had the best transplant team in Chicago — and his daughter, Ashley — working to save him.

UI Health Hospital & Clinics

ROUNDUP

FEBRUARY 2017

Transplantation Program Focusing on Growth in 2017

UI Health’s Organ Transplant Program — one of the premier programs in Chicago and the state — has taken steps to offer its services to more patients. In 2016, UI Health performed 136 transplantation procedures — the fifth most in Illinois. The program recently added more than 10 new team members, including social workers and transplant coordinators, to help patients better navigate the transplantation process. It also continues to focus on treating patients turned away from other centers because of obesity. “We’re proud of the progress we’re making, and we anticipate providing world-class transplant care to more patients in 2017,” says Dr. Enrico Benedetti, head of the Department of Surgery.

‘PRONTO’ Transport Service Offers Free Rides to Patients

UI Health has partnered with local startup Kaizen Health on a pilot program, PRONTO, to offer free rides to patients being transitioned home from the hospital. Inadequate transportation can be a significant barrier to accessing healthcare and can contribute to slow bed turnover and lower patient satisfaction. The program, which arranges transportation through ride-hailing service Lyft, will run from February through March. During the first two weeks of the pilot, more than half of PRONTO patients were discharged by 2 pm. “This is an awesome opportunity to see how this model can assist us in achieve one of our goals: improving throughput,” says Rani Morrison, senior director of care continuum.
DID YOU KNOW?
NEWS FROM AROUND UI HEALTH

The annual St. Baldrick’s Head-Shaving Event was held Feb. 16 at the Children’s Hospital University of Illinois. The CHUI Team raised more than $16,000 to benefit children’s cancer research. Way to go!

In preparation for anesthesia, UI Health is now encouraging patients to have clear liquids up until 2 hours prior to their scheduled arrival time. Benefits of drinking approved beverages before anesthesia include: improved hydration, reduced insulin resistance, and improved surgical experience. Patients should drink clear carbohydrate fluids and should NOT eat solid foods or drink milk after midnight the night before surgery. A full list of approved drinks is available on the intranet.

Effective Feb. 27, 12-character “passphrases” will replace passwords. Replacing your password with a passphrase allows you to keep your passphrase for one year; there is no need to change it every 90 days. A passphrase is a simple phrase or sentence that is easy for you to remember but difficult for others to guess. You will not be required to replace your current password with a passphrase until your current password expires. Just like your current password, your passphrase must contain three of the following characters: an uppercase letter, a lowercase letter, a number, and a special symbol. Avoid using common phrases from books, popular movies, song titles, or memorable quotes, as they are easy to guess.

DRINK UP!

Dr. H. Steven Sims, director of The Chicago Institute for Voice Care at UI Health, has extensive experience in treating the unique issues faced by performing artists, and has worked with opera soloists and cast members of several Broadway shows. This month he worked with Deborah Cox, star of “The Bodyguard,” when the touring musical came through Chicago.

UIHe@lth4ever
Dr. Jeffrey Loeb, head of the Department of Neurology at UI Health, was honored by the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago with the Distinguished Richard N. Rovner Hero Award for his research and treatment of the disease. Dr. Loeb currently is leading the new Neuro Repository tissue bank at UI Health, which will use samples from patients treated for neurological disorders that will be linked to clinical, radiological, electrical, histological, and genetic information to help scientists uncover new cures for diseases like epilepsy, ALS, and brain tumors.

Dr. Kevin Kovitz received the prestigious Pasquale Ciaglia Memorial Award in Interventional Medicine at the recent American College of Chest Physicians annual meeting in Los Angeles. The award honors a CHEST member well-known for his or her work in interventional medicine, such as clinical state-of-art innovations, economic impact, invention, interventional critical care, research opportunities, and/or a host of other interesting facets of interventional medicine.

UI Health hosted officials from the Cuban Ministry of Health during a weeklong January visit to Chicago to observe how providers in the U.S. deliver healthcare in low-resource communities. During the visit, the Cuban officials joined UI Health leadership on visits to Mile Square Health Centers on the West Side, in Englewood, and in Back of the Yards, with the aim of collaborating on the development of improved care-delivery systems that can be used in both countries.

DOCTORS’ DAY
A CELEBRATION FOR ALL YOU DO!
National Doctors’ Day is held each year to celebrate the contribution of physicians to individual lives and communities. This day has been celebrated throughout history, and in 1990 the congress and senate approved legislation designating March 30 as National Doctors’ Day. In celebration of our physicians at UI Health, the Employee Experience team and Hospital Leadership is hosting a luncheon reception Thursday, March 30, and a continental breakfast reception Friday, March 31. We hope you can stop by any time during the hours listed below.

LUNCH
Thursday, March 30
11 am to 1:30 pm
Conference Room 1130

BREAKFAST
Friday, March 31
6–8:30 am
Conference Room 1130

CONGRATS
Fit Flex of the Month / How Do You Stay Healthy?

Priyang Baxi  
Assistant Director, Business Operations  
Women, Children, & Psychiatric Services

“Working out with my personal trainer twice a week has become a highlight for me! I practice weight-lifting techniques learned from my personal trainer once a week to supplement my ongoing training. I have learned to implement lifestyle changes in order to build muscle by drinking protein shakes, and increasing to two servings of non-fat Greek yogurt every morning, which took getting some used to!”

Sophie Barish  
Marketing Specialist  
Marketing & Strategic Communications

“When fitness has fun aspects, you’re more likely to make it a habit because it doesn’t feel like forced exercise. For me, I try to diversify the types of workout classes I attend, to keep it new and exciting. I also find that eating several small portions throughout the day helps with energy and the fuel needed to get to the gym after a long day (or before for those brave ones!)”