The 3i Project is a strategic enterprise initiative to create a state-of-art, enterprise-wide electronic health record (EHR) platform that integrates optimized business processes with standardized clinical workflows and deep analytical capabilities.

Short for “Integrated Information Infrastructure,” the 3i Project was born in 2016 in an effort to mitigate the risks posed by an outmoded, fragmented information system. “UI Health has a rich tradition of using information management technologies to support patient care, operational, and financial processes,” says Audrius Polikaitis, chief information officer at UI Health. “However, two decades of organic development on multiple disparate platforms has created a complex and costly information technology environment. It was clear we needed to standardize workflows and processes across the organization.”

An initial evaluation of the current infrastructure underscored process deficiencies and risks posed by the nonintegrated system, including:

• Inefficiencies due to disparate systems
• An end-of-life hospital billing system
• Significant costs to upgrade current systems
• Lack of unified billing

Planning and preparation for a new system began in the fall of 2016 under sponsorship of the Hospital & Clinics, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and the College of Medicine, and in the spring of 2017 the procurement process began:

• A request for proposal (RFP) was sent to potential vendors
• A 17-member evaluation committee reviewed proposals
• One vendor — Epic Systems — met the required minimum scoring and was invited to demo its system in July 2017

Nearly 500 staff members participated in around 30 Epic demonstrations; the system was scored on meeting current and future needs and its overall “look and feel.” After reviewing the technical merits and pricing of each vendor, following applicable procurement rules, the committee recommended adopting and installing the Epic System.

As part of the RFP process, Epic offered a bundled price of $62 million over seven years; overall, the project is estimated to cost $160 million over seven years.

While the University of Illinois Board of Trustees approved the vendor selection last fall, our current vendor, Cerner Corp., protested the selection, leading to a review with the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) for Higher Education. The CPO rejected the protest, but the administration resolutions created an 8-month delay in the initiative.

Contracting with Epic currently is underway and is expected to be complete by the end of summer. Before the Epic implementation can begin, two important initiatives remain:

• Legacy systems support: Over the next two years, we will need to continue to support patient care and operations in our current system while also focusing on the 3i Project. UI Health released an RFP to select a vendor to help maintain normal operations for our current systems while the Information Services (IS) team focuses on the 3i implementation. Vendor selection will be completed soon.
• Implementation assistance: The IS team will need additional support to assist with the Epic implementation. An RFP has been released to select vendors that can provide consulting assistance to augment the IS team. Evaluation committees have been formed to review and select future partners.

The Epic implementation is expected to start in early 2019 and take 18–24 months. Go-live is planned for summer/fall 2020.

The 3i initiative will impact everyone at UI Health and require substantial commitment from the entire organization. Many providers and staff will be engaged during the implementation process, and the entire UI Health workforce will need to be trained on the Epic system.

“We thank all those involved in the project for their expertise, judgment, and patience as we work to improve our systems and create a fully integrated future for UI Health. 3i will be truly transformative for all of UI Health and will position us for future information management demands,” Polikaitis says.
The 5 East Med-Surg Unit recently received the AMSN PRISM Award. The award — which stands for Premier Recognition In the Specialty of Med-Surg — is a prestigious honor recognizing the collective achievements and contributions of the nursing staff of this unit. Presented by the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses and Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board of Directors, it exemplifies the qualities that define excellence in medical-surgical nursing and is a public symbol of the unit’s journey to optimal outcomes and exceptional patient care.

The PRISM Award reviews standards related to leadership; recruitment and retention; use of evidence-based practice; excellent patient outcomes; a healthy practice environment; and examples of lifelong learning.

The University of Illinois Hospital was the only hospital in Illinois to achieve this status. UI Health is now a two-time recipient.

Congratulations to all who made this achievement possible!
Enhanced Recovery Pathway Program Being Implemented

UI Health is implementing an Enhanced Recovery Pathway After Gynecology Surgery (ERGS) program. ERGS focuses on minimizing the physiological trauma of surgery to shorten length of stay, decrease complications and costs, and improve the patient’s experience. At UI Health, we take a comprehensive patient-centered approach with a dedicated multidisciplinary care team that ensures the patient is cared for through every transition of care — from the time the patient is scheduled for surgery until the patient is safely discharged.

As part of a joint effort between the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), to improve surgical care and recovery, Dr. Sophia Rodriguez, Dr. Ari Rubenfeld, and Julie Moore AGPCNP-BC, RN, were invited to present UI Health’s Enhanced Recovery for Gynecologic Surgery program at a recent symposium entitled: Enhanced Recovery Effecting Change and Charting a New Course in Surgical Care.

“This is a big step towards realizing wide spread patient-centered, evidence-based surgical care. We are excited that our Gynecologic Surgical colleagues have taken this project on, and look forward to offering our Enhanced Recovery programming to all of our surgical services,” says Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek, chief medical officer.

For additional information or to get involved, please visit the intranet or contact Julie Moore at 312.413.9629.

UI Health Recognized for Achievements in Stroke, Heart Failure Care

UI Health recently received two prestigious awards from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) that recognize our commitment to providing effective stroke and heart failure care using the most advanced procedures available.

The AHA/ASA honored UI Health with the Get With the Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus — the highest level of recognition from the AHA/ASA — and the Get with the Guidelines®-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Heart Failure Honor Roll.

This is the second consecutive year UI Health has received the top stroke award, and the heart failure designation is an improvement from the Silver Quality Achievement Award received in 2017.

These awards recognize UI Health’s commitment to ensuring patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

These notable accomplishments were made possible by the passion and dedication of the numerous disciplines that care for our stroke and heart patients here at UI Health.

Congratulations to all who made this achievement possible!
Upcoming Events/Deadlines

**Physician/Resident of the Year Celebration**
Monday, Aug. 6, 11 am to 1:30 pm
Conference Room 1130

**Save the Date! Dunkapalooza**
Wednesday, Aug. 29
10 am to 2 pm and 4-7 pm
Grassy area across from hospital entrance
For details, visit the intranet.

**8th Annual Quality & Safety Fair**
Call for Posters: Showcase your initiatives at the Quality & Safety Fair on Oct. 16! **Contest deadline is Oct. 2.**

The Quality & Safety Fair is an opportunity to share improvement projects, research, and innovative ideas for patient care with your colleagues in the hospital, clinics, or college. For details, please visit QualityFair.UiHealth.Care.

**Upcoming OPIO Courses**
Mark your calendar! The Organizational Process Improvement (OPI) Office is offering a 3 day course from Sept. 10-12 titled: “How to see it, improve it, and get people to support it” to provide clinicians and staff the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to succeed. CME and CNE credit is available for physicians and nurses who attend. To view all upcoming courses, visit the intranet. For more information, email opi@uic.edu.

**New Inpatient Epilepsy Monitoring Unit Now Available**
The Department of Neurology recently unveiled a brand new, state-of-the-art Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) on 6E. Patients are admitted to the EMU so that our team of epilepsy specialists can assess, diagnose, and treat seizures. The new unit offers our patients high-quality, comprehensive care using the latest technology. For more information, please visit the intranet.

**UI Health Hosts Neuroscience Nursing Symposium**
Last month, UI Health hosted the 2018 Neuroscience Nursing Symposium. Approximately 100 nurses from within UI Health and surrounding hospitals attended the all-day conference. The multidisciplinary panel of guest speakers included Dr. Brad Bunney (Emergency Medicine), Dr. Ali Alaraj (Neurosurgery), Dr. Scott Ziporin (Vascular Surgery), Rhonda Perna (Risk Management), Rita Berendt, APN (Neurology), Dr. Deepa Bhupali (Neurology), Dr. Neelofer Shafi (Neurology), Dr. Vinny Sharma (Neurology), Melissa Angulo, APN (Stroke), Caroline Deskin and Kim Zimmerman (Speech Pathology). This year’s symposium focused on sharing recent advances in stroke management, in addition to cerebrovascular disease, across specialty populations. As one of the national leaders in stroke care, UI Health encourages continuing education of the most up-to-date management of cerebrovascular disease.