The Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH) Board of Directors recently approved Michiaki Imamura, MD, PhD, as the hospital’s new chief of Pediatric and Congenital Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Imamura joined the ACH Heart Team in 2001 as a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon and has led numerous open heart and transplantation procedures during the past decade.

Imamura was involved with ACH’s first use of the DeBakey VAD and the Berlin Heart Pediatric – two pediatric assist devices that, at the time, were new to pediatric cardiothoracic surgery. Thanks, in part, to Dr. Imamura’s success with this device, Arkansas Children’s Hospital has used the Berlin Heart technology to sustain the lives of more pediatric patients in North America than any other hospital. The Berlin Heart has been implanted in more than 30 pediatric patients at ACH – the majority of those cases led by Dr. Imamura.

Imamura received his medical and doctoral degrees from Hokkaido University School of Medicine in Japan. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Cardiology, Arkansas Medical Association, Asian Society of Thoracic Surgery, Congenital Heart Surgeons’ Society and the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, among others.

Explore the “Art of Healing” in ACH’s Newest Calendar

Can you believe it? Just three months are left in your 2010 ACH calendar. That means it’s time to order the new 2011 edition. Team members, families and kids alike will enjoy exploring next year’s calendar. It features collaborative art projects created by hundreds of kids treated at ACH. “The Art of Healing” is now on sale for pre-orders in Playaway gift shop. To ensure a pre-Thanksgiving delivery, orders are due by Thursday, Oct. 14, and no late orders will be taken. Each calendar will be $4.50, and envelopes will be 50 cents. Get ready! 2011 is on its way!

Employee Picnic Photos from Riverfront Park

Thanks to all the team members who helped us celebrate at Riverfront Park on Sept. 11. The employee picnic was a great success! Special thanks to all the team members who gave their time and effort to make it fun for all! To see the winning photos from the contest, check Vital Signs Weekly.
ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Volunteer Corner

Arkansas Children's Hospital will benefit from eight Clinton School of Public Service volunteers during this 2010-2011 school year. Students from the Clinton School will complete public service projects across Arkansas during this year. These projects are a part of the school's master of public service degree, which is a two-year program.

There was extensive competition among organizations requesting Clinton School projects, and ACH was awarded two of the eight projects. The Clinton School of Public Service listed the two Arkansas Children's Hospital projects on their blog.

Injury Prevention Center at Arkansas Children's Hospital, Statewide

The Injury Prevention Center evaluates and disseminates various educational strategies to reduce child injury, death and disability. The center will partner with the Arkansas Department of Health to assist with injury prevention components of the statewide trauma system under development in Arkansas. Clinton School students Ryan Adams, Shanen Bolt, Fernando Cutz and Jasmine Medley will conduct a needs assessment of current injury prevention activities and resources of the potential trauma centers throughout the state. The data will allow the center to disseminate appropriate resources in the future to the trauma centers.

Transition to Meditech Client Server 6.0 Goes Smoothly Because of Teamwork

Dozens of IT team members, ACH administrators and clinical care personnel assembled to say goodbye to Meditech Magic and usher in a new era marked by the highest standard of health care technology at ACH on Sept. 1. The moment was proceeded by years of hard work by all of these teams to prepare the way for the transition to Meditech Client Server 6.0.

Despite a few bumps in the road, ACH navigated the change smoothly. The conversion command center in Nabholz and the Cress Board Room stayed open for just four days. During that time, a dedicated group worked around the clock to ensure that each issue on the units was addressed in real-time.

ACH will move forward with a prioritization strategy decided by Infectious Disease, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though we’re not sure when the rest of our vaccine allotment will be sent, as will caretakers on high-risk units. Please read ACH communications in your inbox to stay current on vaccine information.

Arkansas Children's Hospital has received its first allotment of 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine. For this is the earliest that ACH has received seasonal influenza vaccine, our initial shipment will not be enough to immunize all of the high-risk children cared for at ACH and their caretakers. However, more vaccine is expected to arrive in the weeks ahead and immunization of these groups should be possible by the end of October, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ACH will move forward with a prioritization strategy decided by Infectious Disease, Infection Control and Pharmacy. Though we’re not sure when the rest of our vaccine allotment will arrive, we do know that pregnant ACH team members will be at the top of the priority list, as will caretakers on high-risk units. Please read ACH communications in the following weeks to ensure the most up-to-date information on the situation.

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Save the Date for the L. Lynn Harris Lecture

What: The staff and Board of Directors of Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH) and the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine present a nationally renowned expert on child development at the annual L. Lynn Harris Memorial Lecture. Robert H. Bradley, PhD, director of the Family and Human Dynamics Research Institute at Arizona State, will speak on “Child Care in the United States: What it Means for Children, Families and the American Way of Life.”

Where: Chairman’s Hall auditorium in the Sturgis Building on the ACH campus.

When: Tuesday, Oct. 19 at noon.

ACH Hem/Onc Nurses Celebrate Special Day in their Honor

As part of National Childhood Cancer Awareness month, Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe proclaimed Sept. 8 as Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses Day. The officers of the Arkansas Chapter of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) went to the state Capitol to receive the proclamation! Thanks to all our Hem/Onc nurses for the incredible job they do every day caring for these challenging and very sick patients. You’re their heroes and ours!

Accepting the proclamation were (left to right) Inpatient Hem/Onc Patient Care Manager Catherine Waters; Hem/Onc Clinical Instructor Lara Parker; Hem/Onc Specialty Nurse Amy Eichenlaub; Hem/Onc Advanced Practice Nurse Ruth Landers; Outpatient Hem/Onc Patient Care Manager Shannon Moreno-Cook; and Hem/Onc Specialty Nurse Carol Godfrey.

Reminder: Know your Numbers and Use Them on the Health Assessment!

Team members have form now through Nov. 30 to complete the annual Health Assessment for insurance by visiting www.teamACHwellness.org.

*New for 2010! In addition to employees, spouses enrolled in the ACH health insurance plan also must take the health assessment to receive a lower deductible.*

To receive an accurate assessment of your health, you should know your weight, height, blood pressure, triglyceride level, blood sugar, total, HDL and LDL cholesterol levels.

There are two ways to get your biometric measurements:

1. Schedule an appointment with your personal physician.
2. Call Employee Health at X41219 to schedule an appointment.

If you have had these screenings done this year with your physician or in Employee Health, you will not need to repeat at the mass screening. Please call X41615 with any questions.

Trauma Team Eases Injury Recovery, Gives Kids Better Outcomes

In 2009, the Arkansas legislature passed Act 393 to create a statewide trauma system, which is now in development. ACH aims to be a Level 1 trauma center under the new system, which means that it will provide the very best care and will have the most resources dedicated to trauma care for kids throughout Arkansas. Toward these efforts, ACH has expanded its Trauma service to include additional staff and is instituting new service pathways and protocols to help us reach this goal.

“The only pediatric hospital in the state, ACH has a responsibility to help improve the coordination and transfer of care of pediatric patients from the scene or from outside facilities,” said John Recicar, the hospital’s new trauma nursing director. “ACH also has the opportunity to establish a standard of care for injured pediatric patients throughout the state.”

Each month, ACH treats about 100 pediatric patients who have sustained traumatic injuries. They may have been involved in car crashes or falls, sustained blunt force or experienced any number of other unexpected situations. Of those patients, about 70 percent arrive at ACH after being initially stabilized and transported from another hospital, while 30 percent are brought to ACH directly from the scene at which their injury occurred.

Each ACH employee who works with a patient who has suffered a traumatic injury is considered part of the trauma team. While program management staff makes up the foundation of this department, it thrives because of the hard work of nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists, occupational and physical therapists, nutritionists, psychologists, child life specialists, social workers, injury prevention specialists, pastoral care providers, radiographers, discharge planners and “countless others who assist the Trauma service,” Recicar said.

Because of the comprehensive team focused on treating trauma patients, this area stands apart from other departments at ACH by constantly working with just about every unit at ACH.

“Our patients aren’t confined to one area or service, so neither are we,” Recicar said. “From a nursing perspective, by getting to see a new patient go through different care areas — whether the ID, OR, PICU, floor units or Rehab — we learn something new on a daily basis.”

The Trauma service treasures those opportunities because they allow team members to establish relationships throughout the hospital.

“At the end of the day, we get to take what’s a really bad situation for a patient and family and by working together with our colleagues, create a favorable outcome,” Recicar said.

Over the next couple of months, the Trauma service will be preparing for a verification visit required for designation as a Level 1 pediatric trauma. This review process consists of reviewing medical records, interviewing staff from different clinical areas, meeting with hospital administrators and touring the facility.

The Trauma service is excited about this opportunity to provide expanded comprehensive care for injured patients from admission through discharge and looks forward to promoting injury prevention activities in communities across the state.
4. What is your favorite perk about working at ACH? I love working with kids!

5. Where is your favorite place to visit in Arkansas? Beautiful Lake Catherine.

6. Which foods would you choose for your dream dinner and which three people would you invite? Anything Italian or fresh seafood. I would invite Phil, Christopher and my mom.

7. What is your favorite movie? “An Officer and a Gentleman”.

8. Who is your favorite music group or performer? Elton John.

9. What is the most memorable fortune you’ve ever received in a fortune cookie? “All of your hard work is about to pay off.” This was in my fortune cookie just a few weeks ago. It was perfect because I just completed my doctorate in Audiology in September.

10. What is your favorite ice cream topping? Caramel and lots of nuts.

11. What is your favorite childhood memory? Camping and water skiing with my family and friends.

12. Which area of the hospital is your favorite and why? Audiology. It’s my home away from home.


14. If you were stranded on a deserted island, what one thing would you want with you? My new iPhone.

15. Why is ACH the place where you wanted to work? I love working with kids!