

# At a Glance

■ Communicating with you, the CHOP employee.



Oct. 4, 2010

## Buying Time

### ECMO Program Celebrates 20 Years at CHOP, Renewal of 'Center of Excellence' Designation



*ECMO specialist Adam Kniceley, R.R.T., N.P.S., attends to a patient in the N/IICU. The foot-long white cylinder in the middle of the photo is the "lung," where blood is oxygenated.*

Children's Hospital has 10 time machines tucked away in a hidden hallway near the Harriet and Ronald Lassin Newborn/Infant Intensive Care Unit for use in the N/IICU, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit or the Evelyn and Daniel M. Tabas Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.

"I tell parents ECMO is a time machine — it buys their children time to recover, time to heal," says Jim Connelly, R.R.T., N.P.S. Connelly is coordinator of the [ECMO Program](#) at CHOP, and the time machine is ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation), a cardiopulmonary bypass technique that provides long-term respiratory and cardiac support to children who have reversible respiratory or cardiac problems that haven't responded to conventional treatment.

"It takes the sickest kids and hopefully transforms them into survivors," Connelly says.

The ECMO program is celebrating its 20th year in 2010, and recently received, for the second time, recognition as a Center of Excellence from the [Extracorporeal Life Support Organization](#). "CHOP has one of the busiest ECMO programs in the country," Connelly says.

Nearly 900 patients have benefitted from ECMO since May 1990, when the first patient was connected to the machine, which takes blood from the patient's vein, pumps it through an artificial lung where oxygen is added and carbon dioxide is removed, and then returns the blood to the child. CHOP handles an average of 60 "runs" (the amount of time a patient is connected to ECMO) a year. Runs last from three days on the short end to three weeks for patients needing longer-term help.

There are no formal training programs for ECMO specialists, as there are for nurses or respiratory therapists, for example. Each hospital uses slightly different procedures and protocols tailored to its equipment. CHOP trains and certifies its own practitioners,

usually senior respiratory therapists and nurses, through lectures, bedside training, a written test and a practical exam. ECMO core specialists — who are the primary people at the bedside, monitoring ECMO patients 24 hours a day — receive additional training in setting up the equipment and "priming" it. They also use a SIM™ baby and simulation to create emergency situations so they're confident how to handle them.

There are nine specialists on the ECMO core team. An additional 25 nurses and respiratory therapists are ECMO certified and are called into service when the ECMO patient count requires it. They also give the core team members breaks during their 12-hour shifts. Everyone takes a quiz once a month to maintain their certification.

When it's time to put in or take out the cannula, or tubing, to start or end a child's ECMO run, the patient's room or

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N/IICU bay is turned into an OR, and the OR team arrives for the procedure. If a child needs to go to the cath lab or radiology during his or her run, the ECMO equipment goes too — along with the specialist. A patient can stay on ECMO during surgery, if needed, and all CHOP surgeons are trained in the technique.

Connelly, who became coordinator in 2006, has been with ECMO since its start at CHOP. Linda Allen-Napoli, M.B.A., R.R.T.-N.P.S., R.P.F.T., is director of ECMO. Holly Hedrick, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.S. (surgery); Natalie Rintoul, M.D. (N/IICU); John McCloskey, M.D. (PICU); and Chitra Ravishankar, M.D. (CICU) are also directors.

“Because the specialists sit with the patient all day or all night, they get to know the families,” Connelly says. “It’s a great feeling when a patient comes off ECMO. The only better one is when they get to go home.” ■



### Celebrate Disability Awareness and Blindness Awareness Month on Monday, Oct. 18

Learn more about the resources that are available for children, youth and adult employees with disabilities, including blindness, on Monday, Oct. 18, as CHOP celebrates Disability Awareness Month with information, activities and snacks in Stokes Rotunda, Main Building, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the event, you can:

- 9 Visit a resource table for brochures from local and national agencies such as the Pennsylvania Initiative on Assistive Technology, Liberty

Resources and AHEDD, which will provide financial benefit information.

- 9 See demonstrations of the Community Resources for Families database ([www.chop.edu/crf](http://www.chop.edu/crf)), JAWS (a screen reading program for the blind) and ZoomText (a screen magnification program for those with low vision).
- 9 Find information about the CHOP Career Path program, the Little Rock Foundation and Blindness Awareness Month 2010.
- 9 Ask an HR representative about CHOP’s employee policies.
- 9 Learn about Diversity and Inclusion initiatives.

Stewart Hughes from the [Little Rock Family Resource Room](#), located on the first floor of Children’s Seashore House, will be manning one of the tables to demonstrate some of the technology used by people who are visually impaired. October is also Blindness Awareness Month (BAM). BAM was conceived by Tina Fiorentino, founder of the Little Rock Foundation named for her son Rocco Jr., now 13 years old, who was treated at CHOP. The foundation supports the Resource Room. BAM is now recognized by four states: California, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. For the full slate of BAM events, go to [www.blindnessawarenessmonth.org](http://www.blindnessawarenessmonth.org). ■

### CHOP’s Adolescent Initiative Team Works to Combat Climbing HIV Rates

On Saturday, Sept. 11, staff from the Adolescent Initiative (Adolescent HIV) Program attended the Philly AIDS Fund’s monthly gay bingo night at the Gershman Y in Center City (*see photo*). The team is committed to working with youth who are living with HIV. Going to the Lady Gaga-themed gay bingo event was a fun way for staff to give back to the community of AIDS service organizations in Philadelphia at a different level. It also was a great way to build team cohesion and remind team members why they are committed to the work they do.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health recently reported some startling data about new HIV cases right in CHOP’s backyard: Philadelphians are being infected at a rate more than 50 percent higher than residents of New York City. In fact, the rate for Philadelphia is five times the national average.

Children’s Hospital has two dedicated programs that see more than 300 children and adolescents living with HIV and provide services to more than 1,000 youth at highest risk for HIV. CHOP also provides care to an additional 250 families with affected children. New drugs are helping some people live



longer, but the harsh reality is that there is still no cure and HIV infection rates continue to climb.

To help the search for a cure, Adolescent Initiative Program Director Chris Ambrose, M.S.W., L.S.W., is team captain for the CHOP team, number 0567, that will be participating in the 12K Annual AIDS Walk scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 17. ■

## Benefits Open Enrollment Oct. 19 – Nov. 19: What You Need to Do

Open Enrollment is almost here! It's the time you get to select your benefits for Jan. 1. Even if you don't want to make any changes to your benefits, there are still some important things you need to do:

1. Starting Oct. 19, you will need to log on to [www.EnrollOnline.com/chop](http://www.EnrollOnline.com/chop) and:
  - 9 Certify your tobacco-user status and whether your covered dependents meet the eligibility rules for our plans. You must complete these certifications each year. If you don't, you'll be defaulted to tobacco-user status, which means you could pay higher rates for some benefits. You also could be required to submit proof that your dependents are eligible for coverage — they could even be dropped from your plans if you don't.

- 9 Take the online Health Risk Assessment (HRA). This confidential questionnaire measures your well-being and your risk factors for disease. After taking the HRA, you can print your personal wellness report with recommendations for improving your health. Because CHOP believes all employees can benefit from taking the HRA, we're offering some nice incentives for those who do. (See the [Open Enrollment page](#) of the Employee Intranet for details.)
2. Update your address and phone number on [CHOPone](#). It's easy and takes only a few minutes. Just log on to CHOPone by phone, on the Employee Intranet or at a CHOPone kiosk.
3. Attend an Open Enrollment Fair. This is your opportunity to speak to our vendors about our health plans. While you're there, get your

free health screening if you haven't already.

It's important to remember that Open Enrollment typically is the only chance you have during the plan year to make changes to your benefits. What's more, there won't be a change period after this enrollment period ends — so be sure to take action by Nov. 19!

**Note:** This enrollment period will cover your benefits from Jan. 1, 2011, through June 30, 2011. CHOP is moving its benefits year to align with the Hospital's fiscal year starting July 1, 2011.

For more information, including important changes to our benefits plans, please see your enrollment materials or visit the Open Enrollment page of the Employee Intranet.

If you have any questions, contact [benefits@email.chop.edu](mailto:benefits@email.chop.edu) or call the benefits hotline at 215-590-1932 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. ■

## Hispanic Heritage Month Runs through Oct. 15

CHOP is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of cultural events. There are opportunities to taste the flavors of Latin cuisine, enjoy discussions of the Hispanic influences on our everyday lives and explore historical achievements in America.

Celebration details are on the [Diversity and Inclusion intranet site](#) under Events. We hope you'll participate — the activities were planned with you in mind.

**Monday, Oct. 4**

Hispanic Americans Exhibition, noon – 2 p.m., Main Building, Atrium.

Take a moment to stop by and see the photographic display depicting noteworthy Hispanic Americans and their impact on American culture. Each photograph includes biographical information as well as information on individual contributions.

Panel Discussion, noon – 1 p.m., Main Building, Stokes Auditorium. Join us for a lively discussion on "Healthcare Reform and Its Impact on the Hispanic Community." CHOP's own collection of dignitaries will hold this discussion and invite audience participation, with the goal of bringing insight to the complex legislation.

Zumba Fitness, 1:15 – 2 p.m., Main Building, Stokes Auditorium. The ZUMBA program fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program. Join us for a free session — contact [diversityandinclusion@email.chop.edu](mailto:diversityandinclusion@email.chop.edu) to register. Limited to 20.

**Wednesdays, Oct. 6 and 13**

Hispanic Cuisine, noon – 2 p.m., Main Building Food Court and CHOP North Cafeteria at 3535 Market St. Enjoy Hispanic cuisine and visit the exhibition station at the Main Building. Taste a bit of the Caribbean during a cooking demonstration Oct. 6 at Abramson Research Building café, noon – 1 p.m. ■

## Tip Sheets to Improve Communication with Families Now Available Online

To help you communicate more effectively with families, tip sheets developed by parents, staff and the Family Advisory Council are now available on both the [Employee Intranet](#) and on CHOP's [Family-Centered Care Internet site](#). The goal is to give staff

and families best practice ideas to create partnerships and shared decision making through family-centered communication.

On the intranet, you will find "mirror image" tip sheets by topic. These are parallel pages that address a specific type of situation, such as patient safety, phone communication and bedside rounds, for either patients and families or

staff. The staff sheets give you language to begin conversations with families. Please print out appropriate sheets to give to families so that everyone can approach communications with shared expectations.

The public website has family-focused sheets only. As more tools are created, they'll be added to both sites. ■

## INSIGHTS Alumni Event a Success!

The INSIGHTS Forum Alumni Association (IFAA) held its inaugural professional event on Sept. 17 at 3535 Market St. It was a time to reconnect, share perspectives and show appreciation. ■

*IFAA president-elect, Leah Peterson, left, and IFAA founder and current president, Vanessa Johnson, frame keynote speaker Douglas Oliver, press secretary for the City of Philadelphia and adviser to Mayor Nutter.*



*Here are some of the INSIGHTS Forum alumni, representing all classes, who attended the event. Front row, from left: Ajoa Abrokwa, Ada Natal, Donna Rooks-Johnson, Jennifer Massenburg, Renea Roane-Lewis, Robert Heard, Donna Artis, Gwendolyn Keene. Back row, from left: Love Lynch, Necol Smith, Jeffrey Williamson, Douglas Oliver, keynote speaker (center), Leah Peterson, Vanessa Johnson, Meki Davis and DeGina Jordan.*



### “Medicine Is Not Candy” and Other Poison Control Booklets Now in Spanish

Please let your Spanish-speaking families know that the Poison Control Center at CHOP now offers its Kids Health Galaxy educational materials in Spanish.

“Medicine Is Not Candy” is an illustrated story booklet that teaches young children about poison prevention.

“Poison Control Patrol” is an 18-page activity and game book that teaches kids in a fun and engaging way how to be poison safe.

Find them at [www.poisoncontrol.chop.edu](http://www.poisoncontrol.chop.edu) (go to Public Education, then Materials for Education). ■

### Time to Get Your Flu Vaccine

All employees who work in a patient building or provide care for patients (those employees who are required to have annual PPD testing) are required to get vaccinated against influenza by Nov. 15.

There are vaccination clinics set up throughout the Main Building nearly every day, and clinics are coming to Wood, Wanamaker, Abramson, Colket and 3535 Market St. now through

Oct. 22. Check the [schedule](#) on the Occupational Health page of the Employee Intranet for exact times and locations.

Employees not covered by the mandate are encouraged to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families and their co-workers this flu season.

To maintain the safest environment for patients and staff, employees should not come to work with flu symptoms that

may include fever, cough, body aches, sore throat and/or diarrhea — even if they received the vaccine. Every employee should be free of fever for at least 24 hours before returning to work. ■

**Got News?** – To include news in a future issue of *At a Glance*, contact Zan Hale, managing editor in Public Relations/Marketing, at [ataglance@email.chop.edu](mailto:ataglance@email.chop.edu).