Under Construction: The Future of Hartford Hospital

With three major facilities under construction on campus, the vision of a Hartford Hospital equipped with an infrastructure prepared to meet the region’s evolving healthcare needs is coming into clear view.

The Hartford HealthCare Bone & Joint Institute at Retreat Avenue and Seymour Street; an expansion of the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) on Jefferson Street; and a new Jefferson Street building for the Brownstone Ambulatory Care Clinic are major components of the hospital’s facilities master plan. Launched in 2010, the plan provides a development framework spanning two decades.

While donors have been integral to the successful launch of the current construction projects, recent state and federal funding reductions have had an impact. The completion of the new Brownstone Clinic has been delayed but is anticipated to be completed in 2016. Nevertheless, the hospital remains fully committed to investing in the technologies, strategies, facilities, and programs that will secure the healthcare future of the communities it serves, and it is actively seeking support through the Campaign for Hartford Hospital to help bring these and other programs to fruition.

So as Hartford Hospital moves forward on securing its future as a destination for the highest quality care, Progress offers an update on the three most visible building projects on campus.

The expansion of CESI will position it to partner with more businesses to help support the research, development, and design of products that will promote patient safety, improve patient outcomes, optimize hospital operations, and enhance personnel efficiency and performance.

The Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation

Since simulation-based training began at Hartford Hospital in 2000, the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) has grown into an international state-of-the-art training facility where physicians and other healthcare professionals learn to use the newest technology, perform the most sophisticated medical and surgical procedures, and perfect critical techniques in a safe, simulated environment.

With the addition of a three-story building and at least 25,000 square feet, CESI will expand to include four private patient rooms in a medical/surgical training unit, high fidelity training rooms, debriefing classrooms, and the potential for helicopter transport training. A cadaveric training lab is also planned. “Human tissue will greatly advance our surgical training by allowing our medical team doctors and physician assistants to stay educated on a variety of robotic technology and surgical procedures,” says Stephen Donahue, CESI program director. (continued on page 2)
Construction crews demolished the adjacent Barney Building in June to make way for CESI's expansion. The frame of the new building is expected to be completed in the fall, with a topping out ceremony scheduled for late November. Construction of the new three-story building, which has the capabilities of being six stories, is expected to be completed in about a year.

Architects: Tecton Architects of West Hartford.

Construction: FIP Construction, Inc. of Farmington.

Funding: $15 million in state funds in addition to Hartford Hospital funding.

Building: Three-story facility will add at least 25,000 square feet; vertical expandability to six stories, adding another 55,887 square feet when fully built out.

Benefit: The expansion will provide more opportunities for a greater number of staff members of Hartford HealthCare, and members of the United States military and international groups to use CESI's simulation-based approach to the medical learning process.

Projected Completion date: August 2016.

Brownstone Clinic Relocation

The Brownstone Ambulatory Care Clinic, currently located on Retreat Avenue, receives on average 250 patients and approximately 450 medical calls a day. Without the clinic, many patients might wait several months for an appointment with a specialist or avoid much-needed treatment altogether.

Unlike city clinics that have staff dedicated solely to their facility, the Brownstone Clinic is unique in that Hartford Hospital physicians and specialists from all medical fields donate their time to the clinic so our community patients are seen by the very best physicians for primary and specialty care. The clinic also provides a dynamic setting for medical education and clinical experiences as one of the largest teaching hospitals in New England.

With all that it does, the busy clinic has outgrown its current location, which was built in 1922 for maternity care. The new Brownstone Clinic building will be a highly efficient facility, featuring multi-use exam rooms, offices, common areas, and procedure and treatment rooms. It will allow improved patient flow and safety.

At the end of August, the new building’s steel frame could be seen rising above the tarpaulin covered fence at 132-138 Jefferson Street. By the first week of November, the exterior walls, elevator, stairs, and infrastructure rooms are expected to be completed. But given the realities of the impact of cuts in federal and state funding on the hospital's budget and the number of significant capital demands Hartford Hospital is experiencing, the Brownstone Clinic project has slowed. The new clinic space was initially scheduled to open this fall. The hospital is committed to completing the project, but must delay the opening by one year to the fall of 2016 due to limited access to capital. Donors have made commitments and several others are considering it. Still, additional gifts are needed to help bring this project to fruition. It is among the priorities of the lead phase of the Campaign for Hartford Hospital and is the beneficiary of the Annual Campaign Holiday Appeal.

Architects: MBH Architecture, LLC of West Hartford.

Construction: FIP Construction, Inc. of Farmington.

Funding: Gifts totaling $300,000 have been received, including a grant of $300,000 from The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and support from the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary through its 2015 Golf Tournament, scheduled for September 21 at Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield. The hospital is actively seeking additional gifts and support.

Building: Three-story, 15,000-square-foot facility.

Benefit: Carefully planned utilization of space has the potential to increase the Brownstone's annual patient volume by up to 10 percent.

Projected Completion date: Fall 2016.

The opening of the Jefferson Street building for the Brownstone Clinic has been delayed a year.

Hartford HealthCare Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital

The demand for musculoskeletal care will rise dramatically over the next 25 years, driven in part by active, aging baby boomers. The Bone & Joint Institute will position Hartford Hospital to respond to the healthcare needs of this changing demographic and provide the infrastructure necessary for the hospital’s growth. As a hospital-within-a-hospital with a dedicated staff, dedicated facility, separate cost center, and accountability, the institute will provide state-of-the-art, coordinated, and patient-centered care that integrates all elements of orthopedics and musculoskeletal treatment, including primary and specialty care, diagnostics, rehabilitation, rheumatology, and pain management. Patients throughout the Hartford Hospital campus will benefit from the Bone & Joint Institute as the additional space the institute will provide will increase the hospital’s capacity of private rooms from 55 percent to 75 percent.

The institute will be integrated with our Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation, and committed to education and research to develop innovative patient care at a national level, giving medical practitioners and students access to state-of-the-art training and offering our patients greater access to proven, effective treatments for their bone and joint conditions.

The new buildings being erected on Seymour Street are designed and will be hard-wired to provide superior coordinated care.

Groundbreaking for this innovative facility took place in October 2014, which started construction on the Bone & Joint inpatient building. A topping out ceremony for the inpatient building is scheduled for October 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. Construction of the ambulatory care building across Seymour Street is slated to begin in the fall, with the expectation that it will open concurrently with the Bone & Joint hospital building.

Architects: HDR of New Jersey and Perkins + Will of New York.


Funding: Bonding funds, lead donors to the Campaign for Hartford Hospital, the 25th Black & Red gala, scheduled for February 6, 2016, and featuring the band, Chicago, will benefit the continued construction as well as program support for the Bone & Joint Institute.

Buildings: The inpatient building will include five floors of 130,000 total square feet; 10 operating rooms; 60 private inpatient rooms; diagnostic services; orthopedic urgent care, and public space. The institute’s ambulatory and medical office space will consist of three floors of 35,000 total square feet with offices for orthopedics and rheumatology, and five ambulatory surgery rooms. The Center for Sports & Fitness, to be located on the 1st floor of the Bone & Joint hospital, will focus on specialized rehabilitative services as well as comprehensive assessments for persons with arthritis, osteoporosis, and back and neck pain (although not exclusive to these disease states).

Benefit: The Bone & Joint Institute will provide coordinated orthopedic and musculoskeletal services in an area of growth. It will also result in an increase of private rooms at Hartford Hospital, which has benefits in terms of quality, safety and the patient experience, and will allow for more space within the hospital facility for conversions to much-needed critical care capacity, as capital dollars become available.

Projected completion date: October 2016.

Work progresses on tunnel that will connect the Bone & Joint Institute to the Conklin Building.
Appreciating the Value of COIN

Virginia Murphy of Durham faced many challenges after she was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma in August 2014. She underwent in-patient chemotherapy five days a week every three weeks for more than four months at the Helen & Henry Gray Cancer Center. When the chemo failed to control the disease, she entered a clinical trial at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Throughout her treatments, Murphy found comfort in the massage therapy offered through Hartford Hospital’s Integrative Medicine program. “I could see how relaxed she was after her first massage,” Virginia Murphy’s husband, Bill Murphy, says. “She once told me that the massages were better than any morphine.”

Virginia Murphy was able to enjoy the massage therapy for free through a grant from Angie’s Spa Cancer Foundation, which funds therapeutic spa services at hospitals across the country for patients undergoing oncology treatment.

The Murphys first learned about the benefits of integrative medicine—which at Hartford Hospital includes relaxing and healing techniques such as acupuncture, ART for Healing, guided imagery, imagery for surgery, massage therapy, therapeutic touch, and Reiki—through their nurse navigator, Barbara Gaughan, RN. “We are the first contact,” Gaughan says. “We make sure our patients are connected with their doctors and all the services available to them throughout the process.”

Virginia Murphy died in May surrounded by her family, but not before she and her husband decided they would pay forward the comforting gift of massage therapy. At the Murphys’ request, friends and family donated $3,500 to Angie’s Spa Cancer Foundation, which matched $3,000 for a gift to the hospital totaling $6,500. The donations were also given in gratitude of the care provided by the staff on the 2nd floor of the Conklin Building and in honor of the Nurse Navigator program.

“Everyone on CB 2 is phenomenal—the nurses, the certified aides, the cleaning people,” Murphy says. “As I’m sure anyone can imagine, navigating everything involved with cancer is extremely challenging. The people at the Helen & Henry Gray Cancer Center are exceptional.”

In addition to the memorial gift, Angie’s Spa this year awarded the hospital a $20,000 grant to support spa services for cancer patients. Angie’s Spa has provided spa services at Hartford Hospital for many years, awarding more than $10,000 in grants since 2009.

Bill Murphy says he also plans to continue to give. “I learned that Hartford Hospital holds bake sales to raise funds to provide Angie’s Spa services. I bake an especially mean butterscotch brownie and I will be contributing to the next bake sale”
Sale of Sculptures Benefits Nursing Education

To benefit nursing education and development, Hartford Hospital is offering for sale works created by sculptor Lloyd Glasson (1931-2014).

The sculptures being offered are limited editions of 10-inch replicas of the angels that stand atop the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Bushnell Memorial Park in Hartford. Glasson was commissioned in 1986 to create the archangels—Gabriel with trumpets and Raphael holding cymbals—to replace the originals, which were destroyed in a fire in 1985.

The 10-inch replicas were donated to the hospital by his wife, Cathy, in gratitude for the care that Glasson received at the hospital by his wife, Cathy, in gratitude for the care that Glasson received at the hospital. We are offering this special contribution for a minimum price of $500 a pair.

Glasson may be most familiar to the Hartford Hospital community for the nursing statue Caregiver, which stands in the lobby of the High Building. Commissioned, paid for, and donated to Hartford Hospital by the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association to honor the former school and its graduates, the bronze statue was originally installed in 2000 next to the Seymour Street meditation garden.

If you would like to purchase a set of Lloyd Glasson’s Angels of Peace for a minimum of $500 (any additional contributions to nursing education would be gratefully accepted), contact Carla Burgess, development director, at 860.972.1932 or at Carla.Burgess@hhchealth.org.

CHEFA Grant Supports First-Responder Training

Hartford Hospital has been awarded a $143,800 grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) to support the Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation (CESI) in training first responders to more successfully treat victims in mass casualty and active shooter events.

The training will help bridge the gap between medicine and law enforcement by providing first responders with the education and techniques to administer basic clinical skills like bleeding control.

CHEFA is a quasi-public agency created by the State Legislature to help Connecticut healthcare and educational institutions, and other not-for-profit entities obtain tax exempt financing. CHEFA is self-sustaining and receives no taxpayer funds. For more information about CHEFA, visit www.chefa.com.

YLAG Funds Maternity Unit Rockers

The Young Leaders Advisory Council (YLAC) presented a check for $10,850 to Hartford Hospital’s Labor and Delivery department in July. The funds were raised through YLAC’s fourth annual Spring Into Action, which was held in May at Hot Tomato’s in Hartford.

Labor and Delivery is undergoing a complete renovation of its 16-bed unit. Two rooms were renovated in fall 2014. One key component for each room is a glider rocker. YLAC’s gift will help to fund as many rockers as possible.

ERRACE Everyone Ride/Run Against Cancer Everyday (ERRACE) was held July 11 with more than 800 cyclists, runners, walkers, and exotic car enthusiasts joining the fight against cancer. It was the largest turnout to date for the event, which was held at the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center-Avon. More than $137,000 was raised for the cancer center and the LIVESTRONG Foundation.

The funds were divided equally between the two organizations to support research, advocacy, and care.

Lefante Superheroes

Anna Lefante created the Modern Day Superheroes campaign in honor of her uncle, Lucio Lefante, who has been undergoing treatment at Hartford Hospital. She sold hats and T-shirts to support brain cancer research and treatment while many people gave outright donations. The money raised is going to the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center.

From left: Mickey Orkin, associate director, Corporate and Foundation Support, Hartford Hospital; Steven Stichman, MD, medical director, CESI; Michael Morris, director of business, CHEFA; Steve Donohue, program director, CESI; Stuart Markowitz, MD, president, Hartford Hospital; Thomas Nowicki, emergency medicine cognitive simulation director, CESI; Jeanette Weldon, executive director, CHEFA; Lenworth Jacobs, MD, vice president, Academic Affairs and chief academic officer, Hartford Hospital; state Rep. Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, chair, chair, of the legislature’s Public Health Committee; and Yvette Melendez, vice president, Government and Community Alliances, Hartford Hospital.

From left: Allie Lefante; Linda Lefante; Andy Sainer, MD, director, Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital; Lucio Lefante; Anna Lefante; Vin Lefante; Marjat Knerr; Francesca Knerr; and Gaetano Lefante.

From left: Jack Soos, YLAC executive committee member, Adam F. Borgida, MD, chief, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Elizabeth Decker, MD, medical director, Labor and Delivery; Janice Cousins, RN, nurse director, Women’s and Obstetrical Services, Sue Ekwall, RN, unit leader, Labor and Delivery; Brendan Perkins, YLAC executive committee member, Ryan Burns, YLAC executive committee member, Erin Concepcion, chair, YLAC, Katie Carges, YLAC executive committee member, Julie Daly Mielon, chair, YLAC Events Committee; Alice Vautour, YLAC executive committee member, Ian Squicciarini, chair, YLAC membership committee; Peter Murphy, YLAC executive committee member; and Meghan Bianco, Hartford Hospital YLAC liaison.

Room 13B is a glider rocker. YLAC’s gift will help to fund one key component for each room. The renovate 16-bed unit. One key component for each room is a glider rocker. YLAC’s gift will help to fund as many rockers as possible.
1854 Society Luncheon

More than 50 members of Hartford Hospital’s 1854 Society attended the society’s annual luncheon at the Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford on June 10. The luncheon featured a presentation on the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance by Donna Handley, vice president of operations, Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute.

Members of the 1854 Society are Hartford Hospital’s most loyal ambassadors. The society recognizes individuals who have included Hartford Hospital in their estate plan through planned gifts. The simplest of these gifts is a bequest made through testamentary devices, such as wills, retirement plans, and revocable trusts.

Benefits of membership include annual luncheons, invitations to special events and seminars, and a subscription to our newsletter.

To learn more about Hartford Hospital charitable plans that can help leverage your objectives, please call 860 972 2162.

Donna Handley, vice president of operations, Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, speaks to guests at the annual 1854 Society Luncheon.

Michael Marsky, MD, and Joan Wells

Debbie Kleen and Stuart Markowitz, MD, president, Hartford Hospital.

Bill Lawrence and Claudette Rainey.

From left: Roger Kline, Judy Kegelman, chair, Hartford Hospital Development Committee, and John Hiedis.

From left: Thomas Collins, Nancy Spada, and Judge Arthur Spada.