TMH Announces Surgical and ICU Expansion Plans

Since arriving at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare nearly ten years ago, Mark O’Bryant focused on improving the quality and financial stability of the area’s largest healthcare system. Many improvements happened quickly. But, he knew that one needed advancement would take many years to realize because TMH was not in a financial position to fund the project at that time.

“IT took nearly ten years of steady financial performance, and a strict adherence to three successive strategic plans, for TMH to be able to fund one of the largest construction projects in the history of Leon County,” said Mark. “I am proud of our colleagues for their efforts to position us to move financially forward on a project that will have a lasting impact on our community.”

In May, the Tallahassee Memorial Board of Directors approved a conceptual design of that project, a 294,000 square foot Surgery and Adult Intensive Care Unit expansion to be located on the south side of the existing campus on the corner of Miccosukee Road and Medical Drive. The approximate cost of the project today stands at $170 million.

“While our current surgical areas remain functional, they sit inside a building constructed many years ago,” said Mark. “Our vision is to develop a structure that will facilitate the surgical suites of the future, taking into account space required for changing technologies that we anticipate will be incorporated into the surgical process. This building will also be designed to grow with our community.

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a state-of-the-art platform for the next 50 years. As such, the building will include space that will allow for expansion without significant disruption to existing services.”

The facility will connect to the current acute care building near the Bixler Emergency Center and will focus on patient centered improvements such as a convenient patient drop-off, improved way-finding, and easy access to the entire campus. No new parking areas will be constructed since the building will make use of parking spaces that are underutilized.

The surgical center will initially have 20 operating rooms with shell space for 12-16 additional rooms. The operating suites will be proximate to the existing Bixler Emergency Center, thereby improving flow for patients requiring immediate surgical intervention.

The adult intensive care units will be relocated to this expansion with an initial build out of 48 ICU rooms, and shell space for an additional 24 rooms. Architects will design the space to minimize travel distance from ICU to medical and surgical areas.

With the approval of the Board of Directors completed, the next steps will include securing bond financing for the project before moving to detailed architectural and engineering design. A focus of the plans will be the incorporation of sustainable elements in the facility’s design. Scheduled to be included in the final plans are vista views of a central garden area and the use of local materials.

The project is scheduled to take at least four years for the development of plans and construction.

Dr. James Whyte, FSU College of Nursing Associate Professor and Center Director, Outlines Goals and Objectives

The short and long-term goals of the Tallahassee Memorial Center for Research and Evidenced Based Practice at the Florida State University College of Nursing Center are around forwarding the research programs at both TMH and FSU. In the short term, the focus of the Center will be on assisting with the establishment of additional evidence-based projects being performed by TMH staff. Key to this effort is the integration of FSU faculty on these projects.

Dr. Roxanne Hauber, FSU College of Nursing Associate Professor and TMH Nurse Scientist, Highlights the Center’s Current Research

In developing a culture of excellence, the Tallahassee Memorial Center for Research and Evidence-Based Practice at the Florida State University College of Nursing works with advanced practice nurses and frontline nurses who are committed to improving the quality and safety of nursing care through the use of systematic inquiry and best evidence. Over the past three years, TMH nurses have been involved in the acquisition of skills in gathering and appraising evidence, and when necessary, developing evidence related to best practices aimed at providing the best care possible for their patients and families.

Their efforts have included projects such as:

- **Kathleen Barnett, RN, MSN, CNS, and the staff of the post operative unit** have implemented the use of P-6 acupressure as an adjuvant to treating post-operative nausea and vomiting (PONV). This effort has been expanded by Kristin Cantrell, MSN, Greg McLanahan, M.D. and the staff involved in the care of patients undergoing surgery, by developing best evidence protocol for patients at high risk for PONV.

- **Jessica Bahorski, RN, MSN, PNP-BC and a team of pediatric nurses** are conducting a large research study to determine what interventions are most effective for decreasing pain and distress associated with needle sticks in children based on a child’s gender and age.

- **Donna Florence, RN, MS, CNS, Andrea Powers, CRNA, family care nurses, and Barbara Cottrell, MSN, ARNP**, FSU College of Nursing faculty member, conducted a quality improvement project to determine which of three medications was most effective in mitigating severe itching, an uncomfortable side effect of an epidural medication often experienced by their labor patients.

And, the most recent collaboration among Cara Pappas, ND, ARNP, FSU College of Nursing faculty member, Stephen Quintero, MD, FSU College of Medicine faculty member and Medical Director of the TMH Transition Center, Judy Griffin, ARNP, TMH Transition Center and Dean Watson, MD, TMH Chief Medical Officer, addresses ways to improve outcomes for those with chronic conditions and limited resources.
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Tallahassee Memorial salutes and thanks those in the Golden Gala vanguard and those who have maintained its vibrancy and relevancy since 1984 when a group of dedicated, determined and energetic individuals – led by M. T. Mustian, then President & CEO of TMH, Grace Dansby, Jean McCully, Eleanor Smith and Marcia Thornberry introduced "the Gala" fund-raising concept within the community. Now, celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary, Golden Gala is considered, by most, as Tallahassee’s premier charitable and social event.

Sans captions to accommodate broader photographic coverage -- each of the individuals pictured is a loyal supporter of TMH.
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To Tallahassee Memorial’s Donors and Supporters:

As we celebrate Golden Gala’s Thirtieth Anniversary, please join us in reflecting on what its remarkable history represents in terms of benefit to the TMH service area—the patients, their families and the region at large. YOU – the TMH Community of Donors – are responsible for Golden Gala’s continued success and it is to YOU that we extend our profound and enduring gratitude.

G. Mark O’Bryant
President & CEO
Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

Paula S. Fortunas
President & CEO
Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation

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Protocols for Philanthropy will return in the September/October issue of Tallahassee Magazine.

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