Respiratory Care is a health specialty involving the care of patients who can’t adequately breathe on their own due to deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system. A respiratory therapist is responsible for setting up and operating the life-saving machines that help patients take in the oxygen they need and exhale carbon dioxide in the most optimal and efficient manner. They use a variety of sophisticated equipment and techniques to measure how a patient’s lungs and circulatory system are working in order to evaluate and monitor a patient’s respiratory health.

Around since the 1940’s, professionals in the field have been called everything from oxygen technicians and inhalation therapists to respiratory therapists and respiratory care practitioners. Doctors and nurses rely heavily upon respiratory therapists for their specialized knowledge in areas such as use of mechanical ventilation, oxygen and oxygen mixtures, chest physiotherapy and aerosol medications.

At Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, respiratory therapists play an integral role in providing overall high quality patient care. In all, there are 26 respiratory therapists who work in inpatient, outpatient and sleep lab settings and here they also provide critical training to family and care givers so that they can care for their loved ones at home.

“As a team we strive to work together with the physicians, pulmonologists and all disciplines to provide the best care for our patients,” says Sajid H. Manzoor, Director of MWPH’s Respiratory Care Services and General Lab. “Our goal is for our patients to achieve the best possible outcome in their recovery for going home. We want the patients and families leaving for home confident, comfortable and happy with what they’ve experienced here at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital.”

Manzoor says that Mt. Washington’s respiratory therapy teams train more than 200 family members a year, including both a primary caregiver and a secondary caregiver. Each caregiver, in fact, learns to change a tracheostomy tube with at least three hands-on successes before doing so solo or off site.

“It’s a very simple procedure that a lot of experienced practitioners are afraid of,” Manzoor notes, adding that Mt. Washington is known for its medical training both within the practitioner community as well as among non-medical personnel. The pediatric hospital maintains a great stock and assortment of tracheostomy tubes, serving as a resource center for hospitals both in the region and across the country.

Next up? The Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital Foundation has funded a simulation lab where those in training can first practice on life-like SIMS babies™. The foundation has also approved the purchase of state-of-the-art advanced ventilators that are the most sensitive and responsive to the immediate oxygen needs of small babies.

Elijah Smith, Respiratory Therapist, Pearl O’Hara (patient), and Fran German, Senior Respiratory Therapist.
Celebrating Nurses Day 2014

MWPH celebrated Nurses Day on May 15 with an afternoon awards program recognizing our RN, LPN, PCA and MA of the Year. It was a moving event that honors those who help so many.

“Every year at this time I reflect on my choice to be a nurse,” said Jenny Bowie, MWPH’s Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nurse Executive. “And every year I am happy to be in a career that provides the privilege to care for patients and their families at a time in their lives when they need the skill and compassion of a nurse to take the next steps on their journey to health. I also find myself very thankful for those nurses who were in my life when both my children needed their skills and compassion to heal. It is because of them,” says Bowie, “that I am here in this career at all.”

“You thank Nurses, PCA’s and MA’s here at Mt Washington for sharing your hearts and your skill with our patients and their families. I watch you and at their best. You will see people at their worst. Some will bless you. And you will make a difference. You will step into people’s lives and very little authority. You will carry immense responsibility and end. You will experience resounding triumphs and devastating failures. You will cry a lot. You will laugh a lot. You will know what it is to be human and to be humane.”

—Melodie Cheuvert, RN

As we enjoy the last days of summer, it’s cause for celebration. We’ve recently reached several exciting milestones and we couldn’t have done it without each of you.

Operationally, our fiscal year ended in June and Mt. Washington finished the year both meeting and exceeding projections for admissions and outpatient volume. We have been financially successful and that helps fuel the future of the hospital. That’s serious business but we’ve had fun along the way.

In May, we held our Dr. Seuss-themed Storybook Gala, our first in 20 years and what a success! The event sold out in less than two weeks, we hosted more than 400 guests and raised more than $100,000. These funds help enhance our programs and services as well as go toward new equipment purchases. A huge thanks to all our attendees and supporters as well as the volunteers and staff who made this such a fun and profitable affair. Look forward to another next year!

A quick look around reminds us of the continued growth of Mt. Washington. You’ve all witnessed the construction of new additions as well as the renovation of existing space—exciting to watch as it attests to the growing capacity of the facility. As we wind down in our last and final phase of construction, we’ll shift attention to expanding our parking capacity and improving the hospital’s infrastructure—things like our emergency power supply, ventilation systems, and hot water capacity. These operational improvements keep us up to code and are undertaken about once every 25 years.

More frequently, every three years in fact, we undergo the rigorous CARF accreditation process. The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities is a collegial peer-reviewed exercise where others in the pediatric field come on-site to consult side-by-side with us in what we call continuous improvement opportunities. These exercises ensure we meet national and international standards and offer our patients the latest and greatest in care and services. It’s a stamp of approval of sorts and, as always, we expect the best from you in terms of performance and outcome. Because you CARE!

On that note, I want to thank you all for your dedicated service and wish you nothing but the best as we transition back to school and our fall routines. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Sheldon J. Stein
President & CEO

Celebrating Milestones

On My Mind –

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Sincerely,

Sheldon J. Stein
President & CEO

“An Enchanted Evening” Storybook Gala 2015

Saturday, May 2, 2015
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
300 Light Street
Baltimore Inner Harbor

An Enchanted Evening

UPCOMING EVENTS

1 Yoga at the Mount with Maggie Kenny from Charm City Yoga
Mondays at Noon
First Floor
Child Life Playroom
Call Felina at x2631 to RSVP

2 15th annual MWPH Golf Tournament
at Bulle Rock
Wednesday, Oct. 1
9 am Shotgun Start
Reserve Your Spot
410-578-5040

3 "An Enchanted Evening” Storybook Gala 2015
Saturday, May 2, 2015
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
300 Light Street
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NURSES GRADUATION 2014

Another First! Congrats to the nine nurses who became the first official graduates of MWPH’s very own year-long nurse residency program, which is a merger of its already successful Grow Your Own and Stepping Stone programs. Nurse residency programs are a growing trend in the healthcare arena nationwide and graduates of MWPH’s program are either new to nursing or are nurses new to pediatrics.
Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital joined about 40 other hospitals at the Children’s Hospital Association’s annual Family Advocacy Day this summer in Washington, DC. MWPH has long taken an active role in this event that helps raise public awareness about issues related to children’s health care.

Joining us this year was former University of Maryland basketball star Walt Williams and his family: wife April and sons Tyrese and Bryce.

Bryce, now 9, who was born prematurely at 24 weeks gestation, lives with cerebral palsy and has been in physical, occupational and speech therapy since he was an infant. Bryce spent two weeks at MWPH last summer after having a cord lengthening procedure on both legs.

Even though the Williams family relies on their own private insurance, they wanted to help us make the case for continuing Medicaid and CHIP coverage for families who are not as fortunate.

“I can’t even imagine not being able to afford the kind of care that Bryce has required over the years, it breaks my heart to even think about it,” said April Williams, in advocating for kids to Maryland Congressmen John Sarbanes (D) 3rd District.

Despite the complications and against all odds, Bryce has thrived. He’s entering the 4th grade this fall and is looking forward to school.

FACT: Medical assistance covers 75% of Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital’s patient healthcare costs and 125,000 children in Maryland rely on what’s known as the Children’s Hospital Insurance Program (CHIP).

Within the last year, the Hospital has re-instituted its Diversity Council. The Diversity Council serves as an oversight group that represents all members of the hospital community. Senior Leadership has nominated the following employees to serve on the Council:

Sajid Manzoor, Respiratory Care Chair
Monica Atkinson, Manager, Human Resources: Co-Chair
Dr. Ajole Akintade, Medicine
Elmira McNeil, Respiratory Care - Recording Secretary
Linda Morrison, Hospital Education
Lindie McDonough, Child Life
Melissa Beasley, Community Advocacy
Michelle DeMeule-Hayes, Weigh Smart
Renee Horpeza, Rehabilitation Services
Michelle Franklin, Outpatient Services
Marisa Vhara-Reyes, Child Life
Sally De Arruda, Language Liaison
Michelle Hanover, Patient Liaison
Tamara Arkes, Social Worker

The purpose of MWPH’s Diversity Council is to:

1. Make recommendations regarding inclusive and diverse approaches.
2. Examine programs, activities, policies, publications, and practices to determine intentional or unintentional exclusiveness.
3. Engage members in lively dialogue, as well as evidence-based instruction and practices that reflect inclusion and diversity; and
4. Serve as the central avenue for communication between Senior Leadership of the Hospital and the community it serves regarding issues of inclusion and diversity.

MWPH employees can anticipate a greater focus on patient and family education as well as heightened awareness through lectures and initiatives, surveys and contests and displays that focus on different cultures and religious holidays, for example. The response so far has been incredible. A luncheon in May was standing room only.

We’d like to thank each committee member for their service and commitment to this cause. And, if you have any opportunities for improvement related to inclusion and diversity with the hospital community or would like to become active with the Council, please contact Sajid Manzoor at ext. 5253 or via email at smanzoor@mwph.org. Stay tuned for more ways to get involved.

What better way to bring local attention to MWPH than a fun-filled night with colorful imagery from a beloved children’s classic? Dr. Seuss himself came to life at MWPH’s Storybook Gala with red and white stripes galore. Highlights of the gala were several interactive themes, such as a “Onesie Drive,” which resulted in guests donating more than 500 onesies for babies to wear in the Center for Pediatric and Neonatal Transitional Care. Thanks to all for their fun and support!
Every year, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital participates in Hospital Week, recognizing everyone who displays dedication and service to the hospital’s mission of caring for our children.

Our Service Awards Day starts with a luncheon for all recipients, followed by a ceremony with a certificate presentation. Recipients are encouraged to share their best anecdotes or memories at MWPH. It can be funny, touching, even incredibly poignant—and is always a favorite event.

We can’t fit everyone, but we thought you’d enjoy seeing who some of our longest-serving employees are who have given MWPH 20 or 25 years of service. Join us in thanking the people below. You’re the best!

**JANET S. GORMAN** 20  NURSE TEAM LEADER

**HEATHER L DINUNZIO** 20  REGISTERED STAFF NURSE II

**HEATHER DEWAN** 20  MANAGER, APPLICATIONS

**PATRICIA M QUIGLEY, MD** 25  PROGRAM DIRECTOR PULMONARY SERVICES

**EARNIE STANDLEY** 25  DIRECTOR, PLANT OPERATIONS

**SHAWNTEL GOUGH** 25  UNIT SECRETARY

**JOSEPH P PISKOR** 25  ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

**ELEANOR MERRIWEATHER** 25  PATIENT CARE ASSISTANT

**SUSAN FOLTZ** 25  LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

A Thank You from the President of the United States

Dr. Richard Katz, celebrates a Presidential moment with David Slotnick, Librarian, and Kim Nelson, Medical Staff Coordinator.

**Callie Butler RN; Chrissy Heimer RN; Shawntel Gough, 25 Year MWPH Employee and CPAR Unit Secretary; and MWPH’s CEO Sheldon Stein.**

**Here’s to a Better Night’s SLEEP**

In July, MWPH held a ribbon-cutting reception for the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Sleep Center. The 5-bed sleep lab incorporates the latest non-invasive diagnostic sleep technology, sound-proofing techniques and design standards. Specially trained staff are equipped to meet the needs of children being tested for sleep disorders who also have a developmental and/or behavioral condition.

**Fitness Can Be Fun a Huge Success**

On Saturday May 17, 2014, the students of the Baltimore City Community College Physical Therapy Assistant Program, under the guidance of Debra Parsons and Sonya Johnson-Branch sponsored the Fitness Can Be Fun Games. Fitness Can Be Fun was a new initiative developed by the students of BCCC to encourage and promote health and wellness by actively engaging families in a morning full of fun, family-friendly competition.

The day included games, a vendor fair and silent auction. The event brought awareness and financial support to the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital Weigh Smart® program in the amount of $3,700!

Through the Fitness Can Be Fun Games®, MWPH and Weigh Smart™ can continue its goal to increase the awareness that addresses childhood obesity. In these times, your choice of community outreach has to make a positive impact. What better focus than to improve the lives of children in our community! Thank you for your support!

**FACT:** Many childhood conditions are on the rise, such as obesity, autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, complications from premature birth and more. Often, they go hand-in-hand with other life-threatening sleep conditions, such as sleep apnea.

In these times, your choice of community outreach has to make a positive impact. What better focus than to improve the lives of children in our community! Thank you for your support!

**FUN FACT:** Did you know that more than 100 people volunteer on a regular basis at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital?
Welcome to our new Pharmacy Operations Manager

We are proud to announce that Ann Shin Kim, Pharm.D., will take over the Pharmacy Operations Manager position recently vacated by Nadeem Aslam. Dr. Kim holds a BS degree in cell and structural biology from the University of Illinois, completed one year of medical school at Rush Medical College in Chicago, and later obtained her doctorate degree in pharmacy from the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Kim has over 3 years of hospital inpatient pharmacy experience as a Clinical Pharmacist and many years of experience in the outpatient pharmacy setting as a Pharmacy Manager.

As a Pharmacy Ops Manager, Ann will report directly to the Director of Pharmacy Services, and will oversee the day-to-day operations of the pharmacy department. She will also work closely with other departmental heads, such as medicine, nursing, respiratory, and outpatient, etc.

Take a moment to stop by the pharmacy, introduce yourself, and welcome Ann to our dynamic organization.

Kudos for our caring staff

"Lt. Gordon is a “shining star” at the Mount. Regardless of my crazy day, when I arrive to the front desk and check in, her calmness calms me. A breath of fresh air! Excellent customer service. Kudos to Lt. Gordon." – Ron

"I would like to thank the staff here for a job well done. My grandson has made great progress through the feeding program. I also would like to thank the housekeeping staff. I have sat here for 6 weeks, Monday-Friday, all day long. The dedication from you to make sure visitors are satisfied is remarkable. Thanks!" – Vernetta

Shown at left: Lieutenant Charise Gordon gets in the spirit during Hospital Week.

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Follow us on Twitter
Follow us on YouTube

Handprints is a publication of the Development department for the employees of MWPH.
Have an idea or story? E-mail us at tpaullin@mwph.org