EVENT UPDATES

Mitch Edgeworth, MBA, CEO of Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital and Clinics, brought his senior leadership team to three locations on June 17 for an annual update of initiatives and successes.

The hourlong program, called Catalyst for Change, was itself a catalyst for something new — Edgeworth’s first such road show presentation, which he plans to repeat at least once a year.

Presented in a talk show format, complete with four fun video “commercials” for different units of Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), it was an opportunity to present serious topics in a sometimes lighthearted way.

The show traveled from the Franklin Marriott in Cool Springs to Vanderbilt Health One Hundred Oaks to Light Hall on the main campus.

Edgeworth, as talk show host, opened with a monologue, then brought out three guests:

• Titus Daniels, M.D., MPH, MMHC, associate professor of Medicine, executive director of the Vanderbilt Medical Group (VMG) and Chief Operating Officer for Adult Clinic Operations at VUMC.
• Robin Steaban, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Chief Nursing Officer for Vanderbilt University Hospital and Clinics.
• C. Lee Parmley, M.D., J.D., professor of Anesthesiology and Chief of

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Summer is off to a great start at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and I hope yours is as well. In this issue, you will read about Robin Steaban, who was one of several VUMC leaders who participated in a traveling presentation centered on our top priorities as a medical center. Thanks to Robin for her leadership as Chief Nursing Officer for Vanderbilt University Hospital and Clinics.

We recognize several other remarkable nurses this month. You will have the opportunity to be inspired by the story of Misty Sharpe, one of our nurses who supports patients with congenital heart disease. Misty is a survivor of the condition, so it’s a topic she feels strongly about.

This issue also spotlights the accomplishments of Vicki Brinsko, who was accepted as a 2016 fellow of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control, as well as the System Support Services team, which has had several abstracts accepted for an upcoming conference. Congratulations to all.

Enjoy this issue,
Staff of Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Edgeworth emphasized four key strategic imperatives that VUMC is pursuing for the forthcoming fiscal year:

• Workforce engagement
• Epic Leap
• Academic performance
• Strategic growth

Workforce engagement is a top priority, as evidenced by the VUMC Culture Survey, which took place from May 16 to June 3.

A total of 81 percent of VUMC employees took the survey, and leadership expects to receive the results in August.

“As soon as we do, you will know what those results look like and where we’re going to work to improve,” Edgeworth said. “We hope to learn a lot.”

One area of improvement will be staff retention.

Epic Leap, a move to new clinical systems from the vendor Epic, is on track to happen by November 2017 and is on budget.

Edgeworth stressed that VUMC’s recent legal separation from Vanderbilt University does not mean any reduced emphasis on academic achievement.

VUMC will be “an Academic Medical Center with a capital A,” he said, as its research and teaching mission will continue to be prioritized and connected to its clinical mission.

Lastly, he emphasized strategic growth, specifically the continued expansion of adult clinical services throughout our region and the Vanderbilt Health Affiliated Network (VHAN), which now encompasses 11 health systems with more than 50 hospitals in four states.

“We’re going to continue to grow, and we are excited about our future,” Edgeworth said.
Every day, Misty Sharpe looks at the scar down the center of her chest and knows she’s a survivor. She has had four heart surgeries to repair congenital heart defects, ranging from when she was 4 days old to 4 years old.

Sharpe, MSN, RN, now works as a nurse case manager in the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic, helping patients with congenital heart defects and working to raise awareness of the condition.

She organized Nashville’s first Congenital Heart Walk last year, and held another on June 4 at Edwin Warner Park in Nashville. Her goal is to educate more people that congenital heart defects affect about one in 100 infants, and is the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths.

“It has just always been a passion of mine,” Sharpe said. “I’ve considered myself fortunate that, as I’ve grown up, and as an adult, I’ve not had a lot of complications. That’s not always the case with a lot of people.”

When she was just 4 days old, Sharpe was diagnosed with coarctation of the aorta, a narrowing of the main vessel that provides oxygenated blood to the body.

She had surgery soon after, but 13 months later, the area narrowed again and she underwent a second surgery.

At 26 months old, she returned to surgery to address another condition called bicuspid aortic valve, in which the aortic valve has two leaflets instead of three. She had her last surgery at age 4.

Now 28, life today is pretty normal for Sharpe. She has taken an anticoagulant drug for 24 years.

“‘There are still people now that I went to grade school with and high school who didn’t even realize that I had a congenital heart defect growing up, because it’s not something that’s always out there and obvious,’” she said.

Sharpe joined Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2013 as a staff nurse in the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit, then transitioned to her current role in 2014.

Every day is an opportunity to serve the pediatric population that she was once part of.

She manages patient case-loads for four Vanderbilt physicians, from medication refills to scheduling.

“There are a lot of different roles all rolled into one in this position,” she said.

Her passion for treating congenital heart disease is informed not only by her story, but by the life of her nephew, Drew.

He was born with a congenital heart condition called truncus arteriosus — the oxygenated and non-oxygenated sides of his heart were connected. His condition required multiple surgeries, but he grew up to be a healthy teenager.

On Nov. 10, 2013, he met up with some friends at church for a weekly soccer game when a heart arrhythmia ended his life.

He was 20.

Her scar is an everyday reminder that though she has survived and thrived, congenital heart disease is a lifelong condition that must be managed.

“I acknowledge it every morning, but I don’t sit and dwell on it,” she said. “I know that it’s a source of power for me. It tells me that I’ve overcome so much.”

For those interested in learning more about the Nashville Congenital Heart Walk, please visit events.congenitalheartwalk.org/Nashville.
BRINSKO’S INFECTION PREVENTION EFFORTS LAUDED

Vicki Brinsko MSN, RN, CIC, director of Infection Prevention, has been accepted as a member of the 2016 group of fellows of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

The fellowship recognizes exemplary members of APIC “who are not only advanced practitioners of infection prevention practice, but also leaders in the field,” according to the organization. Brinsko now has the FAPIC credential, for Fellow of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

“The Fellow of APIC designation recognizes professionals who have made the transition to expert status,” Brinsko said. “I am thrilled to be among the first recipients of this honor from our national organization, APIC. I was in the first cohort of infection preventionists to take the very first certification exam way back in 1983. As fate would have it, I am in the first class of fellows recognized for expertise in infection prevention. It is truly an honor to be recognized by my peers as an influential leader.”

APIC is the leading professional association for infection preventionists and has more than 15,000 members who are nurses, physicians, public health professionals, epidemiologists, microbiologists and medical technologists.

VUMC TO BE FEATURED AT NURSING INFORMATICS MEET

The 2016 Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics (SINI) has accepted all three abstracts that Systems Support Services submitted this year.

Vanderbilt nurses will be involved in two posters and one podium presentation at the institute, which will be held July 20-22 at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore.

“I am so excited that some of the great work going on here at Vanderbilt will be shared with others in Nursing Informatics,” said Gwen Holder, MSN, RN-BC, director of Systems Support Services.

The abstracts are:

• “Everything Needed but Nothing Else — A Successful Nursing Documentation Reduction Process” — a poster by Nicole Callender, BSN, RN; Angela Swinger-Lockridge, BSN, RN; and Heather Knott, BSN, RN.
• “A Mother’s Day Downtime — How to assure Downtime Preparedness” — a poster by Stephanie Philo, MSN, RN-BC.
• “Super Users and Beyond — A Proven Strategy to Prepare Nursing Informaticists” — a podium presentation by Holder.

A Tennessee Chapter of the American Nursing Informatics Association was established this year, and Holder will be its president for the upcoming year.

Anyone who has an interest in Nursing Informatics is invited to attend the group’s next meeting on July 28 for a discussion of current trends and issues in Nursing Informatics. More information can be found at http://community.ania.org/tennessee/home.

In addition, Tom Mack, BSN, RN, of System Support Services, is organizing a Nursing Informatics Certification study group that will be open to chapter members as well as the Vanderbilt community. If interested, contact him at tom.mack@vanderbilt.edu.