

Hospital wins OK for 30 more NICU beds

Le Bonheur Children's has won state approval to expand its neonatal intensive care services to 60 beds in the new hospital.

Le Bonheur is expanding its neonatal services and will need additional neonatal beds for those services. The hospital currently operates 30 neonatal beds. The addition brings the hospital's total bed count to 255 in the new facility scheduled to open in 2010.

"Our neonatal program is growing as we perform more complex surgeries," said Le Bonheur Children's President Meri Armour. "The 30 additional beds will allow us to ensure that these neonates can be treated locally and that their families won't have to travel out of the region for care."

In a related move, Methodist North Hospital also gained permission to close its Family Birthing Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

High Le Bonheur NICU occupancy rates – in addition to new services – contribute to the need to expand. The occupancy rate for the 30-bed unit is currently 88 percent.

Additionally, on Jan. 1, the unit formerly known as Special Care Unit on Le Bonheur's fifth floor will become NICU 5. The existing NICU on the fourth floor will become NICU 4. Referring facilities should continue to contact Le Bonheur Transfer Center at 901-287-4408 or 888-899-9355 to refer a patient needing neonatal intensive care services.

Le Bonheur hosts the area's only Level III C NICU designated by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



ED fellows study effect of physician in triage

Le Bonheur Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellows Janice Kezirian, MD, and Warees Muhammad, MD, are studying the effect of a Physician In Triage Area (PITA) on key performance indicators like Emergency Department length of stay, elopement rate, patient and provider satisfaction.

A cost benefit analysis will also be conducted using the results obtained from the trial. The design will be a prospective before-after intervention study that intends to recruit approximately 3,000 patients in each arm. The proposal is being submitted for review by the Methodist Institutional Review Board.

"Although PITA is not a new concept, it has never been rigorously studied in an urban, academic, tertiary level pediatric hospital," said Jay Pershad, MD, ED fellowship program director and mentor. "The data should be robust because they plan to adjust for confounding variables like average daily census, staffing levels and visit level acuity. They also hope to identify a percentage of patients that could have been safely discharged home from triage."

Le Bonheur names director of Public Policy



Maureen O'Connor

Maureen O'Connor has been named director of Public Policy for Le Bonheur Children's. In her position, Maureen will be responsible for overseeing advocacy efforts and working with local, state and federal lawmakers on behalf of Le Bonheur and children's health programs and policies.

Maureen has previously served as the vice president of Marketing for Poag & McEwen Lifestyle Centers, as an executive vice president and station manager for WREG and as a vice president of Sales and Marketing for WREG. Maureen holds a master's of business administration degree from Christian Brother's University and a bachelor's of business administration from Iona College in New York.

Newborn seminar scheduled for Jan. 23-24

The Mid-South Seminar on the Care of The Complex Newborn is scheduled for Jan. 23-24 at The Westin Memphis Beale Street.

The seminar will feature keynote speaker Richard J. Schanler, associate chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and chief of neonatal-perinatal medicine at Schneider Children's Hospital at North Shore in Manhasset, New York. He also serves as a professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York.

The course will run from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday and 7:30 a.m.-noon on Saturday. Seminar topics include human milk in preterm infants, Ebstein's Anomaly, fetal therapy, peri-operative concerns, parenteral nutrition, ELBW, vitamin D, newborn screening, thyroid function, ROP and more.

For more information and a full brochure, call 901-516-8933 or visit www.methodistmd.org.

Policy reissued for deaf, hard of hearing services

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare has reissued a policy concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Provision for Interpreting Services.

Under the policy, interpreting services are to be used when there are language barriers or physical disabilities that compromise effective communication and should be used as frequently as needed for patient care.

Caregivers who recognize that a patient, family member or close friend is deaf or hard of hearing should advise the person that appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided free of charge. The nursing administrative supervising staff at each hospital can help support the communication process. They coordinate the use of sign language interpreters and auxiliary aides within each hospital facility.

Black to serve Distinguished Grand Rounds speaker

Kevin Black, MD, will serve as the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's Distinguished Grand Rounds speaker next month.

Grand Rounds will be held at noon on Friday, Feb. 13, in the Le Bonheur Auditorium.

Black is an associate professor of psychiatry, neurology, radiology and neurobiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is also an attending psychiatrist at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

His visit is being funded by the Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc., with additional support from the Harrison Endowed Lectureship. The event is a joint effort between UTHSC's departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry.

Le Bonheur Educational Offerings

Presentation Title	Credit/Contact	Day, Date Time	Host Location	Presenter
Pediatric Grand Rounds: “Ethical Problem-Solving in Medicine: Some How-To Guides”	CME	Wednesday January 7, 2009 8:00 - 9:00 AM	Le Bonheur Auditorium	E. Haavi Morreim, PhD Professor, Department of Human Values and Ethics University of Tennessee Health Science Center Memphis, TN
Speakers Bureau: TBA	CME	Tuesday January 13 12:00 lunch 12:30 presentation	Classroom 1 Methodist Le Bonheur Hospital Germantown Campus Germantown, TN	Scott Kloek, MD Private Practice Memphis Children’s Clinic PLLC Memphis, TN
Pediatric Grand Rounds “Ten Articles from the Recent Literature That May Change Your Practice of Acute Care Pediatrics”	CME	Wednesday January 14 8:00 – 9:00 AM	Le Bonheur Auditorium	Jay Pershad, MD Associate Professor of Pediatrics Division of Critical Care and Emergency Services University of Tennessee Health Science Center Memphis, TN
Pediatric Grand Rounds “The IUGR Infant”	CME	Wednesday January 21 8:00 – 9:00 AM	Le Bonheur Auditorium	Mohamad Tammam El-Abiad, MD Professor of Pediatrics Division of Perinatal and Neonatal Medicine University of Tennessee Health Science Center – Memphis, TN
Conference Mid south Seminar on the Care of the Complex Newborn This conference will present cutting-edge newborn care information designed for all levels of pediatric providers	CME	Friday and Saturday January 23-24	The Westin Memphis Beale Street Memphis, TN	Keynote Speaker: Richard J. Schanler, MD Schneider Children’s Hospital at North Shore Manhasset, New York To register and view full brochure www.methodistmd.org or 901-516-8933
Pediatric Grand Rounds “JRA-New Treatments”.	CME	Wednesday January 28 8:00 – 9:00 AM	Le Bonheur Auditorium	Linda K. Myers, MD Professor of Pediatrics Division of Pediatric Rheumatology University of Tennessee Health Science Center Memphis, TN

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. All presentations should be evidence based and contain content without commercial bias. Content should include a balanced view of all therapeutic options.

Physician and Referral Services

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Parent education classes begin in Jackson

Le Bonheur Community Outreach will host the first of a series of free parent education on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Susan A. Helms, RN, MALS, will present "Protect the Ones You Love: Child Injuries are Preventable." Helms is the director of injury prevention and Safe Kids at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center and has more than 20 years of experience as a pediatric critical care nurse.

The seminar will be held at the Regional Hospital of Jackson in the first floor classroom.

Lessons From Le Bonheur features regional experts on key pediatric health topics including eating disorders, sex education, mental health, lead poisoning, asthma, ADHD, diabetes and obesity.

The one-hour lessons will be held the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Regional Hospital of Jackson in the first floor classroom. To register for the free seminar, parents can contact Amy McLean at 731-984-9953 or mcleana@methodisthealth.org.

