Renovated Play Atrium Reopens to Pediatric Patients

This past April, the Play Atrium on the 7th floor of the Children’s Hospital finished with renovations and reopened its doors to UNC’s pediatric patients and their families. Offering a variety of entertainment in a safe environment, the Atrium is an area for kids of all ages to get away from their hospital rooms and have fun.

“Not only are the children encouraged to be mobile and active in the space, but more importantly, they are encouraged to just be kids! Regardless of IV poles and wheelchairs, we want children to know they can still do many of the same things in the hospital that they would normally do on the outside,” says Volunteer Services Coordinator Beth Bailey. “Therefore, we have most anything you can think of. Video game systems, basketball, air hockey, cars & trucks, arts & crafts, babies & Barbies, and board games, just to name a few!”

“The play facilities assist with adjustment to the hospital environment by trying to maintain normalcy. With the use of our volunteers, most parents are also able to ‘take a break’ while their child plays in the Atrium. This also gives them some normalcy and supports family-centered care,” finished Beth.

For more information on the Pediatric Play Atrium, please visit:
http://www.uncchildrens.org/uncmc/unc-childrens/patients-family/amenities/
To honor the dedication and hard work by the employees of the Rehab Service line, an annual awards ceremony was held this past May. Coordinated by the Employee Recognition Committee (ERC), staff members were nominated by their peers and the winners were chosen by a democratic voting committee, also comprised of co-workers. The recipients of this year’s awards:

**Therapy Awards:**
- **People:** Sean MacBain, PT II
- **Growth:** Kerry Blazek, PT II
- **Innovation:** Kristel Maes, PT II, Therapy Clinical Educator
- **Quality and Service:** Tim Brown, PTA
- **Value:** Kathy Brice, Administrative Specialist
- **Unsung Hero:** Jonathan Valbuena, PT II
- **SPORT of the Year:** Leslie Johnson, SLP
- **Friend of Rehab:** Shawn Hicklen, Senior Financial Analyst
- **Friend of Rehab:** Samantha Magdarz, Admin Support Supvr.
- **Career Achievement:** Tim Holmes, OT II
- **Employee of the Year:** Kevin Tice, Executive Assistant

**Rehab Nursing Awards:**
- **People:** Carol Tuskey, RN II
- **Growth:** Dennis Shelton, RN
- **Innovation:** Holly Gunning, RN II
- **Quality and Service:** Krishna Venugopal Pillai, RN III
- **Value:** Charles Evans, CST II
- **Employee of the Year:** Keita Marshall, CST II

**Introducing the First Ever Rehab Service Line T-Shirt!**

Designed and voted on by staff, the UNC Rehab Service Line finally has its very own T-Shirt! The preliminary design contest saw more than 20 unique submissions, all coming from employees of the Service Line. After the management team narrowed down the field to 4 outstanding choices, voting was opened to all staff to determine a winner. Printed just in time for the annual awards ceremony, each member of the team received a shirt in appreciation of their hard work over the last year!
The Inpatient Rehab Unit recently hosted a survey team representing the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, CARF. The team, comprised of industry peers, spent two full days conducting a thorough on-site review. In addition to interviews of staff, patients and their families, the surveyors observed organizational procedures, reviewed appropriate documentation, and checked the program’s practices against the extensive list of CARF standards. These standards have been developed over 40 years by international teams of service providers, policy makers, insurance companies, family members and consumers.

Following completion of the survey, CARF reviewed the findings of their team, assessing the organization’s strengths and areas for improvement, as well as its level of demonstrated conformance to the standards. UNC is extremely proud to report the Inpatient Rehab Unit has been awarded the full three year accreditation in adult and pediatric care, as well as stroke specialty care.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to a facility and shows the organization’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality.

To demonstrate its ongoing conformance to the CARF standards, UNC’s Rehab Center will complete a Quality Improvement Plan and submit an Annual Conformance to Quality Report each year throughout the accreditation term.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit organization focused on advancing the quality of services provided by rehabilitation facilities. The mission of CARF is “to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of persons served.” There are currently 6,800 CARF-accredited service providers throughout the world, with CARF accreditation extending to countries in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.
UNC Therapy Services continues to provide expert pre- and post-race care for local runners in the Chapel Hill community. On April 23rd, for the 9th running of the “Tar Heel 10 Miler”, physical therapists Stephanie Milosovic, Chuck Overman, Steve Takacs, and orthopedic PT resident Quinn Curtis tended to dozens of more than 6,500 runners. They provided injury advice, stretching, soft tissue work, and recovery advice.

The team comprised of physical therapists Catherine Duncan, Pete Olmos, Kyle Cooper, and PT students Ellese Nickles and Chris Ritter braved the rain on July 4th to provide race day support to more than 900 runners at the Cardinal Track Club’s Annual “4 on the 4th”, part of the popular Tour de Carrboro series of races. UNC Therapy Services is one of the main sponsors of the Tour de Carrboro, which donates its proceeds to local charitable organizations annually.
Clinical Fellows to Know: Speech-Language Pathology

“I’m excited to be joining UNC’s Rehab team as a Clinical Fellow in Speech-Language Pathology. I’m originally from California but most recently lived in Greenville, NC where I received my Master of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from East Carolina University. Being a fellow means I get to learn under some incredibly talented, dedicated, and knowledgeable staff. I feel fortunate to be part of a team that puts patient care as a top priority. My hope is to continue learning and growing as a fellow at UNC and as a speech pathologist.”

- Carley Prenshaw

“I am beyond thrilled to be joining the UNC team as a Clinical Fellow in Speech-Language Pathology. As a Durhamite by birth but a Tarheel by choice, I come into this experience with a fairly good awareness of the high quality care and compassion that UNC Healthcare has to offer. I look forward to the opportunity to never stop learning from my colleagues, not just in SLP, but in Rehab Services and beyond.”

- Anna Weinberg

Clinical Fellows to Know: Child Life Specialist

"I graduated from Ohio University’s Child Life program and worked as a part time NICU child life specialist at Toledo Children’s Hospital in Toledo, Ohio, over the past year. During my time there, I recognized a desire to serve a wider range of children with new and challenging diagnoses that I’ve never been exposed to. Being a Child Life Fellow at UNC has given me the opportunity to be part of a team that is dedicated to providing me with the knowledge and skills to reach my goals.

In just under two months, I’ve been able to expand my practice in many areas, with a focus on providing support to children and families in pediatric hematology and oncology. I’m confident that the strong child life foundation I’m building here will allow me to encourage and empower children to conquer their healthcare journey. I’m beyond grateful to work with and learn from such caring, compassionate, and qualified child life specialists who are supportive of my goals and dreams."

- Whitney Adams

“I graduated East Carolina University majoring in Child Life and minoring in Business Administration in 2014. I completed my child life practicum at James and Connie Maynard Children’s Hospital in Greenville, NC and my internship at Johns Hopkins-All Children’s Hospital in Saint Petersburg, FL. I worked as a Habilitation Technician after college to stay in a field that aimed to help children and families.

Attaining this Fellowship with UNC allows me to continue to follow my career in child life. I have a passion to help children and families in a healthcare setting and this fellowship will enable me to train with some of the best professionals to better develop my skills and techniques. Over the next year, I hope to gain valuable knowledge and experiences that I will carry with me throughout my career in this ever changing field.”

- Henry Dearcia
Two UNC employees, Holly Holland, Occupational Therapist, and Kerry Blazek, Physical Therapist, hosted the 11th annual *Helping Kids with Hemiplegia*, a constraint induced movement therapy (CIMT) camp for children ages 3 to 10. This year 35 children from across North Carolina participated in the 8 day camp.

Constraint-induced movement therapy (CIMT) is a form of rehabilitation therapy that improves upper extremity function in people who have experienced central nervous system damage by increasing the use of their affected upper limb.

To help gain strength and function in their affected limb, the children attending the camp wore a cast on their less involved side while participating in fun, organized activities. They had visits from therapy dogs, a Tae Kwon Do instructor and the Chapel Hill Fire Department. The camp also organized several theme days including Pirate Day, Western Day and Animal Planet Day. While the kids were having fun, parents attended lectures, helped with camp activities and were able to share their experiences with families in similar situations.

The camp, staffed entirely by volunteers, provided each camper with the assistance of two helpers. These helpers were comprised of therapists from the community, pre-OT/PT students, and OT/PT students from local schools and universities. This year saw more than 100 people volunteer!

A huge benefit of *Helping Kids with Hemiplegia* is that campers are able to see other children like themselves. Being together and participating in fun activities allows them to make strong, lasting friendships.

Hemiplegia - Paralysis of one side of the body
Organizational Project Makes World of Difference for Disheveled Storage Area

The equipment area on the 7th floor of Children’s Hospital is used by therapists as storage. Over time, it had become disorganized and was difficult to navigate due to the clutter. There was also a lack of labeling, making it difficult for therapists to locate what they needed in a timely manner.

A team of staff members who utilize the space was assembled to tackle the issues. Over several lunch meetings, the team systematically decided which pieces of equipment would stay and what could be either thrown away, donated, or used in another area.

Wheelchairs now have a designated location, with the team using tiger striped tape on the ground to cordon off the area. Each chair was labeled with a different color tape which corresponds to a matching sign on the wall, making its place easy to identify. Under the new system, clean wheelchairs face toward the wall, while chairs in need of sanitizing face outward.

The magnetic board in the room is now used as a communication tool to denote which patient has which wheelchair. A second magnetic board was installed to help track the crutches. The team is currently working with the nursing units to devise a system for making sure that each piece of equipment is returned to storage when patients are discharged.

Before: Clutter made the area unsafe and unnavigable

After: Staff now have a clear path to equipment

Crutches are now organized and labeled by size, accompanied by a sign out sheet
The primary goal of the Rehabilitation Service Line at UNC Hospitals is to provide quality rehabilitation and therapy services in an efficient, cost-effective manner consistent with the hospital’s mission statement and strategic initiatives. The Rehabilitation Service Line consists of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology, Rehabilitation Nursing and Recreational Therapy and Child Life as well as the 30-bed inpatient rehabilitation unit.

For more information, please contact:
Barbara Adcock-Mohr, Administrative Director (984)974-0370
Visit us online at: http://www.uncmedicalcenter.org/uncmc/care-treatment/rehabilitation-therapies

UNC Rehabilitation Center Highlights

Would you recommend UNC Rehabilitation Center to your family and friends?

June 2016

The Rehab Center follows up with patients and caregivers to obtain program satisfaction data at 90 days post discharge. The Center is proud to report that over the last twelve months, eight of those produced a perfect score on the important question, “Would you recommend the UNC Rehabilitation Center to your family and friends?”

UNC Rehab Insider is published by UNC Rehab Services, part of the University of North Carolina Healthcare Network. Please direct your comments and questions to:
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