



Volume 3, Issue 1

July 2010

LBJ Tropical Medical Center



Inside this issue:

ER Extension Open	1
Employee Survey	1
Pharmacy Student	2
Summer Student	2
Continuing Educa-	3
Five Med Techs Certified	3
New Fracture Beds	3
Hand washing	4

Emergency Room Extension Opened

Prior to the opening of the new ER extension, it was not uncommon to see gurneys line the ER hallway with patients receiving IV fluids, and family members at the bedside. Depending on whether it was the season for Dengue, Leptospirosis, or just the flu, there were times that it was rather congested in the hallway. More importantly was the concern for patient privacy. This has all changed with the new extension completed, and opened 7/7/2010. This newly renovated part of ER was constructed by LBJ's very own maintenance and carpentry crew, work that only lasted a month. The 7 private room sections came complete with call lights, and hook ups for oxygen and suction, requirements not available in the old part of the emergency room. According to Chief Engineer, **Sa Mavaega**; the biggest challenge for this work was looking for funds, but thanks to **Emau Amosa** and his office, they were able to scrounge up \$50,000 from local sources. This amount included all the materials, as well as the overtime accrued to complete this project in a short



time. Special thanks to **Tou Pa'aloalo**, Supervisor of Maintenance, **Fereti Malaki**, Supervisor of Carpentry as well as their crew for the job well done.

To assist the public with directions in ER, a security guard has been posted to direct traffic and assist with immediate needs. All staff are asked to help out by not using this area as a hallway, model the behavior for the public, and help out in any way you can, for our customers.



Employee Survey For LBJ Staff

Another first for LBJ Tropical Medical Center was the 2010 Employee Survey as discussed in the memo by Hospital CEO, **Mike Gerstenberger**. The CEO urged all hospital staff to take a few minutes to complete the survey with results to be used to plan future activities and prioritize the spending for the coming fiscal year. The staff survey was 50 multiple choice questions, the physician survey about 75 ques-

tions. To assure anonymity, a third party has been retained, who will evaluate and analyze the staff responses. The survey can be accessed from any LBJ computer by clicking on the website below:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5YPK76F>

The link has also been sent out to all staff registered for company email.

Pharmacy Students at LBJ TMC

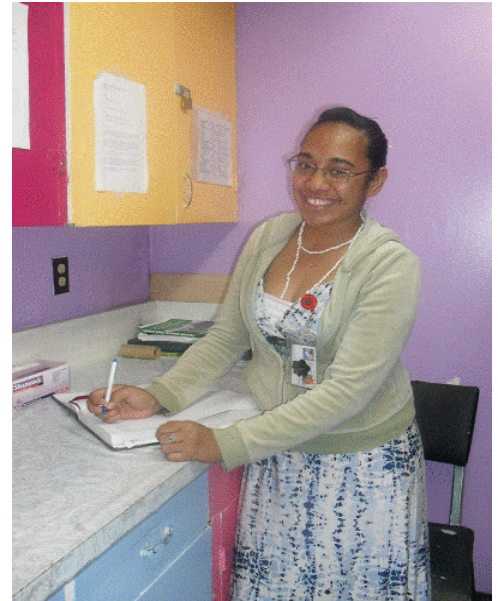
The University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy, under the direction of **Dr. Carolyn Ma**, has initiated a clinical rotation program with LBJ Tropical Medical Center. The collaboration between Dr. Ma and **Dr. Evelyn Ah-Hing Fa'ai'uaso**, LBJ's director of pharmacy, has led to an advanced pharmacy practice experience (AAPE) for pharmacy students completing their fourth year of the university's four year PharmD program. The clinical rotation program allows students to take part in 6 week blocks of rotations where they learn and work together with other health professionals in all aspects of the hospital. The first student for this rotation was **Natalie Codiane**, and according to a reflection statement, her 6 week time spent at LBJ exceeded all her expectations. Given our remoteness, and while her time here was only offered as an elective, she was able to perform duties that fall under all four core rotation requirements (retail, hospital pharmacy, clinical and ambulatory care). The two students currently at LBJ: **Elissa Kahahane** and **Jen Jacobs** are having a great time. They are pictured here af-



ter a mandatory nursing in-service on Thrombolytics, taught by Elissa Kahahane. Be on the lookout for notices of another upcoming continuing education class, to be given by Jen Jacobs on TPN, and intralipids. The Pharmacy students will be at LBJ until mid August, so extend a welcoming smile or say T-a-l-o-f-a.

Biology Major Student at LBJ

This Summer we also had a 2nd year Biology major student from the University of Hawaii work with the ER and Pediatric physicians. **Mosana Evagelia** spent her Summer at LBJ volunteering for Pre-Med requirements, but also a chance to visit family and friends at home. Mosana is pictured here at the Pediatric Clinic logging their clinic visits for the day. Mosana will leave to go back August. Good luck for next school year.



Summer Students

Come June, right after graduations, the hospital staff are always ready for the Summer students, and programs of students assisting in the workplace.

This week was the 4th week of the Summer Students program which started on June, 14, 2010 with the 4 hour orientation, covering areas like confidentiality, HIPAA, Infection Control, Quality, Safety and Human Resources. This year only 16 students were interested in healthcare jobs, our Summer students working in areas

like Nursing, Engineering, Quality etc. The program will run through August, the last day will be August, 06, 2010.

A special thank you go out to all of the staff who assisted our students this Summer, and every time students rotate to the hospital. With these students interested in working at the hospital (for Summer jobs), it is hoped that it will spark interest and have some (or all of them) choose one of the healthcare professions as a future career.



Staff's Continuing Education

What is the motivation for staff members to get continuing education certification in their line of work? Here's what some of them said:

LeeAnn Mageo, of Payroll received her Bachelors from University of Phoenix early this year. According to LeeAnn she's always liked numbers, and it was a challenge she enjoyed. She also wanted to set an example to her kids that there's always more, and there's no stop for education.

Togiimoana West of Diagnostic Imaging sat and passed her certification after completion of her 2-year on-line course. Togi has also been certified to use the Mamogram, and has also

received her Hawaii State license. According to Togi, her motivation was to set an example to others, that with sacrifice, and balancing ones time with the other important things in life, anything can be achieved.

Dr. Uso of Dental completed his 6-weeks observation and hands-on in Fiji, and received his certificate for oral surgery. In the past, mandibular fractures patients were sent off island for treatment. **Dr. Koroi** is doing these surgeries now. Dr. Uso's motivation was to have these cases done locally instead of sending patients off island for a simple fixation. This way we can also save some much needed



Togiimoana West; RT

funds for other projects and improvements. Dr. Uso also is hoping to go back to get his diploma in the same area.

Five Dialysis Staff Certified

Five Dialysis staff sat and passed their certification for Med Technology after a review session conducted by 3 people from the network. The review session lasted 4 days.

Congratulations to **Tufanua Tupua, Eseta Sauni, Gail Laumoli, Jacinta Tui** and **Lolenese Vaina** for a job well done. Lole was asked about her motivation in getting this



Lolenese Vaina of Dialysis

certification and she explained. It was difficult to explain to her patients that she would not be caring for them anymore because she was not certified; that really broke her heart. This was also the driving force behind passing the exam, to allow her to continue the work that she loved doing.

Special thanks go out to **Toaga Seumalo**, and **Olita Tafiti** supervisor of ESRD for their encouragements.

New Fracture Beds



As I was walking down the hallway, I came across something I haven't seen in a long time. Fracture beds. That's right, brand new fracture beds!

I recalled when **Dr. Ledua** was running around scrounging up what remained of the last fracture beds we had, sometimes rigged together with surgical tape. I stopped to ask **Simeni Brown** of Engineering and was told that we purchased 6 fracture beds: 4 adults beds, and 2 Pediatric cribs.

Wow!, and way to go! Maybe not everybody is excited about the purchase of new fracture beds, but I was ecstatic! thinking of the creative contraptions seen on Pediatric and Surgical Wards, but I especially felt for the surgeons and **Molesi Molesi** looking for attachments.

Since the beds arrived, there has not been a fracture patient admitted, but just think, when another fracture patient comes along, we will be ready.

Care of
LBJ Tropical Medical Center
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Phone: 684.633.1222

**A commitment to healthcare
excellence!**



**R.I.P
TALAVA PALATA.**

 **Quality Improvement Office**

WASH YOUR HANDS FOR PATIENT SAFETY

Think about all of the things that you touched today — from the door knob, to the telephone, perhaps you handled the patient chart, drew back the patient room curtain, borrowed your

colleague's pen? Maybe you blew your nose and or sneezed." Wash your hands", how many times have you heard that from your parents? You might think they were just nagging you, but actually it's the most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick.

Why is washing hands so important?

Hand washing, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of germs and diseases. Hand hygiene practices are key prevention tools in healthcare settings and helps healthcare workers reduce infections to promote patient safety. Hand hygiene guidelines help healthcare workers reduce infection in health care settings. Keeping hands clean is also one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs from one patient to another.

Frequent hand washing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness.



Good hand washing technique is easy to learn and can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases among both children and adults. It is best to wash your hands with soap and clean running water for 20 seconds. However, if soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product to clean your hands.

Keeping hands clean prevents the spread of germs/bacteria's in the patient wards, and hospital clinics. Hand hygiene practices are also key prevention tools in offices, departments and other public places, especially for your own health, and a strategy for wellness and prevention.



WASH YOUR HANDS FOR PATIENT SAFETY!!