Take a peep at our open event – pages 4 & 5
AND
Awards galore – pages 3 & 7
PLUS
Tackling TB – page 6

Inside Story is the UCLH staff magazine
Staff locker update

The Making a Difference Together campaign team is working towards providing all staff with a secure place to store their valuables. But with over 7,000 staff, it’s a huge task and the team needs your help to make it happen.

If you already have a locker, a registration notice will have been placed on the door. You’ve got until 7 January 2013 to complete your form and claim your existing locker.

If you don’t have a locker but would like one, the message from the team is please bear with us!

Chief nurse Katherine Fenton said, “The good news is that we’ve got more lockers than we thought. After 7 January, lockers with no completed registration forms will be counted as unallocated and security will open the lockers and store anything they find inside. Staff will be able to reclaim their belongings – dates and details will be available on us!

“Our next step is to create a database of the unused lockers and match them to staff who require a locker – given the scale of the issue, it’s not going to happen overnight, so we really need you to work with us to get to this stage.”

On their travels the team have uncovered some areas of great practice. Some departments, like pharmacy at UCH run their locker systems really efficiently. Local systems that work well will be left as they are. Katherine said: “We need to think about how we manage staff lockers and locking systems in the future – what we don’t want to do is to re-create the same issues in three or four years’ time so we’ll be learning from these good practice examples to find out what works and what doesn’t”.

What you need to do:

- If you have a staff locker, complete the registration form by 7 January
- If you are a local lead or a ward sister, tell the team what your locker requirements for your staff are
- If you have a locker but no registration form has appeared on it, email the team at lockers@uclh.nhs.uk
- Visit Insight for FAQs and a project timeline

Celebrating life this festive season

Staff and visitors have celebrated life and creativity during the festive season by participating in a new ‘Tree of Life’ project at the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre.

Decorations inspired by life captured under the microscope have been hung on the tree throughout December. Anyone could drop in to add their creation.

The ‘Tree of Life’ was the brainchild of scientist and artist Lizzie Burns, a research arts therapist at UCLH. Lizzie works with patients being treated for cancer as part of the Macmillan Information and Support Team and said she came up with the idea of a new tradition to ‘celebrate the wonder of being alive’.

Trees of Life have been celebrated for thousands of years by different communities across the world and Lizzie said they represent the ‘interconnection of life on our planet’. She added: “The trees are for all people from all backgrounds as festivity and life is something that we all celebrate.”

Lizzie collaborated with The Francis Crick Institute and the Wellcome Trust on the project.

Contact us

If you have any information you would like included in Inside Story, or on Insight, contact: Communications Unit, 2nd Floor Central, 250 Euston Road, London NW1 2PG. Email: communications@uclh.nhs.uk, Tel: ext 79897, Fax: ext 79401.
Celebrating Excellence Awards

A total of 470 nominations have been received for the Trust’s Celebrating Excellence Awards. Congratulations to our nominees and thank you to those who nominated them! The awards have sparked an enthusiastic response from a wide variety of people working in different roles across the whole of UCLH.

Katie Lahiffe, programme manager, said: “Thank you to everyone who took the time to recognise their colleagues, it has been a pleasure to review the nominations and we now have the difficult job of finding just one winner per award.”

All nominees have now been contacted to let them know which award they were nominated for and what the next steps are.

Don’t forget to keep an eye out for the shortlist which will be announced in January 2013. All shortlisted nominations are invited to attend the awards ceremony where the final winners will be announced.
Q: If you take smiling staff, hundreds of visitors, masses of good cheer, a pointy-eared elf, carols singers, a 24 foot tree and a celebrated actress what do you get? A: The popular UCLH Open Event! There was never a dull moment – thanks to the imaginative efforts of staff who worked hard to showcase the very best UCLH has to offer. Visitors could browse more than 45 display stands or take a tour of a clinical area. Throw in live music, mince pies, prize raffles and you have the ingredients for success.

In front of an enthusiastic crowd, actress Olivia Colman who has won acclaim for her performances on TV and film (Peep Show, Rev, Twenty Twelve, Iron Lady and Tyrannosaur) lit up the Christmas tree with the push of a button.

“I was invited by my good friend Dr Jim Down who works in the intensive care unit and it’s very nice to be asked to do something for the NHS. “We only realise how lucky we are to have the NHS when we travel abroad and people cannot believe we get free healthcare – it’s a special and beautiful thing. My mum was a nurse in the NHS for 40 years so I have grown up being very aware of that.”

Chairman Richard Murley said: “This year has been a triumph particularly when you take into account how busy our staff are and the pressure we are all under. The event relies on the support of staff to make it a continued success. Thank you!”

- The Open Event is organised by the Communications Unit. More photos from the event will be posted in a gallery on Insight on 24 December.
Actress Olivia Colman with colorectal surgeon Mr Alastair Windsor. The colorectal team won 'best display stand'

Women’s health team

Our Olympic nurses are great sports

Medical director Jonathan Fielden with the HTD team

Salvation Army with festive favorites

Rockin’ around the Christmas tree!

Children and young people’s care stand

Actress Olivia Colman with friend Dr Jim Down from intensive care

Heart Hospital: all hands to the pump
TB: UCLH looks to its community and beyond

by Elke Tullett

It's a dark Thursday morning. Inside the warmth of the Whitechapel Mission, more than 100 homeless men and women have wandered in from the streets. A 50p bacon and egg fry up and a TB check are on the menu. Fortified by the offer of a free breakfast voucher, they wait: alcoholics, the dispossessed, an elderly, bewildered woman with a shopping trolley, and an Eastern European man with pale, sweaty skin.

As the sky lightens, a small queue begins to form, ready for the arrival of the UCLH mobile TB team, whose motto is ‘find and treat’. They file into the TB van for an on-the-spot 90-second chest X-ray and sputum test under the expert eye of superintendent radiographer Jane Knight and reporting radiographer Diana Taubman.

“It is the hardest working X-ray machine in London.” said clinical lead Dr Alistair Story. “We borrowed one of the nine mobile X-ray units from Holland ten years ago and proved the need for a screening service in London. This is the one and only van in the UK and it’s been flat out since 2005. Interpreting digital images is an art – and we are very good at it.” The unit screens around 10,000 people a year – mainly homeless, drug addicts, alcoholics and prisoners. On average around one in 200 have TB.

Alistair added: “TB is an airborne disease and if someone with TB shares airspace – coughs, spits, splutters – with others whose immune system is shot to bits then you can get TB rip roaring through a community.” If someone screens positive, one of the team accompanies them straight to the UCLH outpatient clinic for further investigations. Today it is clinical nurse specialist Emma Diggle. Emma said: “TB is a very interesting area to work in. It’s a juicy, all-encompassing disease with chaotic, social aspects to it. It’s not a case of putting a plaster on a wound and everything is sorted. With TB, you really get to know your patients well.” They require a complex regime of medication for at least six months, not easy for those leading a chaotic life living on the streets and in hostels. The TB team – working with colleagues in the community across London – use ‘good old fashioned shoe leather’ to track down patients who miss any follow up appointments at UCLH, GP surgery or neighbourhood clinic.

“We find them on a park bench or one of the regular squats and get their treatment back on track,” said Emma. And the man with the feverish appearance? He arrived in England a year or so ago – and his latest journey ends at the ground floor of the Rosenheim. Tests are continuing...

Fact file

- London has the highest TB rates in Western Europe
- More than 9,000 patients are diagnosed in UK each year – 40% in London
- Find & Treat and the Mobile X-ray Unit (MXU) team include nurse specialists, social and outreach workers, radiographers and expert technicians. The service operates in every London Borough and is regularly called to support the control of TB outbreaks nationally. UCLH host the service on behalf of NHS London and are close to rolling out this initiative nationally as recommended by NICE.
- Find and Treat provides screening, advice and practical assistance to TB services and allied health and social care services. Patients needing inpatient care are admitted to the infectious diseases unit in the UCLH.
London pathway
A pioneering project which is offering compassionate care to homeless patients at University College Hospital, and helping to reduce their chances of readmission, has won one of the most prestigious awards in the NHS. London Pathway is giving homeless people access to proper healthcare and saving the NHS hundreds-of-thousands-of-pounds in the process. The scheme has led to a 30 per cent drop in inpatient bed days for homeless patients, which equates to savings of around £350,000, and early results suggest a possible drop in re-admission rates.

The project won a Health Service Journal (HSJ) Award in the patient centred care category with judges saying it had ‘demonstrated how to make a real difference’ to an often forgotten group of people.

Children and young patients website
A website designed to take the stress out of visiting hospital for children and young patients scooped ‘Best Website 2012’ at the Annual Healthcare Communicators Awards.

The website (www.childrenandyoungpatients.uclh.nhs.uk) was developed by the Trust’s communications unit, nurses and play specialists from the children and young patients service and digital agency Bold Creative.

Feedback and opinions from children and young patients were crucial to the design of the site and the result is an interactive guide to the services they can expect to encounter and the staff they might meet on their visit to University College Hospital.

Tori Chipping, 18, is featured in a short film on the website and was involved in a focus group which helped design the site.

She said: “The first time I came to the hospital I was a bit anxious and I didn’t know what to expect. I think it was important for young people like me to be consulted on how the website looked and worked. I wanted to help make it easier for people in the same position as me to better understand what coming to hospital means.”

Cancer Centre
The University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre has won yet another award for its innovative design. The centre was awarded a top prize at the 2012 Building Better Healthcare Awards, winning the Best Specialist Services Design category in the Building Class.

According to the panel the building ‘pushes the boundaries of healthcare design where the boundaries need to be pushed’.

It is the third award the £100 million cancer centre, which was designed by Hopkins and build by Skanska, has won since it opened in April this year.
Secret Lives

In his day job, Neil Bailey (pictured with his wife Karen) is used to banging on about fire risks, alarms and escape routes and such like. But in his spare time he follows the beat of a different drum. Well, congas and bongos actually.

His natural sense of rhythm stretches back to his childhood when – fortified with a pair of knitting needles – he would constantly pound the lids on one or more of his mum’s biscuit tins.

“I would drive everybody absolutely spare, we only lived in a two up two down terraced house so there was nowhere to escape from the noise. My mum used to shout “Oi! Give me my needles back. Half of her knitting needles were bent by the time I’d finished.”

But there was no stopping Neil. In later life, he has saliled forth into East End and Essex hosterlies “often real hard core public houses filled with interesting, colourful characters where he was encouraged to drum away to his heart’s content.

“You were scared to get it wrong in some of those places, they don’t generally take prisoners in the East End!”

Congas, Bongos, Congettas and other percussive instruments have a different musical place to fill in the general sound picture but, like drummers, they are a core part of any rhythm section – if your rhythm section are not tight as a unit, then you have problems…”

Latin, jazz, blues, reggae, – you name it (or hum the first few bars) – and Neil has played it.

“If you are enjoying the gig you should really feel what you are playing…you have to enjoy it or you start to become less adventurous with your riffs and patterns, from then on in it’s no fun at all. There’s no other option but to dive in head first.

“Audiences outside of big cities like London can be a little bit static and you generally have to work very hard to get them to open up – but once they do they are fantastic.”

And given the choice, where in the world would he play his next gig?

“Cuba. Even if I couldn’t play there it would be great to listen to some of those old chaps play their stuff out in the streets. Plus they’re the same age as me.”

Flu: it’s not too late to get the jab

Staff are reminded that they are still able to get the flu vaccination from the Occupational Health department. All frontline staff are encouraged to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their patients. If you would like the flu vaccination nurse to visit your department, please contact Helen Odongo or Deborah Mathews on ext 79056 to arrange an appointment. A vaccination league table on Insight shows how divisions are performing and the total number of staff who have had the jab.