

TEMPLE

TALK

The newsletter of Temple University Hospital

May 2014

Doing Double Duty:

Double-Lung Transplant Patients Support One Another ... and Others

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Double-lung transplant recipients Max Clark (left) and John Oberton



Temple University
Hospital
Temple University Health System

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Community Partnerships and Healing Hope

In addition to being one of the region's leading choices for patients who seek the most advanced care, Temple University Hospital is also a bedrock source of service through the community partnerships that we create.



TUH has once again demonstrated its leadership role in community support by forging a partnership with The Mason Shaffer Foundation and Community Blood Services, a non-profit organization that operates a public-cord bank, to create a first-of-its-kind program in the city of Philadelphia (see article on page 5). The new Mason Shaffer Public Cord Blood Program at Temple educates expectant parents about the life-saving potential of umbilical cord blood, which is otherwise typically discarded after the mother delivers her baby, and offers them the

opportunity to donate this life-saving resource at no cost to them, or to TUH.

This cord blood has truly remarkable healing potential. It is rich with stem cells – the kind that can be used to treat leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia, and over 70 other cancers and diseases, many of which are prevalent in the communities that we serve. The cells can also help researchers at Temple and elsewhere who are on the cutting edge of new treatment developments.

Until now, there was no easy way for the minority community to donate these cells. About 3,200 babies are delivered at Temple each year, 65 percent of whom are African-American, and about 25 percent are Hispanic. By offering the opportunity to donate cord blood conveniently and at no charge, our new program can help increase the existing supply of publicly-available, racially-diverse cord blood – thereby giving patients in our community

(and nationwide) who need a stem cell transplant a higher chance of finding a match.

Our new program is named after a cheerful and energetic five-year-old boy named Mason Shaffer, who was diagnosed with a life-threatening blood disorder when he was an infant and would have died. Thanks to the availability of matching cord blood that was available through a public cord-blood bank, Mason was cured. In fact, Mason stole the show when he and his parents attended a Press Briefing that we held on April 11 to announce our new program. Our program got exceptional media coverage throughout the region by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Philadelphia* magazine, *Philadelphia Tribune*, *Philadelphia Business Journal*, *KYW Newsradio*, *WHYY-FM*, *CBS 3*, *Fox 29*, *6 ABC*, and other media outlets.

Our hospital – along with Dr. Dimitrios Mastrogiannis, Temple's Director of Obstetrics & Maternal Fetal Medicine and Director of Labor & Delivery; Betty Craig, our Chief Nursing Officer; and our Maternity nurses and staff – well deserve recognition for all their efforts in participating in such an important and life-saving program that will touch lives both regionally and nationally.

It is partnerships like this that demonstrate our ability to be champions for our community – and beyond.

Sincerely,

John N. Kastanis, FACHE
President & Chief Executive Officer
Temple University Hospital

Therapeutic Endoscopy Suite Opens

Temple University Hospital's Digestive Disease Center unveiled a new state-of-the-art therapeutic Endoscopy Suite in April that enables the earlier detection and treatment of digestive diseases and cancerous cells.

"This is the most cutting-edge, high-tech endoscopic room in Philadelphia," **Oleh Haluszka, MD**, TUH's Section Chief of Gastroenterology, said. "We can now see abnormalities that would otherwise be invisible, and catch potential issues early," he added.



From left, Gail Upshall (Administrative Director, Digestive Disease Center); Dr. Oleh Haluszka (Chief, Section of Gastroenterology); and Dr. Malini Mathur (Assistant Director, Endoscopic Ultrasound) in Temple's new Endoscopy Suite.

TEMPLE TALK

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Doing Double Duty

Double-Lung Transplant Patients Support One Another ... and Others

They're like a modern-day *Odd Couple* whose lives intersected at Temple.

Max Clark and John Oberton – both in their late-60s and residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania – have developed a very special friendship borne of a shared medical diagnosis and parallel treatment plans that culminated in each receiving a double-lung transplant.

“On separate occasions and years apart, we came to Temple hardly able to breathe and confined to wheelchairs,” recalls Clark. “We each left the hospital walking and breathing on our own!”

A Shared Diagnosis

Their paths began to merge about 10 years ago, before they knew one another, but each had been diagnosed separately with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a devastating condition that damages lung tissue while diminishing one's ability to breathe and quality-of-life.

Clark, 67, a retired custom exotic-wood cabinetmaker, attributes his development of COPD from decades of inhaling harsh wood finishes, as well as years of smoking. As Clark's condition deteriorated, the family man became less and less able to take care of his home and the sprawling farmland surrounding it.

Oberton, now 68, believes his lung problems originated in his childhood – which was spent on a large dairy farm that exposed him to methane gas and an assortment of harsh fertilizers. He, too, acknowledges that his smoking habit was a contributing factor. As the symptoms of his disease increased, his activity level decreased. “Before the diagnosis, I was always on the move,” he recalls.

In the Fall of 2008, Temple's *Odd Couple* were first introduced to one another while attending the same rehabilitation program near their respective homes.

Temple's Support Group

As a supplement to rehabilitation, Max Clark was also attending group support sessions at Temple University Hospital (TUH). The sessions, hosted every month by Temple Lung Center specialists, permits COPD patients to openly share their innermost thoughts, ideas, concerns, and

suggestions with others who face the same or similar health-related challenges.

Shortly after getting to know each other, Clark invited Oberton to attend a TUH support meeting. “After one meeting, I was hooked,” recalled the newly-recruited Oberton.

“We talk about things that really matter to us, like how to pay for prescriptions if you're not able to work fulltime anymore, and how to prepare for the rest of your life after you get a lung transplant.”

Transitioning to Transplantation

As Clark and Oberton continued to battle their COPD, their conditions worsened – and both were added to the ‘wait list’ for Temple's Lung Transplant Program, which has performed more than 108 life-saving transplants in the past five years.

Of course, the men were in very good hands. “With our excellent multi-disciplinary team, I am confident that we offer one of the best lung transplant programs in the world,” says **Yoshiya Toyoda, MD**, Temple's Vice Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery and Surgical Director of Heart and Lung Transplantation.

Max Clark went first – undergoing a double-lung transplant procedure at TUH in May of 2010. “He has done well in the four years since his procedure,” says **James Mamary, MD**, his Temple pulmonologist. “He stays active mentally and physically ... and tells me how he grows exotic plants in his home and attends folk music festivals,” he adds.

His transplant buddy, John Oberton, soon followed – with Dr. Toyoda performing that double-lung transplant surgery on March 23, 2013. “Since his transplant, I've watched him focus his energy – taking care of himself as well as helping others around him, like when shoveling snow



Max Clark (left) and John Oberton

from his neighbor's driveway,” reports his physician, **Namrata Patel, MD**, Associate Medical Director of Lung Transplantation. “It's really rewarding to see how much his life has changed since transplant. He is making wonderful use of this gift by doing what he needs to keep well and to help others – particularly those struggling with lung disease as he once was.”

As Oberton recovered at home, he also spent some quiet time reflecting on the precious gift he had been given as a result of the organ-donation process. Like most transplant recipients, the moment of being told that his new lungs were available was bittersweet – he felt joy for the promise of a new life that awaited him, and profound sadness for the grief of the family who had lost a loved one. He began to put his thoughts into a “thank you” letter that would be shared with the donor's family. “It was the most difficult letter I wrote in my life,” he said. “I had a Word document open on my computer for about a month. Finally, I just wrote it from my heart.”

Second Chance at Life

Today, Oberton says he “feels reborn ... like I have a second chance at life!”

“I couldn't have made it through everything without the support of Max [Clark], another friend Joe Sacco, the TUH support group, and Temple's entire remarkable team,” he adds. “Temple feels like a second home!”

Epic EMR Demonstration Days Draw Hundreds

It was standing-room only at a recent demonstration of the Epic inpatient electronic medical record (EMR), held on March 11 and 12 in the Student Faculty Center on Temple's Health Sciences campus. More than 300 people from Temple University Hospital came to learn more about this transformational technology and how it will affect physicians and staff, and improve the patient care process.

"When it goes 'live' in late 2015, the Epic inpatient EMR and associated clinical applications will create seamless integration of clinical workflow with documentation requirements and communication of orders and results," says **Mark Weiner, MD, FACP, FACMI**, Chief Medical Information Officer for Temple University Health System. "Clinical data will be merged across the ambulatory and inpatient environments, enabling a more compre-

hensive capture of the patient journey and providing clinicians with a clearer picture of the patient's history," he adds.

Clinical decision support will also enhance patient safety by flagging orders that may be inconsistent with specific patient characteristics, while the enhanced availability of clinical information will enable clinicians to measure more accurately and improve the quality of care they provide.

"I'm really excited by what I learned at the demonstrations," says **Linda Ayers, CCRN, BSN**, Assistant Nurse Manager of TUH's CICU. "This technology will help patient flow across the health system, give us ready access to care plans, and keep us up to date on best practices. One of the best parts is that it will cut down on written documentation and negate the need for paper charts."

Over the next couple of months, the implementation team will be preparing for validation sessions – scheduled to launch in mid-June – which will focus on how Epic workflows will be integrated into TUH's inpatient functions. More information about these sessions and the implementation will be available in the near future.



Honoring TUH's Doctors

Members of the Temple University Hospital Auxiliary hosted a special National Doctors' Day luncheon on March 28 for Temple's physicians to honor their dedication to serving TUH's patients each and every day. As a token of gratitude, each doctor received a Temple Health pin etched with a carnation.



Giving Life ... and Saving Life

Temple University Hospital (TUH) is the first hospital in the city of Philadelphia to establish a public cord blood donation program, giving new parents the ability to give life twice: by bringing their baby into the world, and by donating stem cells from the otherwise-discarded umbilical cord blood. These stem cells can be made widely available to patients in need of life-saving transplants.



Mason Shaffer

TUH's Women and Infants Division is partnering with The Mason Shaffer Foundation and Community Blood Services – a non-profit organization that operates a public-cord bank in New Jersey – to establish The Mason Shaffer Public Cord Blood Program at Temple, at no charge to donors or to TUH.

Expectant moms and families receive educational guidance about the opportunity to donate their babies' umbilical cord blood for free. This donation is then listed on the National Marrow Donor Program's "Be the Match" Registry for use by patients in need of a stem cell transplant, and by researchers to advance the development of new treatments.

"After a baby's birth, and after the cord is clamped and cut, the blood remaining in a portion of the umbilical cord and the placenta is collected with no risk to baby or mother. This cord blood is a rich source of stem cells which can be used to treat leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia, and about 70 other cancers and diseases," says **Dimitrios Mastrogiannis, MD**, Temple's Director of Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Medicine and Director of Labor and Delivery.

"Ethnically-diverse groups are underrepresented as cord-blood donors, and have a lower chance of finding a matching donor. Having a more diverse registry helps to increase the likelihood that all patients will find a match – giving more minority patients the same chance at life as Caucasians, while also facilitating research of diseases prevalent in minority populations. Furthermore, cord blood donation could also enhance our basic research programs on fetal and neonatal immunity" he adds.

The new program at Temple is one of only a dozen statewide and the only one in Philadelphia County. It is named in honor of 5-year-old Pennsylvania resident Mason

Shaffer, whose life was saved by a public cord blood donation after being diagnosed with Malignant Infantile

Osteopetrosis, a life-threatening blood disorder, when he was just seven months old.

"Thanks to publicly-donated cord blood, our son was cured, which changed our family's lives forever," says Sarah Shaffer, Mason's mother, and founder of the Mason Shaffer Foundation. "Expectant parents who choose to donate their newborns' umbilical cord blood can save the lives of more patients, like Mason, who need life-saving stem cell transplants," she notes.

Sarah, her husband Marc, and their son Mason joined Dr. Mastrogiannis, TUH Chief Nursing Officer Betty Craig, Nurse Manager Jennifer Rodriguez, and others at a press briefing on April 11 to educate the public about the value that this precious resource brings to the Temple community. The new Temple program received great press coverage and was featured in a number of news publications.



(From left): Betty Craig, Dr. Mastrogiannis, Mason Shaffer, Jennifer Rodriguez, Marc and Sarah Shaffer.

Dr. Michael Edwards Joins Temple as Chief of General and Minimally Invasive Surgery and Director of Bariatric Surgery

Dr. Michael Edwards has joined Temple as Associate Professor of Surgery at Temple University School of Medicine, and Chief of General and Minimally Invasive Surgery and Director of Bariatric Surgery at Temple University Hospital.

When Dr. Edwards was visiting Temple he says the energy and enthusiasm he experienced really stood out and stuck with him. Now he is proud to be part of the Temple family. "I am very excited and grateful to be joining such a highly talented group of clinicians, educators and researchers who are committed to providing the best clinical care to the patients at Temple, educating the next generation of physicians and surgeons, and engaging in cutting edge research to better understand and improve the care we provide."



Dr. Michael Edwards

Dr. Edwards specializes in a wide range of minimally invasive surgeries, and his research interests include weight loss surgery outcomes and translational research; minimally invasive surgery techniques; translational research focusing on adrenal disorders; and surgical education.

Married with three daughters, Dr. Edwards is eager to experience all that Philadelphia has to offer, especially exploring the arts and taking advantage of opportunities to engage in community activities. "My family and I have been looking forward to embracing Philadelphia as our new home!"

Dr. Gordon Morewood Named Chief of Cardiac Anesthesia and Chief Quality Officer of Temple University Physicians

Dr. Gordon Morewood has been appointed Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology at Temple University School of Medicine and Chief of Cardiac Anesthesia at Temple University Hospital. He will also serve as Chief Quality Officer for Temple University Physicians, directing efforts to capitalize on pay-for-performance and risk-based contracting initiatives and coordinating innovative models of care.

When considering his move to Temple, Dr. Morewood says he was impressed with the health system's strong model of physician leadership and engagement. "In many places, leadership is exclusively made up of non-clinical administrators," he says. "To solve many of the challenges we face in healthcare, I believe it's important to include a clinical perspective, and I see that culture at Temple."

Dr. Morewood specializes in anesthetic care for cardiac surgery. His research interests include systems response to human error and organizational accidents, as well as business model innovation in healthcare.



Dr. Gordon Morewood

Temple BMT Program Earns Fifth Consecutive Accreditation

The Temple Bone Marrow Transplant Program has once again earned accreditation by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) – the primary certification agency for bone marrow transplantation – signifying excellence in all quality aspects of patient care and collection practices related to cellular therapy treatments. The accreditation is effective for three years beginning January 16, 2014.

"This achievement marks the fifth consecutive time that Temple's Bone Marrow Transplant Program has earned FACT accreditation, which is truly a testament to the high quality of our clinical and collection services for therapeutic bone marrow and peripheral blood products for the transplantation procedures that we perform," said **Henry Chi Hang Fung, MD, FRCPE**, Clinical Leader of the Blood Cancers Program and the Hematologic Oncology Service Line at Fox Chase Cancer Center, and Director of the Temple Bone Marrow Transplant Program.

"Our year-over-year achievement of FACT accreditation earns the confidence of physicians and patients by certifying Temple's evidence-based standards and practices for the management of patients and donors as well as the collection and administration of these life-saving cells," added Fung.

Temple's Bone Marrow Transplant program is run by Temple University Hospital and is located at Temple University Health System's Jeanes Hospital.



Remembering Grace: Mom Donates 950 Blankets to TUH Maternity Unit

In April, Temple University Hospital's Maternity Unit received the heartwarming gift of 950 warm, colorful blankets to be given to moms for their newborn babies. Holly Sonneborn collects the donated blankets each year as "Gracie's Gift" to honor the memory of her daughter, Grace, who passed away in March 2003 from a rare disease shortly after birth.

"Our patients love the blankets, and benefit from having that added comfort as they grow," said **Lornajane Braunsar, RN**, TUH's Maternity Unit Nurse Manager. "This means so very much to Holly and our Temple team, and we look forward to her visit each year," she added.



Holly Sonneborn (center, in gray shirt) surrounded by the Temple team she holds so dear to her heart on April 10.

New Environmental Services Training Class

Temple University Hospital (TUH) is host to more than one-million square feet of surfaces that need to be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. This is just one fact that students will learn in TUH's new, four-week long Environmental Services Training Class, sponsored by TUH and the District 1199C Training Fund.

"The free class – slated to be held each spring and fall – is designed to prepare interested Temple employees for a career-change to Environmental Services," says

Bob Hoger, TUH's Assistant Director of Environmental Services. "Each semiweekly class is three hours long, and half of that time is spent in a teaching environment, while the other portion is hands-on in TUH's units," he adds.

As part of the curriculum, Hoger shows students how to identify



Assistant Director Bob Hoger (far left) and Director Rick Weber (second from left) with Environmental Services Training class instructors and attendees on March 10.

and sanitize 17 "high touch" surfaces in patient rooms. A special tester then indicates the cleanliness of the room by giving a "red," "yellow," or "green" grade.

Upon successful completion of the course, graduates will receive a certificate that will serve as an alternative to the usual year requirement of experience in the Environmental Services field, and will be permitted to apply online for open positions within Temple's department.

For more information, please contact Bob Hoger at 2-8944 or Robert.Hoger@tuhs.temple.edu.

Bake Sale for Temple Tots

Temple Tots, a fundraising program created last year by an interdisciplinary committee in the Infant Intensive Care Unit (IICU), hosted a successful bake sale for their patients' families in March.

"We received an overwhelming amount of support from Temple's staff during our second annual sale," said **Heidi Taylor, DO**, neonatologist in the IICU. "With the money raised, we plan to purchase pacifiers and developmental positioners designed especially for premature infants, as well as some items to support breastfeeding, such as privacy screens and nursing pillows," she added.



IICU Nurse Manager Susan Roberts, RN; IICU Staff Nurse Maureen May, RN; and Medical Student Stephanie Kubala with treats during the March 5 bake sale.

Each month we customarily ask our staff for their opinions on the back page, but this month, we are letting our patients and their family members have the “Last Word.”

THE LAST WORD

Here are excerpts from some of their letters ...

Excellent Experience from Admission to Discharge

I am writing to you to express my sincere appreciation for a very positive experience at Temple University Hospital. From the first phone call to arrange an appointment, the staff in the neurosurgery office was professional, efficient and courteous. The staff in admissions and pre-operative testing were efficient and friendly. Wait times were nominal.

On the date of surgery, the entire process was smooth and efficient. In the pre-operative unit, my RN displayed exemplary skill in all aspects of my care while keeping the mood light and low stress. The operating room staff displayed a high level of professionalism and competence that instilled a great degree of confidence. My postoperative pain was managed very well.

The staff on 8th floor Boyer was fantastic. Please pass on a note of compliments to the Nutrition Department for their pleasant staff that delivered meals, and the quality and tastiness of the food they prepare.

As a member of the staff at Temple University Hospital, I feel that we deliver excellent care to our patients and their families. Having now been a patient at TUH reinforces my confidence to endorse TUH to family and friends for their health care needs.

—E.M.

‘Compassion and Professionalism’

I am writing to express my gratitude for the compassion and professionalism your staff members on the 7 East Cardiology Unit demonstrated to me during my catheter procedure and overnight stay.

I have never before experienced such an exceptional level of personal care as I was given in your hospital. I want you to be aware of those members of your staff that I managed to identify: Dr. Brian O’Murchu, his assistants in the operating room, Nurse Manager in the Cardiology Pavilion and the many others who offered their sincere personal service to me. I want to express my thanks to all at Temple who displayed such generosity of spirit.

You are truly blessed to oversee such excellent professionals. Please keep in your heart and mind that these people are the fabric of your fine organization.

—H.L.

From a Thankful Daughter

It’s been a year since my mom became so ill that we were worried about how long we would have her on this earth. After being to four different doctors in several different states, my sister and I had my mom come to Philadelphia to be with us.

We were recommended to Dr. Henry Parkman at Temple University Hospital, who along with Dr. Harshad Patel in Radiology and Dr. Tatyana Clarke, her surgeon, saved my mother’s life. They took the time to look beyond the obvious and do the tests that she needed.

Dr. Clarke is the BEST!! She treated my mom with respect and compassion, but didn’t sugar-coat the truth. At 81 and in a compromised state, it was risky to do surgery on my mom but Dr. Clarke took extra time and extra care to do the procedure. I would not have my mom today if Dr. Clarke didn’t come into our lives. Of course, Dr. Parkman and Dr. Patel were critical in that journey.

I just wanted to express my thanks and my gratitude to TUH. As a Temple undergrad myself, it makes me proud. Thank you!! I will recommend everyone to the TUH GI department.

—K.H.