Rainbow Radiothon inspires outpouring of support

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of UH physicians and employees and the Northwest Ohio community, the 12th Annual Rainbow Radiothon was a success and raised critical funds for programs and services at UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital. The 13-hour event was supported by radio partner, Cleveland’s New 102.1 FM and presenting sponsor, Petitti Garden Centers.

Rainbow Radiothon, a Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals fundraiser, shared inspirational stories of love, hope and compassion featuring young patients like Zumyah and Laka (pictured), their families and the dedicated staff who care for them. You may still make a gift to Rainbow Radiothon. Visit GivetoRainbow.org or call Institutional Relations & Development at 216-983-2200.

Physician & Employee Campaign

The Discover the Difference Physician & Employee Honor Roll recognizes the many UH physicians and employees who have supported the campaign. The honor roll includes the names of all those who have contributed to the campaign since its inception, either through pledges, cash gifts, annual fund support or participation in events that benefit the health system. To view the honor roll, visit UHGiving.org/PECampaign.

The Discover the Difference Physician & Employee Campaign is the internal component of Discover the Difference: The Campaign for University Hospitals, the health system’s $1.5 billion fundraising initiative.

iPod Winner Selected

Congratulations to recent iPod winner Laurie Logan, RN, Clinical Research Coordinator in Pediatric Pulmonology at UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital. Laurie, an employee of UH for nearly 30 years, participated in a raffle that was held at a Discover the Difference Physician & Employee Campaign kickoff.

Answering the call to service

Brian Butler, RN, BSN, a registered nurse with University Hospitals for the past 13 years, is committed to serving his patients. He is also committed to serving his country and has been doing so for nearly four decades.

Currently in the United States Army Reserve, Brian rose from the ranks of enlisted soldier to Command Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army. He was involved in every major U.S. Army conflict from the Vietnam War to his last assignment where he played an integral role in developing the war plan for the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Brian is the recipient of The Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars and two Joint Service Commendation Medals.

“I joined the Army because I was drafted,” explained Brian. “But I stayed in the Army because I wanted to be a part of history. I also felt an obligation to serve the U.S. to protect and defend our freedoms.”

Now, just months shy of his retirement from UH in March, Brian, 66, has been called to service again, this time in the fight to cure Parkinson’s disease.

In 2012, Brian and his wife were already planning their retirement and fulfilling a longtime dream to hike the Appalachian Trail. Their plans would abruptly change when UH doctors confirmed that Brian had Parkinson’s disease, a progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects movement. The disease develops gradually, sometimes starting with a barely noticeable tremor. For Brian, it began with tremors in his right hand and leg.

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“I do not know what the future holds,” said Brian. “But one thing is for certain – I will not allow this disease to take over my active life. I have too many things I want to accomplish.”

His doctor, Benjamin Walter, MD, Medical Director of the Deep Brain Stimulation Program and Director of the Movement Disorders Center at UH Case Medical Center, told Brian that his type of Parkinson’s disease appeared to be mild but progressive. Exercise would play an important role in managing the disease.

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To help Brian raise money for Parkinson’s disease, visit UHGiving.org/Donate, select “Other” and type in UH-IPT International Clinical Outreach Fund.

Margaret Larkin-Pettigrew, MD, MGI, MPPA
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Dr. Margaret Larkin-Pettigrew is helping to make a difference in the lives of her patients in Northeast Ohio and across the world. She works tirelessly to ensure that women have the same opportunity to access quality health care no matter where they live. In her outreach work, Dr. Larkin-Pettigrew takes special interest in health disparities, ENAIRS management and diversity among underserved populations. After joining UH in 2010, she launched WONDOOR (Women, Networks, Diversity, Outreach, Opportunities, and Research), an innovative global health education initiative that fosters local and international collaboration among OB/GYN physicians. Through WONDOOR, Dr. Larkin-Pettigrew established the first IGROWIH residency program in Uganda and is working to decrease neonatal mortality in Cuyahoga County. Recently, Dr. Larkin-Pettigrew was appointed the Edgar B. Jackson, Jr. MD, Endowed Chair for Clinical Excellence and Diversity at UH Case Medical Center. The income created by this endowment will support initiatives focused on diversifying faculty recruitment and retention and promote equitable health care in local communities and abroad.

Commander Chief Warrant Officer Brian Butler (Medal of Honor) received the Legion of Merit for his service with the United States Army.

Margaret Larkin-Pettigrew, MD, MGI, MPPA, launched WONDOOR, a global health education initiative that fosters international collaboration among OB/GYN physicians.

Chad Zinder, MD
Determined to live life to the fullest despite his diagnosis, Chad decided to turn his planned hiking trip into a fundraising effort to benefit Dr. Walker’s work in identifying a cure for Parkinson’s. Brian is a caring husband, coworkers and the public to donate a penny per mile ($2.83 for 2.83 miles) to help him achieve his goal of $2 billion.

Chad Zinder, MD, delivered a presentation about his daughter, Erin, of Parkinson’s disease.

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Chad Zinder, MD, FACS, (Medicine) pictured with a urologist, recently returned from a medical mission to Uganda where he performed lifesaving surgeries for many Ugandans.

Margaret Larkin-Pettigrew, MD, MGI, MPPA
Dr. Margaret Larkin-Pettigrew is a renowned surgeon and employee of UH for nearly 25 years. Dr. Harry Reynolds has taken care of thousands of patients from Northeast Ohio and beyond. As aflight surgeon with the Ohio National Guard’s 182nd Flying Wing for the past 19 years, Dr. Reynolds has also taken care of hundreds of troops and civilians while on medical, surgical and humanitarian missions abroad. Dr. Reynolds has been deployed on missions all over the world including Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Turkey, Nepal, Morocco and Spain. This past summer, Dr. Reynolds was on a mission in England where he and his unit helped support the troops stationed at Royal Air Force Mildenhall and Lakenheath. He is deeply honored to have worked alongside his fellow aviators for nearly two decades.

‘The camaraderie of our unit is phenomenal,’ said Dr. Reynolds. ‘We take care of each other in order to complete our mission and provide care to our troops and others in need.’

Harry Reynolds, MD
Department of Colobal Surgery, UH Case Medical Center

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Chad Zinder, MD, Winslet Award winner, pictured with a urologist, recently returned from a medical mission to Uganda where he performed lifesaving surgeries for many Ugandans.

The physicians and employees of UH share a distinguishing commitment to service—service to our patients, to our nation and to our world.

This special issue of UH Voices honors our colleagues who devote themselves to elevating the standard of care for patients at home and abroad. By raising funds to fight Parkinson’s disease and treating patients in the world’s most remote and treacherous places, including the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, they demonstrate a dedication to serving the greater good that brings global meaning to our mission: To Heal. To Teach. To Discover.

Especially in this season of giving, we celebrate all those in the UH community who answer the call to serve. Thousands of UH caregivers will sacrifice time with family and friends during the holidays to care for our patients and their families. Other employees and physicians will volunteer with local organizations or wellness care for at-risk family members. Still others will prepare for medical mission trips or military tours of duty overseas.

Through your generous giving to UH, you make a difference in the lives of many, in communities close to home and continents away. On behalf of all of those you serve with great generosity and compassion, I thank you and wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

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University Hospitals

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Nicholas Cohen, MD
Department of Family Medicine, UH Case Medical Center

Dr. Nicholas Cohen and his team serve patients in a unique way – through the SUPER (Supporting Engagement and Realism) program at UH Case Medical Center. Founded in 2013 by Dr. Cohen and supported by the health system, the SUPER program aims to inspire behavior change among patients so they may live healthier lives. The initiative, which expanded beyond its preliminary focus of visiting patients in the home setting, now targets participants in the clinical setting and for chronic conditions such as sickle cell disease, heart or kidney failure and lung disease. After regularly scheduled appointments, patients receive one-on-one health coaching by individuals who are trained by Dr. Cohen in the SUPER program curriculum. The health coaches provide services free-of-charge and apply “motivational interviewing” – a counseling process which uncoaches motivations for change in an affirming, supportive relationship – to help patients reach their optimal wellness. Since its inception, the SUPER program has touched more than 200 patients and more than 150 patients at UH Northeast Ohio and, in one year alone, reduced participants’ emergency visits by 74 percent and out-patient medications dramatically. Dr. Cohen is now offering training in the SUPER program curriculum to UH clinical staff and hopes to one day expand the program to all patients at UH.

“Our hope is to improve the way we communicate with our patients so that we better support them in living healthier lives,” said Dr. Cohen

Nicholas Cohen, MD (SECOND FROM RIGHT) who founded the SUPER program at UH, sits with winter wellness coach Victoria Grant (THIRD FROM RIGHT), dietitian Kaela Burt, Amirtha-Elle and Elizabeth Horten.

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