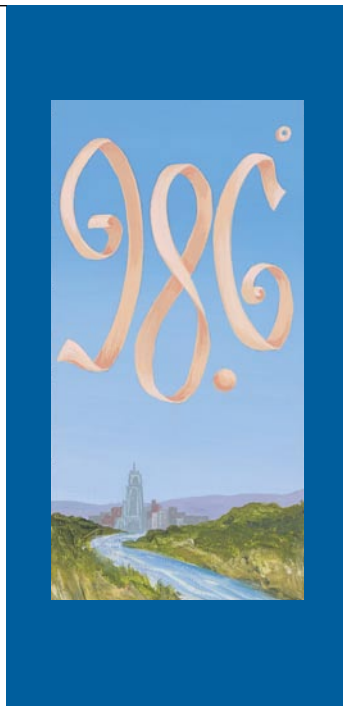


*People and programs
that keep the school
healthy and vibrant*



RAISING CHILDREN'S

GOING UP

BY CHUCK STARESINIC

It's not often that a hospital for kids gets built from scratch. But we have a chance to do it right here in Pittsburgh. With that in mind, foundations and corporate citizens have been pitching in to help make the new Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC something special.

As recently as 2002, UPMC and Children's had planned to build a new 500,000-square-foot hospital on the somewhat cramped Oakland campus. That notion changed dramatically with the purchase of the former St. Francis Hospital complex a few miles away in Lawrenceville. The site covers 10 acres, with several existing buildings to link to the new hospital.

The \$625 million campus will have 900,000 square feet of facilities, including a 9-story hospital. Nearly all of the 296 beds will be in private rooms that are 50 percent larger than those in the current Children's Hospital.

The Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation reports \$66.2 million so far raised for the new hospital. This includes \$10 million from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation for a transplantation institute and \$2 million from the Richard P. Simmons Family Foundation.

The Eden Hall Foundation gave \$3 million in 2007 for a family resource center that planners describe as the hospital's "town hall." It will link the hospital chapel, libraries, 24-hour playroom, young adult resource center, lounges,

and patient representatives offices. The center also will have a business room for moms and dads to check in on work obligations and classrooms for family programs. The Elsa M. and Alma E. Mueller Family Resource Center is named for the daughters of Pittsburgh philanthropist Sebastian Mueller, whose fortune endowed the foundation. His daughters died of diphtheria as children in the 1800s.

Corporations also have signed on. Children's will name its four-story atrium for Eat 'n Park, and the outdoor garden on the sixth floor will bear the name of Howard Hanna.

A NEW MELLON INSTITUTE

Nobody in the University of Pittsburgh Department of Pediatrics denies the importance of federal research dollars. On the contrary, you'll be reminded that Pitt's pediatric research program is in the top 10 nationally. Still the chair of pediatrics might suggest that relying solely on the National Institutes of Health these days carries a risk.

"Declining availability of NIH funding creates uncertainty that leads to conventional types of science," noted David Perlmutter, the chief physician and scientific director at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and Pitt's Vira I. Heinz Professor and chair of pediatrics. He said this in October as the Richard King Mellon Foundation announced a gift of \$23 million to create a pediatric research institute at the new Children's.

The institute will seek to overcome research inertia by recruiting a cadre of innovative physician scientists early in their careers. At Pitt, they will receive continuous funding to pursue their most exciting ideas, many of which would not be able to garner NIH support in their early stages. The institute will



The new Children's, ready for patients in early 2009.

apply this high-risk, high-reward approach to critical areas of pediatric medicine, with the aim of creating "transformational advances," according to Perlmutter. "The most important discoveries are made when brilliant investigators have the resources and flexibility to follow their instincts," he says.

The institute will be housed in Children's new 10-story, John G. Rangos Sr. Research Center adjacent to the new hospital. ■

FOR INFORMATION ON GIVING TO CHILDREN'S:
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BOOSTER SHOTS

Medical students and alumni worked the telephones to raise scholarship funds with the University of Pittsburgh's Medical Alumni Association in November. One caller reached **Perry Engstrom** (MD '47) out in Wahpeton, N.D., who promptly pledged \$40,000 to the Class of '47 Legacy Scholarship Fund. He couldn't talk long because, at age 83, he had to get up early the next day to perform surgery. Engstrom is a general surgeon in Wheaton, Minn., a prairie town that has a tough time attracting new docs. Shortly after that call, Engstrom pledged another \$10,000. The phonathon brought in around \$115,000 in pledges.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine recently received a commitment of \$325,000 from the **Respironics Foundation** to fund a new fellowship program in sleep medicine. With the influx, Pitt's Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine will offer a one-year clinical training experience, the Gerald E. McGinnis Fellowship in Sleep Medicine. The fellowship is named for Pitt graduate Gerald E. McGinnis, the founder and chair of Respironics. —CS

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