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New Transplant Clinic Opening in Late January

Adult liver, kidney and pancreas transplant patients will enjoy streamlined care in a wonderful new setting: our new Transplant Center clinic. Located on the first floor of the Taubman Center, the clinic offers many services in one location. In the past, patients had to visit several areas for different kinds of testing and consultation before transplantation. Even after transplant, there were cases when our patients needed to visit other clinics for ongoing care.

We are pleased to have one single location now for much of the testing and treatment needed by our patients. We have designed the state-of-the-art facility with the patient’s experience in mind. With over 28 exam rooms, more open hours and scheduling flexibility, our patients will enjoy easier access to our staff than ever before. A new outpatient pharmacy, blood drawing station and medical procedures area are right next door as well.

We are pleased to announce the opening of this exciting new facility where our multidisciplinary team will provide expert care to our patients all in one location.

Save the Date and Get Ready For a Party!

On Sunday, June 1, 2014, we will mark the 50th anniversary of the University of Michigan Transplant Center with a staff and patient reunion designed to be fun for the entire family. Everyone is invited to the afternoon event at the Crisler Center, right next to Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor.

Details will be posted on www.michigantransplant.org and www.facebook.com/UMTransplantEvents as they become available.
Sam Schnepp is an enthusiastic and energetic 13-year-old who also happens to have had a liver transplant.

When Sam was selected to throw out the first pitch at a Detroit Tigers game in honor of Donate Life Michigan and organ donation, he was immediately ready to go. Sam is from mid-Michigan and so a trip to Detroit was a great way to spend a day of his summer break.

Coincidentally, the producers at Detroit’s WDIV TV had finished a great story about Camp Michitanki and they contacted the Transplant Center and asked if we could have a Camp Michitanki camper appear as a guest on their new morning program, “Live in the D.” The stars began to line up for Sam since it was the same day as the Tigers game, and he agreed to come to town in the morning so he could do both.

Sam and his sister and parents arrived at the WDIV studios in the morning and were ushered into the green room. When it was time to go on, Sam elected to take his Dad with him and they were interviewed by Karen Drew and Guy Gordon. After the show, Sam got a tour of the WDIV studios, newsroom and behind-the-scenes offices.

Then Sam and his family went to have lunch and spend a few hours at the Detroit Institute of Arts, where he managed to get to every open gallery in less than 3 hours!

Departing the DIA, Sam went south on Woodward to Comerica Park where he and his family were welcomed into the corporate offices well before the game. From there he got to go down on the field for batting practice, where he saw his favorite Tigers up close.

Just before the beginning of the game, Sam and other representatives of Donate Life Michigan were recognized on the field and our Secretary of State presented the Shining Star Award to the Detroit Tigers for their commitment to promoting organ and tissue donation. Then Sam took to the mound, throwing a strike for the first pitch and then having his baseball autographed to save as a souvenir.

Sam stayed for the game to cheer on his Tigers even though it had already been a long day. It was a fantastic and memorable experience in Detroit for Sam and his family, and he is a terrific ambassador for organ donation!”

— Bob Garypie
Since the fall of 2012, the University of Michigan Transplant Center has been training kidney transplant recipients to be peer mentors as part of our Kidney Peer Mentor Program. The program is based on the concept of looking to your peers to learn from their experiences. The mentors of the program are patients who have already successfully gone through transplant and who attend a special training to prepare them for this important volunteer role within the Transplant Center.

The peer mentors participate in a variety of opportunities including speaking at our kidney patient education class, visiting with patients who just received their kidney transplants, going to dialysis centers and talking to patients who may be thinking about transplant or who are currently on the waitlist, and connecting with others on the phone or email.

In addition to the recipient kidney peer mentor program, we have previously trained some kidney donors to be peer mentors. We are currently working on growing this piece of the peer mentor program. In addition, we are looking at expanding the peer mentor program and hope to incorporate the liver program and pediatric kidney program in 2014. Our goal is to have peer mentors across all areas of the Transplant Center.

Stacy Brand, Clinical Outreach Coordinator, says, “The peer mentors have become vital partners in the work of our transplant center. They provide support and encouragement and help others through the process. Not only has this program benefited our patients but it also has touched our staff and faculty. Our peers remind us daily of how together we make a difference and truly change and save the lives of many.”

If you are interested in learning more, becoming a peer mentor or talking with a peer mentor, please contact Stacy Brand at (734) 615-0832 or slipson@umich.edu.

— Stacy Brand

New Technology Aimed at Making More Lungs Available for Transplant

Ex vivo Lung perfusion (EVLP) is a new and very exciting way to make more lungs available for transplant. Thanks to advances in technology, lungs that would otherwise be turned down for various reasons can be recovered and placed on the EVLP system. EVLP then allows us to evaluate the overall health of the lungs based on many factors. Lungs can even be reconditioned and improved while on the EVLP system, and once they are deemed to be healthy, they can be transplanted into waiting recipients. Our investment in this cutting-edge technology will eventually allow us to provide more lungs for transplant, thus restoring more lives than ever before. EVLP is being pioneered and refined at Michigan and several other leading transplant centers around the world. Our EVLP program is an example of how we remain committed to finding innovative ways to give as many people as possible the opportunity to enjoy life restored by transplantation.
The 2014 Donate Life Transplant Games of America will be held in Houston, Texas from July 11-15, 2014. Transplant recipients from across the state of Michigan, and from across the nation, will be meeting in Houston to participate in the games. Whether you are a serious competitor or just want to have fun, there is an activity for you. Compete for gold, silver, and bronze medals in both individual and team competitions. Come be a part of the Transplant Games in Houston!

All organ transplant recipients from Michigan are invited to join Team Michigan and participate in the Donate Life Transplant Games of America. The Transplant Games embrace individual successes and celebrate the second chance at life shared by all transplant recipients.

During the games, transplant recipients can compete in a wide variety of events including basketball, bowling, cycling, golf, swimming, track and field, and more. Competition also includes non-athletic events such as ballroom dancing, poker and a trivia challenge. There is something for everyone to enjoy. Living donors, cornea transplant recipients and donor family members can participate in workshops and recognition ceremonies.

The Transplant Games are more than just a competition. It is a time to celebrate the miracle of organ and tissue transplantation. The Opening Ceremony will feature a parade of athletes, followed by a donor family and living donor special recognition, and culminate with the lighting of the torch that officially kicks off the games. The Games conclude with wonderful closing ceremonies and a final celebration for all athletes, donor families, living donors, families and friends.

The goal of Team Michigan and the Transplant Games of America is to raise awareness of the miracle of organ and tissue donation and the success of transplantation. By being a part of Team Michigan, you serve as a champion for the thousands of Americans currently on the waiting list to receive a life-saving organ transplant.

If you are interested in being a part of the 2014 Donate Life Transplant Games of America, or would like to know how you could support Team Michigan, please contact:

David Rozelle: davidrozelle@att.net
Marge DelGreco: mdg0829@hotmail.com

– Darren P. Freeland, PA-C
Physician Assistant, U-M Transplant Center
The 2013 Transplant Center events season was a huge success, raising more money than ever before. We couldn’t have done it without the help of our participants, sponsors and volunteers. Thank you for all of the support! Here are some highlights from this year’s special events:

Springtime Bowling
In the spring, Bowling for Camp Michitanki was a fun-filled, family celebration. The room was abuzz with guests as they enjoyed bowling, food, music, lights and as always the Camp Michitanki Video. It was great to see such a large turnout of campers, their families, many of the transplant center staff, along with all other guests. Over $30,000 was raised through sponsorships, pledges and donations.

Summer Golf
Celebrating its 10th year, the Camp Michitanki Golf Classic presented by Victory Honda was a huge success. This summer we were honored to be the National Hockey League Officials Organization’s charity of choice. NHL referees and officials joined us and our celebrities for the 10th annual outing. Saturday night’s “Zebra party” honored and recognized the NHL officials and everyone stayed for 18 holes of golf on Sunday at the Eagle Crest Golf Course in Ypsilanti. The weekend’s events raised over $45,000 for Camp Michitanki.

Autumn Gala
Perched high above the football field at Michigan Stadium, the Jack Roth Stadium Club was the stage for the 11th Annual Vita Redita Gala and Auction presented by the Edwin J. and Ruth M. Shoemaker Foundation. We welcomed more guests than ever before, had a lively performance from the University of Michigan Glee Club’s Friars, watched inspirational videos, enjoyed great food and drink, and of course had an exhilarating auction. The proceeds from the Vita Redita are directed to the patient emergency fund, education and outreach programs, research and Camp Michitanki. The event raised over $92,000 and remains our biggest event of the year.

Look for 2014 event dates soon on our FaceBook page: www.facebook.com/UMTransplantEvents.

Interested in volunteering or sponsoring an event? Please contact Melissa Goodson at 734-232-0594 or maswain@umich.edu.
September of 2013 marked the second annual William E. Piper Memorial Golf Outing at Moose Ridge Golf Course, in South Lyon, Michigan. Nearly 100 golfers participated and over 135 joined the group for dinner in honor of William (Billy) E. Piper.

Billy was transplanted in September 23rd, 1992. His diagnosis was idiopathic cardiomyopathy. He was a 20 year heart–transplant survivor from the University of Michigan. A former marine with an insatiable appetite to help others, Billy became a poster child for the University of Michigan Health System. If he didn’t tell you that he was a transplant recipient, you would never have guessed by watching him. Although he wasn’t able to continue his work as an electrician after transplant, Billy kept himself busy with a variety of projects for family and friends. His reputation for meticulous, quality work led to a ever-growing list of people seeking him to help with projects.

Billy’s memorial golf outing is a wonderful way to celebrate his legacy and to continue to benefit the Transplant Center. Billy’s family remains forever grateful to U of M’s transplant program, which is close to their hearts. Billy and his family were so appreciative of his transplant that they would regularly host transplant picnics and had a great relationship with his doctor, Dr. Keith Aaronson. Billy’s transplant forever changed his family’s lives and they remain dedicated to supporting the Transplant Center.

The memorial golf outing has two important goals. The first is to remember Billy as a friend, father, brother, husband and confidant. The second is to raise awareness and support for the gift of life while enabling children that have received transplants to attend summer camp. Thus, all proceeds from the outing are given in Billy’s memory to Camp Michitanki at the University of Michigan Transplant Center. The Piper Family is pleased to report that the 2013 event brought in over $5,000 thanks to generous sponsors, golfers and volunteers. The Piper Family plans to host this event again next fall and welcomes everyone to participate. To learn more, contact Ryan Piper at …

– Ryan Piper and Melissa Goodson

Northern Michigan Golf Outing Celebrates 20 Years

In May, the Northern Michigan Golf Outing group celebrated its 20th annual successful event to benefit the University of Michigan Transplant Center. The event was created by Jim and Jeanne Cole in honor of their son Brady, who received a liver transplant at age 2. Jim and Jeanne host the event at their golf course in Benzonia, Michigan: the Pinecroft Golf Plantation.

Pinecroft is a challenging and scenic course high atop a hill overlooking Crystal Lake. Golfers are assigned tee times and compete as foursomes throughout the day. Scores are tallied and, more often than not, Brady’s team takes home the trophy!

The winter can be long and cold in Michigan and for many, the Northern Michigan Golf Outing marks the beginning of the golf season. Golfers of all skill levels are welcome to play, and the Benzonia area is a wonderful early season weekend destination.

The 2014 event will take place on Saturday, May 3 and registration includes morning coffee and donuts, golf with cart and lunch. To learn more about the event, go to www.pinecroftgolf.com or call Pinecroft at 231-882-9100.
Lonnie Atherton, a liver transplant recipient, loves to golf and loves to give back to the Transplant Center that saved his life. Lonnie created Golfers for Organ Donation to encourage organ and tissue donation and raise money for the University of Michigan Transplant Center. Lonnie’s second annual golf event teed off this summer at the Lake Michigan Hills Golf Course in Benton Harbor Michigan. Over 22 foursomes played in the outing. Through sponsors and participants over $3,000 was raised for the Transplant Center. Just as impressive were the hundreds of new organ donors who have registered thanks to Lonnie and his crew’s initiatives.

Lonnie, his friends and family, started the golf event two years ago, not long after Lonnie received his new liver. Their goal is to spread the word about organ and tissue donation on the west side of the Michigan. Lonnie explained: “I hope you can try to imagine how grateful I feel toward an unknown person who died too young and that I can never properly thank. That person’s forethought and unselfishness saved my life. However many years I have left, I’ll always be grateful and feel blessed. Now I’m back to playing golf, my favorite pastime, while promoting organ donor awareness. It’s my way of saying thank you and celebrating my life, and of course encouraging others to join the registry.”

Lonnie works throughout the year with the Gift of Life and other organizations promoting organ donor awareness. The golf outing is just the icing on the cake! He is thankful for the large amount of community support and he hopes to continue to host the outing for many years to come.

For more information check out his website at www.Golfersoda.com.

– Melissa Goodson

Our University of Michigan Transplant Center logo clothing has been a big hit with our patients, friends and families for many years. We are pleased to announce that our new online store is now available. Featured items include hats, a variety of shirts and jackets and more. Visit the store today at www.transplantgear.com.

Find Us Online!

www.facebook.com/UMTransplantEvents
The University of Michigan Transplant Center events team updates our Facebook page regularly with information about current and upcoming news and events.

www.michigantransplant.org
Our web page includes contact information, patient guides, videos, and links to news stories related to donation and transplantation and much more!
Transplant Recipient Kids Set New Record at Camp Michitanki in 2013

Camp Michitanki (“Michigan Transplant Kids”) welcomed over 100 transplant recipient kids for a week at camp this year. This was the first time in the 11 year history of Camp Michitanki that over 100 children participated. Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who made this year’s camp a wonderful experience for all.

Camp Michitanki is an annual project of the Transplant Center that is funded completely by outside donations and the success of special fundraising events such as Bowling for Camp Michitanki and the Camp Michitanki Golf Classic presented by Victory Honda. Business and individual donations, large and small, have helped us maintain a perfect record of never turning a transplant recipient child away. Kids aged 7 to 15 spend a week at Camp Michitanki in late June.

To learn more about how you can get involved, contact our events office any time at 734-232-0594.

To learn more about giving to the Transplant Center, contact:

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