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take one

a publication for the people of University Hospital

FIGHTING INFECTION--Eris Smith, Central Supply aide, packages sterilized instruments. October 10 through 12 is Hospital Central Service Week. See story inside.

people

CENTRAL SUPPLY WORKERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALITY CARE

In recognition of the contributions and conscientiousness of central supply workers across Massachusetts, Governor Edward J. King has proclaimed Oct. 10 through 12 Hospital Central Service Week.

The staff of UH's Central Supply Department makes fighting germs its full-time job. "There's just no 'maybes' when it comes to human lives. Either an instrument is sterile or it's not," says Nellie Knight, supervisor of Central Supply.

The Central Supply staff at UH makes sure that all supplies used for direct patient care are free of infection. They provide sterile instrument trays to the patient floors and special-care units. They also package disposable home-care kits for patients and sterilize equipment for the ancillary services.

The staff of two full- and two part-time workers also is responsible for collecting all contaminated materials from throughout the Hospital for sterilization and recycling. They also monitor supplies, record equipment usage, and watch for sterilization expiration dates. They assemble and keep in stock 18 different types of sterilized trays ranging from emergency tonsil and adenoid trays to open cardiac massage trays, and they assemble more than a 100 new trays--some recyclable, some disposable--each week.

"The only way we keep up with the demand for sterile materials is to be very organized," Knight said. Knight pointed out that everyone in Central Supply works very hard because they know that the availability of sterile instrument trays on patient floors can mean the difference between life and death in emergency situations.

Knight's ability to run an efficient sterilization and quality control unit stems from her years of experience in the field. She started as a certified surgical technician after graduating from Dimock Street Vocational School in Roxbury. She worked for 12 years in operating rooms at UH, BCH and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

During that time, she received a bachelor's degree in hospital management from Northeastern University. She then taught OR technicians at Dimock Street Vocational School for four years while studying for her master's degree in education through Antioch University, Ohio. She joined the staff at UH as supervisor of Central Supply in 1979.

Governor King urges citizens to recognize "the vital role the central service worker plays in assuring that the patient's welfare, safety and continuity of care are not jeopardized." Garry F. Fitzpatrick, M.D., co-director of the Clinical Nutrition Unit at UH, said that "Nellie Knight gives the personal touch to Central Supply that is unique among large hospitals."

Knight, in turn, praised the good judgment, responsibility and integrity demonstrated by her co-workers Eris Smith, Eva Moghalian, and Hyacinth Baird-James. Smith, the full-time Central Supply aide, started at UH 12 years ago as a dietary aide. She received on-the-job training in materials sterilization at UH. Moghalian has been with UH for eight years on a part-time basis. Baird-James also works part time in Central Supply. She is a certified surgical technician trained in operating room procedures.

BUMC'S 'FATHER OF PSYCHIATRY' DIES AT AGE 88

William Malamud Sr., M.D., C.M., the first chief of psychiatry at UH and the first chairman of the Division of Psychiatry at BUSM, died Sept. 2 in Faulkner Hospital after a brief illness. He was 88.

Malamud served as chief of psychiatry from 1946 to 1958, when UH was known as Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals. He was instrumental in establishing the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center.

Malamud married Irene B. Titus in 1927 and they had three sons, all of whom have careers related to psychiatry: William Jr., a member of BUSM's Class of 1954 and a visiting psychiatrist at UH; Michael H., a psychiatrist and member of the Class of 1959; and Thomas J., a psychologist.

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events

HUNDREDS TURN OUT TO WISH FAREWELL TO NURSING ADMINISTRATOR SWEATT

"If anyone deserves a full house, it's Anne Sweatt," remarked one of the many well-wishers who turned out at the farewell reception for Anne Sweatt, R.N., administrator for nursing, in the Wilkins Board Room on Oct. 7. Sweatt's last day here was Friday, Oct. 8.

Sweatt, who joined the UH staff in 1967 in nursing administration, has been administrator for nursing since 1974. She is a 1952 graduate of the Simmons College School of Nursing, which was operated in conjunction with Massachusetts General Hospital.

Nearly 400 people--nurses, physicians, administrators, and members of the support services staffs--attended the reception to honor Sweatt for her 15 years of outstanding service to the Hospital.

NURTURE AND NATURE COME TOGETHER IN NEW HANDBOOK

Both the environmental and biological factors that may affect the nervous system are discussed in the new Handbook of Clinical Psychobiology and Pathology by Sanford I. Cohen, M.D., chief of psychiatry at UH, and Robert N. Ross, Ph.D., an adjunct assistant professor of psychiatry at BUSM.

In their two-volume handbook, which was published this year by Hemisphere/McGraw Hill, Cohen and Ross discuss the diagnosis and treatment of mental and nervous disorders in the context of current knowledge of how the brain functions.

The two psychiatrists also give equal attention to current clinical knowledge and psychological theory in order to present comprehensive information about neurophysiology and psychology, and to help bridge the gap between experimental and clinical orientations in the study of the mind-body connection.

PATIENT DISCOVERS HIDDEN TALENT DURING THERAPY; DONATES ORIGINAL PAINTING TO C-5 STAFF

"Presented to the University Hospital oncology staff, who not only treat patients professionally but also care for them, from a grateful patient."
--Phyllis M. Pierce

Those words are inscribed on a plaque on an original oil painting donated by the late Phyllis M. Pierce, who had been cancer patient on C-5 until her death last July 7.

Pierce discovered late in her life that she had a natural talent for painting. She was a patient of Peter J. Mozden, M.D., chief of surgical oncology at UH, for many years. Mozden encouraged her to try painting as a form of recreation and therapy.

According to staff members on C-5, Pierce turned out to be a very talented artist, and her artistic creations inspired many. She was so thankful to the oncology staff on C-5 that she dedicated one of her works to them. Her husband will be selling some of her other works to establish in her name a scholarship fund for young artists.

A LASTING TRIBUTE-- Cathy Beaupre, R.N., head nurse on C-5, accepts on behalf of the C-5 staff an oil painting by the late cancer patient Phyllis M. Pierce. The painting was presented by the artist's husband, Walter, during a dedication ceremony on Sept. 21.

CANDID INTERVIEW--Barry J. Make, M.D., director of UH's Respiratory Care Center, responds to questions from newscaster Doug Meyers' (Channel 10, Albany, N.Y.) about the condition of the 73-year-old mayor of Albany, Erastus Corning II. Corning, who suffers from chronic lung disorders, has been mayor of Albany for 42 years. He currently is enrolled in the Center's unique rehabilitation program.

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