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Employee communication for April 23, 1992

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TODAY!
Home-made baked goods from MCMC's Rehab staff and "Reach for the Sky" t-shirts will be sold until 2 pm outside the Cafeteria. It's a fundraising event to benefit the Wisconsin Brain Trauma Association and the National Head Injury Foundation.

"Play a supporting role and join the campus-wide campaign for the United Performing Arts Fund by turning in your 1992 UPAF pledge cards to your supervisor by April 30," said MCMC Patient Relations Director and UPAAF Campaign Coordinator JoAnn Lomax, RN.

Laparoscope used here to treat ulcers

For the first time in the U.S., MCW surgeons at MCMC successfully used a laparoscopy to perform an extremely precise operation to treat ulcers. A team was led by Constantine Frantzides, MD, PhD, assistant professor of surgery at MCW.

The traditional surgical technique, known as "highly selective vagotomy," has been used to treat ulcers for years. However, it requires a large abdominal incision, an 8- to 12-day hospital stay and a 4-to-6 week recuperation period. With the availability of specialized instruments, Dr. Frantzides was able to do the highly selective vagotomy using a laparoscope.

"We can now offer an identical operation, except that it is performed through five small punctures in the abdomen, rather than a huge incision. The principal advantages are that patients experience only minimum pain, stay only a few days in the hospital and should be able to return to normal activities within one week."

A 47-year-old Milwaukee woman recovered from the three-hour surgery nicely, said Dr. Frantzides. The following day she took a full diet and was discharged from the hospital. After traditional surgery, she would have been hospitalized for 8 to 12 days.

This procedure is considered a major advance in treatment of the disease that afflicts one out of ten Americans at some point in their life.

Celebration of Life for cancer survivors is Sunday, May 3

MCW's Cancer Center will hold its 4th annual "Celebration of Life" program for cancer survivors, patients, families and friends on Sunday, May 3, 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the Alumni Center.

Nationally known psychotherapist and lecturer Annette Goodheart of California will speak on "How to Live and Die Laughing." She has been writing and speaking on laughter as a part of the healing process for over 20 years and has led workshops on four continents.

Free refreshments and entertainment by Lisa Edgar and the Razzmatazz Ragtime

Band will follow the program. The Celebration of Life is free and open to the public. For reservations, please call 778-4410.

Students win 'Med Tech Bowl'

MCMC Medical Technology students won the Wisconsin State Student Bowl Competition in Oshkosh on April 3. They are Shelly Wise, Mona Hermina, Mark McGuire and Debra Ciesielski with team coordinator and program director Elsbeth Brunkhorst.

Games are patterned after the TV College Bowl format. Clinical laboratory science questions are asked in general categories for different point values.

The team qualified in March by defeating other Milwaukee hospital teams.

MCMC teams had won Milwaukee area play-offs in 1988 and 1989 and the 1988 team won the State competition.

These students will be graduating in May with a BS degree: Wise and Hermina from UW-Milwaukee and McGuire and Ciesielski from Marquette. All will be staying at MCMC and will be employed by United Regional Medical Services, Inc.

MRMC parents to learn more about kids at Campus Child Care classes

Campus Child Care and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin staff will offer free classes for working parents employed at MRMC member facilities.

The two "Working Parents" classes are from 7 to 8:30 pm on Tuesday, May 5 and May 12 at the childcare center at 8624 Watertown Plank Road.

The May 5 class features CHW RN Beth Alseth. As a mother and a nurse, she will talk about the issues and dilemmas a working parent encounters. "This includes the guilt often associated with putting your child in childcare and how to deal with that feeling of not having enough time for your child," said Alseth.

The May 12 class features CHW's Maggie Butterfield who will focus on communicating with pre-school and school-aged children by learning more about their communication styles.

To register, call 771-2034.

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