

# Designing Health Care of the Future

## LVHN's plans to meet our Community's needs

A message from LVH-Hazleton President John R. Fletcher



LVHN's plans for the future of health care in Hazleton and the surrounding region were announced earlier this week. After an almost two-year process that involved a thorough assessment of health care needs and trends regionally and industry-wide, discussions with leading health care industry consultants, identification of potential services, facility design, locations and more, LVHN and LVH-Hazleton leadership collectively determined that the ideal strategy was not to construct a full replacement hospital. Rather, the focus changed from designing the hospital of the future to designing health care of the future that would best meet the needs of our patients and community.

The plan calls for the following:

- Major expansion and consolidation of outpatient services that will create a health care campus at the existing Health & Wellness Center location along Airport Beltway in Hazle and Butler townships
- Expansion of the center city location at the Hazleton Shopping Center to include primary care and obstetrics and gynecology services, in addition to the existing ExpressCARE and pediatric services
- Renovations to modernize the current hospital facility on Broad Street in Hazleton to include:
  - ◇ Conversion to mostly private patient rooms
  - ◇ Expansion of the emergency department (ED) to include more treatment bays and a rapid assessment unit
- Expansion of the cancer program
- Robust physician recruitment and retention program

Please join me at one of the Town Hall meetings scheduled for next week. At the meetings, I will provide more information about the overall programs and services.

### Town Hall Meetings

March 27 at 11 a.m., LVH-Hazleton first floor conference room

March 28 at 10 a.m., Health & Wellness Center imaging conference room

March 28 at 3 p.m., LVH-Hazleton BEC first floor conference room

March 31 at 2 p.m., LVH-Hazleton first floor conference room

## Upcoming Events

### Bariatric/Weight Loss Management Info Session

Monday, March 27, 6-8 p.m.  
LVH—Schuylkill S. Jackson Street  
420 S. Jackson St., Pottsville  
Call 570-501-4LVH to register or for more information.

### Stroke Support Group

Monday, March 27, 2 p.m.  
Gunderson Center for  
Inpatient Rehabilitation  
Call 570-501-4632 for information.



### There is a tie for first place in February's Weight-loss Competition.

Death by Cardio and Scrub Rippers each lost 38.1 pounds.

Congratulations to all teams who are working hard to lose those unwanted pounds and live a healthier lifestyle.

The next weigh-in takes place March 27-31 at the Health & Wellness Center fitness center and March 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at LVH—Hazleton seventh floor.

### Two Free Bethlehem Steel FC Tickets



Cheer on Bethlehem Steel FC during their season opener with two complimentary tickets.

The club's second season kicks off with their home opener on Saturday, April 1, at 4 p.m.

This is an exclusive offer for all LVHN colleagues. Offer expires at midnight on Friday, March 31.

To select your seats, visit [groupmatics.events/event/LVHNOpeners](http://groupmatics.events/event/LVHNOpeners). Your complimentary tickets will then be emailed to you.

## Fine-tuning Our Focus



**What would our modern-day founder, Leonard Pool, say if he saw our health network today?** I'm sure he would be proud to see what LVHN has become over the last 40 years. Back in the mid-1970s, we were a small community hospital. Over the years, we grew quite a bit. We expanded services, built new facilities and merged with other organizations to give people access to leading-edge care close to home.

As time went on, however, our senior management teams continued to operate as if we were a small community hospital. After all, it was working. But today, we live in a completely different world. Health care – and our health network – are entirely different than they once were.

To continue to move LVHN forward, we must operate our organization differently. That's why we recently changed the way our senior management committees are structured and altered the responsibilities of our senior leaders. These changes will help us fine-tune our focus on the three things that are most important in today's health care environment:

- **Quality.** We will focus on tactics to provide the highest quality for our patients and continue our 21-year streak on the *U.S. News Best Hospital* list.
- **Operations.** We will concentrate on working efficiently, giving patients access to care, and delivering the best possible experience.
- **Business.** We must grow our patient volumes, keep our finances strong and remain the premier health care provider in the region.

So, what does all this mean for you, colleagues on the front line? With your leaders focused on what's most important, they'll be able to better support and help you focus on what's most important in your day-to-day work. They'll help you eliminate the work that isn't contributing to our success and help you focus on the parts of your job that enhance quality, operations and business results.

I'll be talking more about our refined focus and how it affects you during the State of the Health Network Address. It will take place during a special Leader to Leader meeting on March 30. Most leaders who attend that meeting will be inviting one colleague from their team to join them at the meeting. All other colleagues will have a chance to see video snippets or read a summary of my presentation. It will be shared with you via the Communication Cascade.

I look forward to continuing this conversation during the State of the Health Network. In the meantime, thank you for your focus and for all you do for our patients.



A handwritten signature of Brian Nester in black ink.

**ABOUT ME:** My name is Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN). I came to LVHN in 1998 as the Director of LVH-Muhlenberg's Emergency Department. Prior to becoming President and CEO in 2014, I served as the health network's Chief Strategy Officer. I am originally from Reading, and I'm proud to lead an organization that continually strives to provide better health and better care at a better cost for the great people of our community.

## Stanley Piaskowski Retires After 37 Years



**Congratulations to Stanly Piaskowski who will retire on March 31 after a 37-year career in data processing and purchasing.** Piaskowski's retirement plans are to travel with his wife, complete home projects and continue his musical hobby more fervently by playing the piano with the Swingmasters and electric bass guitar with a soul group from Harrisburg.

Piaskowski wants to leave a message for his fellow colleagues. "Never forget the real bottom line, the real reason we come to work every day: the patients," Piaskowski says.

Please join in wishing him well in retirement at a make-your-own sundae reception in his honor on Wednesday, March 29 at 2 p.m. in the hospital's Hilltop Café.

## Your PRIDE is Showing

**A patient writes to the second-shift nursing staff on the fifth floor...**

"Thank you so very much for all the wonderful care you gave me. All your positive attitudes made my hospital stay very bearable. You all are greatly appreciated."



## Leadership Rounds Continue

**Here is next week's schedule.**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
4th floor	March 27 at 6 a.m.	Michele Konitzer
6th floor	March 28 at 6 a.m.	Anthony Valente
5th floor	March 28 at 7 p.m.	Michael Golden
ED	March 28 at 7 p.m.	Michael Evans
3rd floor	March 29 at 10:30 a.m.	Murray Swim
7th floor	March 31 at 6 a.m.	John Fletcher
2nd floor	March 31 at 7:15 a.m.	Melissa Curto

## Kidney Cancer Community Forum

Leading cancer experts from LVHN and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center are proud to present "Advances in Kidney Cancer Care," a special community forum on April 3 at 4 p.m. at LVH-Cedar Crest, Kasych Family Pavilion, ECC rooms 7 and 8.

Five speakers will discuss the latest advances in the care, treatment and management of kidney cancer. The event is sponsored by the Andy Derr Foundation for Kidney Cancer Research. Andy Derr was a respected Allentown businessman who was diagnosed with kidney cancer in 2003 at age 42. He battled the disease and sought to help others facing a similar journey for more than 12 years before succumbing in January 2016.

Registration will begin at 3:15 p.m. on the day of the event. You can register ahead of time by calling 610-402-CARE (2273) or 888-402-LVHN (5846).

