

Casual Conversations Designed for Colleague Discussion and Interaction

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN FLETCHER, LVH-HAZLETON PRESIDENT

The **Communication Cascade** continues to expand the way LVHN leaders communicate with colleagues. Your familiarity with the “who, what, when, where and why” of our organization (both locally and network wide) is so important to our health network’s success. More importantly, it’s important to your personal job satisfaction.

On Aug. 29 at 10:30 a.m., I will kick off a new program called “Casual Conversations.” Designed as an informal gathering, I’ll meet with 12 to 15 colleagues to talk about what’s happening at LVHN and LVH-Hazleton, and allow you to provide valuable feedback through comments and suggestions. Casual Conversations will be held every other month at LVH-Hazleton with new colleagues selected to participate each time.

I regularly join other senior leaders to conduct leadership rounds throughout our hospital. Interactions with colleagues, while positive and beneficial, are often very brief because we’re all busy caring for patients or addressing our responsibilities. Leadership rounds will continue, but Casual Conversations will give colleagues an extended opportunity to exchange information, ideas and concerns.

If you’re a manager, begin to identify colleagues who may want to attend. Casual Conversation sessions will be no more than one hour. Instead of having a formal agenda, I plan to see how the conversations develop. I’m looking forward to these conversations to learn what is on your mind and to hear from you about our successes and opportunities at LVH-Hazleton.



Leadership Rounds Continue

LOCATION	DATE AND TIME	LEADER
6th floor	Aug. 9 at 11 a.m.	Anthony Valente, MD
5th floor	Aug. 8 at 7 p.m.	Michael Golden, RN
4th floor	Aug. 8 at 9:30 a.m.	Michele Roberts, RN
3rd floor	Aug. 7 at 4 p.m.	Melissa Curto
2nd floor	Aug. 9 at 10 a.m.	Murray Swim
ED	Aug. 8 at 11 a.m.	John Fletcher

Your PRIDE is Showing

The following compliment was received from a patient’s wife who is very grateful for the care provided to her husband:

“On Saturday, July 15, 2017, I had to take my husband to the LVH-Hazleton ER. He is receiving chemo at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) and developed a fever that afternoon. We want to let you know how excellent your staff was, from the communications staff, Marcie Staivecki; Jim Sency, RN, the triage nurse, Sherri Meeker, RN, Greg (Jones), PA, lab and X-ray, and last but not least, Dr. (Jerry) Coleman. Their main concern was for the safety and care of my husband throughout the time we spent in the ER. At 7:30 p.m., Sloan Kettering directed that he be transferred to Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York. Your staff got APTS there, and they got him to New York that night, and they were also very caring. He is back at home now, but if this happens again, we have the comfort to know LVH-Hazleton is there.”

3-D Mammography Gives Cancer Survivor Peace of Mind

Getting an annual screening mammogram can save your life. In FY18 one of our better health goals is to increase the number of women who get their annual mammogram. Women diagnosed with dense breasts, those at higher risk for cancer and others are encouraged to consider an annual 3-D mammogram. While 2-D mammograms are fully covered by all insurers, coverage for a 3-D mammogram varies. It is suggested you obtain the specific procedure code and contact your insurance company's customer service to confirm coverage prior to getting a 3-D mammogram.



Michelle Figueroa

Michelle Figueroa was 17, newly married and on top of the world. She and her husband felt the world was their oyster. Then the unexpected happened and she was diagnosed with trophoblastic carcinoma, a female cancer that mimics pregnancy. Barely out of high school, she began chemotherapy and subsequently lost her hair. Treatment made her very ill and led to a stay in the intensive care unit.

While treatment lasted several months, her memory of that time has lasted for decades. Today, Figueroa is 44 and cancer free. The experience left her with an awareness of what she needs to do to stay healthy for herself, her two children and her husband.

"I don't want to go through that again," says Figueroa. "I try to take care of myself to avoid getting sick again. I go to the doctor, get annual checkups with my gynecologist and always get my mammogram."

SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS

Figueroa got her first mammogram at age 40. She's had an annual mammogram since. Two years ago she was called back for a diagnostic evaluation after a radiologist saw an apparent change on her 2-D mammogram.

"I was sick to my stomach," Figueroa says. "I got a second mammogram and an ultrasound right away. The care team was wonderful, but the experience rattled me. My mind went immediately back to my previous bout with cancer."

Figueroa's false positive reading was due to overlapping tissue. It's a common problem that occurs due to the nature of 2-D mammography. This past July, she elected to have 3-D mammography – also called tomosynthesis – instead.

Most patients don't notice a difference between 2-D and 3-D mammography. The experience is similar and 3-D scans take just a few seconds longer. 3-D scans capture more images of your breasts and at multiple angles. Doctors see clearer images of the breast tissue in very small slices, which improves detection rates.

"3-D mammography is more effective for women with dense breasts and for detecting smaller cancers," says radiologist Priya Sareen, MD, with Medical Imaging of Lehigh Valley, PC. "They also detect 41 percent more invasive breast cancers and reduce false positives up to 40 percent."

GETTING THE ALL CLEAR

Less than a week after Figueroa had her 3-D mammogram, she received a letter from LVHN's Breast Imaging Services saying her results were normal. The letter also contained information about her breast density – a mandatory notification that educates women about the makeup of their breast tissue.

Dense breasts can increase a woman's cancer risk. 3-D mammograms are proven to be more accurate for women with dense breast tissue and make it easier to catch breast cancer in its earliest stages.

"Women need to take time for themselves," Figueroa says. "If you get sick, you can't take care of anyone else. Delaying your mammogram can lead to a more serious diagnosis if you do have a problem. A couple seconds can save your life."

*Scheduling your mammogram is more convenient than ever. LVHN offers 2-D and 3-D mammography using advanced Hologic Genius™ technology at many convenient locations throughout the health network. Simply call **570-501-4624** (LVH-Hazleton) or **610-402-2791** (LVHN).*

Service Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following colleagues celebrating milestone service anniversaries:

35 years

Carmine Swirble, food and nutrition services

30 years

Scott Kostician, RN,

emergency department

Rose Novatnak, distribution center

25 years

Michael Holincheck,

environmental services

Cathy Kowalski,

transportation services

Gina Marie Visgaitis, RN,

MS4

Larry Yurewick, security

15 years

Jennifer Libonate-Pecora,

medical records

Joann Rodgers,

communications

Margarita Rossi, LVPG

administration

10 years

Susan Abazly, occupational

therapy

Denna Olexa, medical

records

5 years

Mary Ann Antonelli, food and

nutrition services

Danelle Davis, RN,

emergency department

Deunizel Dela Rosa,

ExpressCARE

Colette Pecuch, food and

nutrition services

Diane Shantz, RN, Family

Birth and Newborn Center