

# Highlights for UW Medical Center staff and faculty

# SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
**MEDICAL CENTER**  
UW Medicine

APRIL 9, 2007

## New vascular laboratory combines latest research with patient care

Dr. Eugene Strandness' legacy of innovation and patient care has come together since the UW Medical Center opened last month a vascular research and service facility (the D. Eugene Strandness Jr. Vascular Laboratory) in the Surgery Pavilion. The lab diagnoses and studies abnormalities of the arteries and veins.

By offering clinical diagnostic services in the same area as a research lab, patients will have access to the very latest research in vascular diagnosis and treatment. It's a unique concept and the brainchild of Dr. Alexander Clowes, UW professor and chief



Dr. Susan Detweiler; Dr. Alexander Clowes, chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery; and patient Britt Tinglum at the open house for the Strandness Vascular Laboratory. Photo by Clare McLean.

of the Division of Vascular Surgery, who has spent the last eight years developing and launching the program.

"Ultrasound used for vascular screening is fairly standard, and patients should be able to get a good examination in any accredited lab," said Dr. Eugene Zierler,

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## Environmental stewardship top priority at UWMC

### **Dear Colleagues:**

By the very nature of our business, hospitals are huge users of all types of utilities including electricity, water and gas. We also consume large amounts of products and use hazardous materials that can impact our environment.

Over the years, UW Medical Center has been actively involved in reducing our impact on our environment through waste minimization, pollution prevention, numerous conservation efforts and modeling responsible environmental

practices.

In 2005, UWMC was the first hospital to receive the Washington State Governors' Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices, and we have recently submitted an application for the 2007 Environmental Leadership Award through Hospitals for a Healthy Environment.

Some of the key improvements have been in the areas of waste management and utility conservation. UWMC has steadily

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## Calendar

April 26-28 - Washington Weekend

April 27 - UW employee cookout with President Emmert and Provost Wise, Red Square, upper campus

April 27 - Blood Drive, Health Sciences lobby

May 5 - March of Dimes WalkAmerica, downtown

May 6 - Puget Sound Asthma Walk, UW campus

## Security reminder

To insure that key departments are aware of situations that could threaten the work environment, employees must report to their supervisors if they have a protection order (also know as 'Restraining Order') against an individual, or if they know that a co-worker has one.

Employees or their supervisors also must report the information to Warren Walls, director of UWMC Public Safety, 598-6811, and their departmental Human Resources consultant, 598-6116.

Vascular lab,  
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UW professor and vascular  
surgeon.

“But a lot of people like to go to a place that has a history of developing new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. That gives them confidence,” Zierler said.

For example, surgeon Dr. Tom Hatsukami is looking at ways of using the duplex scanner in conjunction with MRI to measure not only how much plaque in the carotid artery is restricting blood flow but also the characteristics of that plaque.

His research eventually will be able to determine how well and how quickly medications are working to reduce plaque. It also will predict stroke in high risk patients before the stroke occurs. Once the results of the research are confirmed, the techniques will be used on patients in the clinic.

“With the opening of the combined vascular laboratory in the Surgery Pavilion, we have the opportunity to recapture the benefits derived from the model envisioned by Dr. Strandness 25 years ago,” Hatsukami said.



Lisa Brandenburg, interim executive director, introduces 2006 Employee of the Year Pat Dodge.

## Employee of the Year: Pat Dodge

When Pat Dodge started working in UW Medical Center's Employee Health, it had been 15 years since she had last given someone a shot. Yet, she picked up the skill immediately, learned the clinic's protocols and sharpened her skills as a hands-on registered nurse.

“Throughout this time, she remains consistently dedicated to her work and eagerly meets new challenges,” her co-workers wrote in her Employee of the Month nomination.

Dodge, who was UWMC's Employee of the Month in May 2006, was named Employee of the Year.

Environmental stewardship,  
continued from front page.

improved our recycling efforts over the past five years. We currently recycle about 670 tons of paper, glass, aluminum and cardboard -- even coffee grounds. This is 670 tons that does not go to our landfill.

From 2002 to 2006 recycling has increased 51 percent, including a 31 percent increase in the past year. This improvement is because of the work of our Waste Management department under the leadership of Tim Nguyen and Gary Butrymowicz. Most importantly this is a result of each employee, staff and faculty member who dispose of items into the recycling container instead of a waste can.

We have also made significant improvements in our utility purchasing and conservation efforts. The medical center spends approximately \$2.2 million dollars annually on electricity purchases. In 2006, the Medical Center began buying 100 percent renewable energy from Seattle City Light. This purchase shift will significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and encourage others to follow our lead.

The most recent energy conservation project was an upgrade to our old chiller/cooling system. For many projects we partner with Seattle City Light or Puget Sound Energy and receive dollar rebates once the work is complete. We have been able to expand our facility without proportionally increasing our consumption.

The water reuse system implemented at

our UW Consolidated Laundry has resulted in 12 million gallons of water and 77,000 therms saved. Savings from this system are \$140,000 in water and \$79,000 in gas over the past 24 months.



Patricia Riley

UWMC, along with most hospitals, is working towards a mercury-free environment. We have also made significant progress in the reduction of the use of glutaraldehyde by using a less hazardous product for high level disinfection. With the addition of a new type of sterilizer in Material Management, we have reduced ethylene oxide usage from 643 pounds to only 415 pounds reducing usage by 228 pounds in 2006.

If you have a specific suggestion for your area, please discuss it with your supervisor and/or e-mail Tim Nguyen at [t2nugyen@u.washington.edu](mailto:t2nugyen@u.washington.edu), or contact the Environment of Care Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Subcommittee.

*Sincerely,*

**Patricia Riley,**  
*Assistant Administrator, Support Services*

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Editor  
Elizabeth Lowry  
685-4232  
Fax 685-3333  
Box 356345  
[elowry@u.washington.edu](mailto:elowry@u.washington.edu)