

# UNMC, hospital celebrate 10 years of success

by Andrea McMaster



Harold M. Maurer, M.D.



Glenn Fosdick

UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center celebrated a decade of excellence – a successful 10-year partnership between the two entities this past October.

“From the start, there was a shared vision and commitment from UNMC and hospital leaders to make this partnership work,” said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. “Both sides have remained dedicated to making this vision a reality. Even in the face of challenges, the dedication to this partnership has remained steady.”

Before the 1997 merger of the two hospitals, Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital, founded in 1869, and University Hospital, founded in 1917, had each established themselves as leaders in health care.

“The first heart transplant, the first kidney transplant and the first dialysis treatment in the state of Nebraska were all performed under Clarkson Hospital programs,” said Glenn Fosdick, president and CEO of The Nebraska Medical Center.

“University Hospital pioneered the transplantation of peripheral stem cells for lymphoma treatment and performed the first liver transplant in the state. Our partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center only makes us a better organization.”

Hospital mergers were popular in the early 1990s, but most were not successful.

“We were unique to flourish,” Fosdick said. “We often get asked, ‘Why did it work for us?’ We remained tenacious. We also valued one another’s strengths.”

“The Nebraska Medical Center has become a national model for successful hospital mergers,” Dr. Maurer said. “The reputation of The Nebraska Medical Center is climbing nationally. The care provided by physicians, nurses and other health care practitioners and staff is of the highest quality.”

Currently a 689-bed, not-for profit facility, The Nebraska Medical Center continually strives to provide innovative and extraordinary patient care. Together with UNMC, it is involved with cutting-edge research and plays a significant role in educating health care professionals for the future.

The Nebraska Medical Center has treated patients from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 43 foreign countries. Many of those patients come to The Nebraska Medical Center seeking treatment in the areas of solid organ and bone marrow transplantation, oncology, cardiology and neurology.

The past 10 years have been filled with growth. In 1998, the partners opened The Lied Transplant Center. A model for

cooperative care, the 13-level building embodies the medical center’s commitment to transplant and cancer patients. The transplant center houses a 24-hour clinic, research labs and suites for patients and families.

In 2005, the Hixson-Lied Center for Clinical Excellence was established to consolidate many of The Nebraska Medical Center’s services into one building, leading to more efficient care. The new building houses emergency, radiology, cardiology, surgery and the newborn intensive care unit.

Also in 2005, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Julie Gerberding, M.D., joined physicians at UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center for the opening of the Biocontainment Unit.

The unit is currently the only center accessible to civilians in the United States to safely care for anyone exposed to a contagious and dangerous disease such as avian flu.

The past 10 years also have been filled with many firsts. In the first years after the merger, staff at The Nebraska Medical Center delivered the state’s first set of quintuplets, performed the region’s first implantable hearing aid surgery and performed the world’s first bowel resection using surgical robotic equipment.

In the years following, The Nebraska Medical Center was the first in the region to use ‘camera in a pill’ for small intestine disorders, the first in the region to use the Novalis radiation therapy system and the first in the region to use Calypso 4-D Localization System for radiation therapy.

UNMC’s academic partnership with The Nebraska Medical Center strengthens its ability to offer cutting-edge treatments. “Patient care rises to a new level when patients have access to new therapies because of research and educational opportunities,” Dr. Maurer said. “Even though the hospital is located in Omaha, it has become a resource for the entire state.”

UNMC’s educational programs are responsible for training more health professionals practicing in Nebraska than any other institution.

“We have attracted the best and brightest students, residents and health care practitioners,” Dr. Maurer said.

Dr. Maurer predicts a bright future for the partnership.

“The Nebraska Medical Center will become among the highest-ranked destination hospitals nationally and internationally in keeping with UNMC’s quest to become world-class,” he said. ☺☺