University Hospital receives 2006 Specialty Excellence Award for Stroke Care

University Hospital has received the 2006 Specialty Excellence Award for Stroke Care from Health Grades, Inc., the leading healthcare ratings organization that provides ratings and profiles of hospitals, nursing homes and physicians.

The award recognizes University Hospital for clinical excellence according to Health Grades’ rigorous analysis. It places University Hospital within the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for stroke care.

“It is wonderful for University Hospital to be distinguished by this award,” said Phillip S. Schaengold, JD, MBA, chief executive officer of University Hospital and senior associate dean for hospital affairs in the College of Medicine. “The award recognizes and commends the work of our highly skilled and dedicated team of caregivers.”

To qualify for the list, hospitals were required to meet minimum thresholds in terms of patient volumes, quality ratings and the range of services provided. Prior to comparing the mortality and complication rates of the nation’s hospitals, Health Grades’ risk-adjusted the data, to compare on equal footing hospitals that treated sicker patients.

Hospitals with risk-adjusted mortality and complication rates that scored in the top five percent or better nationally—which demonstrates superior overall clinical performance—were then recognized as Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence.

‘No Fall Zone’ campaign to meet JCAHO goal

University Hospital’s Fall Prevention Task Force will introduce a campus-wide initiative this Spring to prevent patient falls in response to one of the 2006 National Patient Safety Goals announced last year by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

JCAHO, the accrediting agency for hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout the United States, identified 14 goals to promote specific improvements in patient safety. One of those goals called for hospitals and healthcare agencies to create, implement and evaluate a fall reduction program for patients.

According to Debra Blanchard, MS, RN, CNRN, a member of the hospital’s Fall Prevention Task Force, the fall prevention and management program is being presented via a “No Fall Zone” campaign which will be introduced to the SUNY Upstate community at a JCAHO Patient Safety Goal Fair, to be held jointly with the Safety-at-Work fair March 29, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 1328B University Hospital.

“The campaign goal is to reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls,” said Blanchard, who also serves as education coordinator for SUNY Upstate’s Concussion Management Program. “We hope to accomplish this through a series of employee education and awareness programs and by incorporating intervention strategies and tools. While many of our efforts will be directed to clinical staff, we are also targeting the entire SUNY Upstate population.”

The No Fall Zone...
The Omicon Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International is seeking abstracts from nurses for the chapter's Research and Practice Innovation Poster Session, to be held April 27. Abstracts of completed research or research in progress, clinical innovations or quality improvement projects that are relevant to nursing practice, education, or administration and leadership will be accepted. Deadline to submit is March 10. For more information, call 464-3909.

Central New York teens and adults who are interested in careers in health and medicine are invited to register for Mini Medical University, to be held Wednesdays from March 15 to April 5, from 7 to 9 p.m. at HealthLink in ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt. Tuition is $12 for all classes. Call 464-8668 to register.

SUNY Upstate’s fourth-year medical students will join graduating medical students from across the country in learning where they will spend their first year of residency in their chosen specialty on Match Day March 16, at noon in the Institute for Human Performance. Match Day was established in 1952 by the National Resident Matching Program of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The first Challenge Cup Round Robin Hockey Tournament for teams and individual players, 25 years and older, will be held March 25 and 26 at the Cicero Twin Ice Arena in Cicero. Proceeds will benefit University Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Room. For more information, call 315-529-3510 or e-mail olsons@upstate.edu.

SUNY Upstate’s Office of Student Admissions will sponsor a free Health Careers Open House for high school and college students March 25, from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. in Weiskotten Hall. The Open House features presentations and a campus tour. For more information, call 464-4570, or 800-736-2171.

SUNY Upstate’s Joslin Diabetes Center will offer free diabetes screenings March 27, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 90 Presidential Plaza. Diabetes is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States.

A Safety-at-Work (SAW) Fair and JCAHO Patient Safety Goal Fair will be held jointly March 29, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 1328B University Hospital. SAW is an annual required educational activity for all University Hospital staff. It is recommended that University Hospital staff attend the JCAHO Patient Safety Goal Fair.

On-site registration for the American Heart Association’s Heart Walk is March 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Hospital second floor lobby. The Heart Walk will be held April 22 at Long Branch Park in Liverpool. For a list of 2006 Heart Walk team captains, visit http://www.upstate.edu/events/heartwalk06.php. For more information about the on-site registration, call 464-4845 or 464-4263.

SUNY Upstate’s quarterly Educational Training Catalog has moved to the web. Training courses provided by Educational Communications, Organizational Training & Development, Ambulatory Services, Emergency Medicine, Health Sciences Library, Hospital Purchasing and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation can be found at http://www.upstate.edu/hr/training. To register select the link for Training Course Descriptions. E-mail feedback related to the web-based catalog to OTD@UPSTATE.EDU.

Organizational Training and Development (OTD) is inviting employees to give feedback regarding SUNY Upstate’s training opportunities by completing a brief survey found at http://www.upstate.edu/hr/training/needsassessment.shtml (click Institution-Wide Training and Development Education Needs Assessment.) Deadline to complete the survey is March 31. Call 464-2957 or e-mail rokickir@upstate.edu with questions.

CNY Neurofest 2006 will be held March 30 and 31 at Stella Maris Retreat Center, Route 20 in Skaneateles. The event, co-sponsored by SUNY Upstate's Neuroscience Program, is a forum for the presentation and discussion of cutting-edge neuroscience research being conducted in Central New York. Neurofest features speakers from area universities, a poster session and presentations by postdoctoral and graduate students. The registration fee—$15 for students, postdoctoral students and $30 for faulty—is due March 13. Meals will be provided and lodging is available for $20. To register, visit http://www.upstate.edu/neuroscience/neurofest.shtml or contact Nancy Leotta at leottan@upstate.edu.

Special Thanks...

The Clark Burn Center thanks the Fulton City Fire Department for donating $500 in gas cards for the center's burn patients who need financial assistance with transportation to their burn therapy treatments.

Staff from the engineering firm of C&S Companies in North Syracuse donated $1,500 to the Golisano Children’s Hospital at University Hospital. The money was allocated to four charities based on employee volunteer hours and vote. The children's hospital received the most votes.
Weeklong celebration highlights work, role of child life specialists

An annual rite of Spring at University Hospital is the celebration of March as National Child Life Month. This month, the week of March 12 will feature several special activities to honor and acknowledge the work of the hospital’s seven certified child life specialists.

The activities begin March 9 with a Teddy Bear Check-up (see page 5 for more information). On Monday, March 13, balloons will be handed out to all pediatric patients. On March 13 and 14, an informational display will be set up outside the second floor cafeteria, and plans are in the making for a pediatric carnival March 17 with games and prizes.

One of the week’s most favorite activities is the fashion-themed days when staff members are encouraged to wear a particular item each day. Here’s how it works:

On Sunday, March 12, please wear a tie, because it’s Tie Day; Monday, March 13, please wear your favorite cartoon character. Scooby Doo, Mickey Mouse or Sponge Bob would all be appropriate. Tuesday, March 14, it’s Silly Sox, or Socks Day. Pairs that don’t match are perfectly suited for this day. Wednesday, March 15, provides one the opportunity to wear something that features a favorite sports team. Renew the Red Sox-Yankees rivalry or show your support for the other local university by donning something orange. Thursday, March 16, is Orange Day, so keep your SU motif at the ready. And what color do you think is set for Friday, March 17? It’s the wearing of the green day. The fashion festive week ends Saturday, March 18, with a request to wear all sport buttons or pins.

All of the above are fun and it helps highlight the child life program, but child life work is serious business.

Certified child life specialists are specially trained non-medical members of the healthcare team who help to ensure that a child’s hospital stay or visit to the doctor is as stress and pain free as possible.

University Hospital currently employs seven child life specialists, the most of any area hospital. They are: Kara Judd-Litera, Sue Karl, Marsha Kernan, Regina Lozito, Margaret Nellis, Colleen Turner and Janice Whitcombe.

Some responsibilities include coordinating pre-admission tours for children, support and distraction during medical procedures, playroom activities, planning field trips or special events and hospital visits and advocating on behalf of parents and children.

Child life specialists also use special dolls or other age-appropriate tools to help patients understand how a particular procedure will be performed.

Margaret Nellis, a certified child life manager who directs University Hospital’s Child Life program, says a basic responsibilities of a child life specialist is to protect the emotional well being of children during hospitalization.

“We know that a child would rather be at home outside playing with their friends than at the hospital,” Nellis said. “Therefore we want to create the most secure, friendly and welcoming environment possible.”

All of University Hospital’s child life specialists are certified by the Child Life Council.

Certification for child life specialists was established in 1986 and helps standardize the body of knowledge of child life specialists. It also demonstrates expertise in the field and professional commitment to the practice.
campaign formally began in December with the creation of the hospital’s Fall Prevention and Management Program policy (# CM F-07). The policy states that all University Hospital inpatients will be assessed for fall risk factors and reassessed according to changes in their general status, medications and/or treatment regimes. It also states that patients at moderate to high risk for falling are to be identified and appropriate fall interventions will be implemented.

“The policy includes procedures to be followed by individuals who are in contact with inpatients, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, and staff from Environmental Services and Physical Plant,” said Blanchard. “We will also be providing inpatients and their family members with handouts that explain our policy so that they can actively participate in their fall prevention and management program.”

To assist in the risk assessment process, the hospital is using the Hendrich II Fall Risk Model that assigns a numeric score to a patient based on their risk factors for falls, such as dizziness, confusion, impulsivity and ability to rise in a single movement, among others. Patients who score higher than a “5” are considered high risk. High-risk interventions may include frequent staff monitoring, bed alarms and regular toileting assistance, if needed. “We are in the process of identifying and purchasing other equipment that would help to diminish and/or prevent injury from patient falls, such as floor mats and chair alarms that would alert our nursing staff when a high-risk patient is trying to leave their chair,” said Blanchard. “We encourage the use of standard safety interventions for all hospitalized patients, such as placing the call light within reach, using bedrails as appropriate, non-slip footwear and night lights.”

Patients identified as moderate risk (numeric score of 3 to 4) or high risk will also wear neon orange name bracelets to alert staff that close observation and additional interventions may be necessary.

While nurses have received preliminary training in the use of the Hendrich model and in the documentation process, Blanchard states that full-scale education in the use of the model will begin within the next few months. “We will use an interactive computer-based training program that explains the Hendrich II Fall Risk Model and how it can be folded into our comprehensive fall prevention, risk management and intervention program,” said Blanchard.

To evaluate the No Fall Zone campaign, Theresa Gagnon, RN, BSN, Risk Coordinator for University Hospital’s Office of Risk Management will provide quarterly aggregated fall data reviews for each patient care area to assist with the identification of trends related to falls. Managers can then target specific areas for process improvement.

The hospital’s Safety and Environment of Care committee is also provided with a monthly summary report of all falls within the hospital and hospital grounds. In addition, the office of Risk Management will submit any regulatory report as mandated by the State Department of Health-NYPORTS program for falls resulting in certain injuries noted Gagnon, who serves as co-chair of the Fall Prevention Task Force with Kathi Heaney, RN.

“In the Spring, we will show a videotape on staff education TV that will offer tips on preventing falls,” said Blanchard. “We encourage all SUNY Upstate individuals to view the tape and to actively take part in the campaign. Participation is easy and can include something as simple as alerting the proper personnel of fall hazards, such as slippery floors or curled rugs. After all, it is everyone’s responsibility to establish a safe work environment for ourselves and for our patients.”
MARCH 8, 15, 22 and 29 (must attend all sessions) 9 to 11 a.m. 010 Health Sciences Library.

Workshop. “Getting Started With Medical Terminology, Part II” will teach participants to apply concepts and information from the introductory class to additional body systems.

March 9. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Free Health Seminar. “Teddy Bear Check Up” invites young children and their parents or caregivers to bring a “stuffed” friend in for an exam and to participate in a health activity with University Hospital’s child life staff. Drop in at any time.

March 9. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Free Health Seminar. “Colonscopy: Who Needs It and When?” provides an overview of the colonoscopy procedure, colon cancer screening protocol, virtual colonoscopy and barium enema testing.

March 13. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Free Health Seminar. “What’s New in Diabetes?” teaches new approaches in diabetes management, including inhaled insulin, use of new medications and technologies and research involving new therapies.

March 14. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.


March 15. 9 a.m. to noon. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Workshop. “The Leader Within: Emotional Intelligence/Assessment” is the first program in a three-part series that explores leadership competencies. The first program discusses the impact of emotional intelligence in the workplace.

March 16. 9 a.m. to noon. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. “Counseling and Discipline” will provide tools to address concerns and types of actions regarding employee work performance and/or job related behaviors.

March 16. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. 1541 University Hospital.

Workshop. “Computer Skills for PSLs” will teach GroupWise, Microsoft Word, and Internet skills. PSLs have priority, but all are welcome. Evening classes can be arranged by calling 464-4407.

March 22. 9 a.m. to noon. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Workshop. “The Leader Within: Managing Across Generations” is the second program in a three-part series that explores leadership competencies. This program will cover four generations in the workplace.

March 22. Noon to 1 p.m. 9299 Weiskotten Hall.

SideLines Lecture. “Golf—An Introduction.” Open to golfers at all levels, this lecture will offer ideas and suggestions from a lifetime golfer. To register, visit www.upstate.edu/hr/training/ classes.shtml and click “Sidelines Lunch Time Learning Series.”

March 22. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Free Health Seminar. “The Gamma Knife Edge” gives an overview of Gamma Knife surgery and how it compares to other non-invasive radiosurgical techniques; basic principles of radiosurgery; what diagnoses it is used for; and the treatment process.

March 23. 12:30 to 4 p.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. “Healthcare Diversity Management,” for administrators and nursing managers and leaders, will explore the historical context for understanding diversity; look at the legal, moral and business case for valuing diversity in a healthcare environment; and focus on building skills and modifying behaviors.

March 24. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center, 801 University Ave., Syracuse.

The 10th Annual HIV/AIDS Nursing Update: Prevention, Education and Wellness is for nurses and other healthcare professionals who are interested in the care of patients with HIV disease. For more information or to register, call 464-7313 or email her at napierkm@ upstate.edu.

March 28. 9 a.m. to noon. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Workshop. “The Leader Within: Shackleton’s Adventure” is the last program in a three-part series that will explore leadership competencies. This program will offer a look at the famous expedition of Ernest Shackleton and his voyage to the Antarctic.

March 28. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.


March 30. 9:30 to 11 a.m. 205 Jacobsen Hall.

Workshop. “Fundamentals of UUP Performance Management” will review the purpose, process, and timelines associated with developing UUP Performance Programs and Performance Evaluations for professional (SL rank) employees in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

March 30. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Free Health Seminar. “Bird Flu: Could It Be the Next Pandemic?” covers the clinical signs and symptoms, laboratory diagnosis and public health preparedness plans.
Wednesday, March 8
Anesthesiology Grand Rounds.
7 a.m. Wsk. Hall Auditorium.

Surgery Morbidity/Mortality Conference.
7 to 8 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

Otolaryngology Grand Rounds.
7 a.m. 6300 University Hospital.

Ergonomics Fair.
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Cognitive Rooms and second floor cafeteria, University Hospital. Call 464-4567 for details.

Multidisciplinary Orientation (MDO).
8 to 10:15 a.m. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Orthopedic Grand Rounds.
8 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Surgery Grand Rounds.
8 to 9 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

Neuroscience Grand Rounds.
8 a.m. Marley Education Ctr.

Workshop.
“Getting Started with Medical Terminology, Part II.” Cherie Nash, Upstate Medical University. 9 to 11 a.m. 010

Health Sciences Library.
Wsk. Hall.

Pediatric Grand Rounds.
Understanding the Latest AAP Guidelines for Management of Hyperbilirubinemia in the Newborn.” Robert Hingre, MD. 9:15 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

30-Day Retention Program.
10:30 a.m. to noon (lunch included). East Lounge, C.A.B.

Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds.
Hani Kosman, MD, Upstate Medical University. 11 a.m. to noon. HFP, Classrooms A, B and C.

Health Sciences Library Tour.

* Rev. Weez’s Storytime.
Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

NIH Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series.
Anne O’Garra, National Institute for Medical Research, London. 3 p.m. 318 Health Sciences Library, Wsk. Hall.

Spiritual Care Grand Rounds.
“Understanding Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Beliefs and Healthcare Practices.” Joanne Chamberlain, RN, NP, MS, RT5. 4 to 5:15 p.m. 3299 Wsk. Hall.

Medical Alumni Phonathon.
Dinner: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Third floor lobby, C.A.B.

Thursday, March 9
SUNY Upstate New Employee Orientation.
7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 203 Jacobsen Hall.

Medical Grand Rounds.
“The Porphyrias.” Joseph R. Bloomer, MD, University of Alabama at Birmingham. 8:30 a.m. 1159 Wsk. Hall.

Free Health Seminar.
“Teddy Bear Check-Up.” 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

* Weekly Devotions. Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds.
“Treatment of ADHD in Children and Adults: Evidence from Research in Naturalistic Settings.” Michael J. Manos, PhD, The Cleveland Clinic. 12:30 to 2 p.m. 713 Harrison St.

College of Graduate Studies Admissions Days Program.
4:15 to 8:30 p.m. College of Graduate Studies. (includes dinner for College of Graduate Studies faculty and students.)

Free Health Seminar.
“Colonoscopy: Who Needs It and When?” Debra Malay, RN, BSN, Upstate Medical University. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Friday, March 10
SUNY Upstate New Employee Orientation.
7 a.m. to noon. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Obstetrics/Gynecology Grand Rounds.
“Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Onondaga County.” Faith Mary Gault, CASAC, Onondaga County Prevention Network. 7:30 a.m. Marley Education Center.

College of Graduate Studies Admissions Days Program.
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. College of Graduate Studies.

Seventh Distinguished Lecture in Vision.
“Hereditary Photoreceptor Diseases.” Thaddeus P. Dryja, MD, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Noon to 1 p.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall. Sponsored by SUNY Upstate Department of Ophthalmology.

Clinical Hands-On Practice Orientation (CHOP).
Noon to 3:30 p.m. East Lounge, C.A.B.

* Mass. Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

Saturday, March 11
* Mass. 4 p.m. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

Sunday, March 12
* Mass. Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

Monday, March 13
Professional Development Day.
8:30 a.m. to noon. Institute for Human Performance. Presented by Women in Medicine. Call 464-2641 for more information.

CPR and AED Class for Non-clinical Staff.
9 a.m. 350 E. Genesee St. Call 464-4852 for more information.

* Communion Service. Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

AA Open Meeting.
Noon. 4137 University Hospital. Call 464-5011 for information.

Free Health Seminar.
“What’s New in Diabetes?” Ruth S. Weinstock, MD, PhD, Upstate Medical University. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Tuesday, March 14
Ergonomics Fair.
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Central Stores Office, Rm. 203, PDC Liverpool, 4697 Crossroads Park Drive. Call 464-4567 for details.

Workshop.
“InfoPoems & UpToDate.” Noon to 1 p.m. 220 Health Sciences Library. Call 464-4581 to register.

Weight Watchers at Work.
Noon. 5303 Wsk. Hall. E-mail brunsm@upstate.edu for information.

* Weekly Prayer Service. Noon. Interfaith Chapel, University Hospital.

SUNY Upstate Medical University Smoking Cessation Class with Free Nicotine Replacement.
8:30 to 4:30 p.m. 2145 University Hospital. Call 464-4426 to register.

Department of Medicine Infectious Disease Conference.
4 p.m. 118 University Hospital.

Vascular Conference.
5 p.m. 8800 University Hospital.

Medical Alumni Phonathon.
See 3/8 listing.

Free Health Seminar.
“Prostate Cancer: When Does ‘The Robot’ Make Sense?” Gabriel P. Haas, MD, Upstate Medical University. 6 to 7 p.m. HealthLink, ShoppingTown Mall, DeWitt.

Wednesday, March 15
Anesthesiology Grand Rounds.
7 a.m. Wsk. Hall Auditorium.

Surgery Morbidity/Mortality Conference.
7 to 8 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

Otolaryngology Grand Rounds.
7 a.m. 6300 University Hospital.

Orthopedic Grand Rounds.
8 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Surgery Grand Rounds.
8 to 9 a.m. 2231 Wsk. Hall.

Neuroscience Grand Rounds.
8 a.m. Marley Education Ctr.

Workshop.
“Counseling and Discipline.” 9 a.m. to noon. 203 Jacobsen Hall.

Ergonomics Fair.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fourth Floor Community Room, UHCC. Call 464-4567 for details.

Workshop.
“The Leader Within: Emotional Intelligence/Assessment.” 9 a.m. to noon. East Lounge, C.A.B.

Workshop.
“Getting Started with Medical Terminology, Part II.” See 3/8 listing.

Pediatric Grand Rounds.
“Psychosocial Aspects of Short Stature: Are Our Assumptions Evidence-Based?” David E. Sandberg, PhD, SUNY Buffalo. 9:15 a.m. 6500 University Hospital.

Health Sciences Library Tour.
See 3/8 listing.

* Rev. Weez’s Storytime.
See 3/8 listing.

Workshop.
“Computer Skills for PSLS.” Lauren Brady, Upstate Medical University. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. 1541 University Hospital.

NIH Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series.
Vamsi Mootha, PhD, Harvard Medical School. 3 p.m. 318 Health Sciences Library, Wsk. Hall.

Mini Medical University.
7 to 9 p.m. HealthLink, Shopping Town Mall, DeWitt.

Thursday, March 16
Medical Grand Rounds.
“Impetigo.” 8:30 a.m. 1159 Wsk. Hall.

Workshop.
“Counseling and Discipline.” 9 a.m. to noon. 203 Jacobsen Hall.

* Weekly Devotions. See 3/9 listing.

Match Day.
Noon. Atrium, Institute for Human Performance.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds.
“Best Practices for Treating Adult Obsessive Compulsive Disorder: A Case Presentation.” Susan Chlebowski, MD, Anna Remen, PhD, Thomas
March is National Eye Donor Month: Consider becoming an eye donor

March is National Eye Donor Month. Here are a few facts regarding eye donations:

- Cancer, diabetes, blindness, poor vision, glaucoma, eye diseases, cataracts and prior cataract surgery do not exclude a person from being an eye donor. There are very few reasons why someone would be excluded for eye donation. It is one of the simplest, least invasive types of donation.

- The cornea or the clear tissue covering the pupil is the most commonly donated eye tissue. Roughly 10 percent of individuals who are totally blind and many with limited vision, could have their eyesight restored with a cornea transplant.

- The sclera or white part of the eye is used for glaucoma surgery, eyelid repair, and periodontal surgery for gum tissue repair. Eye tissue is also used for medical research and training.

- One eye donor may help as many as four transplant recipients. In 2005, University Hospital had 29 eye donors who helped 41 transplant recipients and provided 18 medical research or training opportunities.

Individuals who are interested in becoming an eye donor or who require more information, may call or e-mail Ilene Havey or Carol Williams at the Central NY Eye and Tissue Bank, 476-0199, ihavey@unyts.org, or cwilliams@unyts.org.
A look at things to come: SUNY Upstate’s Setnor Academic Building

Partially wrapped for protection from the weather, the Setnor Academic Building takes shape. On schedule to open in March 2007, the Setnor Academic Building will provide SUNY Upstate Medical University with the first new classroom space in nearly three decades. The building, located next to Weiskotten Hall, is named for Rose, Jules and Stanford Setnor in recognition of their $3 million gift toward the building’s construction.

Note: Contact the Human Resources Department for address changes and corrections.