Dr. Moro O. Salifu Named Interim Medicine Chair

Moro O. Salifu, MD, MPH, MBA, has been named interim chairman of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Salifu has served as chief of nephrology and director of the kidney transplant program since 2008, when he succeeded Distinguished Teaching Professor Eli Friedman, who headed the division for 26 years. Recently, Dr. Salifu became the first recipient of the Edwin C. and Anne K. Weiskopf Endowed Chair in Nephrology, founded in honor of Dr. Friedman.

Dr. Salifu received his medical degree from Dokuz Eylul University in Turkey and did his residency, internship, and fellowship training at SUNY Downstate. After his appointment here as assistant professor of medicine in 1981, Dr. Salifu earned a master of public health degree at Downstate and a master of business administration from George Washington University.

Board-certified in internal medicine and nephrology, Dr. Salifu is contact-principal investigator on a $5.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to advance the work of the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center, a joint venture of SUNY Downstate, the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, and the Brooklyn Borough President’s Office. Dr. Salifu also leads a basic science research team investigating the role of the F11 receptor in renal allograft rejection and atherosclerosis. He has served on many professional bodies and is the incoming 2013 president of the New York Society of Nephrology.

Do You Know Who Your Nurse Is?

With University Hospital’s new badge tags, this patient can easily see that her nurse, Karla Service Reynolds, is an RN.

by Dianne Forbes Woods, RN, MA, NE-BC Deputy Nursing Director

For many years, nurses were easily recognizable by their white uniforms and caps. Those days are long gone, as today’s nurses wear many different colors and styles. But the need for patients to identify the registered nurse caring for them is still important.

The confusion patients and families may experience when trying to distinguish nurses from other healthcare personnel can add to the overall stress of a hospital stay. In one study, when asked to identify their primary need, families most often said it was knowing whom to approach when they had issues about their family member.

Another study asked patients to select among various photos of nurses in uniform the ones that best represented the way they would like to see a nurse dress. Most patients chose the ones showing nurses wearing a large print “RN” name badge. In yet another study among 430 hospitalized adults, the majority expressed a preference for large name badges for nurses.

Given this evidence and feedback from our own patients, Chief Nursing Officer Margaret Jackson led the effort to implement easy-to-read, 4 x 4 inch badge tags. The supplemental tags are bright blue with white lettering and are worn behind the nurse’s hospital-issued ID. The badge denotes RN, LPN, or CNA (certified nursing assistant).

Recently, a patient’s wife said, “I can’t tell you how great it was to know who the nurses were at a glance and to be able to identify who walked into my husband’s room and who to flag down in the hall when we needed something.”

A simple thing, but it makes a big difference!
AROUND DOWNSTATE

Go Red for Women

Campus members turned out en masse on February 1 for National Wear Red Day to show their support for women’s heart health. As part of the day’s activities, the Center for Community Health Promotion and Wellness, which offers free lectures and cardiac screenings throughout the year, provided a literature table with information on women’s heart disease and how to prevent it.

Spreading awareness to women about heart disease is especially important for Downstate’s community, says Maria Yomtov, RN, MSN, CDE, who directs the Center. “Heart disease is the leading cause of death in women, and mortality is much higher among African American women. That’s why Downstate offers comprehensive screening programs and advanced treatment, including surgery, for heart disease.”

Blood Donation Saves Lives

*by Betty Jung, RN*

*Patient-Educator*

*Center for Community Health Promotion and Wellness*

On January 29 and 30, SUNY Downstate responded to the nationwide critical shortage of blood by holding a blood drive in Sodexo Court at University Hospital of Brooklyn. Approximately 100 people rolled up their sleeves and donated blood. This was the second blood drive in recent weeks, closely following the successful drive conducted November 28 in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

The event was coordinated by Jeronimo Belgrave, MT, ASCP, Clinical Laboratory Services, and Shayla McGrady, director of residential services, who partnered with the New York Blood Center to conduct the blood donations. Nursing and medical students and other campus members also helped to encourage people to donate blood, a gift of life.

Harner Vaval from Patient Relations gets prepped by Aesha Valencia from the New York Blood Center.