

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

Celebrating Compassion: Thank You to Our Living Donors

On Thursday, December 1, Maine Medical Center celebrated a kidney chain donation involving four donors and three recipients, sometimes called a “bridge” or “domino” donation. In this kind of exchange, altruistic or non-directed donors initiate the donor chain.

So, how does it work? In this case, the first recipient, Jenner Greil, had a donor -- her husband -- who was incompatible. An altruistic donor (someone donating to a complete stranger), Dr. Bruce Brown, was a match for Greil and is credited for starting the chain donation. Greil's husband donated his kidney to David Chick, whose wife's blood type was incompatible with his own. The third link of the

chain was completed when Denise Chick donated a kidney to Kim Huchel, who also had a willing, but incompatible donor. Mrs. Chick's donor will donate in the future to continue the chain. These donors are called “bridge” donors. This open-ended chain is the first of its kind at Maine Medical Center, but has the potential to facilitate many more living donor transplants.

“The demand for life-saving organs continues to grow at a much faster pace than the supply,” says Juan Palma, M.D., Surgeon, Maine Transplant Program and Director of Living Donation. “The solution for this crisis relies in promoting organ donation and as-



Dave Chick, left, meeting his donor Seth Goldstein for the first time. Seth's wife Jenner watches, along with their oldest daughter.

suring that these precious resources are utilized to the fullest extent of their potential.”

Living donation is free for the donor; the evaluation testing, surgery and normal follow-up care is covered by the recipient's insurance.

Most donors are able to lead a normal healthy life, as before their donation.

If you are interested in being a living kidney donor, contact the Maine Transplant Program, 662-7180 or mmc.org/living-donation.

PEOPLE NEWS



Gary Hochheiser, M.D., has joined Maine Medical Center as director of thoracic surgery. A graduate of University of Vermont Medical School, he is returning to Maine Medical Center where he completed an internship and residency in general surgery and served as chief and administrative resident. He later

completed a residency in cardiothoracic surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he also was chief resident. Prior to his current MMC appointment, Dr. Hochheiser was chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts, as well as co-director of

thoracic oncology and medical director of its lung cancer screening program. Dr. Hochheiser, who is with Maine Medical Partners – Thoracic Surgery, has a depth of clinical experience in thoracic oncology, including expertise in minimally invasive techniques and benign thoracic surgeries.



HOLIDAY

DESSERT RECEPTION

100 Campus Drive (The Atrium)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 ▶ 11 A.M.–2 P.M.

.....

Scarborough Surgery Center
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 ▶ 1–3 P.M.

.....

CBO (301C US Route 1)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 ▶ 1–2 P.M.

.....

Bramhall Campus (Impressions Café)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 ▶ 2:30–5 P.M.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 (EARLY A.M.) ▶ MIDNIGHT–1:30 A.M.

.....

Brighton Campus
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 ▶ 11 A.M.–1:30 P.M.

.....

MMCRI
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 ▶ 1–2 P.M.