

AcuteCare Specialty Hospital: “A Hospital within the Hospital”

Did you know that there is a hospital inside of Aultman Hospital? Most people have no idea it exists. The patients of the AcuteCare Specialty Hospital and their families are aware! Often referred to as the LTACH, which stands for Long Term AcuteCare Hospital, this “hospital within the hospital” was founded in 2004. It is located on the 4th floor of Aultman Hospital.

This 30-bed hospital is independent of Aultman Hospital, but is still part of the Aultman Health Foundation family. Regulations require that “hospitals within hospitals” are to be financially and organizationally independent from their host hospital. This means the AcuteCare Specialty Hospital (ACSH) has its own Board of Directors, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Executive Officer and even its own medical staff.



■ Pulmonologist Eyad Nashawati, M.D. is joined by other members of the ACSH team, including Respiratory Therapist Kay Griffith, Pharmacist Ryan Merrick and Mary Fry, RN during morning rounds.



■ Director of Clinical Operations Lisa Vacha, RN; Physical Therapist Crissy Taylor; Occupational Therapist Jeremy Schlabach ; Tyler Reichman , RN; Autumn Sumption, RN and Deanna Orr, RN.

There are currently more than 300 physicians and other healthcare providers on the medical staff of the ACSH, led by Medical Director, Dr. George Kefalas. Kefalas, a board-certified pulmonologist, works very closely with the 65 employees in the LTACH. “We use a multidisciplinary team, including pulmonary/critical care physicians, which is very important,” Kefalas noted. “It allows us to take care of more complex patients.” Kefalas also noted that the ACSH is able to care for patients from an area much larger than Stark County. “We have very strong relationships with referring physicians from all over the multi-county area. This is something we are very proud of,” he explained. Kefalas is also proud of the ACSH employees, who are devoted to their patients and strive to achieve the best possible outcomes.

“Since our patients are here for so long, our staff really develops a rapport with the patients and families,” said Terry Smith, RN and CEO of AcuteCare Specialty Hospital. “Our employees do an exceptional job in taking care of our patients.” LTACHs are designed to care for patients that require an extended length of stay. In fact, the average length of stay is around 25 days. “These people are very sick,” Smith continued. “They require a very high level of care that cannot be handled in the home setting, or even another level of care.”

Smith explained that most of the patients in the LTACH are acutely ill. They may have respiratory disorders, cardiac conditions, renal disease, infectious disease or require complex wound care. Most patients are elderly and over half are on ventilators. These medically complex patients are treated using a comprehensive, team approach. The multidisciplinary team in the ACSH consists of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, and dietitians. Occupational and speech therapists join the team when needed. The team rounds on each patient every day. “It’s all about teamwork,” said Smith. “They are a cohesive group that really works together.”

Not only do the staff members work well with one another, but they also work well with the patients’ families. “Most of our patients have been in crisis for a long time, which makes things very difficult for their families,” Smith explained. “Our staff is very supportive and understanding of the family situation.” In fact, members of the ACSH team meet with the families of each patient to help the family members understand the goals and the expected outcomes for their loved ones. These outcomes differ depending on the patient’s condition. When a patient is ready to be discharged from the ACSH, many patients will go to a skilled nursing facility, like Aultman Woodlawn, or are able to return home with the help of home health care.

“IT’S OUR RESPONSIBILITY”



■ Lisa Van Nostran, LPN, is surrounded by members of her “Giving Team”: Patricia Crofford, RD/LD; Bethany Grant, Jody Welker, RD/LD; Marla Donato, LPN; Candee Calderone, RN; and Angela Boerner.

That’s what Lisa Van Nostran thinks about giving back to the community.

“It truly is our responsibility as individuals and as facilities to help those in need,” she said. “You need to give back.” Lisa, admissions coordinator at Aultman Woodlawn, has been an employee of Aultman for 24 years. For the past 10 years, she has acted as the unofficial leader of what might be called the “Giving Team” at Aultman Woodlawn. Her fellow co-workers are well aware that a basket raffle, donation envelope or bake sale probably means that Lisa and her team members are close by!

Lisa estimates that the Woodlawn fundraisers over the years have brought in well over \$10,000, all of which has been donated to multiple causes for various reasons. Sometimes, it was for a fellow employee in need. Other times, it was for a patient in need. Quite often, it was for the “Adopt-a-Family” program, which Aultman Hospital participates in every year. Lisa is quick to give credit for the success to her Giving Team, along with other fellow employees at Aultman Woodlawn. “I feel that you are only as good as the people you surround yourself with,” Lisa said. “And I am lucky to work with a great group of people.”

Lisa’s Giving Team started out many years ago as the “Christmas Committee” at Aultman Woodlawn. Over the years, it has turned into much more. “There are about 10 of us who have been here since day one,” Lisa explained. “This is truly

the core group. They have always been involved and are always willing to get involved with new projects.” The team members, all from various departments at Aultman Woodlawn, include Marla Donato, Beth Grant, Terri Hudson, Joan Kogel, Candee Calderone, Angie Boerner, Jody Welker, Patti

help those in need.”

Lisa sure fulfills that duty, too! If she is not coordinating a fundraiser, posting fliers or sending out emails, she is probably making soup for an upcoming lunch sale or baking cookies for a bake sale. Or, you may find her out shopping for items to put in a raffle basket. Lisa can

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— LISA VAN NOSTRAN

Crofford, Gloria Rothermel, Jennie Bollinger, Traci Bernard and Mike McKimmie. “They all have such good hearts; they are great people.” Lisa said.

The Giving Team does not do it all, though. “All of the employees out here are great. It really is a team effort and everyone gets involved,” Lisa continued. She is quick to praise her fellow employees from every unit at Aultman Woodlawn. “They all help out; they donate baskets for our auctions, they bake for our sales,” Lisa noted. “We enjoy doing things as a group, especially wrapping gifts together for the families we adopt.” She often mentions how much help she receives from her co-workers but doesn’t seem to think much about her own involvement. “I really don’t feel like I am doing anything special,” Lisa explained. “I have a good job; I have benefits. Not everyone does, so I consider myself very lucky. I feel it is my duty to

also be found selling tickets, working at an event or collecting donations. “I do always have a project going on,” Lisa admitted. “God love my husband for putting up with my crazy life.”

One of Lisa’s favorite projects while at Aultman was actually not a fundraiser. It was more of a donation, and quite an artistic one, too. “A few years ago, I painted pictures for the pediatric unit at the hospital,” Lisa said. “There was no funding left for wall decorations, so I offered to create them.” She actually painted a picture for each and every room in the unit. “It was fun for me,” Lisa explained. “I love to draw, so it was definitely my favorite and probably the most unusual project I’ve done. If I put a smile on one child’s face, it was worth it.”

HEALTH CARE IN YOUR HOME

Aultman Woodlawn offers a valuable service to patients in the form of Home Health Care. All Home Health Care services are provided by Aultman’s skilled Home Health Care team, which consists of registered nurses, physical, occupational and speech therapists, social workers, and home health aides. Members of the team will come to a patient’s home after discharge to discuss their skilled health-care needs. All Home Health Care services must be ordered by a physician, who carefully plans and coordinates the services in order to meet each individual patient’s skilled needs.

Many of the patients who are released from either the Transitional Care Unit or Rehabilitation Unit at Aultman Woodlawn use the Home Health Care services. The Home Health Care team provides services to

DID YOU KNOW?

The “Yes, You Can!” program is accepted at Aultman Woodlawn for skilled nursing, rehabilitation and home health care!

Call 330-363-7444 or visit <https://yesyoucan.aultman.org> to find out if you are eligible!



Aultman’s entire five-county market, which includes Stark, Tuscarawas, Holmes, Wayne and Carroll counties. All members of the Home Health Care team have the same goal – to assist patients in achieving their maximum functional level and teach them how to manage their care independently.

The services provided by the team may include the same skilled nursing and rehabilitation programs offered at Aultman Woodlawn, but instead are made available in the patient’s home. Additional services provided include certified Home Health Aides, who assist patients and families with bathing; social services, including assisting with financial help, counseling and placement assistance; and nutritional services, including

education on diabetes, tube feedings and weight loss. Infusion therapy is also available, which allows for the use of IV therapies in the home.

All services rendered by the Home Health Care team are based on the individual needs of the patient. The frequency of the visits is varied, as well. Some patients are seen only once a week, while others need assistance on a daily basis. On average, patients are seen by their Home Health Care providers twice a week and currently, there are a total of 350 patients enrolled. Another option, when desired, is private duty care, which includes homemaker and companion services. If you or a loved one is interested in learning more about Aultman’s Home Health Care services, please call 330-479-4805.

AULTMAN: A CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE FOR...



POST ACUTE
CARE

AULTMAN

CENTER of
EXCELLENCE

Orthopaedics

Many orthopaedic problems need more than one medical service. You may require emergency room treatment, medical treatment, surgery, therapy, medical equipment for the home or intense on-site rehabilitation.



Heart

Aultman Hospital has been named one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by Thomson Reuters for 2011. At the Aultman Heart Center, prevention is a priority. Our education and risk factor identification programs can help you keep your heart healthy.



Cancer

The Aultman Cancer Center is a fusion of ideas, technology, talent and compassion. The physicians associated with Aultman Cancer Center evaluate and design individual treatment plans based on the type, stage and aggressiveness of the patient's disease.



Neurosurgery/ Stroke

Trauma or illness involving the brain, spinal cord or nervous system can be a frightening experience for a patient and loved ones. Take comfort in knowing you are in the hands of some of the region's most skilled neurological experts, neurosurgeons and stroke specialists.



Women/ Children

Together with our patients, the Aultman Birth Center is promoting and uniting families for life. We take a team approach to providing the best care for you and your baby — under one roof.



Emergency/ Trauma

Aultman's Emergency/Trauma Center, staffed by board-certified physicians, is designed to allow the fastest access possible to the latest in emergency-care technology.



Critical Care Medicine

Going to an intensive care unit (ICU) can be a very emotional experience. Aultman patients receive specialized care from our Intensivist Program and our dedicated group of critical care nurses, critical care pharmacists, respiratory therapists and intensivists.

AULTMAN

Aultman is My Hospital™

What is Aultman Woodlawn?



No, it's not a nursing home. The beautiful, 23-acre facility, located very appropriately on Woodlawn Avenue, is often misunderstood. Commonly referred to as a nursing home, Aultman Woodlawn is actually a comprehensive treatment facility, providing short-term care to patients who are transitioning through recovery to an optimal level of function.

Patients staying on the Aultman Woodlawn campus are located in one of two units, depending on their individual needs. The 60-bed skilled nursing unit and the 30-bed inpatient rehabilitation unit are both located on site and feature private patient rooms with all the comforts of home. Each room has its own bathroom/shower, a large wardrobe

closet, individual temperature control and a television. Additionally, all patients are offered laundry access, beautician and barber services, and plenty of activities, games and other entertainment. The wooded, park-like outdoor courtyards at Aultman Woodlawn offer patients and their families plenty of places to dine, visit and relax.

The Aultman Woodlawn campus opened in 2002 with a clearly defined purpose - to get patients out of the short-term hospital setting and into a more comfortable, home-like atmosphere where they can take their time in the recovery process. This process includes medical care, rehabilitation, and education leading up to the return home. The goal for every single

post acute patient at Aultman Woodlawn is to return home; to their families, to their communities and to their normal, daily lives. The facility has done extremely well with this goal, as the majority of all patients admitted to Aultman Woodlawn do indeed return home.

This high success rate is a direct reflection of the hard work and effort put forward by the dedicated staff at Aultman Woodlawn. It takes plenty of time and even more hard work, for both patients and employees. The occupational therapists, speech therapists and physical therapists at Aultman Woodlawn work tirelessly with their rehab patients, never giving up on them to ensure they go home at the highest level of functionality possible. The staff and patients in the skilled nursing unit work just as hard. These patients may require more complex medical care than those in the rehabilitation unit. Therefore, individual therapy plans are created based on the patient's needs and abilities. The treatment plan for each patient may be different, but the goal is the same - get better, get stronger and go home!

Rehab Unit Focuses on Helping Patients Return Home



Dr. Timothy Hagen, Medical Director of Post Acute Care, is joined by Keri Samblanet, RN, Unit Director (center, right), and more staff members from Woodlawn's Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit.

The Rehabilitation Unit at Aultman Woodlawn provides an intense therapy environment to help patients recovering from illness and injury.

The unit is led by Medical Director Timothy Hagen, D.O., who founded the rehab unit at Aultman Hospital 15 years ago. A board-certified neurologist who still practices at NeuroCare in Canton, Hagen found he was interested in neurology rehabilitation once he was exposed to it. "I really like seeing the whole continuum of care, from the cause to the result," Hagen explained. "I like watching my patients get better."

Hagen went on to become board-certified in neurology rehabilitation and then helped the Woodlawn rehabilitation program become CARF-accredited. CARF stands for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and demonstrates Aultman Woodlawn's commitment to continuously improve service quality and to focus on the satisfaction of the persons served. The accreditation is something in which Hagen and his staff take pride.

Hagen also takes pride in his staff. "Our employees know what they need to do and they do a great job," he said. "They work hard and they work as a team, which is very important." Like the Transitional Care Unit at Aultman Woodlawn, the Rehabilitation Unit has a goal for its patients: to get home! In order to get patients back home quickly, the rehab team works with them on a very intense level.

"We supply a minimum of two therapies - whether occupational, speech or physical therapy - a minimum of three hours a day," Hagen explained. "Our patients work at least five days a week, sometimes seven." This is what differentiates inpatient rehab at Woodlawn from outpatient rehab, which may only require one hour of therapy a few days a week. Another differentiating factor is that patients in the rehab unit are seen by a physician on a daily basis. "Because our therapy is so medically intense, we provide stringent medical supervision."

Hagen personally evaluates each and every patient who comes through the doors at Aultman Woodlawn. "I also act as the medical director of post acute care at Aultman, so it is my job to ensure that each patient is taken to the right place, whether it is the Transitional Care Unit or the Rehab Unit. No matter what, our goal is to improve the patient's quality of life."

Hagen thinks collaboration is the best thing about Aultman Woodlawn's rehab unit. "Our teamwork is what sets us apart," he said. "We work together to teach our patients how to live beyond their injury or illness. Plus, we get to do it in a beautiful facility."

"A PRETTY HAPPY PLACE"

That's how Dr. Brian McClain describes Aultman Woodlawn, where he acts as the medical director of the Transitional Care Unit, more commonly referred to as the TCU.

"It really is a pretty happy place," McClain said. "People come here sick and broken down, and we get to help them get back to their normal lives."

Getting back to "normal" is the most common goal for patients at Aultman Woodlawn. "Our patients are too weak to return home immediately once released from the hospital," McClain explained. "They have continuing and short-term therapy and medical needs that cannot be completed in the home setting." Working to meet these patient needs is the main goal of the TCU employees at Aultman Woodlawn.

Leading this team of dedicated individuals is part of McClain's job. As medical director, he oversees the care of all patients admitted into the TCU at Woodlawn. McClain and his staff of nurse practitioners work together, coordinating individualized care for every patient during their stay at Aultman



Dr. Brian McClain, Medical Director of the Transitional Care Unit, Aultman Woodlawn



Unit Director Jennie Bollinger, RN (second from top left), is joined by her fellow employees in the Hawthorne Transitional Care Unit.



Unit Director Jonnetta Hill, RN (top left), is joined by staff from the Willow Transitional Care Unit.

Woodlawn and beyond. "Our goal is to get the patient back to their family and back to their community," he said. "We work closely with family members to ensure patients needs can be met once the patient returns home."

The staff at Aultman Woodlawn truly uses a team approach to ensure patient care is as coordinated as possible. "Teamwork is what makes us work," McClain continued. "I cannot emphasize enough how important the team approach is. It is just the way we work around here. The employees who clean our patient rooms are just as important as our therapists and nurses, who are just as important as I am. We are all components to the team; we all have a significant role in the success of our patients."

"Our patients don't have lofty goals; they don't expect to run marathons," McClain said. "They just want to be able to visit friends and family, to bake cookies or go shopping." Watching his patients get better and stronger and

eventually go home is something McClain truly enjoys. "If we didn't exist, many of our patients would never return home," he said. "No one wants that; they want to be in their own homes."

McClain surely knows what his patients want, as he has been working with long-term care patients for over 15 years. He started simply by providing coverage for other local physicians at area facilities. He then found that he truly enjoyed the complexity of care that post acute patients require. Today, McClain is a certified medical director through the American Medical Directors Association, or AMDA. He found it important to become certified to adapt to the changing role of today's medical director. McClain's certification is certainly a positive contribution to the quality of care and patient outcomes at Aultman Woodlawn. Under the leadership of McClain, Aultman Woodlawn's TCU continues to be "a pretty happy place."

Compassionate Care Center

Woodlawn is proud to share their campus with the recently opened Aultman Women's Board Compassionate Care Center. The 23,000-square-foot facility is Stark County's first inpatient hospice center. It features a 12-bed inpatient hospice to provide end-of-life care in a comfortable, peaceful environment with many amenities of home. Each patient's private room is large enough to accommodate several visitors and features an eating area, sleeper sofa and private patio. In addition to inpatient hospice care, expanded Aultman Grief Services resources are located on site. Features include a grief resource library, individual counseling rooms, support group meeting rooms and children's programming with both indoor and outdoor activity areas. The Compassionate Care Center is truly an environment where patients and families can focus on their relationships and feel at peace.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



Johnna McCaulley, COTA/L watches Inger Licht bake cookies in the fully equipped kitchen, located in the therapy gym at Woodlawn.



Rosemary Young works on leg exercises with Jennifer Wyatt, PTA in the busy therapy gym.