

UPMC Beacon Hospital

Press Release

Monday, 29th March, 2010

Comprehensive Orthopaedic Centre opens at UPMC Beacon Hospital

The official opening of UPMC Beacon Hospital's Centre for Orthopaedics is welcome news for all those who may require orthopaedic procedures of any kind, be that as a result of degenerative conditions or injury.

The new centre offers a complete range of Orthopaedic, Physiotherapy, Rheumatology and Pain Relief services covering all sub-specialist areas of Orthopaedic Surgery including upper limb, spine, hip, knee, wrist and ankle procedures. Bone/joint replacements, spinal surgery, arthroscopic procedures, and treatments for arthritis are just some of the services available at the new centre.

It's believed 1 in 6 people in Ireland will develop some form of Arthritis, with Osteoarthritis, the "wear and tear" of joint cartilage and bone which can cause individuals considerable pain and reduce mobility, the most common form. More common in those over 55 years of age, the number of those developing the condition is expected to increase as the ageing population grows in size.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Maurice Neligan, Chief of Orthopaedics, UPMC Beacon Hospital said, "Joint and bone injuries can cause undue amount of pain and difficulty for an individual, and it is important they are seen quickly to avoid any further problems and discomfort which could result in lasting damage. Due to the team's wide ranging sub specialty qualifications, the Orthopaedic centre will provide a rapid

response service for patients and their GPs ensuring patients receive optimum care from the correct specialist in a timely manner.

Orthopaedic patients with GP referral can gain swift access to the centre where they can receive expert care from a consultant Orthopaedic surgeon. The centre is designed to enable GPs to refer patients directly to a particular Consultant, or they can refer to the centre itself by way of a clinical triage system whereby the appropriate Consultant sees the patient.

Patients will also benefit from on-site support from the Physiotherapy team and Consultant Rheumatologist thus ensuring truly holistic care for patients.

Joel Yuhas, CEO, UPMC Beacon Hospital added, “The Centre for Orthopaedics will be further bolstered by the opening of a new 31 bed unit in summer 2010, enabling for an even greater number of procedures to be conducted at the hospital. This new unit will also see the recruitment of 46 further clinical and support staff”.

The Centre for Orthopaedics includes eight Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons, a dedicated Orthopaedic Liaison Nurse, with whom GPs can discuss their patient cases, a Consultant Rheumatologist, Physiotherapy team and ancillary support.

Further information on the Centre for Orthopaedics can be found on www.orthopaedics.ie or by contacting the Centre directly on 01 293 75 75. All patients must be referred by their GP.

UPMC Beacon Hospital

Located in south Dublin, UPMC Beacon Hospital provides world-class acute care services, including heart surgery, neurosurgery, comprehensive cancer care, and emergency medicine services. The hospital, which opened in October 2006, has 183 acute care beds, eight operating theatres, two endoscopy suites and 14 dedicated critical care beds.

The eight-bed medical-surgical intensive care unit (ICU) and six-bed coronary care (CCU) unit are designed to provide specialised patient care and recovery. Each suite has individual, glass-fronted cubicles to ensure privacy and to minimise the risk of infection. UPMC Beacon Hospital prides itself on a comprehensive infection control programme, highlighting the hospital's commitment to being the highest-quality and safest provider of acute care services.

UPMC Beacon Hospital opened its consultant-delivered Emergency Department in March 2007, the first Emergency Department in the Eastern region attached to an independent hospital, giving patients immediate access to all major specialties including orthopaedics, cardiac care, medicine and general surgery.

The UPMC Beacon Cancer Centre offers patients the latest advances in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment, with an unparalleled range of treatment options, including diagnostic testing, surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy in one convenient location.

The UPMC Beacon Women's Centre, which encompasses the full spectrum of women's gynaecological care, utilises minimally invasive procedures whenever possible. The Beacon Comprehensive Breast Centre also provides same-day mammography results and treatment in a warm, comforting environment.

UPMC

University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre (UPMC) is an integrated global health enterprise headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and one of the leading nonprofit health systems in the United States. As a global employer with 50,000 employees and nearly \$8 billion (more than €5.5billion) in revenue, UPMC is focused on integrating medicine, research and technology to deliver world-class healthcare.

UPMC operates 20 academic, community, and specialty hospitals and 400 outpatient sites, and is renowned for its integrated health delivery system. Through this network, the organisation has advanced the quality and efficiency of health care and developed internationally renowned programs in cancer, neurosurgery, orthopaedics, sports

medicine, transplantation and psychiatry, among others.

Through UPMC's International and Commercial Services Division, the organisation has launched a portfolio of new businesses and international ventures, bringing world-class health care, advanced technologies, and management skills to populations throughout the world.

Internationally, UPMC operates a transplant facility in Italy and two cancer centres and a hospital in Ireland. UPMC also provides emergency medical services and training in Qatar and is implementing electronic medical record technology at two hospitals in the United Kingdom. UPMC recently announced an agreement to manage a planned health centre in Cyprus and a partnership with GE Healthcare to develop cancer centres throughout Europe and the Middle East.

Further information can be found at: www.upmc.com