CME Welcomes New President and CEO Chris Howard

Chris Howard has been at Sharp a few months and continues to observe and learn about Sharp HealthCare and what it has to offer. As part of this process he has become increasingly familiar with Sharp’s continuing medical education (CME) and has described the program as exceptional, well rounded, and creative. Chris has been impressed with the amount of available on-going education, the engagement with public health challenges, and the impact of the national flagship program, the Aloha Primary Care Conference.

“We all need lifelong learning,” states Chris. As such he has been supportive throughout his career of CME and the opportunities it offers to present the latest knowledge and clinical developments along with improving skills and overall professional growth for physicians – all leading to improved patient outcomes. Engaging with physicians to identify their needs relative to life-long learning and professional growth ensures that the necessary resources are available to meet and exceed the needs of Sharp affiliated physicians.

“The greatest resource of Sharp is and will continue to be its people. I look forward to working together with physicians and the CME Department to identify Sharp’s end-state goal as it relates to physician education, utilizing a pragmatic approach in the design and development of programs that achieve our goals as a system, while also making best use of our available resources. This supports our never-ending goal to be the best place to work, the best place to practice medicine and the best place to receive care.” - Chris Howard

Now is the time to look forward and determine what Sharp HealthCare wants to be when it comes to CME and ensure our educational programs continue to evolve and innovate. Developing a long-term
plan to support cutting edge growth in support of our physicians and patients is a major component of Sharp HealthCare’s system-wide approach to lifelong learning and professional development.

**High Reliability at Sharp HealthCare: 2019 Do No Harm Conference**

On September 13, 2019 Sharp HealthCare will be hosting its 17th annual Do No Harm Patient Safety Conference at the Hilton Mission Bay.

Susan Scott, PhD, RN will be returning for an encore presentation of concepts related to the recognition, acknowledgement and support for health care providers who experience psychological or physical distress because of their involvement in an unanticipated clinical event, or a medical error, or a patient related injury. Dr. Scott has published extensively on this topic and has been a valued partner to Sharp as we build our CAREforYou program aimed at identifying and supporting clinicians throughout Sharp who may experience distress as a result of their work.

More information about the conference will be coming soon.

*Patty Atkins, Vice President of Quality and Patient Safety shares a personal story about when she harmed a patient as a novice RN.*

**What’s New in CME- A Public Health Focus: Dementia**

The most recent iteration of San Diego County’s Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) highlights Dementia and Alzheimer’s as a top 15 area of health need. According to the 2015 San Diego County Senior Health Report, roughly 60,000 individuals in San Diego are living with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementia (ADOD) in 2012. It is projected that the number of San Diego adults age 55 and older with ADOD will increase by 55.9% between 2012 and 2030. The largest majority of individuals live in East region though the largest percentage increase is projected in the North Central region. ADOD also affects caregivers physically and emotionally so significant increases in the number of people living with ADOD will have an impact that extends beyond those affected.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality estimates the prevalence of unrecognized dementia is between 3.2% and 12% for individuals 65 and older. Dementia is undiagnosed during routine examination 50% to 60% of the time. Supporting this view, a meta-analysis of 23 studies found that 60% of patients with dementia were undiagnosed in community and nursing care/residential settings. Additionally, there is evidence that some racial/ethnic minority populations may be less likely to receive a dementia diagnosis, though these groups may exhibit higher incidence rates.

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D. Scott Upton, MD

In the ever changing real world of quality metrics and regulation, this creativity and independence which are our strengths need to be balanced with standardization and performance. One area to help with this integration is providing useful and impactful education shared on a common network.

Wheels are in motion already, with the development of the CME portal and the cloud CME app. Next is the development of coordinating short 20-30 minute educational webinars with local expert specialists, utilizing webinar technology, live surveys, question and answers with the ability to record and post to our YouTube channel, physician intranet site and CME portal for CME credit.

Physicians will also be able to obtain MOC part 4 credit for practice performance projects underway. This will be short and sweet, available on your phone and engaging you with your specialists and colleagues throughout the Sharp system.

Stay tuned.

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Activity Spotlight: Looking Back

**Benefits and Hazards of Postnatal Glucocorticoid Exposure in Preterm Infants**

Dr. Kristi Watterberg, a Neonatologist from University of New Mexico and the Principal Investigator for the Neonatal Research Network, presented a detailed overview of the use of hydrocortisone and dexamethasone in preterm infants. She discussed their use for hypotension and prevention for chronic lung disease. In addition she demonstrated the physiological rationale for hydrocortisone over dexamethasone. The meeting was attended by over 50 clinicians from all over San Diego including UCSD, Rady Children’s Hospital and Kaiser Zion.

**Sharp HealthCare’s Medical Staff Leadership Retreat Addresses Burnout**

Physician burnout is a well-recognized national health crisis affecting 40-60% of physicians. Helane Fronek, MD, FACP, FACPh, CPCC, PCC, physician coach met on March 16, 2019 with physician leaders from across Sharp HealthCare having a candid conversation about burnout. The workshop focused on providing leaders the ability to recognize and address physicians who are struggling, being disruptive or burned out. Participants had the opportunity to practice various communication tools when attempting to support their physician peers. A follow up call is scheduled with participants for mid-April to see how they have been able to implement these new skills.

Activity Spotlight: Looking Forward

**2019 Clinical Trials Day Research Showcase**

*Monday, May 20, 2019*  
*Noon to 5 p.m.*

**Sharp Copley Building, 5651 Copley Drive, Suite A, Conference Rooms A-D, San Diego, CA 92111**

Sharp investigators will present their exciting research in a showcase format as part of Sharp’s inaugural participation in 2019’s Clinical Trials Day celebration! The focus of the showcase is to present innovative research conducted at Sharp HealthCare, increase awareness of Sharp’s Research capabilities and requirements, and improve community outreach to potential research participants. The showcase will include displays from Sharp research sites, Sharp research vendors, partners, CROs, pharmaceutical and device manufacturers, local biotech and life sciences representatives and more. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).

**Sharp HealthCare’s 2019 Heart and Vascular Conference**

*Saturday and Sunday, October 5-6, 2019*  
*Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118*

Join world-renowned heart and vascular experts in San Diego for two days of innovative education, groundbreaking research and technology, and interactive sessions. The conference is designed specifically for physicians (cardiovascular disease specialists, family medicine, emergency medicine, endocrinology, nephrology, internal medicine, public health, neurology, oncology, and wound care), mid-level practitioners, and other interested health professionals. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).
CME in Action

Addressing food insecurity with the SD Hunger Coalition
John Churchwell; Amanda Schultz Brochu, Senior Director, CalFresh & Advocacy, SD Hunger Coalition; Heather Clemons; John Rodriguez

SGH Grand Rounds—Addressing Gun Violence
Jospeh V. Sakran, MD, MPH, MPA, Associate Professor of Surgery, John Hopkins Hospital; Raed Al-Nasser, MD, Critical Care Medicine, Sharp Grossmont Hospital

April System Employee of the Month
Adriana Rice, CME Associate with Chris Howard, President & CEO

Therapeutic Drumming
Presented by Heidi Johnston, Spiritual Care Coordinator to CME staff