

Clinical Practices Integrate to Form UofL Physicians

Louisville is known across the surrounding region, nationally and even internationally for its vibrant health care landscape.

While most of the community is familiar with groundbreaking research done at the University School of Medicine, the renowned physicians at UofL who teach and do research there also touch the lives of thousands of people each year – patients they treat in an office or hospital setting.

Until 2012, the school's clinical practices operated as independent entities, each with their own office staff and unique operations. These practices have merged together to become University of Louisville Physicians, serving more than 200,000 people each year as the largest multispecialty practice in the region.

“Top academic integrated physician practices like the Mayo Clinic and Vanderbilt offer unsurpassed patient care experiences, in part because their services are offered in a coordinated fashion,” said Gregory Postel, M.D., chairman of the UofL Physicians board and chair of the UofL Department of Radiology.

“Appointments are scheduled efficiently and in concert with appropriate consultants. Secure health records are stored and shared by members of the health care

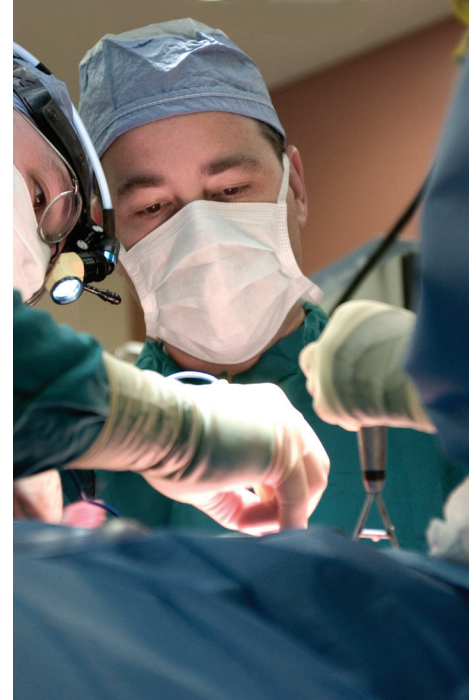
team through electronic health records and other programs that individual practices may not have the ability to introduce individually. The formation of the new UofL Physicians organization strengthens the overall delivery of care to our patients.”

As of January 1, 2013, UofL Physicians includes 25 clinical practices – 600 physicians, 78 specialties and 1,100 team members – making it one of the largest employers in the region.

One of the biggest challenges – and one with the highest benefit – to come with UofL Physicians' integration is the implementation of a \$12 million companywide electronic health records system (EHR). “Using such a system makes sense for both UofL Physicians and our patients,” Chief Information Officer Chuck Fitch said.

“It will help us produce better outcomes for our patients via consistent information sharing. We are the first major physician group practice in Louisville to have our system up and ready to serve our patient population.”

For patients, this new EHR system will allow easier and safer access to high-quality care in the UofL Physicians network. All physicians within the organization will be able to track blood type, medications, allergies, drug interactions, treatment plans and other aspects of their



medical history. The system also allows patients to obtain online copies of their records if they are to travel abroad, eliminating the need for patients going to visit the physician's office to obtain these records. For people travelling, these records literally could mean life or death.

For doctors, the system allows diagnoses to be communicated more effectively across specialties and office locations. With so many providers, an EHR system allows all of them to have access to a patient's course of treatment.

Integrated faculty practice plans are the gold standards at academic health centers. Approximately 90 percent of medical schools operate under such a model.

“In an increasingly competitive health care landscape, UofL Physicians' integration will allow us to present a united approach in a sometimes divided market,” said UofL Physicians CEO Michael Bukosky. “As clinicians, researchers and teachers of tomorrow's doctors, we are committed to a healthy future for our community and our country.”



From left: Gregory C. Postel, M.D. and Mike Bukosky, CEO