

health matters

Sunday, April 11, 2004

Volume 1, Issue 4



Valley Family Care Center.

R. P. Mauricio Appointed Director of Valley Family Care Centers

The Valley Family Care Center in El Centro clinic sees more than 2,000 patients a month. The Family Care Center at 2451 Rockwood Avenue, in the El Paseo Mall, Calexico, sees more than 1,000 patients a month.

See News Highlights below.



Family Care Center in Calexico.

health matters

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A Tribute to Dr. Ronald S. Scott

By James M. Roach, M.D.
Chief of Staff

Dr. Ronald Scott came to the Valley and provided a service that was badly needed. He did not just provide it in the usual manner but he provided it with an excellence that I think can rarely be found in a city of this size and even in large cities.

He brought to this Valley the latest in technology of conformal radiation, far superior to the radiation that many of our patients were receiving in Yuma and in San Diego. He brought this service in a loving and caring way and he provided a wonderful setting for the cancer patients who are suffering. He provided an office where there was great caring and he brought in an oncologist to provide the other half of the treatment.

Prior to Dr. Scott, our patients had to go to San Diego or Yuma for radiation and for oncology. The last thing a cancer patient and family needs is to have to travel.

I have sent many patients to Dr. Scott and I was always impressed with the level of comfort he and the center provided them.

Dr. Scott was also a great asset to his fellow physicians. At the Tumor Board he often had significant contributions to make to the other health care professionals present. I had the pleasure of having many conferences with Dr. Scott and I was struck by his genuine interest in humanity and



Dr. Ronald S. Scott and his wife, Margaret (Peg), will be sorely missed throughout the medical community.

insuring that he provided the best possible care for his patients.

Dr. Scott will be sorely missed by his patients, by his fellow physicians and by

me personally. May God reward him for the wonderful work he did here on earth and may he and his wife be at peace.

A Tragic Loss

The Board of Trustees, staff and management of El Centro Regional Medical Center mourn the tragic loss of Dr. Ronald S. Scott and his wife, Margaret (Peg), who were found dead in the wreckage of their private plane near Napa March 18.

Dr. Scott, a radiation oncologist, was the founder and president of the Imperial Valley Cancer Center, a facility he built in El Centro in 1998, equipping it with the most expensive and latest technology available. He offered these services to all cancer patients regardless of ability to pay.

David Green, ECRMC chief executive officer, said Dr. Scott and Peg, were "good friends of the hospital, supporting it both verbally and financially. They will be greatly missed." Green also applauded the cancer center founded by the Scotts as "providing an excellent and needed community service."

Dr. and Mrs. Scott were en route to a medical conference when their private plane crashed into the Napa River on an approach to the Napa Airport. Dr. Scott had more than 30 years experience as a private pilot and the couple, who owned a home in El Centro, also commuted to a home in La Jolla and to various vacation spots.

With them on that fatal flight was their dog, Teddi, an 8-year-old Keeshond who accompanied them on many of their flights. Teddi also was a virtual staff member of

See Tragic Loss, page 2

Public Asked to Make a Difference

The public is asked to "make a difference by helping us to better serve you, your family and community." The *Building on a Legacy of Caring Campaign* steering committee makes this appeal as it prepares to exceed its goal on behalf of the El Centro Regional Medical Center.

The appeal is being made through this and subsequent newsletters and an active radio campaign on KXO-Radio.

Gifts have hit the \$1.75 million mark from private and corporate gifts and pledges, excluding philanthropic and government grants received through the work of the committee that ultimately will be tabulated. A goal of \$2 million was set for the private and corporate phase of the drive.

The *Building on a Legacy of Caring Campaign* was instituted originally to help furnish and equip the new acute care hospital building now in operation and the lobby and entrance area scheduled to open this June. Since then new needs have arisen such as an expanded Women's Center and conversion of the present south wing into a 22-bed Pediatrics Unit. Gifts will be also accepted for these areas as part of this drive and during future foundation efforts.

Bill Lewis, director of development, has said the *Building on a Legacy of Caring* theme will be maintained even after the steering committee work ends. The

efforts then will be directed toward establishing a foundation.

Phil Heald, general chairman of the campaign, says all gifts are welcome and will be recognized on the Honor Roll of Donors regardless of size. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be inscribed on a permanent donor wall visible from the new hospital lobby, which is currently nearing completion.

Other giving opportunities include gifts in remembrance of a loved one, family member, friend or business associate, and to name certain areas of the hospital in commemoration of one's own commitment to improving health care in the community.

Cash gifts permit donors to receive full tax benefits and substantial gifts may be pledged and paid over a 5-year period in order to gain maximum tax benefits. Gifts of assets such as appreciated securities, personal property, real estate, current life insurance policies are welcome and provide the donor additional tax advantages.

A donor response form is printed on the following page and may be mailed to the El Centro Regional Medical Center, Department of Development, 1425 Ross Ave., El Centro, CA 92243-4306. Checks should be made payable to the ECRMC *Building on a Legacy of Caring*. For more information please call: 760-336-2685 or email: development@ecrmc.org.

NEWS Highlights

Virgen Promoted to Nurse Director of ECRMC's Medical Surgical Dept.

Thomas Virgen, R.N., a staff nurse at El Centro Regional Medical Center since 1997, has been promoted to nurse director of the hospital's Medical-Surgical Department.

As nurse director, Virgen will oversee the nursing staff in a department authorized for 110 beds. The state license for the hospital was expanded from 107 to 165 beds with the opening last year of the new acute care building housing a 48-bed medical surgical wing, as well as new surgery and emergency department.

Clinical Training Lab Established at ECRMC

A permanent Clinical Training Lab has been established at El Centro Regional Medical Center to give staff nurses the opportunity to refresh skills and to provide an area dedicated to mandatory skills assessment and training for new nurses coming onto the staff.

"A nurse's skills lab is not a new thing," said Becky Walker, RN, BSN, a staff educator in the hospital's Education Department. "But until now we have had to find space and set up equipment each time we scheduled one."

"There are procedures a nurse may be called upon to use infrequently," Walker explained, "and it is good to have a place to practice those skills throughout the year."

Mauricio Appointed Director of Valley Family Care Centers

Richard P. Mauricio, R.N., a case management supervisor for a private contractor at the U.S. Naval Medical Center in San Diego, has been named director of the Valley Family Care Centers operated by El Centro Regional Medical Center in El Centro and Calexico.

Mauricio comes to El Centro from a position as program manager for PhyAmerica Government Services for whom he supervised case management programs with nurse and social worker case managers at the U.S. Naval Medical Clinic in San Diego. He also is a computer troubleshooter for Microsoft Windows applications.

Prior to joining PhyAmerica, he was associated with the San Diego County Public Health Office, supervising an average of 50 active tuberculosis cases. He also has worked as a clinical nurse for the Children's Hospital in San Diego, a staff nurse for the Polinski Children's Center in San Diego and a nurses' aide in Children's Hospital.

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We thank the members of ECRMC's Medical Staff for their generous contributions to our hospital's expansion and modernization project. Their gifts and pledges have soared to near the \$225,000 level as reported in our previous edition of "Health Matters". In appreciation of their generous support, their names are recognized below in the same way they are listed on the *Building on a Legacy of Caring* Honor Roll of Donors.

We also thank those physicians who are currently considering their commitments. Their names will be listed in future editions of the Honor Roll.

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Staff Writer Robert V. Liggett

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A Tragic Loss

Tragic Loss, from page 1

the center, a friendly, nurturing demeanor greeting and calming patients, allowing them to pet and even hold him in their laps.

"We were very much saddened by the tragic loss," said Dr. Hasnat Ahmed, an associate oncologist, "but Dr. Scott had set up a center for therapy in the management of cancer, a place that will continue to function. Our objective will be to continue providing state-of-the-art care and striving to increase the level of medical care in the Valley." The Scotts would have wanted it that way.

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El Centro Regional Medical Center, 1415 Ross Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243-4306.

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