

Inside Valley

With this issue of ***Inside Valley***, I bring you a new look.

In recognition of your valuable time, I have taken an approach that will let you read ***Inside Valley*** within a few minutes. It provides an insider's view of what's happening at the Hospital.

To start off, I want you to be among the first to know that Valley Health System was recently named one of the ***50 Best Places to Work in New Jersey*** by NJBIZ, New Jersey's leading business publication.

Hospital Activity... first quarter 2005 results show an increase in admissions of more than two percent compared to 2004. Emergency Department activity is up over four percent for the first three months of 2005. The renovation of the department is now completed and a wonderful dedication was held on May 15.

Patient Satisfaction... Valley was recently recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as a Distinguished Hospital for Service Excellence for providing "An Outstanding Patient Experience" for the second consecutive time. Only 20% of acute care hospitals nationwide are eligible to qualify for this service distinction.

Emergency Preparedness... On April 8, 2005, New Jersey completed TOPOFF 3, a five-day federal disaster drill that brought a fictitious outbreak of pneumonic plague to NJ. Valley participated in the event on Wednesday, April 6, along with Ridgewood's Emergency Services. Valley was well prepared to participate in the event and will continue to enhance its Emergency Preparedness plans for the future.

Clinical Achievements... Valley was one of 80 sites nationwide and the only New Jersey site selected to participate in the recent TAXUS IV clinical trial. The trial evaluated the effectiveness of a drug-coated stent in preventing the development of restenosis. **Cary Hirsch, M.D.**, Valley Interventional Cardiologist, recently co-authored an article in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* on the results of the trial, which has received approval for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, for the treatment of coronary artery disease.

...Valley's **Center for In Vitro Fertilization** will celebrate the arrival of the 500th baby since the program's inception in 2001 at its annual Baby Jubilee in June.



Medical Staff Achievements... **Kenneth A. Levin, M.D.**, practicing Neurologist and Medical Director of The Valley Hospital Stroke Center, received the prestigious **Researcher of the Year Award** by the American Heart Association for his research to help lessen the permanent effects of stroke on patients.

... **Donald O. Quest, M.D.**, Valley Hospital Neurosurgeon, was named president-elect of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS). Dr. Quest is the J. Lawrence Pool Professor of Neurological Surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

... **Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon Douglas Avella, M.D.**, led a 15-member group on a medical mission to the Dominican Republic. During the week-long trip, the group performed orthopedic and general pediatric surgeries on 72 children.

Community Service... Valley's Biomedical Ethics Committee sponsored a very timely educational program, led by Medical Staff past-president, **Marc Melamed, M.D.**, entitled **Ethical Dilemmas: The Benefits and Burdens of End of Life Care**.

... More than 300 people attended **In a Heartbeat**, Valley's recent Cardiovascular Health Fair at the Luckow Pavilion in Paramus where physicians and staff offered a variety of medical screenings and education programs.

...Valley welcomed 43 Ridgewood High School students to the **Ridgewood Academy of Health Professions**, an integrated, collaborative, academic program designed to provide students with exposure to the vast array of career opportunities within the healthcare arena

...In partnership with three schools in Ridgewood, Valley will undertake its second food drive for the **Center for Food Action** in early June. Last year the drive collected 1.5 tons of food for needy families in our area.

Thank you for your support of Valley. As a not-for-profit organization we truly value and appreciate your interest and commitment. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to call me at 201-447-8021 or e-mail me at ameyers@valleyhealth.com.

Audrey Meyers