

SETTING NEW STANDARDS, REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Boca Raton Community Hospital Undergoes Conversion That Will Transform The Delivery Of Health Care And Medical Education

By Mary Ellen Collins



Gary Strack, president and CEO of Boca Raton Community Hospital

"IT'S THE MOST EXCITING PROJECT IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA," says Gary Strack, president and CEO of Boca Raton Community Hospital. He's talking about the hospital's transformation into the Charles E. Schmidt Medical Center, a university-based academic medical center that will be located on the Florida Atlantic University campus. Scheduled for completion in 2012, the 490-bed facility will retain its mission to be a community hospital while also serving as the primary teaching hospital for the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine (UMMSOM) and the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, both at FAU.

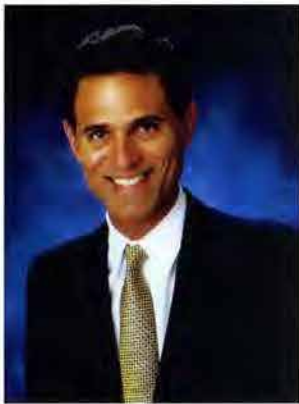
John Reiling, a nationally recognized expert in healthcare safety design, is overseeing the 42-month construction project and the process of achieving "safety and quality through design." The ultimate goal is to develop the safest teaching hospital in the country.

"One out of every 22 patients admitted to a hospital in the U.S. gets an infection. One out of every 30 patients admitted to a hospital experiences a preventable adverse event, like getting the wrong medication, falling, or having wrong-site surgery," says Reiling. "Hospitals have not historically designed facilities, processes and culture around safety. We have to improve the processes and conditions that create an environment for making mistakes."



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To create a model for patient care safety, the new hospital will incorporate features including:

- enclosed mechanical systems and more insulation between rooms to create a quieter environment
- HEPA filtration, blinds encased between panes of glass, and room sinks with hand washing forcing function technology to reduce the risk of spreading infection
- patient rooms with glass doors and adjacent workstations to give staff increased patient visibility and proximity
- standardized patient rooms with bathrooms located at the head of the bed and handrails between bed and bathroom to reduce risk of patient falls
- rubber flooring in patient care areas to reduce noise, risk of injury from falls, and staff fatigue.

The 1.1 million square-foot Medical Center will include six centers of excellence that offer cutting edge diagnosis, research, technologies and treatment. In addition to the existing Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute and the Christine E. Lynn Heart Institute, the hospital is developing and expanding institutes for women's health, minimally invasive surgery/robotics, neurosciences and an institute for quality aging.

"You won't be able to go anywhere in the country and get better care," says Rick Van Lith, senior vice president and chief operating officer. "We're recruiting the best and brightest physicians, nurses, and therapists to add to the all-stars who are already here."

The state-of-the-art center will also provide a stimulating training ground for the next generation of professional caregivers. Ultimately, there will be 256 medical students enrolled in UMMSOM at FAU, along with 1,000 nursing students training at the Lynn College of Nursing.

"The most unique aspect of this project is that we have two major universities and an outstanding community hospital coming together to provide relevant medical education for the 21st century," says Strack. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

For the past three years, the Miller School of Medicine has offered a satellite program at FAU, in which students take their first two years at FAU and transfer to Miami for their third and fourth years. With the new Medical Center, students will be able to complete the entire four-year program of study there and receive the M.D. degree from the Miller School of

Medicine without having to leave Boca Raton. They will benefit from the best of both worlds as they study with a mix of full-time academic physicians and community practitioners.

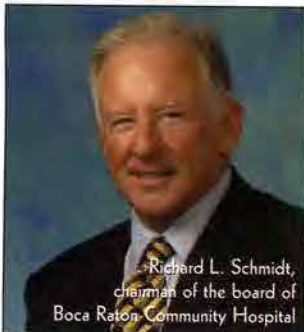
"You'll get the academic 'buzz' and clinical research environment that comes from a University medical school," says Rick Greenwald, M.D., vice president of medical affairs. "And the community faculty who have a lot of clinical experience with an office practice can show students a different perspective. They're very complementary."

The hospital has launched a five-year, \$250 million fundraising effort, the *Imagine the Possibilities* campaign, to help support the \$650 million project. They've already raised \$140 million, which includes an impressive

see that the center's impact would stretch far beyond our own community.

"It's probably part of the core of the biggest change in the southeast region. I think an academic medical center really raises the bar for the practice of medicine in the area. It creates a very exciting environment, and with the movement of biotech companies to the area that will need an affiliation with a teaching hospital, it all ties together. It's going to bring a tremendous amount of new jobs, new technology, and new industry."

Other major supporters include Christine E. Lynn, who contributed \$20 million for the Heart Institute, and Harvey and Phyllis Sandler, who gave \$20 million for a new pavilion in the Cancer Institute.



Richard L. Schmidt,
chairman of the board of
Boca Raton Community Hospital



\$75 million gift from the Schmidt Family Foundation. Charles E. Schmidt was a generous supporter of educational and health care institutions in Boca Raton and had served on the board of the hospital for fifteen years.

"The Schmidt family has done so much for this community," says Jan Savarick, senior vice president and executive director of the hospital foundation. "It was quite a moment in time when it hit them that they had the power to make a transformational gift. They realized that the vision [for the Medical Center] was in perfect alignment with what their dad would have wanted."

Richard L. Schmidt, chairman of the board of the hospital and Charles' son, had the vision to

As the 2008 groundbreaking draws closer, Strack offers a sports analogy to describe the breadth of positive changes we can anticipate. "You know what a triple double is?" he asks. [When a basketball player achieves double-digit totals in three areas: points, rebounds, and assists.] "This project is a quadruple double, with tremendous health care impact, social impact, economic impact and educational impact."

The Charles E. Schmidt Medical Center promises to make Boca Raton a sought-after destination for anyone who values excellence and innovation in diagnosis and treatment, clinical education and biomedical research. It's a winning venture in the making, with far-reaching benefits that our community will reap for decades. ○

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