



UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER  
OF EL PASO

**Welcome to UMC I-Lab 3!**

WHAT A SPECIAL DAY TODAY is for UMC! Today we welcomed the opening of our new Interventional Lab. This lab is now the most advanced system of its kind in our region. Our new I-Lab is going to improve outcomes for thousands of El Paso residents.

As I have mentioned in previous letters, there is rarely a day that goes by that I do not hear of something great happening with our Associates or service to our patients.

Our new I-Lab will ensure that many of those good-news stories will continue for years to come.

What does the I-Lab do? Put simply: It changes lives for the better. This new system dramatically improves the way our doctors reach blood clots and other blockages and problems affecting the health of a patient's brain, heart and circulatory system.

This system allows doctors to see 3-dimensional (3-D) images of a patient's circulatory system or blood vessels in the brain, similar to the *image at right*, depicting an aneurism in the brain. This system gives our doctors a whole new level of access to care for our patients.



**Friday Letter**

Jan. 30, 2015

**By James N. Valenti**

*UMC President & CEO*



In the above ribbon-cutting photo from today's ceremony, I am with (from left) Dr. Mel Ghaleb; UMC Board of Manager's member Monica Narvaez; Dr. Debabrata Mukherjee; Dr. Alberto Maud; and my Chief Operating Officer, Maria Zampini.

Doctors Maud, Mukherjee and Ghaleb will each apply their specialties of neurosurgery, cardiology and radiology (respectively) using the machine.

There are so many

other success stories that go into the introduction of this new lab. Fully 95 percent of the labor used to construct the lab were from the El Paso area.

To our doctors, nurses, technicians and all other Associates who will be operating and maintaining our I-Lab, congratulations on your new tool to improve the lives of thousands of residents. You are widely recognized as leaders in your respective fields, and I hope your work is bettered as a result of this new system.

### **February: National Heart Month**

Among the reasons why we have such a tremendous need for the I-Lab and systems like them are the daily occurrences of heart attacks.

During February, we will recognize National Heart Month.

Of note during this month is Feb. 6 or Wear Red Day. That is a day that people around the nation will wear red to highlight the growing number of women affected by heart disease.

While it is true that more men than women have heart attacks, more women (proportionately) than men actually die of

heart attacks when they get them. Heart attacks affect men and women differently.

In the majority of heart attacks affecting men, there is significant chest pain; this only occurs in 60 percent of women experiencing a heart attack. Women also feel back pain, shoulder pain, jaw pain, heartburn-like symptoms, shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, fatigue and other symptoms that they mistakenly attribute to something else, such as exhaustion.

Please join me in becoming more aware of heart disease during February.

### **The Big Game is Here**

Sunday marks the official end of the football season. Many of our Associates used today to wear their team's jersey to the hospital.

With all of the hoopla and celebration, please be sure to not drink and drive, use a designated driver if you choose to drink, and use this day to have fun with your family and friends.

Have a great weekend! - Jim



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