



To Your Health

Wilmington takes care of everyone through innovative public service and world-class hospitals. Here's how. **BY SUSAN OATES**

When Jim Horty of Wilmington learned he had prostate cancer, he drove to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania to speak with a surgeon about a prostatectomy. "Why are you up here when you can have it done there?" the surgeon asked. He then told Horty about Wilmington surgeon Francis Schanne's excellent work with the state-of-the-art da Vinci Surgical System at St. Francis Hospital—the same system used at UPenn.

Many people don't realize the outstanding healthcare available to them in Wilmington until they're faced with a serious medical condition. From the tertiary care of Christiana Care Wilmington and the community hospital of St. Francis to the comprehensive care of Westside Family Healthcare and Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, the healthcare community in Wilmington is world-class. Here's what they're up to lately.

CHRISTIANA CARE WILMINGTON
 Christiana Care Wilmington Hospital
 501 W. 14th St., Wilmington
 733-1000, www.christianacare.org

The largest tertiary care hospital in town is Christiana Care Wilmington—and it will soon be even larger. The campus is undergoing a \$210 million renovation that will increase its size to more than 1 million square feet.

There will be new medical offices, new surgical suites, a new intensive care unit and 120 new single-patient rooms, all housed in a new 51,000-square-foot office building and a nine-story, 286,000-square-foot tower.

"Christiana Care's Wilmington campus has decades of history of caring for the people of Wilmington, but the \$210 million investment into the facility is an extraordinary demonstration of our commitment to the community," says Dr. Janice Nevin, se-

nior vice president and executive director for the hospital. "It's really an investment in the future of the city of Wilmington."

With 1,900 employees, Christiana Care Wilmington is the city's fourth-largest employer. The number of employees is expected to increase by 600 upon completion of the renovation.

"If you're local, you get all of the benefits of accessing all of the services of the 21st century through the doors of your community hospital," says Nevin. "We're a first-rate acute care hospital, but because we're part of a larger system, you have access to other services.

"In Wilmington, for example, we have the Center For Advanced Joint Replacement—the busiest in the country—Acute Rehabilitation Services and the Roxana Cannon Arshat Surgicenter. But you also have access to everything that the system offers, including

the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center."

Fifty thousand patient visits a year are made to the emergency department, and many of the patients walk there, Nevin says. In fact, more than 60 percent of emergency department patients live in the city. Another 20 percent live in nearby Claymont and Brandywine Hundred.

"The emergency department is an incredibly important place for them to get the care they need, when they need it," Nevin says. "And the new ED facility will enhance the care we provide. New buildings are just bricks and mortar. It's really about the care that's provided inside the walls."

WESTSIDE FAMILY HEALTHCARE

Westside Family Healthcare, Wilmington
 1802 W. Fourth St., Wilmington
 655-5822, www.westsidehealth.org
 Westside Family Healthcare, Northeast
 908B E. 16th St., Wilmington
 575-1414, www.westsidehealth.org

With the motto "We treat you well," the dedicated medical staff at Westside Family Healthcare focuses on providing individuals of any age equal access to quality healthcare, regardless of ability to pay. Westside provides family medical care, women's health services, disease management, dental care, adolescent health service, mental health care, and podiatry care. Cost for care is based on income, and need-based financial aid is available.

"It's a one-stop shopping model for comprehensive healthcare," says Westside Family Healthcare deputy director Sarah Noonan. "When patients walk through the door, Westside can treat them for a variety of things so that they don't have to come back for multiple appointments. If a diabetic patient comes in for a regular patient visit, for example, we can also schedule an ophthalmology visit and a meeting with a patient educator, if needed."

Westside also considers the patient's social situation because transportation and child-care can often be issues.

Because a large number of patients have socio-economic issues that can affect mental health, Westside is always looking for ways to expand mental health services. A 501(c)(3) non-profit agency, it does a lot with a little. "If we weren't here, most of the patients would have no place to go," Noonan says. "I look around the waiting room and realize the great benefit we bring to the community."

In 2008 Westside served 17,894 patients and conducted 73,206 patient visits. Nearly

ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE

St. Francis Hospital
 701 N. Clayton St., Wilmington
 421-4100, www.stfrancishealthcare.org

Surgeon Francis Schanne was passionate about bringing the da Vinci Surgical System to Delaware just a few short years ago. Since then hundreds of patients have benefited from robotically assisted procedures using the machine.

It was the hospital's willingness to explore new technology that inspired Schanne to join the St. Francis Healthcare team.

"The da Vinci was one," he says, and St. Francis was the first in the state to get it, as well as the KTP green light laser treatment used to treat enlarged prostates.

Other departments are using new technology, too. St. Francis was the first hospital in Delaware to use the Diamondback 360° Orbital Atherectomy technology—a machine designed to remove dangerous arterial plaque from the legs—in its heart and vascular department.

The da Vinci Surgical System allows surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures with greater precision and dexterity through the use of high-definition 3D endoscopy and robotic technology. The result is minimal blood loss, less pain, and less recovery time and a shorter hospital stay for the patient.

Dr. Nancy Petit, head of the division of obstetrics, says the da Vinci is also being used by eight board-certified gynecologists at St. Francis Hospital, which is the only facility in Delaware to use the machine for gynecological surgeries such as fibroid removals. For most women, convalescence from a hysterectomy is six weeks after a traditional procedure. With the da Vinci, most patients can return to work in two weeks.

Educating future physicians is also important at St. Francis. Its three-year family medicine residency program is affiliated with the Temple University School of Medicine, and St. Francis is an internship site for doctors from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

As the only hospital in Wilmington to offer obstetrical care, St. Francis makes it possible for new parents to remain close to home for the births of their children. Patients tend to bond tightly with the OB/GYN nurses because "many of them have worked together for many years," Petit says. "They know each other's strengths, and are multifaceted with the care they provide to the moms."

With the intimacy of a community hospital, St. Francis provides a full complement of patient services, including general medicine, diagnostics, surgery, rehabilitation, joint replacements, heart and vascular care, and more. The main hospital has stood at 701 N. Clayton St. since 1924. St. Francis has since added the Franciscan Care Center at Brackenville, the North Wilmington Women's Center and The Woman's Place.

