Health Sciences kicks off programming phase for inpatient and research facilities

More than 100 leaders from EMORY HEALTHCARE and the Woodruff Health Sciences Center gathered last month to share their ideas as Emory kicked off the programming phase for new inpatient and research facilities on Clifton Road and the Midtown campus.

The eight-hour session signaled the start of the programming, or pre-design phase. In this phase, project objectives are finalized, and building and user requirements are set. A key part of programming the hospitals and research facilities involves gathering information from clinicians, researchers and staff, as well as from patients and families.

“As Emory develops a world-class standard for teaching hospitals, it is critical to include creative thinking from our own professionals,” says Fred Sanfilippo, MD, PhD, Emory’s executive vice president for health affairs. “The retreat allows us to establish a common platform of understanding about the process we are beginning.”

“Earlier this summer, Emory announced the site for the new health sciences facilities, including the inpatient and outpatient space. Now begins the exciting process of creating transformative new inpatient facilities from the ground up,” says John Fox, CEO of EMORY HEALTHCARE. “Integration of education, clinical and research space will be central to this process.”

John Puskas, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Emory Crawford Long Hospital, agrees with Fox. “I applaud integrated space – not just the bench-to-bedside themes we hear so much about, but integration from cardiothoracic surgery to cardiology, from cardiology to pulmonary medicine and nephrology -- integration between and within specialties.”

“As significant is the integration of patients and families into the process,” Fox adds. “They are critical partners for us as we move forward.” Consistent with the project’s emphasis on exceptional care delivery, the retreat discussion centered on how to achieve the ideal patient and family-centered experience. Several Emory patients and families participated in the day to share their EMORY HEALTHCARE experiences. Patients and families will be involved throughout the project as advisors and active participants in many of the programming teams.

Programming also begins now for the new research facilities both on Clifton and at Midtown. A key principle of the plan is to develop ways to integrate the missions of health care delivery, research, and education. The Midtown campus provides a unique opportunity to achieve that integration in one location.

Feedback from the retreat is being collected and will be incorporated into the process. This feedback is essential as, in early 2009, architects will begin schematic designs for the hospitals on Clifton Road and in Midtown. Watch for updates on this project in Medical Staff Update, on the MD Support web page and in physician meetings.
“We are very early in this project, but want you to let us know if we are missing the mark in communicating to you,” says Fox.

In keeping with the theme of the next development phase, an e-mail address has been created to capture your ideas and thoughts. Please use the following address to e-mail ideas on innovations for the new facility plan: emoryfacilityideas@emoryhealthcare.org

**Programming “Transformational Principles”**

The following ‘Transformational Principles’ will guide the programming and design for Emory health sciences facilities:

1. Promote quality (outcomes, safety and satisfaction)
2. Optimize patient- and family-centered care
3. Create value for patients through personalized and predictive health care
4. Create flexible, adaptable facilities that will accommodate future technologies, practices, and growth
5. Maximize operational efficiency and effectiveness, and optimize use of human, space, and financial resources
6. Integrate health care, research and education to drive and facilitate discovery and translational research
7. Promote interdisciplinary and interprofessional care team collaboration that includes patients and families
8. Build an integrated health system that optimizes the continuum of care across ambulatory and inpatient environments without regard to operating unit ownership
9. Create a sustainable, inspirational, and collaborative environment for the Emory community that promotes healthy lifestyles, learning, and community-building
10. Incorporate best practices as a platform for an experimental, continuous learning approach to innovation
11. Ensure that the facility solutions are fiscally responsible