The New Inflammatory Bowel Disease Unit at the Center for Care and Discovery

The world-renowned University of Chicago Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center has completed a five-year plan to build a one-of-a-kind dedicated unit for the care of patients with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. The unit is part of the University of Chicago Medicine’s $700M Center for Care and Discovery, the medical center’s new hospital facility, which opened today.

The new unit is designed to accommodate the most complex patients with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis and features state-of-the-art facilities and accommodations for patients and their family members. It is located on the 9th floor of the new 10 story building, and includes oversized rooms and private...
bathrooms, unobstructed views of the city and lakefront, and a variety of infection prevention measures that are designed to reduce hospital acquired infections and to allow for the best care for our patients. A committee of patients, nurses, nutritionists and physicians worked together with the medical center to develop the unit.

While no one wants to be hospitalized, we understand that when it is necessary, it should be provided in unparalleled facilities and with access to the latest advances in the field. In the past, our IBD patients were separated into different units of the old hospital, depending on whether they need surgery or had other problems. The new unit keeps all the patients together, so that our outstanding and IBD-expert nursing and support staff are able to care for them all.

In addition, the University of Chicago’s gastrointestinal procedure unit and operating rooms are all located in the new hospital facility, and feature unparalleled technological advances for our IBD patients. This includes expanded robotic and laparoscopic equipment, streaming and live video conferencing capabilities in all rooms, and new high definition endoscopy equipment. The new facility includes an exciting new food court, retail establishments on the first floor, a beautiful new chapel, expanded parking, and a variety of other amenities that will elevate our outstanding patient care to the level of an outstanding patient and family experience from the time of admission to the time of discharge planning.

The University of Chicago Center for Care and Discovery IBD Unit will be part of a an expanded medical campus that now includes the Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery, the Gordon Center for Integrative Science and a record donation of $2.5M from the Taxman Family Foundation to create the Joseph B. Kirsner endowment for Advanced Fellowship in IBD and an annual Kirsner Advances in Digestive Diseases Conference. The unprecedented growth of our
Research and clinical facilities will continue to lead the way in our efforts to find better treatments and a cure for those who suffer from inflammatory bowel diseases.

The Sky Lobby of the Center for Care and Discovery, which includes a food court, conference center and more.
FAST FACTS ABOUT THE CENTER FOR CARE AND DISCOVERY

52
Intensive care beds: the Center for Care and Discovery will have five intensive care units with 12 beds in each.

28
Operating rooms with leading-edge technology.

85
Modular cubes, or bays, on each floor—this grid system ensures adaptability and flexibility.

240
Single-patient rooms throughout—60 rooms per floor, including the ICUs located on the 8th, 9th and 10th floors.

"The Center for Care and Discovery will allow us to make a great leap forward, especially in the field of integrated multispecialty care—a hallmark of future cancer care."

Janet E. Vokes, MD
Physician-in-chief and Chair of the Department of Medicine
Expanded view of the University of Chicago Medicine IBD Unit on 9 West in the Center for Care and Discovery.

Our wonderful nurses hard at work in the IBD unit.
A standard patient room with extra large space, unobstructed views of the city, surrounding campus and Lake Michigan.

The view from one of the rooms in the University of Chicago Medicine IBD Unit in the Center for Care and Discovery.
An extra room for family members who stay with their loved ones includes unobstructed city views, pull-out beds and closet space, as well as separate TVs and phone lines.
A new information center, which is easily accessible from waterproof keyboards in every room, includes an entertainment center, access to the Internet, instructional videos and other resources.

Larger private bathrooms for all patients include easily accessible showers and expanded space to accommodate assistants.
Unique information boards in every room provide patients with updates about the members of their healthcare team and their schedule for the day.
Directions to the GI procedure unit.

A special thank you to the members of the Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation (GIRF) for their continued support of the University of Chicago Medicine and Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center.
A view of the post-op care area in the new GI procedure unit.

One of the GI pre-op bays.
One of the new GI general purpose rooms.

Conference center at the Center for Care and Discovery.
The chapel in the University of Chicago Medicine Center for Care and Discovery.

East view from a conference center room at the Center for Care and Discovery.