Dear Colleagues,

On July 38, U.S. News & World Report released its Best Hospitals 2020–21 Honor Roll, and we are pleased to share that The Johns Hopkins Hospital is once again ranked #1 in the nation and #1 in Maryland. Our delivery of exceptional, respectful and innovative care will always be at the core of our mission, and we appreciate the esteemed recognition.

This annual U.S. News Best Hospitals ranking assesses the performance of more than 4,500 hospitals in the United States, and — combined with our Best Children’s Hospital ranking — The Johns Hopkins Hospital remains the top-ranked hospital for patients of all ages.

In addition to the Honor Roll, U.S. News nationally ranks hospitals in 16 medical specialties. As those results continue to shift from year to year, we are proud to have four of our medical specialties ranked #1 (up from three last year). Ten are in the top five, and 12 are in the top 10. The rankings are shown to the right.

When it comes to “common care” procedures for adult patients, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Howard County General Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Sibley Memorial Hospital and Suburban Hospital received the top designation of “high performing” in at least two procedure areas.

On a local level, The Johns Hopkins Hospital is ranked #1 in Maryland, #1 in the Baltimore region and #1 in 15 medical specialties. We extend congratulations to our colleagues at Suburban Hospital, which climbed to #3 in the Washington, D.C., metro region and #7 in Maryland, and Sibley Memorial Hospital, which rose to #7 ranking in the D.C. area.

We owe a debt of gratitude to each of you for your compassion, sacrifice and consistent effort to advance our promise of medicine. You can learn more about the rankings on the Johns Hopkins Medicine intranet site at insidehopkinsmedicine.org/usnews. As always, thank you for all you do for our patients.

Sincerely,
Paul B. Rothman, M.D.
Dean of the Medical Faculty
CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Kevin W. Sowers, M.D.
President, Johns Hopkins Health System
EVP, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Meet Clinical Nurse Extern
Maddy Decelles

“I have worked” as a safety officer, a sitter and a clinical technician on both COVID and non-COVID units, I have screened patients entering all pediatric ambulatory clinics, and I have swabbed patients in the COVID testing tent. I now have a greater appreciation for all areas of The Johns Hopkins Hospital, as I have been exposed to more than I could have ever imagined as a nursing student,” says Maddy Decelles, a clinical nurse extern in the preop/pediatric acute care unit. Since the start of the pandemic, she has been redeployed to various areas across the hospital.

“This journey has taught me a lot about not only myself, but about the profession that I am stepping into,” Decelles says. “I have learned the importance of teamwork and how significant its role is in patient care. There have been days full of uncertainty when I anxiously walk into work not knowing what unit I’ll be walking on, what role I will be performing or how long I will be there. There are days when I am scared, nervous and uncomfortable, and days when I am excited and eager to learn. I continue to remind myself how fortunate I am to be positively impacting patients’ lives each and every day.”
Leading the Effort to Bring Coronavirus Testing to Hard-Hit Communities

COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED tens of thousands of people in Maryland, and some local areas have suffered from the disease far worse than others.

Johns Hopkins Medicine is now leading an initiative in hard-hit areas of Baltimore to provide testing for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. "We are working with the Baltimore City Health Department to identify areas with a significant amount of cases," says Kathleen Page, associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Page helped organize the community testing effort. "Our goal is to test up to 150 people at each of our events to prevent further spread of the illness," she says.

The team's first testing took place at the Sacred Heart of Jesus church in East Baltimore, in the 21224 ZIP code, which the city health department designated as a "hot spot." The neighborhood and parish have a largely Latinx population.

“We have seen a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Latinx community in Baltimore as well as around the U.S.,” Page says. “Most of the Latinx patients I’ve met are not eligible for benefits, have no health insurance and rent rooms in crowded houses. The need to work, lack of occupational protections and crowded living conditions have led to high transmission in this community.”

Sherita Golden, vice president and chief diversity officer at Johns Hopkins and an organizer of the initiative, agrees. “This is a very vulnerable population,” she says. “We want to assist this community before they are in dire circumstances.”

For the June 25 event and later, on June 30, Johns Hopkins clinicians and staff members set up a temporary testing site on the church’s parking lot. The team followed up with those tested to give them results within 48 hours.

“The team has tested nearly 150 people, and has been able to help patients who tested positive with the appropriate care they need as well as other important resources,” says Nicki McCann, vice president of payer/provider transformation at Johns Hopkins. McCann also helped organize the testing efforts.

The team plans to continue testing in Baltimore neighborhoods several days per week, and it plans to move to other locations in the city and potentially beyond Baltimore as needed. Appointments for testing are recommended.

In addition to the Baltimore City Health Department, the initiative is being performed in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health and Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development.

Along with testing in the community, clinicians provide much needed testing for homeless shelters, sober living facilities, skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes, all of which have been hard hit by COVID-19.

—Kim Polyniak

How to Properly Wear a Face Mask

Everyone in a Johns Hopkins Medicine building is required to wear a face mask to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the masks must be worn properly, covering both the nose and mouth. Remember to stay 6 feet apart from other people, and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

Read our mask-wearing tips to get the maximum protection for yourself and others:

• Wash your hands before and after touching the mask.
• Touch only the bands or ties when putting on and taking off your mask.
• Make sure the mask fits to cover your nose, mouth and chin. If you adjust the mask to cover those areas, wash your hands before and after.
• Make sure you can breathe and talk comfortably through your mask.
• Wash reusable masks after each use. If the mask is disposable, discard it when visibly soiled or damaged.

New Tobacco Policy

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• Tobacco/vape products may also not be used during meals or on breaks — on or off campus.
• Patients and visitors will be asked not to use tobacco/vape products while at the hospital.

While this change may be difficult for some employees, the hospital is committed to making the transition as smooth as possible. A tobacco free at work guide will provide a list of resources, including nicotine replacement products and tobacco-cessation programs, to help prepare staff members to be tobacco-free during their workday.

Look for more information in the coming weeks.

From the Editor

Email your submissions to edesacq@jhmi.edu for the September issue by Aug. 15 and for the October issue by Sept. 15.

Blood Drive

This is an important time to take care of one another, and donating blood is an easy way to do that — and it only takes about an hour. The next blood drive is on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., School of Public Health, Feinestone Conference Room.
Sign up to make a difference for accident victims, cancer patients and others in need: bit.ly/JHMBloodDrive.

Volunteers Needed at the Consolidated Service Center

It is essential that we maintain our supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to help keep our patients, nurses, physicians, and other clinicians and support staff members safe from the spread of COVID-19. If you want to volunteer and help those on the front lines of patient care, visit: bit.ly/CSCVolunteerOpp.

Healthy at Hopkins Webinars

Are you stressed during these unsettled times? Visit Healthy at Hopkins for webinars to stay healthy and upbeat: bit.ly/HealthyatHopkinsWebinars.

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