Dear South Florida Community,

What a truly exciting year it has been! The grand opening of the Advanced Pediatric Care Pavilion took place on October 25th. This state-of-the-art tower houses the hospital’s critical care units, neurology and neurosurgical units, as well as our very own Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant units. Our unit, located on the 6th floor of the tower, is comprised of 28 beds and seven bone marrow transplant beds, as well as family-centric amenities including family and teen lounges, fold-out double beds, closet space and private baths. The new space is equipped to support the healing process of hospitalized children and their families.

As I reflect on 2016, I am proud to share with you the wonderful prevention and screening programs provided by the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital. The team also participated in multiple community events and fundraisers which help support national organizations such as the American Cancer Society and the Children’s Bereavement Center. With 2017 upon us, we hope to continue to provide world-class care to our patients and families, while offering the community continuous education, activities, and support programs.

Respectfully,

Enrique Escalon, MD
Director of Hematology/Oncology
2016 Prevention & Screening Activities

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Our Registered Dietitian and Education Coordinator organized an awareness campaign including “Patient of the Month” success stories on the hospital’s employee portal and social media sites.

Skin Cancer Screening
May was Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. The Division of Dermatology at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital provided a free skin cancer screening to the community (adults and children) on May 25th, 2016 utilizing the American Academy of Dermatology’s (AAD) screening tool. Pediatric dermatologist and Division Director, Dr. Ana Duarte, and her staff screened 15 participants. Of those, none required follow-up nor were recommended to have a biopsy. Skin cancer education was provided on-site.

An awareness table was also set up in the hospital’s main lobby and our Hematology/Oncology staff provided educational material to more than 60 participants while raising $120 to benefit ongoing cancer research. Spirit Week was also a hit, with patients, families, and staff dressing up to a daily theme!

BMI Screenings
2,809 BMI screenings have been completed to date. 240 interventions were completed including healthy lifestyle changes, such as good nutrition and weight management.

HPV Vaccines
29 HPV vaccines have been administered to students identified as incomplete for the series. Vaccines were provided during school hours, avoiding absenteeism.

Health Fairs
Health fairs and educational seminars have also been provided to students on cancer prevention. Topics include smoking, drinking, sun exposure, etc. To date, 1,470 students have participated in these health fairs.

BMI screenings, HPV vaccines, and Health Fairs will continue throughout the school year as part of our School Health Program in collaboration with The Children’s Trust.
2016 Prevention & Screening Activities

Colon Cancer Awareness

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. On March 10th, 2016 Colon Cancer education was provided to staff and the community. A booth was set up in the main lobby of the hospital with education material regarding diet, prevention, and screening recommendations. A total of 58 guests attended the event.

2016 Community Activities

Cancer Survivor’s Day

It was a “wild” day for patients treated by Nicklaus Children’s Hospital’s Cancer Center. On June 5th, 2016, more than two dozen children reunited with the doctors and nurses who cared for them to celebrate National Cancer Survivors Day at Zoo Miami. 139 people attended the family fun event that included shows, games, food, and plenty of fun!

Mini Relay for Life

Nicklaus Children’s Hospital, in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, hosted a Mini Relay for Life on-campus November 10th, 2016. The event celebrates people who have battled against cancer and remembers those loved ones lost. In total six teams raised $7,781.38 total which will support pediatric cancer research. Nicklaus Children’s Hospital is proud to help take action against a disease that has taken too much!

Summer Camp

This past Summer, 33 patients attended the week-long sleep-away camp at A.D. Barnes Park in Miami-Dade.

The annual summer camp is a dream come true for children with cancer and their families. Participants enjoy typical summer activities while under the care of their pediatric oncologists who are on the medical staff at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital.

Activities range from a two night stay at Universal’s Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios to a wide variety of fun local activities such as laser tag, kayaking, bowling, and a pool party.
Team Nicklaus Children’s Hospital raised $2,775 for the Children’s Bereavement Center Steps for Healing 5K which took place on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at Zoo Miami.

Grand opening: Advanced Pediatric Care Pavilion

The Advanced Pediatric Care Pavilion is a six-story, 213,000 – square-foot tower featuring the latest technical and family-centered advancements. The hospital’s critical care offerings including our hematology-oncology and bone marrow transplant unit are now housed here. The pavilion, which opened October 25th, 2016, provides spacious family-centric rooms with parental accommodations for sleeping and showering with amenities including fold-out double beds, closet space, and private baths. The tower features the latest in state-of-the art technology. We are excited to provide these comforts to our hematology/oncology patients and families.

Watch this video for a look inside the new APCP! Nicklaus Children’s Advanced Care Pavilion

Thank you

Special thanks to the nursing staff for facilitating this transition and for continuously providing world-class care to our patients and families.