In building the new Pavilion at HUP, sustainability efforts have been part of the plan from the beginning, from manufacturing components off-site, to making sure rooms were adaptable for future needs, to incorporating an acre of greenery into the urban property.

At home, you turn off the lights when you’re not using them, wash most clothes in cold water, and look for other ways, small and large, to cut down your energy bills and help the planet. But in the hospital, being energy efficient remains a unique challenge. The technology alone requires a lot of energy, said Derek Tasch, a Health System architect. For example, compare the energy usage of just one piece of hospital equipment to a house in a given day: “An MRI uses the same amount of electricity as six suburban homes!”

And so, in building the new Pavilion at HUP, sustainability efforts have been part of the plan from the beginning. Starting with the demolition of Penn Tower which formerly stood at the site, numerous building materials were recycled, including 291 tons of scrap steel saved for future construction and 17,000 tons of concrete re-used at the construction site. Once the Pavilion’s construction was underway, many materials and systems, such as mechanical/electrical/plumbing racks, and even bathtubs, were pre-fabricated and manufactured off-site, then transported to the building, minimizing on-site waste and maximizing energy efficiency.

The building itself uses 100 percent outside air through its HVAC system, which could be a source of wasted cold and heat — but it has energy recovery wheels to recapture and repurpose energy from the conditioned air into other systems as free energy. Water will also be a repurposed resource. Rain and runoff water on the roof will collect in cisterns located throughout the property, which will then be used for the chilled water system for heating and cooling the building. “People often look for obvious signs of green efforts, like solar panels,” Tasch said. “What we’re doing is far more than that and may not be immediately apparent when walking by the facility.”

Sustainability Inside and Out!

As part of the effort to minimize on-site construction and reduce waste of materials, the Pavilion has patient rooms that can adapt to the acuity (seriousness) of a patient’s condition, as well as flexible operating rooms. Rather than redesigning rooms or transferring patients to areas with specialized equipment, the design of the Pavilion allows patients to stay in a standardized room where equipment and resources can easily come to them, meeting needs for all levels of care in one space and reducing the need for major renovations for decades to come.

Between its landscaping and green roofs, there is now an acre of greenery on the Pavilion property to create a calming space for patients, visitors, and staff. These landscaped areas will comprise native and hardy species that require minimal watering and maintenance and can withstand difficult conditions. In addition, a new terraced garden and plaza will replace a small parking lot next to the Penn Museum.

This greenery will be clearly visible when walking across Discovery Walkway, a new pedestrian pathway connecting the facility to Penn Medicine Station, a part of SEPTA’s Regional Rail line. To make train travel more appealing and accessible — and thus reduce traffic in the area — there will be a new stairway and elevator leading to the pedestrian pathway.

And for those biking to the campus, 352 new bicycle parking spots will be installed at various locations surrounding the Pavilion, with an additional 70 spots next to the staff entrance by the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.

The Pavilion will also have a continued focus on sustainability reflected through its artwork, such as the whimsical piece “DNA Tree of Life,” which will be displayed in the atrium. The two-story tall artwork, created by Maya Lin, is part of her collection of environmentally themed projects, incorporating recyclable materials and bringing attention to ecological causes. An advocate for the environment, Lin was awarded with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016 for her work involving art and climate change. In addition, the facility will feature artwork by Philadelphia artists focused on themes of healing, peacefulness, and meditation.

Because of these latest innovations, the Pavilion is currently on track toward receiving a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, a globally recognized symbol that promotes achievement in sustainable design and construction.

“Reducing our energy footprint can have a direct impact on public health,” Tasch said. “It’s exceptionally important for Penn to move towards being a leader in sustainability.”

People often look for obvious signs of green efforts, like solar panels. What we’re doing is far more than that and may not be immediately apparent when walking by the facility.
CAREGIVER

The patient server can be loaded from the hallway without interruption to patients. Inside the room, nurses can find supplies easily in one place without needing to search.

MORE THAN JUST A
STORAGE CABINET

With doors that open into the hallway, and another set of doors that open into the patient room, the pass-through cabinet known as a patient server may be modest in appearance but has a big impact. This new feature, part of every patient room at the Pavilion, will offer so much more than just storage, improving both patient care and the patient experience.

A Place for Everything

Patient servers are floor-to-ceiling cabinets which hold clinical supplies essential to patient care. Staff from Pharmacy, Nursing, and Materials Management collaborated on the design of the patient server at the Pavilion to ensure it was efficient and effective for their staff and patients. At the Pavilion, each will have three sections: The top one will contain commonly used items in patient care, such as gloves, bandages, alcohol wipes, and IV tubing. This compartment might also hold items requested by a unit to meet a patient’s specific needs, for example, a special type of dressing for a wound.

In the middle section, a drawer will hold patient-specific medications but will not, said Robert Fisher, director of Materials Management, contain controlled substances. It will remain locked; only a pharmacist’s ID badge will open it to add or remove necessary meds. Pharmacy will stock the drawer daily.

The bottom part will contain personal protective equipment (PPE) — e.g., gowns, masks and gloves — for use in rooms with patients on isolation. “We’ll get information about which patients are on isolation from PennChart and only provide PPE to those units,” Fisher said, adding that both of these features will eliminate the need for isolation and medication carts outside of patient rooms, keeping hallways clear.

Easy Access = A Better Experience

All of the unit’s patient care supplies will be kept on a cart in its clean supply room, which Materials Management will restock each evening, according to the unit’s specific needs. “A lot of thought went into not only the design of the patient servers, but also in the support and restocking process,” Fisher said, adding that “the Pavilion will have dedicated support elevators which will get up to the units faster and allow us to stock the carts faster.”

Each day, nursing support associates will gather the items from the clean supply room and distribute them to each room’s patient server, easily accessing the cabinet from the hallway. This feature eliminates the need to enter the room and disturb the patient.

Perhaps the most important element, however, is the easy access to all of these essential supplies when providing patient care. With most items at their fingertips, nurses will spend less time looking for and gathering supplies from different locations and more time in direct care activities. A win-win for both nurses and patients.

Caring FOR THE CAREGIVER

Caregiving has always been part of Grace Hanson’s life. Growing up, she watched her mother and sister take care of her grandmother, later on becoming a caregiver herself when her daughter was diagnosed with brain and spinal cord cancer. At her church, Hanson observed her fellow parishioners going to hospitals to be there for loved ones or staying at their homes more to support family members.

While these caregivers have been tending to their families, Hanson had a plan to provide care for them in return. Caring for the Caregivers. The program offers mental, emotional, and spiritual support through efforts like sending care packages and meals, and engaging in prayer to caregivers at the New Testament Church of God in Southwest Philadelphia. “It’s something I’ve always been passionate about,” said Hanson, an administrative assistant for CPUP Surgery. “I was that caregiver, and I still am a caregiver.”

Hanson officially launched Caring for the Caregivers at her church during a Sunday service earlier this year, presenting decorated gift baskets to the caregivers attending that morning’s mass. They were filled with self-care items, like body wash, mindfulness materials, and messages with prayers. Feeling surprised and appreciated, the selected parishioners told Hanson that they couldn’t believe the church had been thinking of them. “One church member expressed how thankful she felt to receive the basket, telling me how difficult and lonely being a caregiver can be,” Hanson said. For those unable to attend the mass, baskets were delivered to their homes.

Caring for the Caregiver also provides meals twice a week to caregivers’ households, offers virtual homework assistance for their children, and in the future, Hanson hopes to create a weekly exercise class to allow caregivers to stretch and take care of themselves physically.

“Caregivers are one population who don’t ask for help. They struggle and they don’t want to say they’re hurting,” Hanson said. “With the Penn Medicine CAREs grant, I know our program will go further, and we hope to inspire others to take action to support caregivers in their communities.”

Penn Medicine

CAREs

› From left: Olive Campbell, coordinator; Neva Denton, caregiver; and Grace Hanson.

‘HE KNOWS THEIR NAMES’

ARON BERMAN RECOGNIZED WITH LEADERSHIP AWARD

For the past several years, the MaryEllen Reilly Leadership Award has recognized leaders at HUP who demonstrate “many of the leadership characteristics that MaryEllen was known and respected for,” said Regina Cunningham, PhD, RN, the CEO of the hospital. “She was both a trusted colleague and a mentor to hundreds of staff.” Reilly was HUP’s former VP of Clinical and Administrative Operations, who died unexpectedly in 2011.

This year’s award recipient was Aron Berman, assistant executive hospital director, whose leadership style, Cunningham said, is “very much like MaryEllen’s — collaborative, engaging and facilitative.”

For example, in replacing HUP’s food services supplier in 2019, “Aron demonstrated incredible patience, fortitude and skill” in choosing AVI Foodsystems and then partnering with leadership at AVI and HUP Finance to come to an agreement. Since bringing them onboard, patient ratings for HUP’s food service have improved, significantly in some cases.

When interacting with members of the teams he leads, “one of the most impressive things is not just that everyone knows him but that he knows them, he knows their names,” she said. “This is critical to helping us drive good outcomes. There’s a strong sense of camaraderie in his teams which I attribute to his leadership.”

Berman was also one of the three key leads in planning and bringing HUP’s Cedar Avenue on board this spring, when HUP took over running the Emergency Department and inpatient care at the former Mercy Philadelphia. “He made sure it was a safe and effective transition from day one,” Cunningham said. “His leadership was pivotal and critical.”

HUPdate

EDITORIAL STAFF
Rochel Ewing
Fischer
Maureen McGirr
Graphic Designer

ADMINISTRATION
Patricia Namazi
Vice President, Public Affairs
Holly Auer
Assistant Vice President, Communications
Rochel Ewing
Senior Editorial Director

CONTACT HUPdate AT:
Department of Communications
3600 Civic Center Boulevard
3rd Floor, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4310
phone: 215.662.2560
email: Rochel.Ewing@PennMedicine.upenn.edu

Penn Medicine is published monthly for HUP employees. Access HUPdate online at PennMedicine.org/HUPPoints.