UAB’s New University Hospital

One of the Best Places to Get Well Now Has a New Main Entrance.
A Guide to UAB’s New University Hospital

A Birmingham magazine Special Promotional Section
Welcome to this *Birmingham* magazine special section, commemorating the opening of the new University Hospital. The marble-lined entrance to this, our North Pavilion wing, serves as the front door to the entire UAB medical complex.

We have worked diligently over the last ten years planning this new facility, determining how best to provide the highest quality patient care, while also taking into account the environment of the hospital for patients, visitors, and the thousands of UAB physicians, nurses and other health professionals who provide that patient care.

The new University Hospital, with its highly advanced technology and unprecedented attention to design, represents a bold new era in health care for Alabama residents and places UAB proudly alongside the finest hospitals in the nation.

We hope you enjoy this written and pictorial “tour” of the new University Hospital. We invite you to stop by to see our new facility in person. For a “virtual tour” of the new hospital, please visit our Web site at www.health.uab.edu (see “Take a Tour” sidebar on page 14 of this insert for more information).

For more information on the UAB Health System’s complete range of primary and specialty care services, we ask you to call UAB HealthFinder at 205-934-9999.

Now, please read on and join us as we proudly present the new University Hospital!

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Carol Z. Garrison,  
UAB President

David Hoidal,  
CEO, UAB Health System
University Hospital North Pavilion Project Team

1st Floor  Emergency Department
2nd Floor  Patient and Visitor Areas (admitting, information center, climate controlled sky bridge to parking deck, family and visitor seating)
3rd Floor  Pharmacy
5th Floor  Cardiovascular Surgery
          Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
          Meditation Garden
6th Floor  Radiology Services
          Vascular Center
7th Floor  Operating Rooms
8th Floor  Patient Rooms
          Neurology & Neurosurgery
9th Floor  Orthopedics
          Trauma/Burn Unit
Rooftop:  Helipad

Quick Facts About the New University Hospital

The new University Hospital encompasses 885,000 square feet. The project price tag is $275 million. Planning and construction spanned nearly a decade. More than 2,000 hours of employee and staff consultation went into the project’s preparation. There are 37 high-tech operating suites, all designed to accommodate robot-assisted surgery. The facility includes 2 procedure rooms, 3 medical surgical units, 5 trauma rooms, and 4 intensive care units (trauma and burn, surgical, neuroscience, and cardiovascular). The University Emergency Department is 38,000 square feet—almost the size of a football field. The new hospital building comprises enough steel to build 2,300 automobiles. The hospital houses 15 guest elevators and five service elevators for the transport of items such as laundry, food and sterile supplies. The hospital has 6 connecting bridges, with direct access to clinical facilities, parking, and an extended stay hotel scheduled to open in the near future. The adjacent parking deck includes space for 1,200 cars. There are more than 900 seats throughout the building for families and visitors. All 96 patient rooms are private. The facility also includes 94 private intensive care beds. More than 30,000 pieces of new equipment and furnishings outfit the new hospital.
Nearly a decade of planning and construction went into the creation of the new University Hospital, and preparations to transfer patients, personnel and equipment into the new facility were underway for more than two years prior to the actual move. The new hospital opened at the end of 2004, concluding one of the largest medical construction projects in the country. This facility serves as a model in design innovation, representing the most advanced technology in healthcare and functioning as a template for hospitals of the future.

The new facility is unique in that it was designed with significant input from UAB physicians, nurses, and other caregivers working in close collaboration with project architects and biomedical engineers.

The new University Hospital comprises a total of 885,000 square feet, ranging from the basement at bottom to a rooftop helipad. An average floor in the hospital is roughly 105,000 square feet; approximately equivalent to the floor space of fifty 2000-square foot houses.

Platforms of Care:

Integral to the design of the new hospital is the concept of “platforms of care,” a system whereby floors in the new facility link to the rest of the medical center via six connecting bridges. This concept, first developed for UAB’s West Pavilion wing, means, for example, that an operating room for heart patients in the new facility is located on the same floor as the post-surgical unit for heart patients in another building, thus decreasing the need to move patients between floors. Interestingly, the hospital has no 4th floor—this level was eliminated to allow the new structure to connect to adjoining buildings.

“The design of this building represents the collaboration and expertise of hundreds of physicians, nurses and technicians. This hospital has literally been tailor-made to meet the exact requirements of our clinical staff. They are the ultimate authorities when it comes to patient care.” Scott Buchalter, M.D, Chief of Staff, University Hospital (pictured).
Continued Growth

The new University Hospital was designed for flexibility, allowing for future growth and change. Upcoming plans call for a new women’s and infants’ hospital to be constructed on 6th Avenue, between 17th and 18th Streets South, connecting to the North Pavilion wing. University Hospital’s old emergency department is being converted into a bright, new maternity entrance, while vacated space inside the hospital’s older Jefferson Tower wing will be used to house support services, administrative offices and other clinical activities. Construction is also underway for an extended-stay Marriott Courtyard hotel that will connect to the hospital and parking deck.

UAB Health System
Chief Architect
Jim Garland (pictured) orchestrated the planning, design and construction of the new facility, working with hospital medical, administrative and planning staff as well as numerous consultants. Garland follows in the footsteps of his father, who supervised construction of UAB’s Jefferson Tower in 1939-40.
Visitors and patients of the new University Emergency Department will discover a 38,000-square-foot space that is roughly the size of a football field, and nearly three times larger than UAB’s previous emergency room, making patient care and management hugely more efficient.

The University Emergency Department sees over 50,000 patients each year, making it Alabama’s busiest emergency room. University Hospital is also Alabama’s only adult Level 1 trauma center, as designated by the American College of Surgeons. The hospital’s new Emergency Department features three large trauma procedure rooms, each equipped to handle multiple patients.

Because communication is vital in the University Emergency Department, key personnel there wear miniature wireless communicators. An employee’s exact location is transmitted from the communicator to a central computer, and at this computer, an immediate voice link can be established with any other person wearing the device.

Increased space, advanced technology, more efficient triage procedures, and greater patient tracking will allow the new University Emergency Department to dramatically increase its patient load. But the effect goes beyond numbers. “The bottom line is that now we will be able to offer even better care.” Thomas E. Terndrup, M.D., Chair, UAB Department of Emergency Medicine (pictured).
The new University Emergency Department features:

- 38,000 square feet of space
- 45 individual private treatment rooms
- Private spaces for family counseling
- Three large trauma procedure rooms
- On-site radiology unit with two high-speed CT scanners
- Bedside ultrasonography
- On-site stat laboratory for faster results
- Four dedicated triage rooms
- Police substation for heightened security
- Dedicated decontamination areas

The hospital's rooftop helipad features turbo-charged elevators, capable of reaching the downstairs emergency department in a mere 14 seconds. These oversized elevators are specially designed to accommodate the life-support equipment that typically accompanies critically injured patients, allowing emergency personnel to begin treatment without wasting precious minutes.
healing patients, welcoming visitors

Considering the hospital’s goal of providing the most advanced medical care amid an atmosphere of comfort and healing, special attention was given to the design of public spaces. Large windows flood the hospital’s spacious, three-story-high grand atrium with natural light. An escalator connects the first floor to the second level, where ample seating is available. With more than 900 seats located throughout, the hospital has tripled its capacity for seating families and visitors.

On the fifth floor of the new University Hospital is the lush Healing Garden, filled with plants, peaceful fountains, and seasonal displays of colorful flowers. This restful spot is designed to provide a stress-relieving haven for patients, families and employees—a place to share a quiet conversation, meditate or release the day’s tension.

The Healing Garden
Congratulations to UAB on the Grand Opening of North Pavilion.

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Patient rooms offer the latest advancements in efficiency, comfort, and convenience. In addition to being large and private, each room has a wireless call system so patients can communicate directly and immediately with their assigned nurse. Rooms are also equipped with bedside computers that allow clinicians quick and easy access to patient data. Service columns or medical headwalls are available at each patient bed containing electrical equipment, increasing room safety and reducing clutter. Rooms also are equipped with sleeper sofas, so visitors can spend the night in comfort.

In designing the rooms, UAB consulted studies showing that hospital décor increases patients’ satisfaction and recovery. In the new patient rooms, soothing, non-institutional wall colors, custom-built furniture and specially selected artwork help create a homelike ambiance.

Healing Garden visitors will notice a unique walkway paved in commemorative four-by-eight-inch bricks. These bricks are engraved with up to three lines of text (up to 18 characters per line) and pay a lasting tribute to a colleague, mentor, loved one or friend. They may commemorate a birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement or other significant event. Any guest of the garden who wishes to honor a special person or occasion may do so through a $75 gift to University Hospital. For more information, contact Andy Wallace at (205) 934-6350 or via e-mail at mawallace@uabmc.edu, or download an order form at www.health.uab.edu/garden.

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UAB North Pavilion, Birmingham, Alabama

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One of the catalysts behind construction of the hospital was the need for larger operating rooms that could accommodate new and future technology, such as robotics and minimally invasive surgical techniques. The new hospital has 37 operating rooms that are approximately 25 percent larger than previous facilities. A typical OR has increased in size from 450 square feet to 625 square feet—ample space for all the equipment a surgeon needs.

Among the impressive array of equipment is what’s called the Surgical Information Management System (SIMS), which includes two cameras (one films the room in general, the other zooms in on the current procedure), a DVD player and burner, a six-disc CD player, and four flat panel screens that allow doctors to view patient vital signs, charts, digital images from previous tests, and more. Technology in the surgery suites also allows surgeons to consult with other physicians outside the OR without “breaking scrub” and leaving the room.

Another detail of note is a sophisticated air handling system in the operating rooms, which involves a very high exchange of air in order to significantly reduce the risk of infection.

Small anterooms separate the operating rooms, ready to accommodate future equipment advancements, and a central “clean corridor” runs the length of the surgical suites permitting centralized supplies at all times.
The new University Hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art digital and wireless technology which greatly enhances patient care. A telemetry wireless monitoring system allows medical staff to continuously monitor patients as they are transported to various areas throughout the hospital. In the pharmacy, the hospital’s new automated drug dispensing system provides increased efficiency in the delivery of medications to patients and enhances communication between pharmacists, physicians and nurses, patients and families. Such technological advancements further elevate the level of care patients receive at University Hospital, the first and only hospital in Alabama to be recognized as a nursing “center for excellence” by the American Nurses Association. UAB is one of only three hospitals in the southeast to have earned the Magnet certification.

Hospital operating suites feature voice-activated video technology, allowing consulting physicians to view and advise on surgical procedures without being physically present in the operating room. With the touch of a finger surgeons can adjust lighting and scopes or reposition the operating table.
5th Floor: Cardiovascular Surgery & Intensive Care

Located on the fifth floor are the hospital’s Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit and eight cardiovascular operating rooms. The CiCU has 20 patient beds. There are also 10 general operating rooms located on this floor.

Of note, a record 14 UAB programs were recently ranked in U.S. News & World Report’s annual “America’s Best Hospitals” issue. One of the leading UAB programs listed was heart and heart surgery, which ranked 13th among the nation’s top hospitals. Not only has UAB been ranked in the magazine for 13 consecutive years, it is the only hospital in Alabama included on the listing.

6th Floor: Radiology Services—Consolidation Brings Efficiency

Located on the sixth floor are the hospital’s radiology services, which were previously spread out in seven different locations throughout the hospital. This consolidation is more efficient for staff and improves patient privacy, since patients are no longer transported through public walkways. Future plans for the hospital’s sixth floor also call for a vascular center.

8th Floor: Neurology & Neurosurgery

The hospital’s eighth floor is home to a Neurology Intensive Care Unit, which cares for patients with strokes and brain injuries (UAB is a Comprehensive Head Injury Center). The neurology surgical unit has 28 beds. UAB’s neurology and neurosurgery programs were recently ranked among “America’s Best” by U.S. News & World Report.
9th Floor: Orthopedics & Trauma/Burn Unit

UAB Orthopedics, named among “America’s Best” by U.S. News & World Report, has a total of 40 beds in the new hospital, with 20 of them located on the 9th floor. Orthopedic surgeon, Jorge Alonso, M.D. (pictured) was recently named on The Best Doctors in America’s 2004 listing. Numerous UAB Health System physicians in a variety of specialties were included on this prestigious list. For more information visit www.bestdoctors.com.

Cancer Care at UAB

Long distinguished as a leader, the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center is recognized as one of the nation’s top cancer research and treatment facilities by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which has given it the elite “comprehensive” designation. The Cancer Center’s new offices are located on the 2nd level of the new hospital.

The UAB Cancer Center consistently ranks among the top cancer centers in the country. U.S. News & World Report recently included UAB’s cancer services among America’s best. A recent edition of The Best Doctors in America includes many of its cancer specialists.
Parking:
A large, 1200-vehicle parking deck is connected directly to the building by a second-floor bridge. The new University Hospital parking deck is located at the corner of 18th Street and 4th Avenue South, with valet service available on the second level, adjacent to the Hospital Sky Lobby.

Walkways Concourse:
Visitors and patients will appreciate the convenience of University Hospital’s clearly marked second-level walkways concourse system. All of the buildings are connected by a system of interior walkways and covered crosswalks, located on the second floor of each building.

Take a Tour:
Tour the new University Hospital right from your home computer! Visit www.health.uab.edu/hospitaltour for a virtual tour highlighting key areas of the new facility, including the University Emergency Department; the state-of-the-art operating rooms; the intensive care unit; and the Healing Garden. The tour consists of audio, video and text information.