

UMC Hires New Chief Nursing Officer

University Medical Center of El Paso has a new “top nurse” as it recently announced the hiring of Amyra (Amy) Daher as its new Chief Nursing Officer. Amy most recently was the Assistant Chief Nursing Officer to UMC’s interim Chief Nursing Officer Roxanne Weisendanger, who will become the new Chief Nursing Officer at El Paso Children’s Hospital.

“I am excited that Amy has accepted this position and is willing to continue and expand her leadership and experience at UMC,” said Jacob Cintron, President & CEO. “This is a time of great need in our community and region as we navigate our current world health challenge. Amy has already shown her ability to lead our nursing team and multiple departments with finesse, well-reasoned decision making and seemingly unending dedication to our hospital and community. Welcome to our leadership team, Amy!”



Amyra Daher, RN, MSN

Amy received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Texas at El Paso. Amy replaces Roxanne Weisendanger, who will be the new Chief Nursing Officer at El Paso Children’s Hospital.

Amy takes on her new role while UMC continues to lead El Paso in healthcare technology and higher-level care designations.

UMC will miss Roxanne Weisendanger and her leadership as interim Chief Nursing Officer. While in that role, Roxanne’s initiatives and improvements in safety led to UMC’s Level IV Maternal Care designations, UMC’s Level 1 Comprehensive Stroke designation, and most recently, UMC’s receipt of a



Grade A for Patient Care and Safety from LeapFrog, a national hospital ratings system. “It’s hard to see Roxanne leave,” said Jacob, “but it’s comforting that she will be only footsteps away at El Paso Children’s Hospital. I know she and Amy will continue to support each other.”

“I am so happy for both Amy and Roxanne as they take on ever increasing roles of responsibility and leadership in healthcare,” added Jacob. “Amy will be charged with leading and implementing programs and initiatives that affect thousands of El Pasoans who depend on us for an exceptionally high level of care. I am quite certain she is up to the task and responsibility.”

Roxanne Weisendanger, RN, MSN

Both Chief Nursing Officers are widely respected and known at both hospitals and familiar with the necessity for continued hospital partnership and collaboration. “I am so excited about this new opportunity,” said Amy. “We have such a great team, experienced professionals and leaders who make our hospital much more successful. Roxanne has always been a mentor to me and I know she is a short walk or a phone call away, whenever we need each other. Our leadership team and Jacob have been extremely supportive and it is my hope that I can return that support and continue our progress as El Paso’s most advanced hospital.”

UMC also announces that Eric Johansen, Assistant Administrator, Emergency Services, will serve as the interim Assistant Chief Nursing Officer until the permanent position is announced. Eric has 6 years’ experience throughout UMC and oversees all nursing staff and technicians in the UMC Emergency Department, which includes the UMC’s Scherr Legate Level 1 Trauma Center. He also manages UMC’s new Emergency Departments in northeast and east El Paso. Both new departments opened in February 2020. He also has extensive experience working with telemetry, cardiac step-down and other departments.



Eric Johansen, RN, MSN

UMC Becomes Only Hospital In El Paso To Adopt Whole Blood

Here’s the scenario: You’ve been in an accident. You need blood. Until recently, every hospital in El Paso would give you blood that is the result of multiple donations of up to 13 people – for one bag of blood. UMC is now the only hospital in El Paso to readopt the use of whole blood.

During war-time medical care and more common 40 years ago, physicians would transfer blood from one donor to one patient. Recent studies show that patients heal faster when blood is used the “old” way. It is also less expensive to administer whole blood.

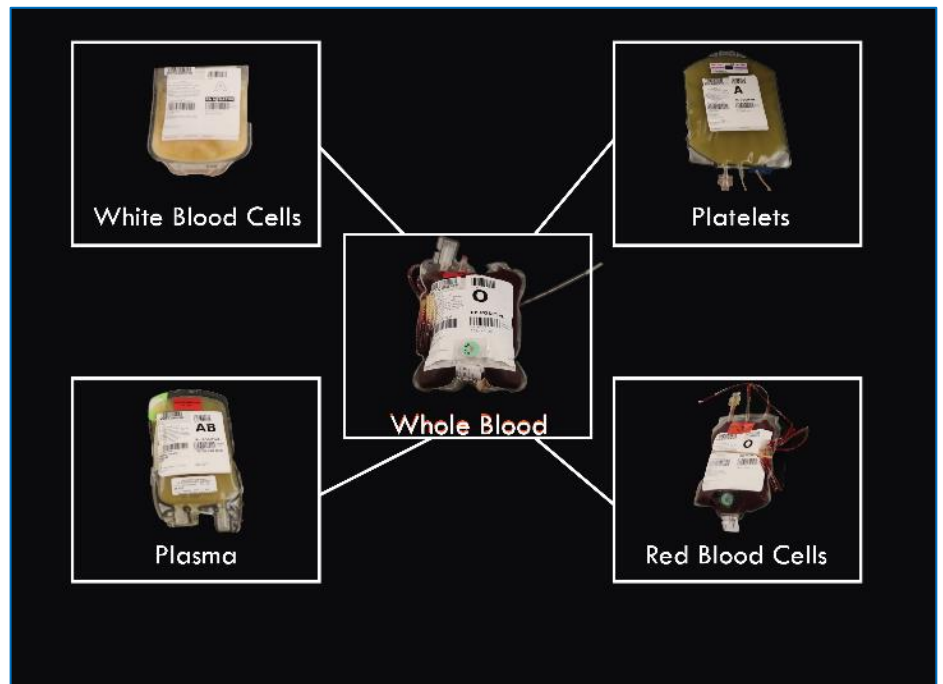
Blood that has been, for lack of a better term, reassembled, does not result in the fastest healing, according to Bradford Ray, Patient Blood Management Director.

“This has been standard practice for the military since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Ray. “The military literature is replete with the benefits of using this product. They have had greater survival rates of injured soldiers and locals.”

All components of our circulating blood (Plasma, Platelets, Cryoprecipitate and Red Cells) will be in that one unit. The blood is fresh, (less than seven days old) is not frozen and readily available to transfusion.

The used of whole blood is limited to type O positive, a universal blood type.

“To start, we will be receiving one unit of whole blood and then increase to three units per week over a short time,” he added. “Since the blood type is O positive, women of child bearing age (18-59) will not be receiving this product for the time being. We have the potential to treat 50-75 patient with whole blood per year. The benefits are the blood is fresh, it is never frozen and each unit comes from just one person.” (Currently, cryo comes from up to 10 different



people, red cells from one person, FFP from one person, and platelets, from one person. For one round of blood products, you could potentially be getting blood from 13 people.)

The use of whole blood will also reduce wait time for blood; blood is fresh and able to oxygenate the small vascular spaces, e.g. brain, liver, small vessels of the heart.

UMC Celebrates the 40th Annual Associate Service Awards



With a different approach to honor our Associates for their years of service as well as the positive impacts they had on our hospital for the last year, a virtual award ceremony was created. Similar to prior awards, the recognition of Emerging Leaders and Impact Awards were still given. Associates are

able to see the full length video on the UMC intranet or on UMC's social media pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/umcofelpaso/>

<https://www.instagram.com/umcelpaso/>