UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay

The Campaign for
UCSF Medical Center
“Together we can build a hospital that by design promotes healing while translating 21st century science into innovative, personalized health care for women”

-Nancy Milliken, MD
Women: Center Stage at Every Stage

The UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay will provide outstanding care for women at every stage of life — from puberty to menopause and beyond. This new state-of-the-art facility, led by our Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, will be part of a larger hospital complex: UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay. Women will have the unprecedented benefit of UCSF’s world-renowned pioneering research and innovative treatment in a setting integrated with one of the nation’s premier children’s hospitals as well as a world-class cancer hospital.

Women experiencing normal or high-risk pregnancies will benefit from expert obstetricians collaborating with leading neonatologists skilled in the care of the most vulnerable newborns. Women with cancer will have access to cancer specialists who understand their unique needs. An adolescent facing pelvic surgery will have the support of both pediatric and gynecologic services. Women with breast and gynecological cancers will be offered the best in new diagnostic tests and treatments that allow care to be customized to their individual biology and personal preferences. The latest technologies for minimally invasive treatment and surgeries will enable women with chronic pelvic disorders, ranging from uterine fibroids to incontinence, to return as soon and as fully as possible to their lives.

A Special Excellence

The UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay is an ambitious, exciting and logical next step for the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health. UCSF has long recognized the need for focus, compassion, research and innovation in women’s health care. Dedication to this mission resulted in our designation in 1996, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as one of the vanguard National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health.

Now, as we move into our second decade as a National Center of Excellence, we have a very exciting opportunity just ahead of us. We have the chance to incorporate our expertise, our in-depth understanding of the health and health care needs of women, our experience, our unique model and our passion into the creation of a brand new facility designed to provide women with a lifetime of reproductive health.
The warm, women-centered, healing environment of UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay will be a critical component of the overall care and experience provided. This environment is being built upon the legacy of a visionary visual artist, Ann Chamberlain, who recognized that a sterile traditional hospital setting is not the best place for a woman to experience healing. Finding an innovative partner in her compassionate breast surgeon, Laura Esserman, they together created a unique, welcoming and comforting space within the building that houses the National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health at UCSF’s Mount Zion campus. Adjacent to a beautiful and tranquil garden, an inspirational wall of handmade tiles illuminates the voices and experiences of patients, health care providers and caregivers.

“Trust yourself. As you listen to yourself, the path to healing and options appear.”
– Wisdom from a patient story tile

The UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay is taking this healing environment to heart, bringing it to life from every patient vantage point. Design that features expansive two-story atriums, intimate meditation spaces, patient rooms that maximize the use of natural light, soft color schemes, exceptional exhibits of artwork, welcoming family spaces, and views of gardens from every bedside, all reflect our understanding of the importance of warmth and beauty in a hospital setting. This healing environment will extend beyond the individual patient herself, and provide versatile spaces to meet the diverse needs of family and caregivers. Additionally, because companionship and support are essential to healing, every patient room is designed to allow a patient’s loved one to spend the day or night comfortably.

“Making work that goes in public space is an interesting process for me because I know that the work...has a life of its own beyond me....”
– Ann Chamberlain, 1951-2008

Above: Wall of story tiles handcrafted by patients, their families and health care providers at the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health. Below: Director of UCSF Breast Care Center Laura Esserman, MD, MBA, speaks with Janet Hunter, a patient and the volunteer chair of The Friends of the Breast Care Center.
We are keenly aware of the delicate and important balance between health – especially women’s health – and the environment. Scientific evidence suggests that increased exposure to chemicals in our everyday environment may be playing a significant role in women’s reproductive health. More women are reporting difficulty conceiving and maintaining their pregnancies. Rates of endometriosis and other reproductive tract abnormalities have increased, as has the incidence of breast cancer. Male reproductive health has also been negatively affected. There are increasing rates of testicular and prostate cancer as well as significant declines in sperm counts in industrialized regions. Additionally, more babies are born prematurely and we are seeing earlier onset of puberty in young girls.

To further explore and understand these trends, we established the UCSF Program for Reproductive Health and the Environment (PRHE) in 2007. Poised at the intersection of science, medicine, policy and community, PRHE works to advance scientific inquiry, professional training, community education and health policies that reduce the impact of environmental contaminants on reproductive and developmental health. PRHE is the first national program of its type.

And, we are designing UCSF’s Mission Bay hospitals to be responsive and responsible to our community and to our future. We are pursuing every opportunity to build a “green” hospital, reflecting our commitment to use the healthiest building materials, conserve energy, minimize our carbon footprint and contribute to the sustainability of resources. Our goal is to obtain gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), to create a sustainable environment that is healthy for all who enter – patients, staff and visitors, and for our surrounding community and the larger world.

Above: Patients at UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay will benefit from rooftop and street-level gardens. Below: Graphic depicts how UCSF Medical Center is seeking every opportunity to build a “green” hospital.

Attention to Eco-Healthy Detail

“At UCSF we are pioneering the research on reproductive health and the environment. With Mission Bay, we can begin to pioneer the solutions as well.” – Linda Giudice, MD, PhD, MSc, chair, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
Always Searching, Always Innovating

The care at the new UCSF Women's Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay will be based upon the groundbreaking research and understanding of women's health, which are the hallmarks of UCSF. Building on these advances, clinicians and researchers will continue to share insights and ideas, and translate their findings into new models of healing, prevention and treatment. And as a teaching facility, UCSF Women's Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay will further the training of the next generation of leaders in women's health – and ultimately advance the health of women locally, nationally and worldwide.

Created the first in-vitro fertilization program in the Bay Area.

Advanced the treatment of male infertility by successfully adapting for human use the technique of injecting a single sperm into an egg.

Revolutionized the field of prenatal diagnosis, proving the safety and accuracy of tests now routinely used to screen for birth defects.

Performed the nation’s first open surgery on a fetus while still in the womb.

Founded one of the vanguard birth centers in the nation.

Launched www.breastcancertrials.org, the first website designed to help breast cancer patients find clinical trials for which they may be eligible.

Pioneered an adaptive trial design to accelerate the translation of research into the clinical care of breast cancer patients.

Tested effectiveness of administering a single dose of radiation in the operating room versus a five- to six-week regimen of whole breast radiation.

Developed a new class of targeted chemotherapy drugs (immunoliposomes), designed to reduce toxicity and increase effectiveness.

Awarded the first NIH Specialized Center of Research in Female Incontinence.

Established the nation’s first family planning fellowship, producing leaders in research, clinical care and public policy impacting the reproductive rights and health of women.

Initiated and hosted first international Summit on Environmental Challenges to Reproductive Health and Fertility.
Conceiving a New Reality

Women from all walks of life, in all stages of life, have come to UCSF and have received exceptional health care and achieved exceptional outcomes. What if we could take all of the positive aspects of what we can do today with our multidisciplinary teams and add to that the benefits of a brand new state-of-the-art facility, expansive operating rooms with integrated imaging and robotics equipment, and a truly patient-centered focus, in a warm, healthy healing environment? Imagine you knew that you were in the only hospital in Northern California designed specifically to treat women’s reproductive health issues.

Imagine: You find a lump in your breast and immediately can undergo new diagnostic tests that allow you to know right then and there whether you have a relatively benign tumor requiring little or no treatment or a more dangerous cancer requiring more aggressive therapies. And then imagine at the same time you can receive a tailored treatment plan, thereby reducing the current 10 days of uncertainty to one visit.

Imagine: Because of a serious pregnancy complication, you must be transferred to UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay; here you receive treatment from an expert team skilled in advanced adult and fetal medicine, and you are cared for in a warm environment with a private healing roof garden just outside your window.

Imagine: Your teenage daughter is diagnosed with a rare pelvic cancer and she can have surgery and follow-up care in a facility designed to bring together experts in gynecologic cancers, adolescent development and fertility preservation.

Imagine: Learning there is a place where you can carry a pregnancy safely and successfully, despite your own serious heart condition; where a comprehensive team of specialists will provide innovative and proven cardiac care.

Imagine: Your sister’s GYN surgery is guided more precisely by new imaging technologies built right into the operating room and can be less invasive by using the most sophisticated robotics equipment, all this enabling her to return to the life she enjoys more quickly.

Imagine: You can bring your favorite images to the hospital and display them on a wall-sized flat panel screen in your room. And imagine if that screen could transform into your MRI image for a discussion with your doctor, a movie screen for a visit with your child, an Internet browser or a Facebook page to stay connected.

Imagine with us the new UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay.
Join Us

The realization of this new state-of-the-art UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay requires the support of philanthropic visionaries with the bold foresight to imagine a world free of the devastating diseases and conditions that have eluded us for centuries.

UCSF would be privileged to partner with you in making this dream a reality. To learn more about how you can help bring the new UCSF Women’s Specialty Hospital at Mission Bay to life, please contact The Campaign for UCSF Medical Center, 415-476-5640 or missionbayhospitals@support.ucsf.edu. You may also contact Katherine Tick, Director of Development, National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, 415-353-9899 or ktick@support.ucsf.edu.

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