LETTERS FROM THE
PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I started as CEO at Craig eight years ago, we had a problem. Our patients were in double or triple rooms, our HVAC system barely worked, and the campus hardly matched our exceptional care.

In June 2012, the board voted to take the courageous step to move forward with a major campaign for capital improvements to Craig. I’m pleased to announce that in September we completed our construction project. We now have a new building and new infrastructure, giving us more space for our patients. We completed the project on time and $500,000 under budget. This was made possible because of your generous support.

Before the capital campaign and expansion project, we raised around $3 million a year in charitable support. The campaign got us out in the community to tell our story to a broader audience. We told you the stories of our patients’ bravery, their strength and their challenges. And you responded.

As we look to the future, we know that these stories of courage will continue to unite us, inspire us and push us forward as we work to empower lives.

For our patients,

Mike Fordyce
President and CEO, Craig Hospital

Last year when we successfully finished our capital campaign and turned our attention to raising money for a number of important programs at Craig, we wondered what level of assistance we would get as we shifted our fundraising focus away from bricks and mortar to other needs of the hospital. Your response was overwhelming. Because of YOUR dedication, the Craig Hospital Foundation not only met, but exceeded our fundraising goals for fiscal year 2016.

We distributed more than $18 million to finish the building project and fund hospital programs and research. In addition, nearly $11 million of assistance was provided directly to our patients to help address their emergency financial and personal needs. Within these pages you will meet some of the patients who have benefited from the assistance YOU provided.

Because of YOU, our patients are able to recover in a state-of-the-art environment, benefit from cutting-edge programs, and focus on the hard work of rehab knowing that their personal and medical needs are met. Because of YOU, our patient outcomes continue to be remarkable.

I am so thankful for YOU — the members of the Craig family — for your unwavering support. Together, we are doing amazing things for our courageous patients.

Gratefully,

Mary Konrad Feller
Executive Director, Craig Hospital Foundation
YEAR IN REVIEW

DON DIGBY, CEO OF NAVAJO EXPRESS

Nov. 12: Don Digby, founder and CEO of Navajo Express, and his wife, Lydia, make a $1 million donation to the Redefining ROI: The Campaign for Craig Hospital, for the capital project that will fund Craig’s expansion and renovation and for Craig’s Patient Assistance Funds. The gift challenges others to help complete the campaign.

Dec. 9: Nearly 300 generous donors give $71,595 on Colorado Gives Day.

Jan. 21: The Craig Foundation officially announces the successful completion of Redefining ROI: The Campaign for Craig Hospital. The campaign surpasses its $68 million goal, raising more than $73 million to support Craig’s expansion project, innovative programs and Patient Assistance Funds.

April 4: Operation TBI Freedom, a Colorado Springs-based nonprofit that works with Colorado veterans and service members with traumatic brain injury, becomes Craig Hospital’s newest sponsored program.

April 30: More than 1,300 people attend Craig Hospital’s biggest fundraising event of the year, the annual PUSH dinner. The gala event raises a record-breaking $1.8 million to support Craig Hospital’s programs, research and patients. The 2016 Inspiration Award was given to Mike Utley, the Detroit Lions’ offensive guard who was paralyzed during an NFL game. South Metro Fire Fleet Services Bureau Chief Brian Brown and his wife, Alice, accepted the 2016 Dave and Gail Linger Spirit of Craig Award.

MIKE UTLEY RECEIVES 2016 INSPIRATION AWARD

PUSH SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor: Great-West Financial/Empower Retirement
Video Sponsor: Alex L. Brewer Family Foundation
Platinum Sponsors: AT&T, Daniels Fund, GE Johnson, Dave and Gail Linger, Ellen Scott
Gold Sponsors: Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh & Jardine, P.C., Delta Dental, First Bank, Mike and Terri Fandaca, John and Martine Gur, Pacini, P.C., Jim and Ceci Roddy, Art Seiden, Hugh Rice and Mary Schaeffer, Mary and George Sidel, Mr. and Mrs. Al Troppmann, Value Financial Advisers, Inc.
Silver Sponsors: Don and Linda Childs, DaVita HealthCare Partners, The Denver Broncos and the NFL, Richard and Maureen Graff, JKMorgan Chase, Kauting Wagner Polidon Free, Kindred Healthcare, Lockton Companies, Suzan and Gary Schlatter, Elaine Strauss, Ambassador Marilyn Ware, Wells Fargo

CEO MIKE FORDYCE AND COMPANY

May 20: Belair, a leader in the construction and site work industry, hosts its annual charity Sporting Clays shooting event that raises $44,200 for Craig Hospital’s Therapeutic Recreation department.

June 17: Craig hosts the 2nd Annual Pedal 4 Possible charity bike ride through Boulder County. The 330 riders raised more than $163,000 for Craig programs and patients.

Aug. 2: U.S. News & World Report announces that Craig Hospital has been ranked a top 10 rehabilitation hospital in the U.S. for the 27th consecutive year.

August 17: Nearly 100 golfers participated in the 19th Annual Craig Hospital/RE/MAX, LLC Invitational Golf Tournament at the Sanctuary golf course in Sedalia, Colorado.

Sept. 2: A team of pickleball enthusiasts and the Apex Park and Recreation District host the 2nd Annual Pickleball for Heroes tournament, benefiting Operation TBI Freedom. The tournament raised $70,007.

Sept. 17: The Craig Foundation hosts a ribbon-cutting celebration event for donors and other stakeholders to mark the completion of a $90 million, three-year construction and expansion project to its campus.


Sept. 26: AT&T raises $12,566 at their Swing Away for Craig Hospital Charity Golf Event.

PICKLEBALL FOR HEROES TOURNAMENT

MIKE UTLEY RECEIVES 2016 INSPIRATION AWARD

REDFINING ROI: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CRAIG HOSPITAL

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PICKLEBALL FOR HEROES TOURNAMENT
CRAIG CUTS THE RIBBON ON $90 MILLION EXPANDED CAMPUS

The Craig campus added approximately 85,000 square feet of new space, renovated 135,000 square feet of existing space in its West building, and connected the West and East buildings to create a unified campus with a cul-de-sac main entrance and an accessible garden plaza area.

“We are so grateful to the thousands of donors who made this campaign possible, and I especially want to recognize Dave and Gail Liniger, who contributed $14 million, and the Anschutz Foundation for its $5 million gift,” said Mary Feller, executive director of the Craig Hospital Foundation. “The Linigers have been longtime supporters of Craig, and their incredible generosity transformed the campaign; and the Anschutz Foundation’s gift provided the leverage needed to inspire others to contribute.”

On Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016, Craig Hospital hosted a ribbon-cutting celebration event for donors and other stakeholders to mark the completion of a $90 million, three-year construction and expansion project to its campus.

“Our expansion gives new life to the Craig campus and showcases our innovative spirit, our dedicated physicians and staff, and our excellent programs and services,” said Mike Fordyce, president and CEO of Craig. “All of this combined further advances our world-class care, where patients, their families and staff all work together to help patients achieve their greatest level of independence and life quality.”

The Craig Hospital Foundation’s Redefining ROI: The Campaign for Craig Hospital raised more than $73 million for Craig. Of that amount, $50 million supported the expansion project (the hospital funded an additional $40 million of the project through cash reserves and the sale of bonds), and $23 million supported Craig’s innovative programs for its patients, including Therapeutic Recreation, Music Therapy, Community Reintegration, the School Program and the Nurse Advice Line — which are vital to a patient’s success but not covered by insurance companies. Campaign donors also supported the Patient Assistance Funds, which help patients and their families purchase adaptive equipment, remodel homes for accessibility, train caregivers, pay mortgages and meet other urgent non-medical needs.
At the event, Craig also introduced a new brand identity, including a logo, which Fordyce explained is a powerful representation of Craig’s culture, values and history, and emphasizes the process of patients, families and staff coming together with unyielding determination to empower lives.

### Craig’s West Building: Then and Now

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Then-1971</th>
<th>Now-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ribbon-cutting Ceremony</td>
<td>February 24, 1971</td>
<td>September 17, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Patient Beds</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$9,027 in 1971</td>
<td>$57,827 in 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Population</td>
<td>207.7 million in 1971</td>
<td>324.1 million in 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Monthly Rent</td>
<td>$160 in 1971</td>
<td>$474 in 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Cost of a Car</td>
<td>$3,742 in 1971</td>
<td>$25,449 in 2016</td>
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### Sources of Support, Fiscal Year 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2013</th>
<th>FY 2012</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$1,541,411</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$1,558,802</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>$1,558,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni Family</td>
<td>$267,223</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>$293,302</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$307,302</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$2,780,600</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>$2,024,911</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$1,979,014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations &amp; Trusts</td>
<td>$1,558,802</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>$1,558,802</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>$1,558,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$293,302</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$293,302</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$293,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Organizations</td>
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<td>2%</td>
<td>$2,024,911</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$2,024,911</td>
</tr>
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### Total Contributions

**FY 2016**

$10,181,532

### Usage of Funds, Fiscal Year 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2013</th>
<th>FY 2012</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patient Assistance</td>
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<td>$1,125,509</td>
<td>$1,085,603</td>
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<td>$533,608</td>
<td>$533,608</td>
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### Total Usage of Funds

$19,287,772
Catastrophic brain and spinal cord injuries are not only physically and psychologically overwhelming, for many Craig patients they are also financially devastating. Expenses associated with the injuries, often combined with temporary or permanent loss of income on the part of the patient and/or family members who become caregivers, can push families underwater financially.

The Patient Assistance Funds provide a safety net for patients and families whose financial means (including insurance) are inadequate to meet the financial burdens associated with catastrophic injury. These funds help patients remodel homes for accessibility, train caregivers, make travel arrangements, access interpretation services, receive needed medical or dental care, and meet transitional financial emergencies. Within this category, Project EQL (Equipment for Quality Life) provides durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, lifts and shower chairs. Patient Assistance Funds also provide educational, PEAK Center and Therapeutic Recreation scholarships to current and former patients.

Patients who received support from the Patient Assistance Funds in FY 2016: 650

Amount of Patient Assistance awarded to patients in FY 2016: $1.1 million

Payments from the Patient Assistance Funds in FY 2016: 1,200
PATIENT ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT

ERIC BUSH

Eric Bush was on the way home from a job when his work truck was hit by a 75-year-old distracted driver who ran through a red light at 65 miles per hour.

Bush, the owner of Klear Pools, a small Colorado business that installs, remodels and maintains pools, sustained a traumatic brain injury, a broken neck and a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed from his chest down. His assistant was also badly injured in the crash.

When he was injured, he was told there was little-to-no hope that he would ever walk again.

“At first I couldn’t move anything, and I couldn’t understand why this was happening to me,” he says.

Defying predictions, he was soon able to wiggle a toe, and was up and out of bed working hard in speech, occupational and physical therapy sessions.

As he progressed through therapy at Craig and his awareness continued to return, he became extremely worried about paying his bills. He and his wife, Jill, a stay-at-home mom, had burned through their savings account paying medical expenses and keeping the business afloat while Bush was not able to work.

“I was really freaked out about how we were going to pay our mortgage,” he says. “Suddenly 10 years’ worth of savings was gone because of something that was not my fault.”

Bush’s clinical care manager turned to the Foundation’s Patient Assistance Funds for help for the family. Donor assistance covered two months of mortgage payments and power and water bills for their home in Erie.

“It was such a weight off,” Bush says. “It took me away from my money worries and put my mind back on therapy.”

Bush was able to focus on his recovery and learn new cognitive skills that would help him return to work. Just one month following his discharge, he was fully back to business, regaining the clients that he lost during his initial recovery.

He is grateful for the donors who helped his family during their time of crisis.

“As before, I always thought that I had to do things on my own, and I hated asking for help,” he says. “But now I know that there are people out there who are willing to give that little push — and it’s OK to accept the help.”

“Twice we have had close friends who have had the healing touch of Craig. Each time I have been amazed at the care and support the patients and their families have received from Craig’s devoted staff. I give because I want this great care to always continue.” — Al & Fran Tropmann
In Colorado alone, more than 7,200 veterans have returned from conflict with traumatic brain injuries since 2000. For those with this serious yet often invisible injury, the transition to civilian life can be especially difficult. When these conditions are untreated, a host of problems can occur, including substance abuse and other unhealthy behaviors, suicide, physical health problems, lower workplace productivity and employment rates, marital and parenting difficulties, and homelessness. While a variety of public and nonprofit services are available to veterans with TBI, navigating the complex web of programs and systems is daunting.

Operation TBI Freedom (OTF), a Colorado Springs-based program that joined the Craig family in April 2016, helps veterans and their families optimize benefits and access needed services. OTF also provides direct services not available elsewhere to address crisis situations and position veterans for long-term success.

Each OTF client is assigned a case manager who works with the veteran to resolve any immediate crises and develop a personalized plan to advance his or her self-sufficiency and reintegration into civilian life over the longer term. These plans aim to ensure that veterans receive treatment for physical and mental health issues, receive assistance with job placement, are equipped for long-term financial stability, and develop healthy relationships with family members, friends and community members.

After veterans formally complete the program, they remain part of the OTF family. OTF’s alumni program provides ongoing access to educational opportunities, employment/volunteer assistance and recreational/therapeutic activities.
After medically retiring from the U.S. Army in November 2013, Spang moved to Colorado Springs, where the challenges that he thought he had conquered while at Fort Sam Houston became much more apparent. His TBI had made it hard for him to get out of bed and push himself. He dealt with severe headaches, depression, anxiety and constant nerve pain.

Spang asked for help and began meeting with his Operation TBI Freedom case manager. “I didn’t really know what to expect, but what I found was a family,” Spang says. “Operation TBI Freedom has provided me the support I so badly needed.”

His case manager provided guidance, helped him navigate complex benefit systems, and connected him with a variety of resources and recreational opportunities with other veterans. “I know they really will be there, no matter what, and I can count on them for help,” he says. “I believe that is what a family is supposed to do, and OTF is my family.”

PHOTO CREDIT: MARVIN LYNCHARD, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

“With a deep sense of gratitude and admiration for the awe-inspiring work done at Craig Hospital each and every day! The Therapeutic Recreation Program in particular removes limitations and introduces new ways for the patients to experience and enjoy a seemingly unlimited number of activities, whether it’s the patient’s first encounter, or their life-long passion. We have seen first-hand how restorative and uplifting that can be!” - The Corley Legacy Foundation
Craig’s mission is to provide exceptional patient and family-centered care for those affected by spinal cord injuries (SCI) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) throughout their lifetimes, striving with them for optimal health, independence and life quality. To achieve this mission, Craig goes well beyond the therapy and medical care covered by insurance to provide a range of programs that make the future of rehabilitation available to our patients today. To prepare patients and families for independence, we bring the real world to Craig and take Craig to the real world. As a result, Craig patients achieve world-class outcomes on measures such as lifetime costs for medical care, rehospitalization, return to school and work, and the amount of attendant care required.

Culture of Care Programs are at the heart of Craig’s unique approach to rehabilitation as a foundation for lifelong success. They include:
Leisure-time activities shape our identities, give life fullness, and promote physical and mental health. Through recreational activity, the Therapeutic Recreation Program at Craig promotes overall fitness and well-being, with the goal of improving, maintaining or restoring physical strength, cognition and mobility for someone with a nervous system injury.

T-Rec specialists first learn about each patient’s recreational interests and goals. Then they work with individual patients and groups of patients to identify potential recreational resources and craft offerings that advance patients’ skill development and successful reintegration. As patients relearn their favorite activities, they also learn how to adapt equipment to meet new physical or cognitive needs. T-Rec activities incorporate key therapeutic elements acquired from other disciplines (such as sip-and-puff technology) and tailor equipment adaptations to meet individual needs. As Craig patients and their families take up these pursuits, they re-engage in life.

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Lee credits the program for giving him the confidence he needed to thrive after he was discharged. “After your injury, if you try to do these things on your own, it feels strange,” he says. “But when you go with a group of people who are in a similar situation, it makes it much more comfortable — it’s almost like training for life outside the hospital.”

Lee grew up camping and fishing with his family, so he was excited to attend a Therapeutic Recreation Adventure Program camping and rafting trip near Cotopaxi, Colorado, during the summer of 2016. His dad attended with him. “I think that my injury was more difficult on my family than it was for me because they didn’t know what I was going through” he says. “It was very important for me to not just get out there to go camping, but for my dad to see I was comfortable and independent enough to not need assistance.”

Lee has gone on to make multiple cross-country trips, and he’s now volunteering as a peer mentor to guide other new patients through the Craig experience. “Being at the hospital and having people take care of you is great, but the real challenge is getting back to doing what you love and the things you want to do,” says Lee. “Therapeutic Recreation helps you do that — there’s nothing like it.”
**COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION**

A patient’s return to work offers enhanced financial security as well as deeper community connections and life satisfaction. Craig’s Community Reintegration specialists apply their deep and specialized expertise to assess patients’ capacity to return to work or school, educate patients about available resources, and provide coaching and the adaptive technology patients need to be successful and confident.

Whenever possible, the program strives to reintegrate patients back into their former work environment. When patients cannot return to a job or were previously unemployed, the CR team helps patients explore their interests and pursue educational opportunities.

Many insurance policies do not cover vocational therapy as a “medical necessity.” As a result, these sources of funding cover less than half of Community Reintegration Program costs. Generous donors who recognize the long-term benefits of the CR program in the lives of Craig patients and our communities close the gap.

“We rely on this personal service more than any other single resource for support in so many of the unusual and very complex situations that arise on this SCI journey. The service model is of the highest caliber — there is absolutely no equivalent at this level of consistent excellence, response time and expertise out there. Your service to the SCI community is critical and unparalleled.”

-Nurse Advice Line Survey Respondent

**COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION CLIENT:**

MARTHA PERANTONI

Martha Perantoni experienced a stroke, which deprived her brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients. Following a long inpatient stay at an acute care hospital, she was discharged to home. In order to make more strides with her recovery, she came to Craig’s Outpatient Therapy Program and began working with the Community Reintegration Program. Perantoni and her counselor, Kelly Lombardi, worked together with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to get her back to work.

“I wanted to do something that would help me in my recovery, get me out of the house and allow me to contribute in a positive way,” she says.

Perantoni is now the sales and booking manager for the Phamaly Theater Company, which produces plays and musicals year-round throughout the Denver metro region, cast entirely of performers with disabilities across the spectrum.

She says that being back to work has been a constant learning process, as she has had to recognize her cognitive challenges. “If I get tired I have a hard time coming up with words, but I recognize and can work through that,” she says. “It’s really joyful to come to work with such a caring community of co-workers — it gives me hope in my recovery.”

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**NURSE ADVICE LINE**

"Staying healthy is work for anyone; for people living with a spinal cord or brain injury, the task is even more challenging. For this population, minor health concerns can signal or lead to serious health issues. Treating these symptoms early and appropriately reduces hospitalizations and other complications.

The award-winning Nurse Advice Line at Craig is the only phone-based care and education resource in the nation that provides specialized health care information to people living with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries, their family members, and their health care providers. Specially trained Craig Hospital nurses answer nonemergent calls to the Nurse Advice Line Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. MT. Nurses are licensed in all 50 states.

The Nurse Advice Line is a free service and open to all, and is sustained by the commitment of Craig Hospital and the support of generous community partners.

Percentage of callers from rural areas 43

6,502 Inbound and outbound calls handled by the Nurse Advice Line in FY 2016

Percentage of callers from outside Colorado 62
SCHOOL PROGRAM

Craig Hospital cares for a growing number of adolescents and young adults. The School Program empowers young patients to continue their high school studies at Craig.

While participating in individual rehab therapies, students work closely with Craig’s credentialed teacher, who identifies meaningful assignments and then supports the students through one-on-one instruction with appropriate accommodations and modifications. Students sometimes join their classmates and teacher back home during class using Facetime or Skype.

Prior to discharge, students and families work with the Craig teacher to create a school transition plan in order to make the return to school as seamless as possible.

Craig students learn much more than academics through the School Program. They learn how to identify and leverage their strengths, access formal and informal learning opportunities in innovative ways, and advocate for themselves. These skills contribute to their future well-being and success as much as the school credit they earn during their stay at Craig.

MUSIC THERAPY

Craig’s Music Therapy Program uses the neuroscience of music to help individuals with spinal cord and brain injuries make clinical strides in areas ranging from breath control to regulation of attention and gait patterns.

Ongoing scientific research shows that music is processed on both sides of the brain and in a different way than some other mediums, such as speech. This unique processing can create opportunities for some exciting and unique results. Neurologic music therapy is appropriate for individuals with and without musical experience. Craig’s music therapist creates successful and challenging applications that meet a person’s unique needs.

Neurologic music therapy is typically not covered by private insurance; if it is, reimbursement is extremely limited. Consequently, Craig Hospital relies on a variety of funding sources to ensure this vital program continues.

Patients who participated in the School Program in FY 2016: 44

Former patients served by the School Program during the past seven years who have graduated from high school or earned a GED: 116

Music Therapy sessions completed by Craig inpatients & outpatients between 12-4-15 & 11-29-16: 658

Music Therapy sessions that took place in conjunction with other therapy providers: 187
PEAK CENTER AT CRAIG

Implemented in 2011 as a pilot program with funding from several foundations and individuals, the PEAK (Performance, Exercise, Attitude and Knowledge) Wellness Center at Craig is an adaptive health and wellness center serving individuals from across the country with neurological disorders such as spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease to optimize their recovery and create a lifelong plan for their health and wellness.

The PEAK Center offers highly trained staff and a motivating environment, and incorporates both research-based practices and cutting-edge technology in each client’s customized plan.

The PEAK Center at Craig Hospital offers a wide variety of services to meet each client’s unique needs, including a general wellness membership, activity-based personal training, functional electrical stimulation bikes, aquatic therapy, group classes and adaptive yoga.

PATIENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Patients and families need new knowledge, skills and confidence to move forward in life following a catastrophic injury. While education is woven informally throughout all therapies, the Patient and Family Education Program teaches patients and family members about the physical, psychological and social aspects of the injury.

Classes teach patients about medical and personal care including skin, bowel and bladder management; medication routines; financial management; and common social challenges. In 2016, the program added adolescent-specific education courses, updated the spinal cord injury handbook, translated additional educational materials into Spanish and added a peer education assistant.

Hours of personal training completed by PEAK Center clients in FY 2016 31,947

PEAK Center gym members and personal training clients in FY 2016 1,561

Amount of PEAK Center Scholarships provided by Foundation donors in FY 2016 $28,286

Patients who participated in Education programs in FY 2016 268

Education sessions in FY 2016 926
Craig’s Rehabilitation Engineering department is managed by two full-time engineers and a handful of dedicated volunteers who work in conjunction with all clinical departments and physicians to design, develop, modify, and apply rehabilitative and assistive technology, providing customized solutions to meet patient needs. The department works daily to troubleshoot and address problems related to wheelchairs and mobility, provide customized workplace and adaptive driving modifications, and adapt a variety of assistive technology options for personal, therapeutic and recreational uses.

In addition to regular modifications, in 2016 the engineers worked on a computerized fishing rod and a computer-controlled hunting device, and began adapting virtual reality systems to allow a more involved experience for quadriplegic patients.

ENGINEER DAVE BIRKLE SHOWS OFF A CUSTOM FISHING POLE

The possibilities are endless, and each equipment modification incorporates evaluation, design and training to meet the unique needs of each person. This can include the engineering and redevelopment of appropriate “off the shelf” systems, modification of commercial approaches, or the design and development of purely custom systems.

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Craig’s Research Department searches for even more effective medical interventions and restorative solutions for those living with spinal cord and brain injuries.

With a staff of 22, the department oversees an annual budget of $3.6 million in federal, state, foundation and industry-sponsored grants. In addition, funds raised from the annual PUSH dinner and other fundraising efforts support basic and clinical research.

Many of the research funds donated to the Craig Hospital Foundation underwrite staff-generated clinical research pilot studies. The goal: building a culture of research to advance discoveries that inform treatment methods and ensure Craig continues to provide the most cutting-edge care to our patients and families.

Among the many current or recently completed pilot studies funded by the Foundation are:

• An examination of health-related quality of life in patients with spinal cord injury utilizing Mitrofanoff catheterization.

• An evaluation of the effect of altruistic volunteer activity on well-being after spinal cord injury.

• A look at the incidence, clinical characteristics, complications and outcomes of patients diagnosed with post-traumatic hydrocephalus following acquired brain injury.

• An observational case series measuring the impact of ankle/foot orthoses for persons with acquired brain injury or spinal cord injury and spasticity.

• An investigation on the effect of rhythmic auditory stimulation on gait in traumatic brain injury.

Over the years, studies at Craig have helped shape new and more effective drug-, cellular-, surgical- and rehabilitation-based treatments.
Craig’s research focus has traditionally been clinical and translational, with an emphasis on approaches that inform treatments for patients, sometimes referred to as “bench to bedside.” In 2016, Craig welcomed a new medical director of research, Dr. Leslie Morse, whose expertise complements this strength with a focus on neurodegenerative research at the cellular and molecular levels.

Dr. Morse brings to Craig two research projects that are building knowledge and pushing boundaries in the field of neuroregenerative rehabilitation, specifically the treatment of osteoporosis in the spinal cord injury population. Immobilization after SCI is associated with bone loss that leads to an increased likelihood of fractures in people with SCI.

Dr. Morse is conducting a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine the osteogenic benefits of statins (a common cholesterol medication) in acute SCI. The trial’s hypothesis is that an one-year course of simvastatin will prevent bone loss in the first year following SCI, as well as promote neurological recovery or reduce neuropathic pain following acute SCI.

The second study — a randomized, controlled clinical trial — explores the skeletal benefits of exoskeleton-assisted ambulation. The trial’s hypothesis is that reintroduction of ambulation will improve quality of life due to associated pain reduction and improvements in mood and functional connectivity of emotional networks in the brain. The study will also determine whether exoskeleton-assisted gait training increases bone strength in the paralyzed lower extremity.

A newly constructed laboratory at Craig and a donor-funded bone density scanner will assist in this work. Dr. Morse and her team are also developing a new research focus in stem cell therapy for motor recovery after spinal cord injury using dental pulp found in teeth. In the future, Dr. Morse hopes to move to clinical trials to determine the safety and feasibility of developing this as a treatment for neurological injury.
Every year, Craig invests millions of dollars in state-of-the-art equipment that advances our patients’ health, independence and life quality. With the completion of our capital expansion, a number of programs are growing and need medical or therapy equipment to accommodate the increased number of patients served. The Foundation relies on donor support to pay for equipment such as new Computers on Wheels (COWS) for the Assistive Technology Lab; outpatient physical therapy equipment, from mats to bikes to gaiting systems that use functional electrical stimulation technology; equipment to build upper arm strength; and instruments for Craig’s specialty clinics.

Number of patient lifts purchased in FY 2016
20

Cost of procedure suite instruments and electrosurgical units purchased in FY 2015-16
$77,816

Cost of Neurovision Therapy Training System for the Outpatient Clinic
$19,490
BRITTANY WALKING IN AN INDEGO

Gifts received in 2016 from the Jay and Rose Phillips Foundation and the Monfort Family Foundation, as well as a generous early-2017 gift from the Galena Monfort Family Foundation, enabled the recent purchase of an Indego exoskeleton device.

Indego is a powered orthosis, sometimes referred to as an exoskeleton, worn around the waist and legs that allows individuals with spinal cord injuries to stand and walk.

BRITTANY SHANEY

PEAK Center personal training client Brittany Shaney, who sustained a complete spinal cord injury in a March 2016 car accident, uses the Indego with her physical therapist, Natalie Talasum. The exoskeleton helps her develop her returning core muscles and control her muscle spasticity. According to Natalie, the Indego can help Brittany develop balance and core strength while getting the benefits of a full, dynamic cardiovascular workout.

Candy Tefertiller, director of Physical Therapy, is excited to have added the Indego exoskeleton to the services provided in the PEAK Center. “It allows us to provide our members access to the latest advancements in exoskeleton technology, as the system is modular and around one-half the weight of other exoskeletons currently on the market,” she says. “It also offers an upgraded variable assistance mode, providing the ability to individualize the amount of assistance the device provides to each client.”

Brittany enjoys the opportunity to be up and moving in the Indego. “It’s the only device that’s allowed me that sense of freedom again,” she says.

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