Why Should You Care About Hennepin Healthcare:
"Exceptional Care Without Exception"

Each day, more than 2500 people pass through the doors of Hennepin Healthcare. If you stand near the entrance to our new Clinic and Specialty Center downtown, or any of our neighborhood clinics, you will see people from every race and nationality coming to us to seek life-enhancing and life-saving care.

These individuals and their families come to Hennepin Healthcare because we are known for providing expert medical care from some of the best-trained providers in the five-state area. We care for all people, regardless of their ability to pay. We connect patients with needed social supports, including transportation, food, and temporary housing. This is part of our mission of partnering with our community to provide "exceptional care without exception."

Our care is exceptional, in part, because Hennepin Healthcare values and understands the importance of research. We've learned that remaining engaged in updating and refining the practice of medicine through research is an important way to serve our community. To that end, our researchers come to work ready to design and implement new programs that will improve outcomes for all people.

For example, we are participating in national research on the best ways to perform CPR (cardiac pulmonary resuscitation). Recent studies are showing that the traditional methods of treating sudden cardiac arrest may not be the best way to help patients recover with normal brain function intact. We, along with other researchers, are testing a promising new method called "Upright CPR" that could not only preserve lives but also improve blood flow to and from the brain. As a result, patients who receive this kind of CPR may not only survive but have a better quality of life.

Some of our most important research focuses on understanding genetic differences in drug metabolism between racial groups. Using artificial cell lines in our laboratories, we can determine optimum absorption of drugs used to reduce rejection of transplanted organs, thus expanding opportunities for health and healing.

Rather than avoid such studies, Hennepin Healthcare embraces them. More than 60 percent of our patients are patients of color, and we are well aware that over the centuries, people of color have either been excluded from or abused by medical research. Our research today is highly inclusive and motivated by a desire to learn from the mistakes of the past and to do better going forward

We have always cared deeply about mothers, babies and families at Hennepin Healthcare. The Redleaf Center for Family Healing conducts studies on, and provides treatment for, post-partum depression and anxiety. In addition, as part of our Community Needs Assessment, we've recently interviewed over 200 mothers from communities of color. They told us that Hennepin Healthcare needs to be more culturally responsive to African American, American Indian, Latinex, Hmong and other women. We are profoundly grateful for their feedback and, as a result of their input, major changes are underway in our Birth Center.

If you know someone who is a victim of cardiac arrest, who needs an organ transplant, is pregnant or has children, these practical research studies are being conducted on their behalf.

One more thing: we are also reaching out to more researchers of color, so that our institutional perspective won't be so – dare we say it? – white. If we're going to serve the whole community, we need to be more equitable in our hiring so that our workforce looks more like the people we serve. In the future, we're confident that Hennepin Healthcare's research efforts will begin with community input around design, be shaped by the minds and hands of more people of color and, ultimately benefit everyone.

This is why you should care – because you are the reason we exist as a healthcare organization. Without your participation, we can't fulfill our mission. And Hennepin Healthcare's mission is all about partnering with you to provide "exceptional care without exception."