

UC Patient Care WATCH

February 2008 - Alert #3
www.UCPatientCareWatch.org

When will UC Irvine make patient care a top priority?

A 2006 report about UC Irvine Medical Center's scandal-plagued liver transplant program, "... repeatedly cited an alarming lack of accountability among several medical school and hospital executives."¹ UC patient care workers are confronted with this lack of accountability every day in their efforts to provide quality patient care.

"... an alarming lack of accountability among several medical school and hospital executives."¹

- LA Times, 2/17/06, "UCI Medical Center Tried Too Much"

Wages for essential healthcare workers at UCI Medical Center are so far behind what other area hospitals pay, recruitment, retention and staffing of these critical workers has become a challenge.²

UC patient care workers want to focus on providing quality patient care. **It is time for UC Irvine to prioritize its patients and its employees by keeping experienced full-time caregivers and stop getting distracted by scandals like these:**

- **March 2007** – The UCI Radiation Oncology Department was put on "probation" by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education for deficiencies in its residency training program.³
- **November 2005** – The UCI Liver transplant Program closed after losing Medicare funding and a Los Angeles Times report that "32 patients died awaiting operations, even as the hospital ... turned down scores of organs proffered on their behalf."⁴
- **1999** – UCI medical school "fired the director of its cadaver program for selling body parts."⁵
- **May 1995** – UCI "...doctors implanted the eggs of some women into other patients without the women's permission."⁶

"UCI Medical Center's ambitions have far outpaced its ability to successfully care for its patients..."¹

- LA Times, 2/17/06, "UCI Medical Center Tried Too Much"

NEXT WEEK: ...How UC performs compared to other hospitals on several internet report cards...

Brought to you by the 11,000 UC Patient Care Technical Employees at UC's Medical Centers represented by AFSCME Local 3299. AFSCME is currently in contract negotiations with UC. We are fighting for wages, benefits and working conditions which would close the gap with other medical centers. Please support us!

1-888-856-3299 X121 www.UCPatientCareWatch.org ucpatientcarewatch@gmail.com

No request to cease services or stop deliveries.

Footnotes: 1 - LA Times, UCI Medical Center 'Tried too Much', 2/17/06. 2 - www.ucpatientcarewatch.org—See Alerts #1 and #2. 3 - Orange County Register, A UCI Medical Center department on probation, 3/21/07. 4 - LA Times, UC settles liver transplant suits for \$7.5 million, 7/26/07. 5 - LA Times, UC Board Settles Suit Over Cadaver Program, 12/6/05. 6 - LA Times, UCI Medical School will be Target of Probe, 1/5/00.

