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DAWN DIETRICH/DN

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA Medical Center opened the new Lied Transplant Center on Thursday afternoon. UNMC, through its new transplant center, is one of three hospitals in the nation to use cooperative care in the healing process. The Lied Center also has four floors which will be used for research.**

## UNMC transplant center opens

BY DAWN DIETRICH  
 Staff writer

Thursday's opening of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Lied Transplant Center marked a landmark in transplant research, university officials said Thursday.

As a major transplant research center, the Lied will study transplant possibilities with pig organs.

In treatment, the center will use a new trend for patients - cooperative care - that includes family and friends in their recovery.

Because of this avant-garde approach to research and care, UNMC spokeswoman J. Lindsay Willis said, the Lied Center would become world-renowned for the services it provides.

"The world is going to look at the Lied Center," Willis said.

Another area of research that will be looked at is Xenotransplantation research. This research uses human white blood cells and injects them into pig fetuses. This helps to build an immune system in the animal that will decrease the human body's rejection of pig organs.

Willis said this research is still in the early stages and has to be tested on a series of animals and approved by the Food and Drug Administration before the transplant could be tested on humans.

Medical students in all fields will benefit from the transplant center, Willis said.

A key feature of the new transplant center is the new approach to patient

care, Willis said. She said the "cooperative care" technique would aid in transplant recovery.

Cooperative care brings a patient's family and friends into the healing process.

The patient picks a friend or family member who is trained by the nurses to be a caregiver. The caregivers are expected to be with the patient 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the hotel-like suites throughout the center.

Having a friend or a family member close and involved in the healing process helps to put the patient at ease, Willis said.

Willis said she thought this program was beneficial for nursing students because they teach the caregivers how to administer medicine and care for the patient.

The new building was designed for the cooperative care program. The 44 cooperative care suites are designed like hotel rooms and have doors with glass in them so the caregiver can take a break and still be able to watch the patient.

Along with the 44 cooperative care suites, the Lied Center also has 44 guest suites, called the Nebraska House, which are used by patients and families for visits before and after transplants, and four floors for research.

The center also has an animal research area that is on the first floor of the building. The transplant center works with human organs, bone marrow and tissues.

All of this innovative technology doesn't come cheap. With a \$61.3 million price tag, the Lied Center is the sin-

gle most expensive construction project the University of Nebraska has ever embarked upon.

The money for the center was gathered from both private and public sources. No state tax dollars were used in the construction of the building, a press release said.

Some of the donations came from the Lied Foundation Trust, the Cowdery family, one member of which was diagnosed with cancer and received care at UNMC, and the Olson family, which helped support the Biomedical Research Laboratories in the transplant center. Willis said the research floors, which will add needed space, will be run by medical and graduate students working on transplant and cancer research.

The Eppley Cancer Center was running out of space for cancer research. Certain areas of research, such as prostate cancer, were then added to the research floors and designed for that type of research, Willis said.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, former bone marrow transplant patient David Aresty of New Jersey spoke of his decision to come to UNMC for treatment.

He talked about the cooperative care that treated him in 1989. Aresty said the staff also helped him and his family get through the tough time.

"It's more than just a chemical treatment," Aresty said.

Dr. Byers Shaw Jr. concluded the ceremonies by saying, "the multifunctional building brings to Nebraska a state-of-the-art transplant and cancer facility."

## Draft of diversity plan debated

BY KIM SWEET  
 Staff writer

Forums held during the last three days and correspondence gathered during the past two months have been productive in identifying the goals of a diversity plan, one of the plan's drafters said Thursday.

But suggestions for the plan, which is now only a working draft, have run short on the action side, said Linda Crump, director of affirmative action and diversity programs and member of the Gender/Equity resource group.

Comments about the working draft of the plan were voiced this week during forums directed at student, faculty and staff members.

The goal of the forums was to get suggestions and input on initiatives that would achieve the goals of the plan.

But many of the concerns voiced over e-mail and during the forums lacked a way to solve them, Crump said.

"What we don't have for every concern that is out there are real ways to address them," Crump said.

One of the most prevalent concerns

raised during the forum for students and faculty members was the lack of an all-encompassing definition of diversity.

Without a definition of diversity, the goals of the plan remain vague, said Jill Matlock, a junior English major.

Evelyn Jacobson, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and a member of the Diversity/Gender equity team, agreed a definition was necessary.

"It should help us to clarify goals of different parts of the plan," said Jacobson, who helped draft the plan.

Students at Thursday's meeting said one of the most urgent topics action needed to be taken on was the perceived climate for gays and lesbians on campus and the lack of a section in the plan to deal with it.

The plan does not mention homosexuals, specifically, but instead focuses on race and gender issues.

Suggestions came forth to provide funding for the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Resource Center as well as creating a chancellor's committee for gay and lesbian students.

The lack of attention the draft gave to welcoming gays and lesbians was also brought up in the faculty forum.

George Wolf, associate professor of English, also said the current draft leaves out a number of minorities that aren't identified by race or gender, such as gays and lesbians.

"We resent this is called a diversity plan," Wolf said. "It is an attempt to retain racial minorities."

A suggestion that came forward from the faculty forum was creating a mission statement for every department promoting diversity.

One is in place in the sociology department, said Thomas Calhoun, associate professor of sociology.

"It's such that each of us become ambassadors to achieving (the diversity) goal," he said.

The Gender/Equity resource group will take the suggestions it has received and work to include them in the plan, Crump said.

While the drafters of the plan received many comments about what goals should be accomplished with the plan, the question of how they should be achieved still remains, Crump said.

"There is a philosophical side to the diversity plan, but there needs to be an action side too," she said.