



Building  
the future.

Build today and prepare for a stronger tomorrow. Transform your business into tomorrow's system of care.

[www.deloitte.com/us/healthsciences](http://www.deloitte.com/us/healthsciences)

View more

**Deloitte.**

## Crain's Health Pulse

Friday, February 22, 2013

Reproduction, forwarding or reuse in any form is prohibited.

Reprints and permission, contact Lauren Melesio at 212-210-0707.

### LICH Fans Celebrate TRO

A Kings County Supreme Court judge's temporary restraining order preventing SUNY from taking any further steps to close Long Island College Hospital has unions optimistic they will prevail. "We're finding lots of support, not just from the other unions but from people at Interfaith Hospital and SUNY Downstate," said Jill Furillo, executive director of the New York State Nurses Association. "They are realizing we are all in this together." The group most recently heard from lawyers for nonprofit groups defending the environment and the public interest, looking for other possible legal remedies. Ms. Furillo said that the topics discussed included mounting legal challenges to putting condos or other structures on the LICH site. The Feb. 20 restraining order requires SUNY to cease any communication on the LICH closing with the state Department of Health pending a March 7 court hearing. At issue is whether the SUNY trustees violated the state's open-meetings law by voting in executive session Feb. 7 to close LICH. NYSNA, 1199 SEIU and a LICH doctors group brought the charges.

### Tech Transfer Gets \$3.7M Boost

Three New York City research institutions are sharing a \$3.74 million National Science Foundation grant aimed at getting discoveries to the marketplace more quickly. Saying it wants to fast-track research and turn advances in science into "economically viable products and startup ventures," the NSF announced yesterday it is awarding the funds to the City University of New York, Columbia University and New York University. The universities will become part of an entity known as the NSF I-Corps' New York City Regional Innovation Node, or NYCRIN. Two other university consortiums got similar grants, one in the San Francisco Bay Area, and a third in the Washington, D.C., region, for a national total of \$11.3 million in NSF awards. The NSF hailed New York City's "rapidly growing startup ecosystem" as a reason for selection. The principal investigator in the NYCRIN venture is Gillian Small, CUNY vice chancellor for research.

### More 'Stores' for UnitedHealthcare

UnitedHealthcare's venture in operating walk-in health benefits facilities across the U.S. has been a success, a company spokeswoman said. The insurer today will officially open its latest "benefits store," where people can learn about insurance, at 168 Centre St., in Manhattan's Chinatown. The 11,000-square-foot facility is the company's 20th in the U.S. and will replace a smaller, older facility that opened in Chinatown in 1994. United also has a walk-in center for Medicaid members in Hempstead, L.I. The new center is modeled after a full-benefits facility, UnitedHealthcare Asian Plaza in Flushing, Queens, which has had 3,200 visits a month since it opened in late 2011.

### EmblemHealth creates mega-practice

Expanding on a successful trial program aimed at improving care given by doctors in solo practice or small groups (Pulse, Sept. 14, 2012), EmblemHealth is expanding that model to large groups.

To do that, Emblem has created its own 400-member medical group, one it said is among the largest in the New York metropolitan area. Known as AdvantageCare Physicians, a new corporation that Emblem plans to announce on Feb. 25, the practice consists of four existing medical groups, all with doctors in Emblem's network.

The doctors will own the practice, but Emblem's chief medical officer, Dr. William Gillespie, will serve as its president and CEO. The medical groups are Manhattan's Physician Group, Preferred Health Partners in Brooklyn, Queens-Long Island Medical Group, and Staten Island Physician Practice.

In the 18-month trial program, Emblem paid physicians who agreed to meet certain metrics, follow set treatment protocols, and invest in electronic medical records an extra \$2.50 per patient per month over its usual fee-for-service, and another \$2.50 per

patient per month for showing that care was improving. The expanded program is based on that pay-for-performance model. However, "we already have longstanding relations with these doctors and already pay them per patient to encourage them to become patient-centered medical homes," said Dr. Gillespie.

But a major first step will be redesigning each practice's software so that electronic medical records are compatible across the new group. "Our greatest hope is that we will improve patient care, in response to a mountain of evidence that organized care coordination is a big win for everyone," Dr. Gillespie said.

#### **At A Glance**

**SYMPOSIUM:** HANYS is holding a special joint session of its health information technology strategy group and statewide steering committee on quality initiatives. The topic is devising electronic measures of clinical quality. Postponed from Feb. 8, the event will be held April 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the The Academy of Medicine's conference center at 1216 Fifth Ave. For information or to register, [click here](#).

---

Entire contents ©2013 Crain Communications Inc.

---