

EXPANSION PROVIDES SPACE FOR PREMATURE BABIES, CANCER PATIENTS, DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING NEEDS

UW Medical Center is scheduled to break ground in 2009 on the first phase of a two-part construction project designed to give the hospital much needed space for patient care. The expansion, scheduled to open in 2012, will adjoin the hospital on the south side spanning Columbia Road.

“This expansion is critical to ensure that UWMC can continue to meet our region’s demand for high quality, leading-edge health care and continue to serve our region in the future,” said Helen Shawcroft, senior associate administrator. “We are excited for the opportunity to offer our patients the best possible care in fresh, new spaces that were developed with their comfort and care in mind.”

Phase 1 of the project will provide a new, larger neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) that will allow UWMC to care for more of the region’s smallest and sickest newborns. In addition, Phase 1 allows for a 32-bed adult acute care unit that offers more space for patients with cancer, no matter how rare or common the diagnoses might be.

All patient rooms (which will be private) will either face the southwest with views of Lake Washington or north with views of a new multi-story courtyard containing bamboo groves, flagstone paths, river cobblestones and copper basin water features. Family waiting areas on each floor will face east, overlooking an evergreen glade.

The expansion also will give UWMC more space for diagnostic imaging, including additional MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machines, CT (computed tomography) scanners and new interventional radiology rooms. Construction also will allow for space for eight future operating rooms to ensure the medical center will continue to meet the needs of the region for years to come.

The five-story addition will have 163,000 square feet of space. The project is expected to cost \$170 million, financed by patient revenue.

Phase 2 of the project will add up to four additional inpatient acute care floors. A timeline has not yet been established for this part of the project.

