

Three astounding stories of medical breakthroughs taking place right here on the main streets of the Bay Cities.

Medical Marvels on Main Street

By Alison Fiebig

A Baby's Bones

By six months old, a baby has learned how to sit up; rock, roll and pivot while on its stomach, to its back, and around again; discovered the function of fingers and toes; and has more than doubled its birth weight.

When Hailee Kin was six months old, her mom, Shannon, noticed her baby's development had slowed. At her two-month checkup, Shannon and her husband Brian learned Hailee weighed only 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

"At that time, she wouldn't do anything when you'd put her on her tummy and she couldn't lift her head," Shannon recalls. She also noticed Hailee was breathing harder and had a fading appetite.

In August 2008, Hailee was taken to Marshfield Clinic, WI, where she was diagnosed with infantile hypophosphatasia, an often crippling, inherited bone disorder that results from low levels of an enzyme called alkaline phosphatase (ALP).

The condition weakens and softens bones,

resulting in the skeletal abnormalities of rickets.

The most severe forms of the disorder often occur before birth and in early infancy.

In its infantile form, babies like Hailee appear normal at birth but develop serious symptoms in the first six months.

And Hailee's symptoms were straight from the book – failure to thrive, respiratory compromise, soft skull bones and delayed motor milestones.

"Some people who have this disease, their body does start working and they can get better,"

Shannon explains. "We were told to go home, have a check-up and X-rays done every month to watch for improvements."

With no sure treatments or cures, Shannon did everything she could to learn more about the disease. After hearing back from Dr. Michael Whyte, who Shannon calls the "big guy" in St. Louis (a doctor at Shiners Hospital with a career long interest in hypophosphatasia), he informed and urged the Kins to enter Hailee in a clinical trial.

Originally from Greenland, Michigan, and with family in Green Bay, the Kins decided to enroll Hailee in the drug trial at St. Vincent Hospital.

She was admitted on November 25, 2008, where Dr. Terrence Edgar, a pediatric neurologist, one of the few doctors in the U.S. qualified to conduct the drug trial, monitored her.

On December 3, she received her first Enzyme Replacement Therapy (ERT) injection, part of the clinical trial provided by a Canadian biotech drug company, Enobia Pharma Inc.

The firm focuses on developing novel therapeutics for serious bone disorders.

Hailee endured injections three times a week, but never broke any bones or experienced harmful side effects.

Twenty-one days later, she underwent her first X-ray since starting on the drug, and on Christmas Day (her seven-month birthday), they learned that her bones were reacting positively.

"Throughout everything, her heart and head were untouched by everything," Brian says.

Today, Hailee is back home in Michigan and still receiving the study drug three times a week.

"The drug has saved her life," says Shannon. "Without it, she wouldn't have survived this. There aren't a lot of people out there with this disease, so for [Enobia] to pursue it is truly a blessing."

And as for Hailee's PICU crew, Dr. Edgar and the team of specialists at St. Vincent, the Kins assert that they're "the best people in the world."

"If Hailee could talk, I don't think she would ever quit talking!" adds Shannon. "But I think she would say thank you to everyone for taking care of her, to the drug company in finding a treatment for her awful disease and tell the nurses and doctors at St. Vincent that she didn't like (all) the pokes or IVs but that she appreciates it because without them, she wouldn't be here."

A Single Man, a Double Bypass and a Triple Valve Operation

For one cardiothoracic surgeon, it was the route to recovery that was crucial to saving one man's life.

When Dr. Alexander Roitstein first met the aforementioned patient (who chose not to be named) in May 2009, he had suffered broken ribs and a hip fracture after a fall from great height. When he arrived at the hospital, it was also discovered he was having a heart attack.

"When he came in that way, we had to resuscitate him," explains Dr. Roitstein, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Aurora BayCare. "The strength of [the patient's] heart's contraction was a quarter to a third of what it is normally."

Dr. Roitstein also learned that the patient, who is in his sixties, suffered from coronary artery disease and had profoundly low thyroid function. He acted quickly to treat the thyroid disorder with medication.


A bypass surgery was necessary. However, open-heart surgery is not recommended for patients with a broken pelvis because a patient has to be able to get up and move around post-operation.

As Dr. Roitstein puts it: "The mechanics of making him ambulate had to be fixed first."


With the unveiling of such health issues, the focus of the patient's recovery was revised; recuperation was the first step to seeking improvements, and that meant an upswing in heart function.

First, an intra-aortic balloon pump was inserted in order to relieve the

Providing you the best care.



David A. Toivonen, MD
Jon J. Cherney, MD
Boyd C. Lumsden, MD



Scott P. Olvey, MD
Joseph P. Cullen, MD



**Hand and Upper Extremity Center
of Northeast Wisconsin, Ltd.**

Joining our practice in 2010 . . . Nathan L. VanZeeland, MD

920.730.8833 or 888.383.3039
2323 North Casaloma Drive, Appleton
Satellite Offices: 2300 Western Avenue, Manitowoc • 3117 Shore Drive, Marinette

www.newhands.md

St. Brendan's Inn

St. Brendan's Inn, located in downtown Green Bay, offers lodging, accommodations, authentic Irish food, drink and music – all in an elegant, yet comfortable setting. We look forward to your visit!

234 S. Washington St., Green Bay 920.884.8484
www.saintbrendansinn.com

Celestial Holiday Programs



'tis The Season

Start a Brand New Family Holiday Tradition!

BARLOW PLANETARIUM
1478 Midway Road, Menasha
www.barlowplanetarium.com (920) 832-2848