

Trauma/Burn Center

Each year, the trauma center at University of California, Irvine Medical Center provides lifesaving treatment for nearly 2,500 people.

Suffering from injuries incurred in motor vehicle accidents, industrial and recreational mishaps, assaults, fires and other incidents, these patients arrive by paramedic transport or emergency helicopter, sometimes just minutes from death.

The new University Hospital will enhance the trauma team's work. "Trauma patients enter through the emergency room, but trauma care encompasses the entire hospital," says **Dr. Michael Lekawa**, director of trauma services. University Hospital has an ultramodern radiology department and enhanced operating rooms—the first stops for trauma patients who require immediate diagnosis and surgery. The building is designed to benefit patients and facilitate the work of the entire staff, including the trauma team. "As the only Level I trauma center in Orange County, we provide care for the most seriously injured patients in the region," says Lekawa.



The Level I verification—the highest distinction awarded by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma—means that UC Irvine Medical Center fulfills the nation's highest standards in trauma care for both adults and children. This requires a constant state of readiness,

with in-house surgeons available round the clock, immediately accessible operating rooms, staffed CT scanners, trauma-trained nurses and technicians, surgical critical care personnel, 24/7 blood bank operation and a multidisciplinary team of available neurosurgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, burn surgeons and others.

Burn Center. The UC Irvine Regional Burn Center is an important component of this effort. With its move to the new University Hospital, this leading-edge center expands from six to eight beds. The unit's

private rooms are large enough to treat patients without moving them to a different location—a blessing during the first days of recovery. There's also a large hydrotherapy room equipped with the newest technology to promote healing. "We focus not only on survival, but also on decreasing pain, promoting healing and having patients get on with their lives," says UC Irvine Regional Burn Center Medical Director **Dr. Marianne Cinat**. One of the first burn centers in the nation, and one of only 54 in the nation verified by the American College of Surgeons, the burn center is widely recognized for the development of BioBrane, a synthetic skin that revolutionized burn-care procedures.

"Trauma treatment often rescues people from the brink," says Lekawa. "The new University Hospital will help us succeed by providing a state-of-the-art setting in which to treat patients and teach future trauma specialists."



SAVING KIMMIE

After Kimberly "Kimmie" Harris fell from a four-story balcony, she was rushed to a Santa Ana hospital. When her parents first saw her, the 14-year-old was breathing through a ventilator, her face a mass of broken bones. Kimmie's father and mother—a doctor and registered nurse, respectively—insisted that their daughter be transferred to UC Irvine Medical Center. Upon her arrival at the hospital, Kimmie was met by a team of physicians and nurses who stabilized her. Then a UC Irvine facial plastic surgeon successfully performed 12 hours of reconstructive facial surgery. Says Kimmie: "I think of those doctors as my saviors."