

Current Projects

For more information,
please visit

www.patientcentereddesign.org

Research Fund

The Institute for Patient-Centered Design, Inc. seeks to partner with academic research projects that inform the patient-centered design process. Full or partial sponsors of research projects will be acknowledged in the Institute's published research report.

Patient Toolkits

As a courtesy to patients who participate in research studies and surveys, we offer complimentary tools. Kits may include promotional items, such as pens, notebooks or journals for recording patient history/experience, bags for packing personal items for a hospital stay, water bottles, etc. If your organization is interested in providing helpful items that may be offered to patients, or a monetary donation to purchase such items, please visit <http://www.patientcentereddesign.org/sponsorship.html>



Patient-Centered Design Online™

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Health Facility Design:

A Career for Some, A Calling for Others

Did you know that pregnant women restricted to bed rest are advised of certain sleeping positions? Did you know that cancer patients receiving infusion treatment often feel cold due to the temperature of the fluid? Did you know that new mothers may express more breast milk when looking at their babies than they would isolated in a lactation room? These are all snapshots of information that may influence design decisions. A designer well aware of the recommended sleeping positions for antepartum patients could create environments that provide ergonomically pleasing accommodations for patients in these positions. Designers provide temperature control options, blanket storage, and other solutions for infusion patients because they know that they often experience chilly conditions. Medical planners aware of the physiological responses of lactating mothers to sensory stimulators are careful to consider the adjacency of lactation spaces to other areas that engage the senses and promote breastfeeding.

This is the type of knowledge that differentiates patient-centered design professionals from other architects, planners and interior designers who happen to be working on healthcare projects. The field of health facility design has so much to offer to designers. This building typology is unlike any other. A hospital is the place where life often begins and ends. It serves as an oasis of a community, where people go for healing. Families come together here to celebrate, show support and sometimes to mourn. It is not a residential facility; but, for some patients and families, it becomes home away from home. It is not a religious space; but, it houses some of the most profound spiritual awakenings. Hospitals are not civic centers; but, they become gathering spaces for many within a community. They

house restaurants, guest quarters, wellness centers, respite gardens and resource centers. They house examination rooms for diagnoses, laboratories for discovery, operating rooms for intervention and patient rooms for treatment. They also include teaming areas for collaboration, theaters for learning, chapels for encouraging, healing gardens for uplifting, and emergency departments that take in what others cannot handle. One might argue that this is the most diverse, comprehensive, and complex facility in existence. Through formal education, experience, or a combination of the two, designers become cross-trained with knowledge of code requirements, adjacencies, operational practices, and treatment procedures.

As we look back on 2010, this month we celebrate those designers with a passion for improving healthcare spaces. These individuals seek every opportunity to learn about emerging medical technology, research and evidence-based design. They are more concerned with post-occupancy approval by users than design awards from their peers. Patient-centered design professionals listen carefully to the concerns of their end users and develop thoughtful solutions to address their needs.

We at the Institute for Patient-Centered Design would like to thank those patients, healthcare providers and design professionals who have contributed to the knowledge shared this year through our online forums. We appreciate your commitment to the patient-centered design principles and we look forward to continued progress in the New Year. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Collaboration Program

Become a collaborator member of the Institute for Patient-Centered Design!

Patient Collaborator (No Cost)

Available to Patients and Patient Advocates

- Subscription to *Patient-Centered Design Online™*
- Access to patient resources
- Invitation to participate in user surveys, test groups, and provide feedback.
- Free patient-readiness kit (while supplies last)

Academic Collaborator (\$50)

Available to students and faculty of academic institutions

- Subscription to *Patient-Centered Design Online™*
- Name listed on our website
- Discount on publications
- Discount on educational materials for designers
- Email updates on grant opportunities
- Eligible for Partnership Collaboration

Individual Collaborator (\$100)

Available to any individuals interested in Patient-Centered Design

- Subscription to *Patient-Centered Design Online™*
- Name listed on our website
- Discount on publications

Professional Collaborator (\$150)

Available for healthcare professionals, architects and interior designers

- Subscription to *Patient-Centered Design Online™*
- Name and company name listed on our website
- Discount on publications
- Discount on educational materials for designers

Institute for Patient-Centered Design is proud to offer a unique continuing education series devoted to the needs of specific patient populations.

Understanding the Patient in Patient-Centered Design™

Lesson I

Designing for Patient Empowerment: A look at the inpatient room from the patient's perspective



[Free Preview!](#)

Registration: \$35.00
\$25.00 for Members*

(Earn 2 AIA/CES HSW learning units for the price of one!)

Lesson II

The Challenges of Extended Postpartum Recovery for NICU Mothers : A proposed architectural solution



[Free Download!](#)

Quiz fee: \$15.00
\$5.00 for Members*

(Earn 1 AIA/CES HSW learning unit.)

Lesson III

Antepartum Spaces: Design considerations to address the unique needs of expectant mothers



[Free Preview!](#)

Registration: \$35.00
\$25.00 for Members*

(Earn 1 AIA/CES HSW learning unit.)

*Professional Collaborator Members receive a discount on all educational materials. Not a member? [Join Us!](#)



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Institute for Patient Centered Design is now on linkedin.com. Please join our group [Patient-Centered Design Alliance](#). Our group members are able to view updates and participate in discussions online. If you are not a member of linkedin, you may [join our mailing list](#) or [submit a comment](#) directly on our website. We would love to hear from you!

You may also follow us on



Institute for Patient-Centered Design has a **JOB BOARD!**

It features links to employment and contract opportunities. To view the listings, please visit http://www.patientcentereddesign.org/job_board. To post an opportunity, please contact us at jobboard@patientcentereddesign.org.

Collaboration Program Continued...

Corporate Collaborator (\$500)

Available to Companies and Organizations

-Subscription to *Patient-Centered Design Online*™

-Company name and profile listed on our website (includes a link to the company's website)

-Discount on publications

-Group discount on educational materials for designers

To learn more, please visit

www.patientcenterreddesign.org/joinus

Understanding the *Patient* in Patient-Centered Design™ Continuing Education Series

"Patient-Centered Design" is a principle that should be in the forefront of any health facility project. Often, designers find themselves working with limited information about patients. This series will offer new lessons regularly that explain the commonly overlooked details of seeking medical treatment and how these factors may be influenced by the built environment. Written *by* designers and *for* designers, the lessons include valuable input from interviews with patients and clinicians. For more information on the series, please visit http://www.patientcenterreddesign.org/education_series/all_courses.html

Please feel free to contact the editor with your questions, comments, or concerns at editor@patientcenterreddesign.org

Calendar of Events

January 18, 2011

Continuing Education/Networking Event of AIA AAH of GA

Atlanta, Georgia

<http://www.aiaatlanta.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=91>

February 28 – March 2, 2011

Health Facilities Design & Development

San Diego, California

<http://www.healthfacilitiesdesign.com>

March 13-16, 2011

2011 International Summit & Exhibition on Health Facility Planning, Design & Construction™ (PCD)

Tampa, Florida

<http://www.ashe.org/PDC/>

March 20-22, 2011

Environments for Aging.11

Atlanta, Georgia

www.EFA11.com

As a courtesy to site users, we have listed information about upcoming events and links to related websites for more details. This does not constitute a relationship between Institute for Patient-Centered Design and any of the websites, events or organizations listed. Nor does this represent an endorsement or guarantee of any kind. While we strive to keep such information updated, we make no legal or otherwise binding commitment to do so. We do not guarantee any of the information on the websites listed. Nor do we guarantee the events themselves.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Institute for Patient-Centered Design, Inc. We respect the rights of patients, family members and professionals to express their opinions and welcome comments on the topics published in this newsletter. We reserve the right to publish comments and letters at our discretion.

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Each month, we feature a letter from a patient addressing a specific need or inquiry identified during his or her hospital stay. Patients are encouraged to write letters to communicate their concerns to the designers and operators of healthcare facilities. To submit a letter, visit www.patientcenterreddesign.org/perspectives.



Dear Institute for Patient-Centered Design, I am reluctant to schedule the MRI recommended for me because I have heard horror stories about claustrophobic patients having panic attacks in such small spaces. I also have heard that MRI accidents have seriously hurt and even killed some patients. Have there been advances to improve MRI rooms?

-Anonymous

Dear Patient,

Thank you for your letter. MRI safety and comfort has become a high priority for many imaging facilities. There have been advances to improve the safety and comfort of MRI procedures. "Open" MRI scanners are often used for claustrophobic patients because they provide a larger gantry. Some patients are offered relaxation techniques and distraction options, while other may be sedated to reduce or eliminate anxiety. [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org) offers insight on this concern as well as tips for nervous patients.

The Joint Commission, an independent organization that accredits healthcare facilities, addresses [MRI safety](#). Please see our [patient resources](#) for links to the Joint Commission's site and others where you may search for quality reports on your specific facility.

In addition, designers have recognized the stress potentially involved in this diagnostic procedure. MRI rooms are designed with "positive distractions," such as lighting and color variations, real or simulated nature scenes and similar features to engage patients.

The links referenced may alleviate your concerns. Education on MRI options and safety standards may encourage you to proceed with the recommended procedure with ease.