Innovation Institute opens at Henry Ford Hospital

A $12 million project aimed at shaping the future of medicine opened this month on the campus of Henry Ford Hospital.

The Innovation Institute is a partnership that includes Henry Ford Medical Group, the College for Creative Studies, the smart sensors and integrated microsystems program at Wayne State University and The Henry Ford.

The Institute has launched several dozen projects, including a virtual breast biopsy, knifeless surgery and rapid diagnosis of viruses and cancers.

The Institute’s goal is to find creative solutions to identify best processes and support advancements in the medical community.

— Ellen Mitchell

DMC Institute uses new, non-surgical technique to unblock arteries

Detroit Medical Center Cardiovascular Institute has successfully used a breakthrough technology to open a patient’s blocked artery.

The “corkscrew catheterization” technique was unveiled at the institute this month and doesn’t require surgery. The technique used a medical device that operates like an electrically powered “corkscrew drill” to remove plaque buildup in a patient that suffered from peripheral arterial disease.

The procedure restored uninterrupted blood flow through the patient’s artery.

PAD affects about 8 million Americans and causes plaque to build up in the arteries that carry blood to the head, organs and limbs, according to the American Heart Association. It can cause heart attack, stroke or gangrene and amputation.

— Ellen Mitchell

Blue Cross to expand childhood obesity program

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan will expand the Building Healthy Communities schools program through a partnership with Wayne State University's Center for School Health and the Michigan Fitness Foundation.

Seeking to tackle the issue of childhood obesity, the organizations are forming a coalition of experts and supporters to improve the health of Michigan young people and their families.

WSU will bring its health and fitness expertise to the program.

The new version of the BHC program will enhance physical activity and nutrition education in schools, increase opportunities for students to eat healthy and provide culturally relevant evidence-based programs. It will also help
facilitate staff and youth leadership in school transformation and provide family education support.

Blue Cross Blue Shield first offered the BHS program in 2009, providing grants to schools across the state to get students moving, eating healthier and adopting healthy lifestyles. Since 2009, 24,000 children in 63 elementary schools have been affected by the grants, according to Blue Cross Blue Shield.

— Ellen Mitchell