The prestigious Vista Awards are presented annually at the International Summit & Exhibition on Health Facility Planning, Design & Construction (PDC Summit). These awards recognize the importance of teamwork in creating an optimal health care physical environment. The winning teams showed a unity of purpose that helped their projects succeed from pre-planning to implementation.

The winners of the 2013 Vista Awards are the new patient care tower at MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Wash.; the renovation of the specialty surgical care unit at John C. Lincoln North Mountain Hospital in Phoenix; and the Swedish Issaquah Central Utility Plant in Issaquah, Wash. The projects won in the categories of best new construction, renovation, and infrastructure, respectively.

ASHE is your source for recognizing teamwork in the design and construction of the health care physical environment. Since 1993 the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) of the American Hospital Association (AHA) has provided professionals with an opportunity to gain national recognition for their design and construction initiatives through the Vista Awards program.

To learn more, visit: www.ashe.org/about/awards/vista.
2013 Vista Award for:

**New Construction**

Presented to an organization that has constructed a new facility essentially from the ground up. The new facility may be connected to an existing facility, but the building must have its own identity and be a new space.

**Project:**
Patient Care Tower at MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital

**Location:**
Puyallup, Wash.

**Square feet:**
350,000

**Number of beds:**
82 finished plus 80 shelled

**Projected budget:**
$276 million

**Actual cost:**
$266 million

**Team members:**
- Glenn Kasman, president of MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital
- Tom Clark, AIA, with Clark/Kjos Architects
- Herb Griffin, AIA, with GBJ Architecture
- Mark Howell, senior vice president with Skanska USA Building
- Dick Moeller, principal with CDi Engineers
- Katrina Corbett, project manager with Sparling

The team working on the new patient care tower at MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Wash., overcame obstacles to create a new tower under budget and ahead of schedule. Among the challenges were a city zoning height limit, an aggressive time schedule, no budget contingency, extreme site conditions, and even two electrical fires in the starter panel of one of the chillers (fortunately the fire was quickly discovered and damage was limited to the starter panel, chiller insulation, and minor smoke damage).

Those involved with the project credited a team approach and open communications to overcome obstacles and complete the project. The team held regular meetings, and staff and physicians participated in designing and reviewing mock-ups of key spaces. Team celebrations—including barbeques for hundreds of design, management, and construction staff—helped keep morale high. Glenn Kasman, FACHE, president of MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital, said collaboration and focus led to decisions that enhance safety, healing and comfort, and efficiencies.

“Inpatient admissions have increased by more than 12 percent in the current year compared with the prior one, with the Tower being a primary impetus,” he said.
The team working to renovate the third floor at John C. Lincoln North Mountain Hospital worked together to meet a very short time frame: designing and constructing a new unit within a 10-month window to serve the community during the high patient volume winter season. The team met weekly and involved staff from all departments.

A full-size patient room was built as a mock-up room in its actual location so that staff could review things like electrical outlets to computer charging stations. After getting input, a new preview room was built incorporating all the suggestions, providing another opportunity to validate the final room design.

To minimize noise for post-surgery patients on the floor above construction, the team created a plan including noise reduction kits for patients and visitors (including a radio with ear buds, ear plugs, and an explanation of how the hospital was growing); hourly construction breaks so that there would be no noise on the top of each hour for 15 minutes; and visits from design and construction team members (not just hospital staff) to answer questions or address complaints.

Positive comments from patients, family members, and staff about the success of the renovation have led the Board of Directors to authorize funding for remodeling the fourth floor following the same standards, said Rhonda Forsyth, president and CEO of the John C. Lincoln Health Network. “The dedication and commitment of this project team to ‘get it done’ in a very short time frame in order to accommodate our high winter patient census was remarkable,” she said.
The team working on the Swedish Issaquah Central Utility Plant was challenged to design and build not only the most energy efficient health care complex in the country without sacrificing the overall corporate mission of improving the health and well-being of each person they serve.

The team assigned a full-time energy engineer to be the “energy watchdog” for the project, helping to coordinate the team’s effort with the local utility’s grant and rebate program. The team worked closely with a third-party commissioning authority, which was brought to the table early in the project so that commissioning activities could be incorporated into the project schedule.

Similar hospitals in the Pacific Northwest have an energy use intensity of 250,000 BTUs per square foot annually. The goal for Swedish Issaquah was to reduce that to 150,000 BTUs per square foot annually. Current utility data indicates that the hospital is performing even better than that goal, said Kevin Brown, CEO of Swedish Health Services. “We are especially pleased that our aggressive energy-savings goals were accomplished,” Brown said.