FACILITIES & ENGINEERING
Embracing Innovation, Achieving Excellence
ASHE

As we approach the end of October '23, the healthcare team at Jaros, Baum & Bolles, in conjunction with ASHE and our professional colleagues, celebrates another year of National Health Care Facilities and Engineering Week.

ASHE has themed this year as "Embracing Innovation, Achieving Excellence" in celebration of "the important role that facility team members have in ensuring a safe and efficient environment for all patients, residents, visitors and staff within hospitals". For A/E design professionals, these terms are so widely and often used that they can become watered down, lacking in energy. Yet actually quite the opposite is true: there's no energy lacking at all in this ever-changing world of healthcare delivery and advancements in building system technologies. As design professionals in such a critical sector of the built environment, it's our obligation to consistently foster innovative change within the boundaries of safety and reliability. It's our responsibility to communicate with transparency and clarity so as to educate our clients on where the value is and where each dollar can be spent as wisely as possible. "Savings" doesn't mean simply cutting things to blindly meet a target; rather, it means aspiring to align the asset lifecycle and its associated benefits with value, simple cost payback, scalability, and total cost of ownership.

New federal and local government regulations regarding carbon emissions and energy efficiency pose significant challenges to A/E design teams, challenges that force us to embrace innovation. As such, many of the new MEP design approaches required to comply with current and/or future regulations are counterintuitive to traditional healthcare design and operations. This shift places added responsibility on the MEP design professional to create capacity, redundancy and resiliency "equivalency" in a manner that hospital operators will be able to understand, operate, and maintain while providing the same high level of performance as legacy systems.

This is also an opportunity to celebrate everyone's amazing efforts, as we continue to provide our clients with both technical support as well as thought leadership, providing innovative ideas and approaches in this ever-evolving world toward delivering well thought out, serviceable, maintainable and flexible design solutions. Cutting-edge technologies in energy and carbon efficiency, cooling/heating systems, air delivery methods and heat recovery are presenting exciting new design options for our consideration. Infrastructure design approaches are giving healthcare institutions more flexibility as buildings are developed as long-term assets. And our fourth utility, information technology, will continue to grow and provide flexibility to support technological advancements in the healthcare workplace.

Each day in the coming week, a new design concept will be featured to inform and inspire our clients as they consider the options and strategies for creating the best healthcare environment possible:

- **Monday:** The Decarbonization Push for Innovation and Planning
- **Tuesday:** Resiliency Through Strategic Redundancy
- **Wednesday:** Where Is the Power Coming From?
- **Thursday:** Where Did the Power Go?
- **Friday:** Legionella Control in an Electrified World

JB&B's thought leadership pieces for previous Health Care Engineering Weeks can be viewed by clicking here: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

On behalf of the entire JB&B healthcare team, I'd like to close with a special thanks to all healthcare professionals and facilities management professionals, and to encourage everyone to embrace the future by considering alternative design approaches and emerging digital tools toward providing the best healthcare environment possible.

Christopher J. Prochner, PE, LEED AP, CEA
Partner
Healthcare Practice Leader

JB&B