A unique partnership between Mercy’s Dialysis Center and the University of Iowa Organ Transplant Program played a key role in guiding Randy Kelley’s recovery.

“Over the last few years we have developed a lot closer relationship,” says Dr. Fadi Yacoub, with Internist Associates of Iowa and Medical Director of Mercy Dialysis. “We have an excellent relationship with the transplant services at UIHHC (University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics). We work very, very well together.” The collaborative effort ensures first-rate care for patients moving from chronic kidney disease to dialysis to transplant.

“The only way to provide dialysis care is the team approach to ensure complete care,” Dr. Yacoub emphasizes. That team approach includes the patient’s primary care physician, University of Iowa’s services, Dr. Yacoub, and the Mercy Dialysis Center team.

Dr. Alan Reed, director of the University of Iowa Organ Transplant Center, emphasizes the difference this teamwork makes.

“We’ve got a fabulous relationship with Dr. Yacoub and other physicians at Mercy, especially when it comes to taking care of patients like this (referring to Randy Kelley, whose story is shared on pages 8-10),” Dr. Reed notes. “Because of our trust relationship, we were able to coordinate (Randy’s) care and the transplant.”

Both institutions have pursued the partnering as part of a strengthening alliance.

“The formal links these corporate alliances establish are great. But it’s these kinds of individual, personal relationships with doctors like Dr. Yacoub that are key to establishing quality care for patients,” Dr. Reed says. “They allow seamless care for the Randy Kelleys of the world. We hope to have relationships like this more and more, ideally, with everyone we partner with.”