



► Highest Leapfrog Grade in Brooklyn!



Dr. Buchbinder

The Brooklyn Hospital Center is proud to announce that we have received a B, the highest grade of all Brooklyn hospitals as measured by the Leapfrog Hospital

Safety Grade. This grade reflects our commitment to keeping patients safe. No other hospital in New York City received a B, and only one received an A. The Leapfrog Group is a national non-profit healthcare ratings organization that grades approximately 2,500 hospitals across the country on how well they keep patients safe from harm.

Developed under the guidance of a Blue Ribbon National Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses multiple measures of hospital safety data to assign A, B, C, D and F grades to hospitals twice per year. It is calculated by top patient safety experts, peer reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

Because of the entire staff's hard work and our dedicated focus on quality at every level of the organization, we have received this excellent grade.

TBHC has invested millions of dollars over the last few years to hire top doctors. These experts have created new approaches to care and a better quality environment for patients. These efforts are all important pieces of a larger long-term transformation plan for TBHC as we prepare ourselves for the next 175 years of serving our community. We are energized and have a desire to pursue even higher levels of excellence as we continue with our mission: *Keeping Brooklyn Healthy*.

I look forward to keeping you informed of future initiatives.

Shalom Buchbinder, MD
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

► Vasantha Kondamudi, MD: Top Global Woman of Excellence



Dr. Kondamudi

Vasantha Kondamudi, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Quality and Safety Officer for The Brooklyn Hospital Center (TBHC), was named one of the 20 top global women of excellence by the 7th Congressional District's Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force. Dr. Kondamudi attended the task force's International Women's Day Celebrations on March 8-10, in Elmhurst, IL, and spoke at the Round Table Meeting on Women's Empowerment.

"We are very proud of Dr. Kondamudi's accomplishments at TBHC where she has been a primary force behind our growing national recognition as a provider of quality and safe healthcare. This acknowledgement demonstrates her reputation as an important healthcare thought leader," says Gary G. Terrinoni, TBHC's President and CEO.

Dr. Kondamudi, MD, a family physician, geriatrician and a certified physician executive, graduated in 1985 from the renowned Christian Medical College in Vellore, India. She worked a short time in the West Indies, which included post-graduate training in obstetrics/gynecology at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. Her path led her to TBHC where she joined the Family Medicine Residency Program and subsequently graduated in 1997 as Chief Resident. She went on to complete a fellowship in geriatrics at New York University

School of Medicine in June 1998. She also completed a clinical quality fellowship from Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) in 2013, and completed an MBA in Medical Management from University of Massachusetts Amherst.

In 1999, after completing her geriatrics fellowship, Dr. Kondamudi returned to TBHC as an Attending and Geriatrics Director in the Department of Family Medicine. She was promoted to Medical Director, Associate Program Director and Program Director respectively until 2007, when she was appointed Chair of the Department.

As Chair, Dr. Kondamudi brought stability to the department with retention of key personnel and patients, recruitment of new faculty, and enhancement of revenue. Her commitment, dedication and strong leadership led her to transform four ambulatory care sites into NCQA-recognized Patient Centered Medical Homes and, in so doing, led to improved quality and patient safety outcomes in TBHC's primary care.

With more than 30 years of clinical, academic and administrative experience, Dr. Kondamudi's vision remains steadfast: provide outstanding, high-quality health services, educate resident physicians, and redesign and implement new processes to support TBHC's mission, *Keeping Brooklyn Healthy*.

► Epic Update: Phase I

We are on track for the go-live of our new state-of-the-art, fully integrated electronic medical record. The go-live date is on August 11, 2018, for all family health centers, Article 28 sites and the majority of the faculty practices.

Some highlighted Phase 1 benefits for TBHC providers include:

- Ability to communicate more efficiently with other clinicians and staff across all Phase 1 sites.
- Greater visibility of patient schedules across Phase 1 sites.
- Greater visibility into clinical status of patients across Phase 1 sites.
- Ability for physicians to communicate with patients more directly, without the need for a phone call.
- Ability for patients to more directly schedule their own appointments, without the need for a phone call.

An intuitive web-based portal called CareConnect@TBHC will allow community physicians to:

- Schedule appointments online with any of our departments or physicians.
- Order tests and receive results online.
- Communicate with any of our providers.
- Be informed in near real-time of whatever is happening to a patient they have referred to our facility.
- Be alerted when one of their patients has been treated in our Emergency Department.

► Q&A With Luca Milone, MD



As TBHC celebrates one year with the daVinci XI robot, Dr. Milone explains its importance.

What does robot-assisted surgery offer that other procedures can't?

The daVinci XI's arms have better flexibility than that of a human hand, yet can go through small incisions where a surgeon can see via three-dimensional screen optics to operate. This high-tech, minimally invasive approach provides better outcomes, including decreased pain, bleeding, and complications and scarring. After surgery, patients experience shorter hospital stays and quicker recovery time.

What kind of surgeries have we been doing this past year with the robot?

I personally do a lot of hernias, abdominal, pancreatic and hepatobiliary procedures. My colleagues in gynecology, urology and thoracic surgery have all been using the robot, as well, with similar positive patient outcomes.

What is special about our version of the robot?

The daVinci system represents the latest in surgical and robotics technologies. The surgeon is 100 percent in control of the daVinci XI at all times and its technology translates the surgeon's hand movements into smaller, precise movements of tiny instruments. Everyone is impressed with the low-profile arms, which are easier to move than previous models, and the superiority of the visuals.

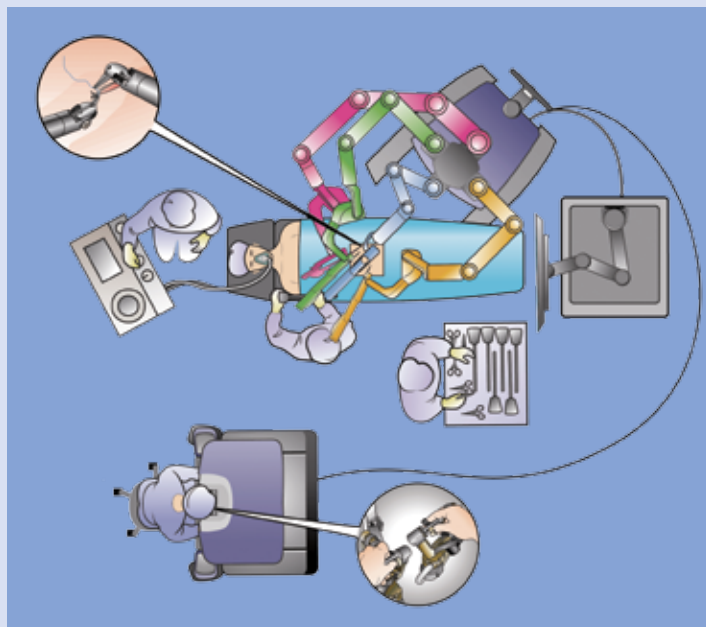
Do you train other surgeons on the robot?

Yes, the daVinci is excellent for teaching because of its double consoles. A resident can watch from one console while a more experienced robotic surgeon is on the other. When appropriate, a resident can do part of the surgery on the second console. We've been doing a lot of such training with gynecology and general surgery residents. Attending surgeons who have not had much exposure on the robot can also be trained in this way.

How is TBHC's robotic surgery center doing?

TBHC is about to hit the one-year mark as a robotic surgery center. By volume, we are the fastest, new growing center in all of New York and among the top 10 percent in the country.

For more information about robotic surgery or to refer a patient, please call Dr. Milone at 718.250.6920.



► Rounds

Jordan Chanler-Berat, MD, Director of Emergency Ultrasound, has been elected director of the Emergency Ultrasound Section of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine.

Rockwell Dialysis Center successfully completed an unannounced Centers for Medicare & Medicaid accreditation survey with zero deficiencies.

Woo Taek Chang, MD, Medical Director of Dialysis, and Belbina Pereira, Nurse Manager, Dialysis, Rockwell & 2W, as well as the entire dialysis team is to be credited for the outstanding outcomes of this Five Star Center.

Madhavi Reddy, MD, FACG, has been promoted to Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. She also remains Fellowship Program Director for the Division. Previous to this, she served as interim chief and under her leadership, the Fellowship Program produced 86 abstracts and 45 publications.

Congratulations to our many top docs! Among the many of which *CMO Update* has learned (and if you have received a similar award, please let us know!), **Joseph F. Fetto, MD**, Chief, Orthopedics, who was named a 2018 Top Doctor in New York City by PR NewsChannel. Named Top Doctor by Castle Connolly Medical: **Armand Asarian, MD**, Chief, Colorectal Surgery; **Leonard Berkowitz, MD**, Chief, Infectious Diseases; **David Berman, MD**, Ophthalmologist; **Ahmar Butt, MD**, Internist; **Cascy-Arnoux Charlot, MD**,

Allergist/Immunologist; **Anders Cohen, DO**, Chief, Neurosurgery; **Earl Ellis, MD**, Geriatrician; **Howard Friedman, MD**, Cardiologist; **Romulo Genato, MD**, Surgeon; **Fred Gilbert, MD**, Clinical Geneticist; **Stuart Green, MD**, Chief, Rheumatology; **Ramesh Gulrajani, MD**, Pulmonologist; **Abraham Jelin, MD**, Chief, Pediatric Gastroenterology; **Matthew Kaplan, MD**, Pediatric Nephrologist; **Steven Levine, MD**, Neurologist; **Dolly Manvar, MD**, Allergist/Immunologist; **Viplov Mehta MD, CMD**, Internist; **Nelson Menezes, MD**, Chief, Vascular Surgery; **Steven Pavlakis, MD**, Pediatric Neurology; **Eli Serur, MD**, Obstetrician/Gynecologist; **Frederic Sherman, MD**, Palliative Care Specialist; **David Sherr, MD**, Chief, Radiation Oncology; **Alan Stein, MD**, Infectious Disease Specialist; **Jacob Warman, MD**, Chief, Endocrinology; **Paul Yang, MD**, Vascular Surgeon.

► Welcome!

Radiology: **Ali Ailawi, MD; David Cohen, MD; Joshua Kalowitz, MD.**
Medicine, Ambulatory Care: **Ma Sandar, MD.**
Psychiatry: **Jonathan Lauter, MD.**
Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery: **Kenji Miyasaka, MD.**