The Brooklyn Hospital Center
Keeping Brooklyn Healthy

IPA

A PUBLICATION FOR TBHC PHYSICIANS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

SPRING 2021

A Message from Dr. Kondamudi

— Vasantha Kondamudi, MD, Chief Medical Officer

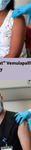
In our last full issue, I looked back on the COVID spring surge, how our clinicians and all of TBHC stepped up to the challenges, and the lessons we learned. This issue, I am so relieved and happy to report that I'm focusing on the future instead. The future means the PCN's vaccine.

Most of you know that the Pfizer vaccine (what TBHC is administering) is 95% effective after two doses and has gotten high marks for safety. You can access the Pfizer published data at www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2034577

We also now have the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Join these physicians below, just some of many who got vaccinated.

Pratibha "Pret" Vemulapalli, MD, Chair, Surgery


Leonard Berkowitz, MD, Chief, Infectious Diseases

Sylvie de Souza, MD, Chair, Emergency Medicine

Nabil Mesiha, MD, Attending, Pulmonary

Samuel Bahl, MD, Attending, Vascular and Interventional Radiology

Introducing The Brooklyn Cancer Center

New York Cancer & Blood Specialists (NYCBS), one of the leading oncology practices in the nation, has partnered with The Brooklyn Hospital Center (TBHC), to create a new comprehensive cancer care program, The Brooklyn Cancer Center.

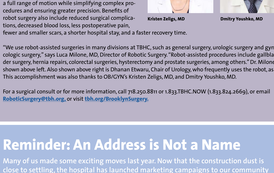
NYCBS is a leading practice in the national OneOncology partnership, the network of independent community oncology practices. With access to OneOncology technology, integration support and capital, NYCBS provides access to cutting-edge oncology care, including clinical trial research across Brooklyn.

A new facility is planned for the end of 2021, but the community does not have to wait for the excellent care this partnership provides. All The Brooklyn Cancer Center physicians are currently practicing at The Brooklyn Hospital Center at 121 DeKalb Avenue.

Your patients don't have to travel out of the borough for excellent cancer care! Right in Fort Greene/Downtown Brooklyn, they can find a unique path to treatment with comprehensive support. The Brooklyn Cancer Center provides expert care and culturally sensitive services for patients with all types of cancer and blood disorders.

For more information or to refer a patient, please call 718.731.4080 or visit BrooklynCancer.com.

TBHC Reaches Milestone 1,000th Robotic Surgery



For several years, TBHC has been taking minimally invasive surgery to the highest level with robotic surgery, using the advanced da Vinci Xi System. This robot provides an immersive 3D, high-definition vision system for a magnified view. Late last year, TBHC performed its 1,000 robotic procedure.

During robotic surgery, the surgeon controls the robot's "hands" via a video console, which gives the physician a full range of motion while simplifying complex procedures and ensuring greater precision. Benefits of robot surgery also include reduced surgical complications, decreased blood loss, less postoperative pain, fewer and smaller scars, a shorter hospital stay, and a faster recovery time.

Kristen Zeligs, MD

Dmitry Youshko, MD

"We use robot-assisted surgeries in many divisions at TBHC, such as general surgery, urologic surgery and gynecologic surgery," says Luca Milione, MD, Director of Robotic Surgery. "Robot-assisted procedures include gallbladder surgery, hernia repairs, colorectal surgeries, hysterectomy and prostate surgeries, among others." Dr. Milione is shown above left. Also shown above right is Dhanan Elwura, Chair of Urology, who frequently uses the robot, as well. This accomplishment was also thanks to OB/GYN's Kristen Zeligs, MD, and Dmitry Youshko, MD.

For a surgical consult or for more information, call 718.250.8811 or 1.833.TBHC.NOW (1.833.824.2669), or email RoboticSurgery@tbh.org, or visit tbh.org/BrooklynSurgery.

Reminder: An Address is Not a Name

Many of us made some exciting moves last year. Now that the construction dust is close to settling, the hospital has launched marketing campaigns to our community introducing them to our new sites. It's important we maintain continuity when we discuss these places internally, so our patients, community members (and we, ourselves) aren't confused. Please use the appropriate building names on all communications, internal and external, going forward:

BUILDING NAME	ADDRESS	DEPARTMENTS
The Physicians Pavilion	86 Saint Felix Street	Specialty and faculty practices
TBHC Corporate Services	255 Duffield Street* *120 Fulton Street is NOT OUR ADDRESS. That is the location of a beauty shop on Fulton Mall. Please don't use this address going forward.	• Call Center • Development/Foundation • Finance • Human Resources • IT • Marketing • Medical Records • Revenue Cycle
TBHC Myrtle Avenue Dialysis	218 Myrtle Avenue	Outpatient dialysis services

Hospice Care Through Calvary Hospital

The Brooklyn Hospital Center (TBHC) recently partnered with Calvary Hospital to provide excellent hospice care on the hospital's 7th floor inpatient unit.

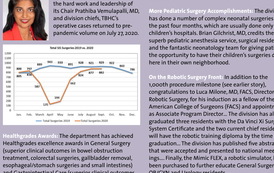
"Calvary Hospital is the nation's only hospital devoted to providing hospice and palliative-related care to adult patients. Over the past 50 years, we have partnered with other hospitals in the greater New York area to offer inpatient hospice care for patients and their families," says Nancy D'Agostino, RN, MSN, CHPN, Calvary's VP of Community Patient Services. "We are very pleased to be working with TBHC since they share our commitment to high quality end-of-life care."

"Hospice strives to alleviate end-of-life pain and symptoms, while helping the patient live as fully as possible," says Judy McLaughlin, DPM, TBHC's Chief Nurse Executive. "By offering this option for patients and their families, we are honoring our mission, Keeping Brooklyn Healthy." TBHC's hospice services include:

- Physical relief from pain and uncomfortable symptoms
- Emotional support to help patients and caregivers cope with loneliness, isolation and fear
- Socialization, which allows for shared time with family and friends
- Spiritual care for patients and their families
- Bereavement support
- Help for patients making choices about advance directives

To refer a patient to hospice or to learn more about TBHC's hospice inpatient program, please call 718.472.1999 or visit tbh.org/specialized-services/hospice-care.

The Brooklyn Hospital Center's Video Visits Program Flourishes



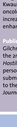
Now patients – especially those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 or who face transportation and other accessibility challenges—can "see" a doctor from a wide range of primary and specialty care practices.

Your patients can stay home, stay safe and stay comfortable by self-scheduling a video visit as long as they have a smart phone or computer with a camera. It's easy for them to do. They just:

1. Go to www.tbh.org/VideoVisitNow.
2. Pick a specialty.
3. Choose "video visit".
4. Pick a doctor and time.
5. Need help? Call 718.250.8755.

If you, the physician, need help being part of our telemedicine program, or you have questions on how, please contact Sam Amirfar, Chief Medical Information Officer & Chief Information Officer, at samirfar@tbh.org.

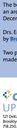
ROUNDS: Special Updates for Surgery



Back to business: The department is pleased to announce that with the hard work and leadership of its Chair Pratibha Vemulapalli, MD, and division chiefs, TBHC's operative cases returned to pre-pandemic volume on July 23 2020.

Healthcare excellence: The department has achieved Healthgrades excellence awards in General Surgery (superior clinical outcomes in bowel obstruction treatment, colorectal surgeries, gallbladder removal, esophageal/stomach surgeries and small intestines) and Gastrointestinal Care (superior clinical outcomes in colorectal surgeries, gallbladder removal, esophageal/stomach surgeries, small intestine surgeries, and treating bowel obstruction, gastrointestinal bleeds and pancreatitis).

Welcome New Surgeons: Cynthia Chen, DO, Breast Surgery, Irene Lou, MD, Endocrine/ Head & Neck Surgery, Mahalingam Sivakumar, MD, FACS, Vascular Surgery, and Brian Gilchrist, MD, FACS, Pediatric Surgery. Sam Kwauk, MD, FACS, also joined the faculty as a surgical oncologist. These additions bolster our faculty not only increase the breath and scope of surgical cases, but enhance the residency program's education.



Promotions: Division Chief of Pediatric Surgery Brian Gilchrist, MD, served as an editor and wrote sections of the 2nd edition of the Textbook of Pediatric Surgery for Nestle Environments, which is carried by all US military personnel throughout the world. Dr. Gilchrist has also submitted three abstracts and two completed papers to the European Association of Pediatrics and the Journal of Pediatric Surgery in the last two months on plonidal disease, cystic hygroma surgery and firearms trauma.

Board awards honor physicians: The division has done a number of complex neonatal surgeries in the past four months, which are usually done only in children's hospitals. Brian Gilchrist, MD, credits the superb pediatric anesthesia service, surgical residents and the fetal-neonatology team for giving patients the opportunity to have their children's surgeries done here in their own neighborhood.

On the Behind-the-Scenes Front: In addition to the 1,000th procedure milestone (see earlier story), congratulations to Luca Milione, MD, FACS, Director of Robotic Surgery, for his induction as a fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) and appointment as Associate Program Director. The division has also graduated three residents with the Da Vinci Xi Surgical System Certificate and the two current chief residents will have the robotic training diploma by the time of graduation. The division has published five abstracts that were accepted and presented to national meetings.... Finally, the Mimic FLEX, a robotic simulator, has been purchased to further educate General Surgery, OB/GYN and Urology residents.

Vascular Lab Accreditation: The service has been reaccredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission for a full two years in India... Surgical residents in the PCF's level now rotate on Tuesdays from 8 am to 1 pm in the Endoscopy Suite. This rotation, under the direct supervision of Division Chief Madhavi Reddy, MD, is for two months and allows residents to acquire additional knowledge and experience in endoscopic intervention including colonoscopy and upper endoscopy... A new rotation for the surgical residents at the PCF's level is being developed with Mount Sinai Brooklyn, a 210-acre cute community hospital located in Midwood. This rotation will be under the supervision of Merab Kirkhely, MD, Chief of Surgery at Mount Sinai Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle: Congratulations to our chief residents, who obtained fellowship positions effective July 1, 2021: Young Lee, MD, Vascular Fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA, and Christina Sharon, MD, Burn Fellowship at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx... Residents were tutored on the use of the laparoscopic towers for laparoscopic surgery on August 27, 2020... Welcome to our new PGY 4 residents: Sara Saad El-Deir, MD, a graduate of Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans, and Shaan Alam, MD, a graduate of the University of Delhi College of Medicine in India... Surgical residents in the PCF's level now rotate on Tuesdays from 8 am to 1 pm in Endoscopy Suite. This rotation, under the direct supervision of Division Chief Madhavi Reddy, MD,

TBHC in the News

Brooklyn Daily Eagle covered the hospital's future plans for modernizing our campus on October 26.

On November 11, **Brooklyn Paper** covered the new Fort Greene Park garden that honors the TBHC colleagues we lost to COVID-19 (see below).

Dr. Vasantha Kondamudi discussed the challenges the hospital faces with **NewsWhy** on November 19.

A firsthand account of a COVID patient treated at TBHC was reported in **True Africa** on November 27.

Dr. Joshua Rosenberg gave advice on COVID-safe skiing to **The Mercury News** on November 30.

The beautiful Physicians Pavilion was featured in an architectural spread in **Healthcare Snapshots** on December 8.

Drs. Errol Byer and Pratibha Vemulapalli were salluted by **Brooklyn Eagle** on December 9.

Two photos taken at The Brooklyn Hospital Center made the cut in **The New York Times'** "2020, the Year in Pictures" on December 10 (see below). Another photo from our hospital made **The City's** end-of-year story, too on December 22.

Alger, a leading growth equity investment manager, and their generosity to our nursing staff was featured in **Yahoo Finance** and **Bklyner** on December 16, among other outlets.

Dr. Errol Byer's commitment to underserved communities was featured on **News12** on December 21.

The New York Times' Sheri Fink, who embedded with TBHC during the spring surge, revisited Dr. Joshua Rosenberg in a podcast on December 24.

A COVID survivor treated at TBHC shared his resolutions in a **New York Post** piece on December 30.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle covered the hospital's 1,000th robotic surgery on January 4.

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Marketing and Communications Department

If you have an idea for an article or feedback on this publication please contact Kim Fiedler at x8271 or kfiedler@tbh.org

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