



The Brooklyn  
Hospital Center

Keeping Brooklyn Healthy

# CMO Update

A Publication for TBHC Physicians & Community Partners

Fall 2019

## ▶ New TBHC Locations!



As 2019 comes to an end, there are some new and exciting projects to tell you about.

- Ground was officially broken on the *ED renovation!* This project, which will continue throughout 2020 without a break in patient flow, will offer a very badly needed modernization and expansion to this important gateway to the hospital.

- Relocation of the physician offices and TBHC services from the Maynard building will begin at the end of this year through the beginning of next year. Some of the offices will relocate to the main hospital building, but many will find a home in our multi-floor, newly built *ambulatory care space on 86 St. Felix Street.*

We are very excited about this development! It will be a win-win for physicians and patients alike, as well as for community physicians referring to our many specialties and subspecialties.

- And finally, we are moving our *ambulatory dialysis services* from Rockwell Place to a new space in Fort Greene on Myrtle Avenue. We are finalizing the location. Once settled, we will continue to provide the best care possible to patients with renal disease.

**Vasantha K. Kondamudi, MD**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

## ▶ Rounds

**Another Founders Ball Success!** This year's ball, held on October 16, celebrated several physicians, including **Dhanan J. Etwaru, MD**, Chair of Urology, and **Linus M. Yoe, MD**, President of the Medical Board and Associate Program Director of Internal Medicine (both shown here). More than \$1,406,000 was raised to help fund clinical advances and patient programs.



**Important Accreditations.** TBHC has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite plus Gold plus Quality Achievement Award. TBHC also received full accreditation of our mammography facility from the Food & Drug Administration.

**Another Exciting CME Event.** "Novel Strategies for the Management of Congestive Heart Failure" with **Srinivas Kesanakurthy, MD**, Associate Chief, Cardiology, took place on October 22, at 6 to 7 pm (lecture in the 3rd floor auditorium), and 7 to 9 pm (dinner in the Cafeteria).

**Novel Strategies for the Management of Congestive Heart Failure**

**Continuing Medical Education**  
1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit

**TBHC Speaker!**  
**Srinivas Kesanakurthy, MD**  
Associate Chief of Cardiology

**Target Audience:**  
Internal medicine and family medicine physicians, and other providers

**Learning Objectives:**  
1. Review epidemiology and pathophysiology of congestive heart failure.  
2. Review current management of congestive heart failure.  
3. Review the role of home monitoring in the management of congestive heart failure.

**EVENT INFORMATION**  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019  
The Brooklyn Hospital Center

**6-7 PM Lecture**  
(in the 3rd floor auditorium)

**7-9 PM dinner**  
(in the Cafeteria)

Call Richard Husted, MD, for more information regarding registration and questions.  
For more information, please contact: **planning@brooklynhospitalcenter.com**

**THE BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER**

Internal Medicine and Family Medicine physicians and other providers earned AMA PRA Credit. Learning objectives included Understand the issue of CHF readmissions and their associated costs; understand the concept of home monitoring for patients with CHF; be proficient in selecting the appropriate patients for home monitoring.

**Kudos!** **Gary G. Terrinoni**, President and CEO, was included in the August 2019 "Brooklyn Power 100" issue of *City & State Magazine*... **Vasantha Kondamudi, MD**, Executive Vice President, CMO, was included in the 2019 issue of *Crain's "Notable Women in Health Care"*... TBHC's **Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology** was the winner of the 2019 SCOPY Award, "Best Celebrity Dressed in Blue" from the American College of Gastroenterology. The division won based on their entry "Colon Cancer: Hitting It Out of the Big Apple Ballpark with Darrell Strawberry."

**No-Pass Zone.** You may have noticed new "cartoon" posters on the units to encourage non-Nursing staff to NOT pass a call button if they happen to be on the floors. This means residents, fellows and physicians, too. It's very important to the patient experience that their calls are answered in a timely way.

## ▶ Welcome!

**Anesthesia:** Ji-Young Hong, MD; Christine Ng, CRNA. **Emergency Medicine:** Tatiana Havryliuk, MD; Iain Jeffrey, DO; Antonio Mendez, MD; Wing Tom, MD. **Family Medicine:** Richard Alonso, MD; Oksana Levieva, MD; Nada Saymeh, DO. **Medicine:** Adrian Balestra, NP, Psychiatry; Ketevan Berekashvili, MD, Neurology; Clara Boyd, MD, Neurology; Derrick Cheung, MD, Gastroenterology; Brigid Gannon, NP, Psychiatry; Grigoriy Gutin, MD, Neurology; Sungsil Hong, NP, Cardiology; Chao Lu, MD, Rehab; Robert Mancuso, MD, Rehab; Eduardo Quintero, MD, Gastroenterology; Arlene Santiago, NP, Cardiology; Sanjosh Sing, MD, Dermatology; Kevin Tsai, MD, Cardiology; David Turkel, MD, Neurology. **Obstetrics/Gynecology:** Aviv Tarrab Herzlich, MD; Ananda DiMartino, PA; Laura Pomerantz, PA; Dennis Rodashkevich MD. **Pediatrics:** Suhrad Banugaria, MD; Neha Firoze, DO; Bernice Forbes, MD; Stephanie Lee, MD; Patrick Schmidlein, DO. **Radiology:** Sumeet Bahl, MD; David Hirschl, MD; Sima Sekhavat, PA. **Surgery:** Cynthia Chen, DO, Breast; Irena Karanetz, MD, Plastic; Irene Lou, MD, General/Endocrine; Alexandra Pyle, PA, Ortho; Mahalingam Sivakumar, MD, Vascular; Pedro Smukler, DPM, Podiatry. **Urology:** Ivan Colon, MD; Brent Vincent Yanke, MD; Edward Zoltan, MD.

## ► Q&A With Erroll Byer, Jr., MD



### Meet the New Chair of Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Q: How is your role as Chair different from other leadership roles you've held at TBHC?**

I have held several key leadership positions at TBHC over

19 years. Now, I'm helping to facilitate an efficient department and make sure we have the appropriate resources. I take part in more outreach and working with faculty development.

A lot of our faculty have unique skills, things they'd like to explore, so I work with them to

identify areas of special interest and make that come to fruition, which makes the department more efficient and inclusive.

I am a Brooklyn native and I know how multicultural this borough is. We do a lot of outreach to make sure that all our communities have an understanding of how best to improve their health. My goal is to make TBHC a hospital where everyone in the community feels comfortable and where everyone who comes here experiences a very high level of quality and excellent outcomes.

**Q: What has been your focus since becoming Chair of OB/GYN?**

The overall goal for the department is to be a comprehensive women's health destination inclusive of general OB/GYN, maternal/fetal medicine, reproductive endocrinology and fertility, GYN oncology, and female pelvic and reconstructive surgery. I've also been focusing on early entry into prenatal care. We go out into the community and help patients break down what they perceive as potential barriers to prenatal care. As a direct result, we've seen a decrease in perinatal morbidity and we've decreased our preterm birth rate.

## ► Q&A Caroline Columbres, MD



### Meet the New Chair of Anesthesia

**Q: As Chair, what are your immediate priorities?**

I have high standards and have been achieving successful outcomes for our department and TBHC

patients for nine years.

I intend to keep the high level of team-work and communication we have among surgeons, nurses and staff, which keeps the OR highly efficient. When the OR is efficient, patients are more satisfied.

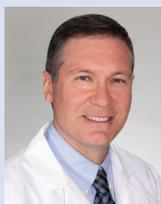
I also want to focus on what we can do as a department to help relieve the opioid crisis. As much as possible, we use non-opioid pain-management strategies in the OR and for our patients after surgery, always making sure we measure up to the quality standards set up by the American Society of Anesthesiology. We use different classes of pain medications and also try to use peripheral nerve blocks with an ultrasound as much as possible so that we can decrease the amount of pain medication the patient might need post-op.

**Q: What has attracted you to TBHC and Brooklyn?**

I did my residency at Maimonides, so I spent three years in Brooklyn at that time. I'm a native New Yorker, born in the Bronx. Once I came to Brooklyn that was it for me. I just love it here.

And I love TBHC. I really liked the people in my department right away, and for nine years it has felt like home. I love the staff and surgeons. We all work as a team, and it makes the OR more efficient, which means the patients receive better care in the end.

## ► Q&A With Moshe Fuksbrumer, MD



### Meet the New Chair of Radiology

**Q: What have been your priorities since beginning as Chair of Radiology?**

We're improving access to services, making it more user-friendly for referring

physicians and patients. Something as simple as improving our voice message menu results in people getting access to a person more quickly. We want to keep it human in a field that can otherwise be so technical.

Where there is the most direct radiologist-patient interaction is in breast imaging,

interventional radiology, and we do very well there in terms of patient satisfaction. Once we can get patients to come, they leave very satisfied.

**Q: Have there been new advances, new technologies or processes recently?**

We have top-of-the-line equipment, we offer just about everything that a radiology department can offer and then some, and we also have top-notch physicians. In the realm of interventional radiology, earlier this year we did our first prostate artery embolization for the treatment of benign prostatic

hyperplasia. We also plan to do joint artery embolization for the treatment of otherwise intractable pain associated with arthritis.

**Q: What about Brooklyn and The Brooklyn Hospital Center inspires you?**

I was born and raised here, did part of my training in Brooklyn, and have been at TBHC for eight years. Being able to give back to a place that I owe so much to is very gratifying. I feel very closely connected to Brooklyn, and it's just been amazing to see the changes that have taken place. There were a lot of people who wrote off good chunks of Brooklyn and, boy, were they wrong!