

CMO Update



A Publication for TBHC Physicians

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Keeping Brooklyn Healthy into the New Year

Great things are happening in The Brooklyn Hospital Center as we begin 2017. As 2016 ended we brought on board a new chair for the Department of Medicine, Dr. James Gasperino. He has hit the ground running, utilizing his experience in quality improvement, patient safety and public health, to take the Department of Medicine to new heights. In addition to Dr. Gasperino, we added another new chair, Dr. Pratibha Vemulapalli. Dr. Vemulapalli joined us right at the start of 2017 as the new chair of the Department of Surgery. Her plans for the department includes increasing surgical volume, building new programs, developing centers of excellence and improving patient satisfaction scores. Please check out the rest of this issue to learn more about both Dr. Vemulapalli and Dr. Gasperino (as well as a great Q and A with Dr. Shahzad).

This year new physicians were not the only addition to TBHC. We also recently received the Da Vinci Xi Surgical System — the most sophisticated surgical device in existence. This robot has a dual console, so surgeons can operate together or be trained on a particular procedure. We are the second hospital in Brooklyn using the new Da Vinci Xi Surgical System and the first in Brooklyn with a dual console.

Looking back on 2016, we also made great strides in quality care. We were named a Silver-level recipient and made the Heart Failure Honor Roll for implementing the latest research based treatment guidelines for heart failure patients by the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG) program. Additionally, we were named a Gold Plus Achievement-level recipient for stroke care and made the Honor Roll Elite from The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's GWTG.

TBHC also improved by two grade levels in The Leapfrog Patient Safety Group's 2016 hospital ratings, and was named a "High Performing Hospital" for heart failure care from U.S. News and World Report. TBHC has also been designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology. Additionally, we received PCMH Level 3 2014 recognition by NCQA for 8 ambulatory sites. We are committed to quality and plan to continue to make strides this year.

2017 started with a positive visit with The Joint Commission (TJC) conducting their long-awaited triennial survey. The survey was a clear indication of progress toward our shared vision to improve quality and patient care. TJC complimented TBHC's performance and noted that we have achieved substantial gains since the last survey.

I would also like to take a moment and thank all our amazing staff for the quick response to the LIRR train crash at Atlantic Terminal that occurred last month. The responsiveness and quality care displayed during this dramatic event, in which TBHC successfully treated 35 people, is an example of why I am so proud of the dedication and selflessness shown by all TBHC staff. The Brooklyn community called on TBHC in its moment of need and we rose to the challenge. That is something you should all be proud of.

Finally, I would like to say that I am looking forward to this new role as Interim Chief Medical Officer. I could not be prouder representing such a great hospital with such outstanding staff. Thank you for all your encouraging words. I am confident that as we have done in 2016, we will be reaching even greater heights together this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shalom S. Buchbinder".

Shalom Buchbinder, MD
Interim Chief Medical Officer



The Brooklyn Hospital Center

Keeping Brooklyn Healthy

New Chair of the Department of Medicine



“Extend your warm welcome to James Gasperino, MD, PhD, MPH, who recently joined us as Chairman, Department of Medicine, and Vice President for Critical Care, Perioperative and Hospitalist Medicine. He also assumes the position of Associate Chief Medical Officer,” says Gary Terrinoni, TBHC’s President and CEO. “TBHC looks forward to Dr. Gasperino’s contributions along with the experience and perspectives he brings on issues of quality improvement, patient safety and public health.”

Dr. Gasperino previously served as Hospital Director of Critical Care Services and Chief of the Division of Critical Care Medicine with NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens. There, he implemented a number of important programs, including transforming intensive care services to a model that embraced patient safety, quality and cost reduction. He implemented a high-intensity ICU staffing model, endorsed by the Leapfrog Group for Patient Safety, and he designed a critical care outreach service that provided ICU resources to patients located anywhere in the hospital.

Working closely with quality and technology specialists, Dr. Gasperino also developed a quality dashboard for all ICUs in the hospital. “We tracked more than 10 metrics monthly for each ICU, and I reported these outcomes to the CMO and Quality Council of the Hospital. I implemented a multidisciplinary morning report structure for two of the hospital ICUs, which served as a process-targeted quality improvement tool. This format was associated with a two-fold increase in compliance with the hospital’s recommendations for prophylaxis against venous thromboembolic disease and with a 40 percent reduction in the prevalence of urinary catheters that remain in the bladder,” says Dr. Gasperino.

Prior to joining NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens, Dr. Gasperino was Section Chief of Critical Care Medicine and Director of both medical and neurologic critical care services for Drexel University College of Medicine and Hahnemann University Hospital.

New Chair of the Department of Surgery

“Please join me in welcoming Pratibha Vemulapalli, MD as TBHC’s new Chair of the Department of Surgery,” says Gary Terrinoni, TBHC’s President and CEO. “TBHC looks forward to Dr. Vemulapalli’s contributions along with her experience and commitment to surgical excellence.”

Dr. Vemulapalli is equally excited to join the TBHC family. “My main goals include increasing surgical volume and building new programs. We plan to develop centers of excellence for minimally invasive cancer techniques, hernia and colorectal care, and laparoscopic bariatrics,” she says. “I also want to build upon the existing success of the orthopedic and neurosurgery divisions. I plan to improve patient satisfaction scores by focusing on the patient experience, working with inter-professional teams and standardizing protocols.”

Board certified in general surgery, Dr. Vemulapalli previously served as Director of Bariatric Surgery at Montefiore Medical Center and Director of Perioperative Services at Montefiore Bronx Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgery Centers. She received her medical degree at Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and did her surgical residency at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where she was a research fellow post-residency. She completed an advanced laparoscopy and bariatric surgery fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine.



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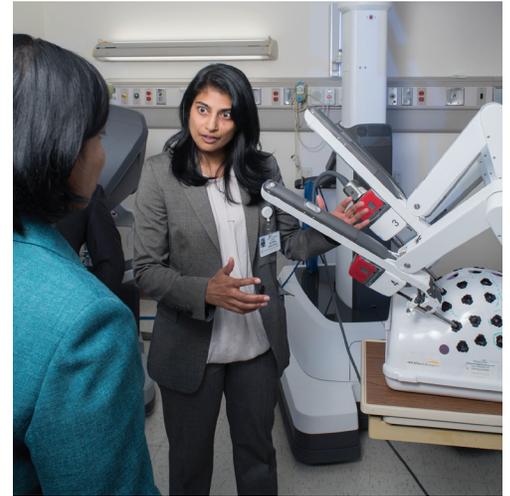
Da Vinci Xi Surgical System

TBHC recently received the Da Vinci Xi Surgical System — the most sophisticated surgical device in existence. The Da Vinci System has brought minimally invasive surgery to more than 3 million patients worldwide and is changing the experience of surgery for people around the world.

This robot has a dual console, so surgeons can operate together or be trained on a particular procedure. We are the second hospital in Brooklyn using the new Da Vinci Xi Surgical System and the first in Brooklyn with a dual console.

With the Da Vinci Xi Surgical System, surgeons operate through just a few small incisions and features a magnified 3D high-definition vision system and tiny wristed instruments that bend and rotate far greater than the human hand. As a result, this enables a surgeon to operate with enhanced vision, precision and control.

As a surgeon, you are 100% in control of the Da Vinci System at all times. Da Vinci technology translates your hand movements into smaller, precise movements of tiny instruments inside your patient's body. The Da Vinci Surgery is used for: Cardiac, Colorectal, Gynecologic, Head & Neck, Thoracic, Urologic and General Surgery.



Q & A with Dr. Shahzad



Dr. Ghulamullah Shahzad is the newest addition to our Division of Gastroenterology. Dr. Shahzad is an interventional gastroenterologist specializing in diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic treatments.

Q: What motivated you to become a doctor?

Dr. Shahzad: Growing up underprivileged in Pakistan, we had no basic healthcare in our region. When I was 17 years old, my mother passed away in my arms due to various undiagnosed conditions. This inspired me to seek out training that I did not have access to in Pakistan, and become a physician.

Q: Why did gastroenterology interest you?

Dr. Shahzad: I originally began my career as a hospitalist. As a hospitalist I found that many of the patients under my care suffered gastrointestinal problems and were at the latest, and most dire stage of their illness. Surgery and other medical treatments were their only limited options.

I sought out additional training because I believe in comprehensive care. Instead of 'window shopping' from doctor to doctor, my patients can

come to me for the most common issues. I stress preventative steps like screening. I encourage them to stay with me throughout their lives.

Q: What are your goals for working at TBHC?

Dr. Shahzad: I truly believe that endoscopic ultrasound, and other preventative screenings and treatments will become the standard for gastrointestinal success by 2025. My primary goal is prevention.

There is nothing worse than meeting a patient who is in the latest stage of their illness, and their only options are surgery, treatment, and pain management. I want to meet patients earlier in their lives and stay with them – to help sustain long-term health through screenings and early detection, and to cure their symptoms, not just treat them.



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