Quality Always a Focus

You may be hearing a lot about quality, because, as always, that is both our ongoing goal and our past achievements.

TBHC has received so many quality recognitions that we have begun a campaign, “National Quality, Brooklyn Address,” to convey that top-notch care can be found right in Brooklyn. Here are some updates:

TBHC was recognized by the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines® with a Gold Plus-level for heart failure care, an elevation from the Silver recognition we received last year. We also made the Heart Failure Honor Roll for exceptional care. We again received recognition by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines® as a Gold Plus Achievement-level recipient for stroke care. We also made the Honor Roll Elite for stroke care. TBHC’s EMS/Ambulance Service won a Lifetime EMS Bronze Award from the American Heart Association’s “Mission Lifeline” program.

TBHC joins NYS Partnership for Patients. NYS Partnership for Patients is a national project that focuses on patient care including organizational culture, engaging the patient and family in their care, reducing health disparities, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections, surgical site infections, clostridium difficile, iatrogenic delirium, severe sepsis and septic shock, patient falls, adverse drug events, preventable readmissions, and venous thromboembolism. For more information, please contact Vasantha Kondamudi, MD, Chief Quality Officer, at 718.250.8444.

Here are areas of care at TBHC that have recently improved:

• The Joint Commission (TJC) survey was completed with no condition level deficiencies.
• Ambulatory Care Center, the Children’s Health Center and all the Family Health Centers are now designated as Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Homes.
• Reduced sepsis mortality.
• Significant reduction in health care-associated infections from 136 in 2015 to 52 in 2016.
• Significant reduction in hospital-acquired conditions from 11 in 2015 to 1 in 2016.
• New decentralized automated medication-dispensing cabinets in ICU.
• EMR optimization: A new “master” MICU order set created and integrated into EMR.

• TJC and CDC safe injection practices implementation; patient-specific “Detemir” insulin syringes prepared in Pharmacy.
• ED satellite pharmacy established.

TBHC is enhancing the quality of our medical education.

We are proud of our always-excellent resident classes and are seeking ways to attract ever more qualified residents as we move forward. We’re increasing our financial support for education. We have revitalized our simulation lab and brought it up to date with the latest technology in order for our trainees to learn and practice their invasive skills. We also use the simulation lab to confirm residents’ skill level before we allow them to employ in direct patient contact. In addition, we are purchasing new teaching aids and question banks to insure all required areas of medical education for each specific residency are taught and that we have the ability to confirm successful education at all levels.

The Brooklyn Heart Center: Up and Running

The Brooklyn Heart Center at TBHC is officially launched! Under the leadership of Sarath Reddy, MD, Chief of the Cardiology Division, and Srinivas Kesanakurthy, MD, Medical Director of the Cath Lab, the new Center aims to grow TBHC’s existing cardiovascular services and to create a destination service for Brooklnites.

In the past, our communities have lacked local access to comprehensive services to meet their heart-health needs. The result has been a significant number of preventable deaths and higher than predicted illness from cardiovascular disease. In an effort to address this public health issue for Brooklyn, TBHC and Mount Sinai have collaborated through our clinical affiliation to provide a continuum of excellent cardiology services.

The goals of The Brooklyn Heart Center are to provide quality, world-class cardiac care right in our patients’ backyard.

Patients have access to a full range of preventive and primary care and interventional procedures in renovated facilities, with new technology. The Center’s clinicians and staff are compassionate and skilled.

The Brooklyn Heart Center’s services include:

• Diagnostic catheterizations
• Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)
• Electrophysiology (EP) services
• Diagnostic angiography, peripheral angiography and implantable loop recorder services
• Echocardiography, treadmill stress test, nuclear stress test and cardioversion
• Heart failure program

For more information about The Brooklyn Heart Center or to refer a patient, please call 718.250.8265.
Q&A With Dhanan Etwaru, MD, Division Chief, Urology

TBHC’s Department of Surgery is pleased to announce a new level of care for downtown Brooklyn with the acquisition of the da Vinci XI robot. Here, Dr. Etwaru discusses his experiences and perspectives regarding robotic surgery at TBHC.

What’s your perspective on how robotics is changing urology surgery at TBHC?

In our 11201 zip code and in the surrounding areas, we have one of the highest risks of prostate cancer in the country. I have been here since 1995, and from then to 2004, we did as many as 125 prostatectomies a year, all open. The robot came on the scene about 2006, and started to take hold. Suddenly, patients were looking for hospitals that had the robot. They didn’t want open surgery for prostatectomies if they could avoid it and they went elsewhere. Our case volume dropped significantly.

What benefits of the robot do you count as most important?

Urologists are always working in a tight space. Our vision is very limited when we do prostatectomies as open surgeries. With the robot, however, we get three-dimension vision and incredible depth perception. There is nothing better that I’ve seen. The procedures take a little bit longer, but the vision more than makes up for that. And then there’s the small incision—patients are able to go home the next day.

Another benefit is that there is far less blood loss, because we can see the veins and can control that. In the old days, bleeding was a big factor in this operation. Finally, the vision allows us to also better see the neurovascular bundle, so there are less incidents of damage to that bundle and, therefore, less long-term impotence and incontinence for the patients.

Do you feel like having the highest, most technologically advanced option on the market here in Brooklyn has contributed to reaching the community in getting some of those cases back?

The da Vinci XI is top of the line and word is getting out. We’re starting with oncology cases and we’re starting to do more prostate cancer surgery. I think within a year, our volume will be tremendously increased.

What other benefits do you see as Division Chief of Urology?

It’s also benefiting the urology residents we train. Because of the robot’s dual console we can show them exactly what we’re doing.

We have also done a number of partial nephrectomies with the robot. You used to make a very painful, big incision in the flank. With the robot, we go in there with four small incisions and the next day you see your patient walking around. This advantage is very meaningful for experienced surgeons, like myself, who saw how patients suffered from the pain and the pneumonias that came with not being able to take full breaths.

TBHC’s Top Docs!

Congratulations to these physicians who were voted by Castle Connolly as Top Doctors. TBHC proudly salutes them and all our wonderful physicians.

Stephen Ajl, MD - Pediatrician; Armand Asarian, MD - Chief, Surgery; Leonard Berkowitz, MD - Division Chief, Infectious Diseases; Ahmar Butt, MD - Internist; David Berman, MD - Ophthalmologist; Casco-Arnoux Charlot, MD - Allergist and Immunologist; Anders Cohen, DO - Division Chief, Neurosurgery; Earl Ellis, MD - Geriatrician; Howard Friedman, MD - Cardiologist; Romulo Genato, MD - Surgeon; Stuart Green, MD - Division Chief, Rheumatology; Ramesh Gulrajani, MD - Pulmonologist; Abraham Jelin, MD - Division Chief, Pediatric Gastroenterology; Matthew Kaplan, MD - Pediatric Nephrologist; Dolly Manvar, MD - Allergist and Immunologist; Viplov Mehta MD, CMD - Division Chief, Vascular Surgery; Paul Yang, MD - Vascular Surgery