



► Important Changes to the ED



Dr. Buchbinder

Under the supervision of Sylvie DeSouza, MD, Chair of Emergency Medicine, TBHC's Emergency Department provides quality services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We are a Level 2 Trauma Center, a New York State-Designated Stroke Center, as well as a DOH-designated PCI/STEMI center. The entire staff is highly experienced, handling more than 70,000 emergency cases every year, treating the full scope of patient injuries and illnesses.

Last year, TBHC received a \$25 million grant from the New York State Department of Health to expand and upgrade our ED facilities. We are expecting that renovation to begin end of this year, early 2019. In the meantime, we are working with Hospital Physicians Advisors Group to implement some important changes:

- Changing and speeding up the process by which admitted patients are transported to their inpatient rooms.
- Adjusting resident rounds to facilitate patient discharges earlier in the day.
- Streamlining nurses' communication with the floors for admitted patients.
- Being dynamic in work assignments to allow for greater flexibility in meeting patient needs in the ever-shifting ED.

We anticipate additional changes with respect to pediatric ED and telemetry services, which will also improve ED performance and throughput.

I will keep you posted as we move along with these improvements. I can assure you, however, that one thing that will remain unchanging is our ED staff's dedication to our diverse community and a desire to pursue even higher levels of excellence as we continue with our mission: *Keeping Brooklyn Healthy*.

Shalom Buchbinder, MD
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

► New Director of General Surgery Residency



Dr. Steven Burger

Steven Burger, MD, FACS, recently joined the Department of Surgery as Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. In this capacity, Dr. Burger will oversee 23 residents in the program.

Dr. Burger trained residents at Albert Einstein/Montefiore Medical Center, where he was voted Attending of the Year in 2009. He brings more than 30 years of service working in a private practice setting while affiliated with Montefiore.

He will be instrumental not only in teaching the surgical residents, but also in providing quality care to our patients.

He received his BA from Johns Hopkins University and his medical degree from Albert Einstein

College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. Dr. Burger did his residency at Albert Einstein/Bronx Municipal Hospital/Montefiore Medical Center. He is board certified in Surgery.

The Department of Surgery has experienced strong growth since 2010. The department's core teaching faculty currently consists of 15 full-time faculty, 10 part-time faculty and numerous voluntary faculty who provide case volume and educational experiences. TBHC has the latest technology including the state-of-the-art daVinci XI robot, an advanced surgical robot system, and a multimillion dollar simulation facility, where residents receive training in laparoscopy, intubation, central line placement and code simulations.

Dr. Burger can be reached at sburger1@tbh.org. Please welcome him to TBHC.

► Epic Patient and Physician Portals at TBHC

The Epic EMR at TBHC went live on August 11, and offers many tools to streamline tasks, enhance productivity and improve the quality of care we provide.

For our staff physicians: Your participation in registering your patients for *MyChart at Brooklyn Health* is vital to your improved efficiency. Epic's patient portal gives 24/7 online access to tools that help patients complete the tasks that normally occupy staff, such as managing appointments, requesting prescription refills, and processing intake forms before a visit. The benefit to you: fewer phone calls and interruptions. Your leadership is vital to encouraging patient participation. *MyChart at Brooklyn Health* is a win-win for your patients, your staff and you.

For our community physicians: In the future, we will be offering you access to *CareConnect @ TBHC*, our provider portal. *Care Connect @ TBHC* will allow you to stay up to date with patient care and easily confer with colleagues across all TBHC ambulatory care sites. This will link all ambulatory care sites into one powerful network so that together we can provide the best care for our community. We will keep you posted on next steps.

► Welcome!

Anesthesia: Neil Yang, MD. **Emergency Medicine:** Faizan Arif, MD; Mark Hug, MD; Pardeep Thandi, MD; Avomash Viswanath, MD. **Family Medicine:** Sasha Charles-Debrosse, NP. **Medicine:** Aymen Elfiky, MD, Hematology/Oncology; Denzil Etienne, MD, Gastroenterology; Luba Karlin, MD, Rehabilitation Medicine; Felix Raju, MD, Cardiology. **Obstetrics/Gynecology:** Cedric Olivera, MD, Urogynecology. **Pediatrics:** Snehal Akre, MD; Brinda Doraiswamy, MD, Pediatric Infectious Disease; Majo Joseph, MD; Mona Saleh, MD; William Mitchell, MD. **Radiology:** Victoria Khalef, MD; Jonathan Weisiger, MD, Neuroradiology. **Surgery:** Steven Burger, MD, Director of Residency Program; Melanie Howell, MD, Bariatrics.

► Q&A With Noah Kondamudi, MD



The Chair of Pediatrics explains some important current changes.

What is the basic nature of the changes in your department?

There are several layers of changes, but they all share this in common—changes in staffing and operations that result in better efficiencies and contribute to a better patient, family and physician experience.

What is the most significant staffing changes?

There have been two separate teams that work in the nursery. Babies in the newborn nursery were managed by primary care pediatricians who have ping-ponged back and forth with their regular provision of primary care in the Children's Health Center. Now we have reassigned newborn care to the NICU team, which is much more efficient.

Also, in the past, inpatients and PICU were handled by specialists, who doubled up as essentially hospitalists for the PICU. We are creating a hospitalist group for both the PICU and the pediatric floor so that specialists are free to concentrate on their own specialty cases. The small pediatric hospitalist group will have a better grasp on the operations of the floors and will be better able to implement policies and make further changes as necessary and dictated by patient flow.

Any changes to report on the outpatient side?

Yes, the Children's Health Center (CHC) will be expanding hours this autumn until 7:30 pm at least four days a week and to include some Saturday hours. Our volume demands more hours of coverage and will be more convenient for working parents. We have been recruiting new staff and will continue to do so to handle the new increased hours. We are also

in the process of hiring a nurse practitioner who can handle all the walk-ins, as well as care for her own panel of patients.

Finally, we are restoring an infectious disease/HIV specialist who will be operating out of the CHC weekly and Dr. Jonathan Lauter will be providing pediatric psychiatry sessions at the CHC.

How is the pediatric emergency department doing?

We are hiring new attendings for the ED. Dr. Majo Joseph, a trained pediatric emergency specialist, will be the Associate Director of the Pediatric ED and this will help with the supervision of emergency medicine residents who will return to do their rotations here. We are also excited about upcoming renovations this fall that will modestly enhance patient space and allow us to care for children up to the age of 21 years.

Any other changes for referring pediatricians?

Yes! We have implemented a direct admit process. Any community pediatrician can call one number and we can arrange to pick up their patient via ambulance and admit them directly to the pediatric floor or intensive care. Thanks to the Nursing Department and Chief Nurse Executive, Dr. Mary Anne Healy-Rodriguez, we have nearly a dozen direct admissions and it has gone very smoothly. That number is 347-622-3209. Referral to pediatric subspecialists, located in Maynard 9 and 11, continues to be available.

For more information about pediatrics, please call Dr. Kondamudi at 718.250.6934.

► Rounds



October 18 Founders Ball will honor several TBHC doctors, including Srinivas Kesanakurthy, MD, Medical Director of TBHC's Cardiac Catheterization Lab (shown here to the left), and Nelson S. Menezes, MD, Vascular Surgeon, TBHC (shown here to the right). This year's ball will highlight

The Brooklyn Hospital Center and Mount Sinai Heart Collaboration. Call 718.250.8599 for more information.



TBHC's bariatric surgery program achieved important national accreditation. Pratibha Vemulapalli, MD, Chair of the Department of Surgery announced in May that its Weight Loss Center has been accredited as a Comprehensive Center under the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP®), a joint program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS).

Vasantha Kondamudi, MD, has been promoted to Executive Vice President, Network Physician Executive. She previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Patient Safety and Quality Officer. Dr. Kondamudi was also honored in June by the Medical Society of the County of Kings, The Academy of Medicine of Brooklyn at the 2018 Doctors' Recognition Day.

A New ED resuscitation area

dedicated to the care of trauma patients was spearheaded by Emergency Medicine residents Iain Jeffery, MD, and Brian Pritchard, MD (shown here between Gary G. Terrinoni, President and CEO, and Sylvie De Souza, MD, Chair of Emergency Medicine).



Resident "Skills Fair" in the Sim Lab

was held in June and was well attended and enjoyed as shown here.

Smart LCD patient TVs. Thanks to generous contributions to the Brooklyn Hospital Foundation, in June, patients began enjoying upgraded Smart LCD televisions that feature an award-winning interactive system and an enhanced channel lineup with 60+ channels, education videos, relaxation tools and more.