



The Brooklyn  
Hospital Center

*Keeping Brooklyn Healthy*

# CMO Update

A Publication for TBHC Physicians & Community Partners

Winter 2018

## ► An “A” Grade and Executive Rounding



Dr. Buchbinder

TBHC is proud to announce our “A” grade from The Leapfrog Group, “the nation’s leading scorecard on hospital safety.” This top score represents the highest possible ranking from the fall 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade and reflects our continuous and daily dedication to patient safety and care.

This success is the direct result of our staff’s full commitment to constant improvement, led by Vasantha Kondamudi, MD, Executive Vice President, Physician Network Executive, previously our Chief Patient Safety and Quality Officer. Dr. Kondamudi led a team of dedicated staff in collaboration with the senior management team, departmental chairs, and clinical and operations teams.

Building on our dedication to patient safety we are focusing on enhancing the full patient experience. We began Executive Rounding, in which members of our leadership team, including myself, collaborate with unit nurse managers to engage directly with patients. During these sessions, questions and concerns are addressed immediately in a very direct and personal way. Patients truly feel they are being heard by those at the highest levels. Additionally, this provides all of us with an opportunity to identify staff who have a significant positive impact on the patient experience.

Executive Rounding is one of several ongoing initiatives that bring to life our mission of *Keeping Brooklyn Healthy*. It shows our patients and our community that TBHC is worthy of the highest industry ratings at all levels of care—patient safety, clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction.

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**Shalom Buchbinder, MD**  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

## ► Brooklyn’s Highest Rated Hospital in Patient Safety

The Brooklyn Hospital Center (TBHC) received the highest grade “A” for patient safety from the prestigious Leapfrog Group. TBHC is one of only two hospitals in all of New York City to get an “A” and is the only A-rated hospital in Brooklyn. In fact, only about 8% of hospitals in the entire State of New York received this highest grade.

“This ‘A’ is really the culmination of a story we began in late 2015,” says Gary G. Terrinoni, President and CEO of the 464-bed community hospital, the oldest in Brooklyn. “Since then, TBHC has invested millions of dollars to hire top doctors and specialists who have created new approaches to care and have ensured a quality environment for patients,” says Mr. Terrinoni.

In fact, just three years ago, TBHC received an “F” grade. TBHC then set out to become a high-reliable organization. Implementation of many patient-safety best practices resulted in significant reductions in infections and hospital-acquired conditions. These efforts resulted in a “C” in 2017 (a typical grade for New York City hospitals). In spring 2018, we received a “B”, which, at the time, was the best grade in Brooklyn.

Among the changes TBHC made and planned that led to our current “A”:

- A new critical care initiative that improves outcomes for the sickest patients.
- The launch of the Epic electronic medical record, which provides better coordination of care.



- A \$23 million transformation grant to renovate the Emergency Department, beginning early 2019.
- A renovation plan for TBHC’s Downtown Brooklyn campus.
- An expansion of the hospital’s ambulatory network into the surrounding communities.

“We are doing sound and savvy planning to Keep Brooklyn Healthy today and into the future. And, we are thrilled to be celebrating our 175th anniversary in 2020. These achievements—and, of course, this ‘A’—give patients, the community and clinicians an excellent reason to take another look at TBHC,” says Mr. Terrinoni.

The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit healthcare ratings organization that grades more than 2,600 hospitals across the country on how well they keep patients safe from harm. Developed under the guidance of a Blue Ribbon National Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses multiple measures of hospital safety data to assign A, B, C, D and F grades to hospitals twice per year.

## ► Welcome!

**Anesthesia:** Azamat Maikotov, CRNA; Steve Shay, MD. **Emergency Medicine:** Matthew Fortunato, PA; Eghosa Osagie, PA. **Family Medicine:** Neva Solomon, NP; Austin Tutt, MD. **Medicine:** Neelima Nadella, MD, Cardiology; Janet Onyenwena, NP; Roger Wooden, MD. **Obstetrics/Gynecology:** Jenna Kaufman, MD. **Pediatrics:** Milena Apath, NP; Judy Dayan, MD. **Surgery:** Michael Politi, DO, Ophthalmology; Chandra Shekar, PA, Othopaedic Surgery.

## ► Q&A With Aymen Elfiky, MD



### Meet the New Medical Director of Oncology/Hematology

Brooklyn native Dr. Aymen Elfiky recently joined TBHC as Medical Director of the Oncology/Hematology division, as well as Director of Analytics for the Department of Medicine. Along with a pedigree that includes such prestigious institutions as Washington University School of Medicine, NYU Medical Center, Yale Cancer Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School and the MIT Sloan School of Management, Dr. Elfiky brings with him his expertise in cancer care delivery, biomedical/clinical informatics, cancer disparities, and digital transformation and innovation.

#### What are your immediate plans for the Oncology/Hematology division?

I actually have two immediate and parallel priorities. The first is to let the community of providers and people throughout Brooklyn know that our department has been renewed and we now have a core of five excellent medical oncologists/hematologists. My second immediate priority is to personally build relationships with providers and the community by establishing trust through a culture of commitment, advocacy and clinical excellence.

#### Will you be instituting new training regimens or other new requirements for staff? Will there be new technologies or procedures/practices you plan to introduce?

Oncology is a notably evolving specialty and, as such, its ethos is constant reassessment and improvement. I realize that change can be hard for different individuals at different stages in their medical careers, especially with the rapid development of “precision medicine” and the ongoing transition to a digital healthcare economy. I am determined to be proactive about making sure my department’s staff, from physicians

to registration coordinators, have timely training and support to be able to deliver high standards of service excellence. This includes hands-on Epic electronic medical record training, interactive didactics for clinical staff, and building and implementing an integrated clinical pathways technology platform.

#### What about TBHC attracted you most?

This position is a rare opportunity to build an entire oncology and hematology division and integrated service line within a large, comprehensive healthcare center. At the same time, I loved the fact that I was coming back to my hometown of Brooklyn, which, despite the pace of development and change, is still characterized by amazing diversity of races and ethnicities. It is precisely this richness of populations that both challenges and motivates me to build a department that provides services that cater to our community’s unique needs while upholding the highest standards of cancer care and support.

For more information about oncology/hematology, please call Dr. Elfiky at 718.250.6960

## ► Rounds

The Brooklyn Hospital foundation thanks those who joined us on October 18, at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge for a terrific casino night! We raised \$1,480,000!



Shown left, top, Honorees Srinivas Kesanakurthy, MD, Director, The Brooklyn Heart Center; President & CEO Gary G. Terrinoni; Debbie Niederhoffer, VP & Chief Development Officer; and honoree Samin K. Sharma, MD, Director of Clinical and Interventional Cardiology, The Mount Sinai Hospital. Shown left, bottom, Nelson S. Menezes, MD, Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery, and his beautiful family.



Vasantha Kondamudi, MD, Executive Vice President, Physician Network Executive, and Rosemary Fiore, Nurse Manager, were honored at the Champions and Visionaries of Healthcare Awards on December 3, sponsored by the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. Dr. Kondamudi was singled out for her efforts for patient safety and Ms. Fiore, for her efforts for patient experience.

Keith Cummings, MD, Family Medicine, was honored by Office of Hakeem Jeffries, US Congressman, 8th Congressional District, on November 7, for invaluable service to the community. Dr. Cummings is shown below with President & CEO Gary G. Terrinoni and community representatives Gerry and Audrey Baker.

