

MOTIVATIONS

RARE HEART CONDITION
RESULTS IN

Successful Transplant

FOR TODDLER AT CHAM

Two-year-old Jake Schron is back to being a kid again: running, jumping and playing with his 4-year-old twin sisters in their Staten Island home. It's a life that six months ago his mother, Shannon Schron, wasn't sure he would ever have again. "The hardest part was just the uncertainty of it all," she says.

In October 2012, Jake was not feeling well and was having trouble eating and sleeping. At first, doctors thought it might be a mild cold or an upset stomach. Shannon kept a close watch on him and noticed that on some days Jake's health seemed to be improving, while at other times he continued to struggle.

On December 1, 2012, Jake's mother rushed him to the emergency department because he was having difficulty breathing. Jake was given a chest X-ray, and the family's fears that he was suffering from a more serious health problem were confirmed. Jake's heart was enlarged, and he was experiencing congestive heart failure. It was quickly determined that the best course of action would be to transfer Jake from his local hospital to The Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) in the Bronx.

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Improving Outcomes for
Those with Sickle-Cell Anemia

Montefiore
Inspired Medicine

The Pediatric Heart Center at CHAM is recognized as a world leader in providing advanced cardiovascular care for acquired or congenital heart diseases. Montefiore's distinguished multidisciplinary team of highly specialized cardiologists and heart surgeons treats patients of all ages, from newborns to adults. As part of a donor-supported, multimillion-dollar expansion of the Pediatric Heart Center at CHAM, the first hybrid catheterization lab in the New York metropolitan region has allowed for maximal efficiency and coordination of care for children requiring both surgical and interventional procedures.

Upon his arrival, Jake was seen by Jacqueline Lamour, MD, Director of Pediatric Advanced Cardiac Therapies at Montefiore. "When Jake first arrived at CHAM, some of his symptoms were similar to those commonly seen in patients suffering from flu-like symptoms or a stomach virus, which is quite common," says Dr. Lamour. "Once properly examined, it became apparent that Jake's situation was very serious. Admitting Jake to CHAM provided access to the advanced specialty care, state-of-the-art technology and expertise that helped to save his life."



Jake with his mother, Shannon, and Jacqueline Lamour, MD

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— Jacqueline Lamour, MD

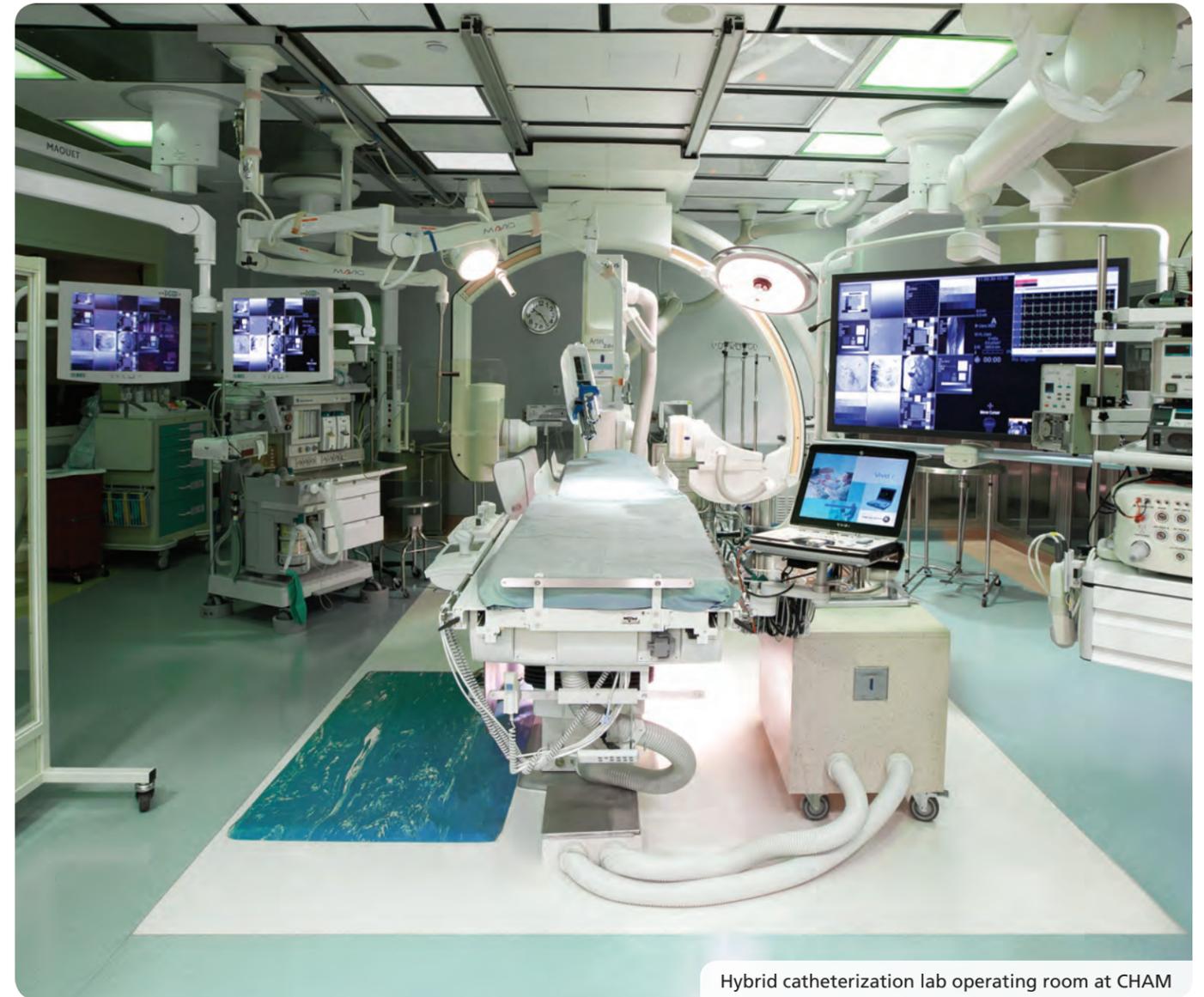


CHAM's hybrid catheterization lab procedure monitors

Jake was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy and end-stage heart failure. Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a condition in which the heart becomes weakened and enlarged and cannot pump blood efficiently. The decreased heart function can affect the lungs, liver and other body systems. The disease is very rare, but once diagnosed, half of the pediatric patients will require transplants within two years. DCM can affect children of all ages.

WAITING FOR A MATCH

Jake was admitted to CHAM and placed on a high-priority organ donor list for a heart transplant. He was required to stay at the hospital until a matching donor could be found. Meanwhile, doctors inserted an IV into Jake's chest to deliver vital medicine that regulated his heart. "He continued to have trouble breathing and would tire easily, but was under constant supervision by Montefiore's exceptional staff of doctors and nurses," Shannon says. "We just focused on keeping him still, or as still as a toddler can be, while we waited patiently for news about an available donor match."



Hybrid catheterization lab operating room at CHAM

About 3,000 people in the United States are currently on the waiting list for a heart transplant. Ten percent of those waiting are children. Since the first successful pediatric transplant in 1984, the number of children placed on the waiting list has increased dramatically, yet the number of donors has stayed relatively constant, resulting in the demand of recipients vastly outpacing available donors.

During the family's stay at CHAM, friends, relatives and supporters started a campaign to raise money and awareness in support of Jake. "It was very humbling to know how many people kept Jake in their thoughts and were concerned about our family during such a difficult time," Shannon says. "When things like this happen, sometimes you don't know where or to whom you can turn, and having people around us like we did at Montefiore made all of the difference."

Finally, after waiting almost four months, the Schron family got the news they had been hoping for: a donor heart had been located that would match the size and type needed to perform Jake's transplant.

On March 23, 2013, Jake underwent a successful heart transplant at CHAM. After a few weeks of close observation by Montefiore doctors and nurses, Jake was finally cleared for discharge. He returned home on April 11 after spending 129 days in the hospital.

"Dr. Lamour and the entire staff at Montefiore were fantastic," Shannon says. "We never could have imagined something like this happening to our family. Words cannot describe how grateful we are. To have facilities like this available to people in need really makes all the difference in the world." ●

To make a donation in support of The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, please visit givetomontefiore.org/cham or contact Christy O'Keefe at cokeefe@montefiore.org / 718-920-8985.



Irwin R. Merkatz, MD

The Chella & Moise Safra
Professor and University Chair,
Obstetrics & Gynecology
and Women's Health,
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
and Montefiore Medical Center

Committed to building meaningful & lasting doctor-patient relationships:

IRWIN R. MERKATZ, MD

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED in the field of OB/GYN and women's health?

When I first began practicing, OB/GYNs almost exclusively worked with patients only when they were pregnant. It just wasn't deemed necessary for women to visit an OB/GYN in addition to seeing a family practice doctor outside of routine annual exams. I felt that there should be an expansion of the doctor-patient relationship in the OB/GYN and women's health fields. I saw a real need for doctors to work with women through their entire life cycle, which is the way most OB/GYNs operate today, seeing patients from adolescence through the later stages of life. As a result, I have some patients I've been seeing for close to 50 years now. The doctor-patient bond is something that I take very seriously, and I feel honored to have known some of my patients for a lifetime.

HOW DID YOU COME TO MONTEFIORE?

I grew up in New York City and attended Weill Cornell Medical College. After graduation, I spent 10 years at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland building a regional network to address the needs of high-risk pregnancy patients. It was great exposure, and I gained so much experience in the OB/GYN field during my time in Ohio. I was offered the opportunity to bring what I'd learned and apply it in the Bronx at Montefiore. I couldn't turn down the opportunity to come back home and help address some of the healthcare needs in my hometown.

WHAT WAS MONTEFIORE LIKE when you first started here, and how has it changed over the years?

The Bronx was facing a tough time in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Residents were vastly underserved in a number of ways relating to healthcare, with a significant lack of access to OB/GYNs. Patients were spending time needlessly in emergency rooms with medical problems that could be better addressed by routine visits to doctors and specialists. Over the years, Montefiore has played an integral role in the resurgence of exceptional doctors practicing in the Bronx today, benefiting not only residents of the community but individuals all across New York City, New Jersey, Westchester and beyond. It's really been a remarkable transformation to witness.

WHY is the philanthropic work taking place at Montefiore important, and what changes have you seen as a result of donor contributions?

Support by trustees and donors at all levels means so much to Montefiore. With the contributions we receive, we've been able to provide state-of-the-art care for members of the Bronx community, which has had such a positive impact on so many lives and families. Scientific research, community outreach, technological advancements and expanded facilities are all areas of improvement and growth that have taken place as a direct result of the unwavering support of our generous donors. Because of the success we've had here in New York City, we have been able to expand our reach outside of the United States.

"With the contributions we receive, we've been able to provide state-of-the-art care for members of the Bronx community, which has had such a positive impact on so many lives and families."

— Irwin R. Merkatz, MD

You've been involved with Montefiore's outreach efforts in Africa. WHERE EXACTLY IS THIS WORK TAKING PLACE AND WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Montefiore is currently working in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda and Ghana to help address the OB/GYN needs of at-risk girls and women. We've learned so much and done such great work for the people of New York and the tri-state area and are now actively trying to apply these lessons to help people in need around the world. It's really a fantastic program and one that I'm quite passionate about. To see the effect that this work has on patients and their families is an amazing feeling.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE of Montefiore and Einstein, and what type of legacy do you wish to impart here at the hospital and university?

I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to spend a significant portion of my professional career here. It's such a wonderful institution, and my hope is that the growth and development that I've been privileged to witness continues both for the benefit of the patients and the community but also for the doctors and employees. ●

Please visit givetomontefiore.org/womenshealth or call the Office of Development at 718-920-6656 to learn more about how you can support Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health at Montefiore.

BEAUTIFUL SPACES *for Specialty Care*

Montefiore's Expansion Continues with the New Hutchinson Metro Center Tower

Montefiore's expansion at the Hutchinson Metro Center to create a multidisciplinary outpatient diagnostic and treatment center is currently under way. The brand-new 230,000-square-foot, 11-story tower will house, among other facilities, an outpatient surgical center consisting of 12 operating rooms and four procedure rooms. Additionally, a post-acute care unit (PACU) and six floors of ambulatory practice space are currently being planned. The new tower will also include space for preoperative testing, laboratory services and a pharmacy, as well as medical and surgical subspecialties.

In addition to expanding Montefiore's footprint, the tower will contain state-of-the-art medical devices and equipment to perform a full range of services such as computed tomography (CT) scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, ultrasounds and X-rays. The new facility will also house a cardiac imaging suite with a nuclear camera to provide exceptional in-depth insight to doctors and staff. Cutting-edge technology is also being implemented in the recovery bays to expedite outpatient discharge from the new center.

Montefiore's continued growth stems from the medical center's desire to make quality healthcare more accessible to Bronx and Westchester patients. Conveniently located on the east side of the Bronx, the Hutchinson Metro Center Tower will be easily reachable by the Hutchinson River Parkway and Pelham



Rendering of the new Hutchinson Metro Center Tower

Parkway, as well as by New York City bus and subway. The facility will include improved amenities such as garage and valet parking and adjacent access to a newly constructed Marriott Residence Hotel. It is also close to Montefiore's Einstein campus and the Montefiore-affiliated Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

"Montefiore is planning this expansion as a top-of-the-line, patient-centered facility,

integrating state-of-the-art technologies with best practices regarding customer service and satisfaction," says Audre Bagnall, Vice President, Strategic Planning, Montefiore. "Our goal is to continue our track record of operational efficiency while providing our clients with the best overall care in the tri-state region."

Completion of the Hutchinson Metro Center Tower is slated for the third quarter of 2014. ●

To support Montefiore's Annual Fund, which helps fund capital expansion and improvement projects, please visit givetomontefiore.org/annualfund or contact Robert Tupper at rtupper@montefiore.org / 718-920-6455.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



DONORS:

Abbe Goldstein and Josh Lurie

FOCUS:

Pediatric Epilepsy Research

WHY THEY GIVE:

In support of their daughter and the work of Dr. Solomon Moshe

Abbe Goldstein & Josh Lurie

Understanding that one of the best ways to help others is to give back, Abbe Goldstein contacted Solomon Moshe, MD, Vice Chairman of Neurology, Montefiore, to see how she could get involved. "Dr. Moshe is so brilliant, and he and his staff are so kind, approachable and engaging, that we felt compelled to contribute however we could," Abbe says.

Abbe and her husband Josh Lurie's daughter experienced her first epileptic seizure before she was 2 years old. At the time it seemed like an isolated incident, until six months later when there was a recurrence. Afterward, the seizures became more frequent, occurring almost on a monthly basis. "They were so horrible and scary and were getting worse," Abbe says.

Abbe and Josh were encouraged to see Dr. Moshe, whose research since 1979 has focused on translational approaches to understand the mechanisms underlying the development of epilepsy and its consequences in infants and children. Due to the severity of their daughter's seizures, Dr. Moshe expedited her daughter's admission to Montefiore for close observation by his team of doctors and nurses. With the help of medication, the seizures were under control within a few months.

Once life with their daughter resettled, Abbe approached Dr. Moshe about supporting his work in the Department of Neurology at Montefiore. "The work Dr. Moshe is doing here is simply remarkable," she says. "My husband and I, along with our family friends Laurie Marsh and her husband Dan Levitz, whose daughter is also epileptic, decided the best way we could help would be to raise funds and awareness by hosting an annual wine-tasting event in Westchester County."

Each year, the two couples orchestrate the intimate evening with family and friends in Westchester, with wine and raffle prizes donated in support of their cause. Now in its fourth year, the occasion has been a great success in both turnout and donor participation, as well as raising money that significantly contributes to Dr. Moshe's work. "Finding solutions for other families coping with children suffering from epilepsy is very important to us," says Abbe, "and we're fortunate to be able to help support Dr. Moshe and Montefiore." ●

"Finding solutions for other families coping with epilepsy is very important to us, and we're fortunate to be able to help support Dr. Moshe and Montefiore."

— Abbe Goldstein

To support epilepsy research at Montefiore, please visit givetomontefiore.org/epilepsy or contact Christy O'Keefe at cokeefe@montefiore.org / 718-920-8985. To learn more about starting your own fundraising event in support of Montefiore, please contact Bess Chazhur at bchazhur@montefiore.org / 718-920-5970.



Westchester
Golf Tournament
2013



Chelsea Piers
Wine Tasting
2013





Shivann Castro and Shakir Riddick, BBRF patients

Treating patients, IMPROVING OUTCOMES

For almost 50 years, Montefiore has been dedicated to the care of patients with blood disorders, particularly sickle-cell disease. Unfortunately, recent setbacks in government funding for sickle-cell disease have sharply decreased the amount of funds available to continue this important work. Additional sources of research funding are urgently needed to help Montefiore scientifically and therapeutically advance the care it provides to patients suffering from blood disorders.

Sickle-cell anemia is a genetic mutation that results in a non-deformable red blood cell. The normal red cell is smooth and looks a bit like a filled-in rubber tire; the sickle cell is characterized by a change into a misshapen cell, which often looks like a crescent or half-moon shape, resembling a sickle. These distorted cells do not have the same elasticity or flexibility as normal red blood cells and can block small blood vessels, decreasing blood flow in the body. Insufficient blood oxygen levels and blood vessel blockages in patients with sickle-cell disease often lead to chronic acute pain, bacterial infections and necrosis (tissue death).

“A common misconception about sickle-cell disease is that it only affects people of color,” says Henny Billett, MD, MSc, Chief, Division of Hematology. “In fact, sickle-cell disease can occur among people whose ancestors lived in regions where malaria is or was common, regardless of race.” Today at Montefiore there are approximately 850 adult patients being treated for sickle-cell disease. Each year, the hospital sees close to 1,250 admissions and 3,000 emergency room visits related to sickle-cell and blood disorders.

At the forefront of treating patients suffering from sickle-cell disease, Montefiore was for years one of 10 medical centers designated nationally to receive funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to research and treat the disorder. However, due to cutbacks, NIH completely removed funding for the program. As a result, Montefiore created the Bronx Blood Research Fund (BBRF).

With a multidisciplinary team of expert clinicians and researchers committed to therapies specific to blood disorders, BBRF’s goal is to develop novel and cost-effective platforms for the management of patients with genetic defects resulting in severe anemia and the production of abnormal red cells. The BBRF promotes ethnic and socioeconomic equality for patients with little or no access to healthcare in the Bronx and throughout the tri-state region. Funding for BBRF also sponsors fellowships for young investigators who conduct significant red cell research and provides support for basic research that will facilitate the development of unique concepts for bench-to bedside treatment, transforming these new, important concepts into innovative therapies. ●

To support the Bronx Blood Research Fund, please visit givetomontefiore.org/bbrf or call the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.

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– Henny Billett, MD, MSc



Montefiore provides support FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Founded in 1987, the Adolescent AIDS Program (AAP) at The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore was the first comprehensive HIV care program for young adults established in the United States. Today, the AAP is widely regarded as a model HIV program, providing exemplary medical and psychosocial care to youth with HIV/AIDS. Operated as a learning lab, its work in HIV treatment, support, research, outreach and professional training has contributed greatly to the science of adolescent HIV/AIDS care.

The program provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and screening to youth 13 to 24 years of age, including support to help clients and their families cope with myriad concurrent issues such as poverty, racism, unemployment, sexism, homophobia and substance abuse. The AAP’s outreach programs educate youth about HIV/AIDS and engage them in HIV testing, and its professional training programs enable other healthcare providers to deliver best practices in the areas of HIV/AIDS and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender care.

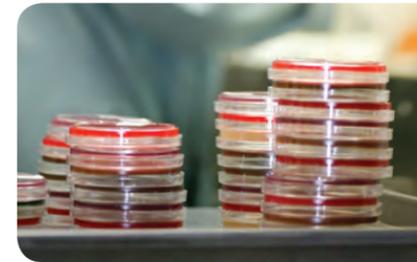
The Bronx, with more than 1.3 million residents, is alone larger than most American cities. With a youthful population (the borough’s inhabitants are the youngest in New York City), the Bronx has the highest HIV-positive rates in New York City for young adults ages 13 to 19 (295 per 100,000) and ages 20 to 24 (618 per 100,000). The Bronx also has more HIV-positive pregnant women than any other borough in the city.

“While overall HIV infection rates nationwide are on the decline, youth are the only age group where new infections are climbing,” says Donna Futterman, MD, the AAP’s director. “The life-saving and preventive benefits of new medications inspire hope for a future without HIV, but getting there is labor intensive, especially with young people—we need to prevent new infections, find those who are HIV positive and engage them in ongoing treatment. Unfortunately, federal and state HIV/AIDS funding streams are contracting at a time when we need to expand services to realize the potential of an AIDS-free generation. Now more than ever, we rely on the support of private donations to give our patients full access to the quality care and support they so desperately need.” ●

To support the Adolescent AIDS Program, please visit www.adolescentaids.org.

PROVIDING INSIGHT Toward Early Detection & Better Diagnoses

With more than 700 employees and over 50 pathologists and researchers conducting lab work across Montefiore’s campuses and facilities, the Department of Pathology at Montefiore Medical Center is one of the largest and most comprehensive medical center



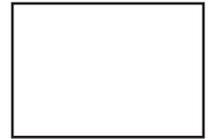
laboratories in the country. In addition to processing approximately 10.5 million billable tests each year, the Department of Pathology also serves as a reference laboratory to many hospitals and clinics in the community. Although their work takes place mostly without direct patient contact, pathologists are essential to the roles physicians play in their patients’ lives and well-being.

“Just about every patient who comes through Montefiore’s doors gets lab work done,” says Ira Sussman, MD, Vice Chairman, Department of Pathology. “Approximately 70 to 80 percent of clinical decision making is based on labs, including early detection of diseases and conditions such as cancer and heart disease. The insights that lab work provides about patients’ health grow each and every day, ultimately allowing physicians to better diagnose and treat those who are sick or suffering.”

Pathologists conduct two primary types of lab work, anatomic pathology and clinical. Anatomic pathology refers to the work done studying tissues closely and under the microscope, as in the case of biopsies. Clinical labs refer to lab work examining body fluids such as saliva, blood and urine. Once processed, the results of these tests are delivered to doctors and physicians to discuss privately with their patients. Copies of the results are also kept under strict confidentiality for follow-up visits by patients with their health professionals.

As a result of the extensive testing and record keeping conducted by Montefiore’s medical laboratory, the hospital has built an expansive database of lab results for its patients’ benefit. “All inpatient results, for any of Montefiore’s medical groups, physicians’ private practices, school outreach programs, essentially any lab work Montefiore conducts, are meticulously and confidentially kept on file,” adds Dr. Sussman. “Complete laboratory records are available for any patient seen at the hospital dating back 16 years and some going back as far as 1980.” As the Department of Pathology continues to grow, plans for continued expansion are already in the works. Designs for a state-of-the-art pathology lab, which will serve as the main reference lab for all of Montefiore, are currently under way in Westchester County. ●

To support the work taking place in the Department of Pathology, please visit givetomontefiore.org/pathology.



Office of Development

111 East 210th Street
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Our legacy?

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