

# MONTFIORE INNOVATIONS

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Montefiore  
Inspired Medicine

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# RANKING AT THE TOP

U.S. News & World Report Scores Are In

## CHAM Doubled Top-Ranked Pediatric Specialties from Last Year

Multidisciplinary teams delivering the best outcomes in the safest environment form the backbone of excellence at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM). For example, readmission rates for diabetic children have been reduced by more than 50 percent. Hospital admissions for children with asthma and sickle cell disease have also been dramatically reduced. CHAM providers lead the country in best outcomes for some of the most complex medical and surgical procedures, including pediatric heart transplant patients (100 percent one-year survival rate) and pediatric liver transplants (100 percent three-year survival rate).

This extraordinary care and attention show. For 2015-2016, eight pediatric specialties at CHAM rank among the nation's top 50 pediatric specialty programs in U.S. News & World Report's "Best Children's Hospitals." This marks the eighth year CHAM has been named in the nation's only



**100%**  
**1 YEAR**  
**SURVIVAL RATE**  
 FOR PEDIATRIC HEART  
 TRANSPLANTS

**100%**  
**3 YEAR**  
**SURVIVAL RATE**  
 FOR PEDIATRIC LIVER  
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comprehensive ranking system for U.S. pediatric centers.

**Compared to last year, CHAM doubled its top-ranked specialties, which now include cardiology and heart surgery, nephrology, gastroenterology and GI surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, cancer, diabetes and endocrinology, orthopedics, and urology.**

"We are honored to be recognized by our outcomes—and our peers," said Judy Aschner, MD, Physician-in-Chief, CHAM and Chair of Pediatrics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. "We are always committed to providing the highest quality care for the sickest and most vulnerable children, and we are extraordinarily proud of the patient-care teams at CHAM," she added.

### SUPPORT

To support the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, visit [montefiore.org/supportcham](http://montefiore.org/supportcham) or contact the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.

# THE RESTORATIVE ENVIRONMENT

## The Art Program Gathers Milestones and Soothes the Spirit

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*A new sculpture sways gently mid-air, its tiny, delicate components cascading softly—and capturing sunlight above a lobby stairwell on the Moses campus.*

At first glance, it looks like a complex chandelier. Upon closer inspection, the components are made of something more organic and ephemeral than glass. Ascension Leaves is a “kinetic” installation by Miya Ando. Fashioned patiently from nearly six thousand hand-dried, hand-dyed, hand-affixed leaves, Ascension is the latest fine art piece to take breathtaking flight at Montefiore as part of our Fine Art Program and Collection.

### **Site Specific, Medically Relevant**

Founded in 2014, the Montefiore Fine Art Program and Collection celebrates the restorative environment through contemporary art. Pieces are strategically placed to soften the traditional lines of a medical center and integrate visual splendor.

As a metaphor between nature’s leaves and the human condition, Ascension Leaves fits distinctly into Montefiore’s founding mission—and the Art Program’s directive. “We are all unique, fragile in our health and physicality, but strong and resilient as part of the larger community—like leaves on a tree,” said sculptor Ando, who also created the Rose Leaf Meditation Mandala, another commission for the medical center.

Rather than unilaterally directing commissions and deciding on acquisitions, Art Program Curator Jodi Moise and Assistant Curator Olivia Davis take a more involved, 360-degree approach.

First, they identify a space. It could be an in-patient floor, a practice area, or a public space. Moise and Davis then seek to gain an understanding of it. They speak to the physicians and associates who enter and occupy it daily in order to grasp the relevant medicine, the patient population, the role of the medical center, and other immersive details.

The Fine Art team then conducts a search, ultimately selecting artists and/or artworks that foster a life-affirming, supportive and restorative environment for all.



“This extraordinary program brings unexpected light, color, soothing imagery, creativity and connectivity to an environment that is sometimes stressed,” said Rachelle Sanders, VP and Chief Development Officer. She added that the Fine Art Program is yet another example of the forward thinking that Montefiore embraces and employs.

### Engaging and Documenting a Community at Work

Located in the courtyards adjacent to where Ms. Ando’s sculpture hangs, The Gallery in the Gardens is a rotating exhibition of environmental art. In the summer of 2015, The Gallery featured The Green Yard Project, Bronx artist Natalie Collette Wood’s fantasy garden, a collage of live and preserved moss.

Just as the Art Program integrates art into a leading-edge medical environment, Wood’s environmental fantasy promoted the co-habitation between natural and urban elements. To commemorate her exhibit, the Art Program hosted a Community Enrichment Day, inviting Montefiore patients, families, associates, and the local community to create their own miniature moss murals.

Another program took place at the Stern Stroke Center. Mindful of the recent neurological trauma and visual/spatial struggles of an older patient population, the curatorial team chose a collection of watercolors, etchings, and photography by various artists. Bright and colorful, the artworks depict nature in the abstract, encouraging visual and spatial engagement.

*continued...*

### The Mary Jane Floor: Respite In Song

For example, the curatorial team commissioned singer-songwriter and visual artist Nadia Ackerman to create a site-specific art program for Pediatric Epilepsy at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore.

Ms. Ackerman made multiple visits to the floor to gain a clear understanding of the space, the range of neurological conditions treated, and the average length of stay for both the patient child and his or her family.

After extensive research, Ms. Ackerman created Mary Jane. First written as a song (sample refrain: “Mary Jane went to Spain in her chocolate aeroplane”) and then captured visually, Mary Jane illustrates the journey of a girl and her adventures from air to sea.

The commission included original drawings, prints for every in-patient room, and decals of Mary Jane motifs for both the corridor and in-patient rooms. The Mary Jane song can be downloaded via a QR code and kept by anyone who visits the floor, providing an on- (and off-) site respite and memento.

## ART PROGRAM AT MONTEFIORE

Finally, the Art Program teamed up with the Bronx Artist Documentary Project to reach an astonishing local milestone, on display at ARTViews Gallery. 80 photographs of Bronx-based artists in their studios were commissioned from 30 Bronx-based photographers. Together, this achieves the largest portfolio of Bronx artists ever documented. The display has since come down, but the exhibition catalog is available to the public.

The Montefiore Fine Art Program and Collection continues to astonish—uplifting spirit and elevating thought. New initiatives include the integration of video art and interactive applications. "I am deeply proud of our Fine Art team and of what they have accomplished in just one year. The installations and programs have been transformative for our patients, their families, employees and visitors alike. And we couldn't be happier to expand our Montefiore community to the artists right here in the Bronx and beyond," said Ms. Sanders.

### SUPPORT

To support the art program, please visit [montefiore.org/artfund](http://montefiore.org/artfund).



The Green Yard Project, by Bronx artist Natalie Collette Wood's fantasy garden, a collage of live and preserved moss.



**Above:** Catherine Nelson, *The King's Garden*, 2011, Pigment print

**Left:** *Mary Jane* by Nadia Ackerman located in the Pediatric Epilepsy Center at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore.





# A SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

## A Conversation With Dr. Sharmila Makhija

### DOCTOR

Sharmila K. Makhija, MD, M.B.A.

### FOCUS

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health

Not surprisingly, the many issues facing women in developing nations are also a struggle here in New York City. Luckily, we have a champion at the helm, who has furthered Montefiore's standards for women's health.

It's been a year since Sharmila Makhija, MD, M.B.A., joined the Montefiore Health System and Albert Einstein College of Medicine as both Professor and Department Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Women's Health. She has been happily busy—and busily making a difference.

**"The maternal mortality rate in the Bronx ranges from 26 to 32 deaths per 100,000 births," said Dr. Makhija, noting that this number can reach easily double the U.S. average.** Despite technological innovation, she added, the most necessary aspects of care are the very basics.

**"We are reviewing how labor and delivery units are organized. We're using this to create more collaborative environments for our entire team. Our focus is on improving training and communication and ultimately, providing compassion-centric clinical care,"** she said.

An internationally-recognized expert in cancer prevention, Dr. Makhija's focus has been on gynecologic cancers, particularly ovarian and uterine. During her numerous clinical trials and translational research projects, she has often advocated for underserved women.

"There is a growing need to quickly and efficiently bridge the gap between laboratory science and clinical application," said Allen M. Spiegel, MD, the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean at Einstein. "Dr. Makhija's notable abilities in this area help Einstein and Montefiore build upon our existing foundation to directly improve patient care."

**"I came to the Montefiore Medical Center because I truly believe in Montefiore's mission,"** said Dr. Makhija, adding that the impact on patients' quality of life has been enormously satisfying.

Her life mission aligns ideally with Montefiore. At nine, the girl from Alabama was sent to India to summer with her grandparents. Instead of going along with their plan—dance and music classes—

she insisted on accompanying her grandfather, a general practitioner, to the office.

"I spent each day seeing patients with him—most of them from the poor rural areas—and learning how to comfort them. When I returned home to Alabama, I told my parents I wanted to be a doctor," she said, smiling at the way that impacted family dinner conversation.

She followed through on her plan, following an illustrious path that included an Ivy League education, a fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, heading her department at the University of Louisville Hospital, faculty positions at other university hospitals, a role on several prestigious editorial boards, and even an executive M.B.A. from Emory University. She is an alumna of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women and has been included in U.S. News and World Report's Top Doctor's List since 2008.

### SUPPORT

To support Women's Health at Montefiore, visit [montefiore.org/supportwomenshealth](https://montefiore.org/supportwomenshealth) or contact the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.

# SUPPORTING MONTEFIORE'S SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

## Multi-Year Pledge Supports New Teen Pregnancy and STD Prevention Initiative



### DONORS

Jerome L. Greene Foundation

### FOCUS

Montefiore Health System's School Health Program

*"Funding from the Greene Foundation strengthens our efforts to reach out to disadvantaged teens and prevent unintended pregnancies. We are proud to further our partnership with the Foundation to improve health outcomes in our community, especially for our kids."*

**-STEVEN M. SAFYER, MD.**

PRESIDENT & CEO OF  
MONTEFIORE HEALTH SYSTEM

With one of the nation's highest teen pregnancy rates, the Bronx calls for a more effective way to communicate with students about their health and their future.

Last summer, the Jerome L. Greene Foundation answered this call, gifting \$3 million to the Montefiore Health System's School Health Program (MSHP). The largest school health program in the U.S., MSHP combats unacceptable levels of poverty and chronic disease with a panoply of student health services, from elementary through high school. For 40 years, the Jerome L. Greene Foundation—dedicated to furthering education, the arts, health, and social justice—has been a transformative force in the development of advanced clinical services at Montefiore.

**Currently, MSHP serves 22,000 students at 12 high school campuses.**

**The hope is that by spring of 2018, we'll have validated a prototype to reduce teen pregnancies and STD transmission by an astonishing 50 percent.** The new funding underwrites research, supports community health organizers—and aids with recruitment, and helps to screen and treat STDs, engage teens, and assist with family planning.

"A fundamental component of the program is a rigorous analysis of results. If these results are positive, we hope this initiative will serve as a prototype for similar programs across the country," said Christina McInerney, President of the Jerome L. Greene Foundation.

"The new Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative allows us to develop a more robust approach to screening, educating and communicating," said David Appel, MD, director, Montefiore School Health Program. "The generosity of the Jerome L. Greene Foundation enables us to help more teens achieve their academic and personal goals."

### SUPPORT

To support the Montefiore Health System's School Health Program, visit [likewemeanit.org/donate](http://likewemeanit.org/donate) or contact the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.

# THE WIRE

## The Latest News from Montefiore

### FDA Awards \$1.6 Million to Promising New Sickle Cell Research

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a group of blood disorders that impacts disproportionate numbers of Hispanic and African-American children, and for which no new treatment has reached the marketplace in over 15 years. Now, researchers at Children's Hospital of Montefiore (CHAM) have been granted \$1.6 million to study a potential medicine intended to reduce SCD pain significantly—and minimize hospitalizations for children and young adults.

### Montefiore and Einstein Announce Yaron Tomer as New Chair of Medicine

Yaron Tomer, MD, is a leading researcher and clinician in the field of endocrinology. Coming from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dr. Tomer has been named professor and university chair of the Department of Medicine at Montefiore and Einstein, effective March 1. His research team has been focused on thyroid autoimmunity and type 1 diabetes, studying the immunogenetic, epigenetic, and environmental mechanisms that cause them.

### The Montefiore Einstein Center for Innovation in Simulation is now open

The Montefiore Einstein Center for Innovation in Simulation (MECIS) has launched, led by Dr. Marvin Fried, University Chairman of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. MECIS is creating an opportunity for tomorrow's healthcare professionals to learn and train in an advanced and fully equipped environment. Located in the Van Etten Building on the Einstein Campus, the center's leadership consists of expert physicians and educators.

### Two Kidney Transplants Bind Families and Improve Lives

Last Thanksgiving, the O'Briens and the Krafts had plenty to be thankful for. A member of each family was in need of a kidney transplant, and even though nobody within their respective families was a perfect match, they were able to complete an organ donation swap through the United Network for Organ Sharing. The national paired exchange program helped both Keith O'Brien, from New York, and Jim Kraft, from Texas, receive new kidneys from members of each other's family—a true win for paired exchange transplantation.

### B.O.L.D. Buddy Program to Expand with Susan G. Komen Grant

For a cancer patient, there's nothing like getting hope from someone that's been through it all before. That's what Bronx Oncology Living Daily (B.O.L.D.) Program offers: psychosocial services in the form of "buddies," or volunteer cancer survivors who take or accompany patients to screenings and other appointments. The patients are largely women with breast cancer. After seeing the success of this program, the Susan G. Komen Foundation has awarded \$200,000 for its expansion.

#### SUPPORT

Ensure Montefiore has funding for more of these innovative initiatives by visiting [montefiore.org/donate](https://montefiore.org/donate) or contact the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.



# CELEBRATE MONTEFIORE GALA

October 26, 2015

Raised more than \$2.5 million benefiting important programs within the Montefiore Health System



# WINE TASTING

September 16, 2015

Raised \$100,000 benefiting important programs and services at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore.



# Montefiore

Inspired Medicine

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# LOOKING AHEAD

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## 18TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday June 13, 2016



Register today by visiting  
[montefiore.org/golf](https://montefiore.org/golf).

## WINE TASTING

Thursday September 22, 2016



Find out more details by visiting  
[montefiore.org/winetasting](https://montefiore.org/winetasting).