**Montefiore and ENT and Allergy Associates Announce Clinical Affiliation**

Administrators and physicians from Montefiore and ENT and Allergy Associates, LLP (ENTA) gathered in White Plains to celebrate the announcement of their new clinical affiliation, which will enhance the delivery of pediatric otolaryngology care to young patients in the Bronx and throughout the Hudson Valley.

As Montefiore enters into a clinical affiliation with the nation’s largest otolaryngology, allergy and audiology practice, ENTA patients gain greater access to Montefiore’s pediatric specialty care services.

During the evening’s festivities, Judy Aschner, MD, Physician-in-Chief, Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM), and Professor and Michael I. Cohen, MD, University Chair, Pediatrics, Einstein, discussed the numerous benefits of this affiliation, including the coordination of care teams post-hospital stay.

“This exciting clinical partnership affords a greater number of pediatric patients access to Montefiore’s specialized, multidisciplinary care, ensuring that they receive high-quality, individualized treatments,” says Dr. Aschner.

Other Montefiore clinical leaders present during the event include Marvin P. Fried, MD, Professor and Chair, Otorhinolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, Montefiore and Einstein; John Bent, MD, Pediatric Division Director, Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, CHAM, and Professor, Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and Pediatrics, Einstein; and David Rosenstreich, Chief, Division of Allergy and Immunology, Montefiore, and Professor, Medicine, Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, and Microbiology and Immunology, and Joseph and Sadie Danciger Distinguished Scholar in Microbiology/Immunology, Einstein.

“By joining forces with ENT and Allergy Associates, Montefiore will be able to bring its leading-edge care to a broader reach of patients in the Bronx and Westchester, who may have previously lacked access to sophisticated treatments for complex ENT diseases,” says Dr. Fried.

**Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart & Vascular Care Holds Inaugural TAVR Reunion**

On November 10, roughly 15 patients who received a Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedure at the Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart & Vascular Care gathered to celebrate their elevated quality of life since having this minimally-invasive procedure.

The TAVR Program, which began in 2012, offers elderly patients with aortic stenosis—narrowing of the aortic valve—who are considered too high-risk for traditional open-heart surgery, an alternative for replacing the aortic valve.

The TAVR procedure, which is performed via an artery in the groin or a small incision in the chest, allows the diseased native heart valve to be replaced without open heart surgery. Patients who have this procedure are typically over the age of 80, have significant co-morbidities and chest pain, shortness of breath or syncope (episodes of fainting or brief losses of consciousness).

Joseph DeRose, MD, Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Co-Director, TAVR Program, Montefiore, and Associate Professor, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Einstein, and David P. Slovut, MD, PhD, Interventional Cardiology and Co-Director, TAVR Program, Montefiore, and Associate Professor, Clinical Medicine (Cardiology) and Clinical Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery, Einstein, were on hand to catch up with the former TAVR patients.

“It was wonderful to see all of our TAVR patients together in one place, enjoying life and making new friends based on this common experience,” said Dr. DeRose. “Seeing successfully treated patients motivates the clinical staff when they learn the results of their efforts.”

**Montefiore Mount Vernon Hosts Ebola Town Hall**

On December 17, a panel of experts shared important information about Ebola with Mount Vernon residents, as part of a Town Hall for the community. From left: New York State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson; Brooke Balchan, MD, Medical Director, Mount Vernon City School District; Debra Spicehandler, MD, Director, HIV Services and Infectious Diseases, Montefiore Mount Vernon; Mark Fang, JD, Executive Director; Westchester County Human Rights Commission; and Ambassador Amadu Koroma, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations.
Holiday Spirit Alive at Montefiore

The holiday season was filled with good tidings and cheer across Montefiore, thanks to the kindness and generosity of associates, members of local community organizations, volunteers and students.

On December 11, members of Masayas Motorcycle Club donated toys to Montefiore New Rochelle (MNR), which they collected as part of a toy drive held in conjunction with Empire Harley-Davidson of New Rochelle specifically to support the works of MNR.

Pediatric patients from the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore received 190 donated toys as part of the Inspired Giving Challenge, an initiative on the Moses Campus designed to inspire associates to give back during the holiday season.

More than 1,100 electronic thank you cards, as well as 100 paper thank you cards, were sent among associates, as part of the Inspired Giving Challenge. Associates sent cards in recognition of their peer’s work.

The merriment spread to Schaffer Extended Care Center as well. On December 8, fourth and fifth graders from Colonial Elementary School in Pelham, New York sang to residents, a tradition that they have upheld for the past several years, says Josephine Catalano, Volunteer Coordinator, Montefiore New Rochelle. In addition, kindergartners through third graders made holiday cards and decorations that were distributed among the residents.

2015 Automobile Mileage Rate Increase

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently announced an increase in the standard mileage rate, from $.56 cents to $.57 cents. This increased rate, effective January 1, will apply to those miles where an associate’s automobile is used for Montefiore business purposes and is approved in advance by one’s supervisor.

Mileage reimbursement can be claimed on the Employee Business Expense Travel Reimbursement Form. Speak to your office administrator about getting this form through the HITOUCH website.

Optical Supply Discount Available to Montefiore Associates

General Vision Services (GVS), located at 3400 Bainbridge Avenue in the lobby of Montefiore’s Medical Arts Pavilion (MAP) building, offers a range of services to fulfill optical supply needs. GVS offers a wide selection of contact lenses and designer frames. Discounts are available for Montefiore associates and their families. For more information, call 718-652-1750.

Rehabilitation Unit Moves to Wakefield Campus

The newly-renovated Rehabilitation Unit, with 16 beds in all single rooms, has opened at the Wakefield Campus. Relocated from the Einstein Campus, the facility offers patients skilled rehabilitation services for a diverse spectrum of diseases and disabilities, including stroke, spinal cord disorders, neurological diseases, vascular disease/ amputation, cardiac or pulmonary disease, rheumatological disease, orthopedic surgery, spine surgery, cancer and other diseases.

Location: 600 E. 233rd Street, 4 East, Bronx, NY
Admissions Coordinator: 718-920-9746

Clinical Trial Spotlight

Brexpiprazole (Drug) as an Additional Treatment to Paroxetine or Sertraline in Adult Patients Suffering From Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of brexpiprazole as adjunctive treatment to paroxetine or sertraline for PTSD symptoms.

Ages Eligible for Study: 18 to 65 Years
Genders Eligible for Study: Both

Eric Hollander, MD, at 718-920-2933 or mahender@montefiore.org

Free Diabetes Management Workshop
Multiple Locations | January–March

Do you or a family member have diabetes? Come to one of our free workshops to learn how diabetes can be managed.

No registration required.
Visit www.montefiore.org/workshops for schedule and information.

Questions? Call 1-800-MD-MONTE (1-800-636-6683)

EVENTS

Grand Rounds: January 5–January 9

Nuclear Medicine | Monday, January 5 | 4:00 pm
Nuclear Medicine Conference Room | Montefiore Medical Park
Topic: “Thyroid Cancer: Indication and Opportunities for PET/CT”

Cardiology | Tuesday, January 6 | 7:30 am
Cherkasky Auditorium | Moses Campus
Topic: “Acute Heart Failure: What is the Role of the Emergency Department?”

Medicine | Thursday, January 8
8:00 am | Forchheimer 1st Floor Lecture Hall | Einstein Campus
12:15 pm | Cherkasky Auditorium | Moses Campus