Montefiore IT: Welcome to the Future

Montefiore’s Emerging Health Information Technology (EHIT) has been renamed Montefiore Information Technology (MIT), indicating the vital role IT plays in Montefiore’s ongoing strategic growth.

Montefiore IT, a visionary in the healthcare IT field, supports the seamless integration and orchestration of all facets of the institution’s expanding and complex healthcare system.

The move from EHIT to Montefiore IT is a name change, as well as a cultural turning point. The Department remains dedicated to providing technical support to Montefiore’s approximately 23,000 associates, in addition to developing pioneering technology to streamline and improve the organization.

Montefiore IT will elevate its focus on customer service to meet the growing needs of associates and patients as it continues to lead the healthcare IT industry.

“With our increasing reach throughout the Bronx, Westchester and beyond, we require a superior, integrated infrastructure to deliver the latest advancements in medical care to our patients,” says Jack Wolf, Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Montefiore.

These innovations include replacing many of the core systems supporting Montefiore, such as the existing laboratory information management system—the GE Ultra Laboratory Management System—with the Soft Lab system, a more sophisticated system with added functionality, as well as replacing both the inpatient and outpatient Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system with Epic, a cutting-edge EMR system designed to support a range of functions across the organization.

Additionally, MIT is upgrading Montefiore’s care management systems and Core Communication Network for increased capacity and state-of-the-art applications support.

New Executive Director Joins Wakefield Campus

D ianna Jacob has returned to her Montefiore roots. Since launching her career at Montefiore as a physician assistant, she has held a variety of increasingly senior clinical and administrative roles at Montefiore and later NYU Langone Medical Center. This month, she was appointed Vice President and Executive Director, Wakefield Campus, Montefiore.

Prior to her current position, she was Vice President for Faculty and Academic Affairs, NYU Langone Medical Center, where she worked collaboratively with physicians and staff to achieve strategic organization imperatives.

“Ms. Jacob’s leadership trajectory makes her particularly well-suited to lead Wakefield, as we continue to advance the care provided at Wakefield,” says Susan Green-Lorenzen, RN, Senior Vice President, Operations, Montefiore. During her early career at Montefiore, Ms. Jacob “gained a solid foundation in patient care, while creating an interest in developing improvements to positively affect patient outcomes,” says Ms. Green-Lorenzen.

“It is a true pleasure to be part of the Montefiore family again,” Ms. Jacob says. “I look forward to working with our dedicated staff and leadership to advance our strategic initiatives, and, above all, to provide the best possible care to our patients.”

Thoracic Surgery Residency Celebrates 50 Years

The Montefiore-Einstein Thoracic Surgery Residency Program—one of the oldest thoracic surgical residency programs in the country—recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Launched in 1963, its more than 90 physician graduates have gone on to become leaders at medical centers nationwide.

The event, held at Montefiore’s Grand Hall, was attended by multiple graduates, including the program’s first graduate, Lari Attai, MD, Attending Surgeon and Professor Emeritus, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Einstein, who graduated in 1965. All 2013 graduates were in attendance. The event was hosted by Robert Michler, MD, Surgeon-in-Chief and Chairman, Departments of Surgery and Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Montefiore, and Professor, Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Einstein, and Associate Program Director for the Thoracic Residency Program Samuel Weinstein, MD, Director, Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery and Adult Congenital Cardiac Surgery, Montefiore, and Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Einstein.

“Our dedication to the education of thoracic surgeons at Montefiore has never been stronger, and our program is achieving and exceeding the highest grades among our fellows when compared to peer programs,” Dr. Weinstein says. “We have made substantial changes to keep ourselves current, and we will continue to do so to not only make our future graduates excellent surgeons, but also our past graduates proud.”

Robert Michler, MD, with Lari Attai, MD, the first graduate of Montefiore’s thoracic surgery residency program.
Inaugural Hugh Solomon Wisoff Lecture
Monday, February 3 | 9:00 am
Grand Hall, Tischman Learning Center
Moses Campus

The inaugural Hugh Solomon Wisoff Memorial Lecture will be delivered by neurologist Dennis Dee Spencer, MD, of Yale University. Dr. Wisoff served as Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, Montefiore for five years and was Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus in Neurological Surgery at Einstein. His wife, Irene Lutzky Wisoff, established the Memorial Lecture Fund at his passing last year.

Montefiore Represented at White House Forum

Montefiore recently participated in the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service's (FMCS) White House summit celebrating labor-management partnerships and the benefits of successful union negotiations with employers. Nerissa Chin, Director of Labor and Employee Relations, Montefiore, and Estela Vazquez, Executive Vice President of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the union that represents nearly 10,000 Montefiore associates, participated in the event’s partnership panel discussion. The discussion was moderated by Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez.

“Since arriving at Montefiore in 2005, I have seen firsthand the many advantages of positive collaboration between management and labor,” Ms. Chin says. “It was a great feeling to share Montefiore’s successes at the forum.”

Since 2010, for instance, 127 associates obtained associate or bachelor degrees through the union’s training fund. Montefiore’s labor and employee relations office has also worked closely with 1199 SEIU to address staffing levels in areas including nursing, respiratory therapy and laboratory technologists.

“Maintaining positive labor and employee relations helps boost associates’ morale, driving associates’ opportunities to further their education and progress in their careers,” Ms. Chin says.

Montefiore Mount Vernon Gets a Makeover

After being closed for three years, the cafeteria at Montefiore Mount Vernon recently reopened with all new fixtures, food stations, coffee urns, cash registers and ample seating for all associates.

The lobby, Emergency Department and exterior of Mount Vernon were also recently revamped, giving the facility a bright and airy feel. The lobby, which hadn’t been upgraded since the 1990s, received a complete overhaul, which included replacing the ceiling, installing new sheet vinyl flooring and LED lighting, refacing the existing reception counter and painting all walls. The floors of the chapel and admitting waiting room were replaced, and nonfunctioning automatic doors were repaired and made operational.

In the Emergency Department, the waiting room was updated with new LED lights and flooring. The ceiling and walls were painted, and heavy-duty mats were installed in entrance vestibules. In the main treatment areas, the walls were painted, ceiling tiles were replaced and all existing bumper rails were refurbished.