Montefiore and Yeshiva University Approve Agreement

The Board of Trustees of Montefiore Health System and Yeshiva University have approved an agreement granting Montefiore authority to assume meaningful responsibility for Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

This agreement builds upon Montefiore’s longstanding relationship with Einstein, which is rooted in shared values and a commitment to excellence and social justice. It helps secure Einstein’s future as a top-tier medical school and research institution; and moves Montefiore and Einstein toward greater integration.

“Together we have recruited some of the most exceptional clinicians to build the Montefiore Einstein Notable Centers of Excellence and beyond, as well as extraordinary researchers doing seminal work,” says Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and CEO, Montefiore. “All of us, especially our faculty, are deeply committed to the education of Einstein medical students.”

The deal is expected to close later this year, once all details and regulatory approvals are finalized.

Health Department Launches New HIV Prevention Campaign at Montefiore

On January 12, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH) announced the introduction of a new outreach campaign, PrEP & PEP: New Ways to Prevent HIV, at Montefiore’s Oval Center. The campaign aims to provide clinicians with resources, including a detailing kit for educating and screening patients, to support an informed discussion and prescription of pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP) to New Yorkers facing an increased risk of HIV infection.

Roughly 3,000 New Yorkers are newly diagnosed with HIV each year, and PrEP and PEP are both proven to be highly effective in preventing HIV when taken as directed. PrEP is a pill taken daily to prevent HIV infection when used in combination with other risk reduction strategies, while PEP is a combination of pills taken daily for 28 days to prevent HIV infection immediately after high-risk exposure to HIV.

In the spring of 2014, NYCDOHMH conducted surveys with more than 500 New York City men who have sex with men (MSM) aged 18 to 40. Among MSM respondents with HIV-negative or unknown status, up to 51 percent of respondents were unaware of PEP and up to 59 percent were unaware of PrEP. New Yorkers who are at an increased risk for HIV infection include men who have sex with men, transgender individuals, serodifferent couples (one partner is HIV-positive) and injection drug users. In NYC, HIV prevalence and incidence is greatest among men who have sex with men and transgender women.

“As the director of the largest multidisciplinary and multispecialty adult HIV/AIDS program in New York State, I am proud to support the Health Department’s new efforts to raise awareness around the benefits of PrEP and PEP—two biomedical inventions that Montefiore supports,” says Barry S. Zingman, MD, Medical Director, AIDS Center, Montefiore, and Professor, Clinical Medicine, Medicine (Infectious Diseases). “For decades, Montefiore has been a leader in providing comprehensive care to patients and state-of-the-art training to healthcare providers caring for individuals with, or at risk for, HIV. The Health Department’s new detailing kit is a welcome addition to our arsenal of HIV treatment and prevention tools.”

Heading Off Heart Disease

Montefiore associates make strides against heart disease during the Montefiore Mile, the launch of American Heart Month on the Moses Campus. For a full listing of Heart Month events, visit the intranet.

EPIC@Montefiore Associate Training Underway

More than 3,000 Montefiore associates will be trained on Epic@Montefiore, the new, integrated electronic health record system scheduled to go-live initially at Montefiore Medical Group sites. Training is currently underway at Montefiore’s Westchester Square campus for nearly 600 “Super Users”—Subject Matter Experts who have been recognized by their peers and leaders as associates who are in a position to coach their peers during training. These Super Users will also serve as a resource in answering questions and helping associates troubleshoot problems.

In addition, Epic-credentialed trainers will train associates on integrated clinical and operational workflows, which will enable clinicians to provide superior levels of coordinated patient care. Front desk associates and schedulers will learn how to use Epic@Montefiore’s integrated scheduling templates to directly access provider schedules, leading to more efficient scheduling of patient appointments.

Training for Super Users began February 9 and runs through February 20. Associate training begins February 23 and runs through April 3.

To learn more about Epic@Montefiore training and how this enables Montefiore associates to better care for patients, visit Intranet/Epic.
Chappaqua Families Host Wine Tasting to Benefit Epilepsy Research Fund

Chappaqua parents whose children suffer from epilepsy recently held a wine tasting in South Salem, New York to benefit the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore’s (CHAM) Epilepsy Research Fund (ERF). Tiki Barber, former New York Giant and co-host of CBS Sports Radio’s The Morning Show, was a special guest at the event, which raised funds that will support finding a cure for epilepsy, a condition affecting more than 50 million people worldwide. The ERF is led by Solomon Moshe, Vice Chair, Neurology, and Director, Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology, Montefiore; and Professor, The Saul R. Korey Department of Neurology, Pediatrics, and Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience, Einstein.

Montefiore IT System Upgrade

In order to bring Montefiore’s network system up to the latest standards for healthcare information technology, Montefiore IT (MIT) has been performing a systems upgrade in stages. The next step is to upgrade the Data Center in Yonkers, where all Montefiore applications are serviced. MIT has been working with clinical departments to prepare for the impact of this work.

The migration is scheduled to occur from Saturday, February 21 at 11:30 pm to 7:30 am on Sunday, February 22.

During this time, all electronic clinical and business applications will be unavailable, including Citrix, the intranet and paging system. Access to email and the internet will be available throughout the upgrade. The first phase of migrated applications will begin returning to service at approximately 3:00 am on Sunday and will include the following: CE/Carecast, Lab, RIS, PACS, Citrix, Wellsoft and Treks. Phase two of migrated applications includes all other MIT-supported applications, which will begin returning to service at approximately 7:30 am on Sunday.

Anyone from affected clinical and business departments should contact his or her department administrator with questions. Others with questions should call the Service Desk at x4554 or email NetworkUpgrade@montefiore.org.

Clinical Trial Spotlight

Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) Research Study

Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) is the most common form of vaginal infection. The most common symptoms are:

- Thin white-grey vaginal discharge
- Unpleasant odor

If you have these symptoms, call 718-430-3253 or email microbicide@einstein.yu.edu to learn more about a clinical research study at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore. Reimbursement will be provided.

Events

New York Blood Center Blood Drive

In partnership with Montefiore
Thursday, February 26 | Noon–6:00 pm
Friday, February 27 | 9:00 am–3:00 pm
Food Pavilion, Moses Campus (Partitioned off area of cafeteria)

To register, visit the intranet.

Professional Development Seminar

Interested in developing your career at Montefiore?
Human Resources is offering a four-day seminar, designed to help determine career interests and goals and foster professional growth, which is free and open to all associates. All sessions held on Moses Campus.

Next Session: March 10, 18, 25 & April 3 | 10 am–Noon
☎ 718-920-8440 by March 6 to register

Celebrate Heart Month

Celebrate Children with Special Hearts

Wednesday, February 18 | 4:00–6:00 pm
Grand Hall, Tishman Learning Center, Moses Campus
111 East 210th Street, Bronx, New York 10467
Registration is open to all. Please call Serena Rodriguez at 718-741-2178.

Blood Pressure Screening

Thursday, February 19 | 9:00 am–2:00 pm
Lobby, Westchester Square Campus
2475 St. Raymonds Avenue, Bronx, New York 10461

Celebrate Heart Month Health Fair

Tuesday, February 24 | Noon–4:00 pm
The Mall at Bay Plaza
200 Baychester Avenue, Bronx, New York 10475
Montefiore is offering blood pressure screenings and other surprises. Open to all.