Montefiore Celebrates World Breastfeeding Week

August 1 marks the start of World Breastfeeding Week. Montefiore will be performing community outreach at the Bronx Zoo on Wednesday, August 5 to inform community members about the benefits of breastfeeding and provide educational and supporting materials.

Montefiore will also be recognized for its commitment to promoting, supporting and sustaining breastfeeding in the Bronx and Westchester County by the Director of Health & Human Services for the Bronx Borough President’s Office on Thursday, August 6, in the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore Lobby.

Montefiore entered the fourth and final ‘Designation phase’ of the Baby Friendly Initiative in December 2014. The initiative is part of a larger, ongoing effort to earn Montefiore a Baby-Friendly Hospital Designation, a global effort by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to support and promote breastfeeding, which Montefiore began pursuing in 2010. Some notable efforts made by the nursing staff include the distribution of “10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding” posters at both the Weiler and Wakefield Mother-Baby units, as well as outpatient prenatal clinics. In addition, baby baths are now delayed at birth six–24 hours, with more than 80 percent of patients performing immediate skin-to-skin contact between the newborn and the mother, which aids in colonizing the child’s skin with the mother’s natural bacteria, after vaginal deliveries.

Weiler Walks It Up with Associate Fitness Initiative

On Thursday, June 25, Montefiore’s Weiler Campus kicked-off its Walk It Up with Weiler initiative, a challenge to associates to walk up all 11 flights of stairs, from the main lobby. Nearly 200 associates participated in the challenge, competing for a variety of prizes including gym memberships, Fitbits, pedometers and workout gear. The event concluded with a celebration, including food and music in the cafeteria.

Epic@Montefiore 2nd Go-Live at Select Faculty Practices

As of July 31, patients visiting Montefiore’s Cardiology, OB-GYN, Oncology, Medicine, Neurology and Rehabilitation faculty practice locations are experiencing enhanced patient care coordination as a result of Epic@Montefiore, the new integrated electronic health record system. Epic@Montefiore centralizes patient information and significant clinical content into one system now accessible by associates at Montefiore Medical Group (MMG), Sound Shore Cardiology Associates and CMO, Montefiore Care Management, as well as the most recent addition of Montefiore’s 70+ select faculty practice sites.

With Epic@Montefiore’s second go-live, Montefiore associates now have the capability to seamlessly coordinate patient care with non-Montefiore community providers through Care@Montefiore, a secure web-based application powered by Epic. Care@Montefiore’s read-only application provides referring physicians with access to select patient information stored in Epic—essentially connecting external referring providers to Montefiore’s patient care team.

Leading up to the July 31 go-live, the Epic project team ensured that clinical and financial data from previous electronic medical record systems were transferred and uploaded into Epic and that new integrated workflows and applications were extensively tested. Application testing for Care@Montefiore ensures that referring providers can appropriately and securely access their patients’ medical information stored in Epic, which also helps Montefiore providers access significant medical information to make important medical decisions in a variety of situations.

Epic@Montefiore underscores Montefiore’s values by enabling associates to provide patients with a seamless, patient-centered healthcare experience.

For more information, visit Epic@Montefiore on the intranet.
Montefiore neurosurgeons and anesthesiologists recently joined an international team of ophthalmologists, oculo-plastics specialists, ENT surgeons, transplant surgeons and anesthesiologists from the United States, France, Israel and India for a charitable mission trip to Mongolia. The team from Montefiore included Reza Yassari, MD, Chief, Division of Spine and Residency Program Director, Neurosurgery; Apolonia Abramowicz, MD, Anesthesia; and Neil Haranhalli, MD, Resident, PGY-3, Neurosurgery. The 10-day surgical and teaching mission was yet another testament to Montefiore’s focus on providing quality healthcare to underserved populations, including those overseas.

The charitable mission—organized by the Virtue Foundation, a not-for profit organization focused on increasing awareness, inspiring action and rendering assistance through healthcare, education and empowerment initiatives—allowed the physicians to provide care for patients in need of complex surgical treatments and partner with local teams, while also assessing and meeting the educational, clinical and institutional needs of surgical care in Mongolia. The team from Montefiore was an essential part of the surgical group that treated several complex cranial and spinal procedures, including a three-year-old boy born with a congenital skull base defect. They joined a team comprising oculo-plastics and ENT surgeons to complete a frontonasal encephalocele repairs and correct the child's deformities—a procedure that took more than 20 hours. Donations from more than 10 corporate and institutional sponsors allowed the team to secure the necessary equipment and resources to perform the surgery.

“There is a global health program at Einstein that until now did not have surgical missions. This trip was intended to expand the reach of Montefiore’s surgical team to populations in need abroad, and in that sense was a resounding success,” says Dr. Yassari. "In addition, the involvement of residents in these missions exposes young surgeons-in-training to a different and exciting role as international relief workers and expands their education and understanding beyond the confines of the high-tech environment in the United States."

Einstein’s The Doctor’s Tablet Named Best Nonprofit Blog for 2015
PR Daily, a platform operated by Ragan Communications, named Albert Einstein College of Medicine’s The Doctor’s Tablet the best nonprofit blog for 2015. The blog, in its fourth year, is co-edited by Paul Moniz, Managing Director, Communications and Marketing, Einstein, and David Flores, Social Media Manager, Einstein. The blog covers topics ranging from medical education, research, ethics, healthcare and wellness. Its content is regularly republished by KevinMD.com, The Huffington Post, AAMC’s Wing of Zock and MedPageToday.

If you have a research-related idea you’d like to submit for consideration, please contact the editors at socialmedia@einstein.yu.edu.

Montefiore’s WIC Program Receives Grant
Montefiore Health System’s WIC Program grant was renewed for an additional five years with more than $2.7 million dollars in funding. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, healthcare referrals and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding post-partum women, as well as to infants and children up to age five who are deemed to be at risk for nutritional deficiencies.

“I am elated that the program will continue services in all three Montefiore WIC locations—Westchester Square, Fordham Plaza and 161st Street (Melrose),” said Sharon McClure, WIC Director, Montefiore.

Montefiore to Go Green with Paperless Pay
Montefiore Medical Center is preparing to implement a Paperless Pay Program. Associates who currently receive printed direct deposit statements will be able to access their pay statements and pay history via an online portal. This environmentally-friendly initiative will eliminate excess paper and waste, while ensuring more security than paper statements. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.