Montefiore Launches Program for LGBTQ Youth and Families

The Adolescent AIDS Program at Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) has launched The Umbrella Program, which provides medical care and support to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth and their families. The program also provides training on a range of LGBTQ issues for healthcare professionals and community organizations throughout the tri-state area.

Homophobia, transphobia and familial rejection are among the major contributors to increased medical and mental health problems for sexual minority youth, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. In contrast to heterosexual youth, LGBTQ adolescents suffer from higher rates of depression and suicidal ideation, substance use and abuse, and high-risk sexual behaviors that make them vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, such as HIV.

“For more than 20 years, the Adolescent AIDS Program has provided model care to HIV-positive youth and their families, a large number of whom are directly or indirectly affected by LGBTQ issues,” says Donna Futterman, MD, Director, Adolescent AIDS Program, CHAM, and Professor, Clinical Pediatrics, Einstein. “We are grateful to the New York State AIDS Institute and the Keith Haring Foundation for their investment in The Umbrella Program, which allows us to expand our clinical services to all LGBTQ patients and their families. It also improves the LGBTQ cultural and clinical competence of other providers in the region through innovative new training programs.”

In addition to offering LGBTQ-specific healthcare and training, The Umbrella Program also hosts support groups and social events. The program accepts most insurance plans (ensuring confidentiality for patients on a parent or guardian’s insurance plan). It also assists patients with no insurance. For more information, contact Renée Reopell at 718-882-0232 or rreopell@AdolescentAIDS.org. To schedule a training or education workshop, contact Lindsay DuBois at 718-882-0232, ext. 226, or ldubois@AdolescentAIDS.org.

Montefiore Celebrates President’s Award Nominees

Each year, Montefiore recognizes associates who represent its highest values—teamwork, humanity, diversity, innovation and equity—with the President’s Award. Created in 1981, the President’s Award is the most prestigious honor attainable by Montefiore associates.

This year’s 33 outstanding nominees represent a rich cross-section of associates from clinical and administrative areas. Each associate is an exceptional member of his or her team and an active contributor to the creation of a positive, dynamic work environment. As innovators, these candidates continually strive to improve their department's procedures and policies to achieve maximum value.

Winners will be announced in the weeks ahead. All nominees will be honored at a special ceremony in November.

To learn more about this year’s extraordinary nominees, including the attributes they possess that make them leading members of their teams, visit www.montefiore.org/presidents-award.

Did You Get Your Shot?

Influenza is a serious infectious disease that can lead to severe health consequences. Montefiore is committed to ensuring that as many of our associates as possible receive their influenza vaccine this season. To make this easier for associates, Montefiore has carts visiting each unit during all shifts. In addition, the Vaccination Team is located in central locations on each campus.

There are few reasons not to get vaccinated. Only people with severe egg allergies, people who have suffered a severe reaction to influenza vaccination in the past and people with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome should not receive the regular vaccine. However, there is an alternate vaccine available to associates with severe egg allergies. Occupational Health Service (OHS) is offering the egg-free Flublok vaccine. It does not contain any egg proteins, antibiotics or preservatives and is latex-free.

When associates receive their vaccinations at Montefiore or provide written documentation that they have received their flu shots from an outside provider, they will receive a blue tag to attach to their ID badge. The blue tag stating, “I Got My Shot,” will be a simple way to visually confirm that an associate has been vaccinated.

For more information, and to obtain vaccination schedules, visit “Flu HQ” on the intranet.
Montefiore Kicks Off United Way/UJA Federation Annual Campaign

Each year, Montefiore participates in the United Way/UJA Federation campaign, running now through November 28. This drive, intended to encourage support for vital community initiatives, including the advancement of health education, reflects Montefiore’s dedication to the areas it serves.

Visit the intranet

Midas System Provides Platform for Safety Reporting

Montefiore encourages associates to visit the Midas Occurrence Reporting portal on the intranet to report unanticipated patient occurrences, such as falls, medication events, or complications in the Operating Room, as well as “near miss” events. These events include incidents that are prevented before an injury occurs. In addition, the portal should be used to report unsafe conditions. These hazards, such as exposed wires or loose handrails, could cause harm if left unaddressed. Midas is a vital tool that allows the institution to capture data and system errors and find solutions.

Jennifer Lapponese at jlappone@montefiore.org

Clinical Trial Spotlight

MRI-guided High Intensity Focused Ultrasound Ablation of Uterine Fibroids

The purpose of this clinical study is to determine whether treatment with the Magnetic Resonance-guided High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (MR-HIFU) system is effective in the treatment of symptomatic uterine fibroids.

Ages eligible for the study: 18–50

Genders eligible: Female

Lissy Wassaff at lwassaff@montefiore.org

Montefiore New Rochelle Brings Joint Health to PGA

Stryker Corporation’s Orthopaedics Division recently created “The Stryker Mobility Zone,” a fan destination that brought its message of joint health to golf fans recently at The Barclays golf tournament—part of the PGA TOUR—at the Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, New Jersey. Steven Zelico, MD, PhD, Chief, Orthopaedic Surgery, Montefiore New Rochelle, was on hand to educate fans on joint health and knee pain treatment options. Photo: Dr. Zelico (right) with former New York Giants linebacker Carl Banks.

In the Community

Montefiore and its health partners regularly host events throughout the year to educate, engage and inform members of the communities it serves. This outreach is critical. It’s typically the first step toward fostering the relationships and understanding needed to improve the overall health and wellness of people who might not otherwise have immediate access to healthcare.

The New York Botanical Garden Greenmarket

October 15, 22 and 29 | 11:00 am–1:00 pm

The New York Botanical Garden

Mosholu Gate Entrance | Bronx, New York

Montefiore is a proud sponsor of The New York Botanical Garden Greenmarket, which brings affordable, locally grown produce to the community. The Greenmarket also features healthcare information booths and BMI health screenings.

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