ADVANCING THE FRONT LINES of the Battle Against Cancer

Through pioneering research and state-of-the-art clinical care, the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care unites multidisciplinary teams to prevent, diagnose and treat both rare and common forms of cancer. The Center’s 13 clinical service specialties include the following forms of cancer: breast; colorectal; endocrine; gynecologic oncology; head and neck; hematologic oncology; hepatobiliary; lung; melanoma and sarcoma; neuroendocrine oncology; neuro-oncology; pancreas and upper GI cancer; pediatric oncology and urologic oncology.

The Center conducted more than 82,000 outpatient radiation oncology and medical oncology treatments and visits last year, in addition to more than 11,000 pediatric...
hematology-oncology treatments and visits, under the guidance of Steven Libutti, MD, Director, Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care, Vice Chairman, Surgery, and Professor, Surgery and Genetics, Montefiore and Einstein, Shalom Kalnicki, MD, Professor and Chairman, Radiation Oncology, Montefiore and Einstein and Roman Perez-Soler, MD, Chairman and Chief, Oncology, Montefiore and Gutman Professor, Medicine, Einstein.

CENTRALIZING CARE
In 2010, the Center combined nine of its clinical service specialties in one centralized location, Jarrett Place at the Einstein campus, to strengthen patient care, and added a psychosocial oncology program to its outpatient facility to help patients and their families deal with the emotional difficulties of cancer diagnosis and treatment. The existing building at Jarrett Place was completely renovated to include a conference center, conference rooms and support offices. Additionally, exam room space was increased and lab services were added, so that patients can avoid travelling to multiple locations for routine procedures and appointments.

“Jarrett Place has worked out great from a multidisciplinary perspective for both physicians and patients alike,” says Dr. Libutti. “The space has a warm, home-like feel and is a better environment for patients. It really links the concepts and the practicality of clinical care and research happening in the same place, which is a model that we support and foster.”

COLLABORATIVE TREATMENT
The Center combines clinical expertise, leading-edge research and treatment innovations for all cancer patients, by offering the most advanced treatment options and highest standards of care. It became a Montefiore-Einstein notable Center of Excellence in 2009, but has an established history of treating cancer patients for many years prior. Its rich collaboration with Albert Einstein College of Medicine allows for the translation of scientific findings into therapeutic interventions for patients, and increases the understanding of cancer as a disease. At any given time, there are 134 active clinical trials for cancer and Einstein accrues 200 to 250 patients per year on therapeutic clinical trials (trials where patients are receiving some form of therapy) and another 150-200 on non-therapeutic trials.

“Our mission is to work comprehensively to treat patients,” says Dr. Libutti. “In addition to our synergistic relationship with Einstein, a defining component of our Cancer Center is the integration of a nurse navigation program.” Each specialty in the Cancer Center is supported by a nurse practitioner that acts as the “glue” holding all care coordination together. Nurse practitioners are often the first medical associate to interact with patients, making an early assessment of patient needs and determining which members of the Center’s multi-disciplinary team patients need to see.

In addition, they assist patients in navigating the screening and treatment process and address issues such as what they need to bring on their first visit and what tests and procedures they should expect to undergo. They also follow up with patients to confirm appointments, compile imaging, coordinate blood work testing, and assemble all related documentation for the physicians to review and schedule patient treatment plans.

REGIONAL PROFUSION THERAPY PROGRAM
The Cancer Center is actively involved in clinical trials and procedures studying and utilizing a specific form of cancer treatment called regional therapy. In advanced stage cancer patients, where the disease has spread to multiple sites in the body and is not amenable to surgical resection or to radiation therapy, patients often receive systemic chemotherapy intravenously that circulates throughout the body. Systemic chemotherapy has a chance for efficacy in treating the tumor, but also poses the risk of off-target toxicity, where normal non-cancerous cells are negatively affected by the therapy as well. Regional therapy tries to minimize side effects by delivering therapy only to the locations in the body where there is a tumor.

“Montefiore is one of the few centers in the New York metropolitan area where we can take cancer patients to the operating room, perform surgery to remove as much of the tumor as we can and administer chemotherapy directly to the affected area and allow it to circulate with a pump,” says Dr. Libutti. “These regional therapies are done as a one-
time treatment in the operating room. Once complete, we wash out the chemo. The entire treatment process usually is completed in 90 minutes.”

**IMMUNOTHERAPY**

Another method of treating cancer in specific sites in the body without exposing non-cancerous locations to harmful treatments is via immunotherapy. While not a new concept, immunotherapy seeks to harness the body’s natural immune system to selectively fight cancer. “Evolutionarily speaking, our bodies are set up to recognize foreign entities, such as splinters and viruses, and destroy them,” says Dr. Libutti. “Immunotherapy tries to better understand the cancer cells to determine if there is anything foreign about these cells, compared to normal cells in our bodies that we can train the immune system to fight selectively. One area of immunotherapy that is really garnering a lot of attention right now and in which we are is pursuing and developing a program in is cell-based immunotherapy. What we’re trying to do is remove immune cells from a patient’s body, reengineer them in such a way that once reinserted into the patient, they will be programmed to recognize cancer cells and tumors as foreign entities in the body, and attack and kill them.”

**SUPPORT**

Although considerable progress has been made towards effectively combatting and treating cancer, significant obstacles still remain. At a time when advances in medical technology and collaborative efforts among physicians and scientists have provided physicians with many of the tools needed to fight the disease, budget shortfalls and underfunding of research programs and grants seeking a cure are frequent.

“The money to conduct translational cancer research is becoming harder and harder to obtain,” says Dr. Libutti. “For the first time in 50 years, the United States is truly falling behind other countries in our ability to make progress because of the lack of governmental investment in research. If current trends hold, it will be exceedingly difficult to capitalize on where cancer research and science has brought us thus far. We all would like to see a cure for cancer, but it requires an investment of time, as well as of money.”

“To support the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care, visit givetomonterfiore.org/cancer or contact the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.”

“Jarrett Place has worked out great from a multidisciplinary perspective for both physicians and patients alike,”

– Steven Libutti, MD

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How long has Montefiore been conducting organ transplants? How many transplants has Montefiore performed since its inception and how many are we currently performing each year?

Montefiore started performing kidney transplants in 1967, making it one of the nation’s longest-standing transplant programs. Montefiore was also one of the first centers in the United States to perform lung and pancreatic transplants before it had become widely accepted as therapy. On average, in recent years we’ve performed more than 100 kidney transplants; more than 25 liver transplants and roughly 20 heart transplants. In 2013, we performed our 3,000th kidney transplant and 100th liver transplants. Montefiore also currently has the longest surviving transplant recipient in the United States, having received a living donor transplant from his sister in 1969.

The heart transplant program was founded 15 years ago. We began performing liver transplants in 2008 and our pancreatic transplant program, which had its first full year in 2011, is currently the only one of its kind in the Bronx and Westchester Counties for patients with severe end-stage diabetes. These are very large, complex programs that require a significant amount of organization, capital investment and human resources from an institutional standpoint. They are highly scrutinized in terms of outcomes and success rates, so we chose to move slowly to build each of these programs one at a time.

How do our transplantation success rates perform against national averages?

Our outcomes have been really fantastic. The Center’s one and three-year survival rates for pediatric kidney transplants is 100 percent. The Center’s 90.24 percent adult liver transplant survival rate at three years and 98.4 percent adult kidney transplant one year survival rate are among the best in the New York area and the nation. Our 90.0 percent adult heart transplant three-year survival rate is notably above the national average as well.

We’re able to offer all of these lifesaving options for patients in the Bronx and Westchester that previously required a trip to Manhattan. Now, because of our continued success, we’re attracting patients from Rockland County, Manhattan, Long Island and New Jersey. Our regional reputation has grown, and with that growth, our outreach is extending into more communities.
What are some of the newer developments or aspects of care that Montefiore is currently offering patients?

Lately, our efforts have been focused on pediatric transplantation. We recently recruited Nadia Ovchinsky, MD, Pediatric Medical Director, Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM), to run our pediatric liver program, Nicole Hayde, MD, Pediatric Nephrology, CHAM and Giles Peek MD, Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Co-Director, Pediatric Heart Center. They, in conjunction with other Montefiore physicians and associates, are leading our efforts to further develop our pediatric transplantation programs. We’ve always worked with transplantation in children, but we want to solidify pediatrics as an organized focus of the transplant program. Transplantation is one of Montefiore’s notable Centers of Excellence, and we have 70 to 80 people currently working in the program. In the past three years, 42 children have received a transplant at CHAM, and 156 overall since the year 2000.

A monumental change in the field of transplant medicine has been the development of hepatitis C drugs that can cure the virus. This has been a game changer, one that has taken place just in the last year, because we can now cure hepatitis C in a majority of patients. Unfortunately, once someone already has damage from cirrhosis or end-stage liver disease, it’s too late for the drugs to repair the damage that has already occurred. Reversing the virus does not repair the damage, so patients may still need a transplant. However, the drugs can be offered to patients after a transplant surgery to reduce the chance that hepatitis C would damage the newly transplanted liver. Now that we can reliably prevent this from happening, it is a huge win for everyone working with transplant patients.

“Other regional reputation has grown, and with that growth, our outreach is extending into more communities.”

– Milan Kinkhabwala, MD

In most countries, there is a shortage of suitable organs for transplantation. What system does Montefiore have in place to manage the process of determining who is eligible to be an organ donor and in what order patients receive available organs?

Once patients are referred to Montefiore and are evaluated, if we feel they’re appropriate to go on the waiting list, then, depending on the type of organ that they need, they’re added to the list. The kidney waiting time is the longest, about five years on average. The biggest obstacle to people receiving transplants is the number of available organ donors. We could offer transplantation to a lot more people if we had a more robust donor base. A problem in society in general and New York State specifically is that we simply don’t donate enough organs. For liver transplants, the waiting list is driven by how sick the liver is, so we monitor the severity of illness of liver patients very closely. When the severity of illness rises, a patient’s rank on the list goes up accordingly. Organs are prioritized regionally before they are offered nationally, so New York patients have priority to receive organs from New York.

These are very complex medical and surgical endeavors requiring a huge degree of organization to ensure that these patients get the help that they need.

To support the Montefiore Einstein Center for Transplantation, visit montefiore.org/supporttransplantation or contact the Office of Development at 718-920-6656. To learn how you can become an organ donor, please visit organdonor.gov.
New York Yankees Event
April 28, 2015
Yankee Stadium
Raised more than $85,000 benefiting the J.E. and Z.B. Butler Child Advocacy Center at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore
17th Annual Golf Tournament
June 15, 2015
Quaker Ridge Golf Club
Winged Foot Golf Club
Westchester County, New York
Raised more than $950,000 benefiting the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore

Richard Naclerio, Sr., Sheila Wolfinger, Oren Tepper, MD, Richard Naclerio, Jr.

Barry Ballen, Joseph Deglomini, Reggie Tartaglione, Ralph Mazzacone

Francis Porreca, MD, Rosemary Porreca, Chris Porreca, Bob Kane

Moira Snover, Nancy Strong, Nancy Benjamin, Jennie Emil

Lynn Stansel, Tina Weinstein, Jim Kachadoorian, Laura Jordan
The Jerome L. Greene Foundation has made a multi-year, $3 million dollar pledge to the Montefiore School Health Program to launch the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative. The grant will fund targeted clinical services and case management in Bronx public schools, focusing on providing evidence-based, pregnancy prevention for high-risk teens. This program will be offered to all 9th graders in participating schools.

“We are pleased to join our long-time partner Montefiore in an intensive effort to address unintended teenage pregnancy in the Bronx,” says Christina McInerney, President of the Jerome L. Greene Foundation. “The goal of this initiative is to produce a validated model program aimed at reducing pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease rates by 50% within a three year period. A fundamental component of the program will be a rigorous analysis of its results. If the results are positive, we hope that the Montefiore/Greene Foundation Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative will serve as a prototype for similar programs across the country. The Jerome L. Greene Foundation has supported efforts in reproductive healthcare for many years and this new grant strengthens both our and Montefiore’s mission to build a better future for today’s youth.”

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative will serve teens and adolescents in 12 school campuses in the underserved communities of the Bronx, reaching roughly 22,000 students during each year of the program. The grant will be used to build teams comprised of an Outreach Case Manager and Community Health Worker at each school-based health center on the school campuses. The project will supplement the current school-based health center model by providing intensively targeted clinical services for previously unengaged high-risk youth using outreach and care coordination, and a universal population-based pregnancy prevention program for 9th graders. The program will also utilize focused social marketing strategies to reach the entire student population.

The initiative will be led by David K. Appel, MD, Founder and Director of the Montefiore School Health Program, which operates health clinics in 23 Bronx public school campuses providing comprehensive primary and preventative care, with additional clinics set to open in the coming decade. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative will be rolled out over three years. Grant funding will allow a research team to perform an extensive evaluation process, with the expectation of publishing the results in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at professional society meetings.

“Montefiore’s School Health Program is a model for the nation, serving communities with unacceptably high rates of poverty and chronic disease, as well as an under-resourced educational system” says Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and CEO, Montefiore. “Funding from the Greene Foundation will strengthen our efforts to reach out to disadvantaged teens and prevent unintended pregnancies. We are proud to further our partnership with the Foundation to improve health outcomes in our community, especially for our kids.”

“The new Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative will allow us to develop a more robust approach to screening, educating and communicating on how to improve sexual health practices and reduce unintended teen pregnancies,” says Dr. Appel. “The generosity of the Jerome L. Greene Foundation will enable us to help more teens achieve their academic and personal goals.”

To learn more about Montefiore’s School Health Program, or to make a donation, please visit likewemeanit.org.
Although great strides in healthcare and wellness have been made in the Bronx in recent years, borough residents still face many obstacles in leading healthier lives. Annual median household income has stagnated at $34,388 (2009-2013), the unemployment rate is 8.9 percent (the second highest in New York State) and the borough ranks unfavorably in health factors, such as smoking rates, obesity levels, access to physicians, access to healthy foods, levels of physical inactivity and teen birth rates. The Bronx is also one of the youngest counties in the state, with 25.8 percent of the borough's estimated 1.4 million residents under the age of 18.

In an effort to help strengthen the community to which their family has longstanding ties, Jim and Donna Butler are incredibly active in supporting Montefiore and its work in the borough, through their sponsorship of annual events such as the gala Celebrate Montefiore, and the annual golf tournament benefiting CHAM. Jim is a member of Montefiore's Board of Trustees. Donna is a member of the Chiefs of CHAM Cabinet and a Committee member of CHAM's Superheroes event. “Montefiore cares about making lives better for people in the Bronx, addressing many of the challenges its residents face,” says Mr. Butler, a member of Montefiore’s Board of Trustees. “They go far beyond the scope of most hospitals outreach in the surrounding community.”

The Butler’s know because they’ve seen it up close. They both grew up and attended schools in the Bronx. Donna Butler lived only a mile from Montefiore, while Jim graduated from Fordham University. Their children were born and raised here. When Jim was in high school, he worked part-time at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center, now Montefiore’s Wakefield Campus. He installed TVs in patients’ rooms and, during his days at Fordham, he served as a secretary in the maternity ward.

“Montefiore has always been a staple of the Bronx, and as the institution continues to expand, it has become a fixture of the larger community, which now includes Westchester,” says Mr. Butler. “One of the biggest honors of my life has been to serve this great health system, especially considering the impact it had on me growing up. The dedication of the physicians and associates here is very inspiring.”

The exceptional support and commitment from donors like Jim and Donna Butler has been instrumental in building and expanding Montefiore’s unique clinical services to benefit the residents of the Bronx and lower Westchester.

To support Montefiore, please visit montefiore.org/giving or call the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.
We set incredibly high standards for the work we do here at Montefiore,” says Solomon Moshé, MD, Vice Chair, Neurology and Director, Pediatric Neurology & Clinical Neurophysiology, Montefiore and Professor, Neurology, Pediatrics & Neuroscience, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. “Our goal is to eliminate the recurrence of seizures in our patients, and to do so with no side effects whatsoever.

An important focus of the Departments of Neurology, Neurophysiology and Neuroscience is on epilepsy research and helping persons with epilepsy. Epilepsy is a brain disease that causes people to experience recurring seizures that occur when clusters of nerve cells or neurons in the brain send out the wrong signals. People often report experiencing strange sensations and exhibit unusual emotions or behaviors during seizures. They may also have violent muscle spasms or lose consciousness. There are many possible causes for epilepsy including brain injury, abnormal brain development, infections and genetic related factors. However, in many cases, the cause is unclear.

Epilepsy affects over three million Americans of all ages, often beginning in infancy and childhood. It can potentially be a lifelong disease. Each year, one out of 27 school children is diagnosed with epilepsy. Epilepsy also disproportionately affects the elderly. Approximately one-third of patients with epilepsy do not respond to treatment. “Unfortunately, epilepsy research has been chronically underfunded and the people suffering from epilepsy are underserved,” says Dr. Moshé.

Since 1991, the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center (the Center) at Montefiore, among the first approved by New York State, is one of America's foremost epilepsy treatment programs. The Center was founded in 1983 by Drs. Solomon Moshé and Shlomo Shinnar, MD, PhD, Director, Comprehensive Center for Epilepsy, Montefiore, and Climenko Chair and Professor, Neurology, Pediatrics, Epidemiology & Population Health, Einstein. Drs. Moshé and Shinnar are now two of the world's most prominent epileptologists. Today, the Center has one of the nation's best interdisciplinary epilepsy teams comprised of adult and pediatric epileptologists, neuroradiologists, neurosurgeons, neurophysiologists, neuropsychologists, neuropathologists, nurses and social workers.

Caring for patients with epilepsy is much more than “seizure counting”, says Dr. Sheryl Haut, Director of the Adult Epilepsy Program. “We know that epilepsy can impact on all aspects of a patient's life, from dealing with medication side effects to managing school and work, driving, sports, marriage and fertility.” Doctors use clinical information and precision testing to properly diagnose epilepsy. Once diagnosed, it is important for patients to begin treatment as soon as possible. There is no cure for epilepsy, but medication can help most patients manage their condition effectively. Specialized diets can help reduce seizures, and clinical trials offer opportunities to participate in the latest advances in treatment. If medications are not working, surgery or implanted devices such as nerve stimulators may help.

“Our clinicians take the time to get to know our patients, their medical histories and their families in order to create the most effective treatment plan available,” says Dr. Moshé. “We are motivated by the goal of steadily improving the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy and the opportunity to eliminate it.”

To support or learn more about epilepsy work and research at Montefiore, please visit montefiore.org/epilepsy or contact the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.
It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our esteemed colleague, physician, educator and friend, Ronald M. Burde, MD.

Dr. Burde served with distinction as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Montefiore and Einstein for 12 years. During his tenure, the Department underwent an impressive expansion in research and clinical services. He was an internationally-respected physician and teacher, who enjoyed a long and illustrious career in ophthalmology, with neuro-ophthalmology eventually becoming his passion.

While at Montefiore and Einstein, Dr. Burde trained a core of excellent physician-educators and created a vibrant residency program, while bringing to the Department a keen understanding of experimental science in his work in neuro-ophthalmology. He wrote and edited 11 books, including two volumes of *Advances in Clinical Ophthalmology*. He wrote 200 scientific papers and served on the editorial board of several prestigious medical journals. Dr. Burde served as Chairman of the American Board of Ophthalmology, president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology and was also a fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences. “In teaching and training his ophthalmology residents, Dr. Burde sought to instill in them the humanity that is essential to becoming an exemplary physician” says Roy Chuck, MD, PhD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. “All of us at Montefiore owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Burde for his selfless dedication to his students and for his many contributions to teaching and to the field of ophthalmology.”

Dr. Burde was born in the Bronx and spent his formative years in Connecticut. He received his B.S. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1960, and his medical degree in 1964 from Jefferson Medical College. In 1968, he completed his ophthalmology residency at Washington University, and, two years later, after completing a neuro-ophthalmology and glaucoma fellowship, took over the university’s neuro-ophthalmology program.

In 1988, he left Washington University for New York to become Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Montefiore and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, a post that he held until his retirement in 2000.

“I’ve tried to teach them a mixture of science and humanism. You have to have science, but if you don’t feel something for the patient and make the patient feel better, you’re just a good doctor, not a great physician.”

– Ronald M. Burde, MD

A few years ago, to honor Dr. Burde’s rich legacy at Montefiore, a special ophthalmology resident education fund was created to uphold the excellence in resident training that he cared about so deeply. The Ronald M. Burde, MD Resident Education Fund provides support for special ophthalmology resident training programs and initiatives. The first project the fund is supporting is especially meaningful: the creation of a new dedicated wet laboratory for ophthalmology resident training at Montefiore. This new lab will be a state-of-the-art facility, complete with up to 10 individual operating microscopes, a dedicated video system and the newest training simulators for residents to perform practice procedures. “This facility will provide residents with ‘hands-on’ training in a realistic setting, allowing them to practice and perfect surgical technique before treating patients,” says Dr. Chuck.

“The lab will be an excellent resource for Montefiore’s Department of Ophthalmology, and will make us one of the region’s most advanced training programs. It is with great pride, and as a testament to Dr. Burde’s exceptional legacy, that we name this facility in his honor and dedicate it to training some of the nation’s most talented and dedicated ophthalmology residents.”

To support the Ronald M. Burde, MD Resident Education Fund, please visit montefiore.org/burde or contact Alexis Eggleton at aeggleto@montefiore.org or 718-920-6786.
Support Montefiore at these upcoming events!

On Wednesday, September 16, 2015 please join us for the fall wine tasting event, an opportunity to bring together associates, leadership and supporters to enjoy an engaging evening of wine excellence with renowned sommelier Kevin Zraly. All proceeds from this event will benefit important programs and services at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore. Please purchase tickets and sponsorships for the event by visiting montefiore.org/winetasting.

On Wednesday, October 28, 2015, Montefiore will host associates, supporters and partners of the hospital at “Celebrate Montefiore,” the organization’s annual black tie gala held at the Waldorf Astoria in Manhattan. Over 1,000 guests will attend the event to celebrate the Montefiore-Einstein Partnership: Over 50 Years Strong, the focus of this year’s festivities. Please purchase tickets and sponsorships for the event by visiting montefiore.org/gala.

Want to learn more?
Please contact Kerry Lee at 718-920-6708 or kerlee@montefiore.org or call the Office of Development at 718-920-6656.