



► Epic, Our New Electronic Medical Record, Begins!

TBHC recently signed an agreement with Epic to implement their electronic medical record, which will eventually integrate all of our clinical operations.



Dr. Buchbinder

All of us who participated in last year's vendor selection were extremely impressed by the Epic system and company. Epic will cover all our clinical operations—ambulatory care, emergency, inpatient, specialty practices, ancillaries, population management—with one state-of-the-art, fully integrated system.

Epic comes with an already built foundation system with sample workflows and clinical content leveraged from their client base. This will streamline the implementation activities. But the project's success requires our sustained sponsorship and active participation. We will have many design options to choose from, and we will often have to change our current mindsets and behaviors to use this incredible tool to deliver better care, streamlined processes, and a better patient and provider experience.

Benefit to Community Physicians, Too

Another benefit is that our community physicians will have access to a first-class physician experience. For instance, we will offer a very intuitive web-based portal that allows community physicians to schedule appointments online with any of our departments or physicians, order tests and receive results online, communicate with any of our providers, be informed in near real-time of whatever is happening to a patient they have referred to our facility, and be alerted when one of their patients has been treated in our Emergency Department. Epic is a powerful community link that will make it easy to do business with TBHC and will also bring us into an already very large group of connected New York City hospitals such as Mount Sinai, NYU Langone, Montefiore and NYC Health + Hospitals (HHC), among others.

Expected Go-Live Dates

Epic will be deployed in 2 phases:

- **PHASE 1:** Ambulatory and Population Management covers all family health centers and Article 28 clinics, and the majority of the faculty practices. It also includes our growing population health operations. Phase 1 started in November 2017 and is tentatively planned to go live in August 2018.
- **PHASE 2:** Inpatient is planned to cover all inpatient care, including Emergency Department, Lab, Radiology and the remainder of the faculty practices. Phase 2 is planned to start after Phase 1's go-live and will span roughly one year. Planned go-live of the fully deployed Epic system is October 2019.

We hope you share our excitement, and we will keep you informed of our progress.

Shalom Buchbinder, MD
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

► New Critical Care Initiative

The Center for Critical Care Services ensure the most experienced staff focus efforts on the sickest patients.

Every morning in TBHC's Intensive Care Unit James Gasperino, MD, Chair of Medicine and Vice President for Critical Care, convenes Morning Report. Here, the hospital's most experienced intensive care physicians gather with every staff member who plays a role in managing ICU patients—nurses, residents and ancillary services. "It's the largest inter-professional team in the hospital. We work together to capitalize on everyone's individual strengths so a team of experts becomes an expert team," says Dr. Gasperino. "This creates a structure that results in great processes and the implementation of evidence-based care leading to great outcomes."



James Gasperino, MD, far left, conducts Morning Report on the ICU.

instituted a robust measure to track quality improvement, do so more frequently and look for opportunities for additional improvements. People are walking out of our hospital today that probably wouldn't have walked out of other hospitals. I am very proud of the team."

The benefit goes beyond the ICU. The center is also home to the Critical Care Outreach Service. "When a patient is in crisis anywhere in the hospital, a rescue squad can show up to help led by the most experienced, expert attending physician available," Dr. Gasperino says.

Under Dr. Gasperino's leadership, TBHC has created a Center for Critical Care Services, the first of its kind in Brooklyn. The center will provide the quality patient care, education and research infrastructure for critical care services. Dr. Gasperino is its founding director. "Now, our most experienced staff focus their efforts on our sickest patients," he says. "We

The concept of a Center for Critical Care Services is evolving as the best model. "The real benefit of the model is value," says Dr. Gasperino. "The patients who need care most, receive the most expert care available. We are delivering the highest-quality care in the most efficient fashion. It reduces redundancies, improves safety and improves our processes."

► Welcome!

Noah Kondamudi, MD, MBA, FACEP, FAAP, CPE, Chair of Pediatrics. Dr. Kondamudi first came to TBHC in 1993 as the chief resident in pediatrics. After his residency, he completed his fellowship training in pediatric emergency medicine at the Children's Hospital of Montefiore and returned to TBHC as the Division Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine in 1996. In 2015, he joined the New Jersey Medical School, Rutgers University as Interim Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Kondamudi is board certified in both general pediatrics and pediatric emergency medicine.

Jay Lee, MD, Chair of Anesthesia. Dr. Lee has been with North American Partners in Anesthesia (NAPA) more than seven years, most recently as Chair of Anesthesia at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. He attended SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse and his residency in anesthesia was at St. Vincent's Medical Center through New York Medical College. Dr. Lee will begin officially on February 1.

Emergency Medicine: **Errel Khordipour, MD;**
Amy Yeh, MD.

Family Medicine: **Keith Cummings, MD.**
Medicine: **Subhi Al'Aref, MD, Cardiology; Edward Chai, MD, Neurology; Akiyomi Fields, MD, Internal Medicine; MD; Samir Garyali, MD, Cardiology; Krishna Gurram, MD, Gastroenterology; Robert Levey, MD, Hospitalist; Deepa Malieckal, Hospitalist; Jose Orsini, MD, Intensivist; Sima Pendharkar, MD, Medical Director, Hospital Medicine; Evgeny Pinelis, MD, Intensivist; Reza Samad, MD, Intensivist; Priyanka Singh, MD, Nephrology; Carrie Brooke Wasserman, MD, Hem/Onc; John Zeibeq, MD, Intensivist.**

Pediatrics: **Menogh Glen-Valentine, MD; Natalia Rimareva, MD.**

Surgery: **Ritha Belizaire, MD, Colorectal Surgery;**

► Q&A With Krishna C. Gurram, MD



Dr. Gurram joins the Division of Gastroenterology and plans to grow advanced endoscopic program.

What brought you to TBHC?

When I met
Medicine Chair

Dr. James Gasperino and the Gastroenterology Fellowship Program Director Dr. Madhavi Reddy, I found their enthusiasm for growing the division was infectious and I knew I would get great support as Associate Program Director and advanced endoscopist. I also appreciated the academic nature of the division. I have always enjoyed teaching; from the time I was a medical student until I was an advanced endoscopy fellow at Winthrop University Hospital. The fellows in our program are energized and I was excited to work with them. Finally, and most importantly, I saw a real opportunity to bring world-class advanced endoscopic techniques to this local, Brooklyn community hospital setting.

Have there been challenges?

Of course there are always challenges. There always are. You're used to the way one place does something and then there is a different set of rules and flows. Some you have to adapt to, some you seek to change. But having those challenges means there's opportunity for growth. I have a chance to mold a best-standards program. We're still building it and there are challenges in that process, but the excitement of growing a program and taking it to the pinnacle is well worth it.

What are some of the procedures you'll be introducing that you're most excited about?

I'm quite excited about introducing endoscopic submucosal dissection. With special knives from Japan, we can shave superficial tumors of the esophagus, stomach and colon and avoid a surgical resection. Very few hospitals do these types of techniques, and of those that do, it's only the big academic centers. Similarly, we'll be introducing POEM, peroral endoscopic myotomy, a technique to treat achalasia, and rendezvous procedures to get access to hard-to-reach bile ducts with just an endoscopic ultrasound.

What do you want potential referrers to know about the Division of Gastroenterology at TBHC??

We offer ERCP, EUS, endoscopic submucosal dissection and POEM. We remove superficial cancers and prevent surgical resection. We are planning novel studies to understand liver fibrosis and perform biopsies via endoscopic ultrasound. We have new video-capsule endoscopy to visualize the whole small bowel and a new scope able to traverse the small bowel to treat these distant lesions via deep enteroscopy. Primary care physicians, gastroenterologists and patients should know that cutting-edge endoscopic procedures are happening right here at TBHC.

For referrals or to reach Dr. Gurram, please call 718.250.8867.

► Rounds

Sima Pendharkar, MD, MPH, FACP, Chief of Hospital Medicine, has been selected as a Top Hospitalist by the American College of Physicians in 2017 for her accomplishments in areas of hospitalist practice, quality improvement, and medical education.

The Outpatient Pharmacy held a wine-and-cheese reception on January 11 to celebrate the hard work of TBHC's pharmacy team at the newly opened site, located on the first floor mezzanine above the lobby. Under the leadership of Robert DiGregorio, PharmD, the state-of-the-art pharmacy offers convenient, efficient pharmaceutical care of the highest quality, centralized right here on the hospital's main campus. Prescriptions can be filled for outpatients, staff and visitors, and most major insurance plans are accepted.

Emergency Medicine Clinical Research Program was created to further the Emergency Medicine's dedication to research and provide training opportunities for future generation of healthcare practitioners. Led by Sylvie de

Souza, MD, FACEP, and Billy Sin, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, the program offers year-round research experience for undergraduate and graduate volunteers who aspire to be the future generation of healthcare practitioners. Beyond this program, the Emergency Department creates a team-based environment that empowers physicians, residents, pharmacists, pharmacy residents, pharmacy students, medical students and nurses to collaborate and brainstorm novel hypotheses aimed to improve patient care. Currently, the department is actively recruiting patients for trials in pharmacotherapy, which are strategically concentrated on pain management because of a heightened public concern for opioid abuse. With the creation of the program, the Department was able to conduct, complete and publish its first randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial on the use of sub-dissociative dose ketamine for acute pain in *Journal of Emergency Medicine*.

New Physician Liaison. Please welcome Fatima Nabi, our new Physician Liaison. You can reach Fatima at 718.250.6875, 718.541.0339 or fnabi@tbh.org.