



The Brooklyn
Hospital Center

Keeping Brooklyn Healthy

CMO Update

A Publication for TBHC Physicians & Community Partners

Spring 2019

▶ TBHC Turning 175 Years Old



TBHC will celebrate its 175th anniversary as Brooklyn's first hospital. Starting this year, The Brooklyn Hospital Foundation will recognize 175

individuals and institutions who have made a unique contribution to the well-being of Brooklyn. The first three were lauded at a January 31 event:

Lizanne Fontaine, Chair, TBHC Board of Trustees, bestowed a medal to Laurie Cumbo, NYC Council Majority Leader. Ms. Cumbo said, "We, too, will want the future to know we put our stamp on Brooklyn; that we worked for quality healthcare to welcome new neighbors while supporting those who toiled to make the neighborhood what it is today."

Carlos P. Naudon, Immediate Past Chair, TBHC Board of Trustees, honored Julian Macrone, Fort Greene Park Conservancy. Mr. Macrone noted that research shows that green spaces contribute to public health. "There is a beautiful unity in the idea of a hospital and park, side by side, both contributing to the health of the community," he said.

Dozier Hasty, publisher and owner of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, gave an award to Brad Vogel of the Walt Whitman Initiative. Mr. Hasty noted that Whitman was an editor at the newspaper for two years, while Mr. Vogel explained that Whitman trained as a nurse at the hospital before serving as such in Washington, DC hospitals during the Civil War. Mr. Vogel reminded guests, "Walt Whitman remains in these ample hills. We can look for him under our boot soles."

Vasantha K. Kondamudi, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

▶ Exciting Transformations Coming to TBHC

Three important physical transformations are in the works or about to start that will significantly transform how The Brooklyn Hospital Center (TBHC) delivers care to our communities. "Ambulatory care is the wave of the future in medicine," says Robert Aulicino, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "Arguably, the future is here."

Among many signs of TBHC's commitment to a vital and accessible ambulatory care model is the sale of the Maynard building on 240 Willoughby Avenue. Many of our physician practices in Maynard need a more modern outpatient setting than that outdated property could provide. All these practices will soon be relocated with many of them moving into 60,000 square feet of leased space at 620 Fulton Street. This building (often referred to as Hotel Trades because New York Hotel Trades Council developed the building) is purposefully designed for medical use. It will provide a better environment for the patient and a

better work space for our staff to meet patient needs.

Another exciting physical change to our campus is a major renovation of the Emergency Department. TBHC received a \$25 million grant from the New York State Department of Health to expand and upgrade its emergency department facilities. "The renovation of the emergency department is a key building block of TBHC's ambulatory care expansion plans," says Mr. Aulicino. The emergency department will be modernized and enlarged to accommodate the current volume and projected visits in the near future. Renovations are expected to begin this summer.

And finally, Rockwell Chronic Renal Dialysis Center is moving its location from 19 Rockwell Place this summer to 218 Myrtle. There it will continue to provide the best care possible to patients with end-stage renal disease. Rockwell has been awarded the highest ranking of five stars from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid.



Rendering of new Emergency Department

▶ Welcome!

Anesthesia: Wen Chen, MD; Michael Chua, MD; Johnson Fu, CRNA; Justin Varghese, MD; XiXi Xu, CRNA. **Dentistry:** Edward Woodbine, DDS. **Emergency Medicine:** Nechama Jaffe, PA; Errel Khordipour, MD. **Family Medicine:** Sylvia Youssif, MD. **Medicine:** Karthikeyan Arcot, MD, Neurology; Michael Jackson, MD, Dermatology; Jeremy Liff, MD, Neurology; Yitzchak Moshenyat, MD, Gastroenterology. **Obstetrics/Gynecology:** Vasilios Goudas, MD. **Pediatrics:** Maria Abraham, MD; Alexandra Barber, NP. **Radiology:** Jeffrey Farkas, MD. **Surgery:** Lael Forbes, MD; Sam Kwauk, MD; Kristie Summis, NP, Plastic; Yufei Tu, MD, Ophthalmology. **Urology:** Yevgeny Komm, NP.

► Q&A With Judy A. McLaughlin, DNP



Meet the New Chief Nursing Executive

Judy A. McLaughlin, DNP, was promoted to Senior Vice President & Chief Nursing Executive in January. Previously, she was TBHC's Vice President of Clinical Integration and Population Health. She is a healthcare executive with 20-plus years' leadership in primary care, performance improvement (PI) and care coordination models in high-volume, culturally diverse communities. Judy has presented PI achievements at Community Health Association of New York State on such topics as the Shared Medical Appointment Model of Care. She has received awards for other PI projects including one from the American Cancer Society for marked improvements in cervical and colorectal cancer screening rates. Judy received her doctorate from Capella University and made the President's List.

Q: What is your philosophy of inpatient patient care versus ambulatory care? On the ambulatory side, we try to actively

engage patients with chronic diseases to prevent acuity and readmission. There are many factors involved in their overall health from both the inpatient and ambulatory settings. Communication with patients is essential, as well as bridging the transition from inpatient to ambulatory care. Understanding overarching goals and working more closely towards them will be a focus.

Q: What are some challenges we face? Improving ED throughput and discharge times, attracting new talent with nursing shortages as a fact of life, and advancing interdisciplinary unit teams are issues we are placing emphasis on. For instance, 7B, in conjunction with the hospitalists, residents, social workers, case managers and nursing staff, began a unit-based team approach and it's really working. The HCAHPS scores reflect the improvements. We have talented clinicians from all disciplines who will continue to work hard and effectively.

Q: Any other initiatives? We are embarking on a nurse residency program, which will

be funded by a grant from the City. The goal is to keep newly graduated RN hires in a classroom setting four hours per month for additional learning and research. The evidence shows such initiatives improve skill sets, confidence and retention.

The recent inpatient television system allows patients to submit surveys, which helps nurses understand issues and offer real-time service recovery. Patients are responding positively to the nursing communication efforts. We are working to re-introduce a "no-pass" zone campaign, which teaches that patient call bells are everybody's business. We are also speaking with local senior and faith-based centers to roll out a volunteer ambassador program, where trained volunteers can serve as a liaison between patients and nursing staff.

Q: What are TBHC's strengths? We are a community hospital with a sense of family and mission. The work is challenging, yet can be extremely rewarding. That is an incredible strength to build on.

► Baseball Legend Darryl Strawberry Visits



Mr. Strawberry shown here (center in the back row) with James Gasperino, MD, TBHC Chair of Medicine (in lab coat in front of Mr. Strawberry), Gary G. Terrinoni, TBHC President & CEO (to the right of Dr. Gasperino), Madhavi Reddy, MD, TBHC Division Chief of Gastroenterology (next to Mr. Terrinoni), and the entire TBHC gastroenterology team.

On March 5, The Brooklyn Hospital Center (TBHC) hosted two special guests who helped kick off TBHC's Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. "I'm lucky because I survived twice," said Darryl Strawberry, baseball icon, author, pastor and colorectal cancer survivor. "I had symptoms like abdominal pain and blood in my stool. But I was hard-headed; I thought I didn't need a doctor. I was wrong. And now I'm urging others to get screened for colorectal cancer."

Mr. Strawberry is well known for his 17-year career in Major League Baseball. He helped lead the New York Mets to a World Series championship in 1986 and the New York Yankees to three World Series championships in 1996, 1998 and 1999. His memoir, *Straw: Finding My Way*, was published in 2009. Mr. Strawberry speaks often to the public about cancer prevention and screening, and opioid addiction. "I wake up now with an urgency every day to help somebody," he said.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams similarly urged screening and congratulated TBHC on its continuing efforts to reach out to under-served communities. "As Brooklyn goes, so goes New York City. As New York City goes, so goes the country. As the country goes, so goes the globe," he reminded everyone.

The Division of Gastroenterology, headed by Madhavi Reddy, MD, presented recent research findings that identified certain Brooklyn communities with decreased colorectal cancer screening uptake corresponding to areas that appear to have rising incidence of colorectal cancer. "We are urging everyone to speak with their primary physicians about getting a colonoscopy. Age 50 for the general population, but 45 years of age for African Americans," said Denzil Etienne, MD, gastroenterologist.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for a colonoscopy or other colorectal cancer screening, call 718.250.8867. No health insurance? Cancer Services Program of Brooklyn can help. Call 718.250.8708 for more information.