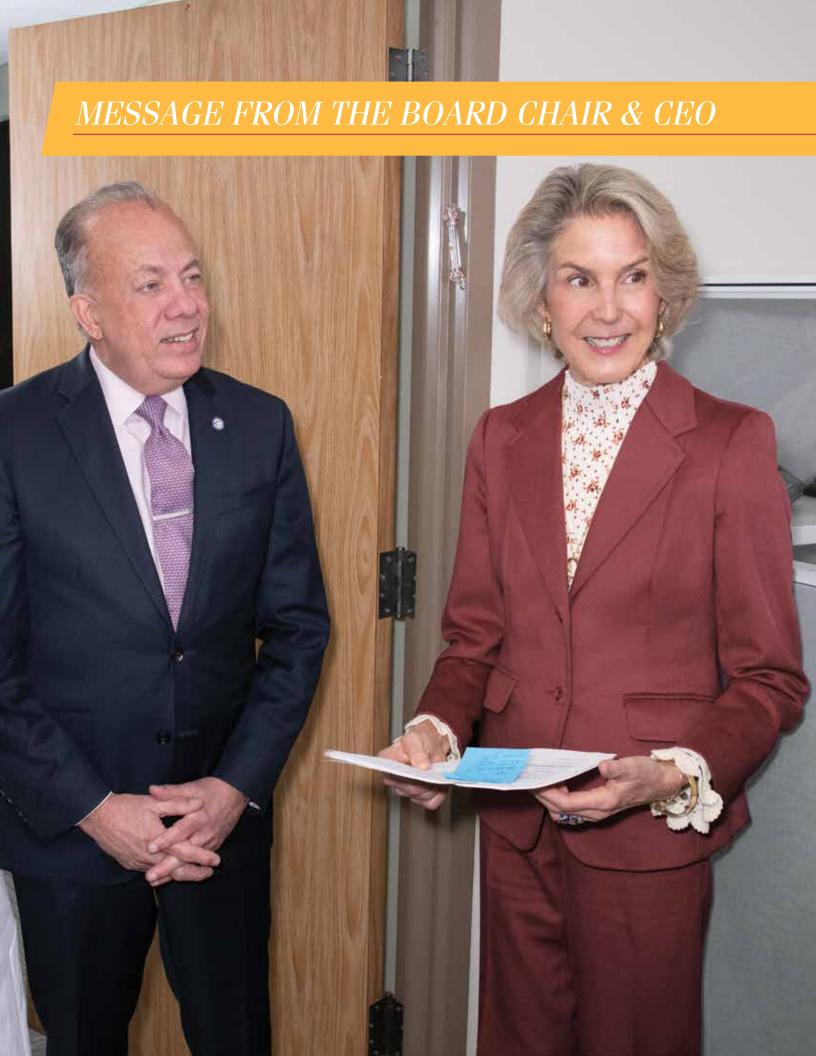


PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

2022 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



THERE IS WIND IN OUR SAILS at The Brooklyn Hospital Center. We are improving our campus and ambulatory care sites and planting even deeper roots in Downtown Brooklyn, our home for more than 175 years. We're partnering with other providers to ensure excellent healthcare is available to Brooklynites—no need to cross a bridge or traverse a tunnel. And we're making sure we encourage productive communication with our leaders and staff to foster innovation and best practices. Because, in everything we do, people make the difference in Keeping Brooklyn Healthy. Our doctors, nurses, support staff and administrative team work together with that one goal in mind.

In the pages that follow, we want to introduce you to members of our team and some of the patients they serve. We want to shine a spotlight on the amazing care available at The Brooklyn Hospital Center and the people who make that happen. What you'll discover is a truly remarkable connection between a community and its hospital. For patients and staff alike, this bond often has spanned generations.

The Brooklyn Hospital Center is so much like the borough it serves—diverse, dynamic and sophisticated, but with an intimate, neighborhood vibe. We share a long and storied history. We have a legacy of commitment, quality and service. We recognize change for the opportunity it presents and remain adaptable in the face of it. We continue to evolve, to get better.

There is a pride of ownership in this feisty community hospital. We're proud to provide a steadily broadening array of services, many of them on the leading edge of healthcare. And we're proud of the role our people play in **Keeping Brooklyn Healthy**.

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TYRANA CARTER DELIVERED HER CHILDREN at TBHC in 1981 and 1990, and they grew up receiving pediatric care here. Today, decades later, her daughter, her son and his wife still get their care at TBHC within the various outpatient sites, including the Children's Health Center and the Ambulatory Care Center. So do six of her grandchildren!

No doubt part of the attraction is the hospital's family-like atmosphere and its convenient location in the heart of Brooklyn. In fact, the new Brooklyn Cancer Center is near Ms. Carter's home. However, there's more: "Yes, it's convenient, but once you start going over there you start developing relationships," she says. "I know our doctor, my daughter knows our doctor and my daughter-in-law knows our doctor. He just takes care of us with a lot of love and care."

Ms. Carter is thrilled with the expanding services and improved facilities, and cites them as additional reasons to keep her and her family coming back. "Thank God for the new Emergency Department," she says. "You're already coming in because of some problem. You don't want to go into a gloomy place. It's brightened up and feels more friendly."

A great community hospital is there for good times and bad. "My husband passed away in 2017 at TBHC, when they had just opened up the hospice unit, which was the best thing ever," she recalls. "When my husband got sick and didn't get better, I was able to transfer him from his floor to TBHC's hospice. I was thankful I didn't have to go through the process of moving him elsewhere. The hospice staff was so supportive."

She also mentions the new Myrtle Dialysis Center and the hospital's well-regarded divisions of orthopedic surgery and cardiac care, to name a few. "As TBHC brings more services to the area, we can have better health," she says. "It's a one-stop shop for me and so many others in the community. They really are keeping us healthy."



TBHC HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE in the life of Natasha Fievre, MD, FACOG. When Dr. Fievre was a child, her mother was a nurse at TBHC. She often accompanied her mom to work and, by age 15, she knew that she wanted to be a doctor. When asked what keeps her going, she says, "I promised myself that when I became a physician, I would focus not just on my patients' medical needs, but also their experience with healthcare."

This philosophy makes her a perfect fit for the patient-centered care at the heart of TBHC. As Director of the hospital's outpatient Women's Health Services, Dr. Fievre is able to pursue her passion and help women in all stages of their lives.

Women's Health Services encompass obstetric care, gynecological care and many OB/GYN subspecialties. TBHC offers quality care through comprehensive visits with our physicians, midwives and ancillary staff at several sites, including the Women's Health Center, the Physicians Pavilion and the family health centers. We offer in-person and telemedicine visits with sometimes up to 100 patients seen in a day. However, no matter the volume, Dr. Fievre wants to be certain that every patient receives the same level of care. "I like to treat patients the way I would want my mom, my daughter or even myself to be treated," she says.

TBHC provides care for women through pregnancy, childbearing and menopause. "What we have at TBHC is something rare. We are small and intimate but sophisticated with a comprehensive range of services," says Dr. Fievre. "We give all we have to our patients and provide the best care in Brooklyn."



MEET OUR ROBOTICS TEAM LUCA MILONE, MD MARY CAMPO-LEWIS, RN SHAMEKA SHELL, RN

THE HUMANS BEHIND THE MACHINE

In JUST FIVE YEARS, HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ROBOTIC SURGERY has become a mainstay at TBHC and is used in many general, urologic and gynecologic procedures. With the da Vinci Xi System, robot-assisted surgery reduces surgical complications, decreases blood loss, results in less postoperative pain, leaves fewer and smaller scars, and results in shorter hospital stays and faster recovery time.

This high-tech innovation is not just whirring engines and computer programming; there is a vital human side to robotic surgery, as well. Luca Milone, MD, FACS, is Director of Robotic Surgery. Following a two-year fellowship in Chicago, he built the robotic surgery program at TBHC. But he doesn't do it alone. "I'm not the only surgeon doing robotic procedures—there are several of us on staff, all who are well trained and very experienced," he says. "But, also, for every procedure there is a collaborative team of three humans: the surgeon, the coordinating nurse and the scrub nurse."

Almost daily, OR Coordinating Nurse Mary Campo-Lewis makes sure Operating Room 7—the robotics room—is prepped and ready for patients, along with Scrub Nurse Shameka Shell. In fact, the nurses are most hands-on with the actual robot while the surgeon sits at a console directing the robot.

The nurses also provide comfort and a human touch to patients. "When they are wheeled into the room, we try to be genuine and treat them the way we want to be treated," says Ms. Campo-Lewis. "Nice. Respectful. Truthful."

Robotic-assisted surgery is easier on the doctors, too. "When you are doing a six-hour laparoscopic surgery, you are tired," Dr. Milone points out. "With the robotic procedure, the doctor is sitting down. It's less physically taxing. It's easier on everyone with the robot," he says with a chuckle.



HEN JAMES DIXON'S WIFE PASSED AWAY FROM CANCER in 2019, he remembered his late mom had told him that if he was ever widowed, he should move from Bensonhurst to Downtown Brooklyn to be near family. When Mr. Dixon received his own cancer diagnosis in 2021, he was within walking distance from The Brooklyn Cancer Center, and a mere six-minute walk from the main hospital.

The brand-new Cancer Center is a partnership between TBHC and New York Cancer & Blood Specialists, one of the region's leading oncology practices. The Center is specifically designed to serve folks like Mr. Dixon—people who live in the neighborhood and don't want to travel far to get outstanding cancer care, especially when they receive infusions, which involve frequent appointments.

"Dr. Max has been awesome," Mr. Dixon says. "If I don't feel well, they'll see me the next day. Does that still happen? Yes, it does."

"Dr. Max" is Maxim Shulimovich, MD, Chief, Hematology/Oncology at The Brooklyn Cancer Center. "We have a philosophy for treating our patients. First, the team provides state-of-the-art oncology care, including access to clinical research trials," Dr. Shulimovich says. "Second, we give tremendous weight to creating a patient-centered experience. It's equally important to our patients to have accessibility to their support system, family, friends and communities."

Mr. Dixon is witness to The Brooklyn Cancer Center's philosophy in action. His sister, Jacki Wallace, has been welcomed into the infusion suite whenever Mr. Dixon has his appointment. "We chat and catch up," says Ms. Wallace. "The Center is so close that it's easy for me to come and keep my brother company."

"I think we underestimate how important it is to our patients not to cross a bridge and to be close to their support," Dr. Shulimovich says. "And, we consider ourselves part of that support."

So does James Dixon. "I haven't run into any un-positive person yet," he said. "When I show up, I'm greeted with, 'We've been waiting for you, Mr. Dixon!' It adds to that good feeling of being close to home."



ANNA MEALE IS BROOKLYN-BORN AND RAISED, growing up not far from TBHC. Today, as Administrative Director of TBHC's Family Medicine Center, she keeps her finger on the pulse of the community that nurtured her. "Our staff is a cohesive team, the first line of contact with patients," Ms. Meale says. "We are a family. We really have that attitude here and that includes and benefits the patients."

Every year, more than 6,100 individuals receive care at the Family Medicine Center, topping 22,000 annual appointments. Hanna's team includes a staff of 21 doctors and medical residents. Together they provide care for patients through childhood and up until the end of life. "We are a Patient-Centered Medical Home, a prestigious recognition earned by delivering excellent primary care. We also provide access to specialties and referrals when necessary," Ms. Meale says. "As much as possible, we're here for the full healthcare life of the patient and often their whole family, too."

The community of patients Family Medicine serves is as diverse as Brooklyn itself, and so, too, is the staff. "We're a multicultural team, and we really do represent the community we're serving," says Ms. Meale. "We have patients who have lived here forever and those who are just moving in. We have savvy consumers of healthcare as well as first-generation immigrants who need help in their language to understand the nuances of their care."

That often means going the extra mile with non-compliant patients who might miss a follow-up appointment or skip a referral. "We are advocates for our patients," says Ms. Meale. "Even when it means more work for our team, we take the time to make sure they understand why the care we are recommending is important."

For Ms. Meale and her "family"—the doctors, nurses and support staff of the Family Medicine Center—the work of serving the Brooklyn community in all its facets is the reward. "At the end of the day, you know you made an impact," she says.



N BRAZIL, back in 2005, Anders Cohen, DO—now TBHC's Chief of Neurosurgery—spent a week observing a doctor who had pioneered a minimally invasive spinal fusion surgery called XLIF (extreme lateral interbody fusion). "It required a small incision and it re-expanded the injured disc in 30 minutes. The patient walked home that day," Dr. Cohen says, "Meanwhile, in New York City at the time, we were filleting the spine for a lengthy procedure with three days of complete bed rest to accomplish the same things."

This experience led Dr. Cohen to establish a cutting-edge Neurosurgery Division at TBHC. Isn't neurosurgery about the brain? Yes, and also the back. "Neurosurgery is more spine than brain," Dr. Cohen explains. "Back pain is the number-one cause of lost workdays."

Before he arrived at TBHC, Dr. Cohen found a less-than-enthusiastic welcome. Other hospitals were used to doing things the old way. "I gave a lecture about it and basically was told, 'Forget it," he says. "At TBHC, they asked, 'Is it better for patients?' I said, 'Yes.' TBHC said, 'Then do it."

In 2006, Dr. Cohen performed the first XLIF in New York and performed it at TBHC. Since then, the innovations keep coming. In fact, last August, he performed the first spinal fusion surgery using a new device called KG 2TM Surge from Kleiner Device Labs. Using this new device, Dr. Cohen was able to perform a bone graft that delivered more than three times the volume of the void of the collapsed disk space.

Though clearly innovative, Dr. Cohen is old-school when it comes to dealing with patients. "I'm a picture and story guy. I sit down with the patient and listen as they describe their symptoms. I hear their story," he says. "As they tell it, I'm forming a picture in my mind of what the MRI will show," he says. "It's a mosaic—time together in the office, imaging, consultation and then the necessary treatment."

Dr. Cohen is backed by two physician assistants, William Vanderwall and Jean-Alfred Frederic, who complement his work and each other's. "I will put them up against any neurosurgical PA in the city," Dr. Cohen says. "They've been recruited left and right, but they're a part of a team here. Together, we know we're making a difference."

THE 2022 FOUNDERS BALL

BACK TOGETHER—AND IN PERSON—AGAIN!

TBHC'S FIRST IN-PERSON FOUNDERS BALL SINCE 2019 drew more than 600 people to the Brooklyn Museum for a night of dinner, dancing and celebration of TBHC's progress and enduring commitment to community health. The year's theme was apt for the momentous occasion: Renew, Refresh, Restart, Rebuild, Reveal.

"People really wanted to come and celebrate and learn about the hospital," says Deborah Niederhoffer, TBHC Vice President and Chief Development Officer for The Brooklyn Hospital Foundation. "They were very much in a mood to have a good time!"

After a virtual ball in 2020 and no event in 2021, the Founders Ball roared back in 2022, raising \$1.4 million. Saturday Night Live star Kenan Thompson helped promote the event and celebrate the hospital's contributions to Brooklyn's vitality and to Keeping Brooklyn Healthy. This year's honorees at the gala included: Dan Chung and His Alger Colleagues, Brooklyn Without Borders Medalists; Carlos P. Naudon, Founders Medalist; and Ahmar Butt, MD, and Louisdon Pierre, MD, Walter E. Reed Medalists.

"A lot of new friends attended the event, and the feedback we heard was that it gave them new insight into The Brooklyn Hospital Center," Ms. Niederhoffer says. "Even though they were longtime residents of Brooklyn, they had no idea of the quality and depth of expertise and the new initiatives that are today's Brooklyn Hospital."

Work is nearing completion on the 2023 Founders Ball, which takes place May 22, 2023, once again at the Brooklyn Museum. "This is our signature fundraiser," Ms. Niederhoffer says. "And it's important to raise money, but it's also important for a non-profit to be visible to honor staff and community, and to share our latest updates."



















- 1. Event Chair Jessie McClintock Kelly with Walter E. Reed Medalist Louisdon Pierre, MD
- 2. Walter E. Reed Medalist Ahmar Butt, MD
- 3. Brooklyn Without Borders Medalist Dan Chung with Trustee Olamide Ajibesin
- 4. Jessie McClintock Kelly, Founders Medalist Carlos P. Naudon, TBHC Board Chair Lizanne Fontaine, TBHC President and CEO Gary Terrinoni
- 5. Board Chair Lizanne Fontaine
- 6. Dinner in the beautiful museum space
- 7. Trustees Keith Kinch, Srividya Madhusudhan, Jessie McClintock Kelly
- 8. Founders Medalist Carlos P. Naudon, George Ramirez, Bob Knakal
- 9. Trustee Lesia Bates Moss (left) greets friends

The Brooklyn Hospital Center is so much like the borough it serves

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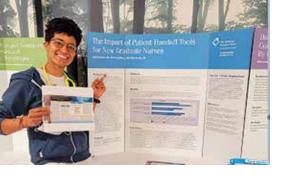
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TBHC has embarked on an exciting chapter of renewal and modernization, meaning there's no better time than now to get involved. There are many ways to support our work: from contributing to the Annual Campaign where dollars are directed to urgent needs throughout the hospital, to purchasing a ticket or table at the annual Founders Ball gala on Monday, May 22, 2023, at the Brooklyn Museum, to naming a hospital area through a leadership gift. Our brand-new Emergency Department is but one example where lead supporters can make a big difference in underwriting clinical needs while receiving lasting and prominent recognition for their support.

To learn more about these and other Foundation initiatives, please visit https://www.tbh.org/ways-give or contact Deborah Niederhoffer, Vice President and Chief Development Officer at dniederhoffer@tbh.org or 718-250-8599.











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