

NewYork-Presbyterian

# FORUM

News and Information for the Alumni of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Winter 2013

## MAKING STRIDES IN STROKE CARE

Babak Navi, MD (left), and Randolph S. Marshall, MD, MS, lead NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's stroke programs. These and other neuroscience programs contribute to the Hospital's #4 ranking for neurology and neurosurgery by the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Hospitals Survey.

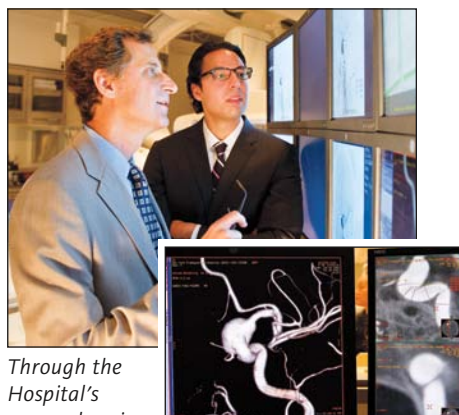
# MAKING STRIDES IN STROKE CARE

Over the past few years, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital has aligned its emergency, medical, interventional, and surgical expertise and capabilities to advance the diagnosis and treatment of stroke and prevent its potentially devastating consequences. The results of this concerted effort are multifaceted and nationally recognized stroke programs at each of the Hospital's campuses.

"One driver of our success in serving patients with stroke is our focus on better organization and cooperation between the Hospital's stroke teams and the Emergency Departments," says **Randolph S. Marshall, MD, MS**, Division Chief, Stroke, NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia. "We work together to develop protocols that are applied at each of the Hospital's campuses and change the culture to make the awareness of stroke more akin to what we've done with cardiac arrest, acute MIs, and coronary artery disease."

The outcomes speak for themselves. The Hospital has seen dramatic changes on several fronts: a sharp increase in total patient volume both through the EDs and via patient transfers; the growing number of patients who come in for acute treatment with intravenous tissue plasminogen activator (tPA); advanced care with interventional approaches; greater prominence of the Hospital's neuroscience investigators who are leading or participating in multicenter, national clinical stroke trials; and collaboration with the New York State Department of Health and The Joint Commission to establish criteria for hospitals to achieve State designation as a Stroke Center.

"NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell are among the earliest programs to be designated through the State as primary stroke centers," says **Babak Navi, MD**,



*Through the Hospital's comprehensive vascular resources, including interventional neuroradiology suites, Drs. Randolph Marshall and Babak Navi are able to offer patients the most advanced treatment available to prevent or treat stroke.*

Director of the Stroke Center at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. "Our programs operate as comprehensive stroke centers, calling on close collaborations with our colleagues in emergency medicine, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, neurointerventional radiology, and rehabilitation medicine. In addition, we provide 24-hour neuroimaging capabilities and neurosurgical in-house care for neurosurgical emergencies."

At the core of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's stroke programs are research endeavors that inform advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of stroke. These include:

**Cancer and Stroke.** Ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke are common neurological emergencies in patients with cancer typically occurring late in the disease course. Patients with cancer can develop strokes from the cancer itself, from its treatment, or from

the complications of having cancer. "The mechanisms of stroke in cancer patients are unique and very different from the mechanisms of stroke in the general population," says Dr. Navi, who has developed a specific niche in the study of stroke in this population. "Therefore it is unclear if the typical medicines that we use to prevent recurrent strokes in the general population can also be used effectively in patients with cancer. Based on earlier data, we know that patients with solid tumors often develop marantic endocarditis from cancer-related hypercoagulability, and these lesions often embolize to the brain causing stroke. We also know that patients with hematological cancers develop strokes for different reasons – increased blood viscosity or disseminated intravascular coagulation."

Working in collaboration with neuro-oncologist **Lisa M. DeAngelis, MD**, Chair, Department of Neurology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Navi is pursuing a large retrospective analysis of ischemic stroke in patients with solid and hematological malignancies. The goal is to find ways of better characterizing the mechanisms that lead to stroke, determine rates of recurrent arterial thromboembolic events, and identify potential risk factors and optimal treatment strategies.

## **Dizziness as a Predictor of Stroke.**

Dr. Navi and **Hooman Kamel, MD**, a specialist in neuro critical care at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell,

are interested in the cerebrovascular causes of dizziness and its presence as a harbinger of stroke. Using the ABCD<sup>2</sup> score, which predicts the risk of stroke after transient ischemic attack, Drs. Navi and Kamel evaluated whether an adaptation of this score could also identify cerebrovascular events in emergency department patients with dizziness. They found among 907 patients presenting with dizziness as the primary complaint that those with low scores had only a one percent chance of having a cerebrovascular cause of dizziness. "If validated in other studies, we believe this tool may be incredibly helpful in ruling out serious causes of dizziness," notes Dr. Navi.

**Brain Recovery.** In the Cerebral Localization Laboratory of the Neurological Institute at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia, established by Dr. Marshall and **Ronald M. Lazar, PhD**, neuropsychologist, Division of Stroke, investigations are underway on brain plasticity and the ability of the brain to compensate for injury. Dr. Marshall's research has focused on stroke recovery using advanced functional imaging, including MRI, and clinical database investigations of the way the brain reorganizes and recovers after stroke.

#### **Vascular Cognitive Impairment.**

Drs. Marshall and Lazar were recently awarded an NIH grant to examine the physiology of blood flow in the brain and identify how this influences cognitive decline. "The brain is one of the few organs in the body that regulates its own blood flow," explains Dr. Marshall. "Brain function depends on its ability to regulate blood flow, and there seems to be a very intriguing correlation between blood flow and cognitive decline. This has major implications for treatment as it may pinpoint a reversible cause for problems with cognition."

**Clinical Trials.** NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is a hub for the multicenter Neurological Emergencies Treatment Trial (NETT) network created by the NIH to conduct large multicenter trials related to injuries and illnesses affecting the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nervous system. **Stephan A. Mayer, MD**, Division Head of Critical Care Neurology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia, serves as principal investigator for the NewYork-Presbyterian hub. Faculty at both Columbia and Weill Cornell are currently involved in the following NETT projects:

- Albumin in Acute Stroke (ALIAS) Part 2 Trial – to determine whether human albumin administered intravenously within five hours of ischemic stroke onset serves as a neuroprotective agent and results in improved clinical outcome
- Platelet-Oriented Inhibition in New TIA and Minor Ischemic Stroke (POINT) – to evaluate two anti-platelet agents for treating patients with mild stroke or TIA
- Stroke Hyperglycemia Insulin Network Effort Trial (SHINE) – to investigate two methods of managing blood glucose in patients with diabetes who have stroke

In addition, as one of eight members of the national Specialized Programs of Translational Research in Acute Stroke (SPOTRIAS) Network funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NewYork-Presbyterian, under the leadership of **Mitchell S.V. Elkind, MD, MS, MPhil**, Associate Chair for Clinical Research and Training in the Division of Stroke at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia, is currently involved in a study looking at the neuroprotection benefit of high-dose statin therapy for acute recovery from stroke.

## **Matthew E. Fink, MD, Appointed Chairman of Neurology at Weill Cornell**



**Matthew E. Fink, MD, FAAN, FAHA**, Professor of Clinical Neurology and Chief of the Division of Stroke and Critical Care Neurology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Neurology. Formerly known as the Department of Neuroscience and Neurology, the Department was recently restructured with the creation of the Brain and Mind Research Institute. "Age-related diseases of the brain, spine, nerves, and muscles are becoming epidemic worldwide health challenges and a major cause for loss of life and overall quality of life," says Dr. Fink, who served as interim chair for four years. Prior to joining the faculty of Weill Cornell, Dr. Fink served as President and CEO of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, as well as Chairman of the Barbara and Alan Mirken Department of Neurology, Director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center, and Co-Director of the Hyman-Newman Institute for Neurology and Neurosurgery. Dr. Fink was a founding member and Chairman of the Critical Care Section of the American Academy of Neurology, and the Research Section for Neurocritical Care of the World Federation of Neurology. He recently served as President of the New York State Neurological Society, and was elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Neurology and the American Heart Association.

## NEW CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

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### Pasquale Casale, MD



One of the foremost authorities on pediatric minimally invasive surgeries, Dr. Pasquale Casale has been appointed Chief of Pediatric Urology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital and Professor of Urology at Columbia University College of

Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Casale specializes in pediatric genitourinary reconstructive surgery and minimally invasive surgery, with an emphasis on laparoscopy, robotic surgery, and stone disease. He has developed a number of minimally invasive techniques for pediatric patients, including robot-assisted and endoscopic procedures. Previously, Dr. Casale was the Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery and Robotic Surgery, as well as Co-Director of the Surgical Simulation and Training Lab at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

### David H. Chong, MD



Dr. David H. Chong has been appointed Medical Director, Critical Care Services, at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia. In this role, Dr. Chong will work with the Intensive Care Unit Medical Directors and other institutional leaders to coordinate and facilitate issues of patient

care, quality, and effectiveness in the critical care setting. Dr. Chong previously served as Medical Director of Columbia's Medical Intensive Care Unit and Director of Medical Critical Care. Prior to joining NewYork-Presbyterian, he was Director of the Critical Care Program at NYU-Bellevue Hospital Center. Dr. Chong co-chairs the New York metro area's STOP Sepsis Collaborative and the Regional Greater New York Hospital Association Critical Care Leadership Network.

### George A. (Jack) Cioffi, MD



Dr. Jack Cioffi has been appointed Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia and the Edward S. Harkness Professor of Ophthalmology and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. An

internationally recognized glaucoma researcher and clinician, Dr. Cioffi leads a team of physicians and scientists at the Edward Harkness Eye Institute dedicated to understanding, preventing, and treating vision disorders. He previously served as Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President at Legacy Health, R.G. Chenoweth Endowed Chair of

Ophthalmology at Devers Eye Institute, and Professor of Ophthalmology at Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Cioffi's research focuses on how circulatory changes in the optic nerve may lead to glaucoma and on best practices in glaucoma surgery. He has been continuously funded for 18 years by the NIH. Dr. Cioffi is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Glaucoma* and Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Glaucoma Research Foundation.

### Fangming Lin, MD, PhD



Dr. Fangming Lin has been appointed Chief of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Pathology and Cell Biology at Columbia University College of Physicians and

Surgeons. Previously, Dr. Lin was an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and a pediatric nephrologist at Children's Medical Center of Dallas. She also serves as a guest professor at Fujian Medical College in China; as a fellow of the American Society of Nephrology; and as a member of the Society for Pediatric Research. Dr. Lin is a leading authority in the emerging field of renal regeneration – using stem cell-based therapy to treat acute kidney injury – and is conducting NIH-funded studies using animal models in this area. She is also interested in the issue of pediatric hypertension as it relates to preventing kidney damage and other health issues.

### Catherine Lord, PhD



Dr. Catherine Lord, a leading authority in autism, has been named Director of the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain of Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Lord, who previously served as Director of the

Autism and Communication Disorders Center at the University of Michigan, is a licensed clinical psychologist with specialties in diagnosis, social and communication development, and intervention in autism spectrum disorders. At the forefront of research to find ways to better treat autism spectrum disorders, Dr. Lord continues her research in validity and longitudinal studies, early diagnosis of children with autism, and regression in children with autism and clinical evaluations and diagnoses of children and adults who may have autism.

## NEWS AND NOTES

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### 1960s

**Leslie H. Sobin, MD 1965** *Residency, Pathology, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center* "After closure of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, where I was for over 25 years, I am now at the National Institutes of Health as Director of Pathology for the Cancer Human BioBank. I also spend a day each week as a gastrointestinal pathology consultant at the Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia."

### 1970s

**Kenneth L. Edelson, MD 1978** *Residency, Dermatology, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center* "I was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor of Dermatology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, The Mount Sinai Hospital. In addition, I was awarded the Teacher of the Year Award by the Department of Dermatology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine in December 2011, and the Mentor of the Year Award by the Department of Dermatology in June 2012. In addition, I am still continuing my second career as a Woody Allen regular actor in his films."

### 1980s

**Howard J. Birenbaum, MD 1983** *Residency ('81), Fellowship ('83) Neonatology, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center* "At the present time I direct a NICU at Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Baltimore. My wife Debra and I have three children (Rob, Lauren, Daniel), all married, and four wonderful grandchildren! I look forward to hearing



from those who were residents/fellows at the time I was at Cornell."

**Timothy B. Sullivan, MD 1985** *Residency, Psychiatry, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center* "I am currently Vice Chair of Psychiatry at Staten Island University Hospital, which is part of the North Shore-LIJ Health System, and also maintain a part-time private practice in Manhattan and Westchester. In my current position, which I assumed in March 2011, I am responsible for quality initiatives, as well

### NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia Society of the Alumni



On Tuesday, May 8, 2012, the NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia Society of the Alumni hosted the 3rd Annual

Reception for Graduating Residents and Fellows. Over 50 guests, including Hospital leadership, department chairs, and Society of the Alumni members, had an opportunity to interact with the graduating residents and fellows.

### A. Dean Jabs, MD, PhD, FACS 1989



*Residency, Plastic Surgery, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center* Dr. Jabs was recently appointed Chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery at Suburban Hospital, a member of the Johns Hopkins Network, in Bethesda, MD, with 53 plastic surgeons on staff. He is Past President of the National Capital Society of Plastic Surgeons

and has been selected by *Northern Virginia* and *Bethesda Magazines* as a Top Doctor. He has been cited by the Children of Chernobyl Committee of Christ Church for his work on behalf of the Children of Belarus. He and his wife Becky have adopted a little girl who they are raising with their other two children. He is in a private practice, Cosmetic Surgery Associates, in Bethesda.

### 1990s

**Peter J. Piliero, MD 1992** *Residency, Internal Medicine, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center* Dr. Piliero has been promoted to Vice President of the General Medicine and Scientific Affairs Department within Clinical Development and Medical Affairs at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Ridgefield, CT. He joined Boehringer Ingelheim in 2004 after 11 years at Albany Medical College, where he was an Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Clinical Pharmacology Study Unit. Dr. Piliero and his wife Theresa, a graduate of the Columbia University Nurse Practitioner program, have two children, Nicholas, a freshman at Hofstra University, and Gabrielle, a sophomore at Cheshire Academy.

**Shahla Siddiqui, MD 1992** *Fellowship, Critical Care Anesthesia, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center* Dr. Siddiqui is currently practicing in Singapore.

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### For Information on the Society of the Alumni

The Society of the Alumni provides many opportunities to stay connected to friends, mentors, and current and former colleagues. To learn more about the Society and its activities, please contact the Society of the Alumni at [alumnisociety@nyp.org](mailto:alumnisociety@nyp.org) or (212) 342-0954.

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NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital  
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New York, NY 10065  
www.nyp.org/alumni



Top Ranked Hospital in New York.  
Twelve Years Running.



## SIGN UP FOR CME

**Continuing Medical Education (CME)** activities are provided through **Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons:** (212) 305-3334 and **Weill Cornell Medical College:** (212) 746-2631. Both institutions are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to authorize and issue CME credit. For all upcoming education events through NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, visit [www.nyp.org/pro](http://www.nyp.org/pro).

### Brain Attack and Cerebrovascular Disease Update 2013

Date: March 8, 2013  
Location: New York Academy of Medicine  
1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029

*This course meets the 8 hour annual CME/CH requirement for Stroke Center Certification.*

For more information and registration, contact Jessica Grajales, CME Coordinator, at (212) 585-6800 or [nypcme@nyp.org](mailto:nypcme@nyp.org)

### Brain Tumor Biotech Summit 2013

Date: June 7, 2013  
Location: Weill Cornell Medical College  
Uris Auditorium  
1300 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065

For more information and registration, contact Jessica Grajales, CME Coordinator, at (212) 585-6800 or [nypcme@nyp.org](mailto:nypcme@nyp.org)

### Advanced Endoscopic Skull Base and Pituitary Surgery, Hands-on Symposium

Dates: June 14-15, 2013  
Location: Weill Cornell Medical College  
Griffis Faculty Club and Weill Cornell Anatomy Lab  
1300 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065

For more information and registration, contact Jessica Grajales, CME Coordinator, at (212) 585-6800 or [nypcme@nyp.org](mailto:nypcme@nyp.org)



The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recognize NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital for achieving 85 percent or higher adherence in each of the seven Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Achievement Measures for a minimum of 24 consecutive months and at least 75 percent compliance with four of nine Get With The Guidelines Stroke Quality Measures.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT ACCESS

The NewYork-Presbyterian Physician Access Transfer Center will coordinate your patient's transfer to the tertiary services available at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.

### One call 1-800-NYP-STAT

For a physician referral to any one of our 5,500 physicians across all specialties, call the **Referral Call Center** at **1-877-NYP-WELL**.

## PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

### NewYork-Presbyterian Alumni Website – [nyp.org/alumni](http://nyp.org/alumni)

The Alumni Association website is a valuable resource for the more than 10,000 physicians who have trained at NewYork-Presbyterian.

### Educational Programs – [nyp.org/pro](http://nyp.org/pro)

- Webcasts
- Medical Presentations
- CME Activities
- Newsletters

For more information about campus-specific Alumni Associations, contact:

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NewYork-Presbyterian

**FORUM**

Winter 2013 Vol. 6, No. 1

*NewYork-Presbyterian Forum is published for former residents and fellows of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Please send your news to: Richard S. Liebowitz, MD, MHSc, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, [rs19002@nyp.org](mailto:rs19002@nyp.org).*