

## Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Expands to Wakefield

The Montefiore-Einstein Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) serves a vital function for clinicians across Montefiore by educating, supporting and advising clinician prescribers on the appropriate use of antibiotics. After launching in 2008 at areas of the Moses and Einstein Campuses, the Montefiore-Einstein ASP expanded to The Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) in early 2013. Last month, the program was introduced at the Wakefield Campus.

"This is an ongoing, multidisciplinary effort to create awareness of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic use," says Belinda Ostrowsky, MD, MPH, Director, Montefiore-Einstein ASP and Associate Professor of Medicine, Einstein.

Antibiotics and similar drugs, known as antimicrobial agents, have been used for more than 70 years to treat patients with

infectious diseases. When prescribed and taken correctly, their use improves patient care by expediting recovery time.

However, because of their long and widespread use, many infectious organisms have adapted and become resistant, making the drugs less effective. People infected with antimicrobial-resistant organisms are more likely to have longer, more expensive hospital stays, and morbidity and mortality rates may increase, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The program's goal is to formulate a system-wide approach to aid clinicians in developing consistent treatment protocols in accordance with national guidelines, relying on medical literature, local data and clinical practices to inform its decisions. Education focuses on appropriate testing to diagnose infections, choosing the correct antibiotic regimen and knowing when to obtain

consultation on infectious diseases.

Antibiotic preauthorization policies were enacted on December 1, specifying which antimicrobials require 'antibiotic approval,' or preauthorization by an antimicrobial steward, such as an Infectious Diseases-certified physician or clinical pharmacist trained in infectious diseases (ID PharmD), regarding the appropriateness of the specified antimicrobial for each affected patient, says Priya Nori, MD, Director, Montefiore-Einstein ASP, Wakefield, and Instructor of Medicine, Einstein. These antimicrobials are listed on the "Antimicrobial Stewardship" page of the Intranet.

To determine if the antimicrobial agent is suitable, clinicians and stewards discuss the infection itself, doses, durations of treatment and other critical care elements. "Often, we offer to facilitate (continued...)

## Montefiore Physicians Recognized for Outstanding Performance

Henry Chung, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Montefiore Care Management and Medical Director, Accountable Care Organization, Montefiore, and Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Einstein, received the Lewis and Jack Rudin New York Prize for Medicine and Health from the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) and the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) Foundation. Dr. Chung and Ruth Browne, SCD, MPH, MPP, CEO of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, who also received the award, were honored at a recent event at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York City.

The Lewis and Jack Rudin New York Prize for Medicine and Health was established in 2003 by the NYAM and GNYHA, together with the Rudin Family Foundation. The prize honors medical professionals from New York City institutions whose efforts demonstrate

how the healthcare delivery system can work effectively with partners in public health and the community to address prevention, community health and health policy issues.

"I am deeply humbled by this honor, which recognizes the critical importance of systematically integrating behavioral care and medical care for the betterment of health outcomes of patients and their families," Dr. Chung says. "Moreover, the award reflects Montefiore's support of and commitment to treating the whole person, especially in this time of health reform."

David D'Alessandro, MD, Surgical Director, Cardiac Transplantation, Montefiore, and Associate Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Einstein, is the inaugural recipient of The Erika and Jay Abramson Distinguished Surgeon in Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery appointment, an award recognizing Dr. D'Alessandro's achievements in the (continued...)



### The Flu is Prevalent

Confirmed cases of influenza have now been documented in all five boroughs of New York City; as of December 19, the Commissioner of Health of New York State has declared influenza prevalent in New York State. **Consequently, all Montefiore associates who have not yet been immunized will now be required to comply with state regulations and wear masks in areas where they might come into contact with patients, including public areas throughout the hospital.**

Vaccinations are available at OHS and on all campuses. Visit the "Flu Headquarters" section of the Intranet for facts and vaccination locations.

## Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

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an actual Infectious Disease (ID) consultation if the patient sounds particularly ill or if the illness is complex, especially since our phone discussions with providers cannot replace a clinical evaluation by an ID consultant," Dr. Nori says. "In the short time we have been in operation at Wakefield, we have found our discussions with providers to be very fruitful, engaging and educational. Providers are very grateful to have an additional infectious disease presence at Wakefield in the form of antimicrobial stewardship."

Julie Williamson, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Montefiore, says: "We're encouraged by the strong relationships we are building with providers at Wakefield and look forward to improving patient care through continued collaborative efforts."

For more information, visit the "Antimicrobial Stewardship" page, listed under "Infectious Diseases," under "Medicine," in the "Clinical Department" section of the Intranet.

## Outstanding Performance

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advancement of cardiac transplantation relating to stem cell research. "It is a privilege to work at Montefiore," Dr. D'Alessandro says. "For the last several years, we have been investigating the potential for cardiac stem cells to repair and regenerate damaged hearts. We are optimistic that one day soon our work will translate into real bedside therapy for our patients." The Department of Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery has a proud tradition of clinical excellence and research leadership in adult and pediatric cardiology and cardiovascular surgery. Jay Abramson is a member of the Montefiore Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Erika, are ardent supporters of Montefiore and the Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart and Vascular Care.

## EVENTS

### Winter Warm Up

The Winter Warm Up is a festive event that provides associates with essential winter safety tips and complimentary refreshments. Tips include wearing proper attire during cold months and avoiding overexertion while shoveling snow.

**i Jennifer Gnecco: 718-920-4728**

### Winter Warm Up | Moses Campus

January 27: 2:00-4:00 pm  
CHAM Conference Room

January 29: 6:00-8:00 pm  
Grand Hall

January 31: 6:30-10:00 am  
Moses Food Pavilion

## NEWS

### Holiday Cheer at Montefiore

The holidays were made brighter at Montefiore, thanks to the generosity of local well-wishers who bestowed gifts upon patients and a general sense of conviviality that prevailed with song and celebration.

**A group of student-athletes from Fordham University's** Athletic Department visited with school mascot the Ram and distributed Christmas stockings to patients in the outpatient hematology/oncology unit and the day hospital, where children receive treatment that does not require an overnight stay.

**LaSorsa Auto Group** held its second community toy collection, **Care to Share Toy Drive**, which yielded a box brimming with toys and other holiday treats for pediatric patients and their parents.

**Schaffer Extended Care Center in New Rochelle**, one of the newest additions to the Montefiore family, hosted a special caroling event for its senior residents, who dressed in festive apparel and performed a selection of traditional holiday favorites.

A former patient at **Wakefield, 5 North**, played Secret Santa and sent flowers to every patient on the floor during Christmas week, eliciting smiles and good cheer from the recipients.



Led by art therapist Cheryl Balestra, residents sang holiday favorites at a special caroling event at Schaffer Extended Care Center in New Rochelle.

### SAW Program Drives Associates' Career Development

Montefiore Learning Network is once again offering the School at Work program, a career development program for entry-level workers in the healthcare industry. During a six-month duration, students participate in a blended-learning instructional program that helps students refresh essential skills and gain a better understanding of healthcare-specific subjects. **Applications must be submitted by January 22, 2014.**

**i Montefiore Learning Network: 718-920-8787**

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