Care Team

Each physician is paired with a nurse to provide a Care Team. The nurse and physician work closely in the planning and implementation of each patient's care. Nurses also act as the liaison for patients and physicians. The Care Team allows nurses to get to know patients and their families in order to provide personalized care. Each patient is provided the nurse's phone number and encouraged to call with any questions or concerns.

Liver Transplant Coordinators

Transplant coordinators focus on pre- and post-transplant patients. They play a critical role in completing the transplant evaluation, maintenance of the transplant waiting list, and pre- and post-transplant patient care.

Hepatology and Liver Transplant Staff—The Loyola University Medical Center Liver Program (initiated in 2012) includes a team of hepatologists, transplant surgeons, researchers, nurses and coordinators. Hepatologists include Scott Cotler, MD, Jamie Berkes, MD, Eric Kallwitz, MD, Natasha Von Roenn, MD, Steven Scaglione, MD, and Veronica Loy, DO. Surgeons include Amy Lu, MD, Diego Di Sabato, MD, and Ramesh Batra, MD. Pictured above.

Support Staff: the Program's Heart and Soul
Manager Jo Debnar, RN

7 Nurses
2 Nurse Practitioners
1 Licensed Practical Nurse
3 Medical Assistants
5 Transplant Coordinators
Focus on Research

by Eric Kallwitz, MD

Eric Kallwitz, MD, is a nationally recognized clinician-scientist who was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine. His research focuses on fatty liver disease and muscle loss in patients with cirrhosis and in liver transplant candidates. The loss of muscle, often referred to as sarcopenia, has been associated with conditions such as diabetes and fatty liver.

Patients awaiting liver transplant commonly experience a large decline in muscle mass and function. We are studying the cause and long-term consequences of muscle loss in the setting of cirrhosis and liver transplant. In addition, we are evaluating whether skeletal muscle loss before transplant contributes to increased rates of diabetes after transplant. We hope that understanding the mechanisms behind changes in body composition in patients with liver disease will lead to discoveries that can directly improve the health of our patients.

The study of body composition in cirrhosis requires tools to make standardized measurements. One such tool is computer software that allows the measure of skeletal muscle area from a single picture obtained from a CT scan. Purchase of this software was made possible by a generous donation to the Liver Program.

At Loyola, I am grateful to be a part of a talented and hardworking team of physicians, scientists, nurses, research coordinators and statisticians. It is truly a privilege to take care of patients with liver disease, many of whom have generously donated their time to be a part of research studies with the aim of helping others. I look forward to continued scientific discoveries.

Accomplishments 2012-2016

• Extensive network of 13 Loyola and non-Loyola offices
• Liver clinics at Hines VA, Peoria, Moline, Rockford, downtown Chicago and Chinatown
• Liver transplants at Loyola increased from 14 in 2012 to 64 in 2016 with excellent patient outcomes and survival rates.
• In 2016, a dedicated hospital ward was established for liver and liver transplant patients, providing a new model of patient care.
• Established a new transplant hepatology fellowship training program to provide training for the next generation of doctors.
• 65 papers published by researchers and clinicians.
• Susan Uprichard, PhD, and Harel Dahari, PhD, established the Program for Experimental and Translational Modeling, an internationally recognized multidisciplinary research program dedicated to improving the understanding and treatment of viral hepatitis.
• Development of the Clinical Research Office and biobank to support patient-centered research at Loyola.
New Office - LaSalle Peru

Dr. Cotler and Dr. Loy opened a hepatology office in LaSalle Peru this April. Patients in the Interstate 80 corridor are currently seen in the Peoria, Rockford and Burr Ridge offices. The new office will improve accessibility and reduce travel burden for these patients.

Hepatology Development Board

The mission of the board is to support excellence in patient care, education and patient-centered research on liver disease.

Please contact us if you would like to get involved with this important new initiative. Members of the development board meet quarterly and would welcome your involvement and support. If interested, please contact Kathy at 708-216-8815 or kathleen.stechmiller@luhs.org

Support Needed

The Loyola Liver Program has made tremendous progress since 2012. We are committed to our patient care, education and research. Your generous gift will assist us in pursuing our mission. Please visit loyolamedicine.org/giving-loyola to make a donation to the Loyola Liver Program. Your donation is deductible for federal income tax purposes in accordance with applicable law. Consult your income tax professional for further advice. Loyola University Health System is a 501(c)(3) organization. Thank you for your support!

Events

The 8th Annual Jack Felts Memorial Golf Classic

The 8th Annual Jack Felts golf outing will take place on Saturday, May 13 at WeaverRidge Golf Course, 5100 North WeaverRidge Blvd., Peoria, IL.

Sponsored and organized by Theresa Shields Felts and her family, the golf outing honors the memory of Jack Felts and funds the Jack Felts Suite at Carleton Hotel near Loyola University Medical Center. The suite is offered free of charge to liver patients and their families traveling to Loyola from the Peoria area and other sites around the state. Register or donate using the link below.

loyolamedicine.org/felts2017

Liver Team at the Loyola Medicine 5K Run/Walk, June 4, Brookfield Zoo

A liver team is being organized for this year’s Loyola Medicine 5K Run/Walk. Patients, their families and friends are all welcomed. Please join our team and help us raise money to support research on liver disease and liver transplantation. Use the link below to register or donate. Please make sure to sign up for The Liver Team.

loyolamedicine5k.org
We also treat the human spirit.