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NEW PHYSICIANS
Loyola Medicine Opens Cardiac Prevention and Lipid Clinic

Loyola now offers a Cardiac Prevention and Lipid Clinic to help high-risk patients control their cholesterol and reduce their risk of heart attacks, strokes and other cardiovascular events.

“The clinic will offer a unique, multidisciplinary approach to cardiovascular risk reduction, as well as expert management of complex lipid abnormalities and difficult-to-control hypertension,” said Verghese Mathew, MD, the director of cardiology. “We are providing these types of patient-centered approaches to improve health and wellness of all those we serve.”

The clinic goes beyond traditional risk factor assessments. When indicated, the clinic offers genetic testing and advanced testing for markers of coronary artery disease, such as homocysteine, ultra-sensitive CRP, lipoprotein (a) and advanced lipoprotein testing and subfractionation. The clinic also employs advanced imaging technologies that can detect cardiovascular disease prior to symptoms. These noninvasive tests include coronary calcium scans, carotid intimal thickness tests and ankle-brachial index tests.

The multidisciplinary team includes cardiologists, advanced practice nurses and nutritionists, and provides referrals to exercise physiologists. “Enrolling in cardiac rehabilitation, especially after a heart attack or cardiac surgery, has been shown to improve outcomes, reduce disability, promote healthy behaviors and improve compliance,” said Khaled Dajani, MD.

Dr. Dajani is the medical director of the clinic, and a board-certified cardiologist with expertise in preventive cardiology, hyperlipidemia and non-invasive cardiac imaging.

Every patient will receive an individualized treatment plan with short- and long-term goals. The plan includes medication management when needed and simple, achievable lifestyle changes. Patients undergo physical activity counseling and an exercise training program, along with nutrition education and risk factor counseling.

The lipid clinic will offer an individualized plan that can include statins and newer medications such as injectable PCSK9 inhibitors. A concierge service will work with a subspecialty pharmacist to obtain prior authorizations.

The clinic will work closely with the patient’s referring physician, who will receive a letter detailing the assessment and plan of care, along with regular updates. The clinic will see patients referred from within and outside Loyola University Health System.

The clinic also provides opportunities for clinical research and is a teaching and research center for fellows and residents.

The clinic is held Tuesday afternoons at the Loyola Center for Health at Burr Ridge. It is targeted to three patient populations.

**PRIMAR Y PREVENTION**

The clinic will see patients with traditional risk factors, including hypertension, diabetes mellitus, smoking, high cholesterol and family history. Using the latest advances in biochemical, genetic and imaging testing to further assess risk, a cardiologist will create a treatment plan to reduce the risk of cardiovascular events. The clinic also offers specialized care tailored to women.

**SECONDARY PREVENTION**

The goal is to prevent recurrent heart attacks or strokes in patients with documented cardiovascular disease. Working closely with Loyola’s state-of-the-art, nationally certified cardiac rehab program, cardiologists will help patients mitigate risks with medications and lifestyle adjustments. The program works with the patient’s primary provider to provide continuity of care and long-term sustainability of interventions.

**LIPID DISORDERS AND HYPERTENSION**

This third population includes patients with severe, difficult-to-treat cholesterol and hypertension, including familial homozygous or heterozygous hypercholesterolemia and patients who are not at goal with standard statin therapy or are intolerant to statins. Loyola also offers LDL apheresis for patients with familial hypercholesterolemia who cannot control their cholesterol with diet, exercise and medications.
The high volume and subspecialty expertise of Loyola’s clinically integrated Digestive Health program offers the benefits of academic medicine to patients across a broad range of subspecialties.
New Swallowing Center

Loyola’s multidisciplinary Swallowing Center, directed by Mukund Venu, MD, and Dr. Chand, is among a handful of programs devoted solely to diagnosing and treating swallowing disorders, such as acid reflux and esophageal motility disorders. The center is convenient both for referring physicians and their patients. A referring physician only needs to make a general referral and the clinic will schedule appointments with the appropriate specialists, including gastroenterologists, surgeons, otolaryngologists, speech pathologists, pulmonologists and a health psychologist who specializes in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders. The patient sees all specialists in a single visit.

The GI motility lab offers comprehensive esophageal function testing, including esophageal manometry, ambulatory pH testing and ambulatory impedance testing to evaluate patients with dysphagia and refractory GERD. Patients can be scheduled within a day or two, and the tests are read in less than two weeks.

Loyola also is among the few centers that offer high-resolution esophageal manometry five days a week to diagnose achalasia and other esophageal motility disorders. Conventional manometries are displayed as line tracings. High-resolution manometries performed at Loyola show pressure topography in a display that looks like a weather map. “It’s intuitive to read, making it much easier to see contractions and swallowing features,” Dr. Venu said.

The program includes subspecialists in gastroenterology, colorectal surgery, minimally invasive surgery, surgical oncology and bariatric medicine. It is led by co-directors Bipan Chand, MD, and Neil Gupta, MD.

Each year, Loyola gastroenterologists perform more than 300 esophageal manometries, one of the highest volumes in the Midwest. Loyola offers high-resolution manometries that aren’t available at many other centers that offer the test. Loyola also is one of only two GI motility labs in Illinois recognized by the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society.

The Loyola Center for Metabolic Surgery & Bariatric Care has high patient volumes and low morbidity and readmission rates. The center offers the latest medical and surgical therapies, including five new obesity medications and two new intragastric procedures.

Loyola is among a handful of centers nationwide that offer care by a subspecialty-trained health psychologist who exclusively treats gastrointestinal disorders.

Physicians perform colonoscopies with high-resolution, high-definition endoscopes. Loyola’s mean adenoma (pre-cancerous polyp) detection rates are higher than 40 percent for men and women, far exceeding the recommended national benchmarks of 25 percent for men and 15 percent for women.

Loyola offers patients access to dozens of clinical trials of investigational agents and new techniques, such as less invasive bariatric surgery and fecal transplantation. Loyola physicians are also national experts in their fields, publishing extensive clinical research, serving on national medical society committees and editing leading journals.
Metabolic Surgery and Bariatric Care

Loyola’s Center for Metabolic Surgery & Bariatric Care has among the highest patient volumes in the Midwest. Last year, the center cared for more than 1,700 patients, including 250 patients who received surgical treatments.

Loyola offers a comprehensive range of medical and surgical weight-loss treatments. Medical treatment is a multifaceted, physician-directed weight management program that includes individualized nutrition and psychological counseling, exercise consultations, group sessions and prescription medications, if needed.

Surgical treatments include adjustable gastric banding, duodenal switch surgery, laparoscopic vertical sleeve gastrectomy and laparoscopic gastric bypass. A patient sees specialists in a single visit, and an algorithm is developed for the optimal combination of behavioral modification, medical therapy and, if indicated, surgery.

Five obesity medications have been approved during the past five years: Belviq® (targets a hunger receptor in the brain); Qsymia® (combines phentermine and topiramate); Contrave® (combines bupropion and naltrexone); Saxenda® (daily injectable that works like a hormone to activate areas of the brain that regulate appetite); and Lomaira® (low-dose phentermine). These medications, in addition to behavior modification, dietary counseling and exercise, have been shown to improve weight loss and reduce co-morbidities.

Loyola also is offering two new intragastric therapies that employ a balloon made of soft silicone. The balloon is inserted through the mouth and filled with saline in the stomach. The patient feels full on smaller portions. The balloon is kept in the stomach for six months, while the patient adapts to eating healthier portion sizes. The therapy generally is indicated for patients with a body mass index of between 30 and 40.

The center is participating in several clinical trials of new bariatric surgery techniques designed to be less invasive and result in fewer complications and faster recovery. The center also continually tracks and reviews clinical data and surgical outcomes to implement evidence-based improvements in patient care. Two recent examples are an outpatient hydration clinic and a new surgical site infection protocol.

Specialized medical and surgical teams employ enhanced-recovery platforms in the obesity program and other digestive surgical specialties. The platforms include patient education, dedicated nursing teams and strategies to improve post-operative pain control and return to normal activity. Two or three days after discharge, an RN calls patients to ensure adequate hydration, pain control and ambulation. If there are concerning symptoms, the patient is brought to the clinic the same day for evaluation and treatment.

“Enhanced recovery pathways allow for greater patient engagement, with the focus of returning the patient to better health in a safer and more effective environment,” Dr. Chand said.
Colorectal Care

Colon and rectal surgeons Joshua Eberhardt, MD, and Marc Singer, MD, use the latest techniques to treat the full range of problems of the colon, rectum and anus.

They offer minimally invasive techniques including laparoscopic colectomy, laparoscopic proctectomy and transanal endoscopic microsurgery to treat patients with cancer and benign conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease. As subspecialty-trained surgeons who exclusively perform colon, rectal and anal surgeries, Drs. Eberhardt and Singer offer more experience and expertise in these procedures than many other surgeons.

Loyola also offers a multidisciplinary gastrointestinal cancer risk assessment and inflammatory bowel disease program, directed by Dr. Eberhardt and Amar Naik, MD. The program is offered to patients who are known or suspected to have an inherited predisposition to GI cancers, including Lynch syndrome, familial adenomatous polyposis, MYH-associated polyposis, juvenile polyposis syndrome and familial colorectal cancer type X. The program also is offered to patients with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. Patients can receive targeted physical exams and be seen jointly by a colorectal surgeon, gastroenterologist and genetics counselor. Patients undergo comprehensive reviews of their personal and family histories. To manage the condition, each patient receives an individualized plan that can include diagnostic testing, endoscopy and, when needed, surgery.

Dr. Naik, a gastroenterologist and director of the inflammatory bowel disease program, offers special expertise in this area. He has performed research to identify at-risk patients and implement programs that optimize colorectal cancer surveillance and prevention of post-operative recurrence with appropriate timing of medications and surgery.

“This patient-centered approach brings translational research to the bedside,” Dr. Naik said. “The latest medical and surgical advances in digestive health are made available with a unique collaborative medical and surgical treatment plan when necessary. This improved efficiency of care delivery really helps patients head down the right path.”

Patients at risk for GI cancers can receive targeted physical exams and be seen jointly by a colorectal surgeon, gastroenterologist and genetics counselor.
Psychologist for GI Disorders

Sarah Kinsinger, PhD, is a board-certified health psychologist specializing in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders. She recently joined Loyola as director of behavioral medicine for the Digestive Health Program. Dr. Kinsinger is among a handful of health psychologists nationwide who exclusively treat digestive disorders and is nationally recognized for her expertise in psychosocial gastrointestinal care. She has been invited to speak at psychology and gastroenterology conferences and is a founder and co-director of the psychogastroenterology section of the Rome Foundation, the first organization dedicated to psychosocial gastroenterology.

Dr. Kinsinger’s digestive behavioral health program offers treatments that target brain-gut pathways, a key component in many chronic digestive disorders, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional heartburn, Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. Brain-gut treatments such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and gut-directed hypnotherapy are very effective in treating functional gastrointestinal conditions such as IBS. For example, studies have found that, on average, 75 percent of IBS patients experience at least a 50 percent reduction in symptoms following a course of CBT. Short-term skills-based treatments teach patients coping strategies to manage symptoms and reduce stress.

“Brain-gut therapies often work for patients who have not responded to traditional medical treatment or who are looking for a non-pharmacological treatment option,” Dr. Kinsinger said. “We can improve gastrointestinal symptoms by training the brain to tune out painful sensations from the gut.”

Dr. Kinsinger typically sees patients for five to seven appointments, and the treatments are often covered by insurance.
High-quality Colonoscopies

Loyola gastroenterologists have conducted numerous studies on ways to improve colonoscopies and have educated other physicians on how to improve their techniques.

“The quality of colonoscopies varies widely, depending on the physician who performs them,” said Dr. Gupta, who has been an invited expert for numerous courses sponsored by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. Studies have shown that patients whose physicians have high adenoma detection rates are less likely to develop colon cancer and less likely to die of the disease.

At Loyola, colonoscopies are performed with high-resolution, high-definition endoscopes, along with split-dose bowel preparation and advanced endoscopic imaging techniques to maximize the ability to detect subtle, “flat” precancerous polyps (adenomas) that can be difficult to detect.

Loyola tracks adenoma rates both of individual physicians and of the group as a whole. In addition to recording high adenoma detection rates, Loyola physicians consistently perform above national benchmarks on other quality measures, including cecal intubation rate (examining the entire colon) and length of time spent during the withdrawal phase of the colonoscopy, said Nikhil Shastri, MD, medical director of gastrointestinal endoscopy labs.

Loyola also is a leader in capsule endoscopy. For example, Loyola is the first center in Chicago to offer PillCam™ COLON 2 as a noninvasive alternative to colonoscopy. The patient ingests a capsule that contains two miniature cameras. As the capsule travels through the digestive tract, it captures images and wirelessly transmits them to a recorder worn by the patient.

The FDA has approved the system for patients who are not candidates for colonoscopies due to the anatomy of their colons or because of elevated risk of colonoscopy complications. Loyola is participating in a clinical trial to determine whether the capsule endoscopy is safe and effective for a broader population of patients who could tolerate a colonoscopy but would prefer to swallow a capsule instead.

**ABOVE:** Nikhil Shastri, MD and Neil Gupta, MD

**LINK:** [www.loyolamedicine.org/camera-capsule](http://www.loyolamedicine.org/camera-capsule)
Physicians in Loyola’s Digestive Health program hold many leadership roles in academic medicine:

**Ayokunle Abegunde, MD.**
Author on 16 peer-reviewed publications in the past 5 years.

**Gerard Abood, MD.**
Co-director of GI multi-disciplinary tumor boards at Loyola and St. Alexius Medical Center. He has presented 20 projects at national meetings leading to 16 publications over the past five years.

**Nikiya Asamoah, MD.**
Visiting IBD Fellowship Award recipient.

**Bipan Chand, MD.**
Co-director of digestive health and director of the Center for Metabolic Surgery & Bariatric Care; chair of flexible endoscopy committees of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons and American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. Serves on the editorial boards of *Surgical Endoscopy, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases, Surgical Laparoscopy, Endoscopy & Percutaneous Techniques, American Journal of Gastroenterology* and *Selected Readings in General Surgery*. Author on 42 peer-reviewed publications and invited expert speaker at 72 symposiums and conferences in the past five years. His second textbook, *Endoscopy in Obesity Management*, was published in September 2017.

**Joshua Eberhardt, MD.**
Member of the division of colon and rectal surgery, medical director of an inpatient unit, physician champion for ICD-10 and co-medical director for clinical documentation. Reviewer for *Archives of Surgery, Journal of Surgical Oncology* and *Gastroenterology*. Has authored 14 peer-reviewed publications in the past five years.

**Neil Gupta, MD.**
Co-director of digestive health and director of interventional endoscopy; working group chair of the quality measures committee of the American Gastroenterology Association; editor-in-chief, *Diseases of the Esophagus*; editorial board member of *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* and *Video Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*; member of the Institute for Technology and Training Committee of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. Author on 53 peer-reviewed publications and invited expert speaker at 48 symposiums and conferences in the past five years.

**Gail Hecht, MD.**
Division director, gastroenterology and nutrition; program director, gastroenterology fellowship; chair of the scientific advisory board for microbiome research and education for the American Gastroenterological Association; editor-in-chief of *Gut Microbes*; member of the international scientific advisory committee of the International Congress of Mucosal Immunology; author on 12 peer-reviewed publications and invited expert speaker at 19 symposiums and conferences in the past five years.

**Sarah Kinsinger, PhD.**
Director of behavioral medicine for digestive health; founder and co-chair for psychogastroenterology working group of the Rome Foundation; clinical advisory board member, MetaMe Health; author on four peer-reviewed publications and invited expert speaker at 12 symposiums and conferences in the past five years.

**Eric Marcotte, MD.**
Member of the minimally invasive surgical and bariatric team. Serves on Loyola’s medication reconciliation and quality assessment committees. Reviewer for *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases* and *Journal of Medical Case Reports*. Has authored four peer-reviewed publications, two book chapters and four videos in the past five years.

**Amar Naik, MD.**
Medical director, inflammatory bowel disease program; author on five peer-reviewed publications in the past five years.

**Lena Palmer, MD.**
Medical director, nutrition services. Author on five peer-reviewed publications and invited expert speaker at nine symposiums and conferences in the past five years.

**Peter Sargon, MD.**
Associate medical director, gastroenterology endoscopy labs. Invited expert instructor for the World Endoscopy Organization’s 2016 Emerging Stars Conference.

**Nikhil Shastri, MD.**
Medical director, gastroenterology endoscopy labs. Invited expert instructor for the World Endoscopy Organization’s 2016 Emerging Stars Conference; Olympus Submucosal Endoscopy Training Grant Recipient in 2017; invited expert speaker at three symposiums and conferences in the past five years.

**Marc Singer, MD.**
Member of the division of colon and rectal surgery. Serves on the new technologies committee, program committee and continuing education committee of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. Reviewer for *Surgical Oncology, Journal of Medicine and Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*. Author on 10 peer-reviewed publications in the past five years.

**Michael Sprang, MD.**
Associate program director, gastroenterology fellowship; 2016 ACG/Naomi Nakao Gender-Based Research Award Recipient; 2016 ACG presidential poster award recipient.

**Mukund Venu, MD.**
Director of clinical operations for gastroenterology division; member of the patient care committee of the American College of Gastroenterology; associate editor of *Diseases of the Esophagus*; editorial contributor for Elsevier PracticeUpdate; author on five peer-reviewed publications in the past five years.
Loyola Performs More than 100 HIPEC Procedures for Stage 4 Cancer Patients

Loyola has become one of the leading centers in the Midwest offering hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) for patients with Stage 4 cancers that have originated in or spread to the abdominal cavity.

Loyola has performed more than 100 HIPEC procedures, and outcomes are on par with the international community. Gerard Abood, MD, trained in the procedure at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where he completed a surgical oncology fellowship. UPMC played a key role in developing HIPEC and is one of the world’s most experienced and successful centers offering the technique.

HIPEC is paired with cytoreductive surgery. After all visible tumors on the surface of the abdominal cavity or embedded in organs have been removed, the chemotherapy agent mitomycin C is pumped through the abdominal cavity for 90 minutes. The patient is gently shaken to distribute the drug, which is recirculated every three minutes.

Because the mitomycin C is confined to the abdominal cavity, it can be given in orders-of-magnitude higher doses than systemic chemotherapy. And to further increase the chemotherapy’s efficacy, the drug is heated to 42 degrees C. (To prevent overheating, the patient lies on a cooling blanket.)

The surgery takes eight to 10 hours, and can include the partial or complete removal of two or three organs, such as the gallbladder, spleen, small or large intestine and peritoneum. There’s a 30 to 40 percent risk of complication. The patient typically spends two to three days in the ICU and 10 to 14 days in the hospital. Full recovery takes two to three months.

Improved survival has been demonstrated for patients with colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, pseudomyxoma peritonei, ovarian cancer and malignant mesothelioma compared with standard treatment alone. For example, colon cancer patients undergoing HIPEC have a median survival of about 48 months, compared to approximately 24 months for patients undergoing standard therapy alone. A subset of HIPEC patients experience long-term remission.

Cytoreductive surgery paired with HIPEC is not indicated for all patients, including those who are too frail due to the cancer or previous chemotherapy. It is most effective in patients who are immediately referred after being diagnosed with Stage 4 disease.

“In select patients who are promptly evaluated, cytoreductive surgery paired with HIPEC can result in prolonged survival and good quality of life,” Dr. Abood said.
Why Industry Will Play Critical Role in Funding Neurosurgery Research

With federal funding increasingly restricted, industry will play a critical role in funding neurosurgery research, according to a commentary by three Loyola neurosurgeons in *World Neurosurgery*.

Industry has superseded the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as the primary sponsor of clinical research. A 2015 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that between 2006 and 2014, the number of industry-funded clinical trials increased by 43 percent, while the number of trials funded by the NIH decreased by 24 percent.

“Logistical and financial support for research from private organizations or industry should be welcomed, if the source is properly vetted and the proposed work is within the scientific and ethical confines of neurosurgery,” wrote Loyola neurosurgeons Vikram Prabhu, MD, Russ Nockels, MD, and Douglas Anderson, MD. “Careful oversight and appropriate disclosure to avoid conflicts of interest are mandatory and physicians have to maintain the highest ethical standards. Organizations, such as the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation, play a key role; it may actually be best to steer precious research money through such entities.”

The paper is titled “Industry Funding for Neurosurgery Research.”

Two Loyola Surgeons Team Up to Remove 1,500 Acoustic Neuromas

In one of the nation’s longest and most successful surgical partnerships, Loyola Medicine otologic surgeon John Leonetti, MD, and neurosurgeon Douglas Anderson, MD, have worked together to remove 1,500 acoustic neuromas during the past three decades.

An acoustic neuroma, also called a vestibular schwannoma, is rare, occurring in about one in 100,000 people per year. It is located in the inner ear and grows inward toward the brain. It’s slow-growing and usually benign. The tumor can cause hearing loss and ringing in the ear in one ear and numbness on one side of the face. If the tumor grows large enough, it can be fatal.

Loyola’s Center for Cranial Base Surgery is one of the nation’s leading centers in treating acoustic neuromas. The center sees three to four new patients per week and Drs. Anderson and Leonetti jointly perform about 70 acoustic neuroma operations per year.

Dr. Leonetti gains access to the tumor, identifies nerves that must be saved and removes the portion of the tumor that lies within the inner ear cylinder. Dr. Anderson removes the portion of the tumor that lies next to the brain.

Before the 1960s, acoustic neuromas were fatal in about half of all patients. Improved technology and techniques, including MRIs and microsurgery, have greatly reduced mortality. The challenge now is to preserve functions of the facial nerve, cochlear nerve and vestibular nerve. These nerves are contained in the internal auditory canal, where the tumors arise.

In addition to Drs. Leonetti and Anderson, Loyola’s clinically integrated team includes audiologists who attend the surgeries. Electrodes placed directly on the nerves provide real-time feedback to audiologists who monitor nerve function during the surgery.

“This gives us the best chance to save hearing in more patients,” Dr. Leonetti said.
Opioid Dependence After Urologic Surgery

About 1 in 1,111 patients who undergo urologic surgery for conditions such as prostate cancer and kidney stones experience opioid dependence or overdose (ODO), according to a study by senior author Gopal Gupta, MD, and colleagues in the Journal of Urology.

Patients at highest risk for ODO were younger, underwent inpatient surgery, had longer hospital stays, were on Medicaid or Medicare or had a history of depression or COPD.

Researchers reviewed the records of 675,527 patients who underwent inpatient and outpatient urologic surgery between 2007 and 2011. Data came from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Inpatient, Ambulatory Surgery and Emergency Department data sets. Patients who had been diagnosed with ODO prior to surgery were excluded.

Overall, 0.09 percent of patients were diagnosed with ODO within a year of surgery. This is consistent with findings from previous studies. The highest rates of ODO occurred among patients who underwent kidney stone procedures (0.15 percent) or major kidney surgery (0.12 percent).

Otolaryngology Meeting

Loyola’s otolaryngology department was well represented at the recent International Facial Nerve Meeting in Los Angeles. Presenters included:

John Leonetti, MD
“Neoplastic Causes of Facial Paralysis” and “Recurrent Pleomorphic Adenoma of the Parotid Gland.”

Amy Pittman, MD
“Lower Lid Reconstruction in Facial Paralysis.”

Matthew Bartindale, MD, John Leonetti, MD
“A Meta-Analysis of Facial Nerve Schwannoma.”

Zachary Fridirici, MD, Eileen Foecking, PhD
“Muscle-Nerve Muscle Grafting in Rats: Effects on Facial Reanimation.”

Michael Hutz, MD, John Leonetti, MD
“Facial Nerve Decompression and Electrical Stimulation for Bell’s Palsy.”

Sam Marzo, MD, Eileen Foecking, PhD
“Location of Facial Nerve Injury and Motor Neuron Cell-Loss and Treatment.”

Loyola Enrolling Patients in Alzheimer’s PET Scan Study

Loyola is participating in a landmark $100 million trial evaluating the effectiveness of using PET scans to detect Alzheimer’s disease. Alzheimer’s disease has been linked to clumps of amyloid proteins, which are detectable by PET scans.

The study will examine how PET scans affect treatment. Researchers hypothesize that PET scans will decrease uncertainty and increase confidence in the underlying cause of a patient’s cognitive impairment. This would lead to earlier counseling and interventions, resulting in improved outcomes.

Researchers will examine whether PET scans affect drug therapy and counseling about safety and future planning, and whether the test improves outcomes by reducing hospital and emergency department admissions. The findings will inform CMS in deciding whether to cover PET scans in dementia care.

The multi-center nationwide study will enroll 18,488 Medicare beneficiaries who have been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or dementia of unknown cause. It is titled “Imaging Dementia – Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS).”
Pediatric and Med-Peds Residents Score High in Emotional Intelligence

Pediatric and med-peds residents scored a median of 110 on an emotional intelligence survey, placing them in the high range. (The mean score for the general population is 100.)

The physicians scored the highest in the subcategories of impulse control (114), empathy (113) and social responsibility (112) and lowest in assertiveness (102), flexibility (102) and independence (101).

The study by Ramzan Shahid, MD, Jerold Stirling, MD, and William Adams, MA, is published in the *Journal of Contemporary Medical Education*.

PGY-3 and PGY-4 residents scored higher in assertiveness (109) than PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents (100). This could be related to the acquisition of new knowledge and skills and increased self-confidence as residents progress in their training.

But PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents scored higher in empathy (115.5) than PGY-3 and PGY-4 residents (110). “One could hypothesize: Does a resident’s level of assertiveness increase at the cost of losing empathy?” the authors wrote.

The residents completed the Bar-On Emotional Quotient Inventory 2.0, a validated 133-item online survey that assesses emotional intelligence skills.

Loyola Studying Debilitating Lung Disease that Targets Puerto Ricans

Loyola is enrolling patients in the first major study of a hereditary lung disease that disproportionately affects people of Puerto Rican descent.

Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome (HPS) can cause bleeding, low vision, albinism and, in some patients, pulmonary fibrosis. HPS affects fewer than 1 in 500,000 people worldwide. But it is more common in certain geographic pockets, especially Puerto Rico, where it affects 1 in 1,800 people. Puerto Rican HPS patients are believed to have descended from a single founding patient. Loyola pulmonologist Daniel Dilling, MD, said Puerto Ricans who have albinism should be screened for HPS to ensure early treatment.

Loyola is the only center in Illinois participating in the longitudinal, multicenter HPS study. The goal is to identify the earliest evidence of pulmonary disease in individuals who are at risk for HPS pulmonary fibrosis. Researchers also hope to identify biomarkers that will help them understand the cause of HPS pulmonary fibrosis and facilitate future clinical trials.

For more information, contact Josie Corral, RN, at 708-216-5744 or jcorral@luc.edu.
Chad Whelan, MD, Named LUMC President

Chad Whelan, MD, has been appointed president of Loyola University Medical Center.

Dr. Whelan first worked for Loyola in 2009 and rejoined the organization in 2015, having served most recently as senior vice president and chief medical officer.

Dr. Whelan, who is also a professor in the Department of Medicine, began his career at the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago. He has published in top peer-reviewed medical journals, including JAMA and Journal of Hospital Medicine.

He received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He completed a residency at the University of Minnesota, where he was chief resident.

Vergheese Mathew, MD, Named Cardiology Director

Vergheese Mathew, MD, a nationally known interventional cardiologist, has been named director of Loyola’s division of cardiology.

Dr. Mathew joined Loyola in August 2016 as director of clinical operations after nearly two decades as a clinician-researcher-educator at Mayo Clinic. He is widely recognized for his clinical and research contributions in cardiology, most notably in complex coronary artery disease, aortic stenosis and peripheral arterial disease.

Dr. Mathew succeeds David Wilber, MD, who has been Loyola’s cardiology director since 2001. Dr. Wilber will continue as medical director of clinical electrophysiology.

In the U.S. News and World Report’s 2017-18 Best Hospitals rankings, Loyola is ranked 18th in the nation in cardiology and heart surgery.

Steve A. N. Goldstein, MD, PhD, Named Stritch Dean

Steve A. N. Goldstein, MD, PhD, has nearly 30 years’ experience in health sciences research, medical education and higher education administration.

Dr. Goldstein comes to Loyola from Brandeis University, where he served as professor of biochemistry and provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

From 2004 to 2011, Dr. Goldstein was a professor at the University of Chicago in several areas, including pediatrics, the cancer center, computational neuroscience, molecular medicine, neurobiology and pharmacology and pharmacogenomics.

Dr. Goldstein also was director of the pediatrician-scientist training program, chair of the department of pediatrics, founding director of the Institute of Molecular Pediatric Science, and founding physician-in-chief of Comer Children’s Hospital.

From 1993 to 2004, Dr. Goldstein was on the faculty at Yale University and founded the section of developmental biology and biophysics.

Dr. Goldstein earned MD and PhD degrees from Harvard University. His research interests involve ion channels and how they function in disease and health. This research has identified genetic and mechanistic bases for SIDS in African Americans, inherited and drug-induced cardiac arrhythmias, skeletal muscle disorders and ischemic stroke.

Ravi Durvasula, MD, Named Chair of Department of Medicine

Ravi Durvasula, MD, has held senior leadership positions at Yale University and the Veterans Administration.

Dr. Durvasula has conducted groundbreaking research in global infectious diseases, and pioneered a new approach to control the spread of vector-borne diseases including Leishmaniasis and Chagas disease.

Since 1994, Dr. Durvasula has been awarded 17 research grants totaling $9.6 million, including nine NIH grants totaling $6.9 million. He is an author of five books and more than 120 peer-reviewed publications, abstracts and conference proceedings.

Dr. Durvasula earned his medical degree from McGill University in Montreal. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine/Methodist Hospital in Houston. He completed a fellowship in infectious diseases at Yale and was awarded the prestigious physician postdoctoral fellowship of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Dr. Durvasula replaces J. Paul O’Keefe, MD, IDSA, who retired July 1 after a distinguished 40-year career at Loyola.
Loyola Medicine to Acquire MacNeal Hospital

On October 11, 2017, Loyola Medicine announced that it had entered into a definitive agreement with a subsidiary of Tenet Healthcare Corporation to acquire Chicago-based MacNeal Hospital from the Tenet entity, as well as other operations affiliated with MacNeal.

The affiliated operations include local Tenet-owned physician practices; the Chicago Health System (CHS), an independent practice association of nearly 1,000 physicians; and the associated CHS accountable care organization.

MacNeal, a 368-bed community hospital in Berwyn, Illinois, is centrally located within Loyola’s regional health system that serves the west, south and southwest suburbs of Chicago. Currently, Loyola’s delivery system includes Loyola University Medical Center, a 547-bed academic medical center in Maywood, Illinois; Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, a 247-bed community hospital in Melrose Park, Illinois; and more than 1,200 physicians.

Both MacNeal and Loyola are values-based organizations committed to creating healthy communities. Loyola, a member of Trinity Health—one of the nation’s largest Catholic healthcare systems—is one of the most cost-effective providers in the region, treating the sickest patients in the state of Illinois. The acquisition of MacNeal will expand Loyola’s delivery network for people-centered care, which includes population health and community health.

MacNeal has over 550 medical staff members, a 12-bed acute rehabilitation unit, a 25-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility and 68-bed behavioral health program. CHS is a network of nearly 1,000 physicians that coordinates care for more than 30,000 lives.

Finalization of the acquisition is expected in the first quarter of 2018, subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions. MacNeal’s leadership team will continue to manage the hospital following the acquisition.

“Bringing MacNeal into the Loyola system allows us to expand our delivery system, add more providers and deliver exceptional care to a greater number of residents close to their homes. With our organizations’ common values, we can support our shared mission of being a transforming and healing presence in our communities,” said Larry M. Goldberg, president and CEO, Loyola University Health System.

“We look forward to continuing MacNeal’s commitment of delivering high-quality, patient-centered care as part of the Loyola Medicine regional health system. Like MacNeal, Loyola has significant roots in Chicagoland, and we are confident that becoming part of this well-respected system will produce additional benefits for patients and the local community,” said M.E. Cleary, CEO, MacNeal Hospital.

MacNeal will operate as part of the Loyola Medicine system and also become a member of Trinity Health, one of the nation’s largest health systems with 93 hospitals in 22 states.

As one of the most recognized brands in the region, Loyola’s primary, specialty, tertiary and quaternary care providers deliver innovative, research-based care to 83,000 patients annually. Through its affiliation with the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola also trains the next generation of caregivers.

About MacNeal Hospital

MacNeal Hospital, located in Berwyn, Illinois, is a 368-bed teaching hospital with more than 550 medical staff members in 50 specialties, advanced inpatient and outpatient medical, surgical and psychiatric services, advanced diagnostics and treatments in a convenient community setting at eight locations. MacNeal is owned by a subsidiary of Tenet Healthcare Corporation.
Another Loyola Transplant Milestone

Loyola’s solid organ transplant program has reached another milestone with its first pancreas transplant.

The transplant was performed on a 61-year-old Type 1 diabetes patient who had experienced extreme, life-threatening swings in blood glucose levels.

The pancreas program is headed by medical director Amishi Desai, DO, and surgical director Raquel Garcia Roca, MD. Prior to joining Loyola, Dr. Garcia Roca performed more than 75 pancreas transplants at other centers.

“We plan to grow the pancreas transplant program slowly but steadily,” Dr. Garcia Roca said.

Depending on the patient, the surgeries will involve transplanting a pancreas and kidney or a pancreas alone.


Six Loyola Specialties Nationally Ranked by U.S. News & World Report

Loyola University Medical Center ranks among top three of 212 Illinois hospitals in U.S. News & World Report’s 2017-18 Best Hospital rankings.

Loyola’s six nationally ranked specialties are Cardiology and Heart Surgery (18th in the nation), Pulmonology (32nd), Gastroenterology and GI Surgery (36th), Nephrology (36th), Orthopaedics (39th) and Urology (39th).

The Best Hospital rankings are designed to help consumers determine which hospitals provide the best care for the most serious or complicated medical conditions and procedures. A national ranking means a hospital specialty ranks in the top 50 out of more than 4,500 rated hospitals. Only 3 percent of hospitals earn a national ranking in any specialty.

Three other Loyola specialties—Cancer, Geriatrics and Neurology and Neurosurgery—were ranked High Performing, meaning they ranked among the top 10 percent nationwide.

Loyola also was rated High Performing in seven common inpatient conditions and procedures: abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, aortic valve surgery, heart bypass surgery, heart failure, colon cancer surgery, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer surgery.

U.S. News rankings incorporate measures such as patient volume, nursing staffing levels, patient survival, advanced technology and hospital reputation based on a nationwide physician survey. The rankings were produced for U.S. News by RTI International, a leading research organization.
Loyola, Palos Health Launch Joint Venture in Radiation Oncology

Loyola Medicine and Palos Health are establishing a joint venture to offer radiation oncology services at Palos Health South Campus in Orland Park.

The joint venture will strengthen the exclusive academic partner affiliation between Loyola and Palos and enhance delivery of world-class ambulatory care in the southwest suburbs.

Radiation oncology services at the Loyola Center for Cancer Care & Research at Palos Health South Campus, 15300 West Avenue in Orland Park, will open in the summer of 2018 and be located in 13,000-square-feet of newly constructed space. Raymond B. Wynn, MD, an internationally known radiation oncologist at Loyola, will be medical director of radiation oncology.

The unit will feature one of the first radiation therapy systems in Illinois that is guided in real time by MRI imaging. During radiation therapy, tissues move when a patient breathes. The MRI-guided system, called MRIdian®, can simultaneously image and treat cancer patients, precisely targeting moving tumors while avoiding surrounding tissue.

The radiation oncology joint venture is the latest development in a clinical affiliation between Loyola and Palos that began in 2015. Other affiliation developments include a 24/7 telestroke program, the Loyola Center for Cancer Care & Research at Palos Health and specialty care from Loyola’s medical and surgical oncologists and orthopaedic and neurosurgery surgical services.

As with previous steps in this innovative partnership, Palos will remain independent. Each organization will maintain its own culture, mission and commitment to the community, and financial and organizational structures will remain separate.
José Biller, MD, chair of neurology, has been named to Negocios Now’s list of the 50 Most Influential Latinos in the Chicago Area. Negocios Now, a national award-winning business publication, also named four Loyola physicians to its 2017 “Who’s Who in Hispanic Chicago.” They are neurologist Jorge Asconapé, MD, transplant surgeon Diego Martin di Sabato, MD, neurologist Camilo Gomez, MD, and interventional cardiologist John Lopez, MD.

In recognition of his global contributions to psychiatry, Angelos Halaris, MD, has received the Owl of Wisdom award from the International Society of Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology. The selection committee considered Dr. Halaris’ background, scientific accomplishments, educational and cultural contributions and impact on the international scientific community.

Radiation oncology chair William Small, Jr., MD, has been named to the board of directors of Loyola University Health System, which includes Loyola University Medical Center, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, and centers offering primary and specialty care throughout Cook, Will and DuPage counties.

Nickolas Garbis, MD, has been elected to the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons. Membership, by invitation only, includes fewer than 700 physicians and is based on the number of shoulder and elbow surgeries performed, publications, reputation among peers and fellowship training. Dr. Garbis also has been named to the American Orthopaedic Association’s Emerging Leaders Program.

Constantine V. Godellas, MD, director of surgical oncology, has been elected president of the Illinois Surgical Society, which educates surgeons throughout the state on advanced surgical techniques.

Kamran Mirza, MD, PhD, has been named an American Society for Clinical Pathology Forty Under Forty Top Five honoree for 2017. Dr. Mirza is among five high-achieving pathologists and medical laboratory professionals under age 40 who were selected from the Forty Under Forty list.

Psychiatry chair Murali Rao, MD, has been designated a distinguished fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. DFASAM titles are given in recognition of significant contributions to the society and to addiction medicine. Distinguished fellows are chosen based on competence, professionalism, integrity, service, leadership and contributions to the field.

Radiation oncologist Edward Melian, MD, has received the Chicago Radiological Society’s 2017 Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the society bestows on members. The award, also known as the Gold Medal, recognizes Dr. Melian’s outstanding leadership and his many years of service to radiation oncology and radiology.

The American Urological Association has given urology chair Robert C. Flanigan, MD, the association’s highest honor. Dr. Flanigan received the association’s 2017 Ramon Guiteras Award, given annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the art and science of urology. The award is named after the founder of the AUA, the largest urological association in the world.
Ongoing Clinical Trials

**BMT: LEUKEMIA**

208437: A Multicenter, Pivotal Phase 3 Study of Iomab-B Prior to Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation versus Conventional Care in Older Subjects with Active, Relapsed or Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Patrick Stiff, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-327-2241

208941: An Open Label, Single Arm, Single Center Pilot Study to Evaluate the Safety, Efficacy and Feasibility of Haploidentical Stem Cell Transplantation (Haplo-SCT) Using Post-Transplant Cyclophosphamide (PTCy) as an Alternative Donor Source for Patients who Lack a Matched Sibling/Unrelated Donor Options

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Zeina Al-Mansour, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-327-2241

**CARDIOLOGY: REDO-FIRM**

208806: Randomized Evaluation of Redo Ablation Procedures of Atrial Fibrillation With Focal Impulse and Rotor Modulation Guided Procedures (REDO-FIRM)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** David Wilber, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-216-2644

208845: Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement in Patients with the Medtronic Evolut R System in Patients with Low Risk for Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement-Randomized Trial

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** J. Michael Tuchek, DO and Fred Leya, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-327-2494 or 708-327-2761

**GASTROLOGY: PILLCAM**

208481: Multicenter, Prospective, Randomized Study Comparing the Diagnostic Yield of Colon Capsule Endoscopy Versus Computed Tomographic Colonography in a Screening Population. TOPAZ

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Mukund Venu, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-216-2057

208482: Entyvio (Vedolizumab) Long-Term Safety Study: An International Observational Prospective Cohort Study Comparing Vedolizumab to Other Biologic Agents in Patients with Ulcerative Colitis or Crohn’s Disease

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Patrick Stiff, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-216-2057

**HEMATOLOGY: LYMPHOMA**

208603: A Phase 3, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind Study to Compare the Efficacy and Safety of Oral Azacitidine Plus Best Supportive Care versus Placebo Plus Best Supportive Care in Subjects with Red Blood Cell Transfusion-dependent Anemia and Thrombocytopenia Due to IPSS Lower-risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes (NCT# 01566695)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Patrick Stiff, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-327-3095

209342: UTX-TGR-304- Phase 3, Randomized Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Obeticholic Acid in Subjects with Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) and Fibrosis

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Natasha Von Roenn, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-216-3268

209343: Observational Disease Registry of Patients Treated with Systemic Mold-Active Triazoles (Protocol No. 9766-MA-3034)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Nina Clark, MD

**ENROLLMENT PHONE:** 708-216-5744
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY: BREAST

209526: S1418/BR006 A Randomized, Phase III Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of MK-3475 (Pembrolizumab) as Adjuvant Therapy for Triple Receptor-Negative Breast Cancer With <= 1 cm Residual Invasive Cancer or Positive Lymph Nodes (ypN+) After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy - NCT02954874

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kathy Albain, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3102

207344: PENELopeB “Phase III Study Evaluating Palbociclib (PD-0332991), a Cyclin-Dependent Kinase (CDK) 4/6 Inhibitor in Patients with Hormone-receptor-positive, HER2-normal Primary Breast Cancer with High Relapse Risk After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy”

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kathy Albain, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3102

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY: GASTROINTESTINAL

209121: A021501, Preoperative Extended Chemotherapy vs. Chemotherapy Plus Hypofractionated Radiation Therapy for Borderline Resectable Adenocarcinoma of the Head of Pancreas

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Asha Dhanarajan, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2831

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY: GENITOURINARY

208769: CA209-274 ‘A Phase 3 Randomized, Double-blind, Multi-center Study of Adjuvant Nivolumab versus Placebo in Subjects with High Risk Invasive Urothelial Carcinoma” - NCT02632409

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Elizabeth Henry, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3153

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY: LUNG

207939: "Phase 2, Parallel-Arm Study of MGCD265 in Patients with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Activating Genetic Alterations in Mesenchymal-Epithelial Transition Factor”

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kathy Albain, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3102

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY: MELANOMA OR RENAL

209364: Predictive Biomarker Identification in Checkpoint Blockade Therapy In Cancer Patients

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Jose Guevara, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3155

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY: RENAL

208030: AV-951-15-303: A Phase 3, Randomized, Controlled, Multi-Center, Open-Label Study to Compare Tivozanib Hydrochloride to Sorafenib in Patients with Refractory Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma NCT#02627963

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Joseph Clark, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3236

226806: S1500: A Randomized, Phase II Efficacy Assessment of Multiple MET Kinase Inhibitors (Cabozantinib [NSC #716968], Crizotinib [NSC #749005], Savolitinib [NSC #785348], and Sunitinib [NSC #736511]) in Metastatic Papillary Renal Carcinoma (PAPMET) NCT# 02761057

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Elizabeth Henry, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3153

NEUROLOGY: TIA/MINOR ISCHEMIC STROKE

202571: POINT: Platelet-Oriented Inhibition in New TIA and minor ischemic stroke (POINT) Trial

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Michael Schneck, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 1-866-947-6468

NEUROLOGY: INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE

207798: IDEF: Futility Study of Deferoxamine Mesylate In Intracerebral Hemorrhage

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Michael Schneck, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 1-617-667-7000

PULMONARY: TRAUMA

209555: External Validation of Phosphatidylethanol (P’Eth) in Trauma Patients.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Majid Afshar, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-5744

UROLOGY: KIDNEY STONES

208883: Kidney Stone Urinary Microbiota in the Context of Metabolic Syndrome

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kristin Baldea, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2057

Upcoming CME Events

Pre-registration is required. Please contact Loyola’s Division of CME at 708-216-3236 or 1-800-424-4850 or visit http://ssom.luc.edu/cme/events/upcomingevents/

OCULAR MANIFESTATIONS OF NEUROVASCULAR DISEASE AND OXIDATIVE STRESS
Saturday, May 19, 2018
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

CARDIOVASCULAR UPDATE 2018
June 1-3, 2018
Loyola University Chicago – Water Tower Campus

29TH ANNUAL LOYOLA OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENT ALUMNI DAY
June 8, 2018
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Spine Surgery

Due to a herniated disc pressing on nerves in her lower back, Broadview Fire Chief Tracy Kenny suffered extreme leg pain for years and feared her worsening symptoms would end her career. Thanks to Loyola orthopaedic surgeon Alexander Ghanayem, MD, Chief Kenny woke up from spine surgery pain-free, and she is back on the job.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/spine-surgery-vid

Revision Sinus Surgery

Otolaryngologist Monica Patadia, MD, performed an outpatient revision sinus surgery to relieve a patient’s symptoms of recurrent sinus infections, including congestion, drainage from the nose and facial pain and pressure. The surgery removed small pieces of bone to open sinus drainage pathways.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/revision-sinus-surgery-vid

Total Ankle Arthroscopy

Nancy MacFarland experienced debilitating osteoarthritis after falling on ice and breaking her ankle. She suffered intense pain and became increasingly sedentary. An ankle replacement surgery, performed by orthopaedic surgeon Adam Schiff, MD, dramatically improved her quality of life.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/total-ankle-arthroscopy-vid

Lymphangioleiomyomatosis

Pulmonologist Daniel Dilling, MD, manages patients such as Meghan Wierzbicki who have lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM). The severe lung disease causes cysts to develop in the lungs and replace healthy tissue. Ms. Wierzbicki has benefited from a clinical trial of a medication that stopped fluid production in her chest cavity.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/lam-vid

Pediatric Leukemia

While being treated at Loyola for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Joe Moylan and his family and friends wore “No One Fights Alone” T-shirts as a reminder of the team effort it takes to battle childhood cancer.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/pediatric-leukemia-vid
Meet Our New Physicians

Ayokunle Abegunde, MD
Assistant Professor
Gastroenterology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Celiac disease, colon cancer screening, colonoscopy-endoscopy, diarrheal illnesses, difficulty swallowing, GERD, general gastroenterology

FELLOWSHIP
Oklahoma University Medical Center – Gastroenterology

RESIDENCY
Royal College of General Practitioners
Great Britain – Family Medicine
John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County – Internal Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Lagos, Nigeria

Zineb Aouhab, MD
Assistant Professor
Allergy/Immunology/Rheumatology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Musculoskeletal ultrasound, systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, myositis, osteoarthritis

FELLOWSHIP
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine – Rheumatology

RESIDENCY
John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County – Internal Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Hassan 2 University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Morocco

Nikiya Asamoah, MD
Assistant Professor
Gastroenterology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Colon cancer, colon cancer screening, colonoscopy-endoscopy, gastrointestinal disorders, general gastroenterology, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease

FELLOWSHIP
Loyola University Medical Center – Gastroenterology

RESIDENCY
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals – Internal Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois at Chicago

Naaz Aziz, MD
Assistant Professor
Family Medicine

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Asthma, children's health, diabetes, preventive medicine, women's health

RESIDENCY
University of Illinois at Chicago – Family Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Ross University School of Medicine, West Indies

Mariah Bashir, MD
Assistant Professor
Radiology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Head and neck cancer, benign pathology, skull base imaging, brain tumors, stroke, vascular imaging, spine imaging

FELLOWSHIP
University of Wisconsin, Madison – Neuroradiology

RESIDENCY
University of Louisville – Radiology

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois College of Medicine

Carlos Bechara, MD
Associate Professor
Surgery – Vascular and Endovascular

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Aneurysms, angioplasty and stenting of blocked arteries, aortic aneurysms, artery blockage related to the foot or leg, bypass of blocked blood vessels, carotid blockage, endovascular therapy, leg revascularization, leg ulcers, renal dialysis access, stroke prevention using carotid surgery, vascular access, vascular disease, vascular and interventional radiology, venous disease

FELLOWSHIP
Baylor University College of Medicine – Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

RESIDENCY
Tulane University – General Surgery
Baylor University College of Medicine – General Surgery

MEDICAL SCHOOL
American University of the Caribbean, Netherlands Antilles
Lauren Burke, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
CLINICAL EXPERTISE  
Back specialist, cervical lumbar disc disorder, minimally invasive surgery, neck specialist, sciatica, scoliosis, spinal disc disease, spine, spine care, spine surgery  
FELLOWSHIP  
University of Virginia Hospitals and Clinics – Orthopaedic Surgery: Spine Surgery  
RESIDENCY  
George Washington University Hospital – Orthopaedic Surgery  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
Georgetown University School of Medicine  

Wayne Franklin, MD  
Professor  
Pediatric Cardiology  
CLINICAL EXPERTISE  
Adult and adolescent congenital heart disease, congenital heart disease, heart arrhythmias, heart murmur, Kawasaki disease, medical education, neonatal congenital heart disease, pediatric cardiac electrophysiology and pacing, pediatric cardiology, quality improvement and patient safety, syncope  
FELLOWSHIP  
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia – Cardiology  
Ohio State University – Electrophysiology  
Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago – Pediatric Electrophysiology  
RESIDENCY  
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia – Pediatrics  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania  

Douglas Chapman, MD  
Associate Professor  
Cardiology  
CLINICAL EXPERTISE  
Congestive heart failure, heart failure  
FELLOWSHIP  
Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago – Cardiology  
RESIDENCY  
University of Missouri – Internal Medicine  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
Chicago Medical School – Rosalind Franklin University  

Anita Damodaran, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Family Medicine  
CLINICAL EXPERTISE  
Adolescent health, family medicine, primary care, women’s health  
RESIDENCY  
Kaiser Foundation Hospital Woodland Hills – Family Medicine  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
University of Southern California  

Alexander Dzakovic, MD  
Affiliate Assistant Professor  
General Surgery  
Pediatrics, Pediatric Surgery  
CLINICAL EXPERTISE  
Laparoscopy, minimally invasive surgery, pediatric pancreatic surgery, pediatric surgery, pediatric transplant surgery  
FELLOWSHIP  
Boston Children’s Hospital – Surgical Critical Care  
Children’s Memorial Hospital – Pediatric Surgery  
Children’s Memorial Hospital/Northwestern Memorial Hospital – Solid Organ Transplantation  
RESIDENCY  
Boston University Medical Center – General Surgery  
Boston Children’s Hospital – Pediatric Surgery/Critical Care  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital – General Surgery  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
University of Heidelberg, Germany  

Kaushik Gururajan, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Radiology  
CLINICAL EXPERTISE  
General radiology, emergency radiology, musculoskeletal MRI, body MRI  
FELLOWSHIP  
University of Chicago – Magnetic Resonance Imaging  
RESIDENCY  
University of Chicago – Diagnostic Radiology  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
Rosalind Franklin University of Health and Science  

Teresa Jensen, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Pediatrics  
CLINICAL EXPERTISE  
Adults with special healthcare needs, children with special healthcare needs, family healthcare, preventive medicine  
RESIDENCY  
St. Francis Medical Center – Internal Medicine  
MEDICAL SCHOOL  
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
G. Alexander Jones, MD
Assistant Professor
Neurological Surgery

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
CNS malignancies, cervical lumbar disc surgery, cervical spine, complex spinal disorders, herniated disc, kyphosis, lumbar disc surgery, minimally invasive spine surgery, scoliosis, spinal cord injury, spinal deformities, spinal tumors, spine, spine surgery

FELLOWSHIP
Cleveland Clinic – Complex Spine Surgery

RESIDENCY
Louisiana State University – Neurological Surgery
Cleveland Clinic – Neurological Surgery

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Ohio State University College of Medicine

Mohanad Joudeh, MD
Assistant Professor
Medicine – Primary Care

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Acid reflux/heartburn, adult medicine, anemia, asthma, COPD/emphysema/chronic bronchitis, cancer screening, cough/cold/sinus infection, diabetes, dietary counseling, ear infections, gout, heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, immunizations, influenza, kidney disease, medical weight management of overweight/obesity, physical exam, pneumonia, prediabetes/borderline diabetes, primary care and preventive medicine, rash, STD screening and treatment, vitamin deficiencies, smoking cessation, strep throat, thyroid disease, urinary tract infections

RESIDENCY
University of Illinois at Chicago – Internal Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans

Muaiad Kittaneh, MD
Assistant Professor
Hematology/Oncology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Breast cancer, colorectal cancer, gastrointestinal cancers, general oncology, kidney cancer, melanoma, mesothelioma, stomach cancer

FELLOWSHIP
University of Miami Hospital and Clinics – Hematology/Oncology

RESIDENCY
Advocate Christ Medical Center – Internal Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Al-Quds University Medical School – Palestinian Authority

Brian Liem, DO
Assistant Professor
Medicine – Gastroenterology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Barrett’s esophagus, colon cancer screening, colonoscopy-endoscopy, difficulty swallowing, dyspepsia, dysphagia, esophageal motility, GERD, general gastroenterology, heartburn, nausea and vomiting, esophageal disorders

FELLOWSHIP
St. John Providence Health System – Macomb
Oakland Hospital – Gastroenterology

RESIDENCY
Henry Ford Macomb Hospital – Internal Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Midwestern University, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Hanh Mai, DO
Assistant Professor
Hematology/Oncology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Bleeding disorders, breast cancer, clotting disorder, diagnosis of bleeding or clotting disorders, general oncology, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, leukemia, Lymphoma (new, relapsed and refractory), multiple myeloma, Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, relapsed lymphoma

FELLOWSHIP
Loyola University Medical Center – Hematology/Oncology

RESIDENCY
Loyola University Medical Center – Internal Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Sarah Kinsinger, PhD
Associate Professor
Gastroenterology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Irritable bowel syndrome, women’s health, cognitive behavioral therapy, health psychology, medical hypnosis

FELLOWSHIP
University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago – Health Psychology

RESIDENCY
VA Puget Sound Health Care System – Health Psychology

PHD
University of Miami – Clinical Psychology
Brian Medernach, MD
Assistant Professor
General Internal Medicine; Pediatrics; General Pediatrics
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Adult medicine, pediatric and adolescent medicine, travel medicine
RESIDENCY
Loyola University Medical Center – Medicine-Pediatrics
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Kevin Morley, MD
Assistant Professor
Radiology
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Breast cancer, benign breast complications
FELLOWSHIP
Indiana University Health – Breast Imaging
RESIDENCY
Loyola University Medical Center – Diagnostic Radiology
MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Louisville

Dennis Nwachukwu, MD
Assistant Professor
Family Medicine
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Adolescent health, men's health, preventive medicine, women's health
RESIDENCY
Loyola University Medical Center – Family Medicine
MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Benin, Nigeria

Ellen Parker, MD
Assistant Professor
Pediatrics
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Adolescent medicine, primary care and preventive medicine, transition medicine
RESIDENCY
Loyola University Medical Center – Pediatrics
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Creighton University School of Medicine

Karla Podrazik, MD
Assistant Professor
General Internal Medicine
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Internal medicine, primary care and preventive medicine
RESIDENCY
University of Illinois at Chicago – Internal Medicine
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Michael Reiter, MD
Assistant Professor
Pediatrics
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Diagnostic radiology, radiology imaging
FELLOWSHIP
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital – Pediatric Radiology
RESIDENCY
Naval Medical Center at San Diego – Radiology
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Rush Medical College

Luis Rivera, MD
Instructor
Family Medicine
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Asthma, care of Spanish-speaking patients, diabetes, family medicine, health disparities, men's health, preventive medicine, primary care, women's health
RESIDENCY
McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University – Family Medicine
MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois at Chicago

Peter Sargon, MD
Assistant Professor
Medicine – Gastroenterology
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Advanced endoscopy, Barrett’s esophagus, bile duct disorders, biliary disorder, colon cancer, colonoscopy-endoscopy, common bile duct stones, ERCP, endoscopic ultrasound, esophagus cancer, gastrointestinal bleeding, gastrointestinal cancers, interventional endoscopy, invasive gastroenterology, large colon polyps, natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery, pancreas cancer, pancreatitis, rectal cancer, stomach cancer, therapeutic endoscopy, bile duct cancer, endoscopic ablation, endoscopic mucosal resection, endoscopic submucosal dissection, esophageal disorders, single balloon enteroscopy
FELLOWSHIP
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital – Gastroenterology
Rush University Medical Center – Gastroenterology
RESIDENCY
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital – Internal Medicine
MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois at Chicago
Joseph Serrone, MD
Assistant Professor
Neurological Surgery

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Acoustic tumors, aneurysms, brain hemorrhage, brain tumors, carotid artery surgery, carotid stenosis, complex cranial base tumors, endovascular therapy, intracranial occlusive disease, meningioma, skull base tumors, stroke, vascular malformations, vascular and interventional radiology

FELLOWSHIP
University of Cincinnati – Endovascular Neurosurgery
Helsinki University Central Hospital, Finland – Cerebrovascular and Skull Base Surgery

RESIDENCY
University of Cincinnati – Neurosurgery

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Medicine

Nicole Sprawka, MD
Assistant Professor
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Maternal/Fetal Medicine

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Genetic and birth defects

FELLOWSHIP
Womens and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island/ Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University – Maternal/Fetal Medicine

RESIDENCY
Phoenix Integrated Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program – Obstetrics and Gynecology
Baylor University College of Medicine – Obstetrics and Gynecology

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas Southwestern Medical School

Michael Stokas, MD
Assistant Professor
General Internal Medicine
Pediatrics

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Diabetes, general medicine, high blood pressure, hospital care for children and adults, medical education, pediatric and adolescent medicine, primary care and preventive medicine, school physicals, special-needs children, sports physicals

RESIDENCY
Loyola University Medical Center – Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Subir Shah, DO
Assistant Professor
Cardiology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Clinical cardiology, preventive cardiology

FELLOWSHIP
Garden City Hospital – Cardiology

RESIDENCY
Garden City Hospital – Internal Medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
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Questions? Contact Mike Jarotkiewicz, Executive Director, Network Development at 708-216-6686