Cancer
Clinical trials

1. Lariat Afib Procedure
6. High-Dose Brachytherapy
10. $137 Million Research Center
20. Meet Our New Physicians
At Age 74, Loyola Patient is Oldest in Illinois to Receive Lung Transplant

A 74-year-old Loyola patient recently became the oldest patient in Illinois to receive a lung transplant.

“Every morning I open my eyes and take a deep breath, and as my lungs fill with air, I think it’s another great day,” said Brian Andersen, now 75, who had idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

As Mr. Andersen’s case illustrates, the upper age limit for lung transplantation has been increasing steadily. The maximum age, originally 60, increased to 65 in the 1990s and has gone up further since then, said Daniel Dilling, MD, Mr. Andersen’s pulmonologist and Loyola’s medical director of lung transplantation.

During the first half of 2015, 27.5 percent of lung transplant patients in North America were older than 65, according to the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation.

Age, by itself, is no longer considered an absolute contraindication to lung transplantation, according to the latest guidelines from the transplantation society. Although patients older than 75 are unlikely to be candidates for lung transplantation, “there cannot be endorsement of an upper age limit,” the guidelines said.

Dr. Dilling said that when he evaluates a patient for a transplant, he considers the patient’s age, along with the patient’s overall health. Dr. Dilling said that Mr. Andersen’s physiological age was much younger than his chronological age.

Loyola has performed more than 800 lung transplants, by far the most of any center in Illinois. Last year, Loyola performed more lung transplants than the three other Illinois lung transplant programs combined.

Loyola Enrolling Patients in Trial of Lariat Procedure for Atrial Fibrillation

The trial will combine catheter ablation with Lariat left atrial appendage ligation. In the Lariat procedure, an electrophysiologist uses two catheters to tighten a loop of suture material – similar to a lasso – around the base of the left atrial appendage (LAA).

The primary purpose of the trial, called aMAZE, is to determine whether the combined Lariat/ablation treatment is more effective in eliminating AFib at 12 months than ablation alone.

A second potential benefit of the Lariat is in reducing the risk of blood clots. “By eliminating a main source of blood clots, the Lariat procedure can be particularly beneficial to patients who cannot tolerate anticoagulants,” said electrophysiologist Smit Vasaiwala, MD.

A Loyola pilot study helped pave the way for the aMAZE trial, which will enroll as many as 600 AFib patients at as many as 50 centers nationwide. One group of patients will be randomly assigned to undergo catheter ablation plus Lariat. They will be compared with a control group of AFib patients who will undergo ablation alone.

In patients with a normal heartbeat, the LAA squeezes with the rest of the heart, ejecting blood with each beat. In AFib patients, the appendage no longer rhythmically contracts, creating a sluggish blood flow that can cause blood to pool and clot. Blood clots subsequently can travel to the brain and cause strokes. The appendage also contains many of the sources of erratic electrical signals that maintain AFib.

For more information, call Loyola at 708-216-9449, Option 2 or visit the aMAZE trial website at http://www.amazetrial.com/.
Giving Cancer Treatment a ‘Boost’

How Loyola’s Clinical Trials Give Patients an Edge
As an academic medical center offering more than 400 cancer clinical trials, Loyola has access to many new cancer drugs and therapies that are not available at most hospitals.

“This is good news for patients because people who enroll in cancer clinical trials generally have better outcomes,” said Patrick Stiff, MD, director of Loyola’s Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center.

For example, two-time cancer survivor Ruth Ann Smith is in remission and has an excellent prognosis, in large part because she participated in three cancer clinical trials at Loyola.

In 2010, Ms. Smith was diagnosed with aggressive Hodgkin’s lymphoma. The first trial she enrolled in examined early periodic PET scans to identify patients who are not responding to standard chemotherapy, enabling a switch to a more intensive regimen. This national trial, published June, 2016 in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, validated the importance of this switch, previously unknown.

Ms. Smith subsequently underwent an autologous stem cell transplant. She then enrolled in a second trial, to determine whether the investigational drug brentuximab vedotin (an antibody conjugate) could prevent relapse. (Ms. Smith received the active drug.) The positive trial, recently published in The Lancet, led to the FDA licensing the drug for this purpose. Dr. Stiff was among the co-authors.

Ms. Smith was cured of Hodgkin’s lymphoma, but five years later developed myelodysplastic syndrome. As part of a third clinical trial, Ms. Smith underwent a successful allogeneic bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor.

“Conventional treatments were not enough,” said Ms. Smith, 51. “I needed something else to get a boost.” Now that she is healthy again, the junior high school teacher said she is looking forward to returning to her classroom.

Cancer clinical trials at Loyola investigate new treatment strategies, including transplantation, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted agents, immunotherapy and vaccines. Depending on the cancer stage, the goals are to increase response and duration of response; prolong life with better quality and fewer side effects; increase survival; and improve cure rates.

Loyola’s longstanding participation in the NCI’s National Clinical Trials Network and the Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network provides patients access to groundbreaking multicenter trials.

Loyola enrolls about 600 adult and pediatric patients in cancer clinical trials every year. Each month, on average, Loyola begins five new cancer trials and closes five trials upon completion.

Loyola’s Cancer Clinical Trials Office offers trials of groundbreaking new therapies and technologies, including immunotherapies; intraoperative radiation therapy and stereotactic body radiation therapy; precision medicine trials; and a trial of a cell expansion technology that could improve outcomes of umbilical cord blood stem cell transplants.

Immunotherapies

Among the unique areas of cancer research at Loyola are first-of-its-kind clinical trials on several types of immunotherapies, which harness the patient’s immune system to fight cancer. The immunotherapies, including engineered T cells and vaccines, are among the fastest growing areas of cancer research, and Loyola’s research predates recent reports of exciting trial outcomes.

Loyola is conducting the first melanoma immunotherapy of its kind in the Midwest.

(continued on next page)

"People who enroll in cancer clinical trials generally have better outcomes."

- Patrick Stiff, MD

Loyola Cancer Clinical Trials Office

More than 400 active trials, including phase 1, 2, 3 and 4; cancer control trials; multicenter trials; and translational research

Annual accrual: 600 patients

Patients in active treatment or follow up: 2,100

Investigators: 45

Research staff: 20
T cells are removed from the patient and two genes are inserted so the cells will recognize tumor cells as abnormal.

The patient undergoes high-dose chemotherapy to kill most of his or her remaining T cells, making room for the modified T cells.

Loyola also is conducting trials on genetically engineered chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells in patients with refractory aggressive non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and on engineered T cells that attack viruses such as Epstein-Barr, cytomegalovirus and adenovirus in immunocompromised cancer patients.

A vaccine trial is underway for advanced ovarian cancer. Dendritic cells are harvested from the patient and processed into a vaccine, using the patient’s tumor cells. The preparation is given back to the patient to stimulate the immune system to kill cancer cells.

Loyola also is a site in a multicenter breast cancer vaccine trial that aims to increase cure rates in patients with residual HER2-plus disease after definitive surgery and standard treatments. The trial combines immunotherapy with nelipepimut-S plus GM-CSF (NewVax™) and trastuzumab (Herceptin™).

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**Cover Story**

**Radiation Oncology**

Trials underway at Loyola are investigating new clinical applications for intraoperative radiation therapy (IORT); stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT); and other applications of radiation, either alone or combined with other therapies. The goal is to improve cure rates while reducing toxicities.

The TARGIT phase 4 registry trial is following patients who undergo IORT for early-stage breast cancer. IORT is a single-procedure alternative to standard post-operative radiation therapy, which requires five treatments per week for three to six weeks. In IORT, the radiation source is inserted immediately after excision of the tumor and switched on, usually for 20-35 minutes, to target tissues at the highest risk of local recurrence. William Small, Jr., MD, chair of radiation oncology, is national co-principal investigator of the multicenter trial.

Loyola also is conducting a trial of IORT for resectable pancreatic cancer. Standard treatment is surgery followed by chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy. The trial protocol is to perform the surgery and treat the tumor area with IORT in one procedure.

SBRT is focused, high-dose radiation delivered in one to five treatment sessions. By comparison, lower-dose radiation therapy can require as many as 30 sessions. Loyola trials are investigating SBRT for early-stage, non-small cell lung cancer, locally advanced pancreatic cancer, liver cancer, localized spine metastasis and oligometastatic breast cancer.

“We’re not only hoping to improve outcomes, but also reduce the number of treatments,” Dr. Small said. “Patients greatly appreciate the convenience of undergoing five or fewer treatments.”

Dr. Small said Loyola also is conducting other trials that are testing new ways of delivering radiation or combining radiation with other therapies.

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**Surgical Oncology**

Among the advances in the surgical management of complex cancers at Loyola are robotic surgical techniques that more precisely resect tumors of various organs. Surgeons also are employing a complex procedure known as HIPEC to improve the quality of life of patients with advanced intra-abdominal cancers. HIPEC uses heated local chemotherapy that’s administered after extensive surgical removal of cancers.

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**How to Contact Us**

For more information on cancer clinical trials at Loyola, contact Cecilia Petrowsky, RN, MSN, manager of the Cancer Clinical Trials Office. Call 708-327-3306 or email cpetrow@luc.edu.

Loyola has a new *Prefferal* app that offers an easy tool to refer patients to Loyola primary care providers and specialists. The app enables a referring physician to search for and find up-to-date information on Loyola providers; personalize a directory with referral favorites; send a convenient referral to patients to encourage their follow through on care plans; and send physician details to a patient by text message.

Physicians who refer patients to Loyola can access patients’ electronic health records through *LoyolaConnect*. LoyolaConnect cuts down on time-consuming phone calls, faxes and paper transactions. A referring physician can receive an email alert when there’s a significant event in a patient’s care, such as a test result or hospitalization. The physician also can log into the secure system to read physician notes, see lab and radiology results and view the entire chart.
Precision Medicine

Loyola is participating in three “umbrella” trials and a “basket” trial that evaluate drugs that are individually targeted to the characteristics of each patient’s tumor.

An umbrella trial focuses on a single cancer, which can be visualized as the top of an umbrella. Multiple sub-trials (the ribs of the umbrella) test the effects of drugs that target different mutations associated with the cancer. A basket trial allows patients with different cancers to receive the same drug if their tumors have the specific mutation or other abnormality targeted by that drug.

Loyola is one of only two centers in Illinois participating in the I-SPY2 umbrella trial in breast cancer patients before their definitive surgery. Researchers are using biomarker profiles of breast cancer cell genes to determine which investigational drug under study is most suited to a given patient’s tumor profile. In a major innovation in breast cancer research, researchers immediately drop drugs that don’t work or have unacceptable side effects, while fast-tracking effective drugs for further study. This public-private partnership includes the NIH, FDA, industry and about 22 sites in North America.

“A patient’s treatment is targeted, in real time, to the tumor’s biology,” said oncologist Kathy Albain, MD. “I-SPY2 allows us to bring exciting new agents into the curative setting more quickly than the standard way of first testing them extensively in large, multi-year trials.” Dr. Albain noted that several drugs already have graduated from I-SPY2 and are being fast-tracked into confirmatory trials. Dr. Albain is principal investigator at the Loyola site and a professor in the department of medicine, division of hematology/oncology. She is a member of the national I-SPY2 Drug Selection Committee and a chaperone for one of the drugs in the trial.

Loyola is participating in two other umbrella trials: Lung-MAP, for advanced-stage squamous cell lung cancer and ALCHEMIST, for patients with early-stage non-small-cell lung cancer that has been excised.

Loyola also is participating in a groundbreaking multicenter basket trial called NCI-MATCH. Rather than targeting a specific cancer, NCI-MATCH targets a single mutation that’s found in a basket of cancers. DNA sequencing will identify tumors with genetic abnormalities that might respond to the targeted drugs selected for the trial. A patient with an advanced solid tumor or lymphoma can enroll for screening. The first patients already have enrolled in the trial, which opened in June, 2016. Many “baskets” will be open at a given time.

Cord Blood Transplant Trial

Umbilical cord blood can be an alternative source of stem cells for patients who cannot find matching donors for bone marrow transplants. Unlike bone marrow transplants, cord blood transplants do not require perfect matches.

A major drawback of cord blood is the relatively low number of stem cells available from a single donor. This small dose can compromise the chances of engraftment and other transplant outcomes. Loyola is participating in a multicenter trial of the NiCord™ technology, in which cord blood stem cells are expanded in a lab by a factor of ten or more before transplant.

The Future

Loyola plans to increase the number of cancer trials as it streamlines the approval process, with a faster time from concept to treatment.

“It truly is an exciting time to be offering cancer patients at our academic medical center a full menu of promising new clinical trials,” Dr. Stiff said. “With more targeted therapies, even new treatments, not previously tested in humans, often are associated with a high rate of remissions, even in advanced disease.”

“A patient’s treatment is targeted, in real time, to the tumor’s biology.”

- Kathy Albain, MD

For a list of Ongoing Clinical Trials, see pages 16-19
Discovery of Cancer Gene May Predict Survival in Head and Neck Cancer

Loyola researchers have identified a tumor gene that may help to predict survival outcomes in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the mouth and tongue.

If the gene is expressed, patients are 4.6 times more likely to die at any given time, according to a study the researchers published in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery.

The finding eventually could help guide treatment. Depending on whether or not the gene is expressed, a patient may require more aggressive or less aggressive treatment than what is indicated by staging alone, said Carol Bier-Laning, MD, a Loyola head and neck cancer surgeon and co-author of the study.

Using the Gene Expression Barcode, researchers examined publically available genetic data from 54 tumor samples. The samples were taken from patients who had HPV-negative squamous cell carcinoma in the mouth. The researchers caution the results are preliminary and need to be validated in an independent patient group. Such research is ongoing.

The Gene Expression Barcode is a research tool co-invented by Michael J. Zilliox, PhD, corresponding author of the study and director of the Loyola Genomics Facility. The Barcode applies advanced statistical techniques to make public data from nearly 100,000 patients much more user-friendly to researchers. The Barcode is binary – the expressed genes are ones and the unexpressed genes are zeros.

The Gene Expression Barcode has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and is available to academic researchers at no charge.

Loyola First Academic Center in Chicago to Offer HDR Brachytherapy

Unlike low dose rate brachytherapy, the radioactive “seed” in high-dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy is delivered in minutes and removed after treatment. HDR brachytherapy provides the ability to sculpt the radiation dose to reliably avoid healthy organs. And since the radiation source is removed immediately after treatment, patients do not have to take radiation precautions.

HDR brachytherapy requires only two treatments. By contrast, two standard external beam radiation regimens, IMRT and proton therapy, take eight to nine weeks.

The outpatient HDR brachytherapy treatment involves a one-hour procedure performed by the radiation oncologist in conjunction with the urologist. This is followed by a CT scan and sophisticated radiation treatment planning to maximize the chance the cancer is cured, while minimizing potential side effects. The individualized radiation dose is then delivered using a robotic system, and the patient goes home later that day.

In some patients with more aggressive prostate cancer, HDR brachytherapy may be used in combination with a shorter course of external beam radiation.

Loyola also offers radical prostatectomy, IMRT, proton therapy and LDR brachytherapy.

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ABOVE: Michael J. Zilliox, PhD, and lab manager Gina Kuffel
Lung Cancer Patient Recovers from Surgery in Time to Play Famed St. Andrews Course

Avid golfer Frank Trombetta was looking forward to a once-in-a-lifetime chance to play St. Andrews Links in Scotland, home to one of the oldest and most iconic golf courses in the world. Then he was diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer. The first surgeon Mr. Trombetta saw told him it would take three months to recover from surgery, and he would have to cancel his trip.

So Mr. Trombetta came to Loyola thoracic surgeon Wickii Vigneswaran, MD, for a second opinion. Dr. Vigneswaran, division director of thoracic surgery, specializes in lung cancer and other diseases of the lungs. Dr. Vigneswaran offered to perform a less-invasive robotic procedure that would enable Mr. Trombetta to recover more quickly.

Using the da Vinci® Surgical System, Dr. Vigneswaran removed the lower third of Mr. Trombetta’s right lung. Mr. Trombetta spent three days in the hospital, and was back on the driving range after just five weeks. By comparison, conventional open surgery would have required seven to 10 days in the hospital and 10 weeks recovering before Mr. Trombetta could even swing a golf club.

Mr. Trombetta recovered in time to make his dream trip to St. Andrews. “My recovery has been way better than my expectations,” he said.

Dr. Vigneswaran performs most of his surgeries with minimally invasive techniques, including da Vinci robotic surgery and video-assisted thoracic surgery. These methods generally result in smaller scars, less pain, shorter hospital stays and faster recoveries.
Loyola Launches Comprehensive Hernia Program

Loyola now offers hernia patients a multidisciplinary care program featuring minimally invasive surgeries and an integrated medical team to facilitate treatment and recovery.

Board-certified and fellowship-trained surgeons work with advanced practice nurses, reconstructive surgeons, gastroenterologists and nutritionists to provide care for different types of hernias, ranging from the more common to the very complex.

The center develops individualized treatment plans and offers outpatient, open and laparoscopic procedures. The goal is to treat the hernia and address its underlying cause so that future procedures won’t be necessary.

Care is coordinated with referring physicians, including pediatricians, urologists and sports medicine specialists.

Nasoalveolar Molding for Cleft Lip, Palate Reduces Number of Surgeries and Cost of Care

Patients with complete unilateral and bilateral cleft lip and palate who were treated with nasoalveolar molding (NAM) required fewer surgeries and a reduction in overall healthcare costs compared to similar patients who did not have NAM treatment, according to a study in The Journal of Craniofacial Surgery led by Loyola plastic and reconstructive surgeon Parit A. Patel, MD.

NAM molds the patient’s lip, nose and gums, decreasing the width of the cleft and contouring the nose before surgery is performed.

NAM is an oral plate similar to a retainer and typically implanted in a baby’s mouth four to five weeks after delivery. NAM helps to correct the deformity by reducing the size of the cleft. Multiple surgeries typically are required to permanently correct a cleft, but the study showed children with NAM needed fewer surgeries.

Cranial Base Center Reports Exceptional Outcomes

Loyola offers the most experienced multidisciplinary cranial base program in the Midwest.

Twenty-five percent of cases treated at Loyola’s Center for Cranial Base Surgery are for malignancies, and some cases are so complex they were turned down by other centers. During the past 25 years, the center has performed more than 3,500 surgeries, and, despite the complexity of the cases, outcomes are exceptional:

- Current mortality rate is less than 0.2 percent
- 93 percent of benign tumor patients are disease-free after five years
- 74 percent of malignant tumor patients are disease-free after five years

The center treats these malignant and nonmalignant tumors:

- Acoustic neuromas and other nerve-origin tumors
- Astrocytoma
- Brain metastases
- Chondromas
- Chondrosarcomas
- Chordomas
- Epidermoid tumors
- Esthesioneuroblastomas
- Glioblastomas
- Gliomas
- Glion tumors and other paragangliomas
- Lower cranial neuromas
- Meningiomas
- Olfactory groove tumors
- Osteosarcomas
- Parotid and other salivary gland tumors
- Pituitary tumors
- Sinus malignancies
- Squamous cell carcinomas
- Temporal bone cancers

The center also treats non-neoplastic lesions and cranial nerve conditions such as:

- Aneurysms
- Arteriovenous malformations
- Brain abscesses
- Cerebrospinal fluid fistulae
- Dermoids
- Encephaloceles
- Fibrous dysplasias
- Graves’ ophthalmopathy
- Neuralgias
- Trigeminal cephalalgia

The multidisciplinary center includes neurosurgeons, neurologists, otolaryngologists, neuro-oncologists, medical oncologists and neuroradiologists who employ the latest technology at convenient locations.

The center is co-directed by John Leonetti, MD, professor and vice chair of the department of otolaryngology and Douglas Anderson, MD, professor in the department of neurological surgery.
Gottlieb Offering Advanced Robotic Surgical System for Urology Patients

A state-of-the-art robotic surgical system at Loyola’s Gottlieb Memorial Hospital provides urology patients with less-invasive surgeries that result in smaller incisions, less pain and faster recoveries.

Surgeons are using the da Vinci® Xi Surgical System to treat such conditions as urinary blockages and prostate, kidney and bladder cancers.

The robotic system allows surgeons to operate through a few small incisions. Movements by the surgeon’s hand or wrist are translated into highly precise movements of the surgical instruments. Every maneuver is directed by the surgeon, in real time, as the surgeon views a magnified, 3D, high-definition image of the surgical site.

Gottlieb’s surgical urology team includes Marcus Quek, MD; Ahmer Farooq, DO; Laurie Bachrach, MD; Alex Gorbonos, MD; and Gopal Gupta, MD.
Loyola Opens Center for Translational Research and Education

The five-story, $137 million Center for Translational Research and Education, which opened in April, is home to more than 500 faculty, students and staff.

The CTRE accommodates multiple types of research, creating opportunities for advances in patient care through partnerships between Loyola University Chicago’s Health Sciences Division and Loyola University Health System.

The floor plan is designed to foster collaboration between researchers and educators. The goal is to enhance translational research and increase productivity by 40 to 50 percent.

"People underestimate the importance of informal contacts that researchers have," said Richard S. Cooper, MD, chair of the public health sciences department. "We need that kind of everyday interaction to collaborate."

The CTRE features large, open lab spaces, making it easier for researchers from different teams and scientific disciplines to interact and share equipment. The second and third floors are connected by internal stairs, enabling researchers to share a common meeting space and kitchen. The fourth and fifth floors have similar collaboration spaces.

The CTRE was jointly funded by Loyola University Chicago and Trinity Health, which acquired Loyola University Health System in 2011.

Scientists in areas such as public health, infectious disease and immunology, burn and shock trauma, cardiovascular, oncology and nursing occupy the building.

Photos by Natalie Battaglia
Becker’s Names Loyola to “Great Hospitals” List

For the third year in a row, Loyola has been named to Becker's Hospital Review’s list of “100 Great Hospitals in America.” Hospitals on the list are known for multiple reasons, including having a strong history of medical innovation, providing top-notch care to patients and conducting leading-edge research.

The Becker's editorial team selected hospitals based on rankings and awards from such sources as U.S. News & World Report, Truven Health Analytics, Healthgrades, the American Nurses Credentialing Center and The Leapfrog Group.

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Loyola Stroke Program Receives Gold Plus Achievement Award for Eighth Year in a Row

Loyola has again received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With the Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.

The award recognizes Loyola’s commitment to providing the most appropriate stroke treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence. Loyola has won the award eight years in a row.

Loyola also was named to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Target: Stroke™ Honor Roll Elite. To qualify for the Honor Roll, hospitals must meet quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with tPA. Loyola earned the award by meeting quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period.

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CARF Accredits Inpatient and Stroke Rehab Programs

For the fourth time in a row, Loyola’s inpatient rehabilitation program is being accredited for a maximum three-year period by CARF International, an independent, nonprofit accrediting body.

Loyola’s inpatient stroke rehabilitation program also earned accreditation for the third time in a row. Achieving accreditation as a stroke specialty program requires a center to meet standards above and beyond those required for accreditation in comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation.

CARF’s peer-review accreditation process demonstrates that a program meets international standards for quality and is committed to pursuing excellence. A center must demonstrate to a team of on-site surveyors its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality.

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First Illinois Physical Therapy Residency to be Accredited in Women’s Health

Loyola is the first center in Illinois, and one of only nine in the country, to be accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) as a post-professional residency program for physical therapists in women’s health.

Loyola’s one-year clinical residency program in women’s health is modeled after physician residencies. Residents acquire advanced skills, education and training in physical therapy for such conditions as osteoporosis, lymphedema, pelvic floor disorders and postpartum pain and incontinence.

Loyola received the five-year accreditation from the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education, the accrediting body for the APTA. In 2012, Loyola became one of the first centers in Illinois to be accredited by the APTA in orthopaedics.
Camilo R. Gomez, MD, MBA, Vice Chair of Neurology

Camilo R. Gomez, MD, MBA, a stroke subspecialist and pioneer in neuroendovascular surgery, has joined Loyola as vice chair of neurology and medical director of neuroendovascular surgery.

Dr. Gomez has performed neuroendovascular surgery for 22 years and is among the first neurologists to practice this subspecialty in the United States.

Loyola’s multidisciplinary neuroendovascular surgery program is supported by collaborating neurologists, neurosurgeons, radiologists and otolaryngologists.

Dr. Gomez earned his medical degree from Universidad Central del Este in the Dominican Republic. He completed a residency in neurology from St. Louis University and earned an MBA from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Before coming to Loyola, Dr. Gomez was the director of the Souers Stroke Institute at St. Louis University and, more recently, director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Gomez introduced the hospital term “Code Stroke” and is credited with coining the expression “time is brain.”

Wickii Vigneswaran, MD, MBA, Director of Thoracic Surgery

Internationally known thoracic surgeon Wickii Vigneswaran, MD, MBA, has been appointed division director of thoracic surgery.

Dr. Vigneswaran comes to Loyola from the University of Chicago, where he was associate chief of cardiac and thoracic surgery. At the U. of C., Dr. Vigneswaran established a lung transplant program and developed a nationally recognized mesothelioma program.

Dr. Vigneswaran treats diseases of the lungs, pleura and mediastinum, including lung cancer, tumors of the chest wall, esophageal cancer, tracheal cancer, mediastinal cancer, thymoma and mesothelioma. Dr. Vigneswaran is among a handful of surgeons nationwide who treat mesothelioma surgically.

Dr. Vigneswaran performs most of his surgeries with minimally invasive techniques, including da Vinci robotic surgery and video-assisted thoracic surgery.

Dr. Vigneswaran is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Scotland. He is past president of the International College of Surgeons, U.S. section, a former trustee of the CHEST Foundation of the American College of Chest Physicians and an alternate delegate of the American Medical Association. Dr. Vigneswaran received his medical degree from the University of Sri Lanka. He completed his residency in the United Kingdom and a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery and thoracic organ transplantation at the Mayo Clinic.

David De Marco, SJ, MD, Priest and Physician

David De Marco, SJ, MD, an internist and Jesuit priest, has joined Loyola.

Dr. De Marco, who has a special interest in treating the elderly and underserved, sees patients enrolled in Access to Care, a nonprofit primary healthcare program for low-income, uninsured and underinsured patients.

“I try to integrate Ignatian spirituality into my work as a doctor, and I hope my patients can tell,” Dr. De Marco said.

Dr. De Marco earned his medical degree from Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and completed a residency in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic.

Eduardo Navarrete, MD, Gottlieb Chair of Emergency Medicine

Eduardo Navarrete, MD, has been named chair of the emergency medicine department of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital.

Gottlieb, a member of Loyola University Health System, is partnering with Emergency Physicians Medical Group to provide the highest level of patient-focused emergency care.

Dr. Navarrete earned his medical degree from the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. He completed a residency in emergency medicine at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.
Liver-Kidney Transplant
After living with nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) for many years, Ted Sulkowski underwent a successful liver-kidney transplant.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/liver-kidney-transplant

Severe Spinal Cord Injury
A high school football player was paralyzed after a severe spinal cord injury that caused the C-4 and C-5 vertebrae to nearly switch places. Today he is walking again.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/spinal-cord-injury

Triple Positive Breast Cancer
Beth Ryan’s prognosis is good after undergoing multidisciplinary treatment for triple positive breast cancer.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/triple-positive-breast-cancer

Sudden Hearing Loss
Debra Flandro experienced sudden hearing loss but now is fully recovered thanks to a cochlear implant.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/sudden-hearing-loss

Congenital Heart Disease from Birth to Adulthood
When he was four days old, Doug Burrichter underwent successful surgery to repair a congenital heart defect. As a young adult, he underwent another successful surgery to repair a heart valve.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/congenital-heart-disease

Supraventricular Tachycardia in Utero
Before he was born, baby Massimo was diagnosed with SVT that elevated his heart rate above 200. Loyola’s pediatric cardiology team collaborated to successfully treat the abnormality by giving his mother medications that crossed the placenta.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/supraventricular-tachycardia

Treating Strabismus in Adults
Contrary to what many patients are told, strabismus can be treated successfully in adults such as Aleksandra Pryszewska. James McDonnell, MD, discusses the physical and emotional symptoms of strabismus, and how he treats it surgically.

LINK: www.loyolamedicine.org/strabismus
Loyola Physicians in the News

James Welsh, MD, has been elected president of the American College of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Welsh will serve a two-year term as president, then transition to chairman of the board.

Bahman Emami, MD, received the prestigious 2016 American College of Radiation Oncology Gold medal in recognition of distinguished service to ACRO and the profession.

The Chicago Radiological Society gave Aruna Vade, MD, its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Vade was honored for her “outstanding leadership in organized medicine on local, state and national levels and her many years of dedicated service to radiology.”

Murali Rao, MD, won the 2016 Innovation in Patient Care Award from the Illinois Psychiatric Society for his efforts to provide better care, smarter spending and healthier people.

Linda Brubaker, MD and Mark Kuczewski, PhD, were honored by the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation for their national leadership on changing medical school admissions policy on behalf of undocumented students.

Elizabeth Mueller, MD, was named chair of the interdisciplinary Network on Urological Health in Women for the Society for Women’s Health Research.

Four Loyola physicians have been named to Negocios Now’s 2016 Who’s Who in Hispanic Chicago. Negocios Now, a national award-winning business publication, develops a list each year of the most prominent Hispanics in the Chicago area. Loyola physicians on the Who’s Who list are (pictured left-right) José Biller, MD, neurology chair; Diego di Sabato, MD, intra-abdominal transplantation; Camilo Gomez, MD, neuroendovascular surgery; and Tulio Rodriguez, MD, hematology/oncology.

Pauline Camacho, MD, has been named president of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. Dr. Camacho is a professor and director of Loyola’s Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease Center.

William Small, MD, radiation oncology chair, served as co-chair, faculty member and speaker at a recent meeting of the Cervix Cancer Research Network in Bangkok, Thailand.

The department of otolaryngology recognized the outstanding contributions of Gregory J. Matz, MD (left) and James A. Stankiewicz, MD (right) at an alumni event at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings.
ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY: ARRHYTHMOGENIC CARDIOMYOPATHIES
206045: Genetics, Mechanism and Clinical Phenotypes of Arrhythmogenic Cardiomyopathies (NIH study)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: David Wilber, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2644

ONCOLOGY: BREAST CANCER
207344: PENelope 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: 708-327-3222

207119: Phase II Trial of Combination Immunotherapy with nelipepimut-S + GM-CSF (NeoVax) and Trastuzumab in high-risk HER2+ Breast Cancer Patients
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kathy Albain, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3222

207344: PENelope 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: 708-327-3222

ONCOLOGY: GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER
205816: N1048 A Phase II/III Trial of Neoadocrine FOLFOX with Selective Use of Combined Modality Chemoradiation versus Preoperative Combined Modality Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer Patients Undergoing Low Anterior Resection with Total Mesorectal Excision
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kenneth Micetich, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2831

205728: S0820 A Double Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of Efflornithine and Sulindac to Prevent Recurrence of High Risk Adenomas and Second Primary Colorectal Cancers in Patients with Stage 0-II Colon Cancer, Phase III Preventing Adenomas of the Colon with Efflornithine and Sulindac (PACES)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Patricia Robinson, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2831

ONCOLOGY: GENITOURINARY CANCER
205972: RTOG 1174: A Phase III Trial of Adjuvant Chemotherapy As Primary Treatment For Locally Advanced Cervical Cancer Compared To Chemoradiation Alone: The Outback Trial
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: William Small, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2568

205998: Randomized Phase III Clinical Trial of Weekly Versus Tri-weekly Cisplatin Based Chemoradiation in Locally Advanced Cervical Cancer
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: William Small, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2568

ONCOLOGY: GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER
200541: Defining the Role of CD 24+ CD25+ Immunoregulatory T-Cells in Treatment of Patients with Advanced Ovarian Cancer who Receive Dendritic Cell-Based Vaccine Therapy
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Patrick Stiff, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2831
ONCOLOGY: HEAD AND NECK CANCER

207116: ALCHEMIST A Phase III Double-Blind Trial for Surgically Resected Early Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Crizotinib versus Placebo for Patients with Tumors Harboring the Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase (ALK) Fusion Protein - ALCHEMIST E4512
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Cheryl Czerlanis, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3222

ONCOLOGY: MELANOMA

208066: EA6134: A Randomized Phase III trial of Dabrafenib plus Trametinib followed by Ipilimumab plus Nivolumab at Progression versus Ipilimumab plus Nivolumab followed by Dabrafenib plus Trametinib at Progression in Patients with Advanced BRAFV600 Mutant Melanoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Joseph Clark, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3221

ONCOLOGY: LEUKEMIA

206969: An Open-Label Phase 2 Prospective, Randomized, Controlled Study of CLT-008 Myeloid Progenitor Cells as a Supportive Care Measure During Induction Chemotherapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Patrick Stiff, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3082

205387: SGN-017 A Phase 2 Study of Brentuximab Vedotin in Combination with Standard of Care Treatment (Rituximab, Cyclophosphamide, Doxorubicin, Vincristine, and Prednisone [RCHOP]) or RCHP (Rituximab, Cyclophosphamide, Doxorubicin and Prednisone) as Front-Line Therapy in Patients with Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL) SGN35-017 Therapy in Patients with Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma (DLBCL)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Scott Smith, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3228

206501: A Phase 1 Trial of SGN-CD70A in Patients with CD70-Positive Malignancies
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Scott Smith, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3228

205695: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Phase 3 Study of Brentuximab Vedotin and CHP (A+CHP) Versus CHOP in the Frontline Treatment of Patients with CD30-Positive Mature T-cell Lymphomas ECHELON-2
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Scott Smith, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3228

206485: A Randomized Phase III Study of ibrutinib (PCI-32765)-based Therapy Versus Standard Fludarabine, Cyclophosphamide and Rituximab (FCR) Chemoimmunotherapy in Untreated Younger Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kathleen Phelan, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3082

ONCOLOGY: LUNG CANCER

207118: Alchemist Randomizes Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Study of Erlotinib or Placebo in Patients with Completely Resected Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) Mutant Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer - ALCHEMIST EGFR Study
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Cheryl Czerlanis, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3222
ONCOLOGY: MULTIPLE MYELOMA (CONTINUED)

206421: E1A11 Randomized Phase III Trial of Bortezomib, Lenalidomide and Dexamethasone (VRd) Versus Carfilzomib, Lenalidomide and Dexamethasone (CRd) Followed by Limited or Indefinite Duration Lenalidomide Maintenance in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Symptomatic Multiple Myeloma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3317

ONCOLOGY: PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY

207396: COG AALL1231 A Phase III Randomized Trial Investigating Bortezomib on a Modified Augmented BFM (ABFM) Backbone in Newly Diagnosed T-Lymphoblastic Leukemia (T-ALL) and T-Lymphoblastic Lymphoma (T-LLY)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3640

207181: COG-AALL 1331 - Risk-Stratified Randomized Phase III Testing of Blinatumomab in First Relapse of Childhood B-Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3640

204320: Phase III Randomized Trial for Patients with de novo AML using Bortezomib and Sorafenib for Patients with High Allelic Ratio FLT3/ITD
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 08-327-3640

202998: AALL0932 Treatment of Patients with Newly Diagnosed Standard Risk B-Precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3640

ONCOLOGY: PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

203389: A Phase III Randomized Trial of Adding Vincristine-topotecan-cyclophosphamide to Standard Chemotherapy in Initial Treatment of Non-metastatic Ewing Sarcoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3640

207688: AEWS1221 Randomized Phase II Trial Evaluating the Addition of the IGF-1R Monoclonal antibody Ganitumab to Multiantigen Chemotherapy for Patients with Newly Diagnosed Metastatic Ewing Sarcoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3640

207666: Pazopanib Neoadjuvant Trial in Non-Rhabdomyosarcoma Soft tissue Sarcomas (PAZNTIS): A Phase II/III Randomized Trial of Preoperative Chemoradiation or Preoperative Radiation Plus or Minus Pazopanib
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3640

ONCOLOGY: RENAL CANCER

206314: A Phase 2 Randomized, Double-Blind Study of Dalantercept plus Axitinib Compared to Placebo plus Axitinib in Patients with Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Joseph Clark, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3221

203579: (S0931) EVEREST: EVERolimus for Renal Cancer Ensuing Surgical Therapy
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Joseph Clark, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3221

ONCOLOGY: SOLID TUMOR AND LYMPHOMA

208336: National Cancer Institute MATCH EAY131 Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Asha Dhanarajan, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2831

ONCOLOGY: RADIATION ONCOLOGY

205967: TARGIT US: Targeted Intraoperative Radiotherapy After Conservative Breast Surgery for Women with Early Stage Breast Cancer: A Phase IV Registry Trial
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: William Small, Jr., MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2559

206626: Pancreatic Cancer Radiotherapy Study Group (PanCRS) Trial: A Randomized Phase III Study Evaluating Modified FOLFIROX (mFXX) with or without Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) in the Treatment of Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Tarita Thomas, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2571

205322: NSABP B51/RTOG 1304: A Randomized Phase III Clinical Trial Evaluating Post-Mastectomy Chestwall and Regional Nodal XRT and Post- Lumpectomy Regional Nodal XRT in Patients with Positive Axillary Nodes Before Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Who Convert to Pathologically Negative Axillary Nodes After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Tarita Thomas, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3222

206931: RTOG 1112: A Randomized Phase III Study of Sorafenib Versus Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Followed by Sorafenib in Hepatocellular Carcinoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Tarita Thomas, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2571

206982: A Pilot Randomized Trial of Transarterial Chemoembolization (TACE) with or without Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) Patients Awaiting Orthotopic Liver Transplant (OLT)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Tarita Thomas, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2729

207535: RTOG 0631 Phase II/III Study of Image-Guided Radiosurgery/SBRT for Localized Spine Metastasis
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Abhishek Solanki, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2556

207907: E1A21 Randomized Phase II Study Evaluating the Addition of the IGF-1R Monoclonal antibody Ganitumab to Standard Chemotherapy for Patients with Newly Diagnosed Metastatic Ewing Sarcoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3640

ONCOLOGY: RENAL CANCER

206314: A Phase 2 Randomized, Double-Blind Study of Dalantercept plus Axitinib Compared to Placebo plus Axitinib in Patients with Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Joseph Clark, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3221

203579: (S0931) EVEREST: EVERolimus for Renal Cancer Ensuing Surgical Therapy
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Joseph Clark, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3221

ONCOLOGY: SOLID TUMOR AND LYMPHOMA

208336: National Cancer Institute MATCH EAY131 Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Asha Dhanarajan, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2831

ONCOLOGY: RADIATION ONCOLOGY

205967: TARGIT US: Targeted Intraoperative Radiotherapy After Conservative Breast Surgery for Women with Early Stage Breast Cancer: A Phase IV Registry Trial
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: William Small, Jr., MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2559

206626: Pancreatic Cancer Radiotherapy Study Group (PanCRS) Trial: A Randomized Phase III Study Evaluating Modified FOLFIROX (mFXX) with or without Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) in the Treatment of Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Tarita Thomas, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2571

205322: NSABP B51/RTOG 1304: A Randomized Phase III Clinical Trial Evaluating Post-Mastectomy Chestwall and Regional Nodal XRT and Post- Lumpectomy Regional Nodal XRT in Patients with Positive Axillary Nodes Before Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Who Convert to Pathologically Negative Axillary Nodes After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Tarita Thomas, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3222

206931: RTOG 1112: A Randomized Phase III Study of Sorafenib Versus Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Followed by Sorafenib in Hepatocellular Carcinoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Tarita Thomas, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2571

206982: A Pilot Randomized Trial of Transarterial Chemoembolization (TACE) with or without Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) Patients Awaiting Orthotopic Liver Transplant (OLT)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Tarita Thomas, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2729

207535: RTOG 0631 Phase II/III Study of Image-Guided Radiosurgery/SBRT for Localized Spine Metastasis
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Abhishek Solanki, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2556

207907: E1A21 Randomized Phase II Study Evaluating the Addition of the IGF-1R Monoclonal antibody Ganitumab to Standard Chemotherapy for Patients with Newly Diagnosed Metastatic Ewing Sarcoma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eugene Suh, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-3640
207912: NRG-BR002: A Phase II/II trial of Standard of Care with or without Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) and/or Surgical Ablation for Newly Oligometastatic Breast Cancer
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Abhishek Solanki, MD
CONTACT: 708-216-2568

ONCOLOGY: STEM CELL TRANSPLANT
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Patrick Stiff, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2241

205408: A Multicenter Safety Study of Unlicensed, Investigational Cryopreserved Cord Blood Units (CBUs) Manufactured by the National Cord Blood Program (NCBP) and Provided for Unrelated Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation of Pediatric and Adult Patients.
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Patrick Stiff, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2241

203835: Maintenance Therapy with Azacitidine and Valproic Acid after Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for High Risk Multiple Myeloma
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Patrick Stiff, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2241

208210: A Randomized, Multi-Center, Phase III Trial of Calcineurin Inhibitor-Free Interventions for Prevention of Graft-versus-Host Disease
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Patrick Stiff, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-327-2241

PELVIC MEDICINE: INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS
206129: Acupuncture for Female Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome and Its Effect on the Urinary Microbiome: A Randomized Controlled Trial
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Larissa Bresler, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2067

PELVIC MEDICINE: OVERACTIVE BLADDER SYNDROME
207152: The Estrogen Impact on Overactive Bladder Syndrome: Female Pelvic Floor Microbiomes and Antimicrobial Peptides
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Cynthia Brincat, MD, PhD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-2067

PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE: IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS
205594: GB28547: A Phase II, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Bebrizumab in Patients with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Daniel Dilling, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-0291

PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE: LUNG TRANSPLANTATION
206918: PXUS 14-001: A Phase 2, Multicenter, Open-Label Study to Measure the Safety of Extending Preservation and Assessment Time of Donor Lungs Using Normothermic Ex Vivo Lung Perfusion and Ventilation (EVLP) as Administered by the Sponsor Using the Toronto EVLP System
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Daniel Dilling, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-0291

PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE: PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION
207083: BPS 314d MR-PAH-302: A multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled, Phase 3 study to assess the efficacy and safety of oral BPS 314d MR added-on to treprostinil, inhaled (Tyvaso®) in subjects with pulmonary arterial hypertension
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: James Gagermeier, MD
ENROLLMENT PHONE: 708-216-0291
Meet Our New Physicians

**Sanjeev Akkina, MD**
Associate Professor, Transplant Nephrology

**CLINICAL EXPERTISE**
Kidney, kidney transplant, kidney disease in solid organ transplant, living kidney donation, combined liver-kidney transplant

**FELLOWSHIP**
University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics – transplant nephrology

**RESIDENCY**
Hennepin County Medical Center – internal medicine

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**
University of Kansas School of Medicine

**Zeina Al-Mansour, MD**
Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology

**CLINICAL EXPERTISE**
Amyloidosis, cancers of the blood and blood cells, lymphoma (new-relapsed and refractory), multiple myeloma, stem cell/bone marrow transplant, bone marrow disorders

**FELLOWSHIP**
University of Massachusetts Hospital – hematology/oncology

**RESIDENCY**
University of New Mexico School of Medicine – internal medicine; University of Massachusetts Medical School Coordinated Programs – internal medicine

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**
Jordan University School of Medicine

**Steve Andrews, MD**
Assistant Professor, Family Medicine

**CLINICAL EXPERTISE**
Immediate care, emergency management

**RESIDENCY**
Cook County Hospital – family medicine

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**
The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health

**Rod Marianne Arceo-Mendoza, MD**
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology

**CLINICAL EXPERTISE**
Bone disease, calcium disorders, endocrine disorders, goiter function, thyroid cancer, thyroid and parathyroid disease and disorders, vitamin D deficiency, osteoporosis

**FELLOWSHIP**
Loyola University Medical Center – endocrinology

**RESIDENCY**
New York Medical College Affiliated Hospitals – internal medicine
Geisinger Medical Center – internal medicine

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**
University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

**Brenda Bailey, MD**
Instructor, Division of Hospital Medicine

**CLINICAL EXPERTISE**
End-of-life care

**RESIDENCY**
Loyola University Medical Center – internal medicine

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**
University of California at Davis School of Medicine

**Ramesh Batra, MD**
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Intra-Abdominal Transplantation

**CLINICAL EXPERTISE**
Kidney failure, kidney and pancreas transplant, liver cancer, liver tumors, pediatric transplant surgery, renal dialysis access, liver transplant

**FELLOWSHIP**
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, United Kingdom – kidney transplant and dialysis access surgery, Mayo Clinic Hospital – abdominal transplant surgery (liver, kidney, pancreas)

**RESIDENCY**
Royal College of Surgeons United Kingdom – general surgery
Guys & St. Thomas Hospitals NHS Trust United Kingdom – kidney and pancreas transplant

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**
Sarojini Naidu Medical College, India

**Bradford Bemiss, MD**
Assistant Professor, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Medicine

**CLINICAL EXPERTISE**
Advanced lung disease, COPD, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis, rare lung diseases, lung transplantation

**FELLOWSHIP**
Washington University in St. Louis – pulmonary and critical care medicine

**RESIDENCY**
Loyola University Medical Center – internal medicine

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

**Rohit Chappidi, MD**
Instructor Hospital Medicine

**RESIDENCY**
Loyola University Medical Center – internal medicine

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**
Medical College of Wisconsin
Aparajita Das, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
General cardiology, heart disease, imaging of cardiac diseases, clinical cardiology

FELLOWSHIP
Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center – cardiovascular medicine

RESIDENCY
Baylor University College of Medicine – internal medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Kim Duque, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences

RESIDENCY
SUNY Upstate Medical University - psychiatry

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of the Philippines

Raquel Garcia-Roca, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Intra-Abdominal Transplantation Surgical Director, Renal Transplant

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
AV fistula, dialysis access surgery, laparoscopic surgery, pancreas surgery, type 1 diabetes, vascular access surgery, video-assisted surgery, kidney and pancreas transplant

FELLOWSHIP
University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital – transplant surgery, University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics – transplant surgery

RESIDENCY
University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital – general surgery

Amishi Desai, DO
Assistant Professor, Transplant Nephrology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Combined liver-kidney transplant, kidney disease in solid organ transplant, living kidney donation, pancreas transplant, kidney transplant

FELLOWSHIP
University of Chicago Medical Center – nephrology, University of Chicago Medical Center – transplant nephrology

RESIDENCY
McGaw Medical Center Northwestern University – internal medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine/ Midwestern University

Paul Jones, MD, FACS
Associate Professor, Department of Otolaryngology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
General ear, nose and throat, pediatric ear, nose and throat

RESIDENCY
Rush University Medical Center – otolaryngology: general

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Rush Medical College

Margot Jacobs, DO
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Immediate care, immediate care medicine

RESIDENCY
Advocate Christ Medical Center – family medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago

Aparajita Das, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
General cardiology, heart disease, imaging of cardiac diseases, clinical cardiology

FELLOWSHIP
Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center – cardiovascular medicine

RESIDENCY
Baylor University College of Medicine – internal medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Lisa Davidoff, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine and Department of Pediatrics

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Adolescent medicine – preventive health and wellness, general pediatrics, adult medicine

RESIDENCY
University of Maryland Medical Center – internal medicine and pediatrics

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago

Paulina Kuchinic, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine

RESIDENCY
Medical University of Warsaw, Poland – transitional medicine

Cook County Hospital – internal medicine

University of Chicago Medical Center – emergency medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

Celia Egan, MD
Assistant Professor Hospital Medicine

RESIDENCY
Weill Cornell Medical Center/ New York Presbyterian Hospital – internal medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
New York Medical College

Raquel Garcia-Roca, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Intra-Abdominal Transplantation Surgical Director, Renal Transplant

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
AV fistula, dialysis access surgery, laparoscopic surgery, pancreas surgery, type 1 diabetes, vascular access surgery, video-assisted surgery, kidney and pancreas transplant

FELLOWSHIP
University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital – transplant surgery, University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics – transplant surgery

RESIDENCY
University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital – general surgery

Margot Jacobs, DO
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Immediate care, immediate care medicine

RESIDENCY
Advocate Christ Medical Center – family medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago

Amishi Desai, DO
Assistant Professor, Transplant Nephrology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Combined liver-kidney transplant, kidney disease in solid organ transplant, living kidney donation, pancreas transplant, kidney transplant

FELLOWSHIP
University of Chicago Medical Center – nephrology, University of Chicago Medical Center – transplant nephrology

RESIDENCY
McGaw Medical Center Northwestern University – internal medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine/ Midwestern University

Paul Jones, MD, FACS
Associate Professor, Department of Otolaryngology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
General ear, nose and throat, pediatric ear, nose and throat

RESIDENCY
Rush University Medical Center – otolaryngology: general

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Rush Medical College

Paulina Kuchinic, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine

RESIDENCY
Medical University of Warsaw, Poland – transitional medicine

Cook County Hospital – internal medicine

University of Chicago Medical Center – emergency medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

Lisa Davidoff, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine and Department of Pediatrics

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Adolescent medicine – preventive health and wellness, general pediatrics, adult medicine

RESIDENCY
University of Maryland Medical Center – internal medicine and pediatrics

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago
Susan Locke, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine
RESIDENCY
West Suburban Hospital Medical Center – family medicine
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Washington University

Michael Majewski, MD
Assistant Professor Anesthesiology
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Transesophageal echocardiography, cardiothoracic anesthesia
FELLOWSHIP
Northwestern University McGaw Medical Center – Cardiothoracic Anesthesia
RESIDENCY
Loyola University Medical Center – Anesthesiology
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Rush Medical College of Rush University

Sarah Nadeem, MD, FACE
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Bone disease, calcium disorders, diabetes, osteopenia, parathyroid disorders, pituitary disease, thyroid disorders, thyroid nodules, vitamin D deficiency, osteoporosis
FELLOWSHIP
Mayo Clinic/Mayo Graduate School of Medicine – endocrinology
RESIDENCY
William Beaumont Hospital – internal medicine
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Aga Khan University, Pakistan

Teresa Nam, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of General Internal Medicine
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Adult medicine, adults with special health care needs, children with disabilities, children with special health care needs, general internal medicine, general medicine, general pediatrics, internal medicine, primary care, primary care and preventive medicine, special needs children, steroid injections, twins, young adults with special needs, adolescent medicine
RESIDENCY
University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics – internal medicine
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Paolo Nucifora, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor, Neurology
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Neuroradiology
FELLOWSHIP
University of Pennsylvania – neuroradiology
RESIDENCY
University of Pennsylvania – radiology; diagnostic radiology
MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Piotr Obara, MD
Instructor, Department of Radiology
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Gastrointestinal imaging, genitourinary tract imaging, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
FELLOWSHIP
Stanford Hospital – body MRI
RESIDENCY
University of Chicago Medical Center – radiology
MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Mina Oftadeh, DO
Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
General anesthesia, cardiothoracic anesthesia
FELLOWSHIP
Loyola University Medical Center – Cardiothoracic Anesthesia
RESIDENCY
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center – Anesthesiology
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Midwestern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Heather Paddock, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery
CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Congenital anomalies, GERD, achalasia, hernia, laparoscopy, minimally invasive surgery, pediatric surgery
FELLOWSHIP
Nationwide Children’s Hospital – surgical critical care; University of Florida – pediatric surgery
RESIDENCY
University of Florida Health Science Center at Jacksonville – pediatric surgery
MEDICAL SCHOOL
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
NEW PHYSICIANS

Jason Palmatier, MD
Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Prehospital care and education, emergency medicine

RESIDENCY
Northwestern Memorial Hospital – emergency medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Rina Patel, MD
Assistant Professor, Radiology

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Diagnostic radiology, musculoskeletal imaging (MR/Ultrasound/CT)

FELLOWSHIP
University of California at San Francisco Medical Center – musculoskeletal radiology

RESIDENCY
University of Chicago Medical Center – radiology

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Sameer Puri, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Broken bones in children, carpal tunnel syndrome, cerebral palsy, elbow disorders, elbow injuries, elbow replacement, elbows, hand problems, minimally invasive surgery, nerve injuries, sports injuries, tendon ruptures, wrist problems, broken bones

FELLOWSHIP
Hospital for Special Surgery/Cornell University – hand and upper extremity reconstruction

RESIDENCY
Tufts University Affiliated Hospitals – orthopaedics

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Tufts University School of Medicine

Val Rosenberg, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Anxiety disorders, child/adolescent psychology/PTSD, coping with illness, depression, eating disorders, family psychotherapy, grief/bereavement, OCD, psychological issues related to medical illness, stress management, transitions/adjustment disorders, trauma, adolescents

FELLOWSHIP
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Dartmouth College Geisel School of Medicine

PhD PROGRAM
University of Texas at Austin

Belinda Serrano, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Acute care, adolescent health, care of Spanish-speaking patients, children's health, family medicine, musculoskeletal injuries, preventive medicine, women's health, immediate care

RESIDENCY
University of Illinois at Chicago – family medicine
Advocate Christ Medical Center – family medicine

MEDICAL SCHOOL
University of Illinois at Chicago

Elizabeth Simmons, PsyD
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences

CLINICAL EXPERTISE
Sleep disorders, stress management, weight management, coping with illness

FELLOWSHIP
Loyola University Medical Center – health psychology

PsyD PROGRAM
Chicago School of Professional Psychology

Rochelle Sweis, DO
Assistant Professor, Neurology

FELLOWSHIP
Rush University Medical Center – neurocritical care

RESIDENCY
Medical College of Wisconsin – neurology

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine/Midwestern University
Recent Clinical Research Publications and Meeting Abstracts

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Gopal Gupta, MD and colleagues
JOURNAL: Current Urology
FINDINGS: In obese prostate cancer patients, robotic-assisted radical prostatectomy reduces the risk of blood loss and prolonged hospital stays but does not reduce the risk of infections and other complications.

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Harold Rees, MD and colleagues
JOURNAL: Journal of Arthroplasty
FINDINGS: Among patients who underwent total knee arthroplasty, there were no significant differences in bacterial culture swabs between patients who were allowed to shower two days after surgery and patients who had to wait 10 to 14 days.

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Harel Dahari, PhD and colleagues
JOURNAL: Journal of Hepatology
FINDINGS: The cost of treating hepatitis C virus could be reduced as much as 50 percent if mathematical models are used to predict when patients can safely stop taking direct-acting antiviral medication.

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Meda Raghavendra, MD and Joseph Holtman, MD, PhD
MEETING: American Academy of Pain Medicine
FINDINGS: Women are 1.38 times more likely than men to report neck pain due to cervical degenerative disc disease.

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Parit A. Patel, MD and colleagues
JOURNAL: Journal of Craniofacial Surgery
FINDINGS: Patients with complete unilateral and bilateral cleft lip and palate who were treated with nasoalveolar molding required fewer surgeries and experienced lower overall healthcare costs.

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Stuart Johnson, MD and colleagues
JOURNAL: Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy
FINDINGS: Exposure to specific antibiotics is linked to the development of certain strains of antibiotic-resistant C. difficile.

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Wickii Vigneswaran, MD, MBA and colleagues
JOURNAL: European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery
FINDINGS: Significant improvements could be made in the scoring system physicians use to estimate the stage of mesothelioma.

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Jonathan Muraskas, MD, and colleagues
JOURNAL: Journal of Perinatology
FINDINGS: The vast majority of babies who are born with severe brain damage are not the result of mismanaged deliveries.

LOYOLA AUTHORS: Kathy S. Albain, MD and Ronald K. Potkul, MD
MEETING: American Society of Clinical Oncology
FINDINGS: In postmenopausal women with early-stage estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer, a normal endometrium prior to taking tamoxifen may provide reassurance regarding future endometrial events.
At her yearly mammogram screening, Kathleen was diagnosed with estrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer. Her team at Loyola acted fast to target and identify the best, individualized treatment options. After advanced cancer treatments at Loyola’s world-class facilities, Kathleen is in remission and feeling great.

Our patients are our inspiration and they count on us to meet not only their physical needs, but emotional needs as well. Loyola Medicine cares for both body and soul.

We also treat the human spirit.

loyolamedicine.org
#BodyAndSoul
For direct access, please contact
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