**Message from the Chairman**

April 2016
Dear Colleagues,

You are receiving this e-letter because we know that the best patient care takes a solid team, and we greatly value your partnership with the Department of Surgery in the care of patients with surgical conditions. We would like to let you know about several new and expanding programs that may be important to your patients with cardiovascular disease.

In addition, we hope you will join us at our upcoming CMEs and webinars this spring. Archived Cardiovascular Webinars for physicians are available here.

Best regards,
Craig Smith, MD
Craig R. Smith, MD, FACS
Chairman, Department of Surgery

Comprehensive Aortic Center

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center has established a Comprehensive Aortic Center that focuses on aortic dissection, aneurysms and patient surveillance, and is directed jointly by cardiac and vascular surgeons in the Department of Surgery. The 24/7 on-call aortic team is managed by Tracy Andrews, DNP, ACNP, a highly experienced cardiac surgical nurse practitioner, and includes cardiologists, vascular surgeons, cardiac surgeons, and interventionalists. This collaboration provides expert care for patients with all types of aneurysms and dissections, and is particularly important in the case of aneurysms and/or dissections that require both cardiac and thoracic expertise. Co-directors Michael Borger, MD, PhD, and Richard Green, MD, perform EVAR as well as open procedures, such as the elephant trunk, in complex patients involving the descending thoracic aorta. The elephant trunk procedure prepares the ascending aorta in such a way that it is compatible with a stent graft, better facilitating that portion of surgery and reducing the risk of kidney damage and other surgical complications. For patients whose conditions are eligible for less invasive treatment, experienced surgeons/interventionalists at the center offer TEVAR as well as other endovascular and hybrid procedures.

Along with medical and surgical care, the center provides genetic testing and counseling in order to identify and optimally treat connective tissue disorders and other genetic conditions underlying aneurysmal disease. Geneticist Wendy Chung, MD and the Cardiogenetics program at NYP/Columbia provide the most thorough and sophisticated genetic testing and counseling available in the country. Testing and counseling is extended to family members as well as patients so that prevention and early detection plans can be implemented.
Whether or not patients undergo surgery, the program offers a unique approach to ongoing surveillance that includes collaboration with internal medicine, cardiology, and other specialties at NYP/Columbia.

For information or to refer a patient for evaluation, please call 212.305.6652.

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**Pulmonary Hypertension**

NYP/Columbia’s [Pulmonary Hypertension Center](#) is one of the largest dedicated PH centers in the world. The center is now accredited by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association as a designated Tier 1 Center for Comprehensive Care. Serving children and adults with highly complex conditions, the center offers patients every known treatment option including medications (both proven and in clinical trials), lung transplantation, mechanical support, and ECMO (both as bridge to transplant and bridge to recovery). The center is co-directed by Medical Director [Erika Berman Rosenzweig, MD](#), who is also Associate Chief of Pediatric Cardiology at Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital/NewYork-Presbyterian, and Surgical Director [Matthew Bacchetta, MD MBA, MA](#). Dr. Bacchetta is one of the few surgeons in the country who routinely treats chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH) with pulmonary thromboendarterectomy (PTE).

View more information [here](#) or call 212.305.4436 with any inquiries or referrals.

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**Vascular Outpatient Lab Now Open in Riverdale**

Comprehensive vascular services are now available at NYP/Columbia’s Riverdale location for the convenience of patients who prefer a location outside Manhattan:
Directed by Richard Schutzer, MD, this outpatient service includes surgeon consultation and an ICAVL accredited vascular lab, where patients can be evaluated and treated for problems ranging from varicose veins to carotid and aneurysmal disease.

For more information, please call 212.932.5169.

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**New Faculty: Roy Oommen, MD, MBA**

Roy Oommen, MD, MBA, joined the Section of Thoracic Surgery in January 2016. Dr. Oommen’s clinical interests include minimally invasive lung and esophageal surgery.

Before his arrival at NYP/Columbia, Dr. Oommen served as a thoracic surgery attending at Boston Medical Center and at Thoracic Surgery Associates. In addition to his professional duties, Dr. Oommen volunteers as Medical Director for the non-profit organization Love Without Reason.

Dr. Oommen is practicing at NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital, in Cortlandt Manor, NY and NYP/Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, NY.

You may reach him at 212.305.3408 or ro2286@cumc.columbia.edu.
Physician Training and Education

The NYP/Columbia Department of Surgery invites you to attend our CME events.

Coming this spring:

**12th International Conference on Pediatric Mechanical Support Systems & Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Perfusion.**
May 18 - 21, 2016
Our vast library of videos and webinars is available 24/7 for your convenience.

Cardiovascular Webinars for physicians are available here.

CTEPH and PTE: A Conversation with the Experts

Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion for Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation: The Future is Now

Embolic Protection in TAVR - Is it Necessary?

New Frontiers of Treatment for Mitral Valve Disease

Who is a Good Surgical Candidate in the Era of TAVR?

Emerging Therapies for Systolic Heart Failure and Pulmonary Hypertension

Cardiac Replacement Therapy: LVAD and/or Transplant for Advanced Heart Failure

Please encourage your patients to attend our free community events this spring.

Lung Health Awareness Day
Information and Registration:
Jessica Mead, 212.304.7817 or jas2134@cumc.columbia.edu
Recent Faculty Publications

The following are a few recent faculty publications that may be of interest.


Link to Publication


Link to Publication
Additional Link to Publication

Link to Publication
Additional Link to Publication


Link to Publication
Additional Link to Publication


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Link to Publication
Additional Link to Publication

Link to Publication

Patient Referral

To refer elective patients, call 212.305.7013 or 212.304.7810. And email, info@columbiasurgery.org

Urgent and emergency transfers: 1.800.NYPSTAT

Physician Referral Form