Letter from the Chair

September, 2016

Dear Colleague,

I’m pleased to report on our latest accomplishments in the Department of Surgery.

We have just received a $225,000 grant from Governor Cuomo’s office to increase screening for breast cancer patients over the next three years. We will now be able to alert patients who are past due for a screening to come in for their next mammogram.

At present, we are enrolling patients in four important clinical trials. One study explores the addition of immunomodulation therapy to neoadjuvant treatment of non-small cell lung cancer.

The EndoStim trial employs a new approach to GERD.

In addition, we are exploring the use of cryoablation for breast cancer and the use of genetic biomarkers and the MammaPrint assay for Chinese women with breast cancer.
Thanks to our new partnership with Medscape and WebMD, doctors in the US and around the world can now do a virtual consult with Columbia’s leading experts in oncology, hematology, endocrinology, and surgery. Twenty-five of our physicians now serve as editors on Medscape Consult™, an innovative peer-to-peer digital platform providing point of care assistance internationally.

I hope you will join us for our annual HeartSource networking day, our upcoming Aortovascular Summit, and our special program on Parathyroid Diseases and Osteoporosis.

Best Regards,

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

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**Advances in Islet Cell Transplantation**

The Pancreas Center at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia is the first center in the metropolitan area to offer autologous islet cell transplantation. Patients who need a total pancreatectomy for chronic pancreatitis or other benign diseases may be eligible for this procedure to prevent type 1 diabetes. To date, Beth Schrope, MD, PhD, FACS, has successfully performed 7 of these innovative surgeries with excellent results. The transplanted islet cells produce insulin, acting like a backup pancreas to regulate blood sugar. Afterward, roughly one-third of patients require no insulin therapy and about one-third require some insulin. Because the islet cells are taken from the patient’s own pancreas, no immunosuppressant therapy is needed.

[Read more.](https://example.com)

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**Pancreas Transplant: Another Option for Patients with Type 1 Diabetes**

A pancreas transplant restores the body’s ability to control blood sugar levels allowing many patients to stop using insulin. This type of transplant can slow the progression of diabetes or reverse many of its secondary complications such as retinopathy and neuropathy. When a kidney transplant is performed at the same time, the transplanted pancreas protects the new kidney from damage caused by diabetes.
NYP/Columbia treats many patients with diabetes, especially those with complex medical and surgical challenges. We are also a national leader in clinical transplantation with a high volume and excellent patient outcomes.

Read more.

Immunotherapy as Neoadjuvant Therapy for Lung Cancer

Researchers at NYP/Columbia have recently launched an important trial of immunotherapy plus chemotherapy as neoadjuvant therapy for patients with locally advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Lung cancer is one of the most common cancers in both men and women worldwide, accounting for 13 percent of newly diagnosed cancers. Approximately 85 percent of all lung cancers are characterized as NSCLC.

Read more.

Cryotherapy for Breast Cancer

Columbia’s Dr. Margaret Chen has been studying laser ablation, a technique that uses heat to burn away breast cancer cells. Now she is exploring cryotherapy to freeze them.

In all previous ablation trials, using laser or cryotherapy, the standard has been “ablate and then resect.” Each participant had her tumor surgically removed to see if the treatment was successful. This will be the first trial where patients just receive the ablation therapy, without follow-up surgery.

Read more.

A Study of Molecular Risk Panels in Chinese Breast Cancer Patients

Dr. Margaret Chen is conducting the MammaPrint study looking at genetic biomarkers among Chinese women with early stage breast cancer in the US and Hong Kong, in collaboration with Dr. Ava Kwong. The trial will focus on the use of MammaPrint, TargetPrint, BluePrint and Research Gene Panel assays.

Read more.
Clinical Trial for Severe GERD

Gastroesophageal reflux disease is on the rise and now affects nearly 65 million Americans. Left untreated, over time GERD can lead to Barrett’s esophagus, a dangerous pre-cancerous condition. Most individuals with GERD can be effectively treated using acid-blocking proton pump inhibitors (PPIs). However nearly 30 percent of patients continue to have symptoms.

We are currently enrolling patients aged 22 and 75 who suffer from chronic reflux, take a PPI, and still have symptoms, in the LESS GERD Trial at NYP/Columbia. This study will examine the effectiveness of the EndoStim Lower Esophageal Sphincter (LES) Stimulation System, a minimally invasive approach for the treatment of severe reflux. The trial will look at GERD outcomes, such as the amount of acid in the esophagus, heartburn and regurgitation, and the effect of GERD on overall quality of life.

To learn more about this trial, go to [http://www.LESSGERD.com](http://www.LESSGERD.com). On this site, patients will also be able to take an online screening test.

New Faculty

The Department of Surgery is pleased to welcome Nigel W. Bunnett, BSc, PhD, an internationally known expert on the mechanisms of pain, itch and neurogenic inflammation.

Dr. Bunnett has published approximately 350 research articles, reviews and chapters, which have been cited over 25,000 times. His contributions have been widely recognized and he has received the Australia Fellowship, an NIH MERIT Award, the Novartis Neurogastroenterology Award, the Jansen Award for Basic Research in Gastroenterology, and the Victor Mutt Award for Research in Regulatory Peptides.

Read more about Dr. Bunnett’s research [here](http).

Presentations and Research

BREAST SURGERY

Presentations
10th ZEISS INTRABEAM System User Meeting Thursday, June 30th & Friday, July 1st, 2016 University Mannheim | Bismarckstrasse 42 | 68131 Mannheim


Pappa M. Use of intraoperative radiation therapy in the conservative treatment of invasive male breast cancer.

Publications


Journal link
Pubmed link


Journal link
Pubmed link


Journal Link
PubMed Link


Journal link
Pubmed link

CENTER INNOVATION AND OUTCOMES RESEARCH

Presentations

Cai J, Wang Y, Baser O, Xie L, Diels J, Neslusan C, Chow W. Comparative persistence with antihyperglycemic agents (AHA) used to treat type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) in the real world.


Publications


Journal link
Pubmed link

COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

Publications


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GI/ENDOCRINE

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LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

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Continuing Medical Education Programs

Please join us for the following continuing education programs this fall.

Columbia HeartSource Annual Network Day
Thursday, October 6, 2016 - 7:00am to 3:00pm

Aortovascular Summit 2016:
A Multidisciplinary Team Approach
Thursday, September 29, 2016 - 11:00am to Friday, September 30, 2016 - 5:00pm
The Parathyroid Diseases and Osteoporosis

Leaders: John P. Bilezekian, MD and James A. Lee, MD

SAVE THE DATE: Innovative Therapeutics for Advanced Lung Disease, March 2, 2017

Topics will include

- Pulmonary Vascular Disease: Advanced medical therapies, CTEPH-PTE, Elective and non-elective surgery and PH: Role for a high-risk surgical team
- Chronic Respiratory Disease: COPD, LVRS and Bronchoscopy LVR, Interstitial disease
- Cancer and ESLD, Diaphragm Disorders, Reflux disease
- When Therapy Fails: Bridge to Transplantation, Anticoagulation, ECMO
- The Future: Next Generation ECMO and Artificial Lungs, Stem Cell Therapy, Bioengineering

A full agenda will be available in late October.
More information: www.ColumbiaSurgeCME.org or call 212-304-7817

Webinars

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

Patient Referral

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

Urgent and emergency transfers: 1.800.NYP.STAT

Physician Referral Form