



Message from the Chairman

Spring 2018

Dear Colleague,

In this issue, [Dr. Roshni Rao](#), our new Chief of Breast Surgery, addresses the future of liquid biopsy for the detection of breast cancer. We also introduce [Dr. Lisa Wiechmann](#), a recent addition to the Breast Surgery Program, and an expert on perioperative treatment for breast cancer.

In addition, we bring you an update on advances in bariatric surgery for adolescents, explaining how this procedure can also improve such serious medical conditions as sleep apnea, metabolic syndrome and idiopathic intracranial hypertension.

I am pleased to report that our pancreas transplant program is now among the most aggressive and innovative in the nation. Below you'll learn why we are able to transplant most patients within a year – providing the fastest treatment possible along with world-class care.

Under the direction of [Ravi Kiran, MD](#), Columbia's Division of Colorectal Surgery now has unmatched expertise in the surgical management of Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis, forms of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). We describe their innovations here.

For your patients: On March 23, we hold our fourth annual [Colorectal](#)

[Awareness Day](#), featuring a roundtable discussion with Dr. Kiran and his colleagues, and patient stories. Also, on March 27, we offer a special presentation, Food as Medicine, by [Shilpa Ravella, MD](#), a gastroenterologist with expertise in nutrition and an assistant professor of medicine.

I hope you will join us for our upcoming CME courses. Please visit us at columbiasurgeryCME.org.

View our [newsletter site here](#).

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

The Future of Liquid Biopsy for Breast Cancer

“The potential use of liquid biopsies to help guide therapies for advanced cancers is a promising avenue of research. At this point, though, it is not a substitute for screening for breast cancer to identify patients at the earliest stages of the disease when it is most likely to be curable,” says [Roshni Rao, MD, FACS](#), the new Chief of Breast Surgery at NYP/Columbia.

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient, please call 212.305.9676.

Perioperative Treatment for Breast Cancer: Advances in Personalized Medicine

[Lisa Wiechmann, MD](#), an Italian-born surgeon recognized as a Castle Connolly Top Doctor as well as by Komen for the Cure and the Society of Surgical Oncology, brings a range of skills to the Clinical Breast Cancer Program at NYP/Columbia. We recently spoke to her about one of the biggest shifts that is occurring in the treatment of breast cancer, and widely embraced at Columbia: the use of perioperative chemotherapy or hormonal therapy as part of a more personalized approach to cancer therapy.

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient to Dr. Wiechmann, please call 212.305.9676.

Advances in Bariatric Surgery for Adolescents

In September 2017, the Center for Adolescent Bariatric Surgery at NYP/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital was accredited by the American College of Surgeons MBSA QIP as a comprehensive site for treating young patients with severe obesity. "Our Center is the sixth program nationwide, and the only one in New York State, to receive this distinction," says [Jeffrey Zitsman, MD](#), founder and Director of the Center.

Experts at NYP's Center for Adolescent Bariatric surgery were among the first in New York State to offer weight loss surgery to teens and since then, they have operated on roughly 350 patients ranging in age from 9 to 19. Research continues to support weight loss as the most practical means of treating severe obesity in this age group and has been shown to improve such serious medical conditions as:

- Obstructive sleep apnea
- Idiopathic intracranial hypertension (pseudotumor cerebri)
- Metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient, please call 212.305.8862.

NYP/Columbia Expands Pancreas Transplant Program

Columbia's Pancreas Transplant Program is the most aggressive and innovative in the New York metropolitan area. Since 2014, [Kasi McCune, MD](#), an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, has been performing solid organ pancreas transplant for individuals with difficult-to-manage diabetes and serious complications. Candidates include:

- Type 1 diabetics with serious complications, and a very select group of Type 2 diabetics.
- Patients still struggling with complications of difficult-to-manage Type 2

diabetes, despite weight loss.

Columbia has the largest pancreas transplant program in the region, and it has significantly shortened the waiting time for patients by expanding the number of organs in the donor pool. As a result, surgeons are able to transplant most patients in less than a year.

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient, please call 212.305.6469.

World's Most Comprehensive Care for IBD

Columbia's Division of Colorectal Surgery has unmatched expertise in the surgical management of Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis, forms of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), offering the most innovative surgical approaches to preserve intestinal length and help patients retain continence after bowel resection.

"When treating patients with Crohn's disease, the difficult decision is when to operate," says [Ravi Kiran, MD](#), Chief and Program Director. "Too much surgery is counterproductive because the patient loses too much bowel. Too little means the patient will have to struggle with ongoing disease. Our goal is to intervene at just the right time, to just the right degree, using the latest techniques to improve the patient's condition and quality of life."

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient, please call: 212.342.1155.

Food as Medicine

On March 27, 2018 NYP/Columbia will offer a patient seminar on Food as Medicine, featuring [Shilpa Ravella, MD](#), a gastroenterologist with expertise in nutrition and an assistant professor of medicine.

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient to Dr. Ravella, please call 212.305.9073.

We now have multiple locations in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Westchester County, New York.

Research Papers and Presentations

[Breast presentations and publications](#)

[GI presentations and publications](#)

[Transplantation presentations and publications](#)

[Plastic Surgery presentations and publications](#)

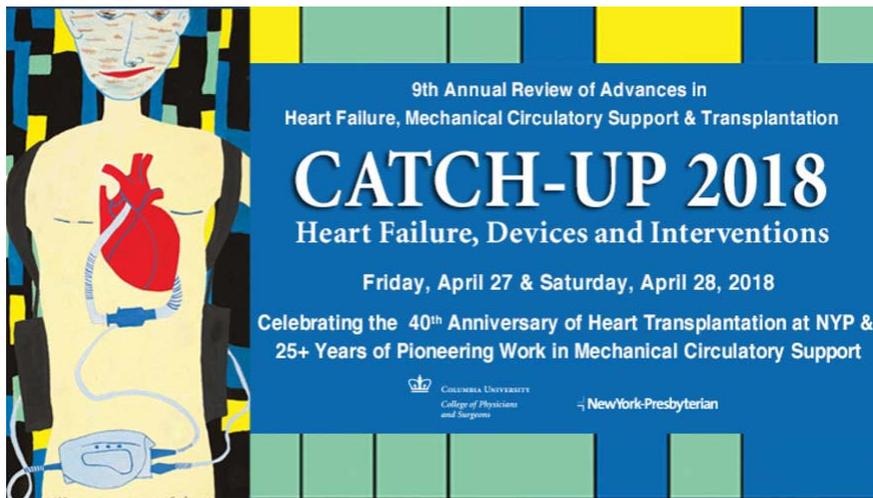
CME Programs



[Pancreas Symposium 2018: Current Controversies in Benign Pancreatic Disease](#)



[The Seventh Annual Peter D. Stevens Course on Innovations in Digestive Care](#)



[CATCH-UP 2018: 9th Annual Cardiac Assist Device Therapy Course](#)



[Breast Cancer Management 2018](#)



[Congenital Heart Valve Symposium at Columbia: From Bench to Bedside](#)



[The Fifth Annual Cardiovascular Summit 2018](#)

Webinars

Our vast library of videos and webinars is available 24/7 for your convenience.

Cardiovascular Webinars for physicians are available [here](#).



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](#).

