



Message from the Chairman

Fall 2018

Dear Colleague,

In this issue we update you on the Heart Transplant program at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. A longstanding leader in the nation, our team now performs 75 transplants per year. In addition, we highlight two important studies from the Clinical Breast Cancer Program, under the direction of [Roshni Rao, MD, FACS](#). Also featured: our Comprehensive Hernia

Center led by [Yuri Novitsky, MD](#), who has pioneered many minimally invasive techniques. Finally, we report on NYP/Columbia's comprehensive treatment for achalasia.

I hope you will join us for our upcoming CME courses. Please visit us at columbiasurgeryCME.org. SAVE the DATES: Our Fifth Annual Cardiovascular Summit will be held October 18-19 and Essentials in Pain Management on November 13th.

View our [newsletter site here](#).

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

A Leader in Heart Transplant—Columbia Surgeons Perform 75

Transplants per Year

Columbia's Cardiac Surgery Division has a long history of innovation and leadership in heart transplantation. Under the direction of [Yoshifumi Naka, MD, PhD](#), an internationally known heart transplant surgeon and pioneer in mechanical assist therapy for heart failure, Columbia's heart transplant program ranks among the highest in the nation in terms of outcomes and case volume. The Transplant team now performs on average 75 adult and pediatric heart transplants annually, with survival rates consistently meeting or exceeding national averages.

[Read more](#)

For referrals, please call 212.305.7600

Benign Breast Disease: Avoiding Unnecessary Tests/Procedures

About 50 percent of all women encounter benign breast problems and their treatment is largely based on their physician's training and expertise. The American Board of Internal Medicine has initiated the Choosing Wisely campaign to promote conversations between patients and physicians about tests or procedures that may not be needed.

The American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBrS) Patient Safety and Quality Committee (PSQC) chose to participate in this campaign, considering the management of benign breast disease. Results were reported to the Society of Surgical Oncology on April 23, 2018, and [Roshni Rao, MD, FACS](#), Associate Professor and Chief of the Breast Surgery Division at NYP/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, was the lead author of the study.

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient, please call 212.305.9676

Endocrine Therapy Enough for Certain Early-stage Breast Cancers

A recent study in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) shows that many early-stage breast cancer patients do not need chemotherapy.

The TAILORx Trial, funded by the National Cancer Institute and others, may

spare thousands of women from toxic therapies that do not actually benefit them. Researchers used gene tests on tumor samples to identify women who could safely skip chemotherapy and take only endocrine therapy to lower their risks of recurrence, new breast tumors and death from this disease.

[Roshni Rao, MD, FACS](#), Associate Professor and Chief of the Breast Surgery Division at NYP/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, who helped recruit patients for this study, tells why it represents an important advance in personalized medicine.

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient, please call 212.305.9676

Columbia's Comprehensive Hernia Center: Leading the Nation

Columbia's Comprehensive Hernia Center, directed by [Yuri Novitsky, MD](#), is the leading program of its kind in the nation. The Center offers a broad range of open and minimally invasive repairs for both groin and ventral hernias.

"We have streamlined our mesh choices, improved our techniques, and essentially eliminated painful penetrating mesh fixation commonly used elsewhere," says Dr. Novitsky. "This results in less pain and fewer short- and long-term complications."

"For larger defects, instead of a traditional 'patching' repair we employ abdominal wall reconstruction techniques," adds Dr. Novitsky. "This allows the restoration of more normal physiology and anatomy of the abdominal wall with superior long-term outcomes."

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient, please call 212.326.5547

Columbia Offers Comprehensive Treatment for Achalasia

Columbia's Center for Gastrointestinal Motility and Physiology is one of a few places in the country specializing in the multidisciplinary treatment of achalasia. This rare condition is caused by the degeneration of the inhibitory neurons in the esophagus – as a result the esophagus doesn't contract properly

and the lower sphincter fails to relax.

“In addition to new patients, we see many who have been treated elsewhere for achalasia but are still symptomatic,” says [Daniela Jodorkovsky, MD](#), Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia.

[Read more](#)

To refer a patient, please call 877.586.4212

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

Research Papers and Presentations

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CME Programs



Title	Date	Credits
Columbia Pediatric Heart Valve Symposium: From Bench to Bedside	05/30 - 05/31/2018	10.25
The Fifth Annual Cardiovascular Summit 2018: A Multidisciplinary Team Approach	10/18 - 10/19/2018	11.50
Essentials in Pain Management: Update 2018	11/13/2018	7.50
Hernia Surgery Summit (formerly Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Summit)	02/07 - 02/09/2019	pending
The 15th International Conference on Pediatric Mechanical Circulatory Support Systems & Pediatric Cardiopulmonary	05/09 - 05/11/2019	pending

CME Programs available [here](#).

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, please fill out our [Physician Referral Form](#) or visit columbiasurgery.org.

For urgent and emergency transfers, call 1.800.NYP.STAT.

