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healthpoints

In This Issue

New Faculty

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More from the Department of Surgery experts at:

Message from the Chairman



Craig Smith, MD

Dear Reader,

In recent months, the Department of Surgery at NYP/Columbia has added several renowned faculty members. I'm pleased to introduce you to them in this issue of healthpoints. Below you will find brief bios highlighting their areas of clinical expertise and research interests. Read about their groundbreaking contributions here and what they most enjoy about helping patients. Their locations and contact numbers are included for your easy reference. I encourage you to reach out to them to discuss your medical needs.

Sincerely,

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

NYP/Columbia Welcomes New Faculty 14 Expert Clinicians and Researchers

In 2018, we welcomed several internationally renowned physicians to the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. These men and women are leaders in their respective fields. They have a track record of innovation and their collaborative multidisciplinary team approach allows them to provide the very highest level of patient care. While these surgeons spearhead the newest treatments and techniques, they are also very compassionate communicators.

CARDIAC SURGERY



Vinayat (Vinnie) Bapat, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Surgical Director, Mitral and Tricuspid Therapies
Structural Heart & Valve Center

Dr. Bapat is a world-renowned cardiac surgeon with expertise in open heart and minimally-invasive valve surgery. A pioneer of transcatheter devices, Dr. Bapat has created computer applications now used by cardiothoracic surgeons around the globe. He has also made notable advances in aortic root replacement, keyhole aortic valve and valve-in-valve surgery.

Location: NYP/Columbia, 177 Fort Washington Avenue, 7th FL., NY, NY

Telephone: 212.305.4980

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PEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY



Damien LaPar, MD

*Assistant Professor of Surgery
Congenital and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital
Komansky Weill-Cornell Program*

Dr. LaPar has joined the Congenital Heart Center and has expertise in neonatal cardiac surgery, aortic valve reconstruction (Ozaki technique) and replacement, pediatric circulatory assist devices and minimally-invasive cardiac surgery, vascular ring repair and video-assisted thoroscopic surgery for patent ductus arteriosus—abnormal blood flow between two of the major arteries connected to the heart. His research interests include stem cell and myocardial regenerative therapies.

Location: Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia
3959 Broadway, Fl. 2, Room 2-276, NY, NY

Telephone: 212.305.5975

VASCULAR SURGERY



Dr. Virendra (V) Patel, MD, MPH

*Associate Professor of Surgery
Chief of Vascular Surgery & Endovascular Interventions
Co-Director of Aortic Center*

A surgeon and a scientist, Dr. Patel is an expert in the full range of vascular disorders that can lead to stroke, renal issues, intestinal problems, and peripheral arterial disease. He serves on many committees dedicated to the research and education of vascular surgery. His practice focuses primarily on complex aortic conditions, a niche that very few surgeons specialize in, and he can easily perform both advanced endovascular and complex open repairs, offering the best possible treatment to each patient. Dr. Patel addresses a variety of aneurysms, and other vascular diseases, using new technologies.

Location: NYP/Columbia, 161 Fort Washington Ave, 5th FL., Room 532, NY, NY

Telephone: 212.342.3255



Francis Porreca, MD, FACS, RPVI

*Assistant Professor of Surgery
Section of Vascular Surgery & Endovascular Interventions*

Dr. Porreca joins the Vascular section of NYP/Columbia's Department of Surgery from Montefiore Medical Center, where he was previously Director of Vascular Surgery and Medical Director of the Hyperbaric and Wound Care Center, as well as Director of the Vascular Laboratory.



Michael Vitti, MD RPVI

*Assistant Professor of Surgery
Section of Vascular Surgery & Endovascular Interventions*

Dr. Vitti also joins the section of Vascular Surgery from Montefiore, where he was Director of the Vein Center. He offers expertise in the full scope of vascular and vein care for conditions including abdominal aortic aneurysms, peripheral vascular disease, varicose veins, and more.

Location: 3219 E. Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY and NYP/Lawrence Hospital, Bronxville, NY

Telephone: 718.792.8115

COLORECTAL SURGERY



Daniel Geisler, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Dr. Geisler pioneered single-port colorectal surgery and is one of just a few surgeons in the country doing this procedure, currently the least invasive approach available, resulting in fewer complications and a faster recovery. He also performed the world's first single-incision laparoscopic surgery (SILS) removing the large intestine and most of the rectum, leaving the patient able to function and without any visible incision.



Deborah S. Keller, MD, MS

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Dr. Keller is a recognized expert in small intestine and colon care who performs laparoscopic, robotic and minimally invasive colorectal surgery, and anorectal procedures, and also specializes in the management of pelvic floor disorders. She has a special interest in multimodal pain management that minimizes the use of opioids.



J. Mark Kiely, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Dr. Kiely specializes in benign and malignant conditions of the colon, along with abdominal, pelvic, and anorectal procedures. He has special expertise in robotic rectal cancer surgery, management of Crohn's/inflammatory bowel disease, and sphincter sparing anal fistula surgery (LIFT). He will lead the incorporation of trans-anal procedures (Ta-TME) for the management of a variety of colorectal conditions.

Locations: NYP/Columbia, 161 Fort Washington Avenue, 8th FL. NY, NY, additional locations in Bronxville, Bronx, Tarrytown, Cortlandt Manor, Scarsdale and New Jersey

Telephone: 212.342.1155

THORACIC SURGERY



B. Payne Stanifer, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Section of Thoracic Surgery

Dr. Stanifer specializes in all aspects of thoracic surgery including lung and esophageal cancer, thymic tumors, tracheal resection and reconstruction, and surgery and surgery for tracheomalacia (collapse of the airway), as well as chest wall deformities, diaphragmatic diseases, benign esophageal disease, surgery for emphysema, and lung transplant. He performs both minimally-invasive and complex open surgery. He has a special interest in complex video-assisted lobectomy and segmentectomy and is currently developing the Women's Lung and Health Center especially focused on non-smoking women with lung cancer and those with metastatic cancers.

Location: NYP/Columbia, 161 Fort Washington Avenue, 3rd Fl., NY, NY

Telephone: 212.305.3408

PLASTIC SURGERY



Lloyd Hoffman, MD

Professor of Surgery

Dr. Hoffman has extensive experience in both aesthetic and reconstructive surgery. At this point in his career, he is focusing on cosmetic surgery as well as skin cancer reconstruction of the face. While serving in academic and clinical leadership positions at NYP for almost three decades, Dr. Hoffman has focused intensively on teaching residents and students and also volunteers in the Middle East, performing surgery on children who have been victims of terrorism.

Location: ColumbiaDoctors Midtown, 51 West 51st Street, NY, NY

Telephone: 212.326.5546

BREAST SURGERY



Roshni Rao, MD, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery
Chief, Breast Surgery Program

Dr. Rao is Chief of the Clinical Breast Cancer Program at NYP/Columbia and Vivian L. Milstein Associate Professor of Surgery at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. She specializes in the treatment of locally advanced and metastatic breast cancer. Her groundbreaking research includes the positive effects of exercise for breast cancer patients preparing for surgery, and the impact of ethnicity on the risk of developing triple-negative breast cancer—tumors that test negative for or estrogen receptors, progesterone receptors, and the HER2-neu gene.

Locations: NYP/Columbia, 161 Fort Washington Avenue, 10th FL. NY, NY and 51 W. 51st St., NY, NY

Telephone: 212.305.9676



Lisa Wiechmann, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Breast Surgery Program

Dr. Wiechmann is a breast surgeon honored by the Breast Cancer Alliance, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation and the Society of Surgical Oncology. A Castle Connolly Top Doctor, she specializes in triple-negative breast cancer (ER, PR, and HER2 negative), the genetic and familial predisposition to breast cancer, and disparities in cancer treatment and outcomes. She speaks English, Spanish, and Italian.

GENERAL SURGERY



John-Paul Bellistri, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Bariatric Surgery

Dr. Bellistri is a specialist in general surgery, laparoscopic surgery, and bariatric surgery. He focuses on benign and malignant diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. With an MS in biotechnology, he has conducted dedicated research in esophageal cancer prevention.

Location: NYP/Lawrence Hospital, Bronxville, NY, 685 White Plains Road, Eastchester, NY 10709

Telephone: 914.787.4000



Yuri W. Novitsky, MD

Professor of Surgery
Director, Comprehensive Hernia Center

Dr. Novitsky is internationally known for his expertise in advanced laparoscopic and robotic surgery as well as complex hernia repairs. He has pioneered techniques for minimally invasive ventral hernia repair and open abdominal wall reconstructions. A procedure called Transversus abdominis muscle release (TAR), which he first described in 2006, has been adopted worldwide. He has received over \$2 million in research grants from SAGES, the National Institutes of Health and other funders.

Location: NYP/Columbia, 161 Fort Washington Avenue, 5th FL. NY, NY
ColumbiaDoctors Midtown 51 West 51st Street, NY, NY

Telephone: 212.305.5947

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