



Emory Matters @ Grady

Elizabeth Johnson, Communications Coordinator
Matilda Jalloh, Editor

Shira Malka Asherman, Managing Editor
William Sexson, MD, Senior Advisor

DEANS' CORNER

Leon L. Haley Jr, MD, MHSA, FACEP, CPE

Executive Associate Dean, Clinical Services, Grady



The fifth major component of our Emory at Grady Action Plan focuses on clinical care and quality. The tripartite mission at all academic medical centers focuses on educating the next generation, facilitating research, discovery and innovation and, perhaps most importantly, delivering the highest quality patient care.

In 2015, this goal was important enough that we created the position of medical director, performance improvement (MDPI) for Emory at Grady—as our first MDPI, **Dr. Adam Webb** is charged with leading our Emory at Grady efforts, activities and initiatives to continually improve the quality of care for the patients we serve at Grady. In January’s newsletter, Dr. Webb provided a great description of some of our key quality successes of 2015, which I encourage you to read again.

For 2016, Emory at Grady will focus on the two system level quality goals—1) decreasing hospital acquired infections (CLABSI, SSI, CAUTI, HAPU, FALLS) by 15 percent by the end of December and 2) improving the observed/expected mortality from the 44 percentile to the 25 percentile by the end of third quarter 2016. Equally as important as the actual goals are the priority action steps necessary to help drive improvement. In 2016, those action steps include:

- “Red Dot” (targeted chart review and analysis) approach to clinical care opportunities in specific conditions
- Increase palliative care and Hospice access
- Continue best practice approaches
- Continue efforts on the culture of “always”
- Focus on critical care services, patient flow and secondary drivers
- Advance our focus on the culture of patient safety

The safety of our patients is paramount to why we are here, and while goals and action steps are absolutely critical, renewed focus from each of us either providing or supporting patient care at Grady is what, in the spirit of this month’s Super Bowl, will get us across the goal line.

NEWS

Two Emory Physicians to be Honored at 2016 White Coat Grady Gala



Dr. Michael Frankel

One of the most important aspects of the annual White Coat Grady Gala is honoring true healthcare heroes. At the 2016 Gala, which will take place March 19, two Emory physicians and one Morehouse physician will receive awards for their dedication to Grady and its patients.

The Visionary Award will be given to **Dr. Michael Frankel** (Emory), whose personal commitment has enabled Grady to create one of the nation’s leading stroke centers—The Marcus Stroke and Neuroscience Center—where cutting edge protocols are saving and changing lives every day.

Dr. Franklyn Geary (Morehouse) will be presented the Pillar of Excellence Award. Dr. Geary led the effort to create an OB/GYN program at the Morehouse School of Medicine and treats some of Atlanta’s most high-risk expectant mothers.

The Rising Star Award will be presented to **Dr. Michael McDaniel** (Emory), whose efforts to implement new cardiac procedures in Grady’s Correll Cardiac Clinic have already resulted in more lives saved in the case of cardiac arrest.



Dr. Michael McDaniel

Emory at Grady Team Uses Groundbreaking Procedure to Save Babies' Lives

Elizabeth Johnson, Communications Coordinator



A team of Emory doctors working at Grady has saved the lives of two babies in recent months by performing groundbreaking Ex Utero Intra-partum Treatment (EXIT) procedures.

In both cases, it was discovered through in utero ultrasound that the babies had conditions that would have caused them to die at birth—one a large mass on her tongue and the other missing a portion of his trachea. Upon learning of these rare birth defects, the team of Emory surgical, obstetrics and neonatal specialists was assembled and scheduled to perform a procedure that was likely the babies' only chance for survival.

Babies born using this EXIT procedure are partially delivered through cesarean section. The head and torso of the baby are delivered but the rest of the baby stays inside the uterus so that he/she continues to receive oxygen through the placenta. This allows the Pediatric Otolaryngologists, Dr. Steve Goudy and Dr. Kara Prickett, and Pediatric Surgeon, **Dr. Matthew Clifton**, to repair and/or unblock the baby's airway.

"This is one of those procedures that takes a village," said **Dr. Jane Ellis**, who helped with both of the recent procedures. "At least 30 people were involved, including the equipment representatives, nursing staff members, ultrasonographers, operating room staff members and more."

Ellis is an assistant professor in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics for the Emory University School of Medicine. She is based at Grady Memorial Hospital and is the medical director for the Emory Regional Perinatal Center.

The team that saved these babies' lives included specialists and staff members from anesthesiology, obstetrics, pediatric otolaryngology, pediatric surgery, neonatology, Angel II neonatal transport, Grady operating room and nursing staff members.

"Grady is the only hospital in the state that is able to readily perform the EXIT procedure at this time," said **Dr. William Sexson**. "It is not the tumor surgery that is so spectacularly live-saving; it's the multi-team approach to the EXIT procedure that makes survival a miracle." Sexson is an associate dean for the Emory University School of Medicine based at Grady, and neonatologist at Grady and Emory University Hospital Midtown.

The EXIT procedure is relatively new and only available at a few sites nationwide. Grady has successfully performed two of these procedures since September 2015.

Both of the most recent 'miracle babies' and their mothers are doing well. Both infants were transferred to Children's Hospital of Atlanta, Egleston following their deliveries at Grady.

Staitieh Using Research to Benefit Ponce de Leon Center Patients



Dr. Bashar Staitieh

Dr. Bashar Staitieh, who works in Dr. David Guidot's laboratory on the Emory Clifton campus and sees patients at Grady, opened a special clinic for HIV positive patients with pulmonary symptoms and/or diseases in late 2014. Since then, his clinic has helped many patients at Grady's Ponce De Leon Center, who may not have otherwise had transportation to get to the hospital for pulmonary care.

Early in his career, Dr. Staitieh began focusing on how to improve immune function in animal and cell culture models of HIV. After conversations with Dr. Guidot, **Dr. Greg Martin**, **Dr. Jeffrey Lennox**, **Dr. Wendy Armstrong** and others, Dr. Staitieh got the support needed to open a pulmonary clinic in the Ponce De Leon Center. The clinic is allowing Dr. Staitieh to continue his research efforts with a clinical focus. By opening the clinic at the Ponce De Leon Center, he is able to provide easy access to specialized pulmonary care, coordinated under one roof in conjunction with the patients' primary providers at the Ponce de Leon center.

Dr. Guidot's laboratory research focuses on the mechanisms by which chronic insults such as alcohol abuse and HIV infection cause oxidative stress and render individuals susceptible to pneumonia and acute lung injury. The lab has received continuous funding from the NIH and VA.

NEW STAFF AND FACULTY



Dr. Alaina Steck joins Emory's emergency medicine team at Grady as an assistant professor of emergency medicine. Steck earned her medical degree at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. She previously completed an EM residency at Boston Medical Center and a medical toxicology fellowship at Emory University/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Dr. Munish Luthra joins the pulmonary intensive care team as a specialist in pulmonary and critical care medicine. He has special interest and training in treating patients with lung cancer. He earned his medical degree from Calicut Medical college in India and completed two residencies in internal medicine—one at L.L.R.M. Medical College in India and the other at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.



Joi Hargis-Hickman has been appointed financial analyst for clinical planning and finance for the Emory at Grady Deans' Office. She specializes in creating and implementing finance and accounting systems. She earned her business and finance degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Previously, she served as the purchase card administrator for Atlanta Public Schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clinical Operations Update

Two new referral orders have been created for Neuro IR—AMB REFERRAL TO NEURO ENDOVASCULAR CLINIC [REF007] and AMB REFERRAL TO NEUROENDOVASCULAR 90 DAY THROMBECTOMY [REF009]. Providers no longer need to call or email the Neuro Endovascular team. The workflows for this Emory service now mirror the referral process for other specialty clinics. If you have questions regarding these new referrals, contact **Meridith O'Keefe**—mhokeef@emory.edu.

Fundamentals of Healthcare Leadership Session Topics

Emory at Grady's leadership sessions are held on the third Friday of each month at noon in FOB 101. The series aims to benefit aspiring, new and seasoned leaders from Emory, Grady and Morehouse. It is offered through the Deans' Office for Clinical Services. If you would like to know more about this series or to suggest a future session topic, please contact **Joan Wilson**—joan.wilson@emory.edu.

Innovation Center Opening

The second floor of Grady's new Marcus Trauma & Emergency Center will feature an Innovation Center to be shared by Emory and Morehouse faculty, residents and students. The Innovation Center, which includes meeting space and work areas equipped with desks and computers, is designed to facilitate research, study and collaboration. Details about the center's opening will be published in this newsletter as well as through email. The Innovation Center will be made accessible via Grady prox cards to the groups listed above. Others who would like to use the Innovation Center can request access from the Grady Security Office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 3—March 30: Compassion Meditation Course for Faculty & Staff—5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in SOM Room 170A. Visit Emory-Tibet Partnership website for more information.

Feb. 19: Fundamentals of Healthcare Leadership, "Toxic Bosses, Invigorating Bosses: The Role of Leadership in Employee Engagement and Productivity"—noon to 1:15 p.m., in FOB 101.

Feb. 24: Town Hall Meeting with Emory University's Executive Vice President for Health Affairs Jonathan Lewin—4:30 p.m. at the WHSCAB Auditorium, 1440 Clifton Road NE.