

CREATING WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

t RWJBarnabas Health, our mission—our passion—is to improve the health of residents in the communities we serve. But we're equally committed to ensuring that New Jerseyans have opportunities to learn, develop and pursue their goals.

You'll see that commitment come to life in many ways: in free support groups and classes, in health services delivered to senior citizens at home, in housing and employment assistance provided to local residents, and more.

In this issue, we spotlight two ways in which RWJBarnabas Health is making a difference. Children's Specialized Hospital, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, has joined forces with Opportunity Project, an organization that helps adults living with the effects of traumatic brain injury. Together, the two organizations create a continuum of care and learning opportunities for patients with brain injuries, from childhood through adulthood. And in the state-of-the-art RWJBarnabas Health Athletic Performance Center, we're partnering with Rutgers University to provide spaces designed to optimize health-sciences learning and to give athletes the resources they need to reach their full potential.

At Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC), our reach extends into the community in various ways. Our Community Health educators partner with civic organizations, such as Bikur Cholim, Safe Kids Monmouth/Ocean Counties and The Cancer Support Community, as well as many adult communities throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties. Physician lectures are arranged along with screenings and awareness opportunities of the vast healthcare services offered at MMCSC and throughout the RWJBarnabas Health system. Our skilled professionals and service line navigators are available, especially when you or a loved one has an unexpected illness or healthcare need. Education and awareness are the keys to staying well, and access to services like rehabilitation, when needed, is the key to living well.

We're honored by the trust people place in us to care for their health. In return, we're continually working to increase opportunities for all New Jersey residents to live their best lives.

Yours in good health,

BARRY H. OSTROWSKY PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RWJBARNABAS HEALTH



FRANK J. VOZOS, MD, FACS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER SOUTHERN CAMPUS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, RWJBARNABAS HEALTH



HEALTH NEWS

SUPPORT FOR **DIABETES PATIENTS**

November is Diabetes Awareness Month. If you have diabetes and need extra support, consider the Center for Diabetes Education and Nutrition Services at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC). The Center helps people with diabetes better manage their disease. The Diabetes Self-Management Series provides education and support through classes on topics such as meal planning, preventing complications and blood sugar monitoring. In the Weight Management Program, a registered dietitian provides nutrition counseling. The Gestational Diabetes Education Program offers one-on-one consultation with a nurse or dietitian who provides information about insulin pumps, therapeutic diets and more. The program, which is certified by the American Diabetes Association (ADA), has been awarded the ADA Education Recognition Certificate for a quality diabetes selfmanagement program. For more information, call 732.923.5025.

FREE COLON CANCER SCREENING

A free colon cancer screening is available at MMCSC to the first 50 eligible participants through a grant-funded program. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in both men and women, and the risk increases with age. To participate in the screening, you must be between the ages of 45 and 75 and be at average risk for the disease. Participants cannot have a family history of the disease or a personal history of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer or certain types of polyps. For more information, call 732.886.4510.

Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus



600 River Ave., Lakewood, NJ 08701 732.363.1900 | rwjbh.org/MonmouthSouth

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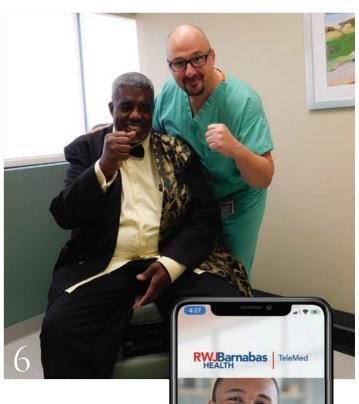


RWJBarnabas Health

Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. For more information, see link on our home page at www.rwibh.org/monmouthsouth. MMCSC cumple con las leves federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo. ATENCIÓN: Si usted habla español, servicios de asistencia lingüística, de forma gratuita, están disponibles para usted. Llame al 732.363.1900. MMCSC konfòm ak Iwa sou dwa sivil federal ki aplikab yo e li pa fè diskriminasyon sou baz ras, koulè, peyi orijin, laj, enfimite oswa sèks. ATANSYON: Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd pou lang ki disponib gratis pou ou. Rele 732.363.1900

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FALL 2019



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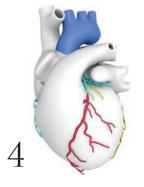
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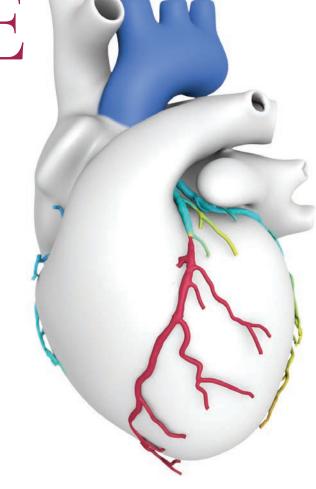


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TRANSFORMATIVE CARDIAC

PATIENTS WITH HEART DISEASE SYMPTOMS CAN NOW **BE EVALUATED WITH** A REVOLUTIONARY. **NONINVASIVE** TECHNOLOGY.



HeartFlow's colorcoded map shows the location and severity of blockages in coronary arteries.

ntil recently, the only definitive way for cardiologists to know if a patient with chest pain had a significant blockage in the heart's arteries was to perform an angiogram. During this invasive procedure, a catheter is inserted into the arteries, a dye is injected, and X-rays are taken while the dye travels through the arteries. Now, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC) has a revolutionary, noninvasive way to evaluate patients with chest pain and those who are suspected of having a blockage in the heart's arteries: HeartFlow® Analysis, which uses Fractional Flow Reserve CT (FFR-CT) technology. "This test allows us to determine with greater confidence and accuracy whether a patient has a significant blockage in the heart's arteries without putting him or her through unnecessary, invasive testing," says Rajesh Mohan, MD, MBA, FACC, FSCAI, an interventional



Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC) cardiologists, cardiology fellows and administrators at a Cardiac CT educational symposium hosted by MMCSC. Frank J. Vozos, MD, FACS, Chief Executive Officer at MMCSC and Executive Vice President at RWJBarnabas Health, is seventh from left and Jonathan Tango, FACHE, V.P. Operations, is third from right. Right: The program was led by Chunguang Chen, MD, a cardiologist at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (second from left), and Rajesh Mohan, MD, an interventional cardiologist and Chief Medical Officer at MMCSC (third from left).

cardiologist and Chief Medical Officer at MMCSC. "We will be the first in our area and only the fourth in the state to offer this advanced technology." Says Frank J. Vozos, MD, FACS, Chief Executive Officer at MMCSC and Executive Vice President at RWJBarnabas Health: "This is a 'win-win' for Monmouth and Ocean County residents."

A THREE-DIMENSIONAL VIEW OF ARTERIES

HeartFlow Analysis, which was developed by HeartFlow, a Redwood City, California-based company, works by measuring blood flow in a patient's coronary arteries. First, a standard coronary CT scan is performed. If the scan reveals blockages that indicate significant coronary artery disease, the CT images are then analyzed using HeartFlow's artificial intelligence software to create a personalized, three-dimensional model of the patient's arteries. The result is a color-coded map that shows the location and severity of blockages in the arteries. Cardiologists can then use this information to develop a treatment plan. "This noninvasive scan tells us if a blockage in the heart arteries may need invasive treatment, like a stent or cardiac bypass, or if it can be treated with medications," says Dr. Mohan. "Patients would know if they have a blockage and if it's significant without having to go through tests, including invasive procedures. They may also avoid unnecessary admission to the hospital and the associated costs."

MMCSC recently updated its new CT scanner with the new FFR-CT-enabled technology. "While an angiogram remains the gold standard, this transformative technology could potentially change the way coronary artery disease is diagnosed and treated," says Dr. Mohan. "I've been following this technology for a few

years. It brings together human intelligence and artificial intelligence, helping us to identify patients with dangerous blockages noninvasively while providing a better patient experience. This has recently been approved for use in the U.S., and I'm excited that the vast majority of our patients will be able to avoid unnecessary invasive testing and benefit from this new technology."



Your heart doesn't beat just for you. Get it checked. To reach a Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus cardiac specialist, call 888.724.7123 or visit www.rwjbh.org/heart.





A HEALTHCARE TEAM'S EXPERTISE AND DEDICATION SAVED A MAN'S LIFE.

hen Albert Allen arrived at the Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC) Emergency Department on November 30, 2018, he was suffering from severe abdominal pain. Tests showed that Albert, 55, of Howell, had a perforated appendix, in which the finger-shaped pouch on the right side of the colon (also known as the large intestine) ruptures and causes infection. Albert had developed sepsis, a complication of an infection that can lead

to organ failure and death. "I was worried because I knew how delicate the situation was, and I didn't think it would turn out well," recalls Kimberly Wright, RN, a critical care nurse who cared for Albert. "I didn't know if he would survive."

Albert, who also has Crohn's disease, in which the gastrointestinal tract is chronically inflamed, needed immediate surgery to remove his appendix. Unfortunately, his belly couldn't be closed immediately after the surgery due to

abdominal compartment syndrome, in which the pressure inside the abdomen climbs so high there's no room for the internal organs. What's more, Albert had a fistula, an abnormal tunnel between two organs (in his case, the small intestine, or small bowel, and colon) and an abnormally narrow colon.

ROUND-THE-CLOCK CARE

John W. Gorechlad, MD, FACS, the critical care surgeon who cared for Albert,



Patient Albert Allen has made a complete recovery from a perforated appendix and sepsis, thanks to his surgeon, John W. Gorechlad, MD, FACS, and his healthcare team (above).

monitored Albert closely. He often drove back to the hospital—even in the middle of the night—to attend to Albert. Dr. Gorechlad removed the right portion of Albert's colon, which had been damaged from Crohn's disease. He also created a temporary ileostomy, a surgical opening in the abdominal wall, to allow for the removal of waste from Albert's body. This gives his intestines time to heal from the other surgeries. Later, Dr. Gorechlad will reconnect the small bowel and colon.

During Albert's stay at MMCSC, he was connected to an array of tubesmultiple intravenous (IV) drips, which delivered medications like antibiotics, as well as a feeding tube and a ventilator (a machine that delivers oxygen to the lungs) to protect his lungs. He also had a complex dressing called a wound VAC, or vacuum-assisted closure—which promotes healing—to cover his open abdomen. "Once in a while, the wound VAC would open, and we'd have to find creative ways to close it again," says Wright. "We were in constant communication with Dr. Gorechlad."

Albert's care team was completely dedicated to him. "I was in his room my entire shift," says Wright. "I didn't feel comfortable leaving his bedside for five minutes to go to lunch. He needed to be monitored closely, and I felt it was my responsibility to stay with him." Dr. Gorechlad was also committed to Albert. "I care for my patients from beginning to end, with continued follow-up in the office," he says.

CROSSING EVERY HURDLE

At first, Albert was heavily sedated. "When he 'woke up' in the critical care unit, he didn't understand how sick he was," says Wright. "He had a lot of fear because he couldn't understand why he was unable to eat or drink anything by mouth. We had to explain why he was on a ventilator and that it wasn't safe to remove the breathing tube. We were afraid he might pull the tube out."

Despite the severity of Albert's medical problems, he crossed every hurdle. "In late December, when Albert could communicate that he was okay, I

knew he was going to make it," recalls Dr. Gorechlad. On January 12, he was finally discharged from MMCSC. "I'm happy for Albert," says Dr. Gorechlad. "There were so many opportunities for him to die or not recover, and now he's fully functional." When Dr. Gorechlad showed Wright a photo of Albert with a big smile on his face at a follow-up visit, she couldn't believe it. "I'm amazed," says Wright, who has been a nurse for 23 years. "He was probably the sickest patient I ever cared for."

In May, on Albert's birthday, Albert brought Dr. Gorechlad and the nurses plaques to thank them for saving his life. The one for the nurses read: "Thank you for your daily efforts, dedication, intensity and optimism." "I'm so grateful to Dr. Gorechlad and the nurses," says Albert, who was making jerk chicken and other Jamaican dishes at the time of the interview. "I'm bringing lunch for the nurses." Albert has lost weight and is eating well and, at press time, planned to have surgery to remove the ileostomy. "I feel great," he says. "There's a new glow on my face."

To learn more about Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus's robust surgical program and its recent expansion, visit www.rwjbh.org/monmouthsouth.



WHAT'S YOUR FLU IQ?

TAKE OUR QUIZ AND SEE HOW PREPARED YOU REALLY ARE FOR THIS YEAR'S FLU SEASON.

Maybe the flu won't strike you this year, with its fever, dry cough, sore throat, body aches and chills. But why take the chance? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that tens of thousands of people die from the flu and flu-related complications each year. Prevention is key. Take our quiz, which is based on the latest CDC information, and learn what to do to avoid the flu.

1. Which of these symptoms is more specific to the flu than to a common cold?

- a. Cough
- b. Body ache
- c. Congestion
- d. Sneezing
- e. None of the above

2. Which of these are good steps to take to avoid getting the flu?

- a. Avoid infected individuals
- b. Get a flu vaccine
- c. Drink lots of fluids and maintain a balanced diet
- d. Wash your hands often
- e. All of the above

YOUR FLU IQ:

How many did you get right, and where do you rank? No matter your score, use the insights gained to reduce your future risk.

- 6-7: You're flu-prevention smart
- 4-5: Your flu facts need a booster shot
- 2-3: The flu is likely in your future
- 0-1: You have no clue about the flu

3. When you're exposed to the flu, how long does it typically take for you to become ill?

- a. One to four days
- b. One week to 10 days
- c. An hour or two
- d. A month
- e. Instantly

4. Who is not among those at highest risk for developing serious complications from the flu?

- a. Pregnant women
- b. People 65 years of age and older
- c. People who work more than 40 hours per week
- d. People with chronic illnesses like asthma and diabetes
- e. Young children

5. Which of these are recommended to help prevent the spread of the flu?

- a. Cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm
- b. Wash hands frequently with warm water and soap
- c. Stay away from work if you have symptoms
- d. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose
- e. All of the above

6. Which of these is true about the flu?

- a. It is caused by being cold and wet
- b. It always comes with a fever
- c. It is caused by a virus
- d. It cannot be diagnosed through
- e. You can catch the flu from the vaccine

7. What is the No. 1 step recommended by the CDC to avoid getting the flu?

- a. A flu vaccine at the start of flu season (usually October/ November)
- b. Plenty of vegetables and fruits
- c. At least eight hours of sleep per
- d. Staying away from populated
- e. Daily doses of aspirin

To find a physician at MMCSC, visit www.rwjbh.org/doctors.



10 TIMES TO USE TELEMED

A VIRTUAL DOCTOR VISIT CAN BE THE FASTEST WAY TO FEEL BETTER.

ith the RWJBarnabas Health TeleMed service, patients can reach a U.S. boardcertified doctor at any time of day or night, including weekends and holidays. The how is simple: Download an app for iOS or Android and connect via smartphone, tablet or computer.

But why might you choose to use TeleMed rather than make an appointment with your doctor? At right are some circumstances that might make a virtual visit a good choice.

TeleMed is appropriate for common complaints such as colds, flu, fever, minor rashes, earache, sinusitis, migraine, abdominal pain, allergies, pink eye and joint pain.



CALL 911 IF.

TeleMed is not for emergencies. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department if you are experiencing any of the following emergency medical problems:

- · Chest pain or pressure
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Sudden or severe pain
- Coughing or vomiting blood
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Sudden dizziness, weakness, change in vision, slurred speech, numbness or other neurological changes
- Severe or persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Severe abdominal pain
- Changes in mental status, such as confusion
- Assault, physical or sexual abuse
- Broken bone



You get sick while on vacation.



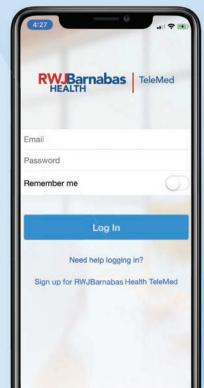
Your doctor's office is closed.



You need care for a sick child, but can't leave your other children home alone.



You can't get a sameday appointment with your doctor.





You feel too sick to leave the house.



You live in a rural area, making doctor visits and follow-up visits inconvenient.



You're out of

town and realize

you forgot a

prescription.

You don't have time to wait in a waiting room.



It's difficult to take time off from work to go to the doctor.



You don't want to expose others to a contagious disease (or be exposed to theirs).

To learn more or to sign up for the RWJBarnabas Health TeleMed service, visit www.rwjbh.org/telemed.





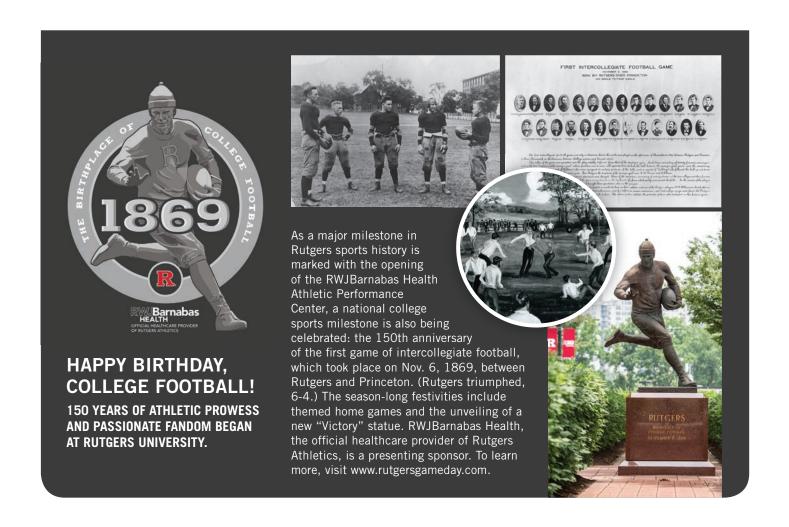












THE RWJBARNABAS HEALTH ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE CENTER AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY KICKS OFF A NEW ERA FOR RUTGERS SPORTS.

or Rutgers student-athletes, the future is here. The state-ofthe-art RWJBarnabas Health Athletic Performance Center at Rutgers University, which opened in September, is home to new facilities for men's and women's basketball, wrestling and gymnastics, as well as a sports performance/sports medicine suite, nutrition lounge, seating area for professional scouts and more.

The 307,000-square-foot, four-story facility brings Rutgers athletic offerings to a new level. "It's a game changer for our student-athletes in clinical care," says Pat Hobbs, Director of Intercollegiate

Athletics at Rutgers University. "They are going to receive the very best in sports medicine." The facility was made possible by an investment from RWJBarnabas Health, the official healthcare provider of Rutgers Athletics.

"For far too long, we haven't produced, as a state, those facilities and resources necessary to have world-class athletes—and frankly, in New Jersey, we have world-class athletes," says Barry Ostrowsky, President and CEO of RWJBarnabas Health. "At Rutgers, we have world-class students. For us, this is a wonderful opportunity to invest in a great University."

X-RAY ROOM

To learn more about RWJBarnabas Health partnerships, visit www.rwjbh.org/corporatepartners.



TWO RWJBARNABAS HEALTH **HEART TRANSPLANT PROGRAMS** COLLABORATE TO OFFER WORLD-CLASS CARE, CLOSE TO HOME FOR NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS.

n 1989, cardiologist Mark Jay Zucker, MD, relocated from Chicago to join nationally renowned cardiovascular surgeon Victor Parsonnet, MD, at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (NBI). Both physicians saw an opportunity to build a world-class heart failure treatment and transplant program at NBI.

Toward that end, Dr. Zucker and other members of the NBI team met with cardiologists around the state, gave talks and lectures, and sent out educational mailings to introduce the medical community to the new program.

Over the course of 30 years, the goal of creating a nationally renowned heart failure and transplant center has been met, perhaps beyond the team's wildest dreams—and certainly beyond those of many patients. By 2017, the Advanced Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant Program at NBI had performed more than 1,000 transplants, one of only a dozen programs in the U.S. to reach that milestone. Today the program performs about 50 to 55 transplants each year; has roughly 70 staff members, seven physicians, three surgeons and a full complement of nurses and nurse practitioners; and follows more than 4,000 patients at five different offices.

COVERING THE STATE

The NBI program and the Advanced Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Program at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick (RWJUH) are the only two heart transplant programs in New Jersey,

"We are one of the major referral centers for heart conditions in the state, particularly in central New Jersey," says Aziz Ghaly, MD, Surgical Director, Advanced Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Program at RWJUH. "We offer the most advanced options for treatment of heart failure available. That means we

can do complete workups for patients under one roof."

As collegial members of the same health system, the two programs provide seamless treatment to any patient in need of complex cardiac care, not only from the hospitals of the RWJBarnabas Health system but from any hospital inside New Jersey or beyond. For New Jersey residents, that means advanced cardiac care is always available close to home.

The connection between the two teams further enhances patient care. "Leadership of both programs meet regularly to discuss how to coordinate care, improve safety, streamline services and sometimes just to learn from one another as well," says Dr. Ghaly.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

At NBI, Dr. Zucker, Director of the Cardiothoracic Transplantation Program, and Margarita Camacho, MD, Surgical Director of Heart Transplantation, are two of the most senior physicians in the field, with a combined experience of caring for more than 1,500 transplant patients. Both physicians are at the forefront of advanced heart failure treatments, and both have been at NBI for the majority of their careers. "That translates to consistency," says Dr. Zucker. "We have danced together for a long time." The RWJUH transplant program has been in place for more than 20 years, with year after year of excellent outcomes, says Dr. Ghaly.

Both programs rely on multidisciplinary teams to provide



AZIZ GHALY, MD



MARK JAY ZUCKER, MD

the highest quality of care. "Advanced cardiac care requires a tightly integrated, well-functioning team of talented and knowledgeable clinicians, paramedical professionals, social workers, pharmacists and dietitians," says Dr. Zucker.

"Heart transplantation is not maintenance-free after surgery," explains Dr. Ghaly. "Our heart failure cardiologists and nurse coordinators monitor patients very closely afterward, becoming like part of the patient's family. The role is crucial to the patient's survival post-transplant, and they are the heart and soul of our program."

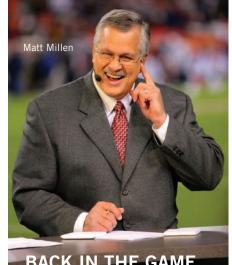
FUTURE-FACING

Both programs are national leaders in treatment for advanced heart failure, including the use of ventricular assist devices (VADs). These surgically implanted mechanical pumps can keep patients alive as they wait for a heart transplant or when other medical conditions have rendered them ineligible for transplantation.

The NBI and RWJUH programs also participate in multiple research trials that offer patients access to new investigational medications and devices prior to commercial availability. Most recently, the teams have been studying medications to treat advanced congestive heart failure, amyloid and lamin A/C cardiomyopathy.

The transplant center at NBI is currently undergoing a \$4.3 million renovation. "The transplant suite will soon integrate the mechanical support, heart and lung transplant programs all under one roof," says Dr. Zucker. "The ability to interact on a moment-to-moment basis provides an ability to exchange ideas and ensure that all team members are up to date with new and emerging technologies."

This type of interaction is crucial when it comes to caring for such critically ill patients, says Dr. Zucker. "After all, the management of heart failure is a 24/7 operation that only works when you have a team of truly committed individuals."



BACK IN THE GAME

During Matt Millen's storied career as a football player, observers often said he showed "a lot of heart." That description resonated with many when they learned he was waiting for a life-saving heart transplant at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (NBI).

An All-American linebacker at Penn State, Millen had a 12-year NFL career, including four Super Bowl wins. He served as president and CEO of the Detroit Lions, followed by a successful career as a football commentator.

As the years went on, he began to feel weaker and increasingly short of breath. It became hard to navigate the few stairs to his basement wood shop.

Ultimately, Millen was diagnosed with the rare disease amyloidosis. Abnormal proteins called amyloids had been deposited in his heart muscle, rendering it stiff and unable to function properly.

In the fall of 2018, Millen spent three months at NBI, under the care of Mark Jay Zucker, MD, Director of the Cardiothoracic Transplantation Program, and his team. On December 24, 2018, Millen underwent heart transplant surgery performed by Margarita Camacho, MD, Surgical Director of Heart Transplantation, and Mark Russo, MD.

The surgery was a success. With a new heart and a new lease on life, Millen is back in the broadcasting booth for the 2019 football season.

Your heart doesn't beat just for you. Get it checked. To reach an RWJBarnabas Health cardiac specialist near you, call 888.724.7123 or visit www.rwjbh.org/heart.









CANCER: WHERE TO CALL FOR HELP

NOW THERE'S A SINGLE PHONE NUMBER FOR CLEAR AND COMPASSIONATE ANSWERS ABOUT CANCER TREATMENT.

hen a person is diagnosed with cancer, he or she has a lot to learn—and many decisions to make. What's the best course of treatment? Where is the best place for treatment? Who is the best doctor to treat my cancer? How can I get a second opinion?

That's why RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH), in partnership with Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the state's only National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, has created an Oncology Access Center. This concierge-like service for cancer patients has an easy-to-remember number: 844-CANCERNJ. At that number, specialized oncology access representatives and oncology access nurse navigators stand ready to direct patients to the expert care they need. The Oncology Access Center creates one point of contact for all oncologists and hospitals in the RWJBH system and at Rutgers Cancer Institute.



STEVEN K. LIBUTTI, MD

"We are well aware that people who are newly diagnosed or seeking a second opinion are dealing with an extremely stressful personal situation," says Steven K. Libutti, MD, Senior Vice President of Oncology Services, RWJBH and Director of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. "We want to make the process of finding care as stress-free and efficient as possible."

In the past, Dr. Libutti explains, patients and caregivers needed to do extensive research on their own to figure out what location and what physician would be most appropriate for their care. "Now they can more easily access NCI-designated cancer care across the state," he says.

NAVIGATING THE JOURNEY

"We're especially excited to have nurse navigators located right at the contact center if a person has a clinical question," says Bryan Soltes, System Vice President, Network Development, Oncology Services for RWJBH. "That aspect of our system makes it uniquely helpful to patients."

When a caller is referred to a specific hospital, he or she is immediately linked to the nurse navigator platform at the hospital, Soltes says. "Nurse navigators guide patients through their entire journey of diagnosis, treatment and recovery, not only making appointments but connecting the patient with oncology support services," he explains.

"Our system is making a very big commitment to nurse navigation in general," Soltes says. "Our goal is to be the largest nurse navigation system for oncology in the country."

Experts at RWJBH recognize that oncology healthcare calls are different from other kinds of calls. "They are often from people dealing with potentially serious situations," Soltes says. "With our Oncology Access Center and nurse navigator programs, we're able to put our arms around the patient, so to speak, and say, 'We'll help you take it from here."





Opposite page and this page, clockwise: For the first time, a roller coaster was wrapped in support of cancer awareness for the Coasters for Cancer campaign. Survivors and their families joined a special survivors celebration at Six Flags Great Adventure, which partnered with RWJBarnabas Health and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey to bring greater awareness to the disease and efforts to fight it.



The Oncology Access Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 844.CANCERNJ (844.226.2376).



RAISE YOUR HANDS FOR SURVIVORS

Life can be a roller coaster, especially when a person is coping with cancer. That made it especially fitting for three iconic New Jersey brands—RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH), Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Six Flags Great Adventure—to create the Coasters for Cancer campaign.

Brightly colored handprints were collected from cancer survivors and supporters. Those handprints were wrapped into a design to adorn the Runaway Mine Train roller coaster at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson Township. When park visitors take the ride, they're reminded of how many people cancer touches in the state of New Jersey.

The campaign was unveiled during a National Cancer Survivors Day Celebration at Six Flags Great Adventure on June 9. "More people need to know about the disease and about the research that's being done right in our own backyard," says John DeSimone, a patient at Rutgers Cancer Institute.

"What I hope people get out of this display is that cancer doesn't discriminate," says cancer survivor Johnny Volpe, 17, who was diagnosed when he was just 7. "Cancer goes for anyone and everyone, and it's great that people are aware."

"The Coasters for Cancer campaign is an incredible opportunity to shine the spotlight on cancer survivorship, education and prevention," says Justin Edelman, Senior Vice President, Corporate Partnerships, RWJBH. "If this campaign helps just one person, it's all worth it."



BRAIN INJURY

A NEW PARTNERSHIP BRINGS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THOSE LIVING WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.





bout every 13 seconds in the U.S., someone suffers traumatic brain injury (TBI)—a blow or penetrating injury to the head that's severe enough to disrupt normal brain function.

Children with TBI are often treated at Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH), the leading provider of inpatient and outpatient care for children and young adults facing special healthcare challenges. Until recently, however, CSH had no way to help these patients as they grappled with the lingering effects of TBI in adulthood.

To remedy that situation, CSH has begun a new partnership with the nonprofit Opportunity Project, founded by parents whose sons were dealing with TBI. The

program offers a wide range of services to help adults with TBI reach their full potential.

The organization's mission and services make it a natural fit for CSH. "Opportunity Project has a long, rich history of serving the critical needs of adults with brain injury," says Warren E. Moore, FACHE, President and CEO, CSH, and Senior Vice President, Pediatric Services, RWIBarnabas Health. "We are thrilled to partner and learn from one another, ensuring a bright future for the communities we serve."

MOVING FORWARD

Mild TBI, the most common kind, affects the brain only temporarily. However, symptoms of moderate to severe TBI may be long-term, even lifelong. These symptoms can include difficulty thinking clearly, headaches, moodiness, sensitivity to light, physical impairment and sleep problems. Up to 90,000 people experience the onset of long-term disability from TBI each year.

The only program of its kind in New Jersey, Opportunity Project has served more than 600 individuals affected by TBI, along with their families, since its inception in 1993. The organization is housed in a 14,000-square-foot facility in Millburn that's accessible to the center of town and to public transportation, and is open five days a week.

Here, members can meet to receive occupational therapy, to confer with social workers who can help them access community resources, or to practice skills in reading, writing, planning and more. Opportunity Project also trains members who wish to become part of its Speakers Bureau, enabling them to use their firsthand knowledge of living with a brain injury to deliver inspiring and educational presentations.

For more information about Opportunity Project, visit www.opportunityproject.org. For more information about Children's Specialized Hospital, call 888.244.5373 or visit www.childrens-specialized.org.

At Children's Specialized Hospital, we provide world-class care for children and young adults who face special health challenges across the state of New Jersey and beyond. Our locations in Bayonne, Clifton, East Brunswick, Egg Harbor Township, Hamilton, Jersey City, Mountainside, New Brunswick, Newark, Toms River and Warren treat everything from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries to developmental and behavioral issues like autism and mental health.



DETECTING **BREAST CANCER** AFTER 65

REGULAR MAMMOGRAMS AND SELF-EXAMS SAVE LIVES.

here's good news for older women when it comes to breast health: Mammograms are clearer, and it's easier to perform self-exams. "For most women, the breasts become less dense as they age," says William M. Schulman, MD, a breast surgeon at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC). "Dense tissue is replaced by fatty tissue, which is easier to interpret on a mammogram. Also, any abnormal areas stand out more during a self-exam."

WILLIAM M. SCHULMAN, MD

The not-so-good news: The risk of developing breast cancer increases as a woman ages. Most tumors are found in women ages 55 and older, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS).

The risk of developing invasive breast cancer over a 10-year period is 1 in 43 at age 50; 1 in 29 at age 60; and 1 in 25 at age 70. Men can also develop breast cancer, although it's rare (it affects less than 1 percent of men), according to the ACS. The likelihood of developing it also increases with age.

THE BEST PROTECTION

The best way to protect yourself is to continue having regular mammograms. The screening test reduces the risk of dying from breast cancer by about 20 percent, according to the ACS. Women who are at average risk of developing

A BETTER **BREAST BIOPSY**

Campus now offers three-dimensional by three-dimensional mammography

and remove samples of tissue from breast lesions. Since the woman is in

the disease should be screened annually starting at age 40, advises Dr. Schulman. A woman at high risk may need to be screened earlier—and she may

> benefit from an ultrasound or an MRI.

It's also important to perform monthly self-exams. Women should watch for any skin or nipple changes (if the nipple is inverted, crusting or scaling, for instance). Also, drainage of bloody or clear fluid from the nipple could be a sign of

cancer.

If you're diagnosed with cancer, early detection means you'll likely have more treatment options, including breastconserving surgery. "Most women don't need to have their breast(s) removed," says Dr. Schulman. "Also, breast cancer is not a death sentence. Women can live long, productive lives after treatment. I see many patients who had breast cancer 25 years ago and are now in their 80s."

RWJBarnabas Health and Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus, in partnership with Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jerseythe state's only NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centerprovide close-to-home access to the latest treatment and clinical trials. For more information, call

844.CANCERNJ or visit

www.rwjbh.org/beatcancer.

To schedule a mammogram at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus, visit www.rwjbh.org/mammo and select MMCSC.

"WHY I GIVE"

THREE COMMUNITY MEMBERS REVEAL WHY THEY SUPPORT MMCSC.

Thanks to fund-raising efforts and generous donations, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC) is able to deliver the highest quality of care to a diverse and growing community. Here, three community members share why they dedicate countless hours of their time to MMCSC.



HARRIET SELINGER

HOMETOWN: Lakewood

NUMBER OF YEARS SHE'S RAISED FUNDS FOR MMCSC: 42

When Harriet Selinger was growing up, her parents owned a store. So when she was looking for a volunteer opportunity in 1977, she decided to work at the hospital gift shop, whose profits went to MMCSC's Foundation. Initially, Harriet worked only two days a week, but at one point, she worked there daily. "The hospital asked us to install a lottery machine

in the gift shop, and we had to teach 20 to 25 volunteers how to use it," she recalls.

Harriet knew the gift shop so well that when the hospital built a new wing and the gift shop was relocated, she spoke with the architects about the flooring. "They wanted to install a tile floor, and we advised them not to do that because items from the gift shop could break," she says.

Over time, Harriet became the bookkeeper and chairperson of the gift shop. She also joined the Lakewood Auxiliary, which raised money for MMCSC. The Lakewood Auxiliary Gift Shop donated many thousands of dollars over the years. "The hospital would tell us what medical equipment was needed, and we raised funds to help purchase it," says Harriet, who eventually became treasurer and president. Harriet also joined the Auxiliary Council, which is composed of the leadership of five Auxiliaries and the hospital's three thrift shops. She became president of the Council as well. As president, she had a seat on the hospital's Board of Trustees. She also became chairperson of the Board at Kimball Manchester Ambulatory Care Center.

"I'm proud of my involvement," says Harriet. "When I started volunteering, MMCSC was a small hospital called Kimball Medical Center. It's been nice to watch it grow over time. My first granddaughter was born there 23 years ago, and I've received excellent care in the Emergency Department." Harriet is so grateful to MMCSC that she has given the hospital a personal gift, which will be used to fund a coronary computed tomography angiography, or CCTA, machine. This equipment uses computed tomography (CT) imaging and an intravenous contrast dye to quickly determine whether a patient with chest pain has narrowing or a blockage in the coronary arteries in the Emergency Department. Over time, plaque (fat, cholesterol and calcium) can build up in the blood vessels that supply the heart, reducing or blocking blood flow.

Save the date for the Flavors of the Jersey Shore Food & Wine Tasting on October 24 at the Pine Belt Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Showroom in Lakewood. Reserve tickets by calling the MMCSC Foundation at **732.886.4438.**



ROB SICKEL

HOMETOWN: Brick NUMBER OF YEARS HE'S RAISED FUNDS FOR MMCSC: 5

Rob Sickel, the owner of Pine Belt Cars, is following in his father's footsteps. "My dad, who was a second-generation owner of Pine Belt Cars, was involved with MMCSC," he says. "He felt that giving back to the local hospital was a way to give back to the community." Today, Pine Belt supports all of MMCSC's Foundation events—the annual golf fund-raiser, humanitarian gala and the Flavors of the Jersey Shore Food & Wine Tasting. "We host the Food & Wine Tasting event on a Thursday night every year in October," says Rob, who is chairman of the MMCSC Foundation Board and a member of the Monmouth Medical Center (MMC) Operating Board, which oversees MMC and MMCSC. Local restaurants, spirits distributors and craft breweries provide wonderful food and drink samplings.

"When we started doing this five years ago, 200 people showed up," says Rob. "Now we have 400 people. We love to bring people to our showroom to support a good cause." This year, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, funds raised from the event will go toward cancer services at MMCSC. "Raising funds for the hospital helps to purchase new medical equipment, upgrade the operating rooms and keep new talent," says Rob. "It's instrumental for the future of the hospital."

Rob also donates his time to MMCSC as chairman of the medical policy subcommittee, which focuses on patient satisfaction scores and the hospital's ranking. "I'm proud of my involvement in this committee," says Rob. "Everyone works hard to ensure we are delivering the best patient experience possible."



KATHY MCGILL

HOMETOWN: Lakewood NUMBER OF YEARS SHE'S RAISED FUNDS FOR MMCSC: 20

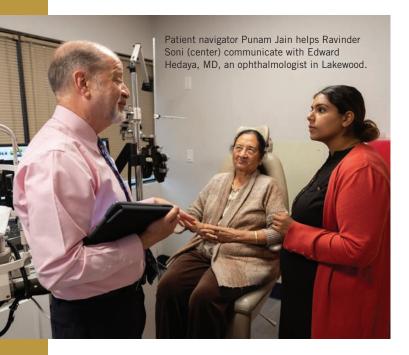
Two decades ago, Kathy McGill moved to the Fairways adult community, which had just opened. A woman she knew was involved with the Fairways Auxiliary. "I believed in the hospital, and I wanted to get involved in fund-raising," she says. Kathy organized many fund-raisers at the Fairways, including dances, bus trips to shopping centers, afternoon tea parties and fashion shows. Eventually, she became president of the Fairways Auxiliary. Over the past 20 years, the group has raised approximately \$100,000 for MMCSC. "These funds have been used for improvements at the hospital, such as renovations to the Emergency Department and new equipment for the radiology department," says Kathy.

Today, the Fairways Auxiliary has 290 members. They hold many fund-raising events, including a catered brunch in the summer, which had already sold 200 tickets at press time. Kathy is currently treasurer of the Fairways Auxiliary, as well as the Auxiliary Council. The Council's main fundraiser is the annual luncheon at The Clarion, which will be held on October 11 this year. "I feel strongly about helping the hospital and the community," says Kathy, who has also given MMCSC a personal gift to support upgrades to operating room technology and equipment.

A COMMITMENT TO THE

OVERCOMING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

FOR BETTER CARE



avinder Soni, 75, of Monroe was struggling with foot pain, gastrointestinal problems and arthritis in her knees, back and shoulders. She also had cataracts and needed to see an ophthalmologist. Finding medical care wasn't easy, though. Ravinder, who is originally from India, speaks Punjabi and Hindi, and her English is limited. So when she discovered that Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC) offers a program designed to assist Indian patients with access to medical care, it was welcome news.

The Indian Medical Program was launched by MMCSC and Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch in February. "We continually look for new and unique ways to deliver healthcare to those who need it, and the Indian Medical Program is an excellent example of this," says Frank J. Vozos, MD, FACS, Chief Executive Officer

To learn more, call the Indian Medical Program hotline at **732.923.6361**.

at MMCSC. "Our team of world-class doctors, exceptional nurses, highly skilled technologists, therapists, ancillary and support personnel work together to ensure that our patients receive the highest quality of care at every encounter—and always with compassion and respect."

The Indian Medical Program is modeled on two other RWJBarnabas Health programs that help patients overcome barriers to healthcare. "We started the Chinese Medical Program 10 years ago to help the Chinese community find medical care, and it was very successful," says Punam Jain, a patient navigator and coordinator of the Indian Medical Program. "After that, we launched the Russian Medical Program. This year, we decided to expand the program to the Indian community."

Census figures show that about 16,000 Indian people live in Monmouth and Ocean counties. "The Indian community is very large in New Jersey, and I've seen firsthand the barriers people face when seeking healthcare in our region," says Jain. "In addition, as Asian Indians, we're at increased risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes, which require attention and care."

A SUPPORT SYSTEM

Jain helps Ravinder find physicians and accompanies her to appointments to translate and facilitate communication. Ravinder doesn't drive, so Jain arranges transportation to appointments. She also schedules follow-up visits and assists with insurance issues and paperwork. "Every aspect of my healthcare is being taken care of," says Ravinder via translation. "I'm so thankful for Punam. This program is really a support system for me."

So far, Jain has helped about 20 Indian patients obtain much-needed medical care. She says the new program is already having a significant impact. "When I accompany patients to appointments, they feel so much more comfortable," she says. "Tm proud of our efforts to help the community."

Now that Ravinder doesn't face language barriers to healthcare, she's receiving the medical attention she needs, and her health is improving. "I'm feeling much better," she says. "I've been going to physical therapy, which has helped my back pain and shoulder pain tremendously. And I'm planning to have cataract surgery soon."

MMCSC IS HELPING TO IMPRO ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUND

MMCSC IS HELPING TO IMPROVE PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS.



MEETING THE NEEDS OF OBSERVANT EWISH PATIENTS

hen you have a young child who is having difficulty breathing, it can be very scary," says Hinda Friedman of Lakewood. She and her husband, Tzvi, called Hatzolah EMS, and their 3-yearold son was rushed to the Emergency Department at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC). "The nurses engaged with my son to ease his fears, and the doctors were very thorough in their diagnosis," says Tzvi. "The patient treatment areas were beautiful, and the prompt attention made us feel very well

taken care of. It was great that Hatzolah brought us to MMCSC. We would definitely recommend Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus."

Likewise, families of older patients are satisfied with the care at MMCSC. "We had a pleasant experience when my mom, Pearl, was brought to the MMCSC Emergency Department last March by ambulance," says Beth Fisher of Stitch N' Sew Centre, a fabric store in Lakewood. "She was 96 years old and was having trouble breathing. The staff and the physicians could not have been more attentive to her and my needs. I would recommend MMCSC for their professionalism and compassion."

MMCSC meets the needs of observant Jewish patients

• Bikur Cholim hotline: The hotline is available 24/6 for all urgent needs. It's active on Shabbos and Yom

"THE STAFF AND THE PHYSICIANS AT MMCSC COULD **NOT HAVE BEEN MORE ATTENTIVE TO** MY 96-YEAR-OLD **MOTHER AND HER** NEEDS."

> Beth Fisher of Stitch N' Sew Centre

Tov for medical emergencies only. Call 866.905.3020.

- An eruv has been set up between MMCSC and the Bikur Cholim house. The eruv is under the supervision of Rabbi David Tzubelli.
- Kosher pantries: The main pantry, which is located on the first floor of the hospital, is stocked with food and Judaic needs. On the Sabbath, the pantry offers hot Sabbath foods. Fresh, hot meals are available Monday through Thursday upon request. A kosher pantry offers snacks in the Emergency Department corridor next

to the ambulance entrance.

- · Seforim prayer books are available in the main pantry on the first floor of the hospital.
 - Kosher grocery stores are located nearby.
- · Holidays: A shofar blowing for Rosh Hashanah and a Megillah reading can be arranged through Bikur Cholim. In addition, a Sukkah is available during Sukkot.
- · A residence called the Lichtenstein Friendship House is open to patients and their families who need accommodations while receiving treatment or therapy at MMCSC. For more information, call 212.933.9033.

To learn more about Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus, visit www.rwjbh.org/MonmouthSouth.



A TEAM EFFORT

In July, patient Barbara Fiedler, 75, of Forked River and family members joined her care team to throw the first pitch at a Lakewood BlueClaws game. RWJBarnabas Health Southern Region hospitals and the BlueClaws honored Barbara and her care team. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer three years ago and underwent a total hysterectomy in 2016, followed by five months of chemotherapy. In January 2018, an imaging test revealed a small tumor near her bile duct, and she had additional chemotherapy.

Today, Barbara is in remission. To prevent cancer from returning, she's undergoing targeted therapy at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMCSC). She's grateful for her family's support—and that of her care team, especially the infusion nurses at MMCSC and Monmouth Medical Center. "There aren't any better human beings on this earth than the infusion nurses," she says. "Going for infusion treatment there is like visiting your family. You get to know the nurses, find out how their kids are doing, and you spend some time chatting. It's a beautiful experience."

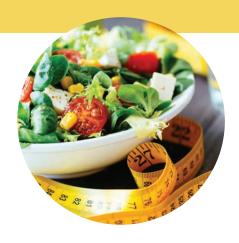
SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT HELMETS

Aniela Adamski of New Egypt Girl Scout Troop 50402 held a Health and Wellness Fair with assistance from MMCSC and

Safe Kids, a nonprofit organization focused on preventing injuries among kids. During the Fair, Aniela educated her peers about the importance of wearing a helmet while riding a bike or scooter. She also discussed the signs and symptoms of a concussion. MMCSC and Safe Kids helped Aniela research the project and provided helmets, fittings and handouts at the event.

To learn more about Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus community events, visit www.rwjbh.org/monmouthsouth.





Community Education

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free. They are held at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (600 River Avenue, Lakewood) and require advance registration by calling 888.724.7123.

Drive Defensively Two-Day Class

Wednesdays: October 2 and 9 or Wednesday, November 20 and Thursday, November 21 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Drive Defensively is a two-session workshop given by the Ocean County Department of Safety. This National Safety Council refresher course is perfect for drivers of all ages who need to sharpen their driving skills. Completing this workshop will eliminate two points from your driving record—or entitle you to a 5 percent insurance discount, as required by state law. Contact the Ocean County Engineering Department at 732.929.2130 for more information. Fee: \$18. Payment for Ocean County residents is as follows: \$8 (payable by check or money order to the County of Ocean) and \$10 (payable by money order to the New Jersey State Safety Council). Please bring a valid driver's license and a pen to class. Conference Rooms B and C.

Open Health Screenings

Wednesday, October 9 and Wednesday, November 6 9 to 10 a.m.

Do you know your numbers? Come have your glucose, blood pressure, bone density and body mass index (BMI) tested. In addition, Sue Ellen Boyer, AuD, will provide hearing screenings, and Melanie Vernacchia, MSN, APN, OCN, Geriatrics and Palliative Care, will offer mini memory screenings. This event will take place in the 3rd floor conference room. Please arrive no later than 9:45 a.m. for the screenings.



Age-Related Hearing Loss

Tuesday, November 12 10 to 11 a.m.

Sue Ellen Boyer, AuD, FAAA, of the Department of Audiology will discuss age-related hearing loss and facts about hearing aids. Dr. Boyer will explain the common signs of hearing loss and the steps that may be taken to prevent it. This program includes an optional, complimentary hearing health questionnaire. Manasquan Reservoir, 331 Georgia Tavern Road, Howell. To register, please call 732.842.4000, ext. 1.

Tai Chi for Beginners

Thursdays, November 14 to January 2 1 to 2 p.m.

A hands-on, introductory class for Better Health members who are new to Tai Chi, which is sometimes called "moving meditation." It focuses on slow movement, breathing and relaxation, and can be done sitting or standing. The gentle movements of Tai Chi, combined with deep breathing, will help you gain flexibility, build strength, improve balance and reduce stress. Led by expert instructor Kit Lau.

Creating Healthy Holiday Traditions

Monday, November 18 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Holidays are a time of special gatherings with family, friends and food. Join Jennifer Klein, MS, RD, of ShopRite, as she discusses strategies for healthier holiday meal preparation and eating. We will also share hearthealthy holiday recipes and create a make-and-take holiday snack. To help reduce the stress associated with social and financial obligations during the holidays, we will discuss new traditions. Make this the most stressfree and memorable season you've had yet! Conference Room 3W.

Vascular Disease Screening

Wednesday, November 20 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For men and women at high risk for vascular disease. The tests are noninvasive, painless and simple to administer. They include ultrasound examination for aortic aneurysms and carotid artery disease and a noninvasive measure of blood flow in the legs. Registration for a 20-minute time slot is required. Fee: \$49.

The Benefits of Tai Chi

Tuesday, November 26 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In a recent study reported in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, a Tai Chi intervention reduced falls by 58 percent compared with stretching alone. It's gentle, safe and evidence-based, and it can improve balance and coordination. Join instructor Kit Lau as she explores the many physical and mental benefits of Tai Chi. Jackson Library, 2 Jackson Drive, Jackson Township.





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600 River Ave., Lakewood, NJ 08701

Your family has no history of breast cancer. You still need a mammogram.

It's curious how healthy habits can become go-to excuses. But don't excuse yourself from getting a mammogram. At Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus, we offer the latest in comprehensive breast health services including screening and diagnostic mammography, genetic testing, breast biopsy, breast surgery and more — like peace of mind. And with breast health centers conveniently located in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, finding us is simple, too.

Making excuses is easy. Making an appointment is easier. Schedule your visit to the Jacqueline M. Wilentz Breast Center at **rwjbh.org/mammo**

Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus

RUTGERS Cancer Institute of New Jersey

RUTGERS HEALTH

RWJBarnabas

Let's beat breast cancer together.

