

MAIMO MEDNEWS IS THE PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER OF MAIMONIDES HEALTH

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We welcome your feedback, please email mednews@maimonidesmed.org

Advancing Services, Care & Research: Meet Anthony Kalloo, MD, Chair, Medicine



It's been just over a year since Dr. Anthony Kalloo became the Chair of the Department of Medicine at Maimonides Medical Center. In this role, he is responsible for more than 70 faculty and 250 staff physicians in 13 divisions and interdisciplinary centers. During this time, he's been focused on increasing staff, expanding clinical programs and services, and enhancing research capabilities.

Prior to Maimonides, Dr. Kalloo spent more than 30 years at Johns Hopkins University, where he led the highly ranked Division of Gastroenterology for 15 years and where he spearheaded endoscopy research and pioneered incisionless gallbladder surgery. He's had more than 200 studies published in peer-reviewed medical publications, and has more than 100 patents.

Uniting for better care

One of Dr. Kalloo's chief objectives is to enhance the strengths of the Department of Medicine by showcasing its outstanding faculty

In the coming months, Maimonides Medical Center will launch an osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease center—the first of its kind in Brooklyn. Specialized centers allow an institution to offer

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FEATURED STORIES

highly specialized expertise and services for complex diagnoses. They can also bring a hospital prestige as both a treatment and research institution—something Dr. Kalloo intends to bring to Maimonides.

He's deeply involved in developing a swallow center that will bring together ENT surgeons, gastroenterologists, radiologists, and thoracic surgeons. He expects to have it up and running later this year. More specialists are being added to the Pelvic Floor Center as well.

Organizing for growth

Devising the infrastructure for new specialized centers includes recruiting doctors and staff, as well as developing robust processes and logistics to support delivery of the highest quality, multidisciplinary services and care.

Dr. Kalloo has been evaluating staffing roles and functions, and calculating personnel needs to create plans that ensure exceptional patient care for both inpatient and outpatient environments. His focus also includes training new and existing personnel to be “customer-friendly and service-oriented.”

“If you don't have those things in place, it doesn't matter how great your physicians are,” Dr. Kalloo explained.

Additionally, Dr. Kalloo is working to optimize physician productivity and time spent directly on patient care while creating better work-life balance. These initiatives aim to improve operations and ultimately boost capacity to allow the department to meet increasing demand and serve more patients.

Research and teaching

Dr. Kalloo also wants to use his expertise to further enhance Maimonides' standing as a leading research institution. “We already have a world-class staff adept in treating rare diseases from people across the globe,” he said. “But I don't think the community as a whole is aware of how great the clinicians are here.”

Currently, he is evaluating and enhancing Department of Medicine residency programs, working with lead faculty to provide innovative education in a collaborative community and an excellent training experience through a balance of academic and clinical activities.

“We have to teach people to do research and innovate,” he said. “That's one of the things I do well.”

Research isn't only about what doctors at Maimonides can discover, Dr. Kalloo said.

“It's one thing to do a study, but it's another to advance medicine,” he added. “I really want to make that a more powerful part of who we are. This is a critical part of us becoming national leaders.”

Under the leadership of Dr. Kalloo and other Maimonides team members, Maimonides is steadily building to solidify its national reputation as an innovative health system that delivers compassionate patient care.

New Technology Advances at Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital



As part of a wider effort to expand Maimonides Health's role as a leading Brooklyn health network, Maimonides merged with New York Community Hospital, officially renamed Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital earlier this year. These changes expand community access to quality patient care.

Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital (MMCH) is investing in emergency services to better support central Brooklyn communities. The MMCH Emergency Department now has 29 beds and 10 fast-track treatment areas appointed with state-of-the-art equipment. For more precise diagnoses, MMCH also has bedside ultrasounds, brand-new cardiac monitors for each Emergency Department Bay area. This allows for seamless transferring of patient data between departments, ensuing safe and continuous care. Patients can log into their private health portal to receive their latest labs and diagnostic images to facilitate a smooth transition for follow-up care.

FEATURED STORIES

Maimonides Health bolstered staffing at MMCH to decrease staff burnout and patient wait times. Streamlined triage allows our team of 25 emergency medicine physicians to attend to patients in a timely fashion. Advanced medical services like airway management, moderate sedation, and emergency blood transfusions empower MMCH physicians to provide high-quality care for patients with challenging cases. They also have mechanical chest compression-decompression devices that provide mechanical CPR so staff can manage other critical patient needs.

Technology makes it easier for ED physicians to get consults. ED physicians no longer have to wait for a psychiatry, pediatric, or toxicology specialist to come to a patient's bedside. Instead, MMCH ED fully embraces telehealth consults to facilitate care from physicians spanning multiple disciplines.

The result of these advancements? MMCH provided care for 8,000 more patients in 2021, and more than tripled the number of pediatric patients per month. MMCH is seeing patients with more complex diseases and diagnoses. They are using the latest data to fight Covid-19 by giving monoclonal antibodies to patients diagnosed with Covid.

Advances on the horizon.

Maimonides Health's plans for MMCH include a new MRI machine and a Cardiac Cath Lab. With these additions, the ED will have the capacity to treat a wider variety of neurological, cardiovascular, and other emergency patients instead of transferring these critical patients to other facilities. Plans to add OB/GYN specialists will expand offerings for reproductive health emergencies like ectopic pregnancy.



**MMCH ED is located at 2525 Kings Hwy,
Brooklyn, NY 11229.**

**To learn more about MMCH emergency services,
call 718.692.5387 or email kkofman@nych.com.**

POPULATION HEALTH

Using Social Determinants of Health to Treat the Whole Child

As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Bright Futures, the Maimonides Children's Hospital has been screening all patients and their families for social determinants of health since 2019. The physician and health community has begun to identify social determinants of health, how they impact the wellness of patients, and steps that can be taken to help support good health. Social determinants of health include factors such as housing, food, schools, access to safe outdoor space, inequity, and structural racism. To help address some of these social needs, Maimonides Children's Hospital partners with community-based organizations such as the Arab American Family Support Center, Jewish Childcare Association, WIC, Challenge and Autism Cares Early Intervention, Catholic Charities, CAMBA and New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), but they also seek to innovate how providers can address such concerns.



After observing housing challenges for her patients, Dr. Yonit Lax, an attending physician in the Divisions of General Pediatrics, Hospital Medicine and Population Health, spearheaded an initiative to provide physician-generated letters to landlords of patients who reported poor housing conditions. Remarkably, the effort resulted in landlord action (89%) and improved housing conditions (74%) over a seven-month period. Dr. Lax's fierce commitment to her patients is evident in her efforts to encourage other physicians to use their creative problem-solving skills and voices to do the same.

RESEARCH

Maimonides Health Hosts Sixth Annual Evening of Research

On May 4, Maimonides Health and the Maimonides Research and Development Foundation hosted the sixth annual Evening of Research celebrating the innovative and groundbreaking research led by Maimo fellows, nurses, residents and staff. The event recognized and showcased the culmination of year-long research, exploring an incredible range of work applicable to some of the most pressing challenges hospitals face in delivering care. This year, five projects were chosen as winners from over 80 submissions. The honorees include:



- ◆ **Catsim Fassassi, DO**, for his study comparing three different dosing regimens of nebulized ketamine in the emergency department.
- ◆ **Tamar Motov, MSN, RN, CNL**, for her research on an initiative to improve outcomes for patients experiencing sepsis in the emergency department.
- ◆ **Rubaiat Ahmed, MD**, for his review examining analgesic prescribing practices in the emergency department.

- ◆ **Mitchell K. Ng, MD**, for his quantitative analysis of YouTube as a reliable resource for certain health care information.
- ◆ **Rosanna Li, PharmD**, for her research on candidemia's impact at three Brooklyn hospitals.

Maimonides Health and the Maimonides Research and Development Foundation are proud of all the teams who are leading such important research projects across various yet equally important areas that impact the health of our Brooklyn community.

PROVIDER QUALITY

Maimonides Specialists Recognized for Excellence

More than 150 Maimonides specialists have been named to both the prestigious Castle Connolly and 'Super Doctors' lists so far this year.



**Castle
Connolly 2022
Top Doctors**

More than 140 Maimonides specialists made the 2022 Castle Connolly Top Doctors list.

Castle Connolly Top Doctors represent the top 7% of doctors in the nation. These notable doctors are nominated by peers and validated by Castle Connolly's research team to ensure they deliver the highest quality patient care.

To compile the list, Castle Connolly's research team vets each physician's professional qualifications, education, hospital and faculty appointments, research leadership, professional reputation, disciplinary history and if available, outcomes data. Additionally, a physician's interpersonal skills such as listening and communicating effectively, demonstrating empathy, and instilling trust and confidence, are also considered in the review process. The Castle Connolly Doctor Directory is the largest network of peer-nominated physicians.

See the 2022 Maimonides Castle Connolly Top Doctors

[Maimonides Medical Center](#)

[Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital](#)



2022 Super Doctors, published in *New York Times Magazine*

Ninety-two Maimonides specialists earned a place on this year's list of Super Doctors, recognizing outstanding doctors from more than 40 medical specialties who have attained a high degree of peer recognition or professional achievement.

The selection process for Super Doctors & Rising Stars (providers licensed under 10 years) is a rigorous multi-step process designed to identify healthcare providers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Super Doctors is a selective yet diverse listing of outstanding doctors, representing consumer-oriented medical specialties.

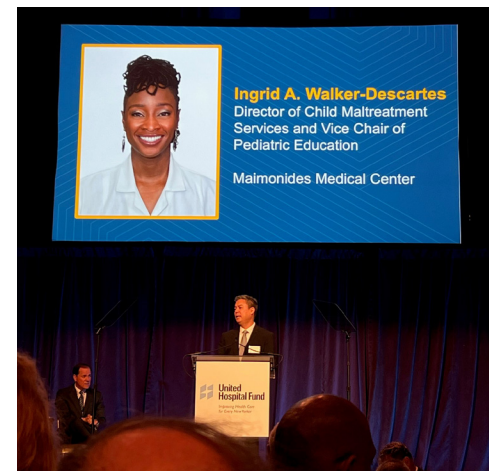
[See the 2022 Maimonides Super Doctors and Rising Stars](#)

PEDIATRICS

Dr. Ingrid Walker-Descartes Recognized as UHF Quality Champion

This past spring, The United Hospital Fund (UHF) recognized 73 quality improvement champions across 68 New York area-health care organizations that their 2022 Tribute to Excellence in Health Care. Among those honored was Maimonides Health's Dr. Ingrid Walker-Descartes, Director of Child Maltreatment

Services and Vice Chair of Pediatric Education, Maimonides Children's Hospital. Honorees were selected "for their efforts to improve quality of care, patient safety, and the patient experience at their institutions." Dr. Walker-Descartes was recognized for her work, advocacy, and leadership in the development of the first Child Abuse Fellowship in New York State, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The significance of her work in designing innovative curricula around the needs of a vulnerable population is multifold: it enables fellows to achieve clinical excellence in understanding the impact of trauma on children; it allows the medical community to better advocate for patients and their families from the clinic to the courtroom; and it further supports the importance of social determinants in supporting the health of patients. Congratulations to Dr. Walker-Descartes!



NEUROSCIENCES

2nd Annual Brooklyn Stroke Symposium

On May 19th, 2022, Maimonides Health and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University jointly convened the 2nd Annual Brooklyn Stroke Symposium at Maimonides Medical Center.

Daniel M. Rosenbaum, MD, Regional Chair of Neurology at Maimonides Medical Center and SUNY Downstate, welcomed more than 360 medical professionals from across the country to the hybrid in-person and virtual event to learn about latest advances in research and management of ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes that are improving patient outcomes.

Q. Tony Wang, MD, PhD, Director of the Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) at Maimonides and Vice Chair of Neurology at Maimonides/SUNY Downstate, moderated the symposium where nationally renowned and local stroke experts presented cutting-edge topics including:

- ◆ Mission Thrombectomy 2020+, a global health campaign led by the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology (SVIN), to enhance access to highly effective stroke thrombectomy procedures globally
- ◆ Cryptogenic and medium-vessel occlusive (MVO) stroke
- ◆ Intracranial atherosclerosis and cerebral collateral perfusion
- ◆ Cardiovascular therapeutic advancements and management of cardiac-related stroke risks
- ◆ Surgical, neuro-interventional, and critical care management of stroke and carotid stenosis



- ◆ Vascular dementia and nursing management of stroke patients
- ◆ Artificial Intelligence application in advanced stroke imaging
- ◆ Latest human stem cell research and therapeutics in stroke recovery

The Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center at Maimonides has been ranked among the top 1% of hospitals in the U.S. for outstanding stroke survival rates for four years running by the federal government (CMS) and is designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission. Maimonides has been on the American Heart Association Gold Plus Honor Roll for 14 consecutive years and earned the Target Stroke Elite Plus award recognizing that at least 50% of eligible patients are treated with stroke thrombolytic therapy within 30 minutes of arrival.

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University is the only university hospital and clinical research center in Brooklyn, and one of the leading cerebrovascular research centers in the country. Maimonides and SUNY Downstate formed a partnership in 2017 to expand delivery of and access to high quality neurosciences care

in Brooklyn. Together we have a joint Department of Neurology.

“Stroke therapies are rapidly advancing, and we are now able to offer stroke patients highly effective and safe treatments that enable many patients not only to survive strokes, but to also return to their pre-stroke quality of life. It’s critical that patients come to stroke centers like Maimonides early. Time is brain - help us help patients by dialing 911 if someone is suffering from stroke symptoms,” Dr. Wang said.

Video recordings of the presentations will be available later this month at maimo.org/BrooklynStroke2022.

To refer a patient, call 718.283.7670 or visit maimo.org/stroke.



Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist, Dr. Kavitha Ram

Working in maternal-fetal medicine requires collaboration across many different departments. Leading the way for collaborative care as the new Associate Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Maimonides Medical Center is Dr. Kavitha Ram's utmost priority.

Prior to leading this department at Maimonides Medical Center, Dr. Ram was the Director of Obstetrics and the Residency Program Director at Jamaica Hospital in Queens, NY. She's deeply passionate about maternal fetal medicine and advocates for safe, personalized birth experiences for her patients.

"It is my great privilege to bear witness to one of the most powerful forces of the universe every day: conception, gestation, birth, and lactation...the interwoven lives of mother and child," Dr. Ram marvels.

In addition to a MD in medicine from the University of Buffalo, Dr. Ram also has a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Master's degree in Clinical Research Training. She's a certifying

examiner for both the general OB/GYN and subspecialty MFM Boards.

Dr. Ram is an active member of the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics. Her clinical and research interests include fetal diagnosis, perinatal hospice, and the safe integration of physiological birth into the obstetrical model of care.

Her deep experience in maternal/child health and penchant for service earned her the opportunity to serve on the New York City Department of Health's Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Committee. During her service, she identified social determinants of health and reduced disparities in maternal health care.

Providing care for all outcomes

While pregnancy and postpartum are happy experiences for many patients, Dr. Ram also recognizes the need to tailor care to individual patients. "Unfortunately, not all birth outcomes are the happy ones that families anticipate," she explains.

"In addition to collaborating with nursing, midwifery, anesthesia, and pediatrics staff, I also prioritize building a compassionate approach to bereavement and perinatal hospice with my social work, psychiatry, and psychology colleagues."

Transforming and innovating OB/GYN care

Leading the busiest labor floor in New York City comes with both challenges and excitement. "I'm most excited to join the team of skilled clinicians and innovative thinkers who flourish at Maimonides. I look forward to working with them to streamline workflows to maximize efficiency and enhance the mutual welfare of both patients and providers."

Dr. Ram also has plans for her role as an educator. "I'm eager about prospects for combining research and curriculum across divisions and departments to create the next generation of leaders of our disciplines."

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kavitha T. Ram as the new Associate Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Maimonides Medical Center!

WELCOME NEW SPECIALIST

We are proud to welcome the following specialist to our Faculty Practice.

Aaron Z. Tokayer, MD

Gastroenterology, Motility Program

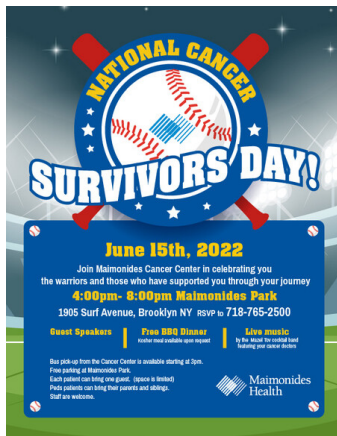
718.283.5900



Click to see all our providers at [Maimonides Medical Center, Maimonides Children's Hospital,](#)
and [Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital.](#)

EVENTS & PODCASTS

Upcoming Events



Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Maimonides Honors National Cancer Survivors Day

Maimonides Health will host its annual National Cancer Survivors Day event at Maimonides Park, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones baseball team, honoring and celebrating cancer survivors, current patients undergoing treatment at Maimonides Cancer Center, and their caregivers. The event includes a free dinner for attendees, guest speakers and live music from the Mazel Tov Cocktails, a band featuring our cancer care providers.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Time: 4 pm to 8 pm

Location: Maimonides Park, 1905 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

RSVP: 718.765.2500

Free BBQ dinner with kosher options available upon request. Transportation from the Cancer Center available.

Featured Podcast



Advanced Spinal Surgery Techniques and When to See a Doctor

Spinal problems can happen anywhere on the spine and cause great discomfort in your neck, back, or extremities. Join Dr. Afshin Razi and Dr. John Houten as they discuss spinal conditions, when you should see a doctor, and the advanced spinal surgery techniques they use to treat patients.

[Listen Here](#)