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We welcome your feedback, please email [marketing@maimonidesmed.org](mailto:marketing@maimonidesmed.org).

## THE HEART OF THE MATTER: Maimonides Heart & Vascular Institute Gives Patients Best Chance for Survival



In the United States, cardiovascular disease and heart attacks are still serious threats to health. As the leading cause of death, regardless of race, gender, or ethnic group, heart disease kills one in every five Americans. Many heart attacks are silent, meaning the patient doesn't even realize that a serious health event has occurred.

### Recognizing the Signs of a Heart Attack

In order to help someone experiencing a heart attack, it's imperative to recognize the signs. The most common symptom is chest pain (most often pressure), but others include nausea, vomiting, a sensation of heartburn, sudden fatigue, shortness of breath, dizziness, a cold sweat, or tingling or pain in the jaw, back, neck, or shoulders. Symptoms can vary greatly among patient populations; for example, heart attack signs and symptoms may present differently in women than men, who more often present "classic" signs of cardiac distress.

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### "Data Is Data": Maimonides Consistently Tops State and National Cardiac Care Lists

When faced with a heart attack or other serious cardiac health conditions, where a patient receives care can directly affect their survival outcomes. The [Maimonides Heart and Vascular Institute](#) regularly receives top ratings for its innovative techniques and successful patient treatment outcomes, making Maimonides a cardiac care leader not only in the city and state, but also in the country.

On the national level, [Maimonides was named](#) a High Performing Hospital for Heart Attack and Heart Failure Care (US News & World Report, 2022–2023) and one of America's Top 50 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery (Healthgrades, 2021–2023). According to the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid (CMS), Maimonides has been a top-rated hospital for heart attack survival since CMS reporting began in 2015, including being ranked among the top 1% of hospitals nationally for the last 5 years in a row.

In New York State, Maimonides has been in the top 1% in patient outcomes for angioplasty and stents, with the lowest mortality rates in the state. According to New York State measures, Maimonides presented as the best hospital for a cardiac stent (in-hospital, 30-day adjusted mortality survival for percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), 2012-18). For the eighth consecutive reporting periods, our interventional cardiologists have been recognized as top performers. This year, Maimonides also received Five-Star Distinctions in Pacemaker Procedures, Defibrillator Procedures, and Valve Surgery (Healthgrades 2023).

"This is not by chance. Why would you go anywhere else for your heart care? Data is data," said [Jacob Shani, MD](#), the Chair of Cardiology at Maimonides Medical Center. "[Our outcomes] are not by chance."

For these successes, Dr. Shani credits a dedicated team of talented staff, committed to working hard, never compromising on care, and following guidelines. He also recognizes the team for its availability, affability, and ability to work well together.

### Maimonides, At the Forefront of Cardiac Innovation


Maimonides physicians perform around [600 open heart surgeries and cardiac surgical procedures each year](#) — the high patient volume ensures the team is always sharp and ready to perform. It employs experts in all cardiology

subspecialties, as well as physicians skilled in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery.

Maimonides offers the most advanced techniques for diagnosing and treating all types of [cardiovascular disorders](#), including AFib ablation, angioplasty and stent implantation, aortic aneurysm repair, coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), end-stage heart failure treatments, miniature pacemakers, minimally invasive valve replacement, heart-lung oxygenation therapy, pediatric heart conditions, and more.

Maintaining cutting-edge technology and equipment and consistently improving the tools available for care teams to achieve successful patient outcomes is also a fundamental part of Maimonides' cardiac department. Maimonides is the only hospital in Brooklyn with two hybrid operating rooms. Recently, it opened a new [Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit](#), providing patients a supportive environment with 14 private beds, in-room bathrooms, a lounge for family and visitors, improved lighting, and advanced equipment and monitors.

Still, what truly sets Maimonides apart from others is the collaborative approach among the many doctors and patient care professionals that make its Heart & Vascular Institute so effective.

"Heart surgery is so successful at Maimonides because we approach it as a team sport," said [Greg Ribakove, MD](#), Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Vice Chair of Surgery. "Cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, and anesthesiologists work together to determine what the best treatment for the patient is. I believe that's what achieves our excellent outcomes." 

### New CCB Navigator Gives Providers a One-Stop Referral Service to Assist Patients in Need

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Access to high- quality healthcare is helpful for immediate health needs, but a better predictor for overall health is whether key [social determinants of health](#) (SDOH) are being addressed. Health systems are transforming care by prioritizing SDOH in models of care, and Maimonides Health is proud to bring another SDOH-focused program to our providers— – the [Community Care of Brooklyn](#) (CCB) Navigator.

#### A Single Entity to Assess and Address Patient Needs for Additional Support

The CCB Navigator is a ‘one- stop shop’ for care management that conducts a custom needs assessment and provides tailored referrals to partners and programs across Brooklyn. Launched as an expanded service through the [Brooklyn Health Home](#) (BHH), a Maimonides-managed entity and NYS Medicaid health home providing care management services to Brooklynites with multiple chronic illnesses, the

CCB Navigator brings care management services to any patient wanting access to a suite of wraparound services.

The CCB Navigator’s referral network can help to address issues like food and [housing insecurity](#), mental health and substance abuse providers, medication adherence, entitlements and more, to improve health outcomes.

#### The Navigator is Easily Accessible Through a Simple Referral Process

The program is free and available to all, and there are no limits based on insurance or other qualifying factors. Making a referral to the CCB Navigator is quick and easy— just provide your patient with the phone number: **1-800-356-7480**. It’s convenient and won’t add any additional tasks to your workday.

The process is simple – patients that you believe [could benefit from additional services and support](#) are referred to the CCB Navigator, where a trained Navigator will conduct a short phone screening and begin the process of the referrals to a growing network of over 200 local programs.

If you would like to offer this program to your patients, reach out to Magdalena Gordon, LMSW, Executive Director of the Brooklyn Health Home and Assistant Vice

President of Complex Care and Population Health, at [magordon@maimonidesmed.org](mailto:magordon@maimonidesmed.org), to learn more about the CCB Navigator and start making referrals. ■■■







**This month, many of our best providers have been recognized as leaders on national, state, and local scales, and some of our doctors are making their voices heard on important community health issues.**

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### **Maimonides Health Physicians Named Among Castle Connolly Top Doctors**

Last month, Castle Connolly released its [Top Doctors of 2023](#) — a list that represents the top 7% of doctors in the nation across every specialty. 82 Maimonides physicians from several specialties [were named on the list](#). Congratulations to these providers for this well-deserved honor, and most importantly, for embodying the quality patient care and culture of clinical excellence that we strive for at Maimonides. 📌

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### **Nancy Hagans, Maimo Nurse and NYSNA President, Included on 100 NY Black Leaders List**

Congratulations to Nancy Hagans, who this month earned the [57th spot on City & State New York's 2023 Power of Diversity: Black 100 list](#). Aside from her work as a longtime, dedicated member of Team Maimo, she also serves as the president of the [New York State Nurse's Association](#), and played a key role in contract negotiations with many major New York hospitals in January showing exemplary leadership and dedication to advocating for NYSNA's 42,000 members. 📌

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### **Dr. Kishor Malavade Pens Op-Ed on Mental Health in NY Daily News**

[Kishor Malavade, MD](#), Maimonides psychiatrist and vice chair of the Maimonides Department of Population Health, published an opinion column in the New York Daily News in January, titled "[A better Rx for mental health crisis](#)." "Our system for addressing severe mental illnesses desperately needs foundational support to meet the basic needs of all people, integrate and screen for mental health, and increase capacity to care for those in need of mental health services." wrote Dr. Malavade. 📌

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### **Dr. Richard Savel Featured in Healthcare Leadership Article**

[Richard Savel, MD](#), Vice-Chair for Inpatient Operations for the Department of Surgery and Director of Adult Critical Care Services at Maimonides Medical Center, recently weighed in on the value of extra degrees and certifications for doctors who envision careers of health care leadership. Check it out in the most recent issue of [American Association for Physician Leadership](#), or read the full article by Lola Butcher [here](#). 📌

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### **Dr. Jana Ghulmiyyah Published in Local Down Syndrome-Focused Publication**

Maimonides pediatric otolaryngologist [Jana Ghulmiyyah, MD](#), authored an article on foreign bodies in the ear, nose, and throat for the most recent issue of local publication [Down Syndrome Amongst Us](#). This topic is commonly encountered especially in children under 4 years of age, with a roughly equal risk for patients both with and without Down syndrome. 📌

### Maimonides Cancer Center Begins New Hematology-Oncology Collaboration with SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University



Maimonides Health and [Downstate Health](#) (the clinical

enterprise of Downstate Health Sciences University, Downstate University Hospital (UHD), and [University Physicians of Brooklyn](#)) have launched a hematology-oncology partnership that will leverage the strengths of both organizations to expand access to cancer care in Central Brooklyn.

This partnership will allow patients at the University Hospital of Downstate to access a broader range of specialists from the [Maimonides Cancer Center](#) while leveraging Downstate's academic and research capabilities to benefit more patients in the borough. The combined program will be the most extensive hematology-oncology practice in Brooklyn, and will begin seeing patients immediately, emphasizing innovative, individualized treatment plans, diagnostic services, and early detection.

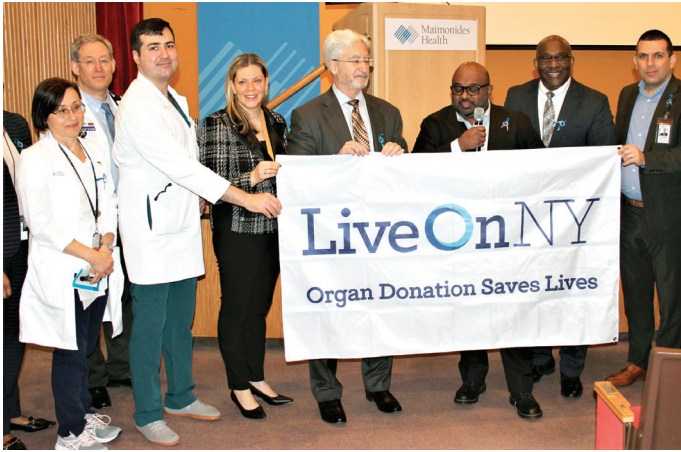
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, the only academic medical center in the borough of 2.7 million people, plays a critical role in medical research and medical, nursing, and health professions education as well as care delivery; Maimonides, the borough's largest independent health system, is a key teaching affiliate and clinical site of SUNY Downstate, with advanced clinical specialty programs.

This crucial partnership between Maimonides Health and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University seeks to level the playing field for underserved communities, particularly in the Central Brooklyn neighborhoods of East Flatbush, Farragut, and Rugby—where access to quality healthcare can be challenging based on socioeconomic, insurance, poverty, and other factors impacting households. According to a 2018 NYC [Community Health Profile for East Flatbush](#), 19 percent of East Flatbush residents live in poverty, compared with 20 percent of New York City's residents; 15 percent of adults in East Flatbush are uninsured, and 9 percent reported going without needed medical care in the prior 12 months. In 2020, there were 25 times more Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) residents in the East Flatbush, Farragut, and Rugby neighborhoods than any other race or ethnicity. The five largest ethnic groups in East Flatbush, Farragut, and Rugby communities are Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (84.2 percent).

Under this new hematology-oncology collaboration, clinical services and medical education will be provided at both acute care locations. [Kevin Becker, MD](#), who currently serves as the Hematology-Oncology Division Chief at Maimonides Medical Center and Medical Director of the Maimonides Cancer Center, was named Chief of the newly formed joint Maimonides-SUNY Downstate College of Medicine's Division of Hematology-Oncology.

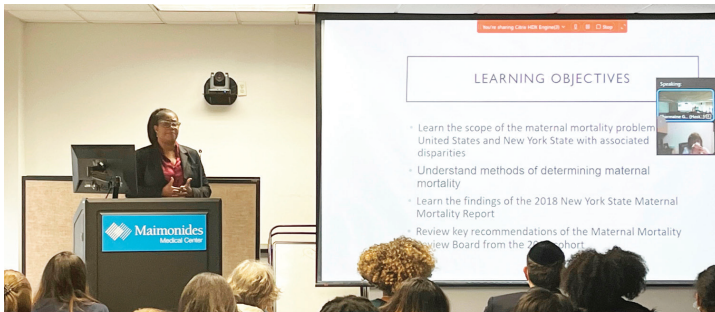
This agreement builds on previous collaborations in Neurology and Pathology, where Maimonides and Downstate have also established [combined regional programs](#) over the past six years. It serves as another step in the growing partnership between the two organizations that are critical in meeting the healthcare needs of Brooklyn residents while focusing on some of the borough's most [underserved communities](#). 📱

## LiveOnNY Honors Maimonides for Organ and Tissue Donation Efforts



On January 26, [LiveOnNY](#) honored Maimonides for its [organ and tissue donor program](#). As part of the celebration, Maimonides hosted a program and symbolic flag raising, featuring remarks from Maimonides President and CEO Ken Gibbs and LiveOnNY President & CEO Leonard Achan.

LiveOnNY celebrated a record-breaking year for donations in 2022, with more than 1,300 patients saved by organ donors from the greater New York City area. LiveOnNY and Maimonides congratulate [Dr. Richard Savel](#), Director, Adult Critical Care Services; [Dr. Mohamed Gaffoor](#), Director, Pediatric Critical Care; [Dr. Ilya Levin](#), Neurointensivist; Anzhela Dupliyi, Nurse Manager, SICU; and Sorophina Young, CNS, SICU, for their leadership and contributions to this honor. 🏢



### Dr. Wendy Wilcox Speaks About Maternal Mortality at OB/GYN Grand Rounds

Last month, Mayor Eric Adams officially launched the Women’s Health Agenda. [Dr. Wendy Wilcox](#), Chief Women’s Health Officer, NYC Health and Hospitals, joined the Mayor for the announcement. Less than a week later, #TeamMaimo was thrilled to welcome Dr. Wilcox to our OB/GYN Grand Rounds, where she discussed New York’s Maternal Mortality Review Initiative, [established by the Department of Health in 2019](#) with the goal of eliminating all preventable pregnancy-associated deaths. It found that the majority of pregnancy-associated deaths in New York are identified as preventable, and that women of color and especially Black women face the greatest risk. Dr. Wilcox presented stark statistics demonstrating racial disparities in health care related to low



income and black maternal morbidity, and recommended steps hospitals can take to address these disparities, many of which are already in place at [Maimonides](#). 🏢



## 40th Miami Breast Cancer Conference

The [Physicians' Education Resource's](#) 40th Annual Miami Breast Cancer Conference will take place in person this year from March 2 to March 5 at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach. [Patrick Borgen, MD](#), Head of the [Maimonides Breast Center](#) and Chair of the Department of Surgery, will serve as program chair for the conference, and Maimonides physician [Fleure Gallant, MD](#), will be a featured speaker.



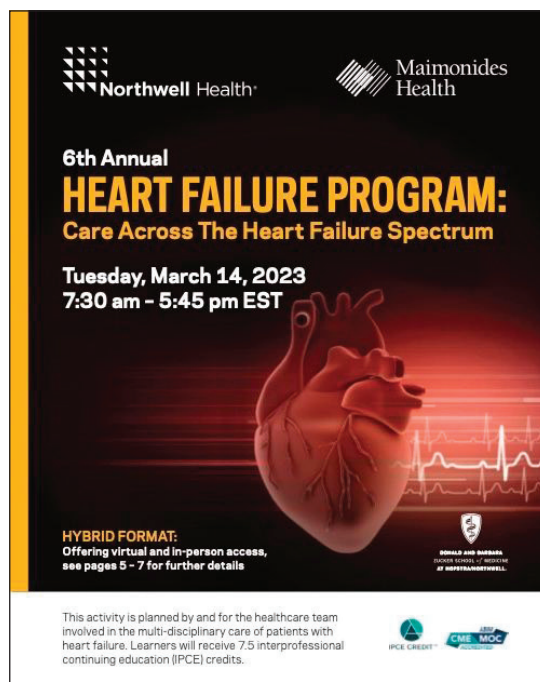
**For more information and to register, visit:**

<https://event.gotoper.com/event/7ad5ab0f-15ef-4af6-9210-c69a8ea47ca2/summary>.

## 6th Annual Heart Failure Program: Care Across the Heart Failure Spectrum

All physicians and providers specializing in multidisciplinary heart failure care are welcome to attend the 6th annual Heart Failure Program cohosted by [Maimonides](#) and Northwell Health. Taking place on March 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., this year's conference will focus on "Care Across the Heart Failure Spectrum," including discussions of updates, treatment approaches, and trends in the field.

The program will be offered in a hybrid format, with a virtual option and in-person options at both Maimonides Medical Center and North Shore University Hospital. Learners will receive 7.5 interprofessional continuing education credits.



**For more information and to register visit:**

<http://bit.ly/3WoC75p>.



**Maimonides’ Newest Gastroenterologist Solves Pediatric Tummy Troubles**

Maimonides’ youngest patients are in for a treat with the addition of Mila Tempel, MD. She’s an accomplished pediatric gastroenterologist who has experience treating [tummy troubles in some of our most vulnerable patients](#).

Dr. Tempel has impressive experience and career ambitions. In addition to a career in healthcare spanning more than two decades, beginning with a position as a physical therapy aid, she has also contributed to numerous peer-reviewed publications and studies.

**Dr. Tempel Includes Nutrition and Healthy Living as Part of Her Pediatric Gastroenterology Practice.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way people of all ages live, and Dr. Tempel has taken note of the way it’s [affecting children’s health](#). “In the last two years, children have had limited physical activity, which has played a significant role in the uptick of obesity.”

[Addressing childhood obesity](#) is a priority for her, especially given the unique intersection of her experience as a general pediatrician and a pediatric gastroenterologist — and she wants to do it right here at Maimonides.

“I plan to focus on childhood obesity by starting a project that provides resources for parents and children promoting healthier dietary and lifestyle changes,” she explains. “Nutrition is so important for all children, especially when they’re sick.”

**Riveting Experiences During her Residency Steered Dr. Tempel to Pediatric Gastroenterology.**

Growing up, Dr. Tempel planned to pursue a career in education, but she later developed an interest in medicine. She came out of medical school intent on a career as a pediatrician, but her pediatric residency experience led her to pursue the practice of pediatric gastroenterology.

“I was inspired by a very difficult case and the gastroenterologist who helped to solve it,” she said. “Now, I enjoy taking care of pediatric patients with celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, constipation, reflux, failure to thrive, and other gastrointestinal illnesses.”

**NEW PROVIDERS**

**February 2023**

**Jason Ho, MD**, Adult Critical Care Medicine, Trauma Surgery, General Surgery, 718-283-7757





## Featured Podcast



### **Maimo MedTalk**

#### **Women's Heart Health: How Heart Attacks and Disease Present Differently in Women**

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States, yet many women don't know it or talk about it.

[Inna Nelipovich, MD](#), discusses how Maimonides is trying to spread [heart health awareness among women](#).

[Listen Here](#)