

MAIMO MEDNEWS IS THE PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER OF MAIMONIDES HEALTH

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Maimonides' Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center Offers Advanced, Evidence-Based Treatment When Every Moment Counts

The [Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center at Maimonides](#) provides exceptional, round-the-clock stroke care tailored to our community's unique needs. But our dedicated team doesn't stop there. Behind the scenes, they work tirelessly to establish evidence-based practice protocols, participate in clinical research, and maintain the highest quality standards.

Upcoming Stroke Symposium to Highlight New Research from Maimonides and Around the World

The team's expertise will be displayed during the [3rd Annual Brooklyn Stroke Symposium](#) on May 25. Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center is hosting the virtual/in-person symposium jointly sponsored by Maimonides Neuroscience Institute and the SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Department of Neurology. Last year, more than 350 physicians and other health professionals attended. Registration for the event is FREE and currently open, with a maximum of [8.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits](#) available.

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“The symposium provides a forum for sharing information about new research and clinical paradigms here in Brooklyn and around the world,” says [Q. Tony Wang, MD, PhD](#), a stroke neurologist, a neurointerventionalist, and director of the Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center. “It’s also an opportunity to showcase our team’s collaborative efforts to drive innovation in stroke prevention, treatment, and recovery.”

[Daniel Rosenbaum, MD](#), Regional Chair of Neurology at Maimonides Medical Center and Distinguished Service Professor and Chairman of Neurology of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, will deliver the Welcome Remarks. Dr. Wang will provide the symposium’s opening remarks and a presentation titled “Thrombolytics & Neuroprotection: The Yin and Yang of Neuronal Survival in Stroke.”

Studies at the Stroke Center Help to Implement Cutting-Edge New Standards of Care

As part of the Department of Medicine grand rounds, Dr. Wang will discuss two recent initiatives at Maimonides that demonstrate the team’s commitment to continuous quality improvement and evidence-based practice. The first initiative is a 2022 pilot study at Maimonides, which evaluated the efficacy and safety of an [alternative stroke IV thrombolytic agent](#), Tenecteplase, to Alteplase, the only fibrinolytic drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat acute ischemic stroke. The stroke team at Maimonides showed better door-to-needle time, cost-saving and, most importantly, similar outcome efficacy and safety despite its sicker population with higher NIH stroke scale of the Tenecteplase group compared to the Alteplase group. As a result, the team recently decided to switch to Tenecteplase as the main thrombolytic option for ischemic stroke. Researchers are preparing data results for publication and submission to the [Maimonides institutional review board](#) for a larger scale prospective national study.

The other initiative that will be highlighted is investigating the neuroprotective [effect of the antibiotic Minocycline in acute stroke mortality](#). Based on the team’s retrospective review, discontinuation of Minocycline since 2019 may have been associated with statistically significant in-hospital mortality increase in acute stroke patients. The team is developing a follow-up prospective study to establish the direct link minocycline’s neuroprotective effect in reducing mortality after acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke.

“This research is institution and population-specific—we don’t just copy and paste what other stroke centers are doing,” Dr. Wang says. “Studying institutional data from Maimonides helps us better understand our community’s needs, which are very diverse, so we can tailor our care protocols and patient support programs to the people we serve right here in Brooklyn. We also participate in large, national research trials to help develop novel therapies that may benefit patients world-wide.”

Maimonides is [nationally recognized for excellence in stroke care](#). The Medical Center 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 patients receive IV thrombolytic treatments as indicated within 30 minutes of arrival. The Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center at Maimonides is also among the elite hospitals designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Joint Commission. In addition, U.S. News & World Report ranks Maimonides as a “Best Regional Hospital” and High Performing for Stroke Care (2022-23).

[Learn more about the 3rd Annual Brooklyn Stroke Symposium and register](#) 

MMCH Services Continue to Expand with New Infusion Center

Patients at [Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital](#) (MMCH) now have access to expanded treatment options. The new MMCH Infusion Center gives them a convenient place to get treatment for a wide range of conditions without traveling far from home.

This is just the latest in a series of expanded service offerings at MMCH. What began with cutting-edge technology and improved emergency department services is continuing with infusion services, and there's more to come!

Collaboration with HOAB

The infusion center is run conjointly by MMMCH and [Hematology Oncology Associates of Brooklyn](#) (HOAB). [Fran Necci, AOCNP](#), the Director of Clinical Services for HOAB, and her colleagues are enthusiastic about collaborating with MMCH.

“[Dr. Joseph Lebowicz](#), [Dr. Mikhail Grinberg](#), [Dr. Inna Sominsky](#), and I all started our careers at Maimonides Medical Center (MMC) and are very excited for the opening of the new center after working on it for 3-4 years,” she said. “I started at MMC in 1979 before joining HOAB in 2001. I never imagined that 43 years later I would be part of such an exciting collaborative project!”



Patients Enjoy Privacy and Comfort During Infusion Therapy

Receiving infusion therapy can be stressful and time-consuming. As a result, the compassionate staff in the infusion center do their best to give patients a pleasant experience.

Three comfortable and inviting infusion areas in the center ensure that patients have privacy while receiving treatment. Each area features floor-to-ceiling windows, plush recliners, and a TV to allow patients to relax while they receive infusion therapy for a wide range of conditions.

Even though [infusions aren't reserved for cancer patients](#), many of the patients who receive treatment in the MMCH Infusion Center need chemotherapy or immunotherapy for a cancer diagnosis. Patients who have multiple sclerosis, kidney disease, anemia, or other conditions can also get treatment there.

Providing Excellent Patient Care Close to Home

“A multidisciplinary team ensures every patient who walks through the doors of the MMCH Infusion Center receives competent, cutting-edge care and benefits from an individualized treatment plan that considers the totality of their condition,” Ms. Necci explained. The team is attentive to patients' physical, emotional, and financial health throughout their treatment.

Prior to the opening of the new MMCH Infusion Center, patients had to seek infusion treatments at other facilities. In some cases, this required them to travel long distances for life-saving infusions.

“Now, there's no need for patients and families to travel far from home. The best care for cancer and other infusion services is right here in Brooklyn.”



that all of our patients will enjoy the restaurant-quality menu and food choices,” said Maimonides Health CEO [Ken Gibbs](#).

Nutritional Inclusivity Is Part of the Culturally Sensitive Healthcare Provided at Maimonides

Maimonides caters to an extremely diverse community and prides itself on meeting the needs of Brooklyn’s many cultural groups, which often have special dietary needs or preferences. The new kitchens are [Glatt Kosher](#), adhering to the strictest rules of Kashrut, with all food prepared under the strict supervision of the Maimonides Rabbi and mashgichim.

Two New Kitchens Open in Conjunction with Launch of Enhanced Dining Program at Maimonides


On April 25, Maimonides Health officially [unveiled two brand-new kitchens](#) at Maimonides Medical Center in a ribbon cutting hosted by Maimonides leadership and its Food & Nutrition team.

Updates Designed to Bolster Patient Health and Dining Experience

The kitchens will be the center of Maimonides’ new enhanced dining program, designed to support patient health and well-being with an expanded menu of freshly prepared food. Nutrition is a [key part of each patient’s hospital stay](#), and this aspect of the patient experience is now more personalized than ever. Through the new dining program, a Patient Ambassador will now visit each patient’s room to discuss menu options and take food orders, providing bedside diet education and incorporating patients’ preferences and feedback into their diet plan.

“Improving and expanding the hospital’s meal offerings and changing the expectations of all of our patients, staff, and visitors has long been a priority. Eating good, nutritious food is integral to [a high-quality hospital experience](#), and we hope



In addition to meeting the needs of those who require a kosher menu, the expanded meal options now include more international cuisines and dishes, in addition to more vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free choices. Menus will continue to be translated into multiple languages. 

Dr. Reuben Strayer Publishes First Comprehensive Guidance on Emergency Management of Alcohol Use Disorder

The effects of alcohol intoxication and [alcohol use disorder](#) (AUD) often lead patients to the emergency room, whether for acute conditions like alcohol poisoning, trauma, or assault, or long-term medical and psychological conditions associated with alcoholism. Many of these patients are exclusively or primarily treated in the ED.

While the scope of emergency medicine has expanded to develop ED treatments for opioid addiction as the national opioid crisis persists, AUD has long remained relatively overlooked, despite alcohol being the most-used intoxicant in the world. [Reuben Strayer, MD](#), emergency physician at Maimonides, is aiming to change that.



Changing the Outlook for Alcohol Use Disorder in the ED

Earlier this year, Dr. Strayer was the lead author on a paper published in The [Journal of Emergency Medicine](#) titled “[Emergency Department Management of Patients With Alcohol Intoxication, Alcohol Withdrawal, and Alcohol Use Disorder: A White Paper Prepared for the American Academy of Emergency Medicine](#).” The pioneering paper provides the first comprehensive guidance for recognizing, treating, and responsibly discharging patients with alcohol withdrawal syndrome, alcohol intoxication, and AUD, according to Dr. Strayer. It includes consideration for a spectrum of moderate to severe presentations of these conditions, which are deceptively routine.

“Alcohol-related ED visits are rapidly escalating, and these patients are at high risk for poor outcomes, especially frequent presenters for care, nearly 1 in 10 of whom will die within 1 year,” the paper says. “The routine nature of these visits and the gradual pace of their decline conceals this risk; alcohol-related presentations in many centers are so common, and alcohol use so broadly accepted, that its impact is easily overlooked, when, in fact, every harm caused by alcohol is preventable.”

New Guidelines Empower Clinicians to Help Patients Address Harmful Alcohol Use Cycles

Many of these patients are [discharged sober and with short-term issues treated](#), but re-enter a cycle of alcoholism after their hospital visit. This new guidance aims to confront this, and intervene before addiction becomes medically, psychologically, and socially ruinous.

“Patients who are heavy alcohol users and chronic alcohol users often have a variety of [comorbid psychiatric, social and medical problems](#) that we often dismiss because they’re, for example, picked up on the street intoxicated,” Dr. Strayer said. “The usual paradigm for care is to park them in the corner of the department where they can sober up, and then allow them to basically walk out and, usually, return to their drinking.”

Dr. Strayer hopes that this guidance will move emergency departments away from this treatment model, and toward a model of addressing alcohol-related harms and intervening for patients’ future health. Emergency physicians hold a unique position to intercede for patients who need assistance in treating these conditions, but clinicians are often also discouraged, feeling as though they have little to offer these patients.

“My hope is that, similar to the use of [buprenorphine](#) and the de-stigmatization of opioid use disorder in the emergency departments, that across the country we will see a relatively robust uptake among a set of motivated clinicians,” Dr. Strayer said. “There’s an opportunity to do better. I think that we’ve learned with the way we’ve been able to intervene on OUD, opioid use disorder, that we can do better. And I’m optimistic that we’re going to take that same energy and apply it to alcohol use disorder.”

Provider Spotlight: Dr. Jonathan Klein Offers Patients the Insight of an Active Leader in Cancer Care Research

[Jonathan Klein, MD, MSc](#), a radiation oncologist, has joined the team at Maimonides Health. Not only is he a physician, but he brings a wealth of experience as a cancer researcher to the health system.

“I am proud to be associated with Maimonides’ role as a healthcare destination for the whole Brooklyn community with all its culture, diversity and varied experiences.” said Dr. Klein.

“Providing excellent care to all our patients based requires staying up to date on the latest medical research. I want my patients to have access to the latest innovations, and I also want to anticipate those that are still on the horizon. But playing an active role in research is equally as important to me. I want to make every effort to improve the care that we provide to patients.” he said.

A History in Cancer Care Excellence

Prior to joining the [Maimonides team](#), Dr. Klein was an attending radiation oncologist at Montefiore Medical Center for 5 years as well as an assistant professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and affiliate associate professor of clinical medicine at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Medicine.

Dr. Klein earned his M.D. at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. From there, he completed his residency in radiation oncology at Princess Margaret Hospital and the University of Toronto.

Subsequently, he completed a joint clinical and research fellowship in breast radiation oncology at the Odette Cancer Centre in Toronto while concurrently earning his Master of Science (M.Sc.) in the Department of Medical Biophysics at University of Toronto. During this time, Dr. Klein also completed the Clinician-Investigator Program offered by Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, a nationwide program to develop the next generation of clinician researchers.

At the Front Line of Breakthroughs in Cancer Care

Dr. Klein is actively involved [in cancer research](#), including numerous studies on radiotherapy technology.

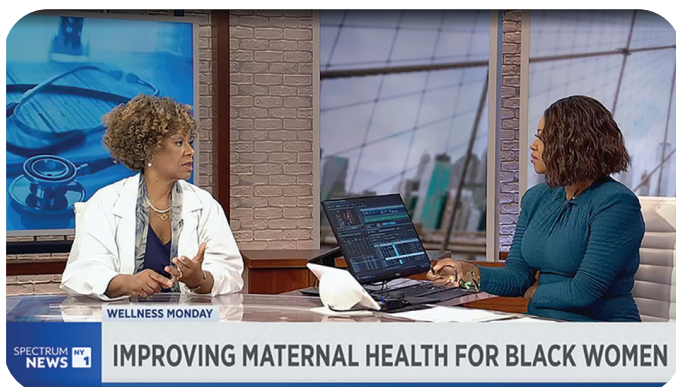
While working at Einstein, Dr. Klein spearheaded research



studies investigating how well patients transitioned to telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of financial hardships encountered by cancer patients on both quality of life and survival after treatment. He is hoping to continue this research at Maimonides to improve cancer care for the Brooklyn community. Other research interests include the role of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes, or white blood cells, in predicting survival and guiding treatment decisions for cancer patients.

Dr. Klein has published his research widely and has presented his results at major medical conferences including meetings of the [American Society of Radiation Oncology](#), [Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology](#), and American Society of Clinical Oncology. He is an active member of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), [American College of Radiology](#) (ACR), Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO), and [The Radiosurgery Society](#) (RSS). He also regularly delivers educational lectures to residents in the SUNY Downstate Radiation Oncology residency program to ensure that the next generation of physicians is well-versed in the latest research findings.

“I’ve made it a point to stay on top of the latest research in cancer care, and also to actively lead and participate in it,” Dr. Klein said. “This enables me to give my patients the very latest insights that can help them overcome their illness and achieve the best survival and quality of life outcomes possible.”



From implementing cutting-edge virtual technology into surgical procedures, to recognition for extraordinary leadership, Maimonides physicians and medical leaders continue to uplift Maimonides Health. We not only offer our patients the best care, but our team continues to distinguish themselves among the best in medicine.

Maimonides Surgeons Perform One of the First Mixed Reality Shoulder Replacement Surgeries in the U.S.

Surgeons [Jack Choueka, MD](#), Chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at Maimonides Health, and [Ramin Sadeghpour, MD](#), shoulder and upper extremity surgeon at [Maimonides Bone and Joint Center](#), led a groundbreaking shoulder replacement surgery utilizing a new, advanced virtual technology. The 90-minute mixed reality (MR) surgery was performed on March 30. Prior to this, the Maimonides surgical team has used 3D computer modeling software to ensure optimal size and position of implants. The MR technology allows for greater precision; more streamlined, personalized planning; and more efficient and accurate surgical solutions. [Learn more here.](#) 📺

Two Maimonides Health Quality Professionals Receive United Hospital Fund Honors

Congratulations to Sameh Samy, Chief Quality Officer and Vice President of Quality Management, and Charmaine Rose, Vice President of Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement at Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital, for being honored with [Excellence in Health Care Awards](#) from the [United Hospital Fund](#). They were among 64 honorees from across the New York metropolitan region this year, selected for extraordinary personal leadership to improve quality of care, patient safety, and patient experience. The honorees were celebrated at the [Tribute to Excellence in Health Care](#) on May 8 at Cipriani 42nd Street. 📺

Three Maimonides Doctors Named in Becker's Patient Safety Experts to Know

On May 3, [Becker's Hospital Review](#) published its 2023 list of "55 Patient Safety Experts to Know," an annual recognition of healthcare providers, experts, researchers, and executives working to promote patient safety in the New York City metro area. This year, three medical leaders from Maimonides Health were included in the list, including Robert Press, MD, PhD, Executive Vice President of Medical Affairs; [George Foltin, MD](#), Chief Patient Safety Officer; and [Michael Kantrowitz, DO, MS](#), Vice Chair for Quality and Safety in the Department of Medicine. [Read the full list here](#) for more information about these healthcare leaders' contributions to patient safety at Maimonides. 📺

Dr. Ellison Discusses Maternal Health Disparities on NY1

On May 1, [Thomasena Ellison, MD](#), Associate Director of [Gynecology at Maimonides Medical Center](#), spoke to NY1 about maternal mortality rates among Black women patients, sharing her insights regarding unconscious biases, healthcare accessibility and how we can improve maternal health for Black women. "It's all about having providers who not only hear but understand what the patient is saying. A lot of times, that means providing providers who come from the same cultural background as the patient, so there's no need for a translation," said Dr. Ellison. Watch the [full segment here.](#) 📺

The poster features a dark blue background with a glowing DNA double helix and a hand holding a test tube. The Maimonides Medical Center logo is in the top left. The title 'Evening of Research' is in large white font. Below it, a paragraph describes the event as a celebration of research achievements. The date and time 'Wednesday May 10, 2023 5:00pm' are prominently displayed. RSVP information and contact details for Aviva Segal are provided. The location and dress code are listed at the bottom.

 Maimonides
Medical Center

Evening of Research

Join us for a celebration of the many achievements in research by our residents, fellows, nurses and staff, and support the culture of research at Maimonides. The evening will include poster and platform presentations from the winners.

Wednesday
May 10, 2023
5:00pm

Please RSVP by April 1st, 2023.
If you have any questions, contact Aviva Segal at asegal@maimonidesmed.org or 718.283.6456

Dyker Heights Golf Club | 1030 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY | Cocktails & Dinner | Attire is business casual

For more information, visit:

<https://maimonidesevents.org/maimonides-evening-of-research/>

The poster shows a group of healthcare professionals in a clinical setting. The Maimonides Medical Center and Downstate Health Sciences University logos are in the top right. The title 'Maimonides Neurosciences Institute Presents the 3rd Annual BROOKLYN STROKE SYMPOSIUM' is in large blue font. The date 'Thursday, May 25, 2023' is in a blue box at the bottom.

 Maimonides
Medical Center

 DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Maimonides Neurosciences Institute Presents the 3rd Annual
BROOKLYN STROKE SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, May 25, 2023

For more information and to register, visit:

<https://maimo.org/treatments-care/stroke-and-neurosciences/brooklynstroke2023/>