

CONN CONSULTS

NEWS FOR PHYSICIANS FROM THE UCONN HEALTH CENTER

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PHYSICIAN DIRECTORY

With more than 350 physicians, UConn has the largest multi-specialty group in central Connecticut. We cover virtually every specialty and subspecialty in health care.

Detailed, up-to-date information about our specialists is available on our online physician directory at <http://uconndocs.uhc.edu>.



Malini Iyer, M.D., F.A.C.S.

NEW DIRECTOR OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

SKILLED SURGICAL ONCOLOGIST HAS PASSION FOR PREVENTION

Molly Brewer, D.V.M., M.D., M.S., has gained a national reputation for her skills as a gynecologic oncologist, particularly her expertise in minimally invasive surgery.

“Almost all of my procedures, including complex cases such as endometrial cancer staging and radical hysterectomy for early cervical cancer, are done laparoscopically because it’s easier for patients,” says Dr. Brewer, who is the new director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Brewer works closely with Carolyn D. Runowicz, M.D., a nationally prominent gynecologic oncologist, director of the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, chair of the National Cancer Advisory Board and former president of the American Cancer Society. Drs. Brewer and Runowicz are part of the team offering the highest level of care to women with gynecologic cancers.

PURSuing PREVENTION

Along with her surgical acumen, Dr. Brewer is a leader in cancer prevention. She ran an innovative women’s cancer prevention program at the Univer-

sity of Arizona, which is something she will replicate at the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center later this year.

“One of the most frustrating things about gynecologic oncology is recurrence, especially of ovarian cancer. Frankly, we seldom cure recurrence,” Dr. Brewer says. This has fueled her passion to improve methods of early detection and prevention.

“Today, the detection tools for ovarian cancer are not especially sophisticated. I’m interested in finding ways to detect these cancers earlier by identifying the earliest markers of risk,” she explained.

UNDERSTANDING RISK FACTORS

As research progresses, Dr. Brewer is striving to help women understand risk factors associated with ovarian cancer, many of which

are similar to risk factors for breast cancer.

“Breast and ovarian cancers are closely linked. It’s widely known that the BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations affect both cancers. Many women don’t know that a strong family history of breast cancer may increase the risk of ovarian cancer,” says Dr. Brewer. “Similarly, if you have your ovaries removed, your risk of developing breast cancer



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— Molly Brewer, D.V.M., M.D., M.S.

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UCONN WELCOMES NEW DERMATOLOGISTS



Hanspaul S. Makkar, M.D.

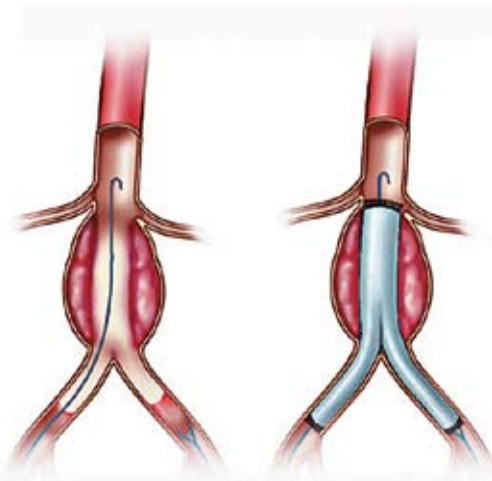
Hanspaul S. Makkar, M.D., a dermatologist with specialized training in Mohs micrographic surgery is now seeing patients at the UConn Health Center. He is a graduate of Northwestern University Medical School. He completed an internship at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School and a dermatology residency at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. He is fellowship trained in Mohs micrographic surgery and pediatric dermatology.



Amy Payne, M.D.

Amy Payne, M.D., is now seeing patients at the UConn Health Partners office in East Hartford. Dr. Payne offers skin cancer screening, as well as expert medical care for a wide range of skin conditions including acne, dermatitis and eczema. She received her medical degree from and completed a residency in dermatology at the University of Virginia.

TREATMENTS FOR ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM



The stent exerts outward pressure against the graft and artery to keep the graft in position. The blood then flows through the graft and bypasses the aneurysm. Without the pressure of flowing blood, the aneurysm is no longer at risk of rupturing and will eventually shrink.

To make an appointment with the UConn vascular team, call 860-679-3540. To speak with Dr. Menzoian, call 860-679-7650.

Vascular surgeons at UConn Health Center offer patients a new, less invasive procedure for repairing abdominal aortic aneurysms, a disorder with no known cause that results in about 16,000 deaths every year.

The new treatment relies on the use of guided imaging to place a stent in the weakened artery through small incisions in the groin. The stent is advanced to the aneurysm and then opened to create new walls in the blood vessel through which blood flows.

"This procedure, though not appropriate for everyone, is much less invasive than the traditional surgical repair of the artery and can mean shorter recovery time," says James Menzoian, M.D., a nation-

ally prominent vascular surgeon at the UConn Health Center. That can be important for patients for whom surgery poses greater risk because of their age or other conditions.

The traditional treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysm, which involves an abdominal incision and replacement of the diseased portion of the aorta with a synthetic graft material, is highly successful and is also offered at the Health Center.

"As recognition of this deadly condition increases, it is important to be able to provide treatment options," says Dr. Menzoian.

CT-scans or aortograms are used to determine whether an endovascular stent-graft intervention or traditional surgery is more appropriate. "For-

tunately for our patients, these screenings are now covered by Medicare for those considered to be at greatest risk: men over age 65 who are smokers now or have smoked in the past and women over age 65 who have a family history of abdominal aortic aneurysms," says Dr. Menzoian.

At the Health Center, Dr. Menzoian is a member of a vascular team that includes surgeon Michael Dahn, M.D., PhD., and Patricia Bozeman, A.P.R.N., C.V.N., a dedicated nurse practitioner. Team members have decades of experience in vascular medicine and surgery. They are part of the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center, one of the region's only comprehensive heart and vascular programs.

PULMONARY SPECIALIST LEADS NEW CENTER FOR BRONCHIECTASIS CARE

Pulmonary medicine specialist Mark Metersky, M.D., F.C.C.P., offers complete care for men and women suffering from bronchiectasis, a condition caused by permanent damage to the airways and characterized by a chronic cough, frequent bouts of pneumonia and poor airway function.

“Although bronchiectasis has been referred to as an orphan disease, we see new cases on a regular basis. It is most common in older patients who suffered from pulmonary infections in the pre-antibiotic era, but it is not unusual to see it in younger patients,” says Dr. Metersky.

The most common cause is prior severe viral or bacterial pulmonary infection resulting in irreversible damage to the bronchi. This damage renders the airways prone to chronic colonization with bacteria, creating a vicious cycle leading to recurrent infections that continue to damage the airways. Other commonly recognized causes include congenital or acquired immune deficiencies, unrecognized cystic fibrosis, alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency and genetic defects in ciliary function. It is less well appreciated that bronchiectasis is often a complication of underlying autoimmune diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease and scleroderma.

Recognizing a need for formalized standards of care, the Health Center, under Dr. Metersky’s leadership, formed the Center for Bronchiectasis Care.



Mark Metersky, M.D., F.C.C.P.

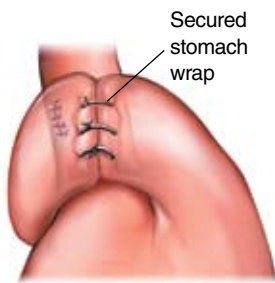
To speak with Dr. Metersky about a patient, call 860-679-3582. To schedule an appointment for a patient, call 860-679-4090.

At the Center, diagnoses are made using high resolution CT and clinical history. Further testing helps determine the etiology, as the treatment may depend upon the underlying cause of the bronchiectasis. All patients meet with a respiratory therapist to learn techniques for mucus clearance.

“It can be difficult for patients to live with bronchiectasis. Although there is no cure, our team has considerable experience in treating and effectively managing the symptoms,” Dr. Metersky adds. “The appropriate use of antibiotics, airway clearance devices and various adjunctive therapies is crucial, as several therapies have been shown to improve quality of life in patients with bronchiectasis.”

HEALING HEARTBURN

TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR EVEN THE MOST SEVERE CASES



The Nissen fundoplication procedure creates a new valve between the esophagus and the stomach by wrapping a portion of the stomach around the esophagus. When the stomach is full, the new valve tightens, preventing stomach contents from refluxing into the esophagus.

Heartburn. Indigestion. Hoarseness. Trouble swallowing. A dry cough and bad breath. All are symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), a condition where the stomach contents “reflux” into the esophagus.

“People who experience heartburn weekly or more often may have GERD and should consult with a physician,” says Yuri Novitsky, M.D., a surgeon at the UConn Health Center who specializes in minimally invasive procedures. “Chronic, untreated GERD can lead to serious complications, so it’s not something to take lightly or to attempt to treat with over-the-counter medications.”

Dr. Novitsky works closely with Petr Protiva, M.D., a gastroenterologist at the Health Center. They often see patients as a team and together make recommendations for treatment plans.

“Left untreated, GERD can result in inflammation of the esophagus, which can cause bleeding or ulcers. Scars from tissue damage can narrow the esophagus and make swallowing difficult. Some people develop Barrett’s esophagus, which can lead to cancer,” adds Dr. Protiva.

“For some patients, I recommend a laproscopic procedure called Nissen fundoplication, where we essentially construct a new valve between the esophagus and the stomach by wrapping a portion of the stomach around the esophagus.”

The laproscopic approach Dr. Novitsky uses to perform the procedure requires only five small incisions, which results in fewer complications and a quicker recovery.

To refer a patient to Dr. Novitsky or Dr. Protiva, call 877-676-1733.

Web-based Training Available for Newborn Screening



The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), along with the UConn Health Center and School of Medicine, recently announced “Newborn Screening in Connecticut,” a new web-based training program for health

care providers who care for infants and children. The goal is to screen all babies prior to discharge from birthing facilities or within the first four days of life.

The training sessions include information on:

- Latest newborn screening technologies
- Categories of disorders for which babies are screened
- Actions required when a baby has a positive screen
- Communication between the medical home, DPH and clinical specialists
- Appropriate medical care for children with a diagnosed condition

The training is free and offers continuing education credits and nursing contact hours.

Access the training program at www.genetrain.org.

New Services Available in East Hartford



Pamela Taxel, M.D., a nationally recognized endocrinologist with the UConn Center for Osteoporosis at the New England Musculoskeletal Institute, is now seeing patients at the East Hartford Office

of UConn Health Partners. In addition to her expertise in the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, she is involved with many research initiatives including research into osteoporosis in men.

Peter Schulman, M.D., an experienced cardiologist, is also seeing patients in the East Hartford Office. Many services of the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center, including stress testing, stress-echo, echocardiography and ankle-brachial index studies, are available at the UConn Health Partners offices.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment with either doctor, call 800-535-6232. UConn Health Partners, 99 Ash Street, East Hartford.

CONTACT US



Rick Daddario

Want to learn more about the UConn Health Center?

Please contact:
Rick Daddario
Physician Outreach Manager
UConn Health Center
860-679-1695 or
877-676-1733

FAST Facts

2,662 Men and women have received medical degrees from the UConn School of Medicine since the first class graduated in 1972.

.....
9,826 Number of patients admitted to John Dempsey Hospital in fiscal year 2006.

Know more — visit
www.KnowBetterCare.org

MOLLY BREWER — DIRECTOR OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

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decreases by 50 percent.”

Women with one or more risk factors for ovarian cancer who are concerned about their risk of ovarian or breast cancer can be referred to the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Hereditary Cancer Program. Here, experienced genetic counselors help them understand their risk profile. Genetic testing is available.

Women can also be referred to Dr. Brewer for prevention strategies, including the use of medications and surgical interventions.

“As a university hospital, the UConn Health Center offers so many resources for patients. I’m very pleased to be working with our genetic counselors and to be involved with clinical trials to improve care today, as well as research initiatives to find new cures and prevention strategies in years to come,” Dr. Brewer adds.

For more information, call Dr. Brewer at 860-679-1173. To reach the Hereditary Cancer Program call 860-523-6424.



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