

# PHYSICIAN NEWSBRIEFS

January/February 2020

## Welcome, New Providers



**Aderonke Ajala, MD**, medical oncology/hematology, joined the team at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport. Dr. Ajala earned her medical degree at the University of Lagos, College of Medicine in Lagos, Nigeria, and completed internal medicine residency at Howard University Hospital, Washington DC. She completed her fellowship training in hematology and oncology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. Dr. Ajala sees patients at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport, 1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport. For more information, or to refer a patient, call 570-326-8470.



**Jeremy T. Reed, MD**, Ear, Nose, & Throat (ENT), joined the team in Coudersport. Dr. Reed earned his medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La., completed his residency at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., and is fellowship trained in rhinology/endoscopic skull base surgery from Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He is board certified by the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, and the American Board of Otolaryngology and a member of the Counsel for the Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Dr. Reed is accepting new patients at ENT Services, UPMC Cole, Irwin Medical Arts Center, 1001 E Second St., Coudersport. For more information, or to refer a patient, call 814-274-5243.

## UPMC Cole Welcomes New Emergency Room Medical Director



UPMC welcomes **Jason Kodat, MD**, as the new medical director for the Emergency Room at UPMC Cole. Dr. Kodat earned his medical degree from the University of Toledo, Ohio, and completed his residency in emergency medicine at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh. "Quality emergency medicine is essential to the community, but many don't think about the ER until they need us in an emergency," said Dr. Kodat. "Emergency medicine is unique in that we're available to help our patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we see patients with a wide variety of ailments and injuries - from the common cold to serious trauma."

## UPMC Williamsport Names New ICU Medical Director



UPMC Williamsport welcomes **Navitha Ramesh, MD**, as the medical director of the intensive care unit. Dr. Ramesh earned her medical degree from The Tamilnadu Dr. MGR Medical University in India. She finished her residency training at Unity Health System/Rochester Regional Health and her fellowship training at Mount Sinai in N.Y. Dr. Ramesh is board certified in Internal medicine, Pulmonary medicine and Critical Care medicine with American Board of Internal Medicine. She holds a testameur status in Advanced Critical Care Echocardiography with National Board of Echocardiography.

## UPMC Williamsport Adds Nephrology Practice



UPMC Williamsport is pleased to welcome **Sam Stea, MD**, and his team to SH Nephrology. Dr. Stea earned his medical degree from New York Medical College, Valhalla, N.Y. He completed his residency at Danbury Hospital, Danbury Conn. and a fellowship in nephrology at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. Dr. Stea is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Joining Dr. Stea in the nephrology practice are **John Tyler Helmus, PA-C**, and **Emily Wascher, PA-C**. Helmus earned his masters of science in physician assistant studies from Touro College, Bay Shore, N.Y. and his bachelor of science in physician's assistant studies from the Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport. Wascher earned her bachelor of science in physician assistant studies from the Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport.

Dr. Stea and the team will see patients at the UPMC Williamsport Divine Providence Campus, 1201 Grampian Blvd, Suite 1A, Williamsport. Additional kidney clinic locations include; UPMC Outpatient Center, One Outlet Lane, Lock Haven, and 260 Reitz Blvd., Suite C, Lewisburg. To refer a patient, call 570-326-8080.

## How Living Donation Saves Lives

In the U.S., nearly 14,000 people wait on the liver transplant waiting list as their health continues to deteriorate. Approximately 2,800 of those patients will not receive their transplant in time because of a limited supply of deceased-donor livers. For eligible patients, there is another option: living-donor liver transplantation.

By pursuing living donation, patients on the liver transplant waiting list can receive a transplant sooner. Patients who receive a living-donor liver transplant do not take priority over or skip ahead of other patients on the waiting list, but rather, are able to get out of line because they have identified a suitable living donor, such as a family member or friend.

### How Does the Waiting List Work?

Although people often imagine the liver transplant waiting list as one big national line, it's more like a series of regional pools. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) breaks up the national waiting list into 11 regions, which usually include several states and many hospital systems. For instance, UNOS Region 2 includes Washington D.C., Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Patients are prioritized by their Model for End-stage Liver Disease (MELD) score, assigned by a doctor and meant to reflect their likelihood of death within a three-month period. The higher your MELD score, the higher chance you will receive a deceased-donor liver when it becomes available, a patient shares that MELD score with many other patients in each region and even at each hospital. Besides MELD, many other factors determine your ability to receive a deceased-donor liver transplant.

### How Are Organs Matched?

When an organ becomes available, several factors determine how that organ is matched to someone on the waiting list, including:

- Age
- Blood type
- MELD score
- Waiting time
- Geographic distance between donor and recipient
- Size of the donor organ in relation to the recipient

### Living-Liver Donation: A Lifesaving Solution

Living-donor liver transplants save lives by allowing recipients to receive a transplant sooner. Additional benefits of living donation include:

- Little or no wait time
- Quicker recovery time
- Improved long-term outcomes

When it comes to living-donor liver transplants, early evaluation is key, so it's important to explore this option as soon as possible.

## About UPMC Living-Donor Liver Transplant Clinic

The UPMC Liver Transplant Program is one of the oldest and largest transplant programs in the country. Since the program's inception in 1981, more than 6,000 adults have received liver transplants. Today, we lead the nation in the overall number of liver transplants performed from both deceased and living donors.



*David Kline, the first Susquehanna region living donor liver transplant recipient*

Our experts believe that liver transplant services should be available to all patients who will benefit—even those with a low MELD score or complex cases.

UPMC continues to be at the forefront of innovations that can improve the lives

of patients. With the establishment of the Liver Transplant Evaluation Clinic at UPMC Williamsport, we bring these high-quality evaluation services to your community. At the Liver Transplant Evaluation Clinic at UPMC Williamsport, our team is available to discuss living donation and provides resources to help identify a living donor. For more information, call 412-647-5800 or toll-free 1-877-640-6746

## Coronavirus Advisory

**Be aware of potential coronavirus exposure symptoms in recent travelers to China.**

Recent news coverage about a 2019-nCoV outbreak in China and a few related United States cases impacting recent travelers to China have raised questions among providers, staff, and patients. UPMC is staying informed of developments and taking proper precautions to ensure that our facilities and staff are well-equipped to properly care for patients with contagious diseases without exposing other patients, staff, or visitors. To date, there are no confirmed coronavirus cases in the communities UPMC serves.

Presenting clinical Symptoms of 2019-nCoV are fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness in patients with a history of travel from Wuhan, China within 14 days of onset; or close contact with a person who is under investigation for coronavirus. We are reminding our registration staff of the importance of asking patients about fever and recent travel outside of the U.S. to help in this effort. Out of an abundance of caution, we have added China to the travel screen.

UPMC is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology and the Allegheny County Health Department. The CDC website contains the most up-to-date information.

Although transmission dynamics have yet to be determined, follow these CDC recommendations:

- Mask the patient.
- Move the patient to a private room with the door closed. Ideally, an airborne infection isolation room, if available.
- Use airborne (N95 or PAPR) and contact (gown and gloves) precautions in addition to a face shield or goggles when entering the patient room.
- Engage the UPMC Wolff Center Infection Preventionists by calling MedCall at 412-647-7000.
- Practice normal environmental services cleaning.

If you are concerned a patient may have 2019-nCoV based on a travel screen and the recognized symptoms, appropriate testing for 2019-nCoV must be coordinated through the UPMC Wolff Center Infection Prevention team. Contact the Infection Prevention team via Medcall at 412-647-7000.

If you have questions, please contact **Rutul Dalal, MD**, medical director of infectious disease, UPMC in the Susquehanna region at 570-321-2181.

## In the Professions

### Dr. Frailey receives award for contributions to EMS



**Gregory R. Frailey, DO**, the medical director for Pennsylvania College of Technology's paramedic and physician assistant programs, recently received the Robert D. Aranosian, DO, FACOEP Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services.

The award is presented each year by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency

Physicians to a member of the organization or of the emergency medicine community who has made contributions to the field of EMS that furthered the operation, teaching or development of the specialty through actions, dedication and deeds. It is one of the organization's highest honors.

Frailey has served Penn College since 1998, when he accepted the position of assistant medical director for the college's physician assistant program. In addition to serving as medical director for two academic programs in the college's School of Nursing & Health Sciences, he is medical director of the college's quick response unit.

In his full-time work, he is an emergency physician for UPMC Williamsport and the medical director for Susquehanna Regional EMS. He also serves as medical director for the Little League Baseball World Series and the Lycoming, Tioga, Sullivan Regional EMS Council.

## Improved Electrophysiology Studies Access

The addition of **S. Sree Kesan, MD**, electrophysiologist, to the heart and vascular team has improved patient access to electrophysiology (EP) studies. EP studies can be used to evaluate symptoms such as dizziness, fainting, weakness, palpitation, and abnormally fast or slow heart rhythms. Dr. Kesan sees patients at 740 High St., Suite 2001, Williamsport. To refer a patient, call 570-321-2800. Electrophysiology appointments are available within two weeks of calling.

## Specialty Access

Our providers continually strive to improve access to care. Call today for the earliest available appointments for your patients.

**Orthopaedics/Sports Medicine/Foot & Ankle**  
570-321-2020

### Pain Management

Williamsport and Bloomsburg: 570-326-8457  
Lock Haven 570-893-5437

### General Surgery

Williamsport: 570-321-3760  
Lock Haven: 570-769-1300  
Muncy: 570-546-4185  
Wellsboro: 570-723-0716

### Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Williamsport - 570-326-8005

### Cancer Care

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center  
Williamsport: 570-326-8470  
Wellsboro: 570-723-2855

### Cardiology/Electrophysiology

Williamsport: 570-321-2800

### Urology

Williamsport: 570-326-8090  
Lock Haven: 570-769-1300

## PHYSICIAN LIAISONS



**Keith Boyer**

*Director, Business Development*

C: 570-447-5850

**boyerka@upmc.edu**



**Joseph M. Makowski**

*Physician Liaison*

C: 610-864-3082

**makowskij@upmc.edu**

Southern/Eastern Lycoming, Union, Snyder,  
Northumberland, Montour and Columbia Counties.



**Erin Plocinski**

*Physician Liaison*

C: 570-367-1869

**plocinskiem@upmc.edu**

Central/Western Lycoming, Centre, Clinton, Tioga,  
Potter, Bradford and Sullivan Counties.

**UPMC** LIFE  
CHANGING  
MEDICINE

Permit No. 232

Williamsport, PA

**PAID**

**U.S. POSTAGE**

Non-profit  
Organization

700 High St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Mail Code 200

**UPMC Susquehanna**