

Dr. Sujit Sheth

## Meet the New Chief of the Division

CCBF welcomes Dr. Sujit Sheth as the new Chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Sheth joins the Division after 19 years at NewYork-Presbyterian

Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital at Columbia University Medical Center. Prior to his career at Columbia, Dr. Sheth received his medical degree and completed his resident specialty training in Pediatrics at the University of Bombay.

He then came to the U.S. to pursue a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology Oncology at the Children's Hospital at Columbia University Medical Center.

An award-winning physician and clinical researcher, Dr. Sheth has previously been voted both teacher and attending of the year at Columbia. He completed work on his NIH grant "Mentored Patient-Oriented Hematology

Research Training," and has been a co-investigator in several NIH studies. Dr. Sheth's clinical interests include thalassemia, anemia, sickle cell anemia and all things related to iron. He is currently working on two research projects that explore different aspects of iron metabolism related to blood transfusions.



Dr. Sheth sees a bright future for the Division and has already initiated changes that will make it an even more prominent clinical, research and teaching center. His

first project involves revamping the clinical operation of the Division to enhance access through efficiency, which will allow more patients to receive treatments while experiencing shorter wait times. He plans to bring newer technology into the operation, which will improve the quality of care and facilitate patient oriented research. Dr. Sheth also looks forward to creating a new and fully renovated day hospital center,

which will provide a more child and family friendly environment that will make patients and their families feel welcome. Additionally, Dr. Sheth hopes to develop stronger ties with neighboring medical institutions and encourage collaborations among scientists. By collaborating on research initiatives, CCBF investigators and co-investigators from other institutions will be able to accelerate their research and bring new therapies to patients more quickly.

**“The Division wouldn't be what it is today without the Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation. CCBF's support is absolutely vital. It allows the Division to treat patients without insurance, bridge any external funding gaps for research, and provide invaluable in-kind support and volunteer programs.”**

# Dr. Bussel Wins Prestigious King Faisal Award

Congratulations to CCBF Physician and Board Member Dr. James Bussel for being awarded the prestigious King Faisal International Prize for Medicine. Each year the King Faisal Foundation awards dedicated men and women who have made truly outstanding contributions in their respective fields. Dr. Bussel, Professor of Pediatrics and Pediatrics in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Medicine and Director of the Platelet Research and Treatment Program, and co-investigator Dr. Richard Berkowitz, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Columbia University, jointly received the award for their breakthrough research on alloimmune thrombocytopenia, a disorder that affects fetuses

and newborns.



For almost 30 years, Dr. Bussel and Dr. Berkowitz have collaborated on the study of the history, optimal diagnostic criteria, and management of pregnant women whose fetuses are affected by alloimmune thrombocytopenia, which can cause intracranial hemorrhage either in utero or during the neonatal period. The two have also served as consultants to clinicians worldwide in need of advice on the clinical management of these patients and their research is the basis for the ongoing treatment of alloimmune thrombocytopenia.

## Meet the Physician

### Dr. Nicole Kucine



Dr. Nicole Kucine, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Assistant Attending Physician, became a full-time member of the faculty in 2011 after spending part of her training in the Division's joint fellowship program with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Before her fellowship, Dr. Kucine received her medical degree from the State University of New York-Downstate Medical Center and completed her residency in Pediatrics at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. For her undergraduate education, Dr. Kucine attended Wellesley.

A past participant in the Division's fellowship program, Dr. Kucine looks forward to helping educate the new generation of fellows, residents and medical students in the same way the Division's specialists trained her. She also hopes to make

great contributions to patient care at the clinic. Her interests include working with children with bleeding and clotting disorders, different kinds of leukemia and various blood disorders such as sickle cell anemia.

Dr. Kucine will also enhance the clinical research taking place at the Division as she continues, among

**The best part of my job with the Division is our families. They are truly some of the most inspiring and wonderful people I have ever had the privilege to serve, and I cannot tell you how many smiles they have brought to my face since I have started.**

other research, a project from her fellowship which looks at a newer class of drugs for treating high-risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Another project that she is working on involves both retrospective and prospective evaluations of hospitalized patients with blood clots, which will help to gain a better understanding of why patients develop blood clots and which patients can be prevented from developing clots in the future.

## Barbara Scafidi Runs NYC Marathon for Son Jack

On November 6, 2011, Barbara Kelly Scafidi ran in the world famous ING New York City Marathon in support of the Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation. While this was Barbara's third time participating in the New York City Marathon, it was her first time running in honor of her son Jack, who recently became a patient at the Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation's clinic.

In 2010 Jack became ill and was taken to a doctor near the family's home in San Diego, California. When it was clear that Jack was exhibiting signs of a bleeding disorder, Barbara and her husband, Joe, began searching for a specialist. The Scafidi's were quickly referred to the Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation clinic in New York City. Despite the distance, the center came very well recommended and the Scafidi family decided to travel to New York. Once



in the Division's care Jack was diagnosed with a mild bleeding disorder.

Thankful for the care they received from the wonderful and accommodating Division staff, Barbara and her family decided that her 2011 NYC Marathon run

would be in honor of Jack and in support of the Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation. The Scafidi's friends and family from all over the world came together to support Jack and Barbara and raised nearly \$4,000. Barbara will be running the New York City Marathon again this year and the family has decided to continue

to raise funds for the Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation. Barbara, Jack and the rest of the Scafidi family are hoping to raise \$10,000 for CCBF in 2012 and are looking forward to the challenge!

### Meet the Physician

## Dr. Sarah Lo

It has always been important to Dr. Sarah Lo to work with physicians who didn't lose focus on the human impact of the diseases they treat, which is why she decided to join the compassionate faculty at the Division. She looks forward to continuing her work with the Division's world-class staff to provide the best clinical care for her patients and advance cutting-edge genetic and genomic technologies to help children with cancer and other complex diseases.



Dr. Lo completed her undergraduate studies at Barnard College and was then awarded the Macy Scholarship to study public health at Columbia University. After obtaining her Master of Public Health, Dr. Lo pursued her medical training at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Upon receiving her M.D., Dr. Lo remained in New York to complete her internship and residency in Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. She went on to pursue a clinical fellowship in Pediatric Hematology Oncology at Yale University after which she joined the Division.

One of Dr. Lo's current research projects focuses on childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

While the medical community has made impressive advances in the success of therapy for leukemia, very little is known about the causes of the disease in the vast majority of children. The aim of Dr. Lo's research is to study the interplay of genetic and environmental risk factors in the development of childhood leukemia with the hope that it will provide critical insights for providing targets to develop novel therapies.

**“The patients I see on the wards and in the clinics inspire my research in a very direct way, and I hope to bring my scientific discoveries back to patients to optimize their care.”**

## Updates From the Clinic

# CCBF Holiday Party

Each year, CCBF spreads the holiday spirit at the Division by hosting a party for all of the patients. This year's party, which took place on



December 19th, was great fun for the whole family. The afternoon featured lunch and treats, face painting and a special visit

from Santa and two of his reindeer who helped pass out toys to all of the children.



This year's party was extra special when New York Knick's great John Starks and Real Housewives of New Jersey star Kathy Wakile stopped in to meet and take photos with some of their fans.

## Meet the Physician

# Dr. Catherine McGuinn

Dr. Catherine McGuinn has been interested in pediatric hematology and oncology ever since she spent her summers in college volunteering at a camp for children with critical illnesses like cancers and blood disorders. The wonderful children she met while volunteering inspired her to work in the field of pediatric hematology and oncology.

In 2011, Dr. McGuinn joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and an Assistant Attending Pediatrician at the Division. She completed her undergraduate work at Yale University, received her medical degree from NYU, and completed her internship and residency in Pediatrics at NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital



at the Columbia University Medical Center, where she remained for her fellowship training in Pediatric Hematology Oncology.

Dr. McGuinn's clinical interests include the diagnosis and management of children with hematologic and oncologic disorders with a special interest in thrombosis and hemostasis disorders, bone marrow failure syndromes, hemoglobinopathies, vascular tumors and benign hematology. She is currently

working on a number of different projects including studies of clotting, thrombosis and platelet disorders.

**“Caring for pediatric hematology oncology patients requires a dedicated, compassionate and integrated medical team. I am proud to be part of the Division as we strive to advance the treatment of children with cancer and blood disorders.”**

## Learn More

# Learn How You Can Make a Difference

## General Support

Your generous gift will help CCBF continue to offer quality care and remain a pioneer of pediatric oncology and hematology research.

## Memorial and Tribute Gifts

These gifts allow you to make a donation in the name of a loved one.

## Matching Gifts

Your gift could be doubled or even tripled! Check with your HR office to see how your company can match gifts.

## Volunteer

CCBF is always looking for dedicated people to help in our fundraising efforts. Share in this rewarding experience.

## Other Ways to Help

There are other ways to help, such as planned giving and gifts of stock. Ask us about other ways to donate!



Visit us online at  
[www.ChildrensCBF.org](http://www.ChildrensCBF.org)  
212-297-4336  
[info@childrenscbf.org](mailto:info@childrenscbf.org)