2019 Physician & Resident/Fellow of the Year

Physician of the Year
Sean Koppe, MD

Resident of the Year
Talisa de Carlo, MD
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 PHYSICIAN AND RESIDENT/FELLOW OF THE YEAR!

Physician of the Year: Sean Koppe, MD, Hepatology
Since Dr. Sean Koppe joined UI Health, his leadership and clinical talents have been admired by many. Dr. Koppe has become a recognized and respected hepatologist and transplant specialist both locally and nationally.

Since his arrival in 2014, Dr. Koppe has been the driving force of the Hepatology service. In addition to his administrative responsibilities as Director of Hepatology, he has been instrumental in rebuilding and revitalizing the Hepatology clinical service both through recruitment of new faculty and by staffing the UI Health general hepatology, pre-transplant, and post-transplant clinics, and also the busy weekly hepatology clinics at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. In addition, he has spent considerable time cultivating relationships with referring providers and traveling to offsite clinics. This is evidenced by a doubling in liver transplants since his arrival with over 50 transplants in the last year alone.

Dr. Koppe has proven himself to be a compassionate caregiver and is able to guide this patient population through a troubling time as they prepare for and recover from a major operation and lifestyle change.

Dr. Koppe understands the unique mission of UI Health, respects the patients we serve, and collaborates effectively with the physicians and staff who work here.

Resident of the Year: Talisa de Carlo, MD, Ophthalmology
Clinically, Dr. Talisa de Carlo has proven to be highly skilled, efficient, and engaging in her care of patients. She demonstrates an extraordinary degree of compassion and integrity in her patient interactions.

Dr. de Carlo prioritizes in a busy ambulatory setting by always putting the patient first, and she engages very well with patients, faculty, ancillary staff, and colleagues. She communicates very clearly across service lines and departments, and her positive and engaging attitude make her a clear and genuine asset in our busy clinics.

In the operating room, Dr. de Carlo demonstrates a high level of technical skill and judgment. She can take and assimilate feedback in a formal manner as well as ‘on-the-fly’ throughout a given surgical case. She takes responsibility for the care of each surgical patient throughout the entire encounter — from preoperative intake through the surgical procedure and to postoperative discharge.

Dr. de Carlo also has made lasting positive contributions to her residency training program. She has taken the lead on a faculty-resident mentorship program that has been received very positively by all parties. The program was entirely initiated and executed by Dr. de Carlo.

These physicians continuously put patients first, collaborate with other departments, respect their peers, and personify the core values of our mission at UI Health.

Selection for Physician and Resident of the Year is a multi-step process. Once the nomination period ends, the submissions are reviewed and rated against criteria for the awards. After the top three nominees are identified, the candidates go to a second round of review with medical staff leadership and strategic partners before a final selection is made.

2019 NOMINEES

Physicians
Igor Altman, MD
Ahmad Aref, MD
Elena Barengolts, MD
Samuel Chmell, MD
Irum Khan, MD
Sean Koppe, MD
William Kobak, MD
Sabine Kreilinger, MD
Andrew Kreppel, MD
Ulana Leskiw, MD
Janet Lin, MD
Wenhua Liu, MD
David Peace, MD
Mary Schmidt, MD
Jaye Schreier, MD
Neeta Venepalli, MD

Fellows/Residents
Sonia Christian, MD
Arkady Rasin, MD
Wassim Skef, MD
Emelia “Mimi” Arquilla, MD
Kurt Ashack, MD
Lisa Brown, MD
Talisa de Carlo, MD
Martin Hinrichs, MD
Ikuyo Imayama, MD
Elise Lippmann, MD
Amber May, MD
Christina Miller, MD
Jasmine Saavedra, MD
Laurel Sofer, MD
Get to Know Our FY20 Goals & Initiatives

We are two months into the fiscal year, but our FY20 (and beyond!) goals and initiatives are well underway.

As you are likely aware, our May 9 Go-Live with the Epic electronic health record system is our priority in the coming year. Across our health system, scores of individuals and departments have been supporting our 3i Project Team as they integrate, train, and communicate about all things Epic — thank you! More on Epic in a bit, but first, I want to provide a few more updates about our organizational goals.

New focus areas for FY20 and the coming years include Burnout Prevention, Workplace Violence Prevention, and working toward Magnet Status for our hospital, a recognition of our nursing excellence. These items and more can be found in the center column — FY20-FY22 Initiatives — of our Goals document. Please be reminded that these items are longer-term, one- to three-year initiatives. We have been and will continue working toward these goals — and we will achieve them!

I speak more to these items in a new video on our FY20 Goals & Initiatives, which is now available on the intranet. There, you also can view and download the Goals document, and there are instructions for ordering larger numbers of the document for your department or team. The Goals document is a great item to keep near your workspace to remind you of our focus points and what we are working toward.

While all these items are important, Epic remains our focus — and takes precedence. The key to a successful Go-Live and implementation will be our ability to prioritize Epic and not let other tasks become a distraction.

This requires being mindful of every project or request that comes our way. We all should feel empowered to ask: Can it wait?

Is this request part of the Epic launch? If not, Can it wait?

This project may get in the way of my 3i Project responsibilities. Can it wait?

I know we all work hard and want to do all we can to support UI Health, but for the next eight months, it’s incumbent on us to advocate for ourselves and our time, so we can devote the necessary resources to Epic. If an initiative comes your way that doesn’t support the Epic launch, please make every effort to determine if it can safely wait — our priority is the Epic Go-Live.

The similar notion goes for all of us when we make a request of a colleague or department. Before making the request, please ask yourself: Can this request wait? If you make the request, and the response is, Can this wait?, please pause and closely consider our priorities and our resources to accomplish them.

Remember, our additional operational and infrastructure initiatives — the middle column of our Goals document — are one- to three-year projects for FY20-FY22. They are receiving resources. They will get done. But our focus now is on Epic, which will go live May 9. The massive training endeavor for the Go-Live will start in less than six months!

Thank you for the significant effort and contributions you already have made to our 3i Project and Epic Go-Live. This undertaking is a tremendous example of what we can achieve when we all work together.

Thank you!

Michael B. Zenn
Chief Executive Officer

Opt-Out HIV Screening Launched Sept. 10

UI Health is taking action to end the HIV epidemic in Chicago by implementing HIV screening in all inpatient settings.

As of Sept. 10, all patients between the ages 18 and 64 are being screened for HIV with routine bloodwork unless declined by the patient.

Getting to Zero Illinois is a statewide initiative led by community organizations, healthcare providers, government agencies, and people living with HIV to end the HIV epidemic in Illinois by 2030.

Did you know:

• 1 in 7 people living with HIV are unaware of their infection
• An estimated 4,300 individuals living in Chicago are HIV positive and don’t know it
• 2 in 5 new HIV diagnoses in Chicago are among individuals age 20-29
• The only way to know your HIV status is to get tested

For more information, or to view training documents, please visit the intranet.

For questions, please contact Project HEAL at projectheal@uic.edu.
A unique paint job adorned the 2019 Hyundai Santa Fe parked at UI Health—it was decorated with colorful handprints from children who are current and former cancer patients.

These kids, who are getting care at UI Health, dipped their hands in blue, green, and red paint last week and left a lasting impression on the white car during a ceremony announcing UI Health’s receipt of a Hyundai Impact Award Grant. The $100,000 check was presented to Dr. Mary Lou Schmidt, head of pediatric hematology/oncology at UI Health.

The children participated in the program’s signature “Handprint Ceremony,” where their colorful handprints on the official “Hope Vehicle” are meant to represent their individual and collective journey, hopes, and dreams. UI Health is one of 77 beneficiaries of the award granted from Hyundai Hope on Wheels, a nonprofit organization supported by Hyundai and its U.S. dealers.

Having been awarded a similar grant six years ago, Schmidt knew the impact it could make.

“We used our grant in 2013 to further grow our Children’s Oncology Group Program by opening more clinical trials and increasing enrollments at UIC, Rush University Medical Center, and the John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County,” Schmidt said.

“The 2019–20 Hyundai Hope on Wheels grant will be used to grow our Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Program by funding a patient navigator to help coordinate care and make sure that each patient treated is offered all possible opportunities to enroll in clinical trials that can impact these young individuals in the future.” — Dr. Schmidt

Above, left to right: Christine Adley, cancer survivor and guest speaker, current pediatric cancer patient, Dr. Schmidt, Hyundai Motor Company representative, and Dr. Benjamin Van Voorhees, head of the Department of Pediatrics.

Top photo: Hyundai representatives present Dr. Schmidt with a check for $100,000 toward pediatric cancer research. Former and current pediatric cancer patients also came up front to be in the photo.
Getting Ahead of Sepsis

September is Sepsis Awareness Month! Sepsis is the leading cause of death in U.S. hospitals. UI Health clinicians play an essential role in combating sepsis.

Please remember to:
• Prevent Infections: Good hand washing habits are crucial.
• Think Sepsis: Know the signs and symptoms of sepsis.
• Think CALF and VEAL: Initiate the 3-hour Bundle and follow through with the 6-hour Bundle.
• Reassess your patients and your management plan frequently.
• Document your clinical reasoning.
• Educate patients and their families about sepsis.

UI Health has taken steps to improve sepsis outcomes by implementing EHR alerts, nurse-driven protocols, updating guidelines, and creating order sets for providers to use. Early identification and treatment has proven to decrease severity of sepsis and save lives. This effort takes ALL members of the care team. Together, we can make a difference.

Stay tuned for sepsis education as UI Health moves to the electronic health record, Epic.

To learn more about sepsis prevention, visit the intranet.

C A L F & V E A L B U N D L E S

3-Hour Bundle

CULTURES
ANTIBIOTICS
LACTATE
FLUIDS (30 mL/kg)

6-Hour Bundle

VASOPRESSORS:
To keep MAP ≥ 65
EVALUATE
O2 Saturation & CVP
ASSESS
Volume Status
LACTATE
Repeat if Initial lactate > 2

Seeking Epic Super Users

The Epic go-live is eight months away — May 9, 2020. And while this may seem like a long time, it’s really right around the corner! UI Health is committed to a successful Epic go-live and implementation, and crucial to that is our own team of Epic Super Users! Super Users are UI Health staff, providers, and partners that will help ensure a seamless transition to Epic by contributing their time, excitement, and advanced Epic knowledge to assist peers and colleagues at go-live and beyond.

Who can be a Super User?
• Physicians (Faculty, Residents, Fellows, APPs)
• Clinical & Ancillary Roles (Nurses, MAs, Techs, Phlebotomy, Therapists, Unit Clerks, etc.)
• Support Roles (Transport, Environmental Services, etc.)
• Business Staff (Front Desk, Billing, etc.)

How to be a Super User
• Participate in early training — and assist in training classes to strengthen your Epic skills.
• Participate in readiness activities to gather new tips, tricks, and efficient solutions to common Epic issues during go-live and implementation

During this time, Super Users may be pulled away from some regular staffing duties, but the knowledge gained and shared during this period will help create more efficient clinical workflows in the future.

Stay tuned for more information about Super User recruitment!

Speaking of Super, New Devices are Coming!

This month, it all starts to get real, as we take the first visible steps in our 3i journey. Our UI Health technical team has been working overtime, especially at nights on weekends, to upgrade our wireless infrastructure to prepare for all the new devices we will be using with Epic. New computers and 24-inch monitors will soon be arriving, and peripheral devices such as barcode scanners, label printers, and e-signature pads will be positioned alongside the new hardware. These items will be labeled with stickers that denote they are for Epic Use Only; they will not work with Cerner or other software! Hardware for units on the UI Health network should be delivered by the end of the year. For units not on the UI Health network, information on new devices should be available soon.

Additionally, a handful of devices in places like unit clerk stations or provider offices will also be updated to Windows 10 in the next couple of weeks. Bear with us through this transition, and we will do our best to troubleshoot any issues as quickly as possible.
This year, Flu Shot Season at UI Health is taking on added meaning and urgency.

1) Our University Health Service staff are approaching this day as an important “operational stress test” — a “dry run” to see how well we can perform in the case of a mass inoculation emergency in Chicago. This means on Sept. 25, we need to challenge the immunization teams to complete 4,000+ vaccinations in one 12-hour period. We have gotten pretty close to that number in the last few years. It just requires 10% more practitioners and staff to show up to put us over 4,000. Together, we can reach 4K!

2) The flu shot compliance deadline of Nov. 30, 2019, will be tightly managed this year. Avoid the negative consequences of being non-compliant on December 1.

Take advantage of the convenience — 5 minutes or less will get it done. We have learned from prior years that Flu Shot Day can go smoothly — with each person’s consent form and inoculation taking no more than 5 minutes. Yes, you’ll see people waiting in lines, but the lines move swiftly enough; and you can bypass some of the waiting by filling out the consent form ahead of time and bringing it with you.

The Flu Shot Day event hours will overlap all three shifts. Opening at 6:30 am and continuing until 7 pm, you can drop by at the beginning, middle, or end of a work shift. Coordinate with your supervisor and join Team 4K for a few minutes on Sept. 25.

Be a member of Team 4K. Help us reach 4,000+ inoculations — and talk it up with your fellow UI Health personnel so that Sept. 25 marks a great flu-shot success.

The following changes to the HR 1.12 Mandatory Influenza Vaccination for Hospital Personnel have been made to improve our exemption process and to ensure staff have the proper level of immunity to fight influenza.

• New exemption requests: If you were approved for a medical exemption or a religious exemption last year, you do not need to reapply for the exemption this year.

• You will receive the first warning of noncompliance on Nov. 1 and a second warning on Nov. 15.

• After Nov. 30, if you fail to be compliant, you may be subject to disciplinary action.

Flu shots are the best way to protect against the contagious respiratory illnesses that influenza viruses cause. Please get vaccinated on Flu Shot Day! Hybrid Hospital ID Card or I-Card is required.