

*Breaking Healthcare
Barriers*



**MDA Care Centers
strive to expand ac-
cess to quality care.**

Access to care isn't
always a matter of
proximity to a high-

quality medical center. In NYC, for
example, residents are close to a
large number of major healthcare
institutions in and around the city.

However, individuals can still
experience challenges related to
language barriers and economic
stressors, such as housing and job
concerns. Leslie D. Delfiner, MD,
pediatric neurologist and co-director

of the MDA Care Center at
Montefiore Medical Center in the

Bronx, says her team strives to
provide flexible care that
recognizes the impact of those
challenges. For example, if a parent
cannot take the whole morning off
work for their child to see multiple
specialists in one visit, they might
break the appointment up over two
shorter visits. To address language
barriers, Montefiore offers phone
interpreters and on-site American
Sign Language translators for any
family who needs them. The Care
Center's social worker helps identify
families' needs and provide support

and ser-vices for patients and
families. "We do not force families
to fit into a single model for
scheduling and for access to care,"
says Dr. Delfiner. "It's important to
identify the challenges that impact a
family's ability to engage in care and
address each of those concerns at
every visit. Medical appointments
can be stressful if a family has trou-
ble traveling to visits or is concerned

that a parent may lose their job
because of time away from work.
Sometimes in clinic, we spend a
significant amount of time addressing
these issues and creating a family-
specific care plan that
accommodates their needs."

Child Neurology News

Editors: Puja Patel and Elissa Yozawitz

Proximity

The results are in!

According to the doximity residency navigator, three months ago, over 30,000 U.S. physicians participated in a survey to nominate residency programs that offered the best clinical training across 28 different specialties, including Child Neurology. **Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine was rated the best Child Neurology Residency Program in New York and #19 in the country.** Congratulations to all who contributed to such a resident friendly highly educational program!

New Appointments



Dr. Kim O'Neill has been selected to serve on the Medication Safety Committee from September 7, 2021 to June 30, 2022 .

Dr. Rohit Reddy has been selected to serve on the Moses Division Council from September 2, 2021 to June 30, 2022.



The 2021 NINDS sponsored virtual meetings on "Post-Traumatic Epilepsy: models, common data elements and optimization" were co-chaired by **Dr. Aristeia Galanopoulou**. The meetings featured presentations by **Dr. Solomon Moshé** on "Public Engagement" prepared with **Dr. Daniel Correa** and by Dr. Aristeia Galanopoulou on "Preclinical and translational trials."



Drs. Moshé and Galanopoulou were featured speakers in a virtual symposium on "Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Epilepsy" organized by Dr Ali Gorji and the TBI antiepileptogenesis task force of the ILAE chaired by Dr Moshé (August 11, 2021). Dr Moshé presented the "Background: The TBI Task Force, TBI/Epilepsy registry". Dr Galanopoulou discussed "From bench to bedside: models and mechanisms."



13th Asian and Oceanian Epilepsy Congress (AOEC): **Dr Galanopoulou** presented an update on "Biomarker development" in a session on "Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and antiepileptogenesis" on June 11, 2021. **Dr. Moshé** presented a didactic lecture titled "Can interictal discharges alter brain function: should they ever be treated?" This was developed with **Dr Polavarapu**. Dr. Moshé also co-chaired a parallel session on Traumatic brain injury TBI and antiepileptogenesis.

Publications/Presentations:

Parihar R, Ferastraoaru V, Galanopoulou AS, Geyer HL, Kaufman DM. Outcome of Hospitalized Parkinson's Disease Patients with and without COVID-19. *Mov Disord Clin Pract.* 2021.
Akman O, Briggs SW, Mowrey WB, Moshe SL, Galanopoulou AS. Antiepileptogenic effects of rapamycin in a model of infantile spasms due to structural lesions. *Epilepsia.* 2021;62:1985-99.
Galanopoulou AS, Loscher W, Lubbers L, O'Brien TJ, Staley K, Vezzani A, D'Ambrosio R, White HS, Sontheimer H, Wolf JA, Twyman R, Whittemore V, Wilcox KS, Klein B. Antiepileptogenesis and disease modification: Progress, challenges, and the path forward-Report of the Preclinical Working Group of the 2018 NINDS-sponsored antiepileptogenesis and disease modification workshop. *Epilepsia Open.* 2021;6:276-96.
LaPlaca MC, Huie JR, Alam HB, Bachstetter AD, Bayir H, Bellgowan PF, Cummings D, Dixon CE, Ferguson AR, Ferland-Beckham C, Floyd CL, Friess SH, Galanopoulou AS, Hall ED, Harris NG, Hawkins BE, Hicks RR, Hulbert LE, Johnson VE, Kabitzke PA, Lafrenaye AD, Lemmon VP, Lifshitz CW, Lifshitz J, Loane DJ, Misquitta L, Nikolian VC, Noble-Haesslein LJ, Smith DH, Taylor-Burds C, Umoh N, Vovk O, Williams AM, Young M, Zai LJ. Pre-Clinical Common Data Elements for Traumatic Brain Injury Research: Progress and Use Cases. *J Neurotrauma.* 2021;38:1399-410.