

## Inova Pulmonary Hypertension Program – End of Year Patient Letter 2018



Under the directorship of Dr. Oksana Shlobin, the Pulmonary Hypertension Program at Inova Fairfax Hospital continues to grow. In 2014, our program was one of the first 6 programs to be accredited as a Comprehensive Care Center by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association. We underwent a re-accreditation visit in December 2018, and anticipate re-accreditation in early 2019.

Dr. Christopher King has been named Associate Medical Director of the program. Dr. Mitchell Psotka, an advanced heart failure cardiologist with experience in pulmonary hypertension, has joined the program, allowing us to provide multidisciplinary care to our patients. We have two full-time experienced pulmonary hypertension dedicated RN coordinators, Denise Lewis and Karen Brown, and are actively interviewing for a 3<sup>rd</sup> RN coordinator with a goal to provide our patients with comprehensive nursing care. In addition, we have partnered with two experienced echocardiologists, Drs. Sears-Rogan and Joan Zhao, who have particular interest in assessment of right ventricular function using 3-dimensional echocardiography. Finally, we have engaged a thoracic radiologist, Dr. Melanie Atkins, to assist with interpretation of pulmonary vascular and cardiac specific imaging including V/Q scans, dual energy CT angiography, and cardiac MRI.

Our clinical practice continues to expand. We now follow approximately 500 pulmonary hypertension patients of various etiologic groups. In addition to providing cutting edge clinical care, we remain committed to clinical research. Patients are offered an opportunity to participate in a variety of clinical trials. We currently have four active pulmonary hypertension registries, four industry sponsored trials, and one investigator initiated prospective trial for various etiologies of pulmonary hypertension. Several more pharmaceutical sponsored RCTs for Group 1 pulmonary hypertension are projected to start in the next quarter.

We continue to be active in outreach to increase awareness of this disease and provide education to both academic and patient community. A regional multidisciplinary pulmonary hypertension meeting to discuss cases and provide didactic education on pulmonary hypertension topics is held monthly. In addition to our staff, it is frequently attended by providers from regional hospitals including NIH, Washington Hospital Center, and University of Maryland. If you are interested in virtual or in-person participation, please contact Julieth Munoz at [astrid.munoz@inova.org](mailto:astrid.munoz@inova.org).

Our first hospital wide Pulmonary Hypertension Education Day targeting nursing and midlevel staff was successfully held in fall of this year with over 100 participants.



Pictured left to right at the 1<sup>st</sup> **Pulmonary Hypertension Education Day**: Mitch Psoyka MD, Oksana Shlobin MD, Linda Bogar MD, Christopher King MD, Karen Brown RN, Nargues Weir MD, Denise Lewis RN.

Our team members continue to present at international, national and regional conferences including ISHLT, ATS, Chest, ERS, PHA and PHPN. Dr. Nathan had the honor of chairing a committee at the most recent World Symposium on Pulmonary Hypertension in Nice, France. Both Dr. Shlobin and Dr. Nathan have participated in NIH-sponsored pulmonary hypertension symposia.

Next year on May 4<sup>th</sup> PHA is sponsoring the first in NoVA 5K walk, which will take place at Lee District Park. We hope you will join our **PHAngels** team either in person or through donations to help raise awareness of this disease. For more information, please visit [www.phaevents.org/goto/PHAngels](http://www.phaevents.org/goto/PHAngels) or email Julieth Munoz @astrid.munoz@inova.org.

We welcome your referrals and are dedicated to partnering with you in the care of this complicated patient population. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Oksana Shlobin ([Oksana.shlobin@inova.org](mailto:Oksana.shlobin@inova.org) or (703) 776-2256) or Dr. Christopher King ([Christopher.king@inova.org](mailto:Christopher.king@inova.org) or (703) 776-4979). Referrals can be directed to our dedicated intake coordinator Melany Vidaurre Llanos via email [Melany.Vidaurrellanos@inova.org](mailto:Melany.Vidaurrellanos@inova.org) or fax **(703) 776-8799**.