



## **What's New – April 12, 2019**

### **Chelsea Urology Update**

#### **Surgical Services**

Since the signing of the joint venture agreement between St. Joseph Mercy and Michigan Medicine, urology has been a steady presence at Chelsea Hospital. We officially began providing surgical services starting in early spring 2018 and have seen a steady rise in case volume and utilization since this time. Currently, Alon Weizer and I maintain block time amounting to approximately 5 full days per month. I primarily provide services related to BPH and urinary stone disease, and have moved my entire holmium laser enucleation of the prostate (HOLEP) and ureteroscopy practice as well as selected percutaneous stone removals to Chelsea. Alon has been largely performing endoscopic cases in anticipation of the forthcoming robotics program. As of February, we have performed 186 cases including 80 URS, 71 HOLEP, 9 PCNL, and 25 TURBT/bladder biopsy/bladder stone removals during fiscal year 2019.

#### **Robotics Program – Alon Weizer: Robotics Lead Physician**

A few weeks ago, we had our first robotic implementation team meeting. The team consists of me, Andre King who is the lead surgeon for Chelsea and a fellow urologist, nursing leadership, and nurses, surgical techs, and anesthesiologists who will be on the robotic surgical team. In addition, there are 4 Michigan Medicine PAs who work at Chelsea who we are in the process of training to provide surgical first assist coverage. You will see them as well as other members of the robotic team coming to assist and observe starting in late April/early May. We anticipate delivery of the robot (Xi) in early July with the first cases starting end of September with the completion of OR 7. In addition, the Trumpf surgical table which syncs with the Xi is being purchased and will allow movement of the table without undocking the robot. We have already identified surgeons that can do cases out there with plans to move a portion of prostatectomies and kidney surgery out there. We are ensuring that not all cases are moved out there to ensure appropriate resident education at the U. The additional time will allow more access to robotic time at the U allowing is to reduce lead time on cases and provide additional access. We will keep everyone updated on the progress of the program and look forward to expanding our growing presence in the Chelsea community.

## Hospital Responsibilities and Ambulatory Care

In addition to surgical services, we also provide call-coverage at Chelsea in accordance with hospital by-laws. This is shared with the Urology Associates group made up of Howard Usitalo, Peter Fisher, Andre King, and David Lutchka. I was initially apprehensive about the volume of this call (1 week per month for both Alon and I), though in hindsight, while I never like being on call, I will admit it has been incredibly useful. There was understandably some apprehension on the part of Chelsea staff and surgeons regarding how Michigan Medicine would integrate into the practice. I can tell you that being available, timely, kind, and professional while on-call has definitely allayed many of these fears. Moreover, taking call has allowed me to take more ownership for the patient population in Chelsea while strengthening relationships with referring physicians. Finally, being willing to “chip-in” when needed has solidified an already strong relationship with the Urology Associates group who have been more than ready to assist us whenever needed. I know that Alon echoes these sentiments.

The Chelsea Surgical Services Clinic opened in the Chelsea Professional building in February 2019. Along with Dr. Nabeel Obeid from general surgery, we now offer clinic three days per week in addition to access to a registered dietician and a preoperative surgical clinic – I personally see patients on Fridays. With leadership from Marleah Stickler and her team, the transition of my clinic from Brighton Health Center to Brighton Center for Specialty Care to Chelsea Surgical Services has been as seamless as once could hope for.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our four stellar physician assistants who both assist with surgery, provide inpatient coverage, and function as first-call for most inpatient consults. As an introduction to the department, I asked that they each provide a bit about themselves.

### Kelley Giovannini

After finishing PA training at Western Michigan University during fall 2015, my dog Grace and I embarked on a journey to the East Coast: where we resided on the border between New Hampshire and Vermont; Lebanon for 3 years! Practice in emergency medicine was an entertaining, unforgettable experience! We enjoyed all the benefits of rural outdoor mountain living! As much as we loved living out there, we relocated back to Michigan May 2018 to lessen the distance from my family in Holland, MI. We now live in Chelsea, MI. Outside of work I enjoy running on local trails with my dog and enjoying the vibrant music/arts community of Chelsea! I am also actively involved in my church: Grace Ann Arbor West where I serve as a vocalist on the worship team, assisting in the development of a young professional ministry, local and global missions and leading a women's discipleship group. In my free time I enjoy reading, writing and running on local trails with my dog.



Life in Chelsea, MI is relaxed and friendly. This growing community offers a multitude of events for music and the arts which are near and dear to my heart. The hospital has been incredibly welcoming and supportive of the Michigan Medicine surgery teams! The opportunities for career development and program expansion through Michigan Medicine here are limitless! The PA's received several months of sufficient training in Ann Arbor before transitioning to Chelsea. At this point, the general-surgery, gynecology and urologic surgery programs that we support continue to expand. We have settled into our roles with ease; awaiting the start of the urology robotics program.

## Amanda Eisenmann



exercise and participate in Chelsea community events.

Hello! My name is Amanda Eisenmann. I have been practicing as a PA for just shy of 4 years, with 3 years in Emergency Medicine before joining the Chelsea Surgery team in 2018. My husband Dean and I have been married for 2.5 years. Dean is a Meteorologist working as a weather observer at Detroit Metro Airport. We have been residents of Chelsea for 2 years and will be closing on our first home in Chelsea this spring! The majority of our family lives in south east Michigan as we have 7 nieces and nephews ranging ages 1 month to 11 years, who keep us busy in our free time. As a fifth generation member of Bethel United Church of Christ in Manchester, I enjoy serving in choirs, as a Sunday School teacher and leading the High School Ministry program. I love to travel, bake,



I cannot express how grateful I am to be a part of the growing team in Chelsea. Hands on procedures and patient education are at the heart of my practice as a PA, and I look forward to growing in my position. Our Chelsea PA team is very cohesive and takes initiative as new challenges arise. Casey, Dr. Obeid, Dr. Lim, Dr. Till, and Dr. Weizer's patience and mentorship have been greatly appreciated. The SJM Chelsea staff are incredibly friendly and welcoming which has made the adjustment easy. I am excited as our diverse team grows and more opportunities develop in 2019!

## Daniella Shock



Hello, my name is Daniella Shock, and I am one of the four Chelsea PAs. A little about me: I am from metro-Detroit, and then moved to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University. During undergrad, I worked in the pathology department of WMU's medical school as an autopsy assistant, which was always an interesting experience. I met my wonderful husband Tom at WMU, and we've been married for four years. I continued my education at WMU for PA school, and I have been a PA for almost two years now. In my free time I enjoy going to concerts, wineries, doing yoga, and visiting with my two sisters and three nieces.

Overall, I've enjoyed my transition to SJMC. There's always bumps in the road with creating a new service, but the Chelsea team has been very welcoming. The smaller hospital has a tight community feel, and it's nice that everyone knows one another. We are in a unique opportunity as providers to work in three different departments, as well as assist in the OR. Now that we've planted our roots here, I am looking forward to seeing our service grow.

## Brittany Parent



I'm Brittany Parent, one of four Michigan Medicine PAs that work out of St Joseph Mercy hospital in Chelsea. My husband and I have a 19-month-old daughter, three cats and one dog that help to keep life interesting. I enjoy being outside, spending time with my family, playing strategy games, and the Game of Thrones books and TV series. Adjusting to the role as a PA in Chelsea has been a very exciting and rewarding process for me. I have learned a great deal working alongside Urology faculty and hospital staff, and it has been exciting to watch and be part of this venture taking shape. It is so rewarding to have something tangible that our PA team has had a hand in creating and even more rewarding to receive such positive feedback from our patients.

