The Northwestern Lung Transplant Program

The Northwestern Lung Transplant Program began last year in April 2014 after receiving UNOS approval. The first lung transplant was performed on July 4th, 2014 and to date the team has completed 19 transplants.

The lung transplant program recently celebrated the first year anniversary featuring the stories of one of the early recipients (see link to Stanzcak’s story below). Presently, the wait times for lung recipients are the shortest in the region.

The program brings in a wealth of transplant experience from multiple centers such as: Washington University in St Louis, University of Chicago, Loyola University, Henry Ford Hospital, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, and the Cleveland Clinic.

The program offers lung transplant for a variety of end stage lung diseases such as cystic fibrosis, emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, alpha 1 anti-trypsin deficiency, bronchiectasis, pulmonary langerhans histiocytosis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and sarcoidosis. In addition to lung transplantation other lung services provided include Lung Volume Reduction to improve QOL for COPD patients, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) as a bridge to recovery, decision, or transplant as well as Interventional bronchoscopy.

The program is invested in both cutting-edge clinical and basic science research. The program has already published high-impact findings including the etiology and treatment for a lethal problem following lung transplantation and novel mechanisms for lung allograft rejection. A biorepository has been established that has set the stage for a number of clinical and translation research projects.

The lung team is expanding rapidly. Recent additions to the program include David Odell (Surgeon), Hector Cajigas (Pulmonologist), and Jennifer Wright (Lung Transplant Coordinator). Additionally, the team is recruiting additional Data/Research Coordinator, additional Patient Liaison and additional Transplant Coordinator. Currently the lung transplant staff include Malcolm DeCamp (Surgeon), Sean Kane-Division (Administrator), Amber Nieland (CNP), Maggie Kelly Lung (Transplant Coordinator), Mike Bielaczyc (Social Worker), Michelle Martin (Patient Liaison), Susan Russell MD, and PJ DeCamp (Program Director).

For more information or to refer a patient 312-695 LUNG (5864)