

NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING DR. MILLER

David C. Miller earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed Internal Medicine Residency training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Miller joined the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine following his Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship training at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson. He served as a chief fellow during his third year of training while participating in a National Institute of Health T32 research training grant.

Dr. Miller's clinical interests are in the management of chronic medical conditions, specifically cystic fibrosis. His research interests lie in non-invasive modes of supplemental oxygen delivery and non-invasive ventilation, in addition to mucociliary clearance. He is involved in clinical research and quality improvement projects with the

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Therapeutics Development Network and Cystic Fibrosis Learning Network.

Dr. Miller continues to be a key clinical faculty member of the Pulmonary and Critical Care team with a presence in both inpatient and outpatient care arenas and is very involved in the teaching of medical students, residents and fellows. He is a member of the American Thoracic Society, Society of Critical Care Medicine and the American College of Chest Physicians.

In his free time, Dr. Miller enjoys woodworking and hiking with his wife and their dog, Ricci.



HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE

Both the pediatric and adult programs are excited to be participating in a new quality improvement project through the CF Learning Network on Quality of Life. We will be asking patients, 8 years old and older, to complete a brief Quality of Life Survey at the beginning of clinic.

The goal of the short survey is to better understand how your or your child's health affects quality of life. The hope is that by asking these questions, we can identify anything

affecting you or your child's quality of life and work with you to improve any areas that need addressing.

Additionally, we hope to gather input from patients about the survey and whether it helps the clinic visit address your needs or not. The survey will only be used in the future if you all feel it is worthwhile. Please help us by completing this 10-question survey when you are next in clinic

RESEARCH UPDATES

The Tucson CF Center has many ongoing and upcoming clinical research trials. Currently, we have the SIMPLIFY study, a study for people 12 years and older on Trikafta who want to come off of their routine hypertonic saline nebulizer treatments or their Pulmozyme treatments.

Additionally, we are currently enrolling a study in children to determine when to give antibiotics or not when sick.

Coming this summer, we will be involved two different studies. The first is the Trikafta trial for children aged 2-5, and the second is a trial of inhaled Gallium (only given weekly) to fight Pseudomonas infections.

Later this year, there will be new studies for a new Vertex modulator. If you want more information, please contact Lisa Ryan, research coordinator, at 520-850-8688.



CF CLINIC UPDATES

Pediatric Clinic

Most clinic visits are returning to in person. We are doing this so that we can actually see your child, listen to his/her lungs and even get a sputum culture. We are still unable to get an in-clinic PFT unless your son or daughter has had a negative COVID test within 2 weeks of the visit or your child has had COVID (and recovered) within 90 days of the visit. So please use your home spirometer before you come to clinic, so we can use that during care discussions. You should also expect some type of “hybrid” in person visit. This means that some of your care team will be in the room with you in person while others may be virtual on a screen while you are in clinic. Again, this is being done to limit your exposures, make the visit safer, and hopefully shorten your visit and make your visit more efficient. Please give us feedback because we are constantly adapting.

Adult Clinic

With a significant decrease in rates of COVID positivity in the community and increased rates of vaccinations, we are returning to as many in person visits as possible while maintaining your safety and minimizing unnecessary exposure. We are excited to see everyone in person again!

In person visits are important for your care. We will continue to collect labs and sputum/swabs in clinic as needed. Please be aware that the rules and policies regarding pulmonary function testing continue to change. At the time of this newsletter, we are still required to test for COVID with a nasal swab prior to performing spirometry in clinic 2-3 days in advance. Therefore, given the availability of home spirometers, we ask that this be performed prior to clinic if able. If it is important for you to perform spirometry in clinic, please let us know in advance and we can help to coordinate COVID testing. If the clinic team has a strong clinical reason to perform in clinic spirometry, we will contact you in advance to help coordinate COVID testing.

Additionally, we have a new nurse navigator, Clarisa Renteria, RN, BSN. She can be contacted at (520)694-5001.

Both CF Clinics

Due to frequent changes that are often out of our control, it is important to complete the pre-visit planning call. During this call, we give you the most up to date information regarding what to expect during your clinic visit. We appreciate your patience and flexibility given all of the changes over the past year.

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