



LVHN WEEKLY

YOUR WRAP-UP OF THE WEEK'S NEWS FROM LVHN



Announcing New and Expanded Colleague Engagement Committees

You may be able to get involved in a committee at your work location.

[Read more →](#)

Reminder: Get Your Shirt in Honor of Colleague Appreciation Day

Last day to order is Friday, March 18.

[Read more →](#)



Introducing the LVHN Center for Virtual Care

Learn how the center will enhance access to safe, quality virtual care offerings.

[Read more →](#)



COVID-19 Projection Update – March 14

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hospitals.

[Read more →](#)



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Join us on Saturday, April 30, for this public event to support a worthy cause.

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Your colleagues will help you learn about colorectal cancer risk factors and prevention.

[Read more →](#)





Announcing New and Expanded Colleague Engagement Committees

You may be able to get involved in a committee at your work location.

LVHN Insider

Friday, March 11, 2022

This message is from Lynn Turner, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.

During the recent Mid-Year Pulse Survey, we asked colleagues to share ideas to enhance workplace enjoyment at LVHN.

Given your feedback, multiple engagement committees have been formed or expanded throughout our health network. There are now engagement committees at LVH–Cedar Crest, LVH–Muhlenberg, LVH–Hazleton, LVH–Schuylkill, LVH–Pocono and LVHN–Mack Boulevard. LVPG is currently creating their committee as well.

These engagement committees will create location-specific fun and joyful events as well as events that can be implemented throughout LVHN. Examples of past events include Jersey Day, suggested by the LVH–Cedar Crest committee and implemented network-wide, and location-specific events like chili cook-offs.

To facilitate and provide guidance to these committees, Karla Bachl's role will be expanded to include colleague engagement. Her new title is Administrator, Colleague and Volunteer Engagement. She will also chair the network's reward and recognition committee.

If you are interested in joining an engagement committee or have an idea for one of the committees, please contact Karla Bachl at karla_m.bachl@lvhn.org. She will put you in touch with the respective committee lead.

Thank you for participating in our surveys so your voice is heard and actions can be taken to improve your experience at LVHN.



Reminder: Get Your Shirt in Honor of Colleague Appreciation Day

Last day to order is Friday, March 18.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

To celebrate Colleague Appreciation Day, [all LVHN colleagues are invited to order a pullover or crew neck sweatshirt](#). It's the latest way LVHN is thanking you for being awesome!

The last day to order your pullover or crew neck sweatshirt is Friday, March 18.

If you haven't already, take this opportunity to order your shirt online. Items are subject to income tax per IRS rules.

Follow these steps to order your item.

- [Click here](#) to visit the ordering website.
- **Enter your Employee ID number as your username and your last name as your password.** Your password will be case sensitive, so make sure to capitalize the first letter of your last name. If your last name is more than one word separated by a space or symbol, replace the space or symbol with a dash (example: Smith Jones to Smith-Jones or O'Brian to O-Brian).
- You can find your Employee ID number in the top left corner of your home page on the Colleague Resource Center (CRC). Access the CRC from your SSO Toolbar. If you are prompted to log in to the CRC, enter your SUI@lvh.com and your LVHN password. NOTE: Your Employee ID number is a five- or six-digit number (example: 123456). This is different than your SUI number, which starts with a letter followed by four numbers (example: X1234).
- Enter your home address. NOTE: Do not have your gift shipped to your work address. The gift will be shipped to your home at no cost to you.
- Enter your email address. This is where you will receive UPS tracking information.
- You have the option to order either a ladies' quarter-zip pullover, unisex quarter zip pullover or a crew neck sweatshirt. Select your shirt type, color and size and add to cart. NOTE: The crew neck sweatshirt is only available in black.

- The last day to place your order is March 18. The page may experience high traffic, so try again at a later time if you are experiencing delays.
- It will take approximately eight weeks for all gifts to be distributed to colleagues.
- Exchanges due to damage or for size will be permitted. If you need to exchange your item, you can do so by contacting allentown@thinkcgc.com for assistance.

Have questions?

If you have questions about ordering your item, email allentown@thinkcgc.com.



Introducing the LVHN Center for Virtual Care

Learn how the center will enhance access to safe, quality virtual care offerings.

LVHN Insider

Monday, March 14, 2022

The COVID-19 public health emergency accelerated our need to develop virtual care services, and it has become necessary to expand LVHN's virtual care capacity and program offerings to enhance access to safe, quality care. We stepped up to this challenge by establishing the LVHN Center for Virtual Care (CVC), led by Robert Krukltis, MD, Vice President of Transformation, Joe Tracy, Vice President of Connected Care and Innovation, and Brian Leader, Vice President Operations and Service Lines.

Primary responsibilities of the Center for Virtual Care include:

- Implementing a standardized virtual care request process to evaluate new programs for launch
- Optimizing existing programs
- Providing operational support
- Overseeing program performance

The center will review all virtual care requests to ensure programs are aligned with our health network's strategy and goals. The center also will ensure all virtual care offerings at LVHN are of the highest quality.

If you have a virtual care question, want to discuss a potential program or wish to submit a proposed project, please call 484-862-3600 or email LVHNCVC@lvhn.org.



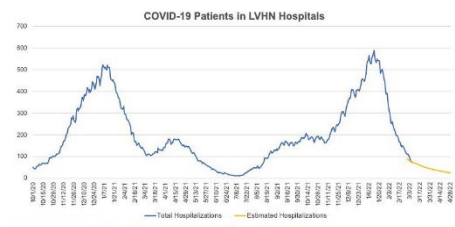
COVID-19 Projection Update – March 14

We have fewer than 80 COVID-19 patients in LVHN hospitals.

LVHN Insider

Monday, March 14, 2022

The better days you worked so hard to create are nearly here. We now have fewer than 80 patients with COVID-19 in LVHN hospitals. That number is expected to continue to decline. See the graph below and information about what it means for you.



What it means

- On March 6, there were 79 patients in LVHN hospitals with COVID-19. Very few of these patients are in our ICUs or on ventilators.
- Even though we [adjusted our visitation policy](#) to reflect improving COVID-19 conditions, masking remains required for anyone working in or visiting LVHN facilities.
- As the region's leader in COVID-19 care, our patients, families, colleagues and communities are counting on us to exercise the best medical judgement that will help protect them and their loved ones.
- Masks are a proven method for preventing the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor our masking policy based on community risk guidelines provided by the CDC. As of now, our communities are considered medium risk for COVID-19 spread.
- The pandemic is not over and our most vulnerable citizens remain at risk.

Get your booster shot; encourage family and friends to do the same

- LVHN encourages colleagues to [get a COVID-19 booster shot](#).
 - Remind people to visit [LVHN.org/vaccines](https://www.lvhn.org/vaccines) for information about COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Appointments are required at LVHN COVID-19 vaccine clinics in Hazleton, Pottsville and East Stroudsburg. Appointments and walk-ins are available at LVHN COVID-19 vaccine clinics in [Lehigh](#) and [Northampton](#) counties.
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Deborah Bren, DO, Pays Tribute to Trailblazers Who Inspire Her

Elizabeth Blackwell and Florence Nightingale left a powerful legacy.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Deborah Bren, DO, is a family medicine physician and Medical Staff President at Lehigh Valley Health Network. She honors the generations of women who have paved the way for her own career in health care during Women's History Month.

Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman in America to receive a medical degree. She faced discrimination and multiple obstacles in college but ultimately earned the respect of her professors and classmates, graduating first in her class in 1849. In 1868, she opened a medical college in New York City. By the time she died, there were hundreds of women in medical practice.

Florence Nightingale is responsible for elevating the profession of nursing to an honorable status. She not only delivered exemplary personal care, but also authored numerous books about health care issues and started a nursing school. Her common sense and foresight helped transform hospitals to healthier settings and lowered death rates.

These two women were born within months of each other in 1821. Despite enduring many hardships, they continued working in their chosen vocations and raised the standard of health care for everyone. I believe that they experienced significant joy and satisfaction along the way. That joy and satisfaction likely cascaded to their patients as well as to their colleagues and students. They inspired, taught and trained several generations of nurses and doctors over the years.

It's important to celebrate Women's History Month because it reminds us to pause and reflect on the generations of women who have raised the bar for our health care profession. I am grateful for colleagues like you who will make history by inspiring, teaching and training those brilliant colleagues that will come after us and ultimately help care for us. This and every month, let's heed the words of Maya Angelou: "When you learn, teach. When you get, give."



Does Your Department Need a Summer Intern? You're in Luck

LVHN's summer internship program returns for 2022. Applications accepted March 10-25.

LVHN Insider

Friday, March 11, 2022

Did you have a summer internship experience that helped you get where you are today?

LVHN knows the value of mentoring students and providing a worthwhile professional experience as they continue their education. That's why we're excited for the return of LVHN's summer internship program.

LVHN's summer internship program offers college students an opportunity to learn about working in health care and gives you the chance to meet potential future colleagues.

This year, the program runs from June 6 to July 29.

Applications will be accepted March 10-25. Students can [click here](#) or follow these steps to apply:

- Visit [LVHN.org/careers](https://lvhn.org/careers)
- Click "Search clinical and nonclinical jobs"
- Search "internship"
- Select "Summer Internship Program"

Interns will receive a \$2,000 stipend, which will be provided by hosting departments.

Do you have a passion for mentoring students? Does your department have the perfect project for a summer intern? Contact Karla Bachl, Karla_M.Bachl@lvhn.org, if you're interested in hosting a summer intern.

Thank you for mentoring future health care professionals.



Free Apples for all LVHN Colleagues

All colleagues are eligible to receive about 5 pounds of free apples.

LVHN Insider

Monday, March 14, 2022

The Greater Easton Development Partnership, Highmark and Scholl Orchards have teamed up for the Apple of My Eye campaign to offer all LVHN colleagues a free half peck (about 5 pounds) of fresh apples from the Highmark Farmstand at Easton Public Market.

Apples can be picked up (while supplies last):

- March 16-20
- March 23-27

The Easton Public Market is located at 325 Northampton Street in Easton and is open:

- 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays

Show your LVHN badge at the Highmark Farmstand to receive your apples.



LVHN Receives High Honors as a CME Provider

LVHN Department of Education received Accreditation with Commendation from the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

LVHN Insider

Friday, March 11, 2022

LVHN's Department of Education received Accreditation with Commendation from the Pennsylvania Medical Society, something only 10 other hospitals in the state have achieved.

Accreditation with Commendation recognizes the achievements of CME providers that advance interprofessional collaborative practice, address public health priorities, create behavioral change, show leadership, leverage educational technology and demonstrate the impact of education on health care professionals and patients.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society accredits organizations and institutions to provide continuing medical education to physicians.

To receive continued accreditation, LVHN completed a written self-study, including evidence in eight commendation categories and 12 complete educational activity files.

Earning Accreditation with Commendation means that LVHN has received a six-year accreditation term instead of the standard four-year term.

Congratulations to the LVHN Department of Education for achieving this high honor.



Coordinated Health–Allentown Receives Patient Safety Excellence Award

Coordinated Health–Allentown ranks among the top 10% of short-term acute care hospitals in the nation.

LVHN Insider

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Coordinated Health, part of Lehigh Valley Health Network, is once again being recognized by Healthgrades for providing safe, high-quality care.

Coordinated Health–Allentown received a 2022 Patient Safety Excellence Award™, a distinction shared only by the top 10% of all short-term acute care hospitals in the nation.

“This recognition reflects our commitment to our patients,” says Amy Nyberg, Senior Vice President, Ambulatory Services, Lehigh Valley Health Network, and President, Coordinated Health. “We are proud to receive this award, but even prouder of our colleagues for continuing to deliver the high-quality care our patients expect and deserve.”

This is the fourth consecutive year Coordinated Health–Allentown has received this distinction from Healthgrades.

“Providing safe, high-quality care is a priority for us,” says Christine Biege, Vice President of Patient Care Services, Coordinated Health. “Receiving this recognition is a testament to our dedication to patient care, and I’m extremely proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish.”

Healthgrades studied 170,231 patient safety events involving Medicare patients from 2018 through 2020 and found four patient-safety indicators that accounted for 74% of all patient safety events.

These include in-hospital falls resulting in a hip fracture, a collapsed lung after a lung or chest procedure, bed sores experienced in the hospital and catheter-related bloodstream infections.

According to Healthgrades, patients who are treated by hospitals that receive a Patient Safety Excellence Award are less likely to experience in-hospital injuries or infections, including:

- 55.8% less likely to experience an in-hospital fall resulting in hip fracture.
- 52.6% less likely to experience a collapsed lung resulting from a procedure or surgery in or around the chest.
- 66.2% less likely to experience pressure sores or bed sores acquired in the hospital.
- 65.8% less likely to experience catheter-related bloodstream infections acquired in the hospital.

“Through our 2022 Patient Safety Excellence Awards, we seek to recognize hospitals that excel in providing top-quality care for their patients while preventing serious injuries during hospital stays,” says Brad Bowman, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Head of Data Science, Healthgrades. “We are proud to name Coordinated Health–Allentown as a 2022 Patient Safety Excellence Award recipient and look forward to their continued efforts to make patient safety a priority.”

[Healthgrades](#) provides information to the public about hospitals, doctors and health care organizations by evaluating health care records from Medicare.



Project ECHO: COVID Oral Medications

Attend a presentation on March 18 at noon.

LVHN Insider

Friday, March 11, 2022

LVHN is proud to be part of Project ECHO, an innovative telehealth program designed to connect health care specialists with providers located at distant sites. Project ECHO aims to help eliminate health care inequities through the use of telehealth technology.

Join us for COVID Oral Medications presented by Jared W. Kile, RPh, BCPS.

When: Friday, March 18 at noon

Target audience: Physicians, APCs, clinical pharmacists, nurses and infection control practitioners

Register using this link: <https://redcap.lvh.com/redcap/surveys/?s=LRKWWDNMTT>

At the end of this presentation, you should be able to:

1. Discuss the studies used by the FDA to authorize EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) for Molnupiravir and Paxlovid (Nirmatrelvir+Ritonavir).
2. Compare and contrast the two oral COVID-19 agents and where they fit into current treatment of COVID-19.
3. Identify how to order them and where they can be obtained.

Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance regarding COVID oral medications by emailing Carolyn Suess at carolyn.suess@lvhn.org. All patient information submitted should be de-identified for HIPAA compliance.

COLLEAGUE STORY

#LVHNProud to Be an Athletic Trainer

Athletic trainer Liz Del Re shares her passion for her career in honor of National Athletic Training Awareness Month.

By Elizabeth “Liz” Del Re



Elizabeth “Liz” Del Re, LAT, ATC, is a certified athletic trainer with Lehigh Valley Health Network, serving student-athletes at Emmaus High School.

When I started college, there were moments where I questioned if I made the right choice to major in athletic training. Instead of switching majors, I continued my semester at Neumann University. It was a decision that gave me more than I ever could have imagined – a career I love, a community I care about and volunteer work that has taken me new places.

My first job after graduation was as a Lehigh Valley Health Network athletic trainer at Emmaus High School. I love the different dynamic that comes with each team I get to work with. It is very rewarding to watch student-athletes grow and be part of their successes and failures. I fell in love with everything about my job as an athletic trainer, which inspired me to find more ways to use my background to help others.

[Volunteering with USA Wrestling](#)

My passion for athletic training led me to apply for a volunteer program for sports medicine providers at the [Opens in new tabOlympic and Paralympic Training Center \(OPTC\)](#) in Colorado Springs. I received an email in 2018 saying I was selected to participate. During the two-week program, yet another opportunity came my way. I was so excited when asked to help cover a training camp for wrestlers hosted by [Opens in new tabUSA Wrestling](#). Working with several athletes at once is what a typical day for me is like at Emmaus High School, so I jumped at the chance to help.

It became clear to me at the wrestling camp that I wanted to pursue more volunteer work with USA Wrestling. That led me to apply to be a medical volunteer within the organization. That September, I was off to Mexico for the [Opens in new tabSchoolboy/girl Athlete Pan American Championships](#). That was just the beginning.

Since then, I’ve had the pleasure of traveling all over as a volunteer athletic trainer. I have been to Bulgaria, Hungary and most recently Colombia, where I covered the [Opens in new tabCali 2021 Junior Pan American Games](#). The majority of athletes I work with are at the cadet level (under age 17). I love working with this age group because it’s not all about winning the competition. There is still a lot of fun associated with what the athletes do.

In my role as an athletic trainer, I specialize in the management, prevention and recovery of injured athletes. I collaborate with doctors to provide emergency and follow-up care to athletes. If an athlete sustains a laceration (skin wound) during a competition, I will address the bleeding. Then, the athlete would be seen by a physician for stitches, if needed.

Enter as athletes, leave as friends

I typically spend 12 days at a competition overseas with USA Wrestling. During those days of training and competition, I am in constant communication with the team to make sure the athletes receive the care or treatment needed. Whether it be before the competition, during a break or after the competition has ended for the day, I am ready to help.

I love the relationships I get to build with the coaches and athletes. With every trip, it ends up feeling as though I have known the team for a lifetime. The lasting friendships are what make my work truly special. To be an athletic trainer is an honor I cannot describe.

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

Health Center at Pennsburg Opens Soon

Lehigh Valley Health Network health centers offer care for the whole family

March 14, 2022



When you go to the supermarket, you can find just about everything you need for your household.

The same concept holds true for a health center and your health care needs.

Within a Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) health center, you'll find a comprehensive array of the most commonly needed medical services, including imaging, pediatric and OB-GYN, ExpressCARE for minor illnesses and injuries, lab testing, rehabilitation and more.

Whether you call Pennsburg home, or live nearby in other great communities such as Red Hill, Green Lane, Perkiomenville and others, the most trusted health care partner in the region is nearby and ready to help.

It's one-stop shopping for your well-being. Of course, you should always go to a hospital emergency room for any life-threatening medical issue.

LVHN currently has more than two dozen health centers across the region, from Hamburg to Tobyhanna, Allentown to Frackville, and many locations in between. The centers offer expertise and convenience and bring health care to you. Wherever you live, there's probably an LVHN health center nearby.

Health Center at Pennsburg opening soon

Our newest health center is set to open soon in Pennsburg at 101 W. Seventh St., just off Route 29.

Residents of northern Montgomery County have been asking for more access to LVHN's great doctors and services, and we listened. We're excited to serve Pennsburg and all surrounding communities. Whether you call Pennsburg home, or live nearby in other great communities such as Red Hill, Green Lane, Perkiomenville and others, the most trusted health care partner in the region is nearby and ready to help.

What's in the Health Center at Pennsburg?

The Health Center at Pennsburg will offer the following services:

- ExpressCARE (walk-in/no appointment needed)
 - Family medicine
 - HNL Lab Medicine
 - Imaging*
 - Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute Mobile Mammography Coach*
 - Obstetrics and gynecology
 - Pediatrics (summer 2022)
 - Pediatric specialty care (endocrinology, gastroenterology, pulmonology)
 - Rehabilitation (adult and pediatric)*
-



Wear Red for Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month

Wear red on Friday, March 18, and share your photos on LVHN Insider.

LVHN Insider

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

March is Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month, and to acknowledge the members of our community facing these conditions, the clinicians and colleagues who make up Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute's Hemophilia Treatment Center are asking all colleagues to wear red on Friday, March 18 and share their photos on Insider.

What are bleeding disorders?

Bleeding disorders are rare conditions that affect the body's ability to form a clot, which leads to prolonged bleeding from injuries and surgery, and sometimes, spontaneous bleeding. While most of these conditions are inherited, some bleeding disorders are due to a new mutation or an autoimmune response.

LVHN's Hemophilia Treatment Center

[The Hemophilia Treatment Center \(HTC\)](#) at [Lehigh Valley Hospital–Muhlenberg](#) is part of a network of close to 150 HTCs in the United States and offers a range of services for individuals diagnosed with or suspected of having a bleeding disorder, including:

- Diagnostic testing
- Comprehensive evaluation
- Prevention-focused care
- Coordination with providers within and outside the network
- Patient education

The clinicians within the program work together as a multidisciplinary team to evaluate and treat patients and participate in various outreach efforts for underserved populations in our community.

Keep an eye out later this month for more content on bleeding disorders, and don't forget to wear red on Friday, March 18. [Share your photos](#) to the #LVHNProud channel on LVHN Insider.

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

LVHN Hosts 10th Annual Dodgeball Fundraiser for Burn Survivors

By **Jenny Weaver**

March 11, 2022



On the road to recovery, burn survivors face unique challenges. They have lasting scars that can impact their daily lives. [Lehigh Valley Health Network \(LVHN\) Burn Center](#) hosts an annual dodgeball tournament to support survivor programs.

“This tournament is huge for our survivor community, and we couldn’t pull it off without the fantastic participants who have made each and every year a smashing success. After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, we’re very excited to hold our 10th anniversary event in 2022,” says Elisha Elliott Leavy, licensed clinical social worker, Regional Burn Center.

[Support through the years](#)

Each year, LVHN Burn Center staff and survivors volunteer to run the event. Their efforts have raised over \$89,000, and every penny goes to survivors. The money earned has helped survivors and their families by providing:

- Burn survivor support groups and gatherings
- Gift cards for gas and groceries
- Survivor psychosocial support
- Financial assistance to attend the annual World Burn Congress

[LVHN Regional Burn Center](#)

LVHN’s Regional Burn Center is the largest and busiest burn center in Pennsylvania. It cares for more than 1,500 burn survivors and their families each year. These patients include adults and children from three states and more than 40 counties.

[Playing for a cause](#)

Join us on Saturday, April 30 for this public event to support a worthy cause. The double-elimination tournament starts at 11 a.m. and will run until there is one team left standing. The winning team receives a trophy and golf package from Shepherd Hills Golf Club. A minimum of seven players, including at least two women, are required on the court at the start of each game. Players must be 18 years or older. Event details are below.

Registration deadline: April 1, 2022

Event date and time: April 30, 11 a.m. until there is a winning team

Event location: Lower Macungie Middle School, 6299 Lower Macungie Road, Macungie

Registration cost: There is a \$40 fee per player, which includes a T-shirt, Subway lunch and appetizers at Foundation Tavern following the tournament.

Spectator cost: \$5 for adults and \$3 for children

Registration: View the [Opens in new tabregistration form](#) for game rules and event details.

Donate: If you'd like to make a donation to the Burn Recovery Center programs, visit the [LVHN philanthropy page](#) and choose "Lehigh Valley Burn Center Patient Assistance" as the recipient.

Contact: Send completed registration forms and any questions to Elisha Elliott Leavy at Elisha.ElliottLeavy@lvhn.org.



Attend LVHN's Colorectal Cancer Virtual Info Session

Your colleagues will help you learn about colorectal cancer risk factors and prevention.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Colorectal cancer is one of the most common types of cancer diagnosed in the United States.

For Colon Cancer Awareness Month, various clinicians will be hosting a virtual education event on Thursday, March 24 at 6 p.m. regarding colorectal cancer screening guidelines, risk factors and prevention strategies.

Featured topics and speakers include:

- **The Best Way to Prevent Colon Cancer: Colonoscopy**
 - Presented by colon and rectal surgeon [Linda Lapos, MD](#), with Colon-Rectal Surgery Associates, PC, and Chief, Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery, LVHN
- **Increasing Incidence of Colorectal Cancer in Young Adults: Risk Factors and Prevention**
 - Presented by hematologist oncologist [Maged Khalil, MD](#), with [Lehigh Valley Hospital \(LVH\) Hematology Oncology–1240 Cedar Crest](#)
- **Hereditary Colorectal Cancer: Looking for Clues in Your Family History**
 - Presented by genetic counselor [Andrea Smith, MS](#), with the [Gregory and Lorraine Harper Cancer Risk and Genetic Assessment Program](#)

A question-and-answer session will be held after the main presentations. Participants will include the the presenters and hematologist oncologist [Usman Shah, MD](#), with [LVH Hematology Oncology–1240 Cedar Crest](#), and Chief, Division of Hematology-Medical Oncology, LVHN, and gastroenterologist [Matthew Sullivan, DO](#), with Eastern Pennsylvania Gastroenterology and Liver Specialists.

To learn more about the event or to register, visit LVHN.org/colonevent.