

VACCINES: MYTHS CAUSE SURGE IN DANGEROUS & PREVENTABLE DISEASES



Saima Hussain, M.D.
Pediatrician

Out of sight, out of mind. It's human nature not to think too much about the things we don't see or that don't involve our day-to-day lives. Many of us aren't old enough to remember when illnesses like measles were causing serious medical complications or even death. It's likely you've never even met someone who had the mumps as a child.

And that's due to one of the great breakthroughs in modern medicine – vaccination. Vaccines are considered safe, and in many cases they have

been so effective that certain childhood diseases were considered eradicated.

Vaccinating children protects not only the child getting the shot, but those children who are too young to be vaccinated or can't be for medical reasons.

Vaccines deliver an antigen, which is a killed or weakened virus. The immune system then recognizes the antigen and creates antibodies against the disease. The antibodies remain in your system tricking your body into thinking you've already had a certain disease. Those antibodies are on guard, so if you are exposed to that virus they will spring into action, ensuring you don't get sick – or if you do it will be a less severe case.

Widespread vaccination helped us achieve herd immunity for many childhood diseases, making the chance of disease outbreaks very low. However, myths and misinformation campaigns have caused more

parents to delay or skip childhood vaccinations, which is why we have seen big spikes in cases of measles and mumps this year.

According to the CDC, since the two-dose MMR vaccination program was introduced in 1989, mumps cases in the United States decreased more than 99%, with only a few hundred cases reported most years. However, since 2006, there has been an increase in cases and outbreaks, and in 2018 there were 2,000 reported cases of mumps. We are well on pace to shatter that number, with more than 725 cases already reported through April.

Measles cases in the U.S. have already broken the record number of cases in a single year since the disease was considered eliminated in 2000. More than 760 cases have been reported across 23 states in 2019, including Georgia. The vast majority of these cases are in people who were not vaccinated.

continued on page 4 >

DATES TO KNOW	5.14	APP Dinner
	7.1	EPIC Go Live
	8.16	Corporate Olympics

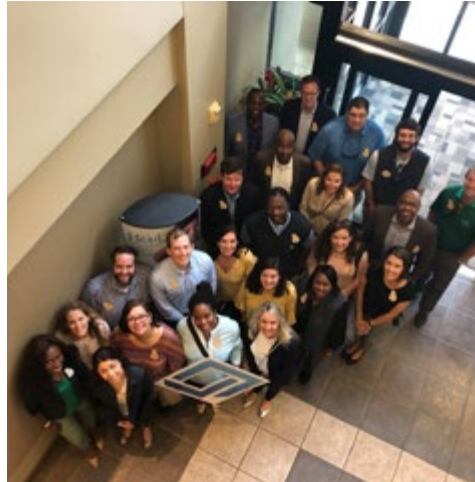
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have ideas, brags or service updates for our next edition of the Longstreet Beat, please submit those to prmarketing@longstreetclinic.com.

AROUND THE CLINIC

LEADERSHIP GEORGIA

Hall County was in the spotlight April 25-27 as this year's Leadership Georgia class came to town. On April 26 we partnered with Northeast Georgia Health System to spotlight the innovative health care our community has to offer. As part of the tour, the LGA class learned hands-only CPR and what it's like to cast (and be casted) from our own **Keith Biron**. They also saw a robotic surgery demonstration with **Dr. Chad Copper** at the North Patient Tower, as well as a panel discussion with NGHS's Louis Smith and our CEO **Mimi Collins**.



MARCH FOR BABIES

Longstreet Clinic was pleased to serve as presenting sponsor once again for the Hall County March for Babies. It was a busy April as we got ready to host the annual fundraiser benefiting March of Dimes. We hosted several fundraising events in the lead-up to the big day.



BBQ Nachos for Babies

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the April 26 cookout! You helped us raise \$968 for March of Dimes. A special thanks to Boyd's Cleaning Service who made this possible by preparing and providing the food!

Basket raffle & Cake auction

On April 18 we had our annual Easter Basket Raffle and Cake Auction in Gainesville, raising \$1,275 for the March of Dimes!



The Main Event

April 27th was a beautiful morning to celebrate and raise awareness for babies born prematurely! We had our biggest turnout in years. **Emmett Forrester** served as Chairman of the event, and **Christy Payne**, along with her daughter, Haley, sang the national anthem. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated! We'd like to extend a special thanks to **Renee Ward**, who is the guiding force behind our efforts to support March of Dimes.

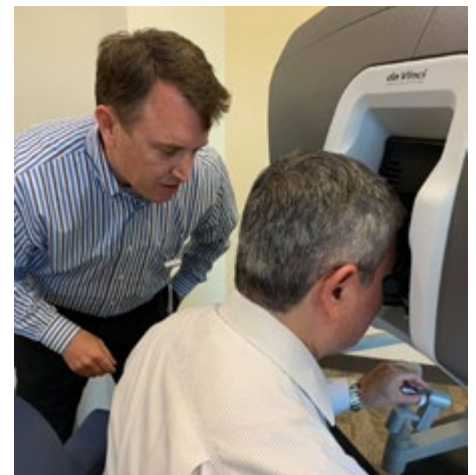


SERVICE SPOTLIGHT: ROBOTIC SURGERY

The da Vinci robotic surgical system is one of the most advanced technologies available for minimally invasive surgeries, and it is available for multiple procedures across a variety of specialties including general surgery, gynecologic surgery and bariatric surgery. Benefits of robotic surgery may include a shorter hospital stay and less post-operative pain.

On April 16 Mark Meyers with Intuitive Surgical presented Longstreet OBGYN **Keshma Saujani, M.D.**, with a cake celebrating the completion of 500 robotic surgeries using the da Vinci System at Northeast Georgia Medical Center Gainesville.

Later in the month, NGMC hosted two robotic hernia surgery events – one for referring physicians to demo the da Vinci system, and a free hernia screening event for the community. Longstreet Clinic’s **Geary Bush, M.D.**, and **Chad Copper, M.D.**, are pictured showing Northeast Georgia Physicians Group family physician Katie Dudas, M.D., and son Luke, and NGPG internist Antonio Rios, M.D., what it’s like to perform surgery using the robot.



BABY CARE 101 CLASS HELPS FIRST-TIME PARENTS

Did you know that Longstreet Clinic Pediatrics offers a Baby Care 101 class for new families? Baby Care 101 provides essential information on all aspects of caring for a new baby including feeding, bathing, well baby visits and when to call the pediatrician. We discuss a variety of topics of interest to new parents. A tour of WeeCare is included, as well as car seat safety training. The class is free for Longstreet Clinic Obstetrics & Gynecology patients, but registration is required. **Please call 770-297-2213.**

At the end of the seminar, expectant parents will receive a free baby care goody bag.

**UPCOMING
2019 DATES**

**JUNE 6 / AUG. 1
OCT. 3 / DEC. 5**

KEEP CLIMBING... THIS IS GOING TO BE EPIC

A Special Message From **Loren Funk**, COO, and **Cindy Staszak**, Epic Project Coordinator:

We are less than two months away from Go Live Day on July 1! Our EPIC team is hard at work in the home stretch, and we're excited to see the finish line just ahead. We want all our providers and staff to share in this excitement so we can keep our patients and community engaged.

As you are likely aware, training is being scheduled for providers and staff, with the first training class held Saturday, May 11.

We're providing online training tools to help you prepare for class. Once you complete classroom training, all users will have access to the test environment.



*If you have any questions or comments regarding EPIC please email epic@longstreetclinic.com.
Thanks for your hard work and commitment to improving patient care and communication.*

VACCINES continued from page 1:

At Longstreet Clinic Pediatrics, we recognize that immunizations are an essential part of preventive care and believe in the effectiveness of the vaccines we administer. The vaccines we give and their schedules are derived from data and research from children over many years. That's why we require all patients to adhere to appropriate vaccination schedules, and gladly counsel parents about why this is so important, now more than ever.



LIFE HAPPENS

we're *here*.



LONGSTREETCLINIC
Urgent Care | Gainesville