

FROM THE DESK OF...



Mimi Collins, CEO

2022 is already proving to be a banner year for Longstreet Clinic – from fighting another COVID surge and navigating winter weather, to forming exciting corporate relationships and launching new comprehensive programs to deliver expedited patient centered care. Two examples of these innovations that are transforming the patient journey are our new **Neuroscience & Orthopedic Center** and our reimagined **Breast Center**.

Longstreet Clinic's Neuroscience & Orthopedic Center opened October 2021. It was established to deliver a patient-centered team approach to care in treating a broad range of physical and neurological conditions. As the only center of its kind in North Georgia, we combined the expertise of more than 25 of our providers representing five medical specialties in one location – the C Building

on the Gainesville campus. Our services include physical medicine & rehabilitation, neurosurgery, orthopedics, interventional pain management, sports medicine, physical therapy, concussion management, balance and vestibular rehab, and more.

Longstreet Clinic's reimagined Breast Center launched this February, providing women access to the most advanced breast health technology, expedited screenings and personalized care in one location – inside the B Building in Gainesville. Because our team understands that every moment matters, Longstreet Clinic providers have been hard at work making care more streamlined and accessible than ever.

Our unique program now provides same-day access to an array of services to speed along the diagnostic and treatment planning process.

In addition, **Lisa Logue, FNP-C, AOCNP**, an experienced provider specializing in breast care, has been strategically positioned in the program to help navigate patients through the care planning process. Our integrated approach also includes a multispecialty team of board-certified radiologists, surgeons and oncologists working together to create a smooth, prompt patient experience that provides patients with the answers they need and results they can trust.

The momentum from the first of the year is contagious, with more exciting innovations in the pipeline to come. **Thank you for all the hard work and dedication our team has exhibited in building these programs.** I am proud to work alongside such a wonderful group of people dedicated to enhancing care and never satisfied with the status quo. Here's to what's next.

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EXCITING UPDATES FROM THE CENTER FOR WEIGHT MANAGEMENT



LOSE Big.
Gain **MORE.**

Stephanie, an employee of Gwinnett County Public Schools, lost over 70 pounds in one year after gastric bypass surgery. Watch Stephanie's weightloss journey on our website.

Scan me!



The past six months have been busy for Longstreet Clinic Center for Weight Management. In addition to welcoming **Dr. Eric Velazquez**, who brings more than a decade of experience as a minimally invasive and bariatric surgeon, the practice also moved into new space in Suwanee that allows for enhanced access to the surgical weight loss practice, the addition of medical weight loss services and products, as well as easy parking and surface level entrance for patient convenience.

In January, the Center for Weight Management was featured in **Atlanta Magazine's 2022 Medical Guide** among some of the top providers across the healthcare spectrum. And if that was not enough, they have been busy working to let State Health

Benefit Plan members know the exciting news that they now have coverage for bariatric surgery as part of their benefit plan.

With convenient locations in Gainesville, Braselton and Suwanee, Longstreet Clinic Center for Weight Management remains dedicated to providing patients like **Stephanie** (pictured here) with accessible options to reach their weight loss goals through surgical and medical weight loss programs.

Interested in learning more? Call **770-534-0110** or visit our website for more information and to watch our patient testimonials.

Scan here to read the Atlanta Magazine articles



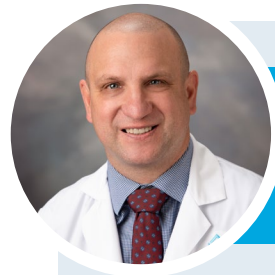
PRACTICES WELCOME NEW PHYSICIANS IN 2022

Please join us in welcoming our newest physicians to Longstreet Clinic:



VENUMADHAV KOTLA, M.D.

Venumadhav Kotla, M.D., is an experienced medical oncologist and hematologist. He joins Longstreet Clinic Cancer Center after more than a dozen years of practice at Cookeville Medical Center in Tennessee, also serving as medical director of its Cancer Center for five years. Dr. Kotla is welcoming patients in Gainesville and Toccoa.



CHRIS LINBERG, M.D.

Chris Linberg, M.D., is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Linberg served and practiced for 9 years in the Air Force before moving to private practice in Florida in 2017. He is welcoming new patients in our Braselton office.

THREE TAPPED AS HEALTHY HALL WINNERS

Longstreet Clinic had seven finalists and three winners at the recent Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Healthy Hall Luncheon in March. The Healthy Hall Awards of Excellence use 11 categories to spotlight those in the healthcare industry in Gainesville-Hall County making a significant impact on our quality of life through excellence in health and wellness.

Physician of the Year

Marti Gibbs, MD,
Family Medicine Oakwood



Dr. Gibbs has long made a positive impact on patients and fellow physicians at Longstreet Clinic through her commitment to quality care. She is in her second year as

Longstreet Clinic's President and Governing Board Chairman, the first woman to hold the position in the Clinic's 26-plus year existence.

Advanced Practice Provider of the Year

Jennifer Butler, FNP-C,
Longstreet Cancer Center



With her focus on oncology, Jennifer often meets patients in some of their darkest hours. This includes leading a cancer support group and organizing outings for

oncology patients and their loved ones to create memories for a lifetime. She also spearheaded a cancer genetics screening program with the aim of evolving and improving oncology care throughout our region.

Nurse of the Year

Ashley Belfance, RN, BSN, OCN,
Longstreet Cancer Center



Ashley works hard as the practice manager for Longstreet's Cancer Center, ensuring everything is in its place and that physicians, nurses and staff have what they need to succeed. Ashley's

true passion is as a hands-on nurse, and it is why she remains committed to maintaining a patient care role two days per week.

Additional Longstreet Clinic Finalists: Shana Deloach, FNP-C, Vicki Smith, LPN, Danny Webb, FNP-C, Barry Munn, MD, Geary Bush, MD, Britta Okyere, MD, M. Alisa Davis, MD

To read full profiles about the winners, visit longstreetclinic.com/news

COLON CANCER SCREENING SHOULD START AT 45

Recently, the American Cancer Society updated its screening recommendation that people of "average" colorectal cancer risk start regular screening at age 45 versus 50. For people at higher risk for colorectal cancer, like those with family history of the disease,

screenings can start younger. "Colorectal cancer is one of the most common cancers in America today," said **Dr. Fernando Aycinena**. "But the good news is that it is highly curable if found in the early stages of the disease."

Screening for colorectal cancer can be completed in two ways: Stool-based tests like Cologuard that look for signs of cancer in a person's stool and visual (structural) exams of the colon and rectum (colonoscopy). The main difference in the two options is that colonoscopies not only detect the disease, but can prevent cancer because

precancerous polyps can be removed during the procedure. A stool DNA test is designed for detection only. If possible polyps are detected with Cologuard, a colonoscopy must be performed to remove them.

"That's why we still recommend colonoscopy for patients in the right age ranges or with certain risk factors. And the good news is that if you receive a clean report from the colonoscopy, you can wait 10 years before you have to have another one," Dr. Aycinena said.

PARTNERSHIP PUTS FOCUS ON QUALITY CARE

Longstreet Clinic has entered into a partnership with Pilgrim's Pride Gainesville to provide adult and pediatric primary care to its members. The goal of this direct contracting agreement is to help Pilgrim's Gainesville reduce their healthcare costs while providing members with access to quality medical care in the most appropriate, cost-effective setting. Providers in Longstreet Clinic's internal medicine,

family medicine and pediatric locations in Gainesville and Oakwood are the current participants in the partnership.

These types of contracts between employers and healthcare providers are a type of value-based care aimed at improving the quality of medical care provided while reducing costs.



AROUND THE CLINIC



Congratulations to nurse practitioners **Rosa M. Phillips, AGACNP-C, BC-ADM**, and **Bethany R. Norwood, FNP-C, BC-ADM**, who recently passed the Board Certified - Advanced Diabetes Management exam!



We had a great time at the American Heart Association's Go Red Luncheon in February! The annual event brings attention to the importance of heart health for women.

Congratulations to those recently honored in several local "Reader's Choice" contests:

2022 Best of Habersham

- **Longstreet Clinic Obstetrics & Gynecology** (Best OBGYN) and **Nicole Crawford** (Best Nurse)

2022 Best of Hall

- **Longstreet Clinic Obstetrics & Gynecology** (Best Obstetrics, Best Women's Health)
- **Longstreet Clinic Neurosurgery**
- **Longstreet Clinic Vascular & Vein**



BREAST CENTER LAUNCHES UPDATED PROGRAM

Longstreet Clinic recently unveiled its re-imagined state-of-the-art Breast Center program in Gainesville, a multidisciplinary program dedicated to providing the most precise diagnoses and treatment plans for all breast health conditions – all with an eye on streamlining the process so that patients can avoid the stress of long wait times and the hassles of coordinating multiple care providers.

"What we have been able to put together is an incredible step forward for women's healthcare," said Longstreet Clinic surgeon **Priscilla Ruth Strom, M.D., FACS**.

"We offer services on par with any breast clinic anywhere in the nation. And it's right here in Gainesville, so that patients do not



have to drive to Atlanta or deal with delays while wondering what's happening inside them."

Led by **Dr. Strom, Brad Auffarth, M.D. FACS**,

and **Geary Bush, M.D., FACS**, Longstreet Clinic's Breast Center is centered on providing the absolute best care experience available.

They are joined by certified nurse practitioner **Lisa Logue, FNP-C, AOCNP**, who provides personalized care planning

and navigation for patients when results show an abnormality that might need further diagnostics such as a biopsy, as well as additional evaluation for higher risk patients.

"We designed Breast Center so that patients will receive the most accurate diagnosis available as quick as possible and then – if something is wrong – learn the best treatment methods available, all in one place," Dr. Auffarth said. "It really is amazing."

To learn more about the services and technology available at the Breast Center, visit [longstreetclinic.com/breast-center](https://www.longstreetclinic.com/breast-center).