

Reporting Virtual Meeting of 27 April 2020

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 3/20 Mooncatcher Project

This Week: 3/27 Covid-19 Medical Volunteer in Bronx

Next Week: 5/4 Kimberly Perone –
Success, Bereavement, Resilience & Mindfulness

Coming Up: 5/11 TBD

Meetings are normally held at the Ballston Town Hall at 6:15 PM. Because of Covid-19 social distancing, they are currently virtual, held on Zoom at 6 PM; link provided by email that day.

Check us out at bhblrotary.org and on Facebook

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Linda LeTendre announced that the hand-cream project for medical personnel is going well.
- Mary Anderson drew attention to the fact that George Bailey's memorial tree is in bloom.
- Mike Brewster passed the Happy Dollars virtual bucket.

MEDICAL VOLUNTEER NORTH-CENTRAL BRONX DR. MICHAEL GECI-BLACK, MD

Dr Geci-Black is an emergency-medicine physician with Orange Pathology Associates of Goshen NY. He was introduced by his friend and Rotarian Linda LeTendre. He discussed his two-week experience volunteering to help with the Covid-19 pandemic at the North-Central Bronx Hospital – at the epicenter of the New York City outbreak. His tour started on Easter Sunday. All were pleased to learn that he has successfully completed his post-service 14-day quarantine.

Dr Geci-Black was pleased to find medical school classmates and old friends hard at work there. His coworkers were amazing. He noted that there were adequate supplies of personal protective equipment available, including paper scrubs, goggles, face shields, and N95 masks.

The first week there were about 14 patients in his intensive-care unit. Most were intubated on ventilators and were the sickest people he has ever seen. Most were older, but one patient was 33 years old. He witnessed multiple resuscitations and people in their 30s dying. Family members were limited to phone and tablet communication with none at the bedside. The ventilator patients were sedated to near unconsciousness. Of the original 14 patients, two are still there and about three quarters have died.

Many of the sick came in with oxygen saturation at 80% or less, leading to standard-protocol intubation and ventilation. He learned a lot while there, including concluding that the standard way of handling ventilation may not be appropriate for Covid-19 patients.

Some patients were put on Trump's favorite drug hydroxychloroquine and died at twice the rate of those receiving a placebo.

Lungs looked horrible on x-rays.

Convalescent antibodies were given but did not seem to help.

His takeaway from the first week: if you get Covid-19 stay away from ventilators! 80 to 90 percent die.

Things had quieted down some his second week with 9 patients, three not on ventilators and two being weaned off.

To Dr. Geci-Black, Covid-19 seems even more contagious than measles. He expects a second wave in the fall. He concluded that without the imposition of social distancing the entire health-care system would have collapsed.

Covid-19 leads to serious blood clots leading to stroke and embolisms. He saw a leg amputation necessitated by a clot-caused infection.

Dr. Geci-Black is a healthy-living advocate who is opposed to smoking, takes a dim view of alcohol (including the evening glass of wine), favors large doses of vitamins C & D, and sees merit in fermented garlic and honey as a tonic. In answer to a question he sees little merit in people monitoring their oxygen saturation at home.



Reported by Fred Bailly

Service above self.