

June Region 2 RESPTC Newsletter

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Happy summer and thank you for reading the Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Partner Community Newsletter! We hope everyone is having a nice June and a great Pride Month! Our region welcomes everyone in the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies. In this issue of the newsletter, we will be spotlighting one of our LGBTQIA+ leaders, Dr. Andrew Wallach!

June HIGHLIGHTS

NETEC/RESPTC Summit Highlights

Bellevue co-hosted this year's NETEC/RESPTC Summit as one of the three institutions leading NETEC. This summit is an opportunity to convene national leaders across the National Special Pathogen System to share accomplishments, lessons learned, and look ahead to the coming year.

Congratulations to Bellevue's very own Dr. Justin Chan, who won two research awards for his mpox work at the Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTC) summit in Denver (picture below).



NSPS Logo Launch

The National Special Pathogen System (NSPS) launched their new logo this month! The new logo reflects the goals for the NSPS to: “**Prepare** the health care system, **Protect** the health care workforce, and **Respond** to special pathogen events by coordinating special pathogen care across the United States.”

You can find the new NSPS logos and branding [here](#).

June Bellevue Events

To celebrate Pride Month, Bellevue is featuring their award-winning Pride Health Center. The center is designed to focus on the health needs and disparities specific to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community. You can learn more about the Pride Health Center [here](#).

In addition to Pride Month, June is also National Safety Month. To spotlight the national holiday, Bellevue showcased the importance of healthcare safety through stakeholder drills. These drills are designed to keep frontline workers safe when transporting and caring for patients under investigation (PUI) or special pathogens patients.

Region 2 Training Tip of the Month

On the heels of May's Hand Hygiene month, our Region 2 tip for the month is to wash your hands **every time** you change PPE, equipment, or a patient.

JUNE COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT | DR. ANDREW WALLACH, MD, FACP

Dr. Andrew Wallach serves as both the Ambulatory Care Chief for NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue and the Ambulatory Care Chief Medical Officer for NYC Health + Hospitals. In these roles, he leads the Ambulatory Care Service Line, works with the Clinic Chiefs to improve access, quality, and patient satisfaction throughout Ambulatory Care, and is responsible for leading the overall clinical vision for Ambulatory Care. Dr. Wallach has successfully led his team to multiple Level 3 Recognition achievements, the highest grade issued by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. You can learn more about his leadership roles and the power of primary care to build trust on [NYC Health + Hospitals' "The Remedy" podcast, episode 1](#).

Furthermore, Dr. Wallach is one of the leaders of the Region 2 RESPTC Steering Committee. In this role, he helps shape the region's special pathogen resources, events, and responses. During the 2022 mpox outbreak, he led the team that administered the first outpatient vaccine and helped coordinate testing and outpatient treatment. Dr. Wallach is a recognized LGBTQ+ leader who supported the creation of the NYC Health + Hospitals Pride Clinics which provide gender-affirming care in a culturally-appropriate and inclusive manner. A practicing primary care provider for over 28 years, he believes that "health care is a human right and I am privileged to have been welcomed into the lives of my patients". Dr. Wallach received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he also completed his residency training in Internal Medicine.

We want to highlight your work to prepare for and respond to special pathogen threats. If you have a special pathogen preparedness or response story, person, or team to spotlight, please send it to BellevueSPP@nychhc.org. If you or a colleague would like to join the Region 2 RESPTC Partner Community, please contact [Alyssa Wong](#).

WHAT'S NEW ON THE REGION 2 RESPTC WEBSITE?

The Region 2 RESPTC website is a one-stop shop of all things related to special pathogen preparedness and response in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The team has updated the [Tools and Resource page](#) with the June Travel Screening List and the June Partner Community Meeting recording and presentation. You can also read or re-read past newsletter issues [here](#).