

Town & Village — Thursday, May 31, 2012

## Beth Israel gives free colonoscopies to 10 Chinese patients

At a press conference on March 13 of this year, March being Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, David L. Carr-Locke, MD, Chief of Digestive Diseases in the Department of Medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center made a major promise to New York's Chinatown community. Dr. Carr-Locke promised that ten selected uninsured individuals aged 50 and older from the Chinese community who have never been screened for colorectal cancer, would receive a free colonoscopy.

On May 23, the promise was fulfilled at Beth Israel whereby the Wang Community Health Center held a screening program and the ten individuals had their colonoscopies performed by Dr. Carr-Locke and one of his colleagues in Digestive Diseases, Dr. Gil Ascunce. "Of the ten asymptomatic uninsured people who attended for their free colonoscopy, seven or 70 percent



Dr. David Carr-Locke (far right) along with physicians from the Beth Israel Asian Services Program

had polyps whereby one was large," explained Dr. Carr-Locke. This makes the point of screening better than any published statistic and far exceeds the expected polyp detection rate in the general population. The polyp detection rate of 70 percent also

demonstrates is three times the national average."

The Charles B. Wang Community Health Center has a screening program for various cancers including colon but Dr. Carr-Locke feels that the Chinese population may be less aware of this than

for breast and cervix cancers. Over the years, Beth Israel's relationships to New York's Chinatown community continue to be very solid and the hospital continues to develop various health care programs to better serve the Asian community as a whole.

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