

# Oncology Update

LEON HESS CANCER CENTER at Monmouth Medical Center

An affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System

Vol. 2, Issue 2

December 2007

## A Message from the Medical and Administrative Directors

We are pleased to report that the much-anticipated arrival of TomoTherapy to Monmouth Medical Center's Institute for Advanced Radiation Oncology is quickly approaching.

After nearly a year of construction, the bunker that will house the revolutionary treatment delivery system is targeted for completion in the coming weeks. Upon reaching this important milestone in the preparation process, TomoTherapy is expected to become operational in the first half of 2008 — marking a major advancement in 3-D imaging guidance technology that will provide more treatment options for cancer patients.

Thanks to everyone for their patience and understanding during the construction period of this most-ambitious phase of the Leon Hess Cancer Center's ongoing expansion. It truly represents a defining moment that epitomizes our long-standing prominence as the region's leader in cancer care.

As you will read in this issue, other recent developments are broadening the cancer center's spectrum of oncology services and programs. These highlights include:

▲ The creation of a Center of Excellence in Gastrointestinal Cancer Care (see story at right) has enhanced our multidisciplinary approach to GI cancer care, screening and surveillance, including the establishment of a Familial Colorectal Cancer Registry Program and a "one-stop" High Risk Colon Cancer Assessment Clinic.

▲ The official opening of the David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center, the region's first comprehensive center of its kind, tailored for the care and comfort of patients and their families (see story at right).

In addition to the highly skilled physicians who lead these centers, we

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## ▲ News from Gastrointestinal Cancer Services

### Center of Excellence in GI Cancer Care Places Focus on Coordination of Care through Several Key Initiatives



The Leon Hess Cancer Center has established a Center of Excellence in Gastrointestinal Cancer Care that focuses on multidisciplinary collaboration across the continuum to ensure high-quality care.

Under the medical direction of Michael Arvanitis, M.D., chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery at Monmouth, the center has implemented

the following three initiatives under guidelines established by the American Cancer Society for GI cancer screening, education and surveillance:

◆ A monthly **GI Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference** provides a forum for physicians and other health care professionals from all disciplines to evaluate and discuss patient cases and collectively determine proper courses of treatment. The conference is held every second Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. in MMC's Borden Auditorium. For more information, call Laura Gallo, GI Center coordinator, at 732-923-6509 or lgallo@sbhcs.com.

◆ A **Familial Colorectal Cancer Registry Program** offers a multispecialty team approach to the assessment of family risk, genetic counseling and testing, and the treatment of polyps and cancer. The registry's main role is to educate high-risk patients with a family history of colorectal cancer about the disease, placing an emphasis on the importance of lifelong surveillance through appropriate testing. Patients enrolled in the registry remain under the care of their referring physicians.

◆ Complementing the registry program, the **High Risk Colon Cancer Assessment Clinic** offers high-risk colorectal patients "one-stop" assessment services. During an afternoon appointment at one convenient location, patients meet with the registry's

For more information on the Familial Colorectal Cancer Registry Program or High Risk Colon Cancer Assessment Clinic, call Jenny Lin, M.B.A., manager of the Oncology Data Center at 732-923-6510 or [jlin@sbhcs.com](mailto:jlin@sbhcs.com), or Sherry Grumet, M.S., C.G.C., certified cancer genetic counselor, at 732-923-6711 or [sgrumet@sbhcs.com](mailto:sgrumet@sbhcs.com).

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## ▲ News from the David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center

### New Facility Offers Cutting-Edge Care in a Comfortable Setting



In less than a 24-month period, the development of the David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center progressed from concept to creation — a remarkable accomplishment recently heralded during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The center is the first facility in central and southern New Jersey to offer a full spectrum of services to treat brain tumors and other tumors of the central nervous system.

It is named in memory of David Zocchi of Manasquan, who died in 2005 after a nearly six-year battle with brain cancer. Upon her husband's death, Judy Zocchi became the driving force behind the creation of the center, which offers a supportive and comfortable environment uniquely designed for patients and families.

Serving as its medical director is Sumul Raval, M.D., a board certified neurologist who is among only 200 physicians in the United States fellowship trained in the highly specialized field of neuro-oncology.

For more information on the David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center, call 732-923-6571 or its hot line at 1-877-577-9800.



**Message** *continued from page 1*

have brought aboard two professionals to guide development of the GI and thoracic programs (see story below).

As the year ends, we await the results of Monmouth Medical Center's triennial on-site survey by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons, which was conducted in October. After a rigorous evaluation and review of performance, we hope to retain our nearly 25-year status as a teaching hospital cancer program — a highly regarded accreditation earned only by the nation's leading academic cancer centers for providing the highest levels of quality cancer care.

As we look ahead to a new year brimming with new challenges and continued progress, we'd like to thank everyone for their support during our most recent phase of growth and development.

David J. Sharon, M.D.  
Medical Director

Shirley Hwang, R.N., M.S., AOCNS  
Administrative Director

Leon Hess Cancer Center  
Monmouth Medical Center

**▲ News from Gastrointestinal Cancer Services** *continued from page 1*

coordinator to document a medical history and to prepare family pedigrees. They also undergo appropriate testing and meet with genetic counselors and geneticists. Anyone with an inherited colorectal cancer syndrome is considered to be at risk and can access the clinic's services.

**▲ News from the Lung Cancer Center****Two New Offerings Aimed at Early Detection of Lung Cancer**

The Lung Cancer Center is offering two new programs specifically designed to help improve the early detection of lung cancer in high-risk patients.

The **Lung Cancer Screening Program** involves low-dose computed tomography (CT) scanning to detect the disease at its earliest stage in smokers and former smokers. In recent studies, CT scans have been found to be about three times more sensitive than chest X-rays in discovering small pulmonary nodules. Patients with early lung cancer that has been resected had a five-year survival rate of up to 70 percent, compared to a 5 percent survival rate when the disease has spread beyond the lungs.

The entire screening visit, including the CT exam, and discussion with the program coordinator about a patient's health and family history, lasts about one hour. The test's \$300 cost is not reimbursable and must be paid by the individual.

The **Lung Nodule Program** brings together a multidisciplinary team of lung disease experts to effectively monitor developments or changes in lung nodules. As a result of this careful surveillance, unnecessary surgery can be eliminated, anxiety alleviated and lung cancer can be diagnosed at a curable stage. Within a week of physician referral to the program, an evaluation will be conducted that includes a baseline chest CT, expert interpretation by chest radiologists, an examination by a thoracic surgeon and follow-up coordination of care with the patient's primary physician.

The Lung Cancer Center is the only program of its kind in Monmouth and Ocean counties dedicated to the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer through surgical, medical and radiotherapeutic methods.

For more information on the Lung Cancer Screening Program or the Lung Nodule Program, call Jenny Lin, M.B.A., manager of the Oncology Data Center at 732-923-6510 or [jlin@sbhcs.com](mailto:jlin@sbhcs.com).

**▲ News from the Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center****Breast Imaging Center of Excellence Designation Awarded by ACR**

The Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center has been designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology's Commission on Quality and Safety and the Commission on Breast Imaging.

This prestigious designation is only awarded to centers that have achieved accreditation in all of ACR's voluntary breast-imaging accreditation programs and modules, as well as in its mandatory Mammography Accreditation Program, according to Melinda Staiger, M.D., medical director of the breast center.

These ACR accreditations include mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, breast ultrasound, ultrasound-guided breast biopsy for both fine needle and core biopsy — dual accreditation that has been earned by a few breast imaging centers across the United States.

**Welcome Aboard**

**The Leon Hess Cancer Center has brought aboard two professionals responsible for overseeing operations and patient care, respectively, for the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center and the Thoracic Cancer Program.**

**Laura Gallo** is the program coordinator of both the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center and the Thoracic Cancer Program, which includes the Lung Cancer Center. Since 1994, she has served as clerical coordinator for the Wound Treatment Center, Center for Bariatric Surgery and the Urology Center at MMC's Center for Advanced Surgical Technologies.

Additionally, advanced practice nurse **Marissa Guzman, R.N., M.S.N., APCN**, has joined the GI Cancer and Thoracic Cancer programs. Before joining Monmouth, she was a medical-surgical nurse for 20 years at Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank, and holds national certification in adult advanced practice, medical-surgical and geriatric nursing.

▲ News from the Clinical Research

**MMC Gets FDA Approval for Treatment Innovation for Carcinoid Cancer**



Monmouth Medical Center participates in clinical trials that provide cancer patients with cutting-edge care and procedures before they are widely available.

These protocols, which offer alternatives to observation or standard cancer treatment, generally involve radiation therapy, medical oncologic treatment or a combination of both modalities for prostate, breast, head and neck, brain, gastrointestinal, thoracic and gynecologic cancer.

Recently, MMC medical oncologist Seth Cohen, M.D., received Food and Drug Administration approval to use Novartis' investigational new drug, RAD-001 plus the VEGF inhibitor bevacizumab, in treating a 22-year-old patient with widely metastatic advanced carcinoid cancer.

**For more information, call the Clinical Research Office at 732-923-6582.**

Congratulations to Dr. Cohen, the MMC Clinical Research Office and the Institutional Review Board for working together expeditiously to finalize and review the protocol so that the patient was able to begin treatment without delay.

**Leon Hess Cancer Center Telephone Directory**

- Leon Hess Cancer Center . . . . . 732-923-6575
- David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center . . 1-877-577-9800
- Head and Neck Cancer Program . . . . . 732-923-6575
- High Risk Cancer Assessment Program . . . . . 732-923-6711
- Institute for Advanced Radiation Oncology . . . . . 732-923-6890
- Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center . . . . . 732-923-7700
- Valerie Fund Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. . . . . 732-923-7455

**Leon Hess Cancer Center January 2008 Calendar of Events**

*For Patients and Families*

**Monmouth Medical Center offers a host of free, professionally led support groups, including the following:**

**Newly Diagnosed? Coping with Breast Cancer:** Second Tuesday of each month for a time-limited period for six months, 5:30-7 p.m.; 732-923-7582.

**When Breast Cancer Returns:** Fourth Tuesday of each month, 1-2:30 p.m.; 732-923-7582.

**Support for People with Oral, Head and Neck Cancer:** Second Thursday of each month, 6-7 p.m.; 732-923-6575.

**Prostate Cancer (Us TOO):** First Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m.; 732-923-7269.

**Bereavement Group:** Six-week program for persons who have lost a loved one over the past year; meets periodically; 732-923-6463.

**Children/Adolescents Experiencing Loss:** First Wednesday, 6-7 p.m.; 732-923-6990.

**Kids Need Support Too:** For children and adolescents with family members diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses; first Wednesday, 7-8 p.m.; 732-923-6990.

**Smoke-Free Support Group:** For persons who have recently quit smoking, or struggling in stopping the habit; fourth Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.; 732-923-6990.

*For the Community*

**Tobacco Dependence Treatment Program:** Six-week program on Monday, 6-8 p.m. or Thursday, 3-4 p.m.; \$15/session; call 732-232-2833 to schedule a free assessment.

*Unless otherwise indicated, all support groups, programs and other events are held at Monmouth Medical Center, 300 Second Avenue, Long Branch.*

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*Oncology Update is published monthly by the Department of Public Relations and Marketing for members of the Monmouth Medical Center Medical and Dental Staff.*

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