

Oncology Update

LEON HESS CANCER CENTER at Monmouth Medical Center

An affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System

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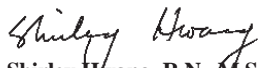
A Message from the Medical and Administrative Directors

Summer 2006 has proved to be an exciting period for the Leon Hess Cancer Center and Monmouth Medical Center, with an important milestone achieved in the arena of neuro-oncology. The David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center will take the national spotlight in November when medical director Sumul Raval, M.D., presents his research findings regarding a promising new combination drug therapy to treat recurrent brain tumors at the Society of Neuro-Oncology annual meeting in November (see details, below right). This is the second largest such report in the country — the first one was reported by Duke University Medical Center during the 2006 American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting — and will certainly put our brain tumor center on the map.

As we reported in the last issue of *Oncology Update*, the Leon Hess Cancer Center has introduced an initiative to maintain patient satisfaction scores, with reporting of patient feedback for BBR-4, BBR-2 and Radiation Oncology. We have identified as key improvement areas psychosocial care and patient education, and in response have formed a Cancer Services Psychosocial Care Task Force. Also in this issue, in an area related to psychosocial care, we focus on the host of oncology support groups offered through the Leon Hess Cancer Center. Support group sessions are held regularly, bringing people together to discuss concerns and share ideas. (See details, page 3.) To learn more, call the cancer center at 732-923-6575.



David J. Sharon, M.D.
Medical Director, Leon Hess Cancer Center



Shirley Hwang, R.N., M.S., AOCNS
Administrative Director, Leon Hess Cancer Center

▲ News from Surgery

Robotic Surgery Offers Breakthrough in Prostatectomy



Monmouth Medical Center has taken minimally invasive surgery to new levels of precision as it becomes the first and only hospital in Monmouth and Ocean counties to implement the next generation of minimally invasive surgery with the da Vinci® S Surgical System. This advanced system combines computer and robotic technologies to create a new category of surgical treatment, making it possible to treat a broader range of conditions using a minimally invasive approach. By enhancing surgical capabilities, robotic surgery is helping to improve clinical outcomes and redefine standards of care.

The major benefits of using the robotic system for surgeons over traditional approaches are greater surgical precision, increased range of motion, improved dexterity, enhanced visualization and improved access. With this system, some of the more technically demanding surgeries, such as prostatectomy, where conventional open surgery is the standard approach, can now be performed minimally invasively. MMC urologists will be trained in the use of the system, which will allow them to remove the walnut-size prostate and lymph nodes, and reattach the bladder to the urethra, without once putting their hands inside the patient. Three robotic arms that are used in the incisions hold a camera and surgical instruments that are able to dissect and suture the tissue of the prostate. For most patients, da Vinci prostatectomy offers substantially less pain and a much shorter recovery than traditional prostate surgery. Recent studies suggest that robotic prostatectomy may offer improved cancer control and a lower incidence of impotence and urinary incontinence. In fact, according to a recent study, robotic prostatectomy patients had a 14 percent higher rate of cancer removal and, on average, regained urinary function in about a month and a half — four times as fast as open-surgery patients. Also, patients undergoing robotic surgery experience an increase in nerve sparing, which resulted in a lower incidence of sexual dysfunction — while half of the open-surgery patients experienced a higher rate of impotence two years later.

To learn more about robotic surgery, call 1-888-SBHS-123.

▲ News from the David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center

Promising Study to be Presented Nationally



Sumul Raval, M.D., medical director of the David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center, has been invited to present his research into a promising new drug treatment regimen for patients with recurrent tumor. The study, “Bevacizumab and Irinotecan in Patients with Recurrent Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM),” will be presented in poster format at the Society of Neuro-Oncology’s 11th Annual Scientific Meeting to be held November 16 to 19 in Orlando, Fla. The abstract, which was prepared by Dr. Raval, Amy Rule, R.N., B.S.N., O.N.S., clinical director of Radiation Oncology and Outpatient Infusion, and Shirley Hwang, R.N., M.S.N., AOCNS, administrative director of the Leon Hess Cancer Center, focuses on primary GBM, which exhibits amplification of the epidermal growth factor gene. “The combination of a target therapy agent and chemotherapy may provide synergistic effects with a better response rate,” Dr. Raval says. The study concludes that the combination of Bevacizumab and Irinotecan is well tolerated, with an overall response rate of 100 percent, and that improvements in cognitive and functional status were demonstrated. Further accrual and longer follow-up will determine the impact of this active combination, according to Dr. Raval.

To learn more about the brain tumor center, call 1-877-577-9800.

▲ News from BBR-4

PICC Training Workshop a Success



On June 26, the PICC Team led by Lolita Jacob, M.S.N., F.N.P.-C., gave its first Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)/Midline Insertion Training Workshop. Ten nurses from a host of area hospitals and long-term care facilities attended. The workshop was very well received, and a number of the



Spotlight on ACCREDITATION

In this issue of *Oncology Update*, a new feature spotlighting the standards required for accreditation by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons focuses on the role of a cancer committee. In 2004, the Commission on Cancer upheld Monmouth Medical Center’s longstanding prominence as a leading academic cancer center in the nation by approving Monmouth’s “teaching hospital cancer program” for another three years — a prestigious distinction that Monmouth has retained for more than 25 consecutive years. Only one in five hospitals in the United States offering cancer care meets the stringent standards for this select category of approval.

LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

STANDARD 2.1 — The organizational structure of the facility or medical staff gives the cancer committee responsibility and accountability for the cancer program activities.

Definition and Requirements

- The facility bylaws designate the cancer committee to be a standing committee.
- The medical staff bylaws designate the cancer committee to be a standing committee.
- Policies and procedures for the facility define the authority of the cancer program.

MEMBERSHIP

STANDARD 2.2 — The membership of the cancer committee is multidisciplinary, representing physicians from the diagnostic and treatment specialties and non-physicians from administrative and supportive services.

Definition and Requirements

Cancer patient care requires a multidisciplinary approach and encompasses numerous physician and non-physician professionals. The committee responsible for program leadership is multidisciplinary and represents the full scope of care.

To learn more about the accreditation process, call the Cancer Registry at 732-923-6510.

participants requested to do their observation and preceptorship at MMC again under the PICC Team, according to Jacob. Another PICC training workshop has been tentatively scheduled for October 4, due to requests made by nurses who were not able to participate. Thanks to MMC vascular surgeon Paul Haser, M.D., and Carmel Mirarchi, R.N., for their support of the PICC workshop.

Jacob points out that Monmouth Medical Center’s PICC program is not only for inpatients, as physicians can also send outpatients to MMC for this care. There is a designated room for outpatients needing PICC service on BBR-4.

To learn more, call 732-923-6573.

▲ News from Radiation Oncology

Institute for Advanced Radiation Oncology Tours Held Monthly



Free tours of Monmouth Medical Center’s Institute for Advanced Radiation Oncology for the general public are offered the second Friday of each month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. In August, the tour will be

held on Friday, August 11. The tour kicks off in the institute’s lobby entrance area.

Pre-registration is requested by calling 732-923-6462 and leaving a message.

Welcome New Cancer Center Team Members

Lita Estir-Dorsett, M.S.N., APRN-B.C., has joined the Leon Hess Cancer Center as oncology nurse practitioner/program coordinator. In this role, she will be working closely with neuro-oncologist Sumul Raval, M.D., medical director of the David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center — a comprehensive, multidisciplinary program dedicated to the development of treatment strategies for brain tumors. She can be reached at 732-923-6627.

Anita Pfisterer, M.S.W., L.S.W., has joined Monmouth Medical Center’s Case Management Department as the new oncology social worker. She will be covering the BBR-2 inpatient unit, Radiation Oncology and the BBR-4 oncology clinic. She will be responsible for individual and family counseling, education, advocacy, discharge planning and case management. She can be reached at 732-923-6961.

MMC SUPPORT GROUPS

The Leon Hess Cancer Center offers a host of free, professionally led support groups, including:

Early-Stage Breast Cancer	Second and Fourth Tuesdays	7:15 to 9 p.m.	Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center	Jan Tryba, M.S.W., LCSW, at 732-923-7711
Metastatic Breast Cancer	First and Third Tuesdays	1 to 2:30 p.m.	Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center	Jan Tryba, M.S.W., LCSW, at 732- 923-7711
Colorectal Cancer	First Wednesday	7:30 to 9 p.m.	Goldsmith Wellness Center, fourth floor, Monmouth Medical Center	Jan Tryba, M.S.W., LCSW, at 732-923-7711
US TOO Prostate Cancer	First Thursday	7 to 9 p.m.	Steinam-Housman 114 Monmouth Medical Center	Anita Pfisterer, M.S.W., L.S.W., at 732-923-6575
Bereavement	Six-week session begins Thursday, August 3.	6:30 to 8 p.m.	Goldsmith Wellness Center, fourth floor, Monmouth Medical Center	Colleen Beach, M.S.W., L.S.W., at 732-923-6463

WHILE ALL SUPPORT GROUPS ARE FREE, REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Look Good, Feel Better

MMC, in conjunction with the American Cancer Society, offers a special program for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. Called “Look Good, Feel Better,” the program helps patients learn to cope with the side effects of treatment and feel comfortable with changes in their appearance by receiving a personal make-over by cosmetology professionals. For date, time and location, and to register, call 1-800-ACS-2345.

MONMOUTH MEDICAL MARKS NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH WITH FREE SCREENINGS

In observance of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, the Leon Hess Cancer Center will offer free prostate cancer screenings to qualifying men on **Tuesday, September 19**. All patients must arrive by 4 p.m.

Men age 50 and older are encouraged to undergo an annual physician’s checkup that includes prostate cancer testing. Men at high risk for the disease, including those with a family history or African-Americans, should begin routine testing at age 40.

While one in six men will develop prostate cancer during his lifetime, only one man in 34 will die of the disease — underscoring the importance of early detection and treatment. In fact, when the disease is found while still confined to the prostate, the five-year survival rate is 100 percent, according to the American Cancer Society.

To learn more about the screenings, call 1-888-SBHS-123.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, September 13: Cancer and Stroke Awareness Night. Holmdel Senior/Community Center. (See details below.)

Tuesday, September 19: Prostate Cancer Screening. BBR-4. (See details at left.)

Thursday, September 21, Noon to 1 p.m. – Grand Rounds featuring Michael Zelefsky, M.D., a nationally and internationally recognized radiation oncologist who is associate professor of radiation oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, where he also is chief of the brachytherapy service. His primary clinical focus is in the treatment of genitourinary cancers including prostate and bladder cancers, as well as head and neck cancers. Dr. Zelefsky will discuss brachytherapy and prostate cancer. *Borden Auditorium.*

Thursday, September 28 – CME Dinner Program focusing on Breast and Ovarian Cancer. Sherry Grumet, M.S.N., C.G.C., board-certified oncology genetic counselor, Melinda Staiger, M.D., medical director of the Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center, and gynecologist Mindy Wiser-Estin, M.D., will address “Management Issues in BRCA1 /& BRCA2 Positive and Negative Individuals.” *Location and other details to follow.*

Cancer and Stroke Awareness Night on Tap

Monmouth Medical Center has partnered with the Holmdel First Aid Squad to present a Cancer and Stroke Awareness Night on **Wednesday, September 13** at the Holmdel Senior/Community Center. From 7 to 9 p.m., the panel of Monmouth Medical Center physicians and health care professionals will focus on the importance of cancer and stroke awareness and prevention, based on their areas of special expertise. *The latest information on screening guidelines, risk assessment and treatment options for the following types of cancer will be presented by:*

- Cervical cancer vaccine: **Margaret Fisher, M.D.**, medical director of The Children’s Hospital at Monmouth, and gynecologic oncologist **Thomas Hackett, D.O.**, of the Leon Hess Cancer Center.
- Breast cancer: **Melinda Staiger, M.D.**, medical director of the Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center.
- Prostate cancer: **Mitchell Weiss, M.D.**, medical director, and **Sang Sim, M.D.**, of the Institute for Advanced Radiation Oncology.
- Lung cancer: Thoracic surgeon **Lourens Willekes, M.D.**, and medical oncologist **Seth Cohen, M.D.**, of the Leon Hess Cancer Center.
- Brain cancer: Neuro-Oncologist **Sumul Raval, M.D.**, medical director of the David S. Zocchi Brain Tumor Center of the Leon Hess Cancer Center.
- High risk cancer assessment: **Sherry Grumet, M.S.N., C.G.C.**, certified cancer genetic counselor.
- The program will also feature members of the multidisciplinary team of The Stroke Center at Monmouth.

The program, to be held at the Holmdel Senior/Community Center, 4 Crawfords Corner Road, is free and open to the public.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED,
AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS WILL
BE AVAILABLE.

For more
information, call the
Leon Hess Cancer Center
at Monmouth
Medical Center at
732-923-6575.

Our Patients Say It Best

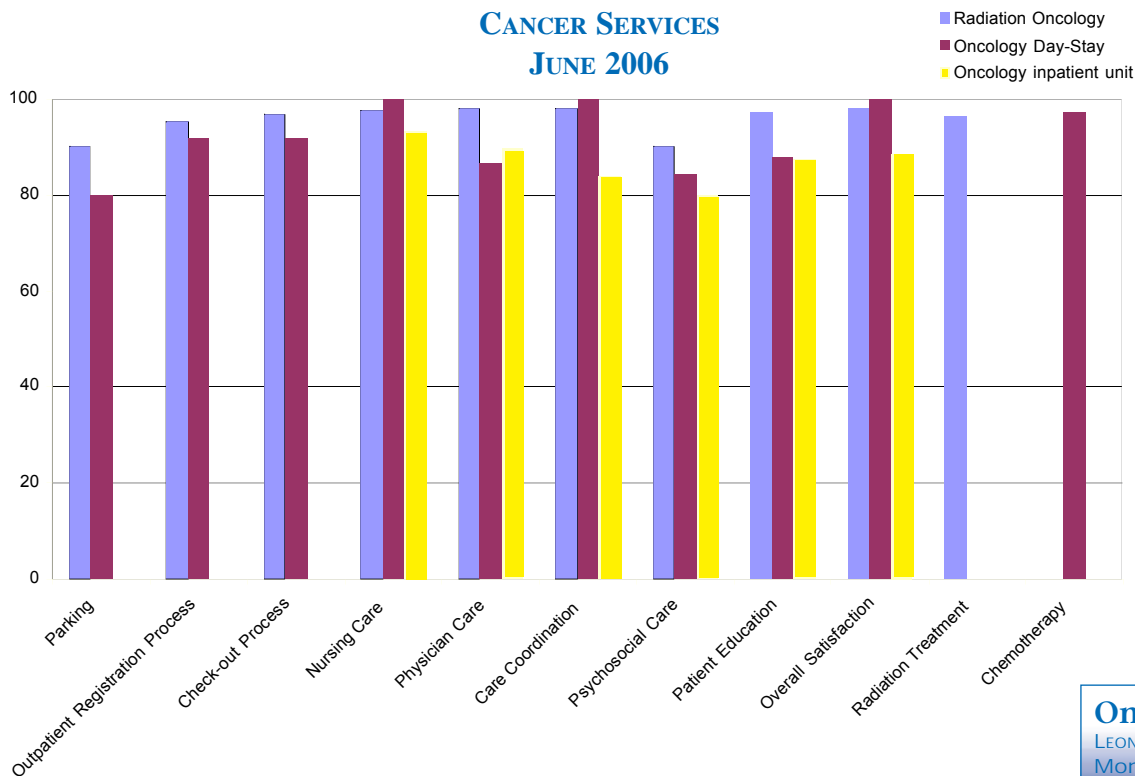
Radiation Therapy:

- Radiation therapists Fran Thomas and Sherry Blair are outstanding.
- The treatment was very intense, but the staff made it very comfortable for me. They couldn't have been nicer or more professional.
- Excellent.
- The staff is great! Very caring and prompt. Thank you!

BBR-2 (Inpatient Unit):

- Everyone was very professional and caring
- Auldrey Johnson, Melanie Kollet and Leslie Shepard were very good. The volunteer who took me down was also very sweet. Jeanne Johnson was her name.
- I was brought in for a potential cancer problem, but it turned out to be an ulcer problem. Treatment up to this point has been excellent.

PATIENT SATISFACTION SCORES CANCER SERVICES JUNE 2006



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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

