

# Oncology Update

LEON HESS CANCER CENTER at Monmouth Medical Center

An affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System

Vol. 1, Issue 5

September/October 2006

## A Message from the Medical and Administrative Directors

In order to raise awareness of issues related to gynecological cancers, the Leon Hess Cancer Center, in conjunction with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and The Children's Hospital at Monmouth, recently presented a host of community and CME events, including a cervical vaccination dinner event, a high risk cancer assessment dinner program and a cervical cancer vaccination community education event. In the coming weeks, the Leon Hess Cancer Center is planning to launch a gynecological cancer support group in order to provide the best care for our cancer patients and their caregivers.

Focusing on the diagnosis and treatment of malignancies of the female genital tract, the field of gynecologic oncology crosses over several disciplines to coordinate care. At Monmouth, this service is led by Thomas Hackett, D.O., who is board certified in an obstetrical and gynecological subspecialty currently held by only about 500 American physicians, with less than a dozen such specialists in New Jersey. Dr. Hackett completed a two-year fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Penn State's Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, Pa., in 1992. The fellowship, which has been expanded to three years, includes training in chemotherapy, radiation therapy, radical pelvic surgery and general surgery.

Board certification in gynecologic oncology also requires training in the pathologic evaluation of the histologic and microscopic findings that can limit under-treatment and/or over-treatment while optimizing outcomes, the society states. These specialists also must achieve expertise in directing and administering chemotherapy, as well as the management of related toxicities and complications. Finally they must have the theoretical and technical expertise to recommend adjuvant, therapeutic or palliative radiation therapy.

Most recently, Dr. Hackett trained in the use of the da Vinci® Surgical System, which combines computer and robotic technologies to create a new category of surgical treatment, making it possible to treat a broader range of conditions — including gynecological cancers — by replicating every movement of the surgeon's hands with increased accuracy and control through the use of its pioneering Endowrist instrumentation system. To refer a patient for a gynecologic-oncologic evaluation, call 732-280-5464.



David J. Sharon, M.D.


Medical Director, Leon Hess Cancer Center



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

Administrative Director, Leon Hess Cancer Center

## National Study Underscores Need for Women to See Gynecologic Oncologists for Ovarian Cancer Treatment




In a study published in a recent edition of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston report that ovarian cancer patients treated by gynecologic oncologists experienced the best outcomes and lowest mortality rates after surgery. These findings are consistent with a key recommendation from the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC), the leading ovarian cancer public information and education organization in the country.

"These data reinforce the critical role gynecologic oncologists play in ensuring the accurate diagnosis, staging and treatment of women with ovarian cancer," says Jane E. Langridge, chief executive officer, National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC). "Gynecologic oncologists have extensive training in the study and treatment of gynecological cancers and are uniquely qualified to support the entire continuum of care from diagnosis to surgery to ongoing chemotherapy treatment as needed."

"This study reaffirms the importance of gynecologic oncology subspecialty care in ovarian cancer," said Michael Method, M.D., NOCC board member. "Management of ovarian cancer and its associated outcomes with regards to survival and quality of life depend more on subspecialty care than on location or institutional volume. Overall, ovarian cancer patients treated by gynecologic oncologists had the best outcomes and lowest mortality rates after surgery."

## ▲ News from the Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center Increase in Screening Mammograms Reported



The Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center reported a nearly 20 percent year-to-date increase in screening mammograms. An additional 1,786 mammograms were performed from January to August compared to the same time period in 2005. This was accomplished through opening additional appointments during day, evening and Saturday hours to accommodate patient requests.

## Brookdale Community College Explores Breast Imaging Program

Discussions have begun with representatives from the Radiology Program at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft to arrange for the breast center to serve as an additional MMC clinical rotation site for current radiology students. The center will also serve as a site for a new Breast Imaging Program currently under development at the college. Deborah Delp, R.T., R.M., chief imaging technologist at the JMWCB, will serve as program proctor for the department.

## Kean University Taps Breast Center as Clinical Site

The breast center will again serve as a clinical practice site for health information management technical and management students from Kean University, Union. Roberta Angermiller, M.A.S., RHIT, breast center director, will serve as affiliation proctor.

Upon graduation, students enrolled in this program are eligible to take a national certification examination to become a Registered Health Information Administrator.

## About the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition

NOCC is the leading ovarian cancer public information and education organization in the United States. NOCC initiated the first toll-free ovarian cancer information line (1-888-OVARIAN), maintains the most comprehensive Web site for ovarian cancer support in the world (ovarian.org) and has built a network of many state divisions across the United States. NOCC's board of directors are diverse professionals from around the country. The prestigious Medical Advisory Board is comprised of physicians and re-searchers active in the discovery of new treatments and early detection for ovarian cancer.

To learn more about the JMWCB, call 732-923-7700.

## Spotlight on ACCREDITATION

This issue of *Oncology Update*, spotlights the third chapter in the standards required for accreditation by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons — Cancer Data Management and Cancer Registry Operations.

These Chapter 3 standards ensure accurate and timely collection of cancer patient data, which allows for the evaluation of patient outcomes and identification of opportunities for improvement.

### Cancer Data Management and Cancer Registry Operations

#### STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

**Standard 3.1** — Case abstracting is performed or supervised by a certified tumor registrar.

Successful operation of the cancer registry requires credentialed staff who are trained and knowledgeable in all aspects of oncology data collection and case abstracting.

#### DATA COLLECTION

**Standard 3.2** — CoC data standards and coding instructions are used to describe all reportable cases.

CoC data standards ensure consistent and accurate hospital cancer registry data that support the meaningful evaluation of patient diagnosis and treatment.

**Standard 3.3** — For each year between survey, 90 percent of cases are abstracted within six months of the date of first contact.

Ongoing timely abstracting is essential for accurate data collection, evaluation and reporting of outcomes.

**Standard 3.4** — An 80 percent follow-up rate is maintained for all eligible analytic patients from the cancer registry reference date.

**Standard 3.5** — A 90 percent follow-up rate is maintained for all eligible analytic patients diagnosed within the last five years.

The Monmouth Medical Center reference date is 1990. Long-term follow-up is essential to evaluate outcomes of cancer care.

#### DATA REPORTING

**Standard 3.6** — Complete data for all analytic cases are submitted to the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) in accordance with the annual Call for Data.

Data submitted to the NCDB is used to provide feedback to assess the quality of patient care.

**Standard 3.7** — Annually cases submitted to the NCDB for the most recent accession year requested meet established quality criteria and resubmission deadline specified in the annual Call for Data

#### SPECIAL STUDIES

**Standard 3.8** — The facility participates in special studies as requested by the CoC.

*Clarification: Barbara Mihelic, L.P.N., C.T.R., manager of Monmouth Medical Center's Cancer Registry, and tumor registrar Diane Kunen, C.T.R., are certified tumor registrars, earning the accreditation letters C.T.R. This information was incorrect in the last issue of Oncology Update.*

## ▲ News from Clinical Research

### MMC Welcomes New Research Coordinator



**Ruth Kreis-Orkoulas, R.N.**, has joined Monmouth Medical Center as research nurse coordinator. She joins Monmouth from MDS PharmaServices, Neptune, where she served as clinical study manager, planning, conducting and monitoring Phase I clinical trials. Her prior nursing

experience includes a tenure as an oncology nurse at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York. She received a bachelor's of nursing degree from New York University, New York.

As a part of its mission as an academic institution and community resource for the most state-of-the-art care, Monmouth Medical Center promotes participation by its patients in clinical trials. Recruitment methods for Monmouth's clinical trials are submitted for review and approved by the Institutional Research/Review Privacy Board (IRB), and methods for public notification and recruitment follow federal guidelines. Additionally, to ensure quality improvement, Monmouth's Cancer Committee completes and documents the required studies that measure quality and outcomes.

The Research Department at Monmouth Medical Center is under the direction of Joseph Jaeger, associate vice president of academic affairs.

**The Research Department can be reached by calling 732-923-7689.**

## ▲ News on the Cancer Center Web Site

### Site Spotlights Growing Array of Radiotherapy Technology



Visit the Institute for Advanced Radiation Oncology's new and improved Web page on the Leon Hess Cancer Center's Web site at [mmccancer.com](http://www.mmccancer.com) (go to [http://www.mmccancer.com/mmc\\_radonc/index.htm](http://www.mmccancer.com/mmc_radonc/index.htm) for direct access).

It includes the latest information on the institute's growing array of treatment technology and disease site-specific therapy. Learn about Monmouth Medical Center's introduction of image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT) with cone-beam CT enhancement.

## ▲ Community Outreach

IN RECOGNITION OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



### Breast Cancer Prevention and Detection Was Focus of MMC Program

MMC breast cancer specialists provided an in-depth look at current prevention and detection methods through a free program offered in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. "Breast Cancer Awareness: Prevention and Detection Update" drew about 30 community members to the Borden Auditorium for a program that focused on:

Advantages and limitations of various methods of breast cancer detection, including mammograms, ultrasound and MRI – presented by **Melinda Staiger, M.D.**, medical director of the Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center.

Prevention of breast cancer including the use of tamoxifen – presented by **David Sharon, M.D.**, medical director of the Leon Hess Cancer Center.

Importance of family history of breast and ovarian cancer in determining breast cancer risk and genetic counseling and testing – presented by **Sherry Grumet, C.G.C.**, oncology genetic counselor for the Leon Hess Cancer Center.

*To learn more about any of these services, call the Leon Hess Cancer Center at 732-923-6575.*

### Lung Cancer Awareness Month

**Wednesday, November 8 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

*At Monmouth Mall, Eatontown (near the food court).*

**Monday, November 13 • 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

*Outside SeaBreeze Cafe.*

In recognition of Lung Cancer Awareness Month and the Great American Smoke Out on Thursday, November 16, representatives from Monmouth Medical Center's Cancer Services and Saint Barnabas Behavioral Health Network's Institute for Prevention will offer advice on ways to quit smoking and break the nicotine habit. (See related program on page 4.)

## MMC SUPPORT GROUPS

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

<b>Early-Stage Breast Cancer</b>	Tuesday, November 14 & 28	7:15 to 9 p.m.	Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center	Jan Tryba, M.S.W., L.S.W., 732-923-7711
<b>Metastatic Breast Cancer</b>	Tuesday, November 7 & 21	1 to 2:30 p.m.	Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center	Jan Tryba, M.S.W., L.S.W., 732-923-7711
<b>Head &amp; Neck/SPOHNC</b>	Thursday, November 9	7 to 8 p.m.	Goldsmith Wellness Center, 4th floor, Monmouth Medical Center	Anita Pfisterer, M.S.W., L.S.W., 732-923-6575
<b>US TOO Prostate Cancer</b>	Thursday, November 2	7 to 9 p.m.	Monmouth Medical Center Steinam-Housman 114	Anita Pfisterer, M.S.W., L.S.W., 732-923-6575
<b>Bereavement</b>	Wednesday, November 8, 15, 22 & 29	9:30-11 a.m.	Goldsmith Wellness Center, 4th floor, Monmouth Medical Center	Colleen Beach, M.S.W., L.S.W., 732-923-6463

**WHILE ALL SUPPORT GROUPS ARE FREE, REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.  
PLEASE CALL APPROPRIATE NUMBER.**

## MMC Cancer Services CME/CEU/Nursing Education/Community Events

<b>“Biochemical Control and its Impact on Clinical Outcomes in Management of Carcinoid Tumors”</b>	Wednesday, November 1	6 p.m.	Moonstruck Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge 517 Lake Avenue, Asbury Park	Mitchell Weiss, M.D., Chairman, Radiation Oncology	Supported by Novartis Pharmaceutical 732-923-6575
<b>Lung Cancer Awareness Program</b>	Wednesday, November 1	11 a.m.	Howell Senior Center 215 Preventorium Road	Lourens J. Willekes, M.D., Medical Director, Lung Cancer Center	732-938-4500, ext. 2554
<b>To Your Health Showcase: Lung Cancer Awareness &amp; Great American Smokeout</b>	Wednesday, November 8	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Monmouth Mall, Eatontown	Cancer Services	732-923-6990

## Our Patients Say It Best

### Institute for Advanced Radiation Oncology:

- *Dr. Sim, Joey (Joe Fennell), Danielle (Conroy), Shu (Wang) and Shawn (Pallerchio) were A-No. 1 as was everyone. I had a lot of fear when I walked in. I felt like I was home.*
- *The staff at this facility are outstanding from the receptionist to the physicians. I always appreciated the upbeat and encouraging attitude your staff exhibits.*
- *Response to my stress levels was wonderful. You all were kind, thoughtful and considerate.*
- *Best hospital staff ever.*
- *The care was exceptional, from receptionists to nurses to the doctor. I recommend MMC highly.*

### Jacqueline M. Wilentz Comprehensive Breast Center

- *From the initial phone call through to the end, this staff is exceptional. Thank you!*
- *The best of service and care. Epitome of efficiency!*
- *As always, everyone was caring and professional. This is what brings me back every year – the personal connection.*
- *I was afraid to have my first mammogram. But the center was wonderful, understanding and supportive, and put my fears to rest. Thank you.*
- *I would rate you off the chart. You were wonderful!*
- *My visits here were very warm and comfortable. The staff definitely understands the anxiety of the patient and makes it as pleasant as possible.*
- *The new center is wonderful. Everyone is professional. Felt very comfortable in a stressful situation.*

### BBR-2 (Inpatient Unit):

- *Facility is excellent. Nurses and doctors are excellent.*
- *Very caring people ... Great treatment.*
- *Very pleased — good staff.*
- *Laura (Dinolfo) was very conscientious and my care came first. She was very informative and when I needed a doctor in the middle of the night, she took care of it.*

### BBR-4 (Outpatient Unit):

- *Everyone was wonderful to me. A great staff, just great. Caring, passionate people — everyone.*

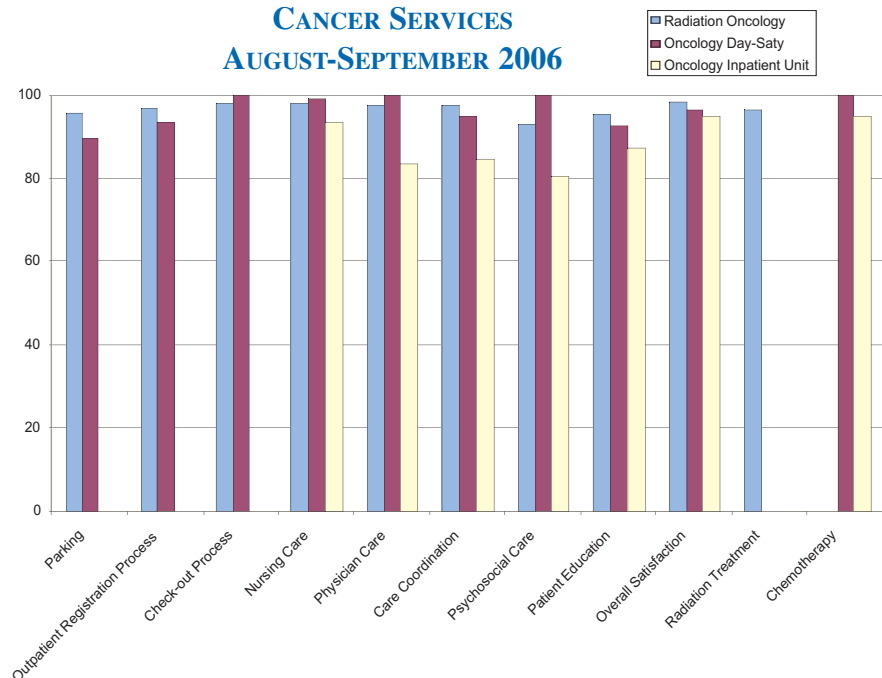
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STAFF ON INPATIENT ONCOLOGY/BBR2 FOR ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST PERCENTILE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY IN THEIR PRESS GANEY PEER GROUP. THEY RANKED IN THE 99TH PERCENTILE IN A PRESS GANEY COMPARISON BASED ON FEEDBACK FROM OTHER ONCOLOGY PATIENTS AT TEACHING HOSPITALS ACROSS THE NATION.

**PATIENT SATISFACTION SCORES JACQUELINE WILENTZ BREAST CENTER**

**JULY & AUGUST 2006**

	<b>BenchMark</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
Ease of making an appointment	>92	95.3	95.6
Time between request for appt & visit	>92	84.6	91.2
Friendliness/Courtesy reception staff	>92	95.7	82.5
Friendliness/Courtesy registration staff	>92	96	95.9
Friendliness/Courtesy technologist	>92	97.9	95.6
How well staff kept informed of delays	>92	94.1	90
Staff response to concerns	>92	94.5	93.9
Instructions regarding test/procedure	>92	94.3	93.9
At home discharge instructions	>92	100	96.5
Physicians concern for your questions	>92	100	97.3
How well physician kept you informed	>92	100	98.1
Staff concern for your privacy	>92	99.2	96.7
Spiritual/Emotional Needs Addressed	>92	98.1	95.2
Ease of parking	>92	90	88.6
Courteous/healing environment	>92	93.3	96.4
Overall rating of care	>92	98.1	98.1
Recommend to others	>92	96.5	98.8
# of Surveys		103	73
Percentile Goal	95%	95.7	94.4

**PATIENT SATISFACTION SCORES  
CANCER SERVICES  
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2006**



LEON HESS CANCER CENTER  
AT MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER  
*presents*

**Lung Cancer Awareness  
& Wellness Event**

**Wednesday, November 15**

6 to 8 p.m. in the MMC Cafeteria  
COMPLIMENTARY DINNER SERVED AT 6 P.M.  
PRESENTATION BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M.

JOIN MMC LUNG CANCER AND  
WOMEN'S HEALTH EXPERTS

**LOURENS J. WILLEKES II, M.D.**

*Thoracic Surgeon, Medical Director of  
the Lung Cancer Center*

**ROBERT GRAEBE, M.D.**

*Chairman of the Department of  
Obstetrics and Gynecology*

**SHARON WEINER, M.D.**

*Board Certified Pulmonologist and  
Critical Care Physician*

FOR A DISCUSSION OF TOPICS INCLUDING:

- Lung Cancer Awareness
- Smoking Cessation
- Tips on Managing Stress
- Weight Management

**To register for the event,  
call 732-923-6462.**

**Oncology Update  
LEON HESS CANCER CENTER at  
Monmouth Medical Center**

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

**Frank J. Vozos, M.D., FACS**  
*Executive Director*

**Kathleen M. Horan**  
*Director of Publications*

**Mary K. Heinle**  
*Creative Services Manager*

To submit information for  
**Oncology Update**,  
please contact

**Jennifer Sabatos,**  
*Office Manager,*  
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED  
RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
Monmouth Medical Center  
**732-923-6462**  
**732-923-6461 (fax).**

**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

