

March 2011

Message from the CEO Co-chairs...

Nurse Navigators provide key role in cancer care...

As the snow melts and we look towards spring, we tend to think about new possibilities. The new possibilities we bring to our patients every day through providing the best care, latest technology and advanced research. This is especially true in the area of cancer care.

Cancer patients and their families are tested in many ways. From the first mention of the "c" word in their diagnosis, to the overwhelming treatment plans put before them, to ongoing tests, procedures and schedules. A disruption to their daily lives. A new world where unfamiliar medical jargon and oncology specialists become part of their long road to recovery.

So, how do we help our cancer patients and their families "navigate" through this maze of schedules? How can we educate them quickly as they are thrown this curve? That's where the nurse navigator role becomes a vital member of our care delivery team.

Nurse navigators provide a link to the patient for their overall care and treatment. They guide patients through the process and help organize care plans, keeping patients and families informed concerning appointments and serve as a point person for medical questions. They work closely with the entire medical team -- physicians, technologists and spiritual support caregivers.

You will learn more about the nurse navigator role in this issue of our MCN Newsletter. We are pleased that nurse navigators are important components of cancer care at our Mercy Cancer Network hospitals. In addition, the Nurse Navigator Affinity Team is collaborating across the network to support one another, learn new processes, and share best practices in this key area of care.

Let's continue to work together as we provide this exceptional cancer care to our patients and families.

*Garry Faja and Philip McCorkle, Co-chairs
Mercy Cancer Network Steering Team*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next Mercy Cancer Network Conference will be held Wednesday, May 18, noon to 5 p.m. at the MSU Center for Executive Development, in Lansing – contact Julie Sproul, Director, Mercy Cancer Network, 248 489-6369 or sproulj@trinity-health.org

Creating Breast Care Centers of Excellence

Any diagnosis of cancer is overwhelming. And the statistics for breast cancer in Michigan are even more alarming...one in 8 women will be given the news they have breast cancer. They are our mothers, aunts, sisters and daughters. And brothers, too.

Breast cancer treatment is becoming more and more complex, with clinical research leading to the development of more personalized approaches that are preserving breasts...and saving lives! More people will survive breast cancer than ever before.

The Mercy Cancer Network recognizes that breast cancer is one of the tumor sites that bear attention. In that vein, the MCN undertook a strategic approach to assess our capabilities at each of our cancer facilities, using benchmarks from the Comprehensive Breast Center at the Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids, as well as the National Cancer Institute and its National Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) participants.

The MCN sites are reviewing the assessments and gap analysis, which will lead to implementation of the next phase of development. The goal is to create Comprehensive Breast Centers at other MCN hospitals in Michigan.

Find a Mercy Cancer Network Physician – 1-888-474-HOPE

For referral to a Mercy Cancer Network physician, call the HOPE LINE – 1-888-474-HOPE (4673).

Operators are standing by 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist with your referral, and connect you to the physician office or an oncology expert at one of our Mercy Cancer Network hospitals.

www.mercycancernetwork.com

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland offers new minimally invasive procedure for early diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland (SJMO) is among the first hospitals in Michigan to offer a new procedure called Electromagnetic Navigation Bronchoscopy (ENB) that gives patients a minimally invasive option to locate, enable biopsy and plan treatment for a lesion (spot) detected deep in the lung

Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death among men and women. ENB is among the many new diagnostic and minimally invasive ways to detect and treat lung cancer in earlier stages, when the chances of a cure are greater.

ENB enables a physician to diagnose and treat lung tumors in outer areas of the lung that are not accessible with traditional bronchoscopy, says M. Salik A. Jahania, MD, an SJMO cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon who performed the procedure on Feb. 16, 2011. SJMO is among the few hospitals in the state to offer this new high-tech outpatient procedure using the I-Logic machine, which greatly expands the depth of SJMO's lung cancer program.

"ENB uses Global Positioning System (GPS)-like technology to help navigate special catheters through a patient's airway to a suspicious lesion deep in the lungs," Dr. Jahania says. "The system virtually guides the physician in steering the catheter through complex airways beyond the reach and sight of the traditional bronchoscope."

Advantages of using ENB include quicker diagnosis and treatment, little or no pain, no overnight stay, less cost and a lower risk of complications. For example, the chance of a collapsed lung with traditional needle biopsy is 20 to 30 percent, while it is just 2 percent using ENB, the physician says.

**Visit the Mercy Cancer Network booth at the
Trinity Health Wellness Fair
Friday, May 20 – 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Farmington Hills, MI location
Breast Health information and handouts**

MCN Senior Advisory Council formed

The Mercy Cancer Network is pleased to announce the formation of an MCN Senior Advisory Council at Trinity Health, chaired by Rick O'Connell, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Hospital Networks. This new team will work with the current MCN leadership structure to provide system-wide direction and alignment.

The MCN Senior Advisory Council is comprised of leaders from Trinity Health as well as leaders from the Mercy Cancer Network. Trinity Health leadership members include:
Rick O'Connell, Chair
Kedrick Adkins, President, Integrated Services
Paul Browne, SVP and Chief Information Officer
Ben Carter, SVP and Chief Financial Officer
Dan Hale, EVP, Trinity Institute for Health and Community Benefit
Preston Gee, SVP, Strategic Planning and Marketing
Gay Landstrom, SVP, Chief Nursing Officer
Rick O'Donnell, VP, Payer Strategy and Contracting
Terry O'Rourke, MD, EVP and Chief Clinical Officer
Michelle Schreiber, MD, SVP and Chief Medical Officer

Mercy Cancer Network leadership members include:
Garry Faja, President & CEO, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System – Ann Arbor
Phil McCorkle, C President & CEO, Saint Mary's Health Care-Grand Rapids
Cheryl Miller, Director, Health Networks
Julie Sproul, Director, Mercy Cancer Network

The first meeting is scheduled for March 30. "We look forward to working with the MCN leadership and collaborative teams as they provide the highest level of care for our oncology patients," said O'Connell.

Nurse Navigation benefits cancer patients

According to Oncology Issues May/June 2010 issue, patient navigation began in 1990 when Dr. Harold Freeman pioneered the program at Harlem Hospital Center in New York City. The goal of this program was to assure that a patient with a suspicious breast cancer-related finding receive timely diagnosis and treatment. The hospital also offered free and low-cost screening mammography and a substantial outreach and public education program.

The results of this were a dramatic increase in the five-year survival rate for patients diagnosed with breast cancer at this hospital.

Today the definition and scope of patient navigation varies, but within Mercy Cancer Network we strive to meet the following objectives.

- Oversees and coordinates care for patients with suspicious clinical findings or cancer symptoms.
- Ensures the availability, access, and timeliness of elective and urgent services in order to optimize quality of care, coordination and patient experience for cancer patients.
- Remains available as a caregiver and overseer of the patient and their family's educational, emotional and social needs.
- Acts as a facilitator of patient care by overseeing appropriate utilization of resources and efficient patient progression through the continuum of health care.
- Acts as a public resource on the early detection of cancer and is a public advocate for cancer patients and their families when possible.

The nurse navigator benefits the patient by helping to expedite their care. The patient's anxiety is decreased because of improved timeliness of care and improved communication about what is happening and what to expect next. This is exemplified by one of our patient's comments... "My nurse navigator was there for me through my entire journey. She listened to me and got answers to my questions."

The support and comfort from the navigator has the potential to increase patient satisfaction thus retaining their loyalty to that ministry organization.

Susan DeRuiter RN, BS, CBPN-C

Nurse Navigator,

The Cancer Care Center

Battle Creek Health System

MCN Affinity Teams Collaborate

The key to collaboration between Michigan Ministry Organizations for cancer care is through the work of the MCN Affinity Teams.

The teams, comprised of representatives from each Michigan MO, have been putting work plans together to share best processes, coordinate job descriptions and discuss how to better serve our patients.

MCN Affinity Teams include:

1. Medical Oncologists
2. Radiation Oncologists
3. Radiologists
4. Surgeons
5. Pathologists
6. Radiation Therapy Leaders
7. Nurse/Care Navigators
8. Breast Care/Imaging Leaders
9. Tumor Registrars
10. Clinical Research Leaders
11. Inpatient Oncology Unit Leaders
12. Outpatient Oncology Leaders
13. Spiritual Care Leaders
14. Marketing Leaders
15. Physician Relations Leaders
16. Oncology Leaders
17. Pharmacists
18. Physicists

Thanks to these individuals for all your dedication and hard work.

The IT Buzz ...

The Kurt Salmon Associates (KSA) consulting engagement ended in January 2011 resulting in an 81-page assessment report. As reported in the September 2010 MCN Newsletter, the KSA engagement was intended to provide a better understanding of the current levels of development and best practices of regional oncology networks in a number of IT areas.

KSA indicated that the MCN has the potential to develop further by 2015 through investment in the following areas:

Enhancement of information sharing tools (where possible leveraging Trinity Health-wide initiatives) including:

- Video conferencing and shared data services,
- Secure websites for internal communication, and
- Physician and patient portals.
- Adoption of a common tumor registry tool to enhance data analytics
- Enhanced electronic information sharing either through the adoption of standard systems (i.e., a single medical oncology EMR) or through a list of approved systems that support integration across the network

The KSA report is now serving as a framework for Trinity Information Services (TIS) to expand on the specific Information Technology (IT) goals of the Mercy Cancer Network. As a result, the following projects are currently underway:

- Educational review sessions related to secure websites for internal communications and data sharing,
- Consolidation of tumor registry databases across the network into a common reporting platform,
- Educational review sessions related to medical oncology EMR products,
- Planning for expanded use of telemedicine in West Michigan in FY12, and
- Migration of the MCN public website to the new and enhanced Trinity Health technology platform.

For more information about any of these projects, please contact Julie Moran, moranj@trinity-health.org or call 248.489.6844.

Radiation Oncology Billing Symposium held February 15-16

The MCN Radiation Oncology Affinity Team recently hosted the first regional Radiation Oncology Billing Symposium, at Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids – Feb.15-16.

Day One covered Compliance, Billing, Process of Care and Responsibilities, and Day Two included Code by Code Review and Documentation. The event was sponsored by the Mercy Cancer Network and provided by Revenue Cycle, Inc.

One of the major benefits involved sharing of best practices and to hear from other MOs on what they are doing. Next steps include taking the learnings back to each hospital and sharing the information; working with the physicians and other providers to help with implementation to enhance radiation oncology documentation.

Thanks to Katina Wood (Grand Rapids), Cassandra Yorke (Battle Creek), Brent Gilmore (Port Huron), Angela Shepherd (Muskegon) and Kim Young (Ann Arbor) for coordinating, and to The Lacks Cancer Center for hosting the event. For more information, contact Katina Wood, Administrator of Radiation Oncology, Saint Mary's Health Care, Grand Rapids, 616 685-5212 or email woodkatm@trinity-health.org.

In and Around the Network ...

Battle Creek Health System

The Cancer Care Center at Battle Creek Health System, in conjunction with the Battle Creek Family YMCA is collaborating on a program developed by the Cancer Support Community and LIVESTRONG that bridges the gap between active treatment and post-treatment care for cancer survivors. This workshop, '**Cancer Transitions: Moving Beyond Treatment,**' helps survivors move back into their lives with renewed hope. For more information, contact The Cancer Care Center at (269) 966-8647.

The Cancer Care Center at Battle Creek Health System is pleased to announce the **Sixth Annual Cancer Symposium** to be held **Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** This year's topic will be 'The Science of Cancer.' The conference will be held at McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek. For those working in the health care field, contact Lori Shulters at (269) 966-8453 *before* April 22.

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System...

Chelsea Community Hospital

Chelsea Community Hospital opened the community's first Infusion Center in November 2010. The Center, which was funded by hospital donors, provides chemotherapy and other outpatient infusion services for residents of Chelsea and the surrounding communities. The Center was developed in collaboration with Ann Arbor Hematology Oncology Associates, PC. "We know that people often prefer to receive these services close to home," said Kathleen Griffiths, President and CEO of CCH. "We're proud to provide these important services to our communities." For more information please call 734-433-4507.

St. Joseph Mercy Canton Cancer Center

The Dermatology Residency Clinic is hosting a free skin cancer screening from 2- 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18 at the Center for Advance Medicine and Surgery in Canton. Oncologists from the center will be onsite giving tours of the space and technology as well. They usually screen 100-150 people in those two hours.

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland

In support of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland (SJMO) will once again offer free colorectal cancer screening kits to community residents. The personal screening kits will be available for pick up through March 31 at 84 churches, agencies and physician offices conveniently located throughout Oakland County. In 2010, more than 3,000 test kits were picked up and 1,099 kits were returned to SJMO for processing. Of those, 4.6 percent showed positive results.

Grand Rapids Oncology Surgeon embarks on NIH study

In examining the different ways and circumstances under which breast cancer surgery is performed in the U.S., Larry McCahill, MD, seeks to begin addressing both cost and quality issues.

An oncology surgeon at Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids, McCahill suspects he will find wide variations in how women with breast cancer are treated.

"We shouldn't see wide variability," he said. That means patients are receiving different information.

Backed by a \$1.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), McCahill and his research team are collecting data from health systems around the country.

His goal for the two-year study is to begin standardizing measures and setting best-practice clinical protocols on how breast cancer is treated and when certain treatment options are used.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia

Ramesh Mohindra, MD, Oncology, has been appointed the Director of Breast Cancer Services and Chairman of the Breast Advisory Committee. The Breast Advisory Committee is comprised of referring physicians, radiologists, oncologists and surgical specialists, a multidisciplinary group charged by hospital administration and the Mercy Cancer Network with enhancing the timeliness and quality of breast care services at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Lisa Wright, Director of Planning and Six Sigma Black Belt, is serving as Interim Service Line Administrator of Oncology, while also maintaining her Strategic Planning responsibilities. In her interim role, she will oversee the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center, and Radiation Oncology, and represent St. Mary Mercy Livonia as a member of the Mercy Cancer Network Oncology Leaders Affinity Team.

Saint Mary's Health Care - Grand Rapids

We are pleased to announce that **Michael L. Paciorek, MD**, has been appointed as the center's new director of Breast Imaging. In addition, Dr. Paciorek will continue in his role as Director of Computed Tomography. Dr. Paciorek was selected for an accelerated six year combined MD/BS program, at the University of Akron and was a former Chief Radiology resident at St. Francis Medical Center. Dr. Paciorek, a board-certified diagnostic radiologist, brings over 10 years of experience in breast imaging and general radiology to Saint Mary's Health Care. At the SMHC Comprehensive Breast Center, Dr. Paciorek will serve as a full-time diagnostic radiologist, specializing in breast imaging including screening and diagnostic mammography, ultrasound and MRI as well as stereotactic, ultrasound and MR-guided biopsy.

We wish to express our many thanks to **Dr. Mark Malnor** for his service as he steps down from this role. Under Dr. Malnor's directorship, Saint Mary's Comprehensive Breast Center has been designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology (ACR).

Mercy Cadillac

The Cadillac High School Girls Volleyball team spiked \$2,200 into the coffers of Mercy Hospital. The donation will be used for breast cancer education. To raise the funds, the team sold "Dig Pink" t-shirts for \$10. Local businesses covered the cost of shirt production, allowing 100 percent of the money raised to go to breast cancer awareness. The funds will support two immediate needs – the purchase of additional literature for community outreach and the replacement of a silicone breast model containing lumps that is useful in education and instruction.

Mercy Cancer Network Steering Team

Garry Faja,
President & CEO, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS), and Regional Executive, Southeast Michigan

Philip McCorkle,
President & CEO, Saint Mary's Health Care, Grand Rapids

Tom Gribbin, MD,
Medical Director, Oncology Program, Saint Mary's Health Care, Grand Rapids

Randy Mudge, MD,
Medical Director, Radiation Oncology, Battle Creek Health System

Phil Stella, MD,
Medical Director, Oncology Program, and Principal Investigator, Michigan Cancer Research Consortium, SJMHS

Kathy Kasperek
Oncology Director, SJMHS

Kenda Klotz, RN,
Director, Clinical Services, Saint Mary's Health Care

Cheryl Miller,
Director, Health Networks, Trinity Health

Julie Sproul, Director, Mercy Cancer Network, Trinity Health