

Spring-Summer 2010

Mercy Cancer Network

- Making Strides for Cancer Care

There is no doubt that the threat of cancer continues to face almost every family in Michigan. The statistics are alarming, and members of the Mercy Cancer Network (MCN) are making strides to combat this disease.

Through increased collaboration between our Michigan hospitals in cancer care, our patients benefit from increased knowledge and awareness of improved processes and technology. The Mercy Cancer Network is one of the largest in the State of Michigan, and collectively we are making a difference in our patients' lives.

Some of our more recent advancements include:

- All Michigan Ministry Organizations now use a web-based QuickBase dashboard for tracking service and quality metrics
- Affinity Teams have been formed across the network to share best practices, create synergies and develop tools to meet the MCN quality and service goals
- Created internal awareness tools to share the work of the MCN with physicians and staff of Trinity Health-Michigan hospitals
- Measuring patient satisfaction for oncology services
- Providing nurse/care navigation at all Michigan hospitals
- Preparing to convert MCN hospitals to one common tumor registry platform
- Providing oncology telemedicine opportunities to our patients
- Joined the Michigan Cancer Consortium and Michigan Breast Cancer Coalition

By working together, we have become even more aware of the challenges we face to meet the needs of our patients. Standards are set higher than ever before, and the growing number of cancer patients demand that we provide first-class services and outcomes.

We look forward to continuing to work with our physicians, staff and collaborative teams as we build a strong network for our patients.

***Garry Faja and Philip McCorkle
and the Mercy Cancer Network Steering Team***

Oncology Telemedicine – SEMI Pilot Project Begins

Patients in the Mercy Cancer Network will now have an opportunity to receive a second opinion and other referrals through the use of telemedicine, expanding the use of the current Stroke Robot Program to oncology. This process will allow our patients to remain at their local hospital and eliminate the need for travel. It also allows physician specialists to consult together with the patient and family members.

The Mercy Cancer Network has provided telemedicine laptops to each SEMI hospital for this program – Port Huron, Oakland, Livonia and Ann Arbor – and physicians and staff have received training.

The pilot in SEMI will pave the way for rolling out the program statewide in FY11.

*Special thanks to the
Telemedicine Oncology
Team –*

*Rebekah Smith, Sheri
Nabozny – Port Huron
Connie Parliament, Erin
Reese-Burks – Oakland
Kathleen Kasperek – Ann
Arbor
Greg Sears, Crystal Andrews
– Livonia
Cheryl Miller, Sue Penzoza,
Cindy Wisner, Julie Sproul –
Home Office*

Two MCN Hospitals Among 14 in Nation Awarded National Cancer Institute Contracts

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids, members of the Mercy Cancer Network, were among only 14 sites nationally selected by the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, to join a national network of community cancer centers offering expanded research opportunities and state-of-the-art cancer care. This designation, which was announced April 21, includes contracts worth a total of \$5 million for both Ministry Organizations and will result in 21 new positions.

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor was awarded approximately \$2.5 million that will be used over four years. The funds will create positions for 11 cancer specialists. The positions will include: genetics coordinator; continuum of care coordinator; additional nurse navigators; minority clinical research recruiter; health disparities community liaison; bio-specimen specialist, oncology health disparities specialist; patient financial counselor; quality specialist; and cancer IT specialist.

Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids was awarded approximately \$2.4 million for two years. The funds will support 10 new positions, which include: project manager; two community navigators; clinical research coordinator; bio-statistician; survivorship director; nurse navigator; quality management specialist; cancer resource specialist; and tissue procurement specialist.

These contracts are part of the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP), which is using \$40 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand its number of community hospital-based sites from 16 to 30.

NCCCP is designed to create new research opportunities across the cancer continuum from screening and treatment to follow-up care, with an emphasis on minority and underserved populations. Expanding the NCCCP network will provide access to more patients in community cancer centers to support these research efforts.

Smoking Ban in Michigan

On Friday, Dec. 18, 2009 Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed into law a landmark ban on smoking in most Michigan workplaces. The ban took effect on May 1, 2010. Only the gaming floors of Detroit's three casinos, cigar bars, specialty tobacco shops and home offices are exempt from the ban.

The Mercy Cancer Network supports the Michigan Legislature for passing the 'Dr. Ron Davis Act of 2009,' a bill that makes the majority of Michigan worksites smoke-free and Gov. Jennifer Granholm for signing it into law.

Cigarette smoking accounts for at least 30 percent of all cancer deaths, according to the American Cancer Society, and is responsible for almost nine out of 10 lung cancer deaths. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in men and women and is one of the hardest cancers to treat. Secondhand smoke exposure causes approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 22,700 to 69,600 heart disease deaths annually among adult non-smokers in the United States, according to the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Comprehensive Cancer Center now open at St. Joseph Mercy Canton Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery

The new 30,000 square foot **Cancer Center in Canton**, a member of the **Saint Joseph Mercy Health System** www.sjmercyhealth.org, offers advanced radiation oncology services. The new facility is the first center in Southeast Michigan to offer RapidArc, a volumetric modulated arc therapy (VMAT) that enables radiation beams of varying intensity to be aimed at a tumor from multiple angles, resulting in significantly shorter treatment times.

The Huron River Radiation Oncology Specialists group (Drs. Walter Sahijdak, Sal Jafar, Swati Dutta, George Henning, Samir Narayan and Sirisha Nandular) leads the multidisciplinary Radiation Oncology Team at Canton.

Medical Oncologists, Drs. Cheryl Kovalski and Mohammed Ogaily, who recently joined the SJMH Medical staff, provide chemotherapy and other infusion services at Canton.

The Canton Cancer Center has been specifically designed to facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to care and to create a healing environment for your patients.

To schedule an appointment for a patient at Canton, please call Radiation Oncology at 734-398-8712 or Medical Oncology at 734-398-8715.

For a tour of the Center for Advanced Medicine and Surgery or for more information on services there, please call Kathy Kasperek at 734-712-5031.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia receives Accreditation with Commendation by ACOS

St. Mary Mercy Livonia had their American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer Program Survey on March 12. The hospital's cancer program received a 3-year accreditation with commendations for the fourth consecutive review. St. Mary Mercy Livonia received commendation on submission of quality data to the National Cancer Database, adherence to College of American Pathologists guidelines and providing prevention and early detection programs to the community.

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.

MCN Affinity Teams Collaborate

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

These teams have been meeting regularly to share best processes, coordinate job descriptions and discuss how to better serve our patients.

Affinity Groups include:

- Medical Oncologists
- Radiation Oncologists
- Radiation Therapy Leaders
- Nurse/Care Navigators
- Breast Care/Imaging Leaders
- Tumor Registrars
- Clinical Research Leaders
- Inpatient Oncology Unit Leaders
- Outpatient Oncology Leaders
- Spiritual Care Leaders
- Physician Relations Leaders
- Oncology Leaders

At the May MCN Conference, some of the above Affinity Teams reported on their plans. "It is clear from the various reports that these groups are making great progress," said Cheryl Miller, director, Health Networks.

We look forward to hearing from other Affinity Teams at the next MCN Conference.

Saint Mary's Radiation Oncologist Selected as Associate Principal Investigator for GRCOP

Gilbert Padula, MD, was named as Associate Principal Investigator for the [Grand Rapids Clinical Oncology Program \(GRCOP\)](#) by members of the organization on January 1, 2010. The associate physician investigator will be trained and mentored to become the principal investigator, a position that is currently held by Martin Bury, MD, of Cancer & Hematology Centers of Western Michigan.

Nationally recognized as one of the best consortia of hospitals in the nation for its outstanding patient participation rates, GRCOP is composed of seven area hospitals, including Saint Mary's Health Care, and also the Van Andel Research Institute. As a radiation oncologist at [The Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's](#) and associate professor at Michigan State University, Padula's new appointment is evidence of his dedication to improving the lives of cancer patients within our community.

GRCOP grants West Michigan patients access to the same clinical trials as patients of MD Anderson and Sloan Kettering, placing them in the same research pools with patients on a national and even international scale.

"About 150 patients from Saint Mary's currently participate in clinical trials through GRCOP," says Padula. He hopes to see that number increase while he serves as associate principal investigator.

The [Grand Rapids Clinical Oncology Program \(GRCOP\)](#) is a community cancer research and education program offering national cancer prevention and treatment clinical trials for people who are at risk for developing cancer or who have been diagnosed with cancer. GRCOP is made possible through funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI).

CyberKnife receives upgrade in Ann Arbor

In 2007, SJMHS unveiled the first CyberKnife in Michigan, and this year on March 15 the radiosurgery system has received an upgrade. The linear accelerator has the flexibility to move in three dimensions to focus on the targeted area for treatment, practically anywhere in the body.

The CyberKnife upgrade includes the following improvements:

- New linear accelerator capable of 33 percent higher radiation output resulting in reduced patient treatment session duration.
- Variable aperture collimator, allowing for more field size options resulting in better quality treatment plans.
- Planned path set optimization, resulting in reduced patient treatment session duration.
- Higher x-ray output generators for patient imaging.
- Adaptive tracking and optimized path traversal schema for prostate treatments.

For more information on CyberKnife technology, contact Jennifer Bailey, SJMHS, 734 712-3685.

May MCN Conference brings new insights from data collection; team updates

Over 80 people gathered in Lansing at the MSU Center for Executive Advancement to discuss the Mercy Cancer Network progress, and hear updates on the Affinity Teams who have been meeting recently. The conference, held May 17, is offered twice a year to all cancer-related physicians and caregivers in Trinity Health-Michigan.

After a welcome by co-chairs Garry Faja and Phil McCorkle, a brief update on the MCN was given by Julie Sproul, director, Mercy Cancer Network. Among the major takeaways for the group was to continue to share best processes with one another so that the network hospitals provide efficient and timely cancer care for our patients. "We can learn so much from each other," Sproul said.

Wayne Young, director, The Cancer Care Center, Battle Creek Health System, gave an overview of the Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC), where he serves on the Board of Directors. He shared some alarming cancer statistics in Michigan, and then encouraged the group to become more involved in the MCC.

Dr. Terry O'Rourke led an engaging discussion of how we can continue to build upon the strong base we have begun, and meet our quality and timeliness standards. "We need to do better – to provide the highest quality, service and outcomes. Our patients expect the best from us," he challenged.

A highlight of the conference was the Affinity Team reports – demonstrating the work that has been done from the various cancer care groups around the state. By working collaboratively, the teams have identified key areas to focus on, including ways to improve processes by working together.

New at this conference was an offer of 3 CME credits to clinicians, courtesy of the CME program at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. Over 50 participants took advantage of the CME award.

Special thanks to all those who presented and to those who attended the MCN Conference. If you are interested in receiving detailed minutes, please contact Julie Sproul, 248-489-6369 or sproulj@trinity-health.org

Watch for the next MCN Conference date to be held in Fall 2010.

MCN Spiritual Care Affinity Team Holds Retreat

Since September of 2009, Spiritual Care leaders from across Michigan have met regularly to discuss the delivery of oncology spiritual care services. From these discussions, a desire grew to hold a retreat for the MCN Spiritual Care Leaders Affinity Team.

On March 3 this desire was realized as spiritual care leaders from across Michigan gathered at the Lacks Cancer Center at Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids. This retreat served as an opportunity for the MCN spiritual caregivers to learn more about the MCN, share best practices and network with each other. Discussions were held on aligning the spiritual care work of the MCN with the Trinity Health Spiritual Care Standards and creating local and network level goals to ensure this happens.

Best practices and background information from many journal articles were shared as well as Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) that detail care pathways for chaplains and other members of interdisciplinary care teams.

Action items were developed and a report was shared at the MCN Conference in May.

In and Around the Network ...

St. Mary Mercy Livonia - Register now for the 4th Annual "Embrace Life" 5K Run/Walk for Cancer, Sunday, September 12, 9 a.m. The race begins at the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Grounds, followed by the Annual Community Open House, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To register for the Run/Walk, visit www.active.com/, or www.stmarymercy.org. For sponsorship opportunities, call 734.655.1590.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia screened nearly 300 men at its annual Men's Health Fair and Prostate Screening Day on March 6. The free health screening provided blood tests for Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), total cholesterol and HDL, an exam for prostate disease, foot, blood pressure, and skin checks. For those with abnormal results, a follow-up process assisted with needed healthcare services.

St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron held a free community education event entitled "Understanding Colorectal Cancer" in March, National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The presentation offered residents information about risk factors, screening guidelines, diagnostic testing and surgical intervention, as well as ways to maintain good nutrition and balance.

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland's (SJMO) recent free community-wide colorectal cancer screening campaign resulted in 1,099 persons returning their screening kits for testing. Those with positive results were all referred to their personal physicians for further testing. SJMO distributed 2,924 free colorectal cancer-screening kits at more than 80 local churches and physician offices during this campaign.

Andrea Briefs-Ferris (SJMO) has joined the St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Oncology team as the new breast cancer nurse navigator. Andrea serves as a personal advocate for breast cancer patients and assist both patients and their family members with resource needs. Andrea received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC and her Master of Health Service Administration from the University of Michigan.

Peg Nelson (SJMO), Director of Palliative and Pain Services, received the prestigious Lane Adams Quality of Life Award from the American Cancer Society (ACS) in May at the ACS National Board of Directors meeting in Atlanta, Ga. The Lane Adams Award emphasizes what he called the "warm hand of service," efforts of those who go above and beyond their duties to make a difference in the daily struggles of cancer patients. Nelson is board certified in palliative care and has participated in several research projects.

About the Mercy Cancer Network:

As one of Michigan's largest cancer care networks, coordinating the expertise of 17 hospitals and cancer centers across Michigan, the Mercy Cancer Network delivers advanced medicine to local communities, offering the latest in cancer diagnostics, clinical research trials and therapeutic technology.

*The Trinity Health-Michigan hospital CEOs serve as the Board of Directors of the Mercy Cancer Network. **Mercy Cancer Network NEWS** is produced quarterly. To submit local cancer news, please send information to sproulj@trinity-health.org. For more information, please visit our website - www.mercycancernetwork.com.*

Mercy Cancer Network Steering Team

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

Phil McCorkle, Jr.,
President & CEO, Saint Mary's Health Care, Grand Rapids, and Regional Executive, West Michigan

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