

Focus on Breast Cancer:

2009

Cancer Report

2009 Data



Exceptional care. Every patient. Every day.



Chairman's Message

J. Alexander Palesty MD, FACS

The Cancer Committee at Saint Mary's Hospital is pleased to present this 2009 Cancer Report to our staff, medical staff, and community. Each year we face more complex obstacles with regard to cancer care, both medically and financially. Our Greater Waterbury community is very fortunate to have access to highly-trained physicians and surgeons who are dedicated to providing excellent patient care by consistently incorporating medical and technological advances into patient care through a compassionate and skilled team of caregivers. Through the dedication of our physicians and staff, we have been able to continue the tradition of providing quality care while growing to meet the needs of our patients and community by providing superior care with compassion.

This dedication to excellence was recognized by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer, which awarded the cancer program at Saint Mary's Hospital a three-year accreditation with commendation and very few recommendations. This is an indication that Saint Mary's is not only meeting, but exceeding the national standards for providing superior care to our cancer patients. This is a tribute to our clinical staff and its operations. To receive this accreditation, Saint Mary's was required to complete a rigorous evaluation and on-site review to ensure that its patients have access to comprehensive care, including screening, state-of-the-art services and equipment, a multi-specialty team of providers and information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options. The accreditation also demonstrates that Saint Mary's provides cancer-related information, education and support and maintains a cancer registry that collects data on the type and stage of cancer, treatment results and follow-up care. This data is reported to the National Cancer Data Base, a joint program of the Committee on Cancer and the American Cancer Society, and is used to monitor and improve the quality of care in all approved cancer programs nationwide.

Our achievements are made possible by many people, and our success as an institution is mostly due to the efforts of our superlative staff. We are grateful to them for their work and know that they will continue to maintain their verve, energy, compassion and commitment to our patients and our institution. Without their imagination and dedication, we would not have been able to foster the constant improvements in cancer care that have led us to another three year accreditation.

In this year's annual report you will read more about the providers, programs and services that comprise Saint Mary's cancer program. You are also invited to peruse through the highlights of the comprehensive multimodality services we provide for patients who are diagnosed with breast cancer. We are fortunate to have three experienced breast surgeons in our community, each of whom will give insight into the compelling work being done for these special patients, as well as discuss the significant contribution the expertise of a multi-disciplinary Cancer Conference, which addresses the unique needs of breast cancer patients every week, has on patient care and outcomes.

This comprehensive approach to cancer care, combined with the technology, education and support services offered through our affiliate, the Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center, represents the best of what we can offer those who suffer from cancer and ensures that patients truly can take comfort in knowing they have access to the highest quality cancer care right here in their own community. I hope that this report demonstrates the pride we take in caring for our patients and our unwavering commitment to medical excellence, ethics and integrity.

Cancer Program Leadership

The membership of the cancer committee, or other appropriate leadership body, is multidisciplinary, representing physicians from the diagnostic and treatment specialties and non-physicians from administrative and supportive services.

Required Physician Members

J. Alexander Palesty, MD, FACS, Cancer Committee Chair
Nicole Sookhan, MD, FRCS, FACS, Cancer Liaison Physician
Scott Segal, MD, Diagnostic Radiologist
Juan Sanchez, MD, FAC, Thoracic Surgeon
Kert Sabbath, MD and Joseph Sinning, MD, Medical Oncologists
Rachel Must-Ettinger, MD, Pathologist
Joseph Ravalese, MD, Radiation Oncologist

Required Non-Physician Members

Donna Goss, CTR, Certified Tumor Registrar
Mary Moschella, RN, Oncology Nurse
Mary Moschella, RN, Pain Control/Palliative Care Physician or Specialist
James Tucker, RN, BSN, MSN,
Performance Improvement/Quality Management Professional
Arlene Pereira, Social Worker/Case Manager
Maria Gomes, American Cancer Society Control Representative
Sister Patricia Corcoran, Pastoral Care Representative

Additional Committee Members

Kevin Kniery, Executive Director, The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center
Sandra Roosa, RN, Administration
Bernadette Kitchen, MA, Cancer Program Coordinator
Jeanne d'Arc St. Pierre, RHIA, Health Information Management
Advani Kavita, MD, Medicine
Mary Moschella, RN, Nursing
Janet Weber, RN, Nursing Administration
Linda Matonis, MD, Ob/Gyn
Kert Sabbath, MD and Joseph Sinning, MD, Oncology
Raymond Winicki, MD, Otolaryngology
Nancy Feola, RN, Public Relations
John Conant, MD, Urology

Cancer Committee Members

J. Alexander Palesty, MD, FAC,
Chairman
William Frederick, MD,
Cancer Conference Coordinator
Rachel Must-Ettinger, MD,
Cancer Conference Coordinator
Joseph Ravalese, MD
Kert Sabbath, MD
Joseph Sinning, MD
Nicole Sookhan, MD, FRCS, FACS,
ACS Liaison
Abdel Aziz Richi, MD, FAC,
ACS Liaison
Juan Sanchez, MD, FACS
Linda Matonis, MD
John Conant, MD
Ellen Polokoff, MD, FACS
Raymond Winicki, MD
Scott Segal, MD
Bernadette Kitchen,
Cancer Program Coordinator
Department of Social Work
Representative
Mary Moschella, RN,
Department of Nursing
Jeanne St. Pierre, RHIA, Director,
Health Information Management
Janet Weber, RN, Director,
Patient Care Services
Joseph Connolly, Community Affairs
Sandra Roosa, RN, Vice President
James Tucker, RN, Quality Management
Mary Farkash, RN,
Department of Patient Care Services
American Cancer Society Representative
Kevin Kniery, Executive Director,
The Harold Leever
Regional Cancer Center
Pastoral Care Representative

Total Cancer Cases

2009

ORAL CAVITY AND PHARYNX 17

Tongue 7
Salivary Glands 5
Nasopharynx 1
Tonsil 2
Hypopharynx 2

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM 21

Thyroid 21
Other Endocrine including Thym. 1

BREAST 184

Breast 184

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM 143

Esophagus 10
Stomach 10
Small Intestine 2
Colon excluding Rectum 53
Rectum and Rectosigmoid 33
Anus, Anal Canal and Anorectum 1
Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct 9
Other Biliary 2
Pancreas 22
Retroperitoneum 1

FEMALE GENITAL SYSTEM 23

Cervix Uteri 1
Corpus and Uterus, NOS 15
Ovary 5
Vagina 1
Other Female Genital Organs 1

LYMPHOMA 23

Hodgkin Lymphoma 1
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma 22

MYELOMA 4

Myeloma 4

LEUKEMIA 5

Lymphomatic Leukemia 1
Myeloid and Monocytic Leukemia 4

MISCELLANEOUS 18

Miscellaneous 18

BRAIN AND OTHER NERVOUS SYSTEM 13

Brain 7
Cranial Nerves and other Nervous System 6

EYE AND ORBIT 2

Eye and Orbit 2

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM 94

Nose, Nasal Cavity and Middle Ear 1
Larynx 6
Lung and Bronchus 86
Trachea, Mediastinum and Other 1

SOFT TISSUE 2

Soft Tissue including Heart 2

URINARY SYSTEM 34

Urinary Bladder 23
Kidney and Renal Pelvis 10
Ureter 1

MALE GENITAL SYSTEM 44

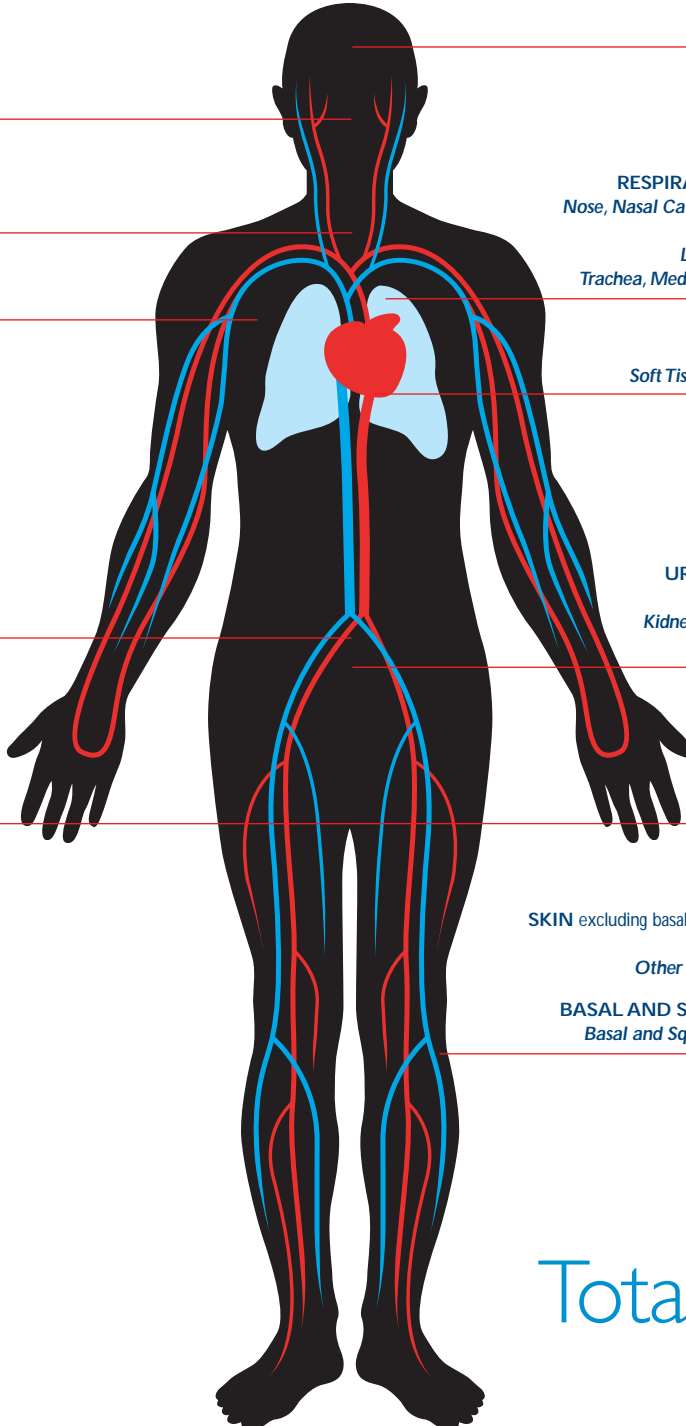
Prostate 42
Testis 2

SKIN excluding basal and squamous skin 15

Melanoma, Skin 14
Other Non-Epithelial Skin 1

BASAL AND SQUAMOUS SKIN 1

Basal and Squamous Carcinoma 1



Total: 643



1999 – 2009

Primary Site	Total (%)	Sex		Class of Case		Status		Stage Distribution - Analytic Cases only							
		M	F	Analy	NA	Alive	Exp	Stg 0	Stg 1	Stg 11	Stg 111	Stg 1V	88	Unk	Blank/Inv
ORAL CAVITY & PHARYNX	105 (1.5)	68	37	86	19	48	57	1	20	5	13	32	2	12	1
Tongue	36 (0.5)	22	14	31	5	19	17	0	4	3	6	11	0	7	0
Salivary Glands	19 (0.3)	12	7	17	2	5	14	0	9	2	0	4	0	1	1
Floor of Mouth	4 (0.1)	1	3	2	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Gum and Other Mouth	9 (0.1)	6	3	4	5	4	5	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Nasopharynx	7 (0.1)	4	3	6	1	4	3	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	0
Tonsil	15 (0.2)	12	3	14	1	9	6	0	1	0	2	9	0	2	0
Oropharynx	4 (0.1)	3	1	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Hypopharynx	9 (0.1)	6	3	7	2	5	4	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	0
Other Oral Cavity and Pharynx	2 (0.0)	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	1,600 (22.5)	837	763	1,542	58	593	1,007	150	323	252	233	305	34	235	10
Esophagus	79 (1.1)	60	19	76	3	17	62	2	10	8	14	18	0	24	0
Stomach	160 (2.3)	89	71	154	6	34	126	1	25	15	36	39	11	26	1
Small Intestine	26 (0.4)	13	13	24	2	11	15	0	1	3	1	4	9	3	3
Colon excluding Rectum	710 (10.0)	346	364	686	24	340	370	98	171	157	124	95	2	38	1
Rectum and Rectosigmoid	296 (4.2)	154	142	283	13	157	139	47	78	45	46	34	3	27	3
Anus, Anal Canal and Anorectum	12 (0.2)	4	8	12	0	9	3	1	2	4	1	0	1	3	0
Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct	70 (1.0)	43	27	69	1	5	65	0	10	3	6	12	2	36	0
Gallbladder	17 (0.2)	9	8	17	0	1	16	1	5	1	0	9	0	1	0
Other Biliary	32 (0.5)	13	19	32	0	4	28	0	7	1	1	2	3	17	1
Pancreas	187 (2.6)	100	87	179	8	14	173	0	14	15	4	92	2	52	0
Retroperitoneum	9 (0.1)	6	3	8	1	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Peritoneum, Omentum and Mesent.	2 (0.0)	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	1,128 (15.9)	644	484	1,072	56	210	918	13	218	80	210	370	11	166	4
Nose, Nasal Cavity and Middle Ear	7 (0.1)	1	6	4	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
Larynx	80 (1.1)	61	19	74	6	42	38	11	18	7	10	16	0	12	0
Lung and Bronchus	1,037 (14.1)	578	459	990	47	164	873	2	200	73	200	352	5	154	4
Trachea, Mediastinum and Other	4 (0.1)	4	0	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
BONES & JOINTS	5 (0.1)	2	3	5	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
SOFT TISSUE (including Heart)	23 (0.3)	10	13	20	3	9	14	0	4	0	8	3	2	3	0
SKIN EXCLUDING BASAL & SQ.	195 (2.7)	107	88	159	36	135	60	49	47	18	10	4	9	19	3
Melanoma – Skin	179 (2.5)	99	80	143	36	126	53	49	45	17	8	4	5	15	0
Other Nonepithelial Skin	16 (0.2)	8	8	16	0	9	7	0	2	1	2	0	4	4	3
BASAL & SQUAMOUS SKIN	13 (0.2)	5	8	0	13	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Basal/Squamous Cell Carcinoma	13 (0.2)	5	8	0	13	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BREAST	1,442 (20.3)	22	1,420	1,356	86	1,151	291	275	551	313	105	41	3	66	2
FEMALE GENITAL SYSTEM	276 (3.9)	0	276	241	35	156	120	4	106	20	37	35	6	30	3
Cervix Uteri	22 (0.3)	0	22	20	2	8	14	0	4	3	5	4	0	4	0
Corpus & Uterus, NOS	154 (2.2)	0	154	142	12	110	44	0	85	14	14	5	5	18	1
Ovary	67 (0.9)	0	67	59	8	17	50	0	13	1	13	24	1	6	1
Vagina	6 (0.1)	0	6	3	3	3	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Vulva	23 (0.3)	0	23	13	10	15	8	4	2	2	2	1	0	1	1
Other Female Genital Organs	4 (0.1)	0	4	4	0	3	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0
MALE GENITAL SYSTEM	907 (12.8)	907	0	784	123	694	213	0	27	679	22	34	4	17	1
Prostate	873 (12.3)	873	0	751	122	663	210	0	7	677	21	34	1	11	0
Testis	29 (0.4)	29	0	28	1	28	1	0	16	2	0	0	3	6	1
Penis	3 (0.0)	3	0	3	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other Male Genital Organs	2 (0.0)	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
URINARY SYSTEM	446 (6.3)	296	150	417	29	234	212	163	118	48	27	39	1	21	0
Urinary Bladder	294 (4.1)	212	82	270	24	156	138	154	46	32	16	10	0	12	0
Kidney and Renal Pelvis	134 (1.9)	78	56	130	4	72	62	6	71	11	9	26	0	7	0
Ureter	17 (0.2)	6	11	16	1	6	11	3	1	5	2	3	0	2	0
Other Urinary Organs	1 (0.0)	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
EYE AND ORBIT	7 (0.1)	4	3	5	2	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
BRAIN/OTHER NERVOUS SYSTEM	125 (1.8)	62	63	111	14	51	74	0	0	0	0	0	111	0	0
Brain	79 (1.1)	51	28	76	3	16	63	0	0	0	0	0	76	0	0
Cranial Nerves/Other Nervous Sys.	46 (0.6)	11	35	35	11	35	11	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0
ENDOCRINE SYSTEM	211 (3.0)	53	158	203	8	194	17	0	135	27	9	9	7	16	0
Thyroid	204 (2.9)	49	155	197	7	191	13	0	135	27	9	9	1	16	0
Other Endocrine (including Thym.)	7 (0.1)	4	3	6	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
LYMPHOMA	308 (4.3)	164	144	286	22	166	142	0	125	52	25	55	17	12	0
Hodgkin Lymphoma	41 (0.6)	23	18	37	4	37	4	0	19	10	1	4	1	2	0
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	267 (3.8)	141	126	249	18	129	138	0	106	42	24	51	16	10	0
MYELOMA	60 (0.8)	32	28	54	6	17	43	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	0
LEUKEMIA	85 (1.2)	53	32	73	12	27	58	0	0	0	0	0	73	0	0
Lymphocytic Leukemia	34 (0.5)	28	6	27	7	14	20	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0
Myeloid & Monocytic Leukemia	49 (0.7)	24	25	44	5	13	36	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0
Other Leukemia	2 (0.0)	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
MESOTHELIOMA	7 (0.1)	6	1	6	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2
KAPOSI SARCOMA	3 (0.0)	2	1	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	159 (2.2)	75	84	147	12	20	139	0	0	0	0	0	145	0	2



Breast Cancer Resources



Our three breast surgeons, Dr. Ellen Polokoff, Dr. Beth Sieling, Dr. Nicole Sookhan, are among the regular participants in bi-monthly Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Conferences at The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center. Conference participants review breast cancer cases and, using a multidisciplinary team approach, recommend treatment plans for area patients.

Our physicians utilize the latest technology for diagnostic studies, including digital mammography, ultrasound and MRI, as well as minimally invasive biopsies.



Dr. Nicole Sookhan and Wolcott Mayor Thomas Dunn celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness month with the community.

Leading the Way

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States. Since 1990, survival rates among breast cancer patients have been on the rise, due in large part to increased awareness about the disease; with increased awareness comes earlier detection, better research, and new treatments. At Saint Mary's Hospital, our highly-trained, experienced physicians and caregivers are not only keeping pace with advances in breast cancer treatments and technology, they are also leading the way.

Saint Mary's Hospital was among the first in Connecticut to offer stereotactic biopsies to diagnose abnormalities identified by screening mammography. Our physicians also utilize the latest technology for diagnostic studies, including digital mammography, ultrasound and MRI, as well as minimally invasive biopsies.

"We offer better methods for breast biopsy that are less invasive and less anxiety-provoking for women, explained breast surgeon Dr. Beth A. Sieling. "It is rare that I take a patient to the operating room for a biopsy."

Dr. Sieling is one of three surgeons on the medical team at Saint Mary's Hospital specializing in breast cancer care, a unique advantage for our patients. All three provide integrated cancer care from diagnosis to treatment, incorporating a full-spectrum of treatment options (at right). Their fellowship training, coupled with a commitment to remain at the forefront of their discipline through ongoing education and credentialing, means Saint Mary's Hospital patients receive the most advanced breast cancer treatments and therapies available anywhere.

Our breast surgeons, Dr. Sieling, Dr. Ellen Polokoff, and Dr. Nicole Sookhan, also participate in multidisciplinary breast cancer conferences hosted by our affiliate, The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center. The bi-monthly conferences bring together radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, ob/gyns, nurses, social workers, nutritionists, and APRNs. All local physicians are invited to present their patient cases for consideration and consultation by this extraordinary group of medical professionals.

"The conferences are a very important part of care in our community," notes Dr. Polokoff. "I present every one of my patient cases to the team. It means that the treatment path each patient follows was developed by cancer specialists from every discipline, with the most comprehensive range of knowledge and experience possible."

The majority of breast cancer cases treated in Greater Waterbury – 200 in the 2009 calendar year – were considered by the team during a multidisciplinary breast cancer conference. Each member of the professional medical team brings their own frame of reference and unique set of knowledge, training and skills into consultation to develop comprehensive, integrated care and treatment plans for each individual patient.

Saint Mary's Hospital has also been recognized by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer, for offering the very best in cancer care, including breast cancer services. Saint Mary's was awarded a three-year accreditation with commendation in several categories. This exceptional level of recognition is achieved by only 40 percent of all U.S. hospitals surveyed by

the commission. The achievement recognizes the fact that Saint Mary's Hospital is providing comprehensive,

multidisciplinary patient care that is 100% compliant with national standards for treatment.



The Bella Donnas raised more than \$1,000 for the Susan G. Komen Connecticut Race for the Cure. Team Bella Donnas are a Komen team from the Breast and Oncology Center, an affiliate of Saint Mary's Health System, and includes: (front, from left) Kristi Nocera, assistant to Dr. J. Alexander Palesty and team sponsor Nancy Cappello, founder of *Are You Dense*; and (back) Diane Kane, assistant to Dr. Beth Sieling; Dr. Palesty and Dr. Sieling, surgeons with the Breast and Oncology Center of Southbury; and Betsy Daniels, captain of Team Bella Donnas.



The dedicated mammography team at Saint Mary's Hospital includes: (left to right): Doreen Govain, Ann Razza, Val Collins and Sandy Trusiewicz.

Saint Mary's Hospital offers patients compassionate care, as well as the latest diagnostic and treatment options including:

- ▶ Minimally invasive and image-guided breast biopsies
- ▶ Advanced ultrasound techniques
- ▶ Stereotactic localization and biopsy of breast lesions
- ▶ Cryoablation of benign lesions
- ▶ Nipple- and skin-sparing mastectomy
- ▶ Oncoplastic techniques in surgery
- ▶ Genetic counseling and BRCA testing



Committed to Quality

Clinical Trials: For a Better Tomorrow

The physician teams at both Saint Mary's Hospital and The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center are committed to promoting and participating in cancer research, including research in the form of clinical trials. Clinical trials are conducted with the informed consent of the patient and are designed to answer specific scientific questions. Clinical trials are conducted in phases; Phase III trials compare the newly designed treatment with standard treatment, and can provide cutting-edge therapies through our community physicians at little or no cost to participants. There are currently four adjuvant Phase III breast cancer trials in progress at the Leever Cancer Center, as well as trial studies of both metastatic colorectal cancer and adjuvant lung cancer. The trials represent a collaborative effort between the Leever Cancer Center and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA.

National Accreditation: The Gold Standard in Cancer Care

Saint Mary's Hospital has been recognized by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer for offering Greater Waterbury the very best in cancer care. The Commission recently awarded Saint Mary's Hospital a three-year accreditation with commendations in seven of nine review categories. This exceptional level of recognition is achieved by only forty percent of all U.S. hospitals evaluated by the Commission.

For patients, ACS accreditation ensures that Saint Mary's provides a comprehensive range of state-of-the-art services and equipment, a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to care using the best treatment options available, access to clinical trials and new treatment protocols, early detection programs, and education and support services.



Left to right: Bernadette Kitchen, cancer program coordinator, Marlene Braren, cancer registry analyst, Dr. J. Alexander Palesty, chairman of the Cancer Committee, and Donna Goss, consultant.



Dr. Fancher Awarded Research Grant

The Connecticut Community Foundation has awarded Tiffany T. Fancher, MD (pictured above) a research grant for her project entitled, "Colorectal Cancer in a Young Population: Ten Years Experience in a Community Academic Hospital." Funding for the grant comes from the Dr. William Finkelstein Fellowship and is administered by the Foundation.

After earning his medical degree at Harvard University, Dr. Finkelstein joined the staff of Saint Mary's Hospital, where he stayed for 54 years. Dr. Finkelstein was known as the dean of internists and the father of medical education at Saint Mary's. During his tenure, he served as chief of medicine, president of the medical staff, and director of medical education and cardiology. The research fellowship that bears his name was established in the residency program, and will now fund Dr. Fancher's work.

In her earlier research, Dr. Fancher discovered gender differentiation in the presentation of colorectal cancer. Her current research will consider the impact of insurance qualification standards and related socio-economic factors on colon cancer presentation.

Caring for our Community

Saint Mary's Hospital is a proud leader and partner in a variety of events in the Greater Waterbury community that support cancer patients and their families, promote breast health and early detection, and celebrate survivors.



Our physicians enjoy working and speaking directly with community members at events in and around Waterbury. Dr. Nicole Sookhan addressed a crowd at a breast cancer awareness event in Wolcott.

For more than 15 years Saint Mary's Hospital has participated in the national Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. This program helps low-income, uninsured and underinsured women gain access to cancer screening and diagnostic services. Over the life of the program, Saint Mary's has enrolled over 2,300 women and diagnosed 29 breast cancers.



Nancy Baranowski, APRN,
Women's Healthcare
Nurse Practitioner



Above: (left to right) Dr. David Knight, Dr. Beth Sieling, Dr. Scott Kurtzman and Dr. Nicole Sookhan were among the presenters at the 2009 Breast Cancer Symposium, held at The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center and open to the community. Symposium topics included non-malignant breast diseases, diagnosing breast cancer, and breast conserving surgeries and reconstruction.



Above: Teams from Saint Mary's Hospital and the Leever Cancer Center join dozens of teams from the Greater Waterbury community each year in the American Cancer Society's signature event, Relay for Life. Relay team members fill a local track for 24 hours to celebrate their personal victories over cancer, to remember a friend or loved one touched by the disease, or simply to join the fight against cancer.

Partners in Excellence



The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center offers patients advanced cancer treatments in a convenient location close to home.

Radiation oncologists (from left) Dr. Jeffery A. Bitterman, Dr. Bernard Percarpio, and Dr. Joseph Ravelese, III offer world-class cancer treatments in Greater Waterbury. Synergy, featured here, is the most advanced radiotherapy system in the world.



Through our partnership with The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center, Saint Mary's Hospital patients benefit from the latest technology for breast cancer treatment and diagnosis, access to clinical trials, and a comprehensive range of education and support services.

Advanced Technology

The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center is a freestanding 40,000 square foot facility dedicated to outpatient cancer care. It represents a joint venture partnership between Saint Mary's Hospital and Waterbury Hospital, and brought our community a state-of-the-art, regional cancer facility that is on par with the best cancer treatment centers in the world.

In 2008, the Leever Cancer Center acquired new digital linear accelerators that feature the most advanced radiotherapy technology available in the world. The Synergy system utilizes integrated, three-dimensional imaging. The 3-D technology allows our physicians to deliver precisely targeted radiation beams that conform to the exact shape and size of each tumor. For breast cancer patients, this ultra-precise delivery system reduces damage to the healthy tissue around a tumor, thereby decreasing the potential toxicity of each treatment. That can mean both quicker recovery times and shorter treatment programs.

The Leever Cancer Center is also home to a 5,000 square foot PET/CT Diagnostic Center; it placed the first dedicated PET/CT device in a fixed location, radiation oncology department in the state of Connecticut. Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and Computerized Tomography (CT) are highly precise imaging tools that, when used in combination, provide the most detailed picture possible of a patient's internal anatomy. With one continuous full-body scan, physicians can pinpoint the exact location, size

and shape of the diseased tissue or tumor. This combined PET/CT is the most sophisticated, most technologically advanced imaging tool in use today, and allows for earlier diagnosis, more accurate staging, and the most precise treatment and monitoring possible.

Extraordinary Staff

The medical team of cancer specialists at Saint Mary's Hospital has long been recognized as among the best in the nation. That same team brings their expertise, training, experience and credentials into practice at The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center.

Our multidisciplinary, patient-focused teams work cooperatively to develop individualized, comprehensive treatment plans for each breast cancer patient. In day to day function, and through monthly multi-disciplinary breast health conferences, physicians collaborate in evaluating breast cancer cases. Teams that include radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, breast surgeons, general surgeons, and other medical professionals lend their perspective, expertise, and knowledge to every breast cancer case at Saint Mary's Hospital. In 2008, 202 cases were presented in conference.

The newest addition to the professional staff at the Leever Cancer Center is the position of Breast Health Navigator. Breast Health Navigators are specially trained to coordinate the clinical, educational and supportive needs of our patients who are either facing a possible breast cancer diagnosis or are newly diagnosed with breast cancer. The addition of this position qualifies

the Leever Cancer Center to seek accreditation through the National Accreditation Program (NAPBC) for Breast Centers. Accreditation by the NAPBC is granted through a strict and selective process, and recognizes only exceptional breast health centers with a demonstrated commitment to providing the best possible care to patients with diseases of the breast.

A Commitment to the Future

Our board certified medical and radiation oncologists were educated at some of the world's top universities and medical centers. Today, our doctors are on the teaching staffs at some of those same institutions, preparing a new generation of medical professionals to carry our mission into tomorrow. And our commitment to the future extends beyond the classroom: All of the physicians at The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center participate in clinical trials that not only advance medical care, but provide access to the newest, most progressive treatment options available today. (For more on clinical trials, see page 10.)

Services and Support

Comprehensive, compassionate care extends well beyond advanced treatment technology and exceptional medical staff. Our social workers are avail-

able to help patients and their families with psychological, emotional, and financial needs. Nutritional guidance and pastoral counseling are also available on site.

A renewable grant from The Margaret M. Hallden Fund of the Connecticut Community Foundation funds the American Cancer Society (ACS) Patient Resource Center at the Leever Cancer Center. The Patient Resource Center is staffed by trained ACS volunteers. They may assist visitors to the Leever Cancer Center library or help patients select free wigs or head-coverings from the Center's Reflections Boutique. The Patient Resource Center coordinates the well-known ACS Look Good, Feel Better program, as well as Ride for Recovery, which provides transportation to and from medical appointments.

For those facing breast cancer, there is Reach to Recovery, a one-to-one peer support program touching women at every stage of their journey, from potential diagnosis, to diagnosis, treatment, and on-going care. The Woman to Woman Breast Cancer Support Group and Brave at Heart Breast Cancer Support Group also meet regularly at the Leever Cancer Center.

The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center is home to a variety of programs and services, including those offered through the American Cancer Society, and the Reflections Boutique, a unique shop that makes free wigs and head-coverings available to cancer patients.





Exceptional care. Every patient. Every day.

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