



Spotlight

Cancer news and information from the Cancer Care Center of York County



Wrapping the Patient in Care



Patricia Deisler, MD
Medical Oncology

This is a great time to take stock of where we are in the treatment of breast cancer,

both here at the Cancer Care Center of York County and on a national level.

The good news is we are making strides on several fronts. In fact, we can be thankful that in the United States, breast cancer mortality rates have been declining, due in no short measure to the passion and commitment of patients themselves. There are so many treatment options available today due to the fact that over the last couple of decades, breast

cancer patients and their families have been the driving force of advocacy for research, clinical trials, and treatment. So the standard of care has gotten better and better, and no other cancer I can think of is that far ahead.

This is especially true in clinical trials. Because patients have been such strong advocates for clinical trials, we now have the data to support top-of-line-treatment, and are able to offer that treatment in a local facility like the Cancer Care Center.

(continued inside)

Patricia Deisler, MD

(continued from front)

The resources are all right here: The Maine Center for Cancer Medicine is the largest oncology group in the State offering the largest number of clinical trials. We also share clinical trial information with Boston teaching hospitals, such as Dana Farber, enhancing our connectivity to everything that is available anywhere across the country. It's quite a scope.

Even before a patient walks through the door for the first time, we have already screened them for participation in clinical trials. Even if a patient is not eligible initially, we can usually offer a second line of care. In addition, if a patient needs to be referred to Boston for a specific clinical trial, we can still supervise their care right here.

Another very important focus of breast cancer treatment—both here and nationally—is genetic testing for pre-disposition to cancer. Although less than 10% of cancer has a strong genetic basis, if a patient is below 50 years old, or meets certain family

history criteria, they are now referred to the Cancer Care Center to meet with a genetic counselor about potential hereditary cancer risks. These patients are often offered testing for certain cancer susceptibility genes that can be transmitted from either their mother or father, can cause risks to them for additional cancers, and can be passed to their children. Because we now know that 5-10% of breast cancer patients do have a genetic predisposition to breast and other cancers, genetic counseling, testing and risk reduction management are now incorporated into our standard of care.

Beyond the medical aspects of treatment are the human elements that can make such a difference. This is a kind, calm and comfortable environment. Our nurses and technicians are not only very experienced, but bring sensitivity and warmth to their jobs.



We wrap the patient in care on multiple levels—all under one roof. We coordinate treatment and communication between the medical oncologist, the radiation oncologist, and the surgeon. We get wonderful support from our hospital affiliations, including surgeons who do wonderful work. All of our team members—including nutritionists, physical therapists, and social workers treat each patient globally and provide top-of-the-line care, access to the latest approved therapy, and follow-up in a non-anxiety provoking atmosphere.

Come take a look! I think people are often surprised by the level of medical intervention available here, and just as important, the atmosphere of comfort, calm and serenity.



Meet Lawrence Furbish Community Service Chair Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club

We at the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club first got involved in the Healing Garden project at the Cancer Care Center of York County over 2½ years ago. I serve as the Club's Community Service Chair, and a member came to me to see if this was a project we could get behind. We jumped at the opportunity—marshalling volunteers, funds from Rotary that our local club matched, and community connections with area businesses. One of my main jobs was scheduling several work parties over the course of the project. Rotary volunteers first had to cut down trees and clear brush, spread the gravel and rake it, and install the pergola that was designed and built by high school students at the Sanford Regional Vocational Education Center with materials donated by Rotary.

We worked closely with the project's landscape designer, Carol Laboissonniere, a very talented master gardener who not only donated her time, but also got other master gardeners involved. Carol had a clear vision for the Healing Garden as a woodsy, natural, welcoming place for patients and their families.

I'm really happy with the outcome; it looks just beautiful!



Volunteers who made the Healing Garden a reality include (left to right): Bob Hardison, Rotarian and CCCYC Board Chair; Carol Laboissonniere, Landscape Designer; and Rotarians Bob Gonyou and Lawrence Furbish.

Pre-Sort Std
US Postage
PAID
#284
Portland, ME



27 Industrial Avenue
Sanford, Maine 04073
tel 207/459-1600 fax 207/459-1610
www.cancercareyorkcounty.org



The Healing Garden at the Cancer Care Center of York County

A place to reflect, find tranquility, and become refreshed.

This project would have never happened without the support of several area businesses: Pepin who donated the concrete, Springdale Nurseries who provided mulch and loam, Stone Fence who drilled the holes for the pergola, and Hissong who donated gravel and stone dust. Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Young of Kennebunk who donated the wind sculpture, and 4th grade students from Willard School who donated a tree and planted bulbs for next spring. Watch a video of the October 6, 2010 Dedication at www.cancercareyorkcounty.org