

Elevating Cancer Care

The Tri-State's most comprehensive cancer team adds three new specialists and continues to redefine cancer care in the region.

In the fight against cancer, the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center (ECCC) at Cabell Huntington Hospital is on the front lines. With the addition of new oncologists encompassing a wide range of expertise, national recognition for quality and safety and an unprecedented program benefiting chemotherapy patients, the ECCC

is fully dedicated to the care, treatment and support of patients and their families.

"We realize the great responsibility our patients have entrusted us with, and this is an opportunity to provide for them the best that medicine has to offer in their community, and in a warm and welcoming environment," said Gerard Oakley, MD, medical director of the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center. "Our goal is to treat every patient as we would want to be treated ourselves; our dream is to deliver successful treatment to all of our patients."

The Tri-State's most comprehensive team of cancer specialists recently welcomed three new doctors. Nadim Bou Zgheib, MD, a board-certified and fellowship-trained gynecologic oncologist, has joined Dr. Oakley in the ECCC Gynecologic Oncology Program. Dr. Bou Zgheib has completed training in gynecologic cancer diagnosis and treatment and minimally invasive surgery, including daVinci® Robotic Surgery. Amanda Arrington, MD, the Tri-State region's only fellowship-trained surgical oncologist, has joined the ECCC Surgical Oncology Program, bringing extensive experience as a cancer surgeon. Dr. Arrington completed her fellowship training in surgical infectious disease and surgical oncology and her

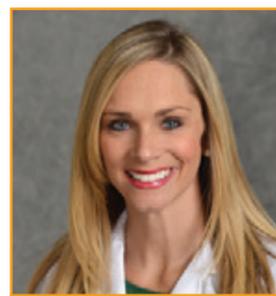
Nadim Bou Zgheib (right), MD, a fellowship-trained gynecologic oncologist, has joined Gerard Oakley, MD, to form the region's largest Gynecologic Cancer Program.



Amanda Arrington, MD



Nadim Bou Zgheib, MD



Grace Dixon, MD



Grace Dixon, MD, has joined the Radiation Oncology Program at the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center. The ECCC's state-of-the-art radiation therapy technology aims targeted radiation at tumors to provide effective treatment with minimal side effects.

Amanda Arrington, MD, has joined the Surgical Oncology Program at the ECCC. Dr. Arrington specializes in performing surgery for a wide range of cancers, including stomach, colon, liver, pancreas, melanoma, endocrine and soft tissue sarcomas.

residency training in general surgery. Grace Dixon, MD, a radiation oncologist, has joined the ECCC Radiation Oncology Program, the first program in West Virginia to be awarded a three-year term of accreditation by the American College of Radiology. Dr. Dixon has received training in the most current and technologically advanced methods of radiation therapy.

"I am always impressed by the dedication of our doctors in seeking out the latest emerging therapies and treatments," said Chad Schaeffer, director of the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center. "All



of our doctors are interested in clinical trials and new technologies, and they have a passion for research. It is exciting to be a part of a team that is on the forefront of cancer care.”

As the Tri-State’s most comprehensive cancer center, the ECCC strives continually to meet the rigorous standards of national accrediting organizations, ensuring that the center’s treatments and services are on the leading edge of quality and safety. Recent surveys conducted by the Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) evaluated dozens of aspects of the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“We were evaluated on everything from how our pathologists look at cancers through treatment and supportive care, from chart audits and how well our doctors discuss their cases with each other to how well we work to improve our patient outcomes,” Schaeffer said. “We excelled in many areas, and the surveyor recommended full accreditation with commendation.”

The Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center was granted a three-year accreditation by the Commission on Cancer and a three-year re-accreditation by the NAPBC.

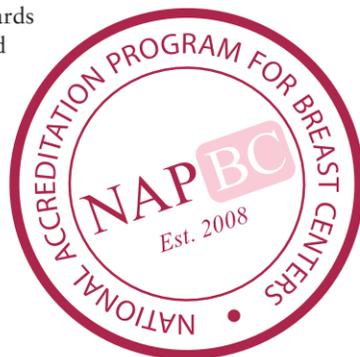
At each step of the way, patients at the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center are guided and supported – from the initial decision-making process throughout the course of treatment and beyond into the realm of survivorship. Schaeffer said the ECCC’s survivorship program supports patients not only during their cancer journey but also long afterwards. The program recently added a survivorship coordinator, Mindy Hanshaw, RN, whose primary responsibility is to develop a comprehensive survivorship plan for each patient.

“Mindy meets with our patients one on one, establishing and identifying their care team,” Schaeffer said. “Then, once they’ve completed their treatment, she prepares a treatment summary and monitoring plan, which details the appointments and tests they will need to complete over the next several years to make sure they stay cancer free.”

The compassion of the entire ECCC cancer team is complemented by a commitment to cancer research. A state-of-the-art tool called ChemoID® was recently developed by Marshall University scientists Pier Paolo Claudio, MD, Ph.D., and Jagan Valluri, Ph.D., in the McKown Translational Genomic Research Institute, a high-tech research facility housed on the third floor of the ECCC. ChemoID® is a patented laboratory test that allows oncologists to determine how chemotherapy will work against



The ECCC Diagnostic Breast Center and the Cabell Huntington Hospital Breast Health Center have been granted a three-year accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons, acknowledging their commitment to comprehensive care, a multidisciplinary team approach and the latest research and clinical trials.



Mary Legenza, MD
ECCC Breast Surgeon

an individual patient’s cancer stem cells and tumor cells, before it is ever administered or prescribed to the patient.

“When a patient chooses to supply us with a section of his or her tumor, the tumor sample is taken to the laboratory and different types of chemotherapy agents are tested on the stem cells,” Schaeffer said. “The stem cells are the core of the tumor, so if a particular agent can effectively kill the core, it will effectively kill the cancer. After the tests, the information is given to the patient’s treating medical oncologist to help guide the course of treatment.”

ChemoID® is the only chemotherapy sensitivity test that targets stem cells, and now, cancer programs through-



Dr. Jagan Valluri and Dr. Pier Paolo Claudio are the co-developers of ChemoID®.

out the country will have the opportunity to participate in ChemoID® by sending tumor samples to the ECCC for testing.

Of course, long before treatment begins, the battle against cancer starts with awareness, prevention and screening. As part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the ECCC hosted numerous events to increase awareness, celebrate survivors and promote early detection of breast cancer, the second most common cancer among U.S. women. A “Breakfast at Tiffany’s”-themed brunch was held Oct. 26 to educate the community on some of the red flags for developing breast cancer, and the ECCC’s annual breast cancer survivors’ dinner on Oct. 7 served as a powerful reminder of how many lives in the Tri-State have been touched by breast cancer.

“We had around 200 attendees at the survivors’ dinner,” Schaeffer said. “At the end of the dinner, each attendee is invited to the microphone to announce how long she has been a survivor. When you see how long that line is, when you see how many people in our community have been affected by breast cancer, it is very moving.”

At the second annual Colors of Cancer 5K Run/Walk on Nov. 1, participants were encouraged to wear the multitude of colors representing different kinds of cancers, designating on their race registration form how they would like their entry fee to be used. Funds were directed to benefit patients receiving care for specific cancers through the ECCC’s Good Samaritan Fund, which assists cancer patients who are having trouble making ends meet.

In addition to awareness events, the ECCC provided free clinical breast exams to the community on Oct. 17. For many participants, the exams



ChemoID® is a patented cancer-fighting tool developed in partnership with Marshall University.

are an introduction to regular screenings and early detection opportunities – but for one, the exam was potentially lifesaving.

“We found one breast cancer at that event, which shows just how important these exams are,” Schaeffer said. “With breast cancer, early detection is critical. Screening saves lives. When breast cancer is caught in the early stages, the chances that it will be treated successfully improve dramatically.”

Whether fighting breast cancer or one of the countless other cancers treated by the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, patients can have peace of mind knowing that the region’s most comprehensive team of cancer surgeons and specialists is on their side. 🌿

For more information, call 304.399.6500.

Participants in the Colors of Cancer 5K wore a wide range of colors in support of loved ones fighting various cancers.

