

# 2017

**ANNUAL REPORT**  

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**ONCOLOGY SERVICES**



A Member of the Montefiore Health System

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



As Medical Director of the Oncology Services at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital, I work in coordination with our team of medical professionals to provide our community with cancer care that will treat patients through the continuum of their journey with us. The connection with our community is the cornerstone of the care the SLCH oncology team provides. We focus heavily on education and prevention, and work with our patients from the point cancer diagnosis, treatment and survival. We aim to do this by providing our patients with access to all of the necessary medical and community resources they may need throughout their time with us.

**Board Certification:** American Board of Internal Medicine

- Internal Medicine (1989- Present)
- Medical Oncology (1991-2021)
- Hematology (1994-2014)

**Medical School:** N.H.L. Municipal Medical College Gujarat University

**Residency:** Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens - Internal Medicine

**Fellowship:** Long Island Jewish Medical Center - Hematology/Oncology

*Umangi Patel*

**Umangi Patel, MD**

Medical Director

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ONCOLOGY SERVICE LINE



At the Littman Cancer Center, we provide our patients and their caregivers with compassionate cancer care right in their backyard. The journey through cancer treatment can be life altering and our team is here to assist our patients each step of the way. We made tremendous strides in Oncology Services at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in the last year; we have added specialists and growing programs that address all of a patient's needs during and after their treatment.

Last year, Dr. Shana Coplowitz from the Montefiore Health System joined our team as the new Medical Director of Radiation Oncology. We also welcomed a new Breast Surgeon, Dr. Veronica Ferencz, further expanding the scope of our care to the community. Dr. Ferencz joins us from Crystal Run Healthcare, and is a native resident of the community we serve. We've also expanded our Palliative Care and Support Services team to include Dr. Kirti Joseph, who works with both inpatient and outpatient cases to assist your comfort and care. We look forward to continued clinical integration with the Montefiore Health System and expansion of oncology services at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital.

*H. Janelle Carr*

**H. Janelle Carr**

DNP, FNP-BC, MS, RN

## MEET OUR TEAM

In addition to a patient's own personal physician, the cancer care team may include an oncologist, radiologist, radiation oncologist, pathologist, surgeon, nurse, nutritionist, pain medicine specialist and clinical social worker. The Littman Cancer Center encompasses not only state of the art radiation oncology but also an infusion suite, which is housed within St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital's Cornwall campus.



**Gina Del Savio, MD**

Chief Medical Officer



**H. Janelle Carr**

DNP, FNP-BC, MS, RN  
Director of Oncology  
Service Line



**Umangi Patel, MD**

Medical Director  
Oncology Services



**Dr. Shana Coplowitz**

Medical Director  
Radiation Oncology



**Nicole Pogelshek**

Manager, Radiation Oncology



**Dr. Kyung Hahn**

Radiation Oncology



**Karen Ciardullo**

RN, BSN  
Clinical Coordinator of  
Oncology Services

# EARLY LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

The SLCH Early Lung Cancer Screening program went into effect on December 15, 2016. This program makes SLCH part of the National Lung Cancer Screening Registry and explores the early detection and treatment of lung cancer and other diseases associated with smoking through the use of low-dose CT screening. We continued to expand this program in 2017, and look forward to further growth in the year ahead.



## ARE YOU ...

- A current smoker with a 20-pack per year history?
- Between the ages of 50-77?
- A smoker of 20 years or more?
- A former smoker who has quit in the past 20 years?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, you may be eligible for a screening CT scan of your chest to detect early cancers of the lung.

## WHAT IS INVOLVED?

- Quick, painless CT scan without injections
- Questionnaire
- 20 minutes of your time to complete the above

For more information, please call (845) 568-2011

# THE INFUSION SUITE

The infusion suite at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital's Littman Cancer Center features private treatment areas with individual televisions for the comfort of family and friends. The center is staffed by Registered Nurses who provide skilled care working toward physical and emotional comfort. We also have a doctorate prepared Nurse Practitioner (DNP) who works collaboratively with physicians and the nurses in the infusion center to provide seamless care. She is available for any emergent situation that might arise during one's treatment.

# TOMOTHERAPY

In partnership with Cornwall Radiation Oncology Services, SLCH offers state of the art radiation therapy using TomoTherapy Hi-Art treatment, a system that calculates the appropriate pattern, position and intensity of the radiation beamlets to be delivered based on the doctor's prescribed dose.

## Benefits of TomoTherapy:

- Unparalleled precision and accuracy
- Less damage to healthy tissue
- Shorter recovery times – quicker return to normal routine
- Multi-disciplinary team approach to fighting cancer
- Soothing, patient-focused environment





# SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

## PATIENT NAVIGATION



**Karen Ciardullo**  
RN, BSN  
Clinical Coordinator of  
Oncology Services

The journey through cancer care can be confusing, frustrating and scary. The Littman Cancer Center care navigation program can help guide patients through the experience, even if they are receiving any, or all, of their cancer care at a different facility.

With just one phone call, we can assist not only with the physical aspects of a patient's care, but also the social, emotional and financial challenges so they can better focus on recovery.

**The Littman Cancer Center Patient Navigator can shepherd patients through the treatment and recovery process, including –**

- Facilitating access to services available at the Littman Cancer Center, St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital and other community providers such as:
  - > Radiation Oncology
  - > Infusion Center
  - > Same-Day Appointments with our Nurse Practitioner to Treat Infusion Related Emergent Conditions
  - > Palliative Care
  - > Lymphedema Therapy
  - > Social Workers
  - > Financial Advisors
- Free cancer support groups
- Connecting patients with transportation resources
- Providing insurance resources
- Locating financial assistance, including help identifying and applying for appropriate grants, prescription assistance, and co-pay relief
- Obtaining Durable Medical Equipment
- Linking patients with resources right here in our local community
- Assisting in location and procurement of wigs, caps and prosthetics
- Connecting with Cancer Organizations such as American Cancer Society, CancerCare, and the Hudson Valley Cancer Resource Center
- Assistance with basic needs
- Providing emotional support

- **St. Luke's Survivors:** For anyone who has survived or is living with any type of cancer. Meets the first Wednesday of the month.
- **Shared Stitches:** Knit, Crochet, and chat! Beginner to expert, all are welcome. Creations are donated to cancer patients. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.
- **Breast Cancer Support:** For breast cancer patients and survivors. Led by Breast Cancer Options. Meets the third Wednesday of the month.
- **Care Giver Support:** A group for sharing support and information on community resources for those caring for a loved one with a chronic illness. Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

# SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

## SUPPORTIVE & PALLIATIVE CARE MEDICINE

This expert medical team is designed to provide individualized, patient-centered care for those dealing with an advanced illness. Our team works alongside your oncologist or primary care physician to improve quality of life and address all causes of distress while you are undergoing curative treatments.



**Kirti Joseph, MD**

- Board Certified in Internal Medicine
- Board Eligible in Hospice and Palliative Medicine
- Internal Medicine trained at NYU Langone Medical Center
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine trained at University of Buffalo.



**Sue Martino, NP**

- Board Certified as Nurse Practitioner in Adult Health
- Extensive ICU/CCU experience
- Extensive experience with home and inpatient hospice services.
- Pioneered the Palliative Care program at St. Luke's Hospital in 2010.

*The SLCH Supportive Care Team works with patients who are:*

- Managing symptoms and side effects such as:
  - Pain
  - Nausea/vomiting
  - Diarrhea/constipation
  - Anorexia/Weight Loss
  - Fatigue
  - Depression
- In need of education about their illness and what to expect
- In need of support for family members or caregivers
- In need of coping skills
- In need of coordination of care across settings.
- In need of discussion regarding goals of care and decision making.

# EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital (SLCH) continues to build its Oncology Program, a major focus for 2017 was to expand the volume of Prevention Programs and Screenings, and evaluate the overall effectiveness of each to strategize how to best move forward.

SLCH Oncology Screenings were held in the following areas: Breast, Oral and Prostate. The Littman Cancer Center team has been partnering with the Orange County Cancer Services Program and the YWCA for several years to provide free breast screenings on a consistent basis to residents in the communities we serve. The breast screening program offers clinical breast exams with mammography and is eligible to patients who are at least 40 years old and uninsured. Unfortunately, attendance of these screenings has been extremely low, and the overall coordination with the YWCA has not been consistent. In 2018, we will be working to expand these screenings to include fundamental breast health and screening education along with the actual screening itself. In October 2017, SLCH welcomed Dr. Veronica Ferencz to the Littman Cancer Center team, bringing comprehensive breast surgery back to our community hospital. This will be a major area of focus for prevention in 2018.

Another screening program for 2017 was an Oral Cancer Screening in April, performed by Dr. Craig Berzofsky, an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist at SLCH. Dr. Berzofsky screened 12 patients, with all available appointment slots filled. Each patient in need of follow up was directly connected with a member of the SLCH clinical team to continue their care.

Dr. Jaspreet Singh, SLCH Urologist and Co-Medical Director of the SLCH Urology program, offered a prostate screening in September 2017. The screening was extremely successful and much like the Oral screening was "sold out" with all appointments booked.

In addition to screenings, the SLCH Oncology team also offered several prevention-focused educational programs throughout the entire 2017 calendar year. Robyn Kelley, Oncology patient Navigator offered general cancer education and prevention information to attendees at the West Point Girls in Sports Clinic in February 2017, as well as local students at the Orange County Community College Health Fair in March 2017. In April, Robyn attended the Downing Park Walking Club Kickoff, which included several community members, where she shared prevention education to those who visited the SLCH informational table. In May, we attended the ShopRite Health Fair in Vails Gate, NY where we provided cancer education and prevention information to those in attendance.

Later in the year, in October, SLCH held an open house event to welcome several new members to the Oncology Team at the Littman Cancer Center. In addition to the welcoming of our new team members, Dr. William Cieplinski hosted a lecture on cancer prevention to more than 25 attendees. To conclude our prevention program efforts in 2017, Deb Brock, an RN at SLCH, gave a presentation on Lung Cancer Causes and Prevention at the Beacon Library in November. We will continue to build the SLCH Cancer Prevention programs in 2018, along with a strong focus on breast, lung, and prostate screenings.

One of the biggest challenges in 2017 was the overall attendance and fluctuation of attendance at our community offerings. For the first time in recent years, SLCH began utilizing paid advertising, including print, digital as well as social media paid ads, to help increase attendance. While this has been successful across all service lines, we would like to see the numbers continue to increase in oncology. We have seen a continuous fluctuation in actual attendance numbers, specifically for support groups. While we've developed a loyal group who attends on a regular basis, we are not reaching the volume of patients that we'd like to engage.

Another area of focus in 2017 was to redesign the promotional materials, specifically the hospital's web pages to reflect the current oncology program and team. In coordination with the SLCH Oncology Team, the community outreach coordinator and the SLCH marketing department, we've worked to significantly expand the breadth of information on the hospital's website regarding the oncology services provided and a lengthy description of those services, providing patients with everything they may need to know when choosing where to seek their cancer care. Collectively as a team, we were able to completely overhaul the information that lives on the site, to include an overview of the current team, a description of Cornwall Radiation Oncology Services, Infusion Therapy, Palliative Care and other support services as well as additional community resources and genetic counseling opportunities available. As the program continues to grow, these web pages will be updated to reflect such growth. This remains an important piece of communication with the public on cancer services available at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital.

Also of note, SLCH conducted a community survey to poll residents on their health needs and awareness of overall healthcare services in 2017, which highlighted the lack of awareness specifically in Cornwall, where the Littman Cancer Center is located. The overall increase in awareness, prevention and screenings will be a large focus as we move ahead in 2018.

## PARTNERING WITH THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital has maintained continuous dialogue with the American Cancer Society to strategize the best possible partnership between the two organizations. We recently teamed up with our colleagues who work in conjunction with the Montefiore Health System team to further expand our efforts with the ACS. In 2017, we participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk as well as the Relay for Life in the Town of Newburgh. 2018 is set to be a great year and we look forward to being well represented at the Making Strides Walk in October.

