

LEVINE CANCER NAVIGATOR

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PREMIERE ISSUE

Levine Cancer Institute is changing the course of cancer care by removing the barriers that separate patients from world-class research and treatment.

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If you're interested in receiving a copy of *Levine Cancer Navigator* via e-mail or mail, visit

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Welcome to *Levine Cancer Navigator*



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Our team is delighted to produce the inaugural issue of *Levine Cancer Navigator*, a quarterly newsletter that provides physicians with news

and information about cancer treatment, recent research and clinical trials, as well as the services and support we offer to our patients.

This is an exciting time in our organization, with the recent announcement of Levine Cancer Institute, which will reduce the need for patients to travel long distances to receive comprehensive, coordinated and highly integrated cancer care. The concept of Levine Cancer Institute is quite simple—we're developing a sophisticated academic and clinical cancer institute without walls, spanning Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS) and providing state-of-the-art treatment and research programs that will be available close to the residential locations of our patients. The Institute is expected to open in summer 2012.

The academic and research center of the Institute will incorporate an extensive clinical trials center, a Phase I novel therapeutic unit, a patient resource center, multidisciplinary clinics for complex and rare cancers, and space for

multisite, electronically linked, multidisciplinary tumor boards. This will allow us to offer patient navigators, wellness programs, nutritional counseling and support groups, because no one fights cancer alone. We'll be training our data managers and research nurses centrally and will have ample resources for oversight, review and quality control of clinical cancer trials as they work throughout the system.

The central component of our efforts for several years has been the Blumenthal Cancer Center, led ably by Jeffrey Kneisl, MD, and his team. The Blumenthal Cancer Center name will be incorporated into new developments. The Institute will encompass several established entities and collaborate closely with highly respected centers, such as Batte Cancer Center at Carolinas Medical Center-NorthEast, Edwards Cancer Center at Carolinas Medical Center-Union and Roper St. Francis Cancer Care. We're excited about this concept as we know the sum of the parts will far exceed the individual impact of each outstanding center. Dr. Kneisl has graciously accepted a key leadership role and will continue to lead the fight against cancer in the Carolinas.

This has been an extraordinary time for our team. Asim Amin, MD, Richard White, MD, and oncologists throughout CHS collaborated in the development of Ipilimumab, a monoclonal antibody that manipulates the body's immune

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Levine Cancer Institute

Uncompromising Excellence. Commitment to Care.

Clinical Trials: Revolutionizing Cancer Care



Steven A. Limentani, MD
Associate
Medical Director,
Blumenthal
Cancer Center

PHASE I CLINICAL TRIALS ARE THE UNDERPINNING

for the development of novel agents that will ultimately revolutionize the management of all types of cancer. Although some trials can be conducted in the standard treatment environment, they are best performed in specialized units that have the environment (physical space) and trained personnel to monitor patients closely. They can handle unanticipated toxicities, manage multiple blood draws and other evaluations to provide a comprehensive understanding of an agent's toxicities, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics as well as hints about efficacy to give direction for Phase II studies.

**"THE PHASE I UNIT OF THE INSTITUTE
WILL SERVE AS A REGIONAL CENTER
OF EXCELLENCE FOR PATIENTS."**

While Phase I studies may be conducted in healthy volunteers, it's unethical to administer chemotherapeutic agents to healthy individuals. Thus a Phase I unit can be developed specifically to administer these agents to volunteers with cancer. Depending on the Phase I trial, patients being treated may be the first to receive the drug. Preclinical data from animal models provide a safe starting dose for patients and help identify expected toxicities. While extensive in vitro assays and in vivo animal studies help ensure safety, human studies are necessary to obtain a better understanding of a new drug's effects on individuals. Many toxicities may be unanticipated and highly trained staff must be ready to respond. Patients may benefit by being the first to receive a novel agent that will ultimately affect their disease course.

In addition to specialized personnel, Phase I units must have complex monitoring capabilities that are more advanced than a standard chemotherapy infusion suite. Facilities must be available for processing and storing biospecimen samples in a timely fashion. In designing Morehead Medical Plaza II, the new home of Levine Cancer Institute, a specialized Phase I unit is being planned. To develop a state-of-the-art facility, Institute representatives made site visits to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and the Cancer Therapy and Research Center in San Antonio, two established leaders in Phase I oncologic investigation.

In an era when new treatments are developed daily, the Phase I unit of the Institute will serve as a regional center of excellence for patients to receive exciting new agents for cancer treatment. ✨

Welcome to Levine Cancer Navigator Continued from page 1

system, helping it to overcome malignant melanoma. Their work contributed to the approval of this compound by the Food and Drug Administration for routine use in patients throughout the United States.

We have an American College of Surgeons Network Accreditation, developed partnerships in clinical trials and biological studies and contributed actively in continuing medical education and residency and fellowship training.

Since my arrival in April 2011,

I've visited several CHS facilities and am delighted by the welcoming and collegial interactions with the medical teams and their enthusiasm for the Institute. Together, we'll develop a unique and extraordinary approach to clinical trials, cancer treatment and patient support.

Collaboration with referring physicians is critical in cancer management, and we want this newsletter to be a useful resource. We welcome your feedback via e-mail at levinecancerinstitute@carolinashealthcare.org.

Let us know what types of content and information will be useful to you in your practices and help you with patient and case management.

I hope you enjoy our first issue of *Levine Cancer Navigator*. We look forward to bringing you more exciting news in the future!

Derek Raghavan, MD, PhD, FACP, FRACP
President, Levine Cancer Institute

To watch a video
about Levine Cancer
Institute, scan this
QR code using
your smart phone.



Creating a World-Class Patient Navigation Program



PATIENT NAVIGATION IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF

establishing a nationally recognized cancer program. Patient navigators play a vital role in navigating cancer patients and their families throughout the continuum of care (see Figure 1). Earlier this year, Levine Cancer Institute formed an enterprise-wide Patient Navigation Work Group, comprising patient navigators, physicians, hospital administrators and cancer program directors.

Goals of this team include:

- ▶ identifying, sharing and deploying best practices in patient navigation and key metrics of success
- ▶ addressing variances in roles and responsibilities of patient navigators
- ▶ determining the expected minimum involvement of patient navigators from initial contact to transition to survivorship
- ▶ evaluating necessary technology to ensure the program's success
- ▶ creating a Levine Cancer Institute Patient Navigator Academy

The team has accomplished several goals, including the development of job descriptions for an oncology nurse navigator and director of patient navigation and establishing the Academy's curriculum.



FOR OUR PATIENTS ▶ BETTER TOGETHER

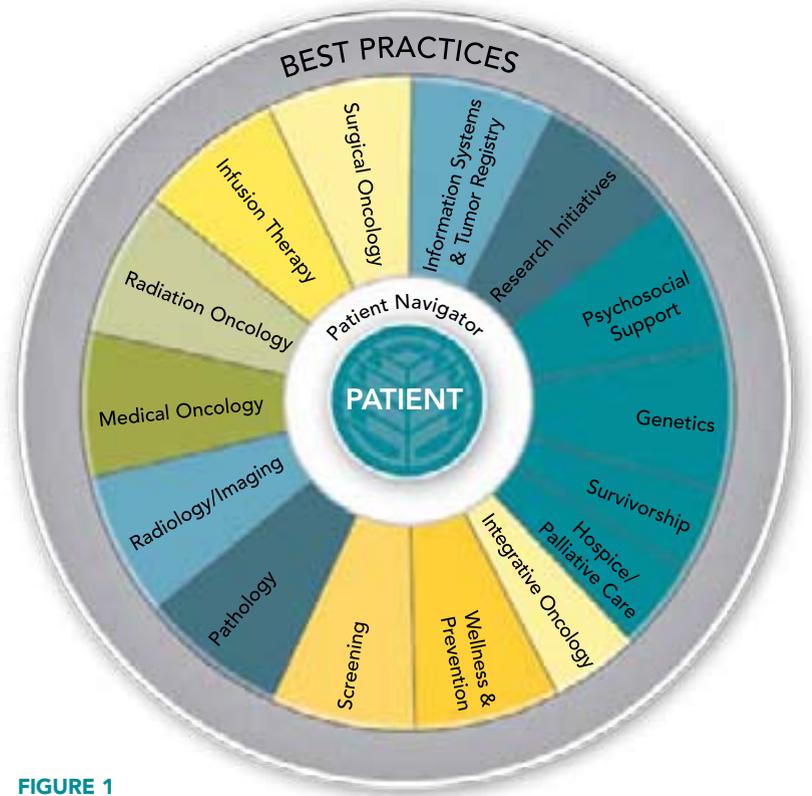


FIGURE 1

The Institute hosted its inaugural Patient Navigator Academy on Sept. 29–30, in Charlotte. The event established a baseline understanding for existing patient navigators within Carolinas HealthCare System. Future academies will offer ongoing education for navigators and provide

external training mechanisms to patient navigators in other hospitals. The team has a long-term goal of providing accreditation for oncology nurse navigation.

For more information, contact Rita Morris with CHS Management Company at **704-355-0392**. ✨



"PATIENT NAVIGATORS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN NAVIGATING CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE."



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CHANGING THE COURSE OF CANCER CARE

Improving Access to Cancer Care



ROPER ST. FRANCIS CANCER CARE IS PART OF ROPER

St. Francis Healthcare, a three-hospital system in Charleston, SC. Key clinical components include two dedicated inpatient medical oncology units at Roper and St. Francis Hospitals, a dedicated bone marrow transplant unit at Roper Hospital, three convenient locations for infusion therapy, three linear accelerators and CyberKnife® robotic radiosurgery.

Roper St. Francis Cancer Care was built in 2010, on the campus of St. Francis Hospital, through a partnership between Roper St. Francis Healthcare and Charleston Hematology-Oncology Associates. This 76,000-square-foot outpatient cancer center features radiation therapy, infusion therapy, a PET/CT scanner, a cafe, a retail store, clinical trials program offices and medical office space.

Roper St. Francis Cancer Care treats more than 1,700 newly diagnosed cancer patients each year. Roper St. Francis Healthcare is the market leader by volume for breast, prostate and colorectal cancer treatment, with local market share approaching or exceeding 50 percent in each area.

FUTURE PLANS

Current strategic objectives include:

- ▶ improving brand awareness
- ▶ growing the share of secondary markets

- ▶ furthering the development of specialized services
- ▶ improving outcomes measurement
- ▶ developing a clinical trials program
- ▶ creating a comprehensive cancer wellness program

Leadership at Roper St. Francis Cancer Care views collaboration with the experts at Levine Cancer Institute as a key step in accomplishing strategic objectives. Levine Cancer Institute is a single, unified enterprise of Carolinas HealthCare System-affiliated cancer programs devoted to excellence in cancer care across the Carolinas. The Institute brings a high level of focus and depth in cancer-specific leadership to local programs across the CHS network, which will only serve to strengthen Roper St. Francis' programs. Participation in Levine Cancer Institute is an unprecedented opportunity and will improve the hospitals' ability to care for patients with uncompromising excellence. ✨

