



**Hunterdon Healthcare**

Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center

*A Fox Chase Cancer Center Partner*

**2010**  
**Cancer Program Annual**  
**Report**

**A summary of program activity from 2009**

## Message from the Cancer Committee Chairman and the Director of HRCC

*Brian Quinn, MD*

*Barbara Tofani, RN, MSN*

When you see a Hunterdon Healthcare advertisement, you'll see the phrase, "Your full circle of care." This isn't just a marketing concept—it's a commitment to the health and well-being of the residents of our community.

At Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center, it's the foundation of who we are and what we do every day. From cancer prevention to early detection, diagnosis and treatment, we offer a full circle of programs and services, delivered by compassionate, highly-skilled and highly-acclaimed professionals.

Our Cancer Outreach and Education program offers education, screening and counseling, and boasts a National Nurse of the Year! Mary Vecchio, RN, MSN, the nurse practitioner in our Community Outreach program, was awarded one of nursing's highest honors when she was named a *Nursing Spectrum* and *Nurse Week* Nursing Excellence award winner for her work in the community. According to Judith Mitiguy from Gannett Healthcare Group, the parent company of *Nursing Spectrum* and *Nurse Week*, winners of this award create "a legacy of inspiration and accomplishment. They set an example for professionals within and outside healthcare through their leadership, wisdom, expertise, and compassion." Through Mary and her team's efforts, Hunterdon has a robust cancer outreach program, with programs and interventions that reach thousands of people through school, community, business and faith-based programs.

Despite staff's best efforts, however, people still get diagnosed with cancer. Although cancer incidence is down, the American Cancer Society data indicates that each week, twelve individuals from Hunterdon County are diagnosed with cancer.

Cancer is a challenging diagnosis for anyone to face. Patients are asked to make critical decisions about treatment at a time when they are feeling overwhelmed and anxious. The Care Coordinators at Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center make the process a little bit easier. Pamela Vlahakis, RN, BSN, and Lori McMullen, RN, MSN, help expedite and coordinate appointments, tests and consultations, and facilitate second opinions. More than anything, they provide the educational and emotional support our patients need to make informed decisions about their care.

Pamela and Lori are patient advocates and true experts in care coordination. In fact, Pamela was one of only 130 breast care coordinators in the country to pass the first Certified Breast Care Nurse examination, demonstrating her advanced knowledge about the care and treatment of patients with breast disease.

It's this commitment to excellence, demonstrated by Pamela, Mary and all the staff of Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center, that sets our cancer center apart from other programs and enhances the quality of the care and services provided to our patients, providing everyone who enters our doors with the full circle of cancer care.

*"Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution."*

Aristotle

### **Staff Accomplishments**

- Mary Vecchio, Cancer Outreach Nurse Practitioner was named *Nursing Spectrum* and *Nurse Week's* Nursing Excellence National Nurse of the Year Award winner for her work in the community. This is a highly prestigious honor in the nursing profession.
- Elaine Sein, RN, BSN, Fox Chase Cancer Center's liaison with Hunterdon, was recognized at the Oncology Nursing Society's Annual Congress with the Pearl Moore Certification Champion Award for her commitment to oncology nursing certification.
- Mary Vecchio presented a podium session at the Oncology Nursing Society's Annual Congress on our Latino Outreach initiatives.
- Elaine Sein presented a session at the Oncology Nursing Society's Annual Congress on Patient Navigation.
- Lori McMullen, RN, MSN completed her research and presented her data on *Awareness and Support of Compassion Fatigue on Oncology Nurses* at the Chester County Nurses Association, PSNA District 22.
- Keith McClain, radiation therapist, was promoted to radiation oncology manager.
- Lori Wyble, RD, oncology dietitian, successfully fulfilled the requirements to become a Board Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition.
- Brian Quinn, MD, medical oncology, was named Top Doctor of the Year in *NJ Savvy* magazine.
- Two Hunterdon Healthcare physicians involved in the care of cancer patients were named Top Doctor of the Year in *New Jersey Monthly* magazine, including:
  - Edward Soffen, MD, radiation oncology
  - Susan McManus, MD, breast surgery
- Oren Cahlon, MD, radiation oncology, joined Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



Robert Wise, president and CEO of Hunterdon Healthcare, Mary Vecchio and Eileen Williamson of *Nursing Spectrum*

## Annual Goals and Objectives

### Community Outreach

Research has demonstrated that some types of cancer are preventable, while others, if detected in the early stages, are curable. The physicians, staff and volunteers of Hunterdon Healthcare are committed to educating the public about cancer prevention and early detection, providing screening and education programs in community, corporate, school and faith-based forums. As our community becomes more culturally diverse, many programs and educational materials are offered in Spanish as well as English.

#### Cancer Screenings

- ✓ Physicians and staff conducted cancer screenings for:
  - Oral Cancers
    - ✓ 25 screened (increased 12% from 2008)
    - ✓ 0 diagnosed
  - Skin Cancer
    - ✓ 105 screened (decreased 30% from 2008)
    - ✓ 16 diagnosed/treated
  - Prostate Cancer
    - ✓ 62 screened (increased 70% from 2008)
    - ✓ 1 diagnosed

#### Cancer Education, Community Outreach and Support Programs

- ✓ Community education sessions were offered on the following topics:
  - Breast Cancer Education
  - Cancer 101: The Impact on Body Image
  - Cancer Prevention and Early Detection
  - Cancer Risk Reduction
  - Cancer Risks for Women
  - Cancer Screening Guidelines Update
  - Cervical Cancer Awareness
  - Colorectal Cancer Awareness
  - Head and Neck Cancer Awareness
  - Nutrition for the Older Adult
  - Prostate Cancer Education
  - Reducing Cancer Risks for the African American
  - Skin Cancer Awareness
  - Sun Safety
  - Tobacco Cessation
  - Wigs and Accessories/Look Good Feel Better
  - Women's Cancer Concerns
  - Community Health Fairs
    - ✓ Exxon Mobil Corporate Health Fair – General Cancer Information
    - ✓ Senior Health Fair – General Cancer Information
    - ✓ Women's Day of Health – Women's Cancer Concerns

- ✓ Diabetes Fair – General Cancer Information
- ✓ Baby Fair – Sun Safety and Tobacco Cessation
- ✓ Hunterdon Community Day of Health – Cancer Risk Reduction
- ✓ Music Under the Stars – HRCC Services and Lifestyle Choices
- ✓ Somerset County 4H Fair – Cancer Prevention and Early Detection
- ✓ Hunterdon Medical Center Lobby Display – Breast Cancer Awareness
- ✓ Latino Health Fair – Cancer Awareness and Early Detection

## **Grants**

- ✓ Hunterdon Medical Center was again awarded the Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) Grant from the NJ Department of Health and Human Services.
  - The program provides comprehensive outreach, education and screening services for breast, cervical, colorectal and prostate cancers.
    - ✓ Through the CEED grant, 235 under-and uninsured residents of Hunterdon County were screened for cervical, breast, prostate and colon cancer. This represents an 18% increase in the number of people screened over 2009.
- ✓ The Susan G. Komen for the Cure awarded Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center a grant to address the importance of woman age 65 or older continuing with annual screening mammograms.
  - With funding provided by the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 1,840 women received breast cancer education regarding the importance of older women maintaining the behavior of obtaining a yearly screening mammogram, and nine breast cancers were diagnosed.
  - As a result of this grant project, 407 more women over the age of 65 were screened for breast cancer over 2008 data.

## **Clinical**

### **Care Coordination/Patient Navigation**

- ✓ Cancer Care Coordinators Pamela Vlahakis, RN, BSN and Lori McMullen, RN, MSN provide coordination of cancer care services to patients from the time of a suspicious diagnostic finding through final diagnosis and treatment. In 2009, the Care Coordinators assisted 647 patients, providing assistance for diagnostic testing, surgical appointments, second opinions and patient education. Two hundred of these patients had a confirmed cancer diagnosis that required additional treatment and services.



Lori McMullen and Pamela Vlahakis

## Quality and Patient Care Improvements

- ✓ Thyroid Study
  - Twenty-three cases of thyroid cancer were diagnosed at Hunterdon Healthcare in 2009, with 83% of the cases diagnosed as early stage disease.
  - Review of 2009 thyroid data showed 289 thyroid biopsies were performed by radiologists.
    - ✓ Four percent of the biopsies resulted in a malignancy, which is consistent with reported data from around the country.
  - Although the number of thyroid cancers diagnosed and treated at Hunterdon Healthcare is low, stage of disease at diagnosis was comparable with the State and National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) rates and five year survival rates comparing Hunterdon Healthcare to community cancer centers and national data demonstrate comparable outcomes (see attached graph).
- ✓ Breast Study
  - According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer accounted for 15% of all cancer cases diagnosed in Hunterdon County in 2009, but represents approximately 30% of the total cases treated at Hunterdon Healthcare.
  - More than half the breast cancer patients diagnosed and treated at Hunterdon Healthcare were between the ages of 30 and 60.
  - Eighty-five percent of the patients diagnosed with breast cancer at Hunterdon Healthcare had early stage disease.
  - Hunterdon County's incidence rates for breast cancer are slightly higher than state rates, but mortality rates in Hunterdon County are slightly lower than the state rates.
  - Hunterdon County also has a slightly higher percentage of breast cancer cases diagnosed at an early stage than state averages; early diagnosis improves survival rates.
  - Healthcare providers at Hunterdon Healthcare follow national recommendations for the treatment of breast cancer. Hunterdon Healthcare monitored and demonstrated 100% compliance with the following national quality metrics:
    - ✓ Radiation therapy was administered within 1 year (365 days) of diagnosis for women under age 70 receiving breast conserving surgery for breast cancer.
    - ✓ Tamoxifen or third generation aromatase inhibitor was considered or administered within 1 year (365 days) of diagnosis for women with AJCC T1c, Stage II or III hormone receptor positive breast cancer.
    - ✓ Patients with Stage I-IIb breast cancer received either axillary node dissection or Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy (SLNB) at the time of surgery (lumpectomy or mastectomy).
  - Five year survival rates for patients treated at Hunterdon Healthcare exceed community cancer center and national averages for all stages of disease (see attached graph).

## **Cancer Registry**

Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center's Cancer Registry is an information system used for the collection, management and analysis of data relating to patients diagnosed with cancer and treated at Hunterdon Healthcare. The information is reported to the New Jersey State Cancer Registry and to the National Cancer Data Base. The data is used by these agencies to evaluate cancer trends as well as in analytic research at the state and national level. Only aggregate information is analyzed and published. Patient confidentiality is strictly maintained.

For the second year in a row, the New Jersey State Cancer Registry presented Hunterdon Healthcare with their Award for Excellence in Timely and Complete Cancer Case Reporting of the Year 2008 Data.

### **Research**

Cancer researchers use the information gathered through Hunterdon Healthcare's registry and similar registries from around the country to investigate the cause, diagnoses and treatment of cancer. With input from local, state and national programs, the Cancer Registry serves as a primary resource for cancer diagnosis, treatment and survival statistics. Cancer Registry data is also utilized in long-term survival studies such as the 2009 thyroid and breast studies.

### **Cancer Conferences**

Cancer conferences are interdisciplinary meetings that provide a forum for communication between the managing physician, specialty physicians and support staff concerning diagnostic and treatment decisions relating to Hunterdon Healthcare's cancer patients. The interdisciplinary team approach to patient management and treatment enables the medical specialists to stay abreast of the most current treatment modalities, make timely referrals for clinical and support services and to ensure seamless care for patients. NCCN Guidelines are reviewed and discussed at cancer conferences along with AJCC staging.

### **Follow up**

Annual lifetime follow-up of former patients is a very important part of the program. This is accomplished through letters or phone calls to attending physicians. Currently, 4,020 Hunterdon Healthcare patients are in active follow-up. The Commission on Cancer requires that 90% follow-up rates be maintained, and the Cancer Registry has maintained this rate in 2009.

## **Program Affiliation**

Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and is a partner of Fox Chase Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-designated facility. Through its partnership with the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center offers leading edge services for the prevention, early detection and successful treatment of many cancers.

## Spotlight on Family Risk Assessment Program

Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center has risk assessment programs for breast, ovarian, gastrointestinal, melanoma and prostate cancers, as well as other cancers associated with hereditary syndromes such as uterine, pancreatic, kidney, bladder and brain.

Although only five to ten percent of all cancers are associated with an inherited abnormality, knowing and understanding individual and family history is essential for prevention and early detection of certain cancers. Through extensive education and counseling, the Family Risk Assessment Program (FRAP) staff works with participants to guide them through the often confusing and intimidating world of cancer genetics.

Staff assist participants to obtain a thorough and accurate family history, which can then be used to determine an appropriate course of action. FRAP staff navigate participants through the entire process, assisting with communication with family members, coordinating referrals, gathering documents, scheduling tests and procedures and coordinating with primary care and other physicians. This level of care coordination ensures that services are delivered in a timely manner, and that all information is protected by the highest privacy standards.

At Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center, we are actively working to prevent cancer through increased screening, education and risk reduction measures. Our Family Risk Assessment Program is one more tool Hunterdon offers to help keep our community healthy.



Jackie Hale, Coordinator Family Risk Assessment Program and Rachel Rando, Genetic Counselor

## **Important Phone Numbers**

For more information about the cancer services or programs at Hunterdon Healthcare, please call:

### **Administrative Director, Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center**

Barbara Tofani – (908) 788-6508

### **Breast Care Program**

Pamela Vlahakis – (908) 237-5447

### **Cancer Registry**

Mary Stamets – (908) 788-6544

Linda Michael – (908) 788-6630

### **Care Coordination**

Lori McMullen – (908) 237-7079

Pamela Vlahakis – (908) 237-5447

### **Community Outreach and Education**

Maria Bononato – (908) 237-7039 (Spanish)

Mary Vecchio – (908) 788-2546

Marge Vellotti – (908) 237-5409 (CEED program coordinator)

### **Family Risk Assessment Program**

Jackie Hale – (908) 237-2330 ext. 1

Rachel Rando, Genetic Counselor – (908) 788-2566

### **Medical Oncology**

Main number – (908) 788-6514

Luanne Lange – (908) 237-2325

### **Nutrition**

Lori Wyble – (908) 237-5496

### **Psychosocial Oncology**

Elizabeth Heard – (908) 237-2337

### **Radiation Oncology**

Main number – (908) 788-6547

Keith McClain – (908) 237-2323

### Cancer Committee

The Cancer Committee oversees all the cancer-related programs and activities of Hunterdon Healthcare. The 2009 Cancer Committee members included:

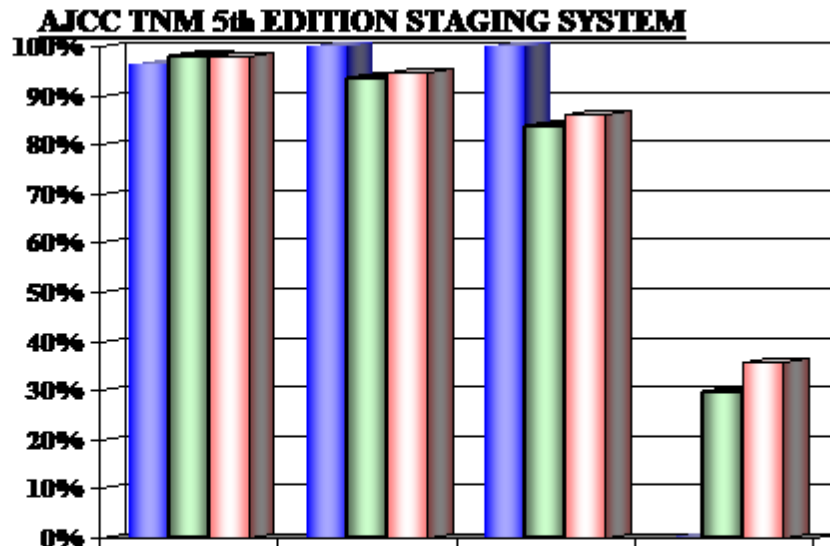
MEMBER	SPECIALTY
Brian Quinn, MD – Chairman	Medical Oncology
Diane Applebaum, RN	Director, 3 West
Samuel Bae, MD	Gastroenterology
Maureen Basius, D. O.	Pathology
Sue Bauman, MD	Director, Hospice and Palliative Care
Myron Bednar, MD, QI Coordinator	Medical Oncology
Kenneth Blankstein, MD, Cancer Conference Coordinator	Medical Oncology
Gina Byrns, LCS	Behavioral Health
Michele Capossela	American Cancer Society
Christopher Cassetty, MD	Dermatology
David Cohn, MD	Pulmonary
Steven Diamond, MD, Cancer Registry Quality Coordinator	Pathology
Jim DeVries	Director, Pastoral Care
Robyn Edwards	Coordinator, Oncology M/B Services
Rene Falls, RN, OCN	Clinical Research Nurse
Andrew Greenberg, MD	Radiation Oncology
Michelle Grove, MD	Gynecology
Jackie Hale, RN, CNS, AOCN	Prevention and Risk Assessment Nurse
Carla Jardim, MD, Community Outreach Coordinator / Physician Liaison	Family Practice
Michele Kamin, RT (T)	Manager, Radiation Oncology
Allen Kern, MD	Urology
Carol Klein, MA, CCC-S, MPA	Director, Rehabilitation Services
Claire Long, RN, BSN, CPHQ	Director, Quality Improvement/Risk Management
Pat Longworth, RN, BSN	Assistant Director, 3 West
Mark Malzberg, MD	Medical Imaging
Keith McClain, RT	Radiation Therapist/Manager, Rad Onc
Janice Pellegrino	Pharmacy
Robert Pickoff, MD	Chief Medical Officer, Administration
Leo Ryan	Director, Medical Imaging Services
Elaine Sein, RN, BSN, OCN	Fox Chase Cancer Center Partners
Jessica Snell, RN	Oncology Unit QI
Mary Stamets, CTR	Cancer Registry Manager
Barbara Tofani, RN, MSN	Director, HRCC
Lori Wyble, MS, RD	Oncology Dietician
Pedro Vieira, MD, FACS	General Surgery
Pamela Vlahakis, RN, CEN, CRN	Coordinator, Breast Care Program

**HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER  
 1998 - 2002 THYROID CANCER  
 FIVE YEAR OBSERVED SURVIVAL RATE BY STAGE  
 COMPARED TO \*COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS AND \*NATIONAL  
 \*NATIONAL CANCER DATA BASE PATIENTS DIAGNOSED IN 1998 - 2002  
 \*National Data Reported from 1,368 Hospitals  
 \*Community Cancer Centers/ Data Reported from 480 Hospitals**

<b>THYROID</b>	<b>HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER</b>		<b>COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS</b>		<b>NATIONAL</b>	
	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Stage 1	28	96.3%	3,730	97.8%	34,211	98.1%
Stage 2	7	100.0%	1,528	93.4%	12,660	94.7%
Stage 3	2	100.0%	812	83.9%	7,467	86.2%
Stage 4	0	0.0%	236	29.6%	2,014	35.7%
<b>All Cases</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>6,306</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>56,352</b>	<b>93.5%</b>

Source: NCDB, Commission on Cancer, ACoS/ACS.Survival Reports, 2010

**THYROID CANCER 5 YEAR OBSERVED SURVIVAL RATES  
HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER - COMMUNITY CANCER  
CENTERS - NATIONAL**



	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
<b>■ Hunterdon Medical Center</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>■ Community Cancer Centers</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>83.9%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>
<b>■ National</b>	<b>98.1%</b>	<b>94.7%</b>	<b>86.2%</b>	<b>35.7%</b>

**HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER**  
**1998-2002 BREAST CANCER**  
**FIVE YEAR OBSERVED SURVIVAL RATE BY STAGE COMPARED TO**  
**\*COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS AND \*NATIONAL CANCER DATA BASE**  
**PATIENTS DIAGNOSED 1998-2002**  
**\*National Data Reported from 1,404 Hospitals \*Community Cancer Centers/Data**  
**Reported from 480 Hospitals**

**HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER**

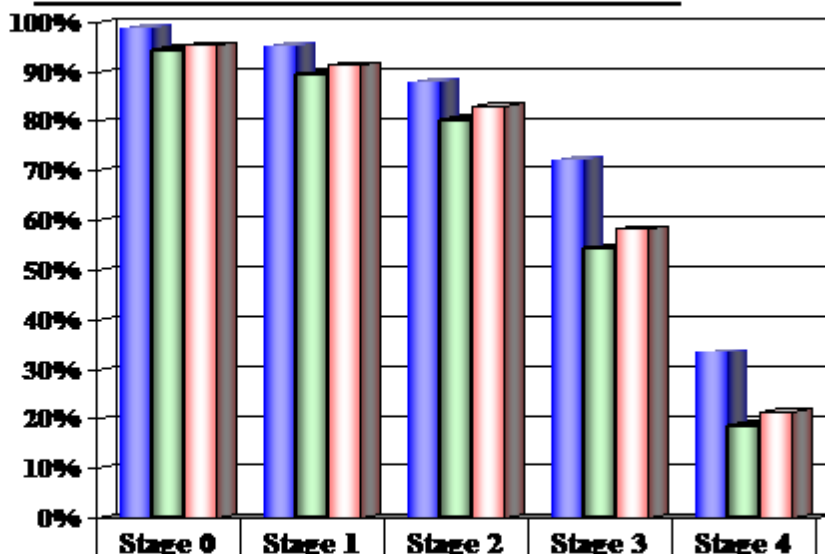
**COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS**

**NATIONAL**

<u>BREAST</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Stage 0	83	98.7%	14,977	94.2%	110,357	95.3%
Stage 1	165	95.0%	37,949	89.2%	251,418	91.3%
Stage 2	126	87.9%	30,254	80.2%	200,423	83.0%
Stage 3	22	72.1%	6,766	54.2%	40,978	58.3%
Stage 4	12	33.3%	3,222	18.5%	19,283	21.4%
<u>All Stages</u>	<u>408</u>	<u>90.5%</u>	<u>93,168</u>	<u>82.0%</u>	<u>622,459</u>	<u>85.0%</u>

Source: NCDB, Commission on Cancer, ACoS/ACS.Survival Reports, 8/24/10

**BREAST CANCER 5 YEAR OBSERVED SURVIVAL RATES**  
**HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER - COMMUNITY CANCER**  
**CENTERS - NATIONAL**  
**AJCC TNM 5th EDITION STAGING SYSTEM**



<b>■ Hunterdon Medical Center</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>95.0%</b>	<b>87.9%</b>	<b>72.1%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>
<b>■ Community Cancer Centers</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>89.2%</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>54.2%</b>	<b>18.5%</b>
<b>■ National</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>91.3%</b>	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>58.3%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>

