

Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center

Indianapolis, Indiana

IU School of Medicine and Clarian Health partner to create a state-of-the-art facility

The Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center is the only NCI-designated cancer center in Indiana that provides patient care. At the IU Simon Cancer Center, located on the 80-acre campus of the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, more than 300 physicians and researchers work collaboratively to provide state-of-the-science cancer care and help bring new treatments from bench

to bedside. Each year the program receives about 38,000 outpatient visits and 4,100 inpatient visits.

With the opening of a new cancer center in 2008, for the first time inpatient and outpatient adult cancer care is brought together under one roof. The new 405,000-square-foot \$150 million facility—the culmination of years of planning, innovation, and creativity—is a partnership between the IU School of Medicine and Clarian

Health. The relationship brings together the nationally recognized healthcare delivery system of Clarian Health with the scientific resources of the IU School of Medicine, the second largest medical school in the United States.

“The completion of the building strengthens our statewide strategy to raise the level of cancer care for all Indiana residents by applying evidence-based standards of care, increasing participation in clinical research protocols, and providing educational venues for physicians and other healthcare providers,” said Fuad Hammoudeh, cancer program administrator, Clarian Health.

Meeting Growing Needs

The impetus for the new patient care facility began about five years ago. “Both Clarian Health and IU School of Medicine assessed the cancer services available on the Indianapolis campus in consideration of the increase we expected in both the aging population and the demand for cancer services,” Hammoudeh explained. The objective was to improve patient access to services by offering seamless inpatient and



The IU Simon Cancer Center offers both patients and visitors a soothing environment.

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Vital Statistics

- Total hospital bedsize: 378
- Dedicated inpatient cancer unit beds: 80
- Number of new analytic cases per year: 4,144

Selected Patient Support Services

- CompleteLife Program (offered to patients free of charge)
- Financial counseling
- Oncology pharmacy consult
- Housing assistance for patients receiving care and families

outpatient care provided in the downtown Clarian/IU facilities—Indiana University Hospital, Methodist Hospital, and Riley Hospital for Children—as well as affiliated facilities across the state of Indiana. Planners solicited input from an active patient advisory committee on what patients and families wanted to see in the new cancer center’s design.

From the moment visitors enter the IU Simon Cancer Center patient care facility, they experience a uniquely designed healthcare environment. In fact, the building’s interior design by Maregatti Interiors of Indianapolis has received several awards including best of show and first place in the healthcare and assisted living category at the 2008 International Interior Design Association’s IDEA Celebration. Overall, the building took the coveted Monumental Award, presented by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc., as the most significant project of the year in Marion County.

The new 5-story building houses 80 private patient rooms; 2 infusion “pods” with 34 chairs and room for expansion of another pod for a total of 60 chairs; 6 to 8 operating rooms with shell space for expansion to 14; radiology and imaging facilities; a retail pharmacy; a gift shop; and a café. Both valet parking and nearby dedicated patient parking are available.

Surgery is located on the facility’s lower level. Radiology and imaging services (CT, PET/CT, MRI) are on the first floor. The second floor houses the outpatient hematology clinic, the outpatient women’s clinic, and the infusion center along with a dedicated oncology pharmacy and an investigational drug pharmacy for patients on clinical trials. The third floor is an adult hematology/oncology inpatient unit. The fifth floor is the surgical intensive care unit. Currently, the fourth floor is shell space for future expansion.

Surrounded by Care

Exceptional design features reflect the level of care taken in planning the infusion services area. The current 2 infusion “pods” have a total of 34

chairs. Patients can choose to receive care in a private room equipped with a chair or bed, or in one of the cubicles that offer varying levels of privacy. Each cubicle is designed with sliding glass panels reminiscent of Japanese shoji screens. These panels can be extended to create more privacy or retracted for more social interaction. All cubicle chairs are situated to offer a view of the rooftop garden and to allow nurses to have direct eye contact with patients at all times. A uniquely homey touch is the inclusion of a fireplace within the infusion area. Four recliners offer a cozy seating option around the hearth.

The IU Simon Cancer Center offers interdisciplinary clinics for breast, thoracic, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, head and neck, melanoma, neuro-oncology, sarcoma, and testis cancer. These clinics are facilitated by nurse coordinators and allow patients to see physicians from multiple disciplines in one visit, combining treatment, research, and supportive-care expertise for each patient. Interdisciplinary treatment team members may include: medical oncologist; radiation oncologist; surgical oncologist; pathologist; hematologist; molecular geneticist; oncology nurse; physical therapist, occupational therapist, and/or speech therapist; oncology social worker; psychiatrist; and dietitian.

Personalizing cancer care to meet patients’ individual needs, the IU Simon Cancer Center works collaboratively with Clarian Senior Health to provide a clinic focused on the geriatric cancer patient. The clinic is available to IU Simon Cancer Center outpatients aged 65 or older who are being considered for treatment of cancer or a blood disorder or who are currently undergoing treatment of cancer or a blood disorder. The clinic is headed by a specialist in gerontology and offers patients access to interdisciplinary care.

Dedicated to improving the overall well-being of patients and their families, the CompleteLife Program offers a wide range of supportive-care services including: support groups, mindfulness-based stress reduction, nutritional counseling, psychological counseling, financial counseling, psychiatric care, social work services, and spiritual care. Services for enhancing self-care and well-being include: oncology pharmacy consultation,

appearance consultation, mastectomy fitting, art therapy, music therapy, and massage therapy.

Access to Cutting-Edge Treatment

Attached to the new IU Simon Cancer Center building is the Indiana Cancer Pavilion, an 89,000-square-foot facility housing radiation oncology services and some additional outpatient care services. Here, state-of-the-art radiation oncology treatment modalities are available including Gamma Knife, SRS, IGRT, IMRT, 3D conformal radiation therapy, HDR, and prostate seed implant. The IU Simon Cancer Center also partners with the IU School of Medicine’s Department of Radiation Oncology and the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute (MPRI) in Bloomington, Indiana, to offer proton beam therapy.

The IU Simon Cancer Center has received international recognition for treatment of breast, genitourinary, thoracic, hematologic, and gastrointestinal cancers. Currently, the IU Simon Cancer Center has \$62.8 million in external research funding, including \$14.8 million from the National Cancer Institute and \$25.1 million from other National Institutes of Health organizations. The cancer center’s more than 200 researchers are working in a wide range of areas including experimental and developmental therapeutics, breast cancer, cancer control, and immunology. The IU Simon Cancer Center currently offers approximately 300 clinical trials for pediatric and adult cancers, and accrues 17 percent of new patients to clinical trials each year. The IU Simon Cancer Center partners with Hoosier Oncology Group (HOG) to collaborate with community oncologists to provide physician-initiated trials in the community.

The patient-centric design and exceptional amenities offered at the new IU Simon Cancer Center offer patients care in a uniquely soothing and restorative environment. But ultimately what brings the best of both high-tech and high-touch care to patients and their families is “our researchers, physicians, and our staff who provide the care. They are really what make the difference in our cancer program,” said Hammoudeh. 📍