

spotlight

The Patricia D. and M. Scot Kaufman Cancer Center Bel Air, Maryland



The Patricia D. and M. Scot Kaufman Cancer Center at Upper Chesapeake Health is part of a comprehensive cancer center in partnership with the University of Maryland Medical System, serving the residents of northeastern Maryland. In September 2012, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health (UM UCH) and the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center (UMGCC) signed an affiliation agreement to enhance cancer care services for patients in and around Harford County. This partnership both strengthened UM UCH's multidisciplinary cancer services and expanded patient access to clinical trials. Affiliation between UMGCC and the Patricia D. and M. Scot Kaufman Cancer Center brings the most advanced cancer therapies, state-of-the-art technology, enhanced supportive care services, and clinical research trials into one centralized location in Harford County.

The cancer programs at both of UM UCH's hospitals—UM Harford Memorial Hospital and UM Upper Chesapeake Medical Center—have received accreditation from the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer (CoC).

The Kaufman Cancer Center officially opened its doors in October 2013. The cancer center is named after two visionary philanthropists who reside in Harford County and are strong advocates of improving cancer care in their community. As leaders of the "Hope and Healing Close to Home, Campaign for the Cancer Center," Pat and Scot Kaufman raised a total of \$17.5 million for the new facility.

Radiation Oncology

At the Kaufman Cancer Center, radiation therapy is directed by a highly trained team of experts from the University of Maryland department of radiation oncology who helped develop the Varian TrueBeam System and Trilogy™ System with Rapid Arc, which allows the team to handle even the most advanced or complex cases. Radiation oncologists also have access to Flexitron afterloading platform technology, which helps improve safety and efficiency of brachytherapy treatment delivery.

Medical Oncology

Upper Chesapeake Hematology/Oncology is a hospital-employed medical oncology group with five board-certified medical oncologists and has been a mainstay in the community since 1984. Phil Nivatpumin, MD, is the medical director for the Kaufman Cancer Center and serves as the lead in all program development. In addition, all medical oncologists in the practice have taken on leadership roles in specific areas, such as research, infusion, breast cancer, and tumor conferences. The oncologists also serve as volunteer faculty with the University of Maryland, ensuring our patients have access to the most advanced treatments.

Infusion Center

The Kaufman Cancer Center's infusion area was designed to provide maximum comfort for patients and allow for maximum visual oversight by infusion nursing staff. The infusion area has 27 treatment bays, two private rooms, and one procedure room. There are on-site lab services, Fast Track chairs for

injections, and an in-house pharmacy. The infusion center is staffed by seven ONS chemo-certified nurses, four of whom hold OCN certification. Directly adjacent to the treatment bays is a rooftop garden.

Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinics

The Kaufman Cancer Center offers multidisciplinary cancer clinics for patients with lung and breast cancers and their families, as well as clinics for gynecologic oncology, palliative care, and a survivorship clinic in a modified format. These clinics allow an interdisciplinary team of specialists to coordinate with each other and patients and their families to create a comprehensive treatment plan in a timely fashion. The patients can leave the clinic with a consensus opinion on their cancer treatment plan, as well as with a wealth of information enhancing their decision-making capabilities, and information on accessing clinical trials available in partnership with UMGCC.

In addition, through an agreement with the University of Maryland, the cancer center offers on-site genetic counseling.

Breast Center

The UM UCH Breast Center, which is located within the Kaufman Cancer Center, is staffed with a fellowship-trained breast surgeon, a reconstructive and general surgery expert, and specialists in oncology, radiology, pathology, and radiation therapy, providing patients with comprehensive, high-quality services in one convenient location.

With advanced diagnostic imaging technology, including digital screening, diagnostic and 3D mammograms, breast

ultrasound, breast MRI, surgical and nonsurgical biopsies, and DEXA bone density screenings, Kaufman Cancer Center and the Upper Chesapeake Health Imaging Center, in partnership with Advanced Radiology Services, provide cutting-edge screening and diagnostic services.

Under the direction of the medical director of breast surgery, the High-Risk Breast Cancer Clinic at the UM UCH Breast Center focuses on prevention and early detection of breast cancer through risk-factor modification and screening recommendations tailored to each individual patient. The surgeon, nurse practitioner, and nurse navigator work together to provide a comprehensive network of services to ensure every patient has breast care resources available in one location.

Dresher Family Healing Garden

The Dresher Family Healing Garden, located in the center of the Kaufman Cancer Center, was designed for meditation and integrative health. The garden includes seasonal flowers, benches, a labyrinth, reflecting ball, and waterfall. The garden theme continues throughout the cancer center in the natural landscape and artwork. A rooftop garden beside the infusion center continues to emphasize the healing aspects of nature where individuals can take a break from the medical environment for outside calm and reflection.

Cancer LifeNet & Support Services

Since the program first started in 2006, the Cancer LifeNet (CLN) team has helped patients cope with their cancer from diagnosis, through treatment, and well into recovery. Centrally located on the first floor of the cancer center, CLN includes oncology nurse navigators and oncology-certified social workers who provide critical health education and support to residents of Harford and Cecil counties at no cost, regardless of their cancer diagnosis or where they are receiving medical treatment. The nurse navigators are supported by a network



The Cancer LifeNet team provides free navigator and supportive care services to individuals and their families helping them balance work, family, and cancer treatment.

of specially trained volunteers who have firsthand experience with cancer and provide telephone outreach to patients.

Financial counseling services are available to assist oncology patients and their families with understanding out-of-pocket medical expenses and helping them locate options and programs that might be of assistance in managing these costs.

An oncology-certified dietitian is available to monitor the nutritional effects of cancer and treatment in an effort to assist individuals with regaining optimal health.

All support groups in the Cancer LifeNet program are led by experienced healthcare professionals who strive to create a nurturing and safe environment for patients and families. Whether newly diagnosed, in treatment, remission, or experiencing recurrence, individuals are invited to share common experiences and receive education, information, and support.


Numerous disease-site-specific support groups are available, as well as:

- Just for Me (for patients with advanced cancer)
- Look Good, Feel Better
- CLIMB™ *Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery* (for children who have a family member with cancer).

Integrated Therapy

CLN offers a variety of complementary therapies as part of an integrative approach to the care of those experiencing and

recovering from cancer. Complementary therapies are used to reduce symptoms and adverse effects of anti-cancer therapies and to promote overall health and wellness of the mind, body, and spirit. In 2014 the cancer center began working closely with Maryland University of Integrated Health in an effort to bring student interns on site and offer a wider range of services such as acupuncture, individual and group yoga, life coaches, nutritional management, massage therapy, mindful meditation, and Reiki and healing touch.

Cancer LifeNet is entirely funded by donations and fundraising by The Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation, Cancer Care Alliance, and a Dresher Foundation grant. 

Select Support Services

- Integrative therapies
- Oncology nutrition
- Spiritual care
- Financial counseling
- Speech & physical therapy

Number of analytic cases in 2013:
1,042