

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

Exceptional Patient Care: Highlighting MMC's Specialties *Part 1 – Comprehensive Cancer Care Close to Home*

Maine Medical Center is continuously putting patients and families first by investing in our three-part mission: Caring for our community, Educating tomorrow's caregivers, Researching new ways to provide care. Now we're taking time to highlight the hard work of specialties that live that mission. For the next eight issues of What's Happening, we'll share how each specialty is exceeding national standards of patient care through hard work and dedication, as recognized by the U.S. News and World Report's Best

Hospital rankings.

Comprehensive cancer care closer to home — that's what patients get when they turn to MMC for cancer treatment.

"It's not an individual but a team approach. From the multidisciplinary tumor conferences that discuss treatment plans, to the team that works directly with the patient, especially the nurse navigators," says Barbara Grillo, Vice President of

Oncology. MMC operates the only cancer program within the state with accreditation from the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer as a teaching hospital.

This team includes physician sub-specialized specialists from medical oncology, surgery, radiation therapy, pathology, pulmonary medicine, gastroenterology, palliative care, cancer genetics, as well as navigators, research nurses, dieticians,

social workers, and other support staff. This comprehensive coverage means patients can stay close to home and their loved ones, an important factor to many patients' wellbeing.

"Cancer isn't a 'once-and-done' health problem," says Grillo. "It often requires treatment over a period of time."

In addition, due in large

Continued on back

Former First Lady Barbara Bush Visits Patients at BBCH

Former First Lady Barbara Bush visited The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital on August 4.

Mrs. Bush read a book to the children, answered their questions, and brought her little dog, Minnie, to play with the kids. She also visited those families who could not leave their rooms.

The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital was named in honor of Mrs. Bush's long-standing commitment to children's issues in the state of Maine.



PEOPLE NEWS



Elizabeth Blazick, M.D.

Elizabeth Blazick, M.D., has joined Maine Medical Partners – Surgical Care in Portland.

Dr. Blazick comes to Maine from Boston, where she

completed both her General Surgery residency and Vascular and Endovascular fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She graduated from the University of South Florida College of Medicine in 2007, where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha academic honor society and the Arnold P. Gold Humanism Honor Society. She's a recipient of the Society for Vascular Surgery Resident Scholarship and did disaster response volunteer work in Biloxi, MS, after Hurricane Katrina.



Lee Hallagan, M.D.

Lee Hallagan, M.D., has joined Maine Medical Partners – Surgical Care in Portland. He is arriving in Maine after completing a Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at

Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Dr. Hallagan received his medical degree from the University of Rochester (N.Y.) School of Medicine in 2008, and underwent residency right here at Maine Medical Center. He was awarded the Tufts University School of Medicine teaching citation for 2011-2012, and went on a medical mission to Owerri, Nigeria in 2011.

"Exceptional Patient Care" From front

part to advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, more patients are living with cancer and require services that address the specific needs of cancer survivors. The Center treats the patient along the continuum of care, from early detection and prevention to survivorship and palliative care, as appropriate.

This full-spectrum care is clearly evident in MMC's breast cancer program, the first program in the state to

receive accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. The Breast Care Center is a modern, full-service facility that provides comprehensive breast health care, including screening, early detection, diagnostic imaging services, specialist consultation for benign breast conditions and second opinions, and treatment of breast cancer in a warm and welcoming environment.

"We treat more patients with cancer than any other hospital in Maine (including some of the most complex

cases in the state)," Barbara says. "That volume gives us a depth of experience, and we use it to tailor each individual's treatment plan."

In addition to the Commission on Cancer, the program is fully accredited by the American College of Radiology for Radiation Oncology and is recognized as a Center of Excellence for its Mammography Program.

The program is led by highly skilled physicians, many of whom have achieved the highest levels of training in

their subspecialties. In addition, MMC's emphasis on research allows physicians and patients access to clinical trials that can provide the latest approaches to treatment.

"It is a true privilege to work with such a talented group of professionals who are dedicated to providing the very best cancer care to our patients," says Eric Larsen, M.D., Interim Medical Director, Oncology. "Our program gives our patients cutting edge treatments in a family centered and compassionate way."



Maine Medical Center
MaineHealth

WHAT'S HAPPENING IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Comments, questions, and story ideas:
Chelsea Miller, Communications Specialist
(207)662-4096 millec7@mmc.org