

LRCC Nurses Recognized for Outstanding Performance



Robin Stewart, RN, PhD, OCN, CCR, Manager of Clinical Research, received the prestigious 2010 OCN® of the Year from Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation for her significant contributions to oncology nursing and service. There are 29,000 oncology certified nurses in the U.S., and we are proud that Robin has been distinguished with this top honor.



Jan Bauer, RN, Clinical Trials Research Nurse, has been named 2010 Clinical/Non-hospital Nurse of the Year by the Polk County Nursing Consortium. "Offering hope to patients and providing them with an option that may not be available otherwise – a clinical trial that could potentially benefit them – that's my favorite part of my job," says Bauer. Congratulations, Jan!



LaTonya Smith, LPN, I.V. Certified, was named 2010 LPN Nurse of Hope by the Oncology Nursing Society of Polk County. The announcement was made during LRCC's Cancer Survivors Day event. LaTonya was nominated by Dr. Richard Boothby for her "compassion and caring with which she treats all types of patients" while running his gynecologic oncology clinic. Well done, LaTonya!



**LAKELAND REGIONAL
CANCER CENTER®**
Advancing the Cure. Committed to Care.

Post Office Box 95448
Lakeland, FL 33804-9850



new directions

volume eight, summer 2010

GROWING CANCER SERVICES FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Despite great strides in cancer care, the need for improved treatment options, new technologies and greater specialization among oncologists continues to grow. And so, at Lakeland Regional Cancer Center, we're expanding our services and care capabilities to help patients more effectively overcome the disease. Through research, innovative technologies and greater expertise afforded by our specialists, we're having a significant impact on cancer care in Polk County.

By summer's end we will install the latest state-of-the-art linear accelerator, the Varian Trilogy™ system, that will provide patients with more options than ever for radiation therapy and complex neurological procedures. In addition, three new doctors will have joined our team, offering added expertise in specialized cancer surgery and breast cancer treatment. And, as always, we're still exploring and actively participating in clinical trials that have the potential to change the way cancer is treated.

When it comes to cancer, growth is not good. But when it comes to new growth in services, technologies and expertise, it's fantastic. Find out what Lakeland Regional Cancer Center has to offer, whether it's the latest life-saving treatment, one-on-one specialized care or promising research programs. Only at Lakeland Regional Cancer Center will you find Polk County's most comprehensive cancer care.

Sincerely,

Kim Walker
LRCC Administrator



LRCC'S DR. GRAHAM GREENE NAMED "BEST DOCTOR.®"

Dr. Graham Greene, urologic oncologist, has been named one of 2009-2010's "Best Doctors.®" The Best Doctors survey is conducted to identify specialists who are considered by fellow physicians to be the most skilled in their fields and most qualified for reviewing and treating complex medical conditions. The Best Doctors list is being excerpted in the August 2010 issue of Tampa Bay Metro Magazine. Congratulations to Dr. Greene, his patients and all of Polk County.

Our Mission: *Delivering exceptional cancer care through research, prevention, early detection, treatment and the relentless pursuit of a cure. To schedule a consultation or appointment, please call 863-603-6565 or toll-free 866-823-4405. For more information, visit our website at www.LakelandRegionalCancerCenter.com.*



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Meet Dr. Manuel A. Molina-Vega.



Join us in welcoming board-certified, fellowship-trained, surgical oncology specialist Dr. Manuel A. Molina-Vega to the Lakeland Regional Cancer Center team. His multi-area surgical expertise includes melanoma, sarcoma, esophageal and other digestive tract cancers. His training and experience will greatly complement the exceptional care already found at LRCC.

Dr. Molina-Vega brings expertise in minimally-invasive laparoscopic procedures for esophageal, stomach, pancreatic, liver, bile duct, and colon cancers. He also has a special interest in endocrine surgeries.

Dr. Molina-Vega previously served general surgical and cancer patients at Surgical Associates of Palm Beach County, and as Director of Surgical Oncology at the Lynn Cancer Institute in Boca Raton. He earned his Doctorate of Medicine from Facultad de Medicina Universidad de Panama where he graduated with honors.

When Eileen was diagnosed with **cancer for a third time,** she didn't think twice about where she'd go for care.

Eileen Davock thought cancer was finally behind her. Four years ago she was diagnosed with breast cancer and successfully underwent a lumpectomy and lymph node removal performed by Dr. Solange Pendas, surgical oncologist and leader of LRCC's breast program. When it was discovered last year that the breast cancer had returned, Dr. Pendas recommended a mastectomy to ensure eradication of the disease.

To be sure she was making the right decision regarding such a major surgery, Eileen sought a second opinion at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. "They told me there was no reason to come to Tampa when I had such great care at home," says Eileen. "They told me that I was already getting the best care possible with Dr. Pendas at Lakeland Regional Cancer Center."

In August of 2009, Eileen had the mastectomy followed by a PET scan, which revealed a spot on her colon. She then had a colonoscopy that revealed a mass too large to remove during the procedure. Unfortunately, while undergoing chemotherapy Eileen's health began to decline, and she was hospitalized for pneumonia. Removal of the colon mass would have to wait. It was then that she was introduced to Dr. Helen Chan, surgical oncologist at LRCC. "I knew I was in great hands with Dr. Chan because she works so closely with Dr. Pendas and the other doctors at LRCC."

Dr. Chan performed the area's first robotic colectomy on Eileen. The procedure was performed using one of LRMC's da Vinci® robotic surgical systems, allowing Dr. Chan greater agility and movement than the human hand. Although more of Eileen's colon and rectum had to be resected to ensure the entire mass was removed, Eileen is doing very well, and all lab reports have been negative for cancer.

"Dr. Pendas and Dr. Chan saved my life," says Eileen. She is thankful for the entire team of surgeons, nurses and chemotherapy staff that collaborated in providing her with the highest level of care. "I'm sure I was the topic of much conversation among the doctors at LRCC," says Eileen, "and I know I wouldn't be here without them."



Dr. Solange Pendas, patient Eileen Davock and Dr. Helen Chan.

The New Trilogy™ System.

3-D radiation technology that brings a whole new dimension to our care.

LRCC is pleased to bring you the Varian Trilogy™ system, a major advancement in cancer treatment technology. Trilogy's linear accelerator shapes radiation beams to match the shape of the targeted tumor, while its on-board imager allows physicians to accurately position patients for treatment and track the tumor during treatment. Unlike other radiation therapies, Trilogy automatically makes adjustments for patient movement as the radiation is delivered, so patients can breathe normally; and the need to interrupt treatment to adjust equipment is eliminated, reducing the patient's time on the table.

Trilogy can deliver all forms of external beam radiation, allowing physicians to use the most effective treatment for each type of cancer, including cancer in the head, neck and body. According to Dr. Kris Guerrier, LRCC radiation oncology specialist, "This new system will certainly change how efficiently and effectively we are able to treat a wider variety tumors, all with one machine."

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The Trilogy accelerator delivers conventional radiotherapy, IMRT, IGRT & stereotactic radiosurgery.

Specialized **lymphedema therapies** make cancer recovery less challenging.



**Luz Rivera, Physical Therapist,
Certified Lymphedema Specialist**

Cancer comes with many challenges. Fortunately there are a variety of rehabilitation therapies for managing or preventing the side effects associated with the disease, including lymphedema.

Lymphedema is a condition that occurs when the lymphatic drainage system is impaired and lymphatic fluid collects causing painful swelling. It is most often seen following surgery for cancer of the breast, lung and pelvic area, and for resections of lymphomas and melanomas. The certified lymphedema therapists at Lakeland Regional Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine Clinic help patients better manage their symptoms through highly specialized Complex Decongestive Therapy (CDT), and are the area's only therapists to provide onsite compression garment fitting. Lymphedema patients also benefit from one-on-one aqua therapy in the clinic's private, therapeutic pool. Aqua therapy aids in the movement of lymph, can decrease pain, strengthen muscle, and is currently not available at any other area facility.

Rehabilitation therapy can play a key role in the lives of cancer patients. And Lakeland Regional Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine Clinic is uniquely equipped to help them successfully overcome the effects of the disease. To find out more, ask your doctor or call 863-687-1189.