

Lung Cancer and Our Penn Integration • Paramedics Teach St. Lucia EMTs • Your Support is Still Needed

synapse

THE CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL MAGAZINE | 2014:VOL 1

It's 9 pm.
Her fever is 104°.
This can't wait
until tomorrow.
What do you do?

Our ED is now staffed by CHOP Pediatricians
when you need them most



Penn Medicine

CALENDAR

▼ ONGOING

Childbirth Education

Chester County Hospital offers a comprehensive suite of Childbirth Education Programs to meet the needs of first-time and experienced parents. We offer a wide variety of classes to help prepare the entire family in welcoming the newborn. The curriculum has been carefully designed to assist parents in obtaining the tools they will need for pregnancy, labor, birth, postpartum, breastfeeding, newborn care, parenting, and sibling preparedness. Classes are taught by experienced maternal/infant nurse educators who are certified in childbirth education.

To help fit parents' busy schedules, classes are offered on evenings and weekends, and held on the hospital campus.



Please note that pre-registration is required for all programs.

- Prepared Childbirth: Four-Week Series
- Prepared Childbirth: One-Day Class
- Childbirth Refresher
- Maternity Unit Tour (featuring our 24 new PRIVATE postpartum rooms)*
- Newborn Care
- Prenatal Breastfeeding
- Sibling Class

* Please note: A tour is included with the Prepared Childbirth One-Day and Four-Week Series.



HOSPITAL PROGRAMS & SUPPORT: Chester County Hospital offers various types of programs, courses, support groups and fundraising events. Here are a few of the many opportunities that will be taking place in the upcoming months.

Wellness Events & Fundraisers

Chester County Challenge for Cancer Bike Tour* – June 22

Hands-Only CPR Training (FREE) – June 25

Are You at Risk for Diabetes (FREE) – June 25

Living with Type 2 Diabetes (FREE) – June 25

It's a Weigh of Life – July 8

Reversing Pre-Diabetes – July 22

Living with Type 2 Diabetes (FREE) – August 12

Reversing Pre-Diabetes – August 13

Reversing Pre-Diabetes – September 16

The Heart + Sole 5K Run/Walk* – September 27

FORE Health Invitational* – September 30

Miracles & Memories Dinner – September 30

Chester County Day House Tour* – October 4

Bowker Memorial Tournament* – October 6

Dilworthtown Inn Wine Festival* – October 12

SHINE Gala* - November 8

* For fundraiser info, call 610.431.5329. Fundraisers organized by The Chester County Hospital Foundation solely benefit Chester County Hospital.

Registration

Register online or call **610.738.2300**, except where noted.

Please note: Some programs have a fee. Pre-registration is required for these programs. Because enrollment is ongoing, these events could potentially be filled. *Dates are subject to change.*

www.chestercountyhospital.org/synapse



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▼ DEAR NEIGHBORS



I have worked in health care since the late 1980's, and this year by far has been my most rewarding. From our partnership with Penn Medicine to the completion of our Lasko Tower, we have successfully navigated a path that strengthens our ability to serve the community. Our community's belief in the strength of Chester County Hospital remains strong and I am truly grateful for the support you have shown and continue to display.

We have much to look forward to in the next year. We will continue to recruit top-of-class physicians to complement our already high quality medical staff. We have broken ground on our Jennersville building project, which will come to be known as Penn Medicine Southern Chester County when it opens in the spring of next year. We are in the process of upgrading one of our catheterization laboratories. The footprint for new and much needed Operating Room space will be developed as we set out to overhaul and redesign our surgical platform. Combined, all of these initiatives will drive our growth plan and our bright future.

As we prepare to enter a new fiscal year, we will advance our mission by providing the best in care. We will focus on quality and efficiencies, and we will continue to build partnerships to provide coordinated care on all levels. We will do this because it is the right thing to do for our community, and I am confident we will succeed with the team we have here at Chester County Hospital.

Warm regards,

Michael J. Duncan
President and CEO

cover story

3.... THE DOCTOR IS IN

When your child is suddenly ill, but your pediatrician's office is closed ... we are here to take your worry away. Our CHOP pediatricians are now physically located in our Emergency Department during those critical hours when your child's health just can't wait until the next day.

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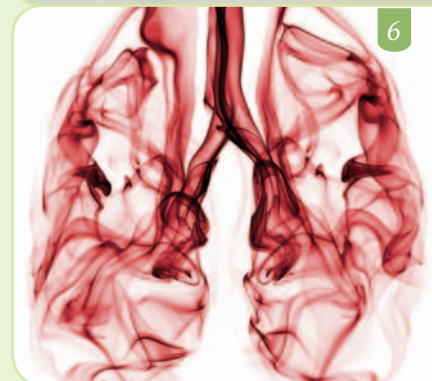
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Cover Photo: Rick Davis Photographic



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SYNAPSE MAGAZINE SINCE 1981

Synapse is an award-winning publication produced by Chester County Hospital's Corporate Marketing Department. The articles provided in this magazine are solely for informational purposes. It should not be relied on or used in placement of a physician's medical advice or assessment. Always consult a physician in matters of your personal health.

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Hospital Earns Two Mission: Lifeline Recognitions for Prompt Heart Attack Care

Chester County Hospital earned the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® Silver Re-

ceiving Quality Achievement Award. This award acknowledges the implementation of specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

In addition, Medic 91 paramedic service received the Mission: Lifeline® EMS Bronze Award for its commitment and success in implementing specific quality-improvement measures for the treatment of patients who suffer a severe heart attack known as a STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction).

Every year, upwards of 300,000 people experience a STEMI, a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication.

Unfortunately, a significant number of people don't receive prompt reperfusion therapy, which is critical in restoring blood flow. The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for STEMI patients. Its new EMS recognition program honors those emergency responders for their efforts in the field for improving STEMI systems of care and improving the quality of life for these patients.

Nursing Excellence Awards

The University of Pennsylvania Health System Nursing Service provides recognition for registered nurses whose contributions have been exemplary within one of the domains of nursing practice. Congratulations to the following clinical team recipients and nominees from Chester County Hospital: William Pezzotti, MSN, CRNP; Donna Hagerty, RN; Heather Donohue BSN, RN, CNOR; Rebecca Mountain MSN, RN, CEN; and Suzanne Henrick MSN, MPH.



From left: Pezzotti; Mountain; Catherine Weidman MPA, BSN, RN, CNML, Director of Medical Surgical Services; Angela R. Coladonato MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President/CNO; Hagerty; and Donohue.



Cancer Program Receives Achievement Award

Chester County Hospital was one of only 74 U.S. health care facilities presented with the 2013 Outstanding Achievement Award by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer. This national honor for surveys performed last year acknowledges cancer programs that achieve excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients.

"We treat each cancer patient as if they were a member of our own family," explains Dennis Berman, MD, Director of the Cancer Program at Chester County Hospital. "We strive to provide access to enhanced cancer care and services in a comfortable environment close to home. Patients are guided through the continuum of care with continued support, while they experience precise treatment and management plans tailored to their individual needs. Our team takes pride in the fact that we are continually working to enhance services, treatments and technologies available to our patients. This accommodation only reinforces the hard work and dedication of our team of professionals."

Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award

Chester County Hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes these Penn Medicine hospitals' commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations.

"With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and the Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award demonstrates that our staff is committed to providing care that has been shown in the scientific literature to quickly and efficiently treat stroke patients with evidence-based protocols," says Sandra Garrison, MBA, BSN, RN, Director Cardiovascular Disease Management.

A woman with long brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a dark blue shirt, is holding a baby. The baby is looking towards the camera with a slightly concerned expression. The background is a blurred hospital setting.

The doctor is in...

when your child's doctor is "out"
specialized pediatric care is "in"
at our Emergency Department

NO NIGHT IS LONGER FOR A PARENT THAN ONE SPENT WITH A SICK CHILD, AND NOTHING DERAILS A WELL-PLANNED SATURDAY AFTERNOON FASTER THAN A CHILD'S UNEXPECTED ILLNESS.

As any parent knows, typical childhood ailments often happen at night or on weekends when your pediatrician or family doctor's office is closed. What are your options when your child has an illness that can't wait for your pediatrician's normal business hours? If you live in Chester County, you bring your child straight to Chester County Hospital's emergency room where board-certified pediatricians from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) are waiting to give your child the specialized care you are looking for when your doctor is not available.



▲ CHOP CARE NETWORK PEDIATRICIAN TIFFANY COOKE, MD, FAAP, TREATS A YOUNG PATIENT IN THE ED.

"Parents often have a natural sense about when their child needs medical care. Certain symptoms create urgency. Parents can bring their children in to see the pediatricians here in our emergency room for illnesses that they feel need immediate attention, when their pediatrician does not have open office hours," explains Betty Brennan, EdD, MSN, RN, CEN, Director of Emergency Services. "We provide the same care available at your doctor's office, along with immediate access to an even higher level of care, if needed. We make sure children are well cared for and comfortable, parents are informed, and families are in and out as quickly as possible."

Hospital-based CHOP pediatricians have always been a collaborative part of Chester County Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) team. Previously, they were on call from the hospital's Pediatric Unit for consultations and to help manage the care of younger patients. Today, they are now on site in the ED itself during the peak hours when urgent care is most needed by children under age 6. Starting this past January, the CHOP pediatricians are based in the ED on weekdays from 7 pm to 11 pm and on weekends from 3 pm to 11 pm. Beyond these ED-specific hours, they continue to be available from the Pediatric Unit around the clock.

According to Karen Pinsky, MD, Medical Director of CHOP Care Network/Newborn and Pediatric Care at Chester County

continued >

The doctor is in... *continued*

Hospital, the hospital made a conscientious decision to optimize the care it provides in its Emergency Department for families when their pediatricians are not available. “We looked at patient volumes in the Emergency Department to identify the children by age and by diagnosis that would be best served by an enhanced pediatric process in the ED and how we could make things easier for those families,” says Dr. Pinsky. “It made sense to have pediatricians right there in the emergency room to treat young children with the kinds of illnesses that require specialized medical attention.”

The CHOP physicians and all the emergency medicine doctors at Chester County Hospital are trained in pediatrics, so they are all experts in dealing with the illnesses and injuries that often befall children. As soon as a child arrives at the ED, they are immediately evaluated by an emergency room physician or physician assistant to assess their injury (ex. fracture, laceration, pain, trauma, etc.) or the acute illness symptoms (ex. high fever, ear infection, flu-like symptoms, vomiting, lethargic behavior, etc.). The child’s medical condition and age determines whether their symptoms are treated by a CHOP pediatrician or their injury is treated by an ED physician.

In some situations, a child may come in with a medical condition that can actually be diagnosed and treated during

the initial triage stage of the visit, and the family can be on their way home quickly. For example, an ear infection may be easily diagnosed on the spot and an antibiotic provided right there and then. Children with issues requiring further attention go on to see the CHOP pediatrician who will act as their primary care provider for the duration of their visit.

Pediatric patients are cared for in a designated area of the Emergency Department that is more “kid-friendly.” All

the equipment, medical supplies and hospital gowns are “kid-sized.” And there are plenty of features to keep little hands and minds busy, including DVD players and a collection of family-favorite movies.

“Children are not small adults. They are special to their parents, and they are special to us. Having a pediatric focus in our ED has created a different pathway through the department for our young patients that is centered on their clinical and emotional care, while keeping the needs of their parents also in mind,” says Diana Kane, MD, Chair of Emergency Medicine. “Our pediatricians are board-certified and specialize in caring for children. They are highly trained, experienced hospitalists with a level of comfort and famil-

ilarity that comes from caring for children and their parents on a regular basis.”

Because the CHOP pediatricians are hospital-based physicians and also work in the hospital’s Pediatric Unit, they are able to provide a continuity of care for children who may need to be admitted for observation or treatment. They also communicate with each child’s own primary care physician, providing information about the patient’s condition as

We gear everything toward taking care of the child holistically. We do everything possible to reduce or soften the potentially frightening moments for children and parents.



▲ FROM LEFT: BETTY BRENNAN, EDD, MSN, RN, CEN, KAREN PINSKY, MD, AND DIANA KANE, MD

well as any tests or procedures that may have been performed. In addition, the pediatricians maintain an open dialogue with parents, keeping them informed, providing time for questions, and making sure any fears or concerns are addressed.

"An emergency room setting can be an intimidating environment for anyone. The last thing parents with a sick or injured child want to do is subject their little one to a situation that could make them feel even worse," says Brennan. "We gear everything toward taking care of the child holistically. We do everything possible to reduce or soften the potentially frightening moments for children and parents. And, with pediatricians managing their care, we are able to keep stays as short as possible for our young patients and get them home sooner."

In fact, the new dedicated pediatric focus complements an overall emergency care delivery system that was recently streamlined and fine-tuned by Chester County Hospital to be more rapid and efficient. The hospital completely redesigned the process in its Emergency Department to increase efficiency and keep wait times at a minimum for patients of all ages. Currently, it takes on average only about 9 to 10 minutes for an adult emergency room patient to be seen by an ED physician or physician assistant, and the wait is often even shorter for children.

By Beth Eburn

Photos by Rick Davis

►► LEARN MORE AT
www.chestercountyhospital.org/synapse

▼ CHOP CARE NETWORK PEDIATRICIAN MARC PERLMAN, MD, AND ED NURSE LINDA SHEPARD, RN, HELP PROVIDE URGENT CARE IN THE ED FOR THE HOSPITAL'S YOUNGEST PATIENTS.

Photo credit: Chester County Life



LAST SEPTEMBER, CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL TURNED AN IMPORTANT PAGE IN ITS 122-YEAR HISTORY. After years as an independent affiliate of Penn Medicine, the hospital joined the Penn family, becoming the University of Pennsylvania Health System's fourth regional hospital, along with the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, and Pennsylvania Hospital.

Driving the decision were the goals to preserve Chester County Hospital's culture and build on the qualities that make it strong, while evolving to meet the changing needs and expectations of its community. In the words of hospital President and CEO Michael J. Duncan, the vision for the new relationship with Penn Medicine is to "be us, only better." Less than a year into the process, this vision is already translating into

enhanced health care services for patients at Chester County Hospital. While many developments are underway, there's been significant collaboration in the hospital's Cancer Program, made possible with increased integration of Penn's specialists and resources.

In particular, services for patients with

lung cancer are expanding.

To appreciate what this means for people of Chester County, it helps to look at recent progress in the field of lung cancer.



A BRIGHTENING PICTURE

Lung cancer is an aggressive cancer usually discovered after it has advanced to an incurable stage, and it is responsible for more deaths each year than breast, prostate, and colon cancers combined. But this picture is changing. Research is unlocking clues about the disease, allowing treatment advances that are improving the outlook even for patients with advanced lung cancer.

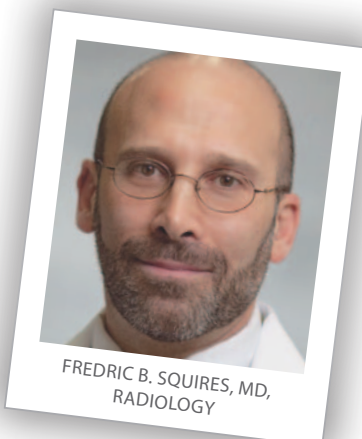
Bringing Might to the Fight

JOINING FORCES WITH PENN MEDICINE GROWS THE TEAM AND THE TOOLS AGAINST LUNG CANCER



For example, it's now known that each lung tumor is different, and scientists are studying lung cancer cells to identify specific driver mutations (genetic factors) that cause a tumor to grow. This information is being used to develop targeted treatments that can block these factors and shrink tumors, often with fewer side effects than occur with standard chemotherapy. Several targeted therapies for lung cancer are now available, with more being studied in clinical trials. The current standard of care is to test lung tumors for driver mutations and, if found and treatable, to tailor therapy accordingly. Vaccines to boost the body's immune response against lung cancer cells also are being tested and made available to appropriate patients in clinical trials.

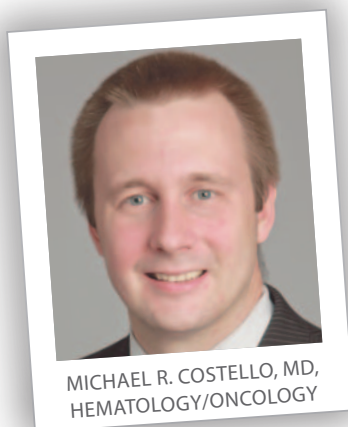
At the other end of the spectrum, progress detecting lung cancer earlier is now possible with an imaging test. Screening with a yearly low-dose CT scan has been shown to decrease the risk of dying from lung cancer in people older than 55 who have a long history



of smoking. It's estimated that yearly screening in such individuals would lead to lung cancer being detected at an early stage (stage I or II) in 70% of cases,* compared to the current situation which is 57%.

When lung cancer is found early, surgery is the number one treatment, offering potential cure for patients with small, localized tumors. When appropriate, minimally invasive or lung-sparing surgical procedures can be performed. If patients aren't candidates for surgery, they may still be able to have their tumors destroyed using a highly focused form of radiation therapy called stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT).

As the scope of treatments expands to better address different forms of lung cancer, it's become clear that therapy must be tailored to fit the patient. Optimal management of lung cancer—like many forms of cancer—takes a dedicated team of specialists working together to determine the best treatment plan for each patient.



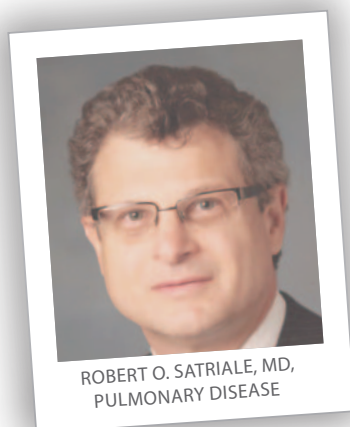
MICHAEL R. COSTELLO, MD,
HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

HARNESSING EVERY ADVANCE IN LUNG CANCER CARE

Chester County Hospital is moving ahead on all fronts to combat lung cancer. The hospital was focused on improving the outlook for patients with lung cancer before it joined Penn Medicine. Now, it's embracing each opportunity this new relationship brings to optimize patient care and outcomes.

"Penn Medicine is a leader in lung cancer research, diagnosis, and treatment, and our goal is to make sure patients in Chester County have access to every advance possible," says Chester County Hospital Medical Oncologist Michael Costello, MD. "Through collaboration among specialists here and at Penn hospitals, we aim to bring patients the highest level of care available, including the most progressive surgical, chemotherapy and radiation therapies and the newest targeted medicines and immunotherapies."

The following are recent developments at the hospital that are enhancing care for patients with known or suspected lung cancer.



ROBERT O. SATRIALE, MD,
PULMONARY DISEASE

TEAM EXPERTISE

A team approach to lung cancer is not new to Chester County hospital. For years, specialists in lung cancer evaluation, diagnosis and treatment have worked together to care for patients with lung tumors, aided by nurse navigators and other hospital staff.

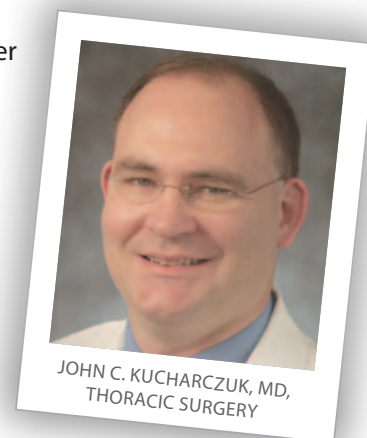
Now, an even more comprehensive team of specialists is involved, with the potential for highly tailored treatment.

A major addition to the team is thoracic surgeon John Kucharczuk, MD, Chief of Thoracic Surgery for the University of Pennsylvania Health System. While his home base is at the Penn Lung Center at the Perelman Center of Advanced Medicine in Philadelphia, in January Dr. Kucharczuk started seeing patients in Chester County. This allows him to directly participate in care planning for patients with lung tumors with colleagues at Chester County Hospital. He performs surgical consults, and if patients require surgery, Dr. Kucharczuk performs the procedure at HUP. He then sees patients for surgical follow up back in West Chester.

"I was involved in the care of Chester County patients with lung cancer before the integration, but now I get to work more closely with the team that was referring patients to me," says Dr. Kucharczuk. "I also get to meet patients before I see them at HUP, and—importantly—patients get to meet me in the comfortable and familiar environment of their local hospital."

Dr. Kucharczuk's involvement brings vast expertise and resources in thoracic oncology, which is the study and treatment of cancers of the chest (lung cancer, esophageal cancer, mesothelioma, and mediastinal malignancies). Dr. Kucharczuk—along with medical oncologist Corey Langer, MD, and pulmonologist Steven Albelda, MD—oversees Penn's Integrated Thoracic Oncology Program, a goal of which is to identify the best emerging treatments for lung cancer. This program now extends to Chester County Hospital, offering patients with lung cancer the same benefits whether they are seen in West Chester or downtown.

Dr. Costello says adding an experienced thoracic surgeon to the lung cancer team is a major plus for patients. "This means we're bringing the emerging standard of surgical care for thoracic oncology to our patients at Chester County Hospital."



JOHN C. KUCHARCZUK, MD,
THORACIC SURGERY

continued >

Bringing Might to the Fight... *continued*

Typically, a thoracic surgeon is available only at hospitals where there is a high volume of thoracic surgeries performed each year. About 100 patients per year are treated for lung cancer at Chester County Hospital. Another new member of the cancer team is radiation oncologist Andre Konski, MD, MBA, MA, FACR, who joined Penn Medicine in January as Chester County Hospital's Medical Director for Radiation Oncology. Dr. Konski most recently served as Chief of Radiation Oncology at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit, a position he held for 5 years, following 7 years of practice at Fox Chase Cancer Center. Both centers are National Cancer Institute (NCI)–designated comprehensive cancer centers.

"Dr. Konski brings tremendous clinical expertise to the Cancer Program at Chester County Hospital," says Dr.



ANDRE A. KONSKI, MD,
RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Costello. "Having a radiation oncologist who has practiced for many years at NCI comprehensive cancer centers raises the level of care we can provide and is a great benefit to our patients."

As Medical Director for Radiation Oncology, Dr. Konski leads the hospital's team of radiation oncology physicians

and nurses, medical physicists, dosimetrists and radiation therapists, who plan, coordinate and administer treatments for patients undergoing radiation therapy. He also is a dedicated member of the lung cancer team, working closely with other team specialists to plan and carry out treatment for these patients. He regularly communicates with Drs. Costello and Kucharczuk, as well as other team specialists, on matters pertaining to lung cancer care.

"It's so important that different specialists come together to coordinate and personalize treatment for each patient with lung cancer," says Dr. Konski. "Our regular meetings allow us to meet a new patient together, to discuss our thoughts about appropriate care, and then determine as a group the best course of treatment.

This approach ensures each patient receives precisely tailored treatment based on input from multiple specialists, not just one."

Also new is a multidisciplinary committee dedicated to thoracic cancers, which is an outgrowth of the hospital's leadership team for lung cancer. This earlier team was instrumental in launching Chester County Hospital's Lung Cancer Screening Program in mid-2012. The new multidisciplinary committee includes specialists in medical oncology, radiation oncology, thoracic surgery, pulmonary medicine, radiology, pathology, nursing, respiratory therapy, and clinical research—among others.

The committee meets monthly for a formal exchange of information. "Every other month we discuss programmatic decisions we're making," says Dr. Costello, who is committee chair. "For example, we look at how our lung cancer screening program is doing, whether there are clinical trials we should get involved in, if they're any opportunities to enhance patient care, or if we can be doing anything better as a team."

Dr. Costello says on alternate months the committee discusses specific patient cases. These discussions serve many purposes, one of which is to educate members of the committee as well as others in the health system. For example, primary care physicians are invited to attend so they can learn about the care and treatment options for patients with lung cancer.

"These meetings allow the whole team to participate and learn from the interactive discussions," says Cindy Brockway, RN, MSN, Director of Research and Oncology Navigation at the hospital. "They raise the level of knowledge and expertise of everyone involved in treating and caring for patients."

Brockway plays many roles in supporting the physicians and other providers who are directly involved in patient care, but she was never involved with the treatment decision process until she was brought into the multidisciplinary committee. "At the meetings, I hear what each physician is thinking and what treatment options are being considered by the group, which is extremely valuable."



CINDY BROCKWAY,
RESEARCH/NAVIGATION



CAROL SIMON, BSN, RN,
THORACIC SURGERY

RESOURCES AND SERVICES

As a founding member of the Penn Cancer Network, Chester County Hospital has had a cancer care partnership with Penn for decades, which provides patients access to specialized services available at Penn's Abramson Cancer Center and Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine. A goal for the hospital's new relationship with Penn is to expand this strategic partnership by maximizing the strengths of each partner, streamlining access to services, and fostering greater collaboration in cancer care.

"Our new relationship allows each of us at our respective locations to leverage what we do best, and overall that's better for patients and their families," says Dr. Kucharczuk. He notes that patients with lung cancer experience many episodes of care, some of which are best managed locally, in a familiar health care environment. However, surgery for lung cancer is best performed at a hospital where the volume of thoracic surgeries are high, such as HUP.

"If a patient needs surgery, HUP has the infrastructure in place to allow me to perform the most advanced lung operations available today—effectively and efficiently," says Dr. Kucharczuk. "That's not something I do alone. It's something the resources entrusted to me make possible, and we can use those resources to benefit patients who otherwise are best cared for at Chester County Hospital."

Since Dr. Kucharczuk joined the team, the care process for patients needing lung surgery has been made as streamlined and convenient as possible for patients. Rather than go to Penn three times, as before, patients only go in to HUP for their operation.

But the new relationship with Penn Medicine is impacting more than just the surgical care of patients with lung cancer. It's increasing utilization of Penn's breadth of cancer resources and services. Rather than try to duplicate these at Chester County Hospital, the goal is to enhance access to Penn's clinical expertise, advanced diagnostic tools, and cutting-edge treatments to give patients every benefit afforded by the Penn health system.

Dr. Costello appreciates having a direct line to Penn's team of lung cancer specialists for consultation on challenging cases. "Difficult cases can be presented at Penn's weekly multidisciplinary lung cancer conference if there's a question that

needs a more comprehensive consideration of what to do," he says. "It's a great resource for our patients."

He says another great resource is Penn's Center for Personalized Diagnostics, which offers a program for analyzing lung tumors for driver mutations. "This lets us test a patient's tumor for a wide range of molecular targets and gives us an incredible breadth of knowledge about what may be driving that person's cancer," adds Dr. Costello.

Dr. Kucharczuk submits every lung tumor for analysis. "If it shows a molecular abnormality we can target this with an available therapy that can be included in the patient's treatment plan," he says. All currently approved targeted therapies for lung cancer are available at Chester County Hospital.

As the relationship with Penn matures and the two cancer programs continue to align, patients at Chester County Hospital should have increasing access to clinical trials of the latest cancer treatments. A trial of a vaccine therapy is already available to patients who qualify for the study after surgery for lung cancer, but patients need to go to Penn to receive the vaccine. A goal is to bring emerging chemotherapies, including new targeted molecular therapies and immunotherapies, and cutting-edge radiation therapies to patients in Chester County without the need to travel downtown.

TECHNOLOGY

Chester County Hospital is committed to keeping pace with new technology that can make a difference in patient care. One area of cancer care that is particularly "tech heavy" is radiation therapy, which relies on sophisticated technologies to effectively target tumors while sparing nearby healthy tissues. Radiation therapy plays a critical role in the treatment of many types of cancer, including lung cancer.

In 2013, Chester County Hospital acquired the TrueBeam™ system, which is an advanced tool for delivering high doses of radiation with extreme precision and speed. These capabilities allow for shorter treatment times, but they also create new opportunities to fight cancer with radiation.

One example relevant to lung cancer is the use of TrueBeam to deliver SBRT (stereotactic body radiotherapy). Unlike standard radiation therapy, which is given in small doses each day for several weeks, SBRT uses highly focused beams of high-dose radiation and is given in 1 to 5 treatments.

continued >



EDWARD P. CARTER, MD,
RADIOLOGY



NONA BLAUVELT,
CLINICAL RESEARCH

Bringing Might to the Fight... *continued*

"SBRT offers us the ability to destroy certain small lung tumors when surgery is not an option for treatment," says Dr. Konski. He says the size and location of a lung tumor are important factors in considering whether SBRT is appropriate treatment for a patient. Dr. Konski estimates that SBRT will be available at Chester County Hospital by the end of 2014.

This June, the radiation oncology department added more sophisticated treatment planning equipment, says Dr. Konski, in the form of an advanced computed tomography (CT) scanner. "This equipment gives us better images and a better ability to target tumors and spare normal tissue," he says. Precise treatment planning ensures that a patient's course of radiation therapy is carried out in the most effective and safe way possible.

NAVIGATION

As Dr. Kucharczuk points out, the new relationship between Chester County Hospital and Penn Medicine encourages everyone involved in patient care at both locations to build on the strengths of each program. One of Chester County Hospital's strengths in lung cancer care is the ability of its team to move quickly to see patients with suspected or newly diagnosed lung cancer and to gather all the information needed to move ahead with a personalized plan of care. A key factor in making this possible is the behind-the-scenes work of lung nurse navigator Danielle Dambro, BSN, RN.

"The biggest difficulty for these patients is anxiety about the unknown," says Dr. Kucharczuk. "At Chester County Hospital, we can see a patient quickly, and if that person needs to see other specialists or have additional tests, Danielle can make it happen that day or within a few days."

With efficient nurse navigation, the time from when a patient is first seen until the patient has a plan of care is short. "And it's amazing how empowering that is," says Dr.

Kucharczuk. "Suddenly the anxiety starts to dissipate. The patient and family know what they're up against, and they get a plan to attack it. And quite frankly, that gets lost at bigger institutions."

Chester County Hospital has had a nurse navigator program in place for many years. Since the hospital's integration with Penn, the navigator role has intensified to ensure that all necessary clinical services are well coordinated and that patients receive the support they need.

"It's all about what's best for the patient," says Dambro. "There are lots of moving parts now, and I work closely with all members of the team at Chester County and at Penn to make sure patients get the care and services they need."

Dambro stresses that the multidisciplinary team is the key to everything being streamlined. She says, "Everyone on the team needs to be integrated with one another for the best approach to patient care."

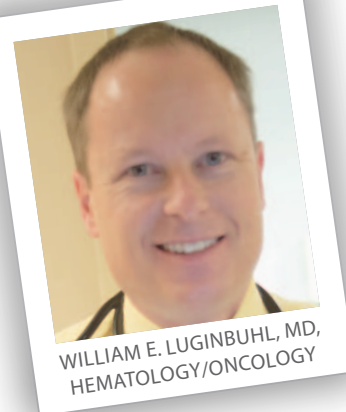
With the full strength of Penn Medicine behind it, the lung cancer team at Chester County Hospital is more determined than ever to provide leading-edge treatment in the most caring environment possible.

"It's important for patients with newly discovered lung tumors to know they have many options and to get into a care environment where they can learn about those options and prepare to move forward," says Dr. Kucharczuk. "At Chester County Hospital, that's what we do, and we do it very well."

By Debra Dreger

Photos: Members of the Lung Cancer Committee

*Source: de Koning HJ, Meza R, Plevritis SK, et al. Benefits and harms of computed tomography lung cancer screening strategies: a comparative modeling study for the USPSTF. *Ann Intern Med* 2014;160(5):311-20. (Using only NLST data, 57% of cancers are detected at stage I/II.)



WILLIAM E. LUGINBUHL, MD,
HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY



MATTHEW BUFFLER, RRT-NPS,
RESPIRATORY THERAPY

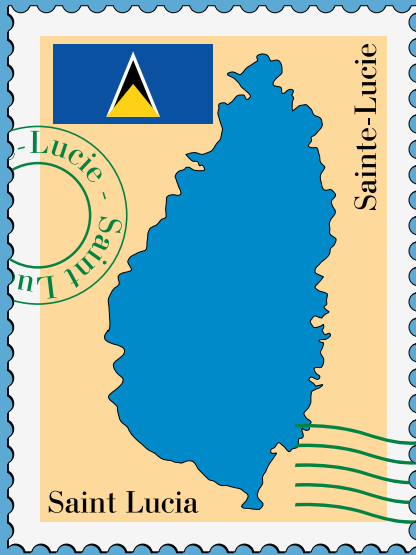


DANIELLE DAMBRO, BFN, RN,
NURSE NAVIGATOR



RAJESH J. PATEL, MD,
PULMONARY DISEASE

►► LEARN MORE AT
www.chestercountyhospital.org/synapse



A Bond of Community
Beyond Geography or Distance...

Our Paramedics & the Island of ST. LUCIA

A life-threatening medical emergency can happen without warning... to anyone, at any time, in any location. It might be a fall or car accident that causes serious injuries. It might be choking on something during a meal and not being able to catch your breath. Or it could be the sudden onset of heart attack symptoms.

Whatever the emergency may be, the experience is frightening. Receiving the level of medical care you need as quickly as possible is paramount... and, in some cases, may be key to your survival. Fortunately in Chester County, we live in a community where high-tech, life-saving medical care can be brought directly and quickly to the scene of an emergency. Many places in the world, however, are not so privileged.

For more than 30 years, the paramedics of Chester County Hospital's Medic 91 Advanced Life Support Unit have been responding to life-threatening medical emergencies across our region. When these specially trained professionals arrive on the scene, they bring a level of knowledge and experience that is unsurpassed. Incredibly,



▲ IN THE PURSUIT OF ADVANCED EMT EDUCATION FOR HIS COUNTRY, CRAIG HERMAN HAS TRAVELED GREAT DISTANCES TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF CARE.

the scope of their expertise now reaches thousands of miles beyond the boundaries of Chester County.

A few years ago, a single email looking for information about the standards for paramedic training in the United States spawned collaboration between Jerry Peters, BS, Paramedic at Chester County Hospital and Program Director at Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training Institute, and Craig Herman, founder of an emergency medical service training program

▲ JERRY PETERS (CENTER) AND HIS PARAMEDIC EDUCATORS HAVE HOSTED AND TRAINED NUMEROUS EMT STUDENTS FROM ST. LUCIA. HERE, HE IS PICTURED WITH ELSA AUGUSTE, JOHNSON PHILIP, INGRID MITCHELL, ELVINA SMITH, NESA HIPPOLYTE AND MALACHI O'BRIAN.

continued >

ST. LUCIA... continued

on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia. The collaboration would allow Chester County's paramedic community to play a meaningful role in the safety, care and survival of people more than 2,000 miles away.

Craig says, "To get our personnel the training they needed, I began searching for an accredited institution which could assist in the evaluation, monitoring and certification of our students, in keeping with the established standards existing in the US. This search eventually lead me to Good Fellowship and the hospital's paramedics."

"Craig's initial email really intrigued me. I could tell his interests were sincere so I picked up the phone and called him," explains Jerry. "I came to find out Craig has made it his personal mission to improve the poor state of the emergency services available in St. Lucia when his own father's life had depended on them. I was impressed to hear that Craig had come to the United States himself for training and has since dedicated himself to making training possible for others on the island."

Until recently, pre-hospital emergency medical expertise was almost non-existent in St. Lucia and first responders had little, if any, training beyond basic life



▲ ST. LUCIA EMT STUDENTS AND ADRIANNE POHAR, PARAMEDIC SUPERVISOR FOR MEDIC 91.



▲ STUDENTS RODE ALONG WITH GOOD FELLOWSHIP AMBULANCE.



▲ PRIOR TO TRAINING IN WEST CHESTER, ST. LUCIA EMT STUDENTS DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO TRAINING BEYOND BASIC LIFE SUPPORT.



▲ DURING THEIR CLINICAL INTERNSHIP, EMT STUDENTS PRACTICED ADMINISTERING INTRAVENOUS FLUID.

support. Thanks to the connection made between Jerry and Craig, Chester County Hospital paramedics and EMTs (emergency medical technicians) from the Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training Institute are now helping to elevate the standard of emergency care on the island.

Subsequent talks between the two men led to training sessions held in West Chester and in St. Lucia, with Good Fellowship instructors and Chester County Hospital paramedics providing guidance, education and hands-on clinical scenarios. According to Jerry, one group from St. Lucia spent 21 days in West Chester. "They took classes, did clinical time in ambulances and on Chester County's medic unit," says Jerry. "They spent time in our radio communications 9-1-1 center, and were even able to ride along with our West Chester police department."

In addition to mentoring St. Lucians who come to West Chester for training, Jerry has traveled to the island to teach and share his expertise. Jerry's colleague paramedic Bob Guiney has also helped in conducting training sessions.

Jerry and Bob's visit allowed for the successful completion of a memorandum of understanding between the institutions and opened the doors for St. Lucia students to visit Good Fellowship and to attain clinical and field externship experience with an



▲ THE FIELD EXPERIENCE IN WEST CHESTER WILL IMPROVE THE CAPACITY OF CARE IN ST. LUCIA.

organized, regulated and well-established EMS System.

"Our board, faculty, students and the people of St. Lucia will forever be grateful to Mr. Peters, the family of EMS professionals and the various institutions and organizations who open heartedly welcomed us into the fold and network of professionals," adds Craig, "With tremendous thanks I look forward to a continued and harmonious working relationship to further develop the Emergency Medical Services system in St. Lucia through the delivery of EMS education and improved standards."

Jerry reflects, "St. Lucia is beautiful, and the people are great. They simply haven't had access to the equipment or the knowledge to provide the level of emergency response and advanced life support we take for granted here... the kind that might have saved Craig's father's life. Thankfully, that's now changing. I'm proud we are part of it. I'm glad Craig decided to reach out for our help. Here in Chester County, we are all about community... now our community has grown to include the people of St. Lucia."

*By Beth Eburn
Photos courtesy of Craig Herman*



▲ JERRY PETERS TRAINS THE STUDENTS TO TAKE AND MONITOR VITAL STATISTICS.

►► LEARN MORE AT
www.chestercountyhospital.org/synapse



NEW ROLES FOR MEDICAL LEADERS

DIRECTOR OF THE CANCER PROGRAM



Dennis Berman, MD

The Cancer Program at Chester County Hospital is one of the premier community-based cancer programs in the Philadelphia region. We are fortunate to have physicians who trained at the top medical schools in the country and exceptional nurses, navigators, social work-

ers and entire teams all focused on caring for our patients. The success of this program is inextricably linked to the success of the organization and, with our Penn Medicine colleagues. We will continue to build the capabilities in this program.

To lead this effort, **Dennis Berman, MD, Hematology/Oncology**, has been appointed Director of the Cancer Program at Chester County Hospital. While Dr. Berman has always been a leader in our Cancer Center, this new position establishes him as the Physician-Executive leading the development of our program into a regional referral center that is supported by and complementary to the strategic initiatives of Penn Medicine and the Abramson Cancer Center.

Dr. Berman will have significant strategic and operational oversight responsibilities for medical oncology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology and related ancillary support services. To support him in this regard, the hospital has formed a new Cancer Executive Committee that Dr. Berman chairs and that includes physician representation from each of these clinical areas. In addition, Dr. Berman will continue to lead his practice - Chester County Hematology Oncology, chair the hospital's Cancer Committee and serve as the Cancer Program's Medical Liaison to Penn Medicine and the Abramson Cancer Center.

DIRECTOR OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR PROGRAM



Clay Warnick, MD

Clay Warnick, MD, Cardiology, has been appointed the new Director of the Cardiovascular Program at Chester County Hospital effective July 1, 2014. Dr. Warnick will be the Physician-Executive responsible for developing and leading strategic initiatives that position Chester County Hospital's program

as the leading center between Philadelphia and Lancaster offering significant breadth and depth across all its component services. Supported by our already strong service line structure, he will collaborate with his physician and administrative colleagues at Chester County Hospital and in the Penn Heart and Vascular Center to develop and execute upon an innovative and forward-looking plan. He will also Chair the hospital's Cardiovascular Executive Committee and be the physician leader for its broader Service Line Committee.

Dr. Warnick is a well-known and respected member of the Medical Staff who has already proven his leadership abilities as Chief of Staff, Chair of the Medical Staff Executive Committee, Chair of the Case Management Committee, Medical Director of Cardiac Rehabilitation, and Co-Medical Director of the hospital's Heart Failure program.

CARDIAC SURGERY

The following physicians from Penn Medicine's Division of Cardiovascular Surgery practice primarily in other Penn Medicine hospitals or satellite facilities. They have recently joined Cardiac Surgeon Brian P. Priest, MD, on the Medical Staff at Chester County Hospital to support and provide coverage for our heart surgery program. Please search PennMedicine.org/providers for additional information about these physicians:

Michael A. Acker, MD • Pavan Atluri, MD
Joseph Bavaria, MD • Wilson Y. Szeto, MD
Robert K. Wenger, MD • Prashanth Vallabhajosyula, MD

ACTIVE STAFF

Bethany Gratson, DMD

Section of Dentistry. Dr. Gratson is graduated from Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry and completed her residency at Miami Children's Hospital. Dr. Gratson practices at Chester County Dentistry for Children in West Chester.

John C. Kucharczuk, MD



Section of Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Kucharczuk earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency and his fellowship. He is board certified in thoracic surgery. Dr. Kucharczuk, part of Penn Medicine's Thoracic Surgery faculty and Chief of that Division, now sees thoracic surgery outpatients at 440 East Marshall Street as part of Chester County Hospital's Cancer Program.



Janos L. Tanyi, MD, PhD

Section of Gynecologic Oncology.

Dr. Tanyi graduated from the University Medical School of Debrecen in Hungary, then completed his residencies at Baylor College of Medicine's Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston and Semmelweis University Medical School in Budapest, and his fellowship at the Hospital of the



University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Tanyi is board certified in gynecologic oncology and sees patients in the gynecologic oncology practice that is part of Chester County Hospital's Women's Specialty Center.

Mark A. Morgan, MD



Section of Gynecologic Oncology.

Dr. Morgan earned his medical degree from the State University of New York at Brooklyn, then completed his residency and his fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He is board certified in gynecologic oncology. Dr. Morgan, part of Penn Medicine's Gynecologic Oncology faculty and Chief of that Division, now supports the gynecologic oncology practice that is part of Chester County Hospital's Women's Specialty Center.

AFFILIATE STAFF

Karen K. Baird, MD

Department of Family Medicine.

Dr. Baird earned her medical degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she also completed her residency. Dr. Baird is board certified in Internal Medicine and has joined Southern Chester County Family Practice Associates, a practice employed by Chester County Hospital.



Paula S. Barry, MD

Section of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Barry graduated from Jefferson Medical College, where she also completed her residency. Dr. Barry is board certified in Internal Medicine, and has joined Kennett Care Medical Associates in Kennett Square, a practice employed by Chester County Hospital.



RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Andre Konski, MD –

Department of Radiation Oncology.

Dr. Konski earned his medical degree from New York Medical College and completed his residency at the University of Rochester Medical School. He is board certified in Radiation Oncology. Dr. Konski is a member of Penn Medicine's Radiation Oncology faculty, and the new Medical Director of Chester County Hospital's Department of Radiation Oncology.



The following physicians from Penn Medicine's Department of Radiation Oncology practice primarily in other Penn Medicine hospitals or satellite facilities, but have recently joined the Medical Staff at Chester County Hospital to support Dr. Konski and our radiation oncology program. Please search PennMedicine.org/providers for additional information about these physicians:

Peter H. Ahn, MD • Geoffrey A. Geiger, MD
William R. Rate, MD, PhD

Neetu P. Reddy, MD

Section of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Reddy earned her medical degree from University of Amravati in Maharashtra, India, then completed her residencies at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh and Prince George's Hospital Center in Maryland. Board certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Reddy has joined Penn Internal Medicine East Marshall Street in West Chester.



Natalia Vasiuk, MD

Department of Family Medicine.

Dr. Vasiuk earned her medical degree from Kyrgyz State Medical Academy in Kyrgyzstan, then completed her residency at



Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown. Board certified in Family Medicine, Dr. Vasiuk has joined Penn Internal Medicine East Marshall Street in West Chester.

►► TO FIND A DOCTOR, CALL
610.738.2300, OR SEARCH ONLINE AT
www.chestercountyhospital.org/synapse

GIVE

YOUR PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT IS ^{still} NEEDED

WITH THE PARTNERSHIP WITH PENN MEDICINE, YOU MAY ASK, "DOES THE HOSPITAL STILL HAVE NEED FOR PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT?"

The short and correct answer is **YES!** Chester County Hospital is still a charitable organization that relies on the philanthropic support of the community it serves to help it fulfill its mission.

While our new affiliation with Penn Medicine is resulting in a capital infusion from our partner, and is helping us advance our growth plans, the ongoing and future capital needs of Chester County Hospital will continue. Therefore, we need to seek the support of our own community to help provide the additional funds necessary to fulfill Chester County Hospital's mission.



The Chester County Hospital Foundation continues to be an independent foundation with the exclusive

purpose of raising money to support Chester County Hospital. The Trustees of the Foundation are local members of the community and are actively engaged in fundraising for the Foundation and ultimately for the hospital. All gifts received by the Foundation are used solely for the support of Chester County Hospital and are not redirected toward any other entity or purpose within Penn Medicine.

Chester County Hospital has a proud history of active involvement from the community in promoting and assuring the success of this great Hospital. We hope that we can continue to rely on your support and commitment in advancing this wonderful institution.

►► TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION CALL 610.431.5108 OR VISIT www.chestercountyhospital.org/synapse



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to meet our ...



... little one !

Maternal Fetal Medicine

CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL

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- Amniocentesis
- Fetal Anatomy Scans
- Genetic Counseling
- Sequential Screening
- Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (cell free DNA)
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- Cervical Length Screening
- Fetal Echocardiography
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Penn Medicine

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Info: **ChesterCountyHospital.org/Synapse**



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