Cancer Management Program at
Lawrence General Hospital

Chairman’s Report

It is my privilege to present the 2010 Annual Report which summarizes the activities of the cancer program over the past year and analyzes the 2009 Cancer Registry Data. The Cancer Program at Lawrence General Hospital is dedicated to providing the patient with the highest quality care, offering a multidisciplinary approach. Lawrence General Hospital’s Cancer Program was again awarded a three-year approval by the Commission on Cancer (CoC), of American College of Surgeons (ACoS) in the fall of 2008.

The four components of our cancer program are the Cancer Committee, Quality Management Program, Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference (Tumor Board) and a Cancer Registry for Data Management. A Certified Tumor Registrar manages the cancer registry database. In addition to the routine cancer registry responsibilities, the registrar serves as ACoS accreditation coordinator by playing a key role on the Cancer Committee and by assuring the Lawrence General Hospital Cancer Program meets and/or exceeds all CoC standards.

Cancer Registry coordinates and supports the quarterly Cancer Committee meetings and bi-monthly Cancer Conferences. The Multidisciplinary Conferences are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. In 2009, physicians presented 53 cases to the Tumor Board, of which 94% were presented prior to initiation of treatment which addressed patient management issues. This represents about 14% of our analytical cases (diagnosed at Lawrence General and/or all or part of the first course of treatment was given at LGH). These cases were chosen by our pathology department. Furthermore, Tumor Board acts as an educational forum for participants by providing technological updates and scientific advancements in the arena of cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Healthcare basically boils down to people taking care of people and Lawrence General does this through prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancers. Cancer care success is a team effort here. Our pathologist and their accreditation from the College of American Pathologists provide the latest and best in diagnostic services. The radiology department provides state of the art equipment and skilled physicians providing interventional radiology. In February of 2010 we opened the South Pavilion which offers many services vitally important to the community we serve. Dr. Torres-Leon and I were part of a team who performed the Merrimack Valley’s first Chemoembolization in the liver here at Lawrence General in January 2010.

As the Cancer Committee Chairman I would like to thank the members who served on the committee, the staff of the pathology and radiology departments, members of radiation and medical oncology along with the cancer registrars for their contribution to patient care.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pedro Sanz-Altamira, MD
Cancer Committee Chair

Lawrence General Hospital throughout the year offers medical and surgical grand rounds focused on cancer management. The following were presented in 2009:

Breast Core Biopsies: Update on Management Issues - Shashikala Dwarakanath, MD
Cancer Genetics: Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndromes- Pedro Sanz-Altamira, MD
Perspectives in the Medical and Surgical Management of BPH - George Canellakis, MD
Colon Cancer- Bruce Orkin, MD
Indications for Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery in Urologic Oncology - Ingolf Turek, MD
Current Therapy for Adenocarcinoma of the Rectum - Joel Goldberg, MD
Laparoscopy and the Surgical Oncologist- Martian Goodman, MD
Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery for Surgical Management of Lung Cancer- Prodyut K.Poddar, MD

Cancer Committee Membership

Chairman
Pedro Sanz-Altamira, MD, PhD
Medical Oncology
Liaison Physician
Paul Gemis, MD, General Surgery
Physicians
Astrid Peterson, MD, Radiation Oncology
Megha Joshi, MD, Pathology
Christopher Ip, MD, Urologic Surgery
Lloyd Romero, MD, Thoracic Surgery
Mario Torres-Leon, MD, Radiology
Other Staff
Deborah Ralls, Director of Radiology
Penny Bardsley, RN, Breast Care Coordinator
Aase Kelley, RN, Clinical Coordinator, H5
Blanca I Figueroa, American Cancer Society
Ted Dudley, Vice President, Fiscal Affairs
Kathy Kinneen, LICSW, Social Services
Judy Davoli, RN, Nurse Manager H5
Abby Tracy, CTR, Cancer Registry
Beverly Ferrante, M.DIV, Pastoral Care
Helen Kotilainen, Director of Quality Improvement
Steve Molloy, Director Health Information Services
Welcome to Our New Diagnostic Imaging Center- The South Pavilion

The new 12,500 square foot Imaging Services Pavilion opened in March. The soothing environment offers advanced diagnostic services to include digital mammography, bone densitometry, ultrasound and the state’s only fully open MRI with the Ambient Experience. The Philips Ambient experience utilizes a state-of-the-art projector system. Patients choose music, soft lighting and images projected on specially designed walls to create a calming landscape such as a beach, or display colorful graphics.

The new area affords the patient privacy and confidentiality. A calm environment is maintained by utilizing patient pagers.

A comfortable gowned waiting area is situated in the mammography suite. Patients are able to move from mammography to ultrasound in private corridors. Patient surveys have been excellent – one patient wrote “Congratulations on your new facility and thanks for bringing this wonderful addition to our city.” Another wrote “Facility is pleasant with warm colors. Personnel are welcoming and friendly.”

Our breast care navigator continues to facilitate the process for patients needing additional testing and surgical appointments. She also offers emotional support and educational resources to patients with abnormal findings. Dr. Paula Muto began a monthly breast clinic. At this time she meets with patients, oversees additional imaging exams and consults with the radiologist to determine a care plan.

This year Lawrence General Hospital was designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology (ACR) demonstrating accreditation in Mammography, Breast Ultrasound, and Ultrasound Guided Biopsy as well as Stereotactic Breast Biopsy.

Peer-review evaluations, conducted in each breast imaging modality by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field, have determined that this facility has achieved high practice standards in image quality, personnel qualifications, facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs.

In October, an inpatient educational/reminder program began. A mammography technologist visits female patients, age 40 to 65, who have not had a screening at LGH. During the visit the technologist explains the importance of annual screening, delivers a brochure and a pink rose. Several patients have scheduled their mammogram during the visit.
The Cancer Registry at Lawrence General Hospital plays an active role in the cancer program by providing services and support for our Commission on Cancer (CoC) Approved Program. The Cancer Registrar is a specialist who collects and analyzes all reportable cancers diagnosed and/or treated at Lawrence General Hospital. Data is maintained, analyzed and reported to the Massachusetts Cancer Registry and National Cancer Data Base for the purpose of research and quality improvement analysis. The ultimate goal is the analyzing of data to prevent and control cancer.

Out of 382 cases accessioned in our Cancer Registry 364 were analytic in 2009. Each patient in the database is followed annually in order to acquire necessary information on recurrences, subsequent treatment and survival data that is vital for continued patient care. The program standard requires a 90% follow-up rate. The registry consistently maintains _% or greater, which meets or exceeds the standard. Through the Cancer Registry, recorded information for each malignancy is maintained and is inclusive but not limited to: patient demographics, primary site, histology, stage of disease, treatment, recurrence and follow-up. This data provides physicians and administration with statistics for research, education and planning.

**PRIMARY SITE DISTRIBUTION ANALYTIC CASES 2009**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
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Oral Cavity & Pharynx- 9
Lung & Bronchus- 14
Pancreas- 3
Kidney & renal Pelvis- 3
Urinary Bladder- 16
Colon & Rectum- 24
Prostate- 12
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma- 9
Melanoma of the Skin- 7
Leukemia- 2

Thyroid- 11
Lung & Bronchus- 18
Breast- 96
Kidney & renal Pelvis- 2
Ovary- 4
Uterine Corpus- 7
Colon & Rectum- 22
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma- 5
Melanoma of the Skin- 7
Leukemia- 5

All Other Sites- 42
COMMONWEALTH HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY
Commonwealth Hematology-Oncology (CHO) opened an outpatient hematology/oncology clinic inside Lawrence General Hospital in 2001 after renovation and redesign of the 4th floor Lamprey Building. Many of Lawrence General Hospital's cancer patients receive their outpatient chemotherapy here. Treatment may include chemotherapy or other forms of systemic therapy (monoclonal antibodies, bisphosphonates, etc.) and infusions administered in an outpatient setting. Three medical oncologists, two nurse practitioners and four oncology certified nurses provide tailored care for each individual patient five days a week. Recent improvements include establishment of (1) a clinical research trials program, with studies for the most common solid tumors and hematological malignancies, and (2) a cancer genetics program for risk assessment of patients with a significant personal or family history of certain cancers. The goal is to provide the highest possible medical care in the community.

NUTRITION
Food and Nutrition Services are provided to all Lawrence General Hospital cancer patients. They are screened for nutritional risk on admission by a registered nurse and are further evaluated by a registered dietitian (RD). Clinical dietitians offer practical tips for eating healthy during treatment and explore symptom management strategies with patients and their families. For patients in good nutritional status, the RD will review the importance of maintaining a balanced diet, which may include protein, whole grains, legumes, vegetables, fruits, and essential fatty acids. If a patient has lost weight and is determined to be at nutritional risk, the RD will devise a plan to enhance the patient's oral intake. The RD teaches patients how to increase the caloric and protein density of foods and recommends appropriate liquid supplements or multivitamins as part of a comprehensive diet plan. Meals and between meal nourishment are provided based on each patient's individual needs and preferences. When necessary, nutrition support is administered. Patients may also be referred for continuing nutrition therapy with the outpatient dietitian.

REHABILITATION SERVICES
The Physical Therapy/Rehabilitation Department provides inpatient services to oncology and hospice patients. The staff includes physical therapists and assistants, occupational therapists and assistants and contract speech therapists. All services provide a thorough evaluation, comprehensive treatment programs and assistance with discharge planning. The focus of physical therapy is to decrease pain by utilizing a variety of modalities and maximizing mobility and functional independence. Physical therapy assesses and makes recommendations for any medical equipment needs and works closely with the social services to provide for those needs. The focus of occupational therapy is to maximize independence in activities of daily living through functional activity and/or adaptive equipment. Orthotics may also be fabricated to prevent or reduce pain and/or deformity. In addition, instruction in relaxation, coping and stress management skills are provided. The focus of speech therapy is to provide restoration of language and functional communication utilizing various therapy materials, stimulation and exercise. Speech therapy also evaluates and treats disorders of swallowing and assists physicians, patients and families with diet modifications and feeding decisions.

SOCIAL SERVICES
The Social Services Department provides counseling and support for patients and families. Crisis intervention is also provided as necessary. They provide information and referrals to community support groups, and resources for supportive services such as financial and transportation assistance. The department coordinates discharge planning, which includes long term care placement; hospice and home care services including VNA, home infusion, and durable medical equipment. Social Services also participate in employee support efforts and services.

PHARMACY
The Pharmacy Department at Lawrence General Hospital is an integral part of the multidisciplinary team approach to planning, providing, and evaluating the care delivered to cancer patients. The Pharmacy Department provides up-to-date chemotherapy treatment modalities for inpatient and outpatient care. Patients are closely monitored from visit to visit to ensure accurate dosing of all agents prescribed. Any significant change in the patient’s weight would necessitate a change in their dose of chemotherapeutic agent. Patient leaflets are also provided containing the brand and generic names of the medications, uses, how to use medications, side effects and when to notify your doctor, precautions, and drug interactions.

PASTORAL SERVICES
The chaplains of Lawrence General Hospital provide spiritual, emotional and sacramental support to cancer patients and their families. The chaplains collaborate with the multidisciplinary team by attending multidisciplinary rounds to provide comprehensive pastoral/spiritual care.

Lawrence General Hospital has a team of Chaplains which include an Interfaith, Catholic, Protestant and Latino Chaplain. The Interfaith Chaplain and Catholic Chaplain serve on the Hospital’s Ethics Committee. The Interfaith Chaplain serves on the Cancer Committee and is also the Coordinator of the Department. A Rabi is available when needed. Catholic priests are available on a daily basis to provide sacramental services. Eucharistic Ministers volunteer to bring communion to patients on a daily basis as well. The Interfaith Chaplain also provides spiritual support, when needed, to the breast cancer survivor group.

What you can expect from the Chaplains:
Confidentiality
Good Listening Skills
Regular visits
Spiritual support for Individuals and Families
Linking Individuals and Families with Staff
Religious Services, Sacraments, Prayers
Information and guidance regarding medical ethics
questions, health care proxies, organ donation, end-of-life care
decisions and questions concerning spiritual care
Grief ministry in dealing with loss or death
Prayer shawl minister

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Community Outreach

Highlights of 2009

The Hospital continued to collaborate as a major partner in MassCONECT, a program that unites Harvard School of Public Health, Dana Farber Cancer Center and community partners in Lawrence with the goal of “eliminating cancer disparities through education, research and training.” Another vital conduit for outreach is the Mayor’s Health Task Force, a group of 75 providers. They work on the preventive agenda for the City of Lawrence. The Hospital is represented on the Executive Committee of the Task Force. The Hospital collaborated with these community partners on the following activities in 2009:

- The Hospital was the major sponsor of a city-wide health Summit attended by 250 community providers and residents. The topic this year was “A Sound Mind for a Sound Body: Unlocking the Power to Heal.” Speakers topics included “Addressing Tobacco: Why Should I Care?” and a special workshop was devoted to a showing and discussion of “Unnatural Causes,” a PBS documentary examining the roots of health disparities.

- Sponsorship of a “Women’s Night Out” at the Lawrence Senior Center including cancer prevention information and a “Look Good Feel Better” session for breast cancer survivors.

- Sponsorship of a table at the Women’s Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast in October Hospital’s alternate hosting, and this year’s event was in Methuen.

In its external healthy lifestyles newsletter “About Your Health” distributed to 50,000 homes in our service area, the Hospital included 2009 articles on “Protecting Your Skin Outside” and ‘Exercise, a Good Defense Against Breast Cancer. The Department of Education continued to monitor the Hospital-wide distribution of patient education materials about cancer and the Medical Library is open to patients.

The Hospital continued to promote cancer prevention topics on its electronic message board at the local Registry of Motor Vehicles.

The Hospital continues to be fortunate to have the regional representative from the American Cancer Society as an active member of our Cancer Committee. A dedicated advisor and contributing partner in the community, she provides valuable news about the latest initiatives and materials available from ACS.

The Hospital’s Breast Care Coordinator works with the Community Liaison, Public Affairs Department and Imaging Services staff to promote our Breast Cancer Support Group at as many community venues as possible, such as the Health Summit, presentations at local retirement facilities, at the local High School, the Chamber of Commerce Expo and Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Both English and Spanish print and radio ads were placed featuring free breast health and prostate health screenings held at Lawrence General Hospital, 31 patients were seen in total. Financial Counselors were available to help link uninsured patients with health care coverage to encourage further preventative screenings and follow up visits.

With a 60 person team at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, the Lawrence General Hospital team had an outpouring of enthusiasm and support! By selling traditional Spanish foods, and brightly colored t-shirts they raised $6,994 for the American Cancer Society.