



## Leaders' Update

A message from Mary Ann Hager, associate director for clinical services

Dear colleagues,

Massey's clinical services continue to grow, with new physicians, clinics, treatments and programs.

Since last summer, Massey welcomed 14 new cancer-focused physicians. They include:

Breast imaging radiologist

- Biren Shah, M.D., director; diagnostic radiology, breast imaging

Gynecologic oncologist

- Sarah Temkin, M.D., director; gynecologic malignancies

Medical hematologists-oncologists

- Shekhu Brar, M.D., GI and GU malignancies
- Sarah Gordon, D.O., lung cancer, phase 1 trials
- Gary Simmons, M.D., bone marrow transplant

Neuro-oncologist

- Alicia Zukas, M.D., neurological tumors, neuro-immunology

Otolaryngologist

- Jon Chan, M.D., head and neck cancer

Pediatric oncologists

- Kelly Lastrapes, M.D., bleeding and clotting disorders, palliative oncology
- Matthew Schefft, D.O., fever in immunocompromised patients, immune thrombocytopenia, thrombosis

Pulmonologist

- S. Patrick Nana-Sinkam, M.D., chair; thoracic malignancies

Surgical oncologists:

- Jaime Bohl, M.D., colorectal surgery
- Leonardo Fernandez, M.D., GI malignancies and HIPEC
- Emily Rivet, M.D., colorectal surgery and palliative care
- Syed "Ammer" Shah, M.D., endocrine and adrenal tumors, immunotherapy

Massey's new Pancreas and Biliary Neoplasm Program allows patients to see a variety of specialists in one visit – on the same day at VCU Health Stony Point 9000. The program, led by Brian Kaplan, M.D., is the first of its kind in the Richmond area, and it aims to reduce treatment delays and patient anxiety and improve outcomes through a multi-disciplinary, patient-centered approach.

Last month, Massey began a new colorectal surgery and screening clinic with Drs. Jaime Bohl and Emily Rivet at the recently opened VCU Health at Stony Point 9109. Rivet brings unique expertise with her dual specialization in both colorectal surgery and palliative care – she is one of a few in the nation. Also, the new clinic offers brand new space and furnishings as well as ample and convenient onsite self-parking.

With the addition of Dr. Leo Fernandez, Massey now offers HIPEC (heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy) for the treatment of advanced or complex abdominal cancers. The procedure involves cyto reduction surgery to remove the tumor(s), followed by the circulation of a heated chemotherapy solution throughout the abdominal cavity. HIPEC helps kill any remaining cancer cells and reduces the risk of cancer recurrence.

Massey has begun multidisciplinary conferences and strengthened collaborative interactions between medical, surgical and radiation oncologists at VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) in South Hill. Telecommunication between the providers at CMH and Massey is taking place for lung, breast, GI and leukemia and lymphoma. Genetic counseling via teleconferencing began this winter. Heather Creswick, M.S., C.G.C., provides genetic counseling for CMH patients referred by their CMH providers.

The Integrative Health Program at Massey has grown to include one-on-one services, classes and online workshops at our downtown Richmond campus, Stony Point and Hanover sites, as well as in the Petersburg and Colonial Heights communities. With the mission to enhance health outcomes and quality of life for patients and families facing cancer, the program takes a holistic approach to treating the mind, body and spirit by combining conventional medicine with evidence-based complementary approaches. Four different areas of integrative health are featured in the program: mind/body, psychosocial, nutrition and cancer rehab/fitness. For a complete listing of currently offered Integrative Health activities, call (804) 828-8478.

As a result of advances in diagnosis and treatment, more people than ever before are surviving diagnoses of cancer. The transition from active treatment to post-treatment care is a critical time for long-term survival. To ensure that patients are well prepared for this new phase of their cancer journey, Massey providers are now utilizing a special tool called a “Survivorship Care Plan”. This tool includes a comprehensive summary of the diagnosis, with details of treatments (such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy) and a follow-up care plan. Following completion of treatment, the Survivorship Care Plan is reviewed with the patient. Copies are shared with both the patient and the patient’s primary care physician. The goal of this plan is to assist in the prevention and surveillance for new or recurrent cancers as well as provide interventions for the late effects of cancer and its treatment.

Massey is joined in a medical-legal partnership with several local organizations providing legal services. The medical-legal partnership (MLP) provides oncology patients – both inpatient and outpatient – with access to legal services and financial counseling in their time of need. Advisors are on-site two days a week and accessible daily.

Massey has extended its social work services to its Stony Point and Hanover clinics. Additional social workers are also available downtown. Social workers can provide counseling, supportive care and connection to resources, such as financial and legal assistance.

Finally, I am pleased to share that Massey's Palliative Care Program recently renewed its Joint Commission Advanced Certification for Palliative Care.

News related to Massey's cancer care is provided regularly on the news blog. For more news updates, visit <http://www.massey.vcu.edu/about/blog/>.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Hager, R.N., M.S.  
Associate director for clinical services