Overview

The Division of Hematology and Oncology continues to provide excellence in education, patient care, and clinical research. The division is currently staffed with six attending physicians, a certified nurse specialist in genetic testing, and six subspecialty residents.

The division provides high quality education to our subspecialty residents, interns, medical students, and patient caregivers. Starting July 2010, each month two interns and a senior resident rotate on our inpatient service. Daily teaching and patient care rounds are conducted for hematology, medical oncology, and hematopoietic progenitor cell transplant patients. Didactic lectures are offered on state of the art topics in the arena of cancer prevention, screening, and cancer treatment. The division also conducts weekly Hematology and Oncology Grand Rounds on an array of hematological and oncological topics. The division’s subspecialty training program continues to be successful with six subspecialty residents, 100% pass rate in hematology and oncology board certification, and full-accreditation by ACGME.

Mark Fesler, M.D., is a recent graduate from our fellowship program in June 2010 and will come on board as assistant professor in internal medicine. He will be providing clinical care for patients with malignant blood disorders such as: leukemia and lymphoma as well as solid cancers of the gastrointestinal tract and the genitourinary tract, and sarcoma. Dr. Fesler wrote in-house protocols for the treatment of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, Diffuse Large B cell Lymphoma and Multiple Myeloma during his fellowship. These protocols are at various steps in the IRB approval process. He is currently supervising the clinical research program in the division and he is responsible for conducting weekly meetings discussing new clinical trials. His primary clinical interest is caring for patients with malignant hematological disorders. His primary research interest is enrolling patients on clinical trials to further the care of cancer patients in the future.

The Blood and Marrow Transplant Program offers autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplants for malignant and non-malignant disease. Stem cell sources include bone marrow, mobilized peripheral blood stem cells and cord blood. The program serves as a collection, apheresis, and transplant center for the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). This year, a new position of NMDP coordinator was created. This person supports the growth in our NMDP collection and transplant activities. The program is accredited by the Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). Research interests include cord blood transplantation, transplantation in the elderly, and reduced intensity transplantation.

We collaborate with the Department of Otolaryngology and the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in providing care for patients with cancer. The Head and Neck Multidisciplinary Clinic and Liver Multidisciplinary Clinic are formulating innovative ways to treat patients with rare diseases. We also have a collaborative effort in breast cancer with pathology, surgical oncology, diagnostic radiology and medical oncology. We have many research protocols, mainly with National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP).

Starting in September 2010, we will have a new sarcoma program, with a new orthopedic surgical oncologist and a new radiologist, who is an expert in sarcomas. As shown above, we have an integrated “liquid” cancer program involving in-house research protocols and community physicians. Patients with lymphoma and myeloma have an autologous bone marrow transplant option.

During the past 10 years Saint Louis University Cancer Center has been providing hereditary cancer education services to individuals and families at risk. Dr. Suzanne Mahon has over 20 years experience providing these services. This past year, she was awarded grants from the St. Louis Affiliate of the Susan G.
Komen for the Cure, Circle of Hope, and the Men’s Group Against Cancer to further her work. These grants allow patients to receive individualized education and counseling about genetic testing without cost to anyone who accesses the program. Recommendations for cancer prevention and early detection are provided based on the personalized risk assessment and results of genetic testing. Funds are available for genetic testing for those that cannot afford it. Additionally, the funding will enable Dr. Mahon to provide education to various health care providers and the public about cancer risk and when to consider genetic testing.

The Center for Bleeding and Thrombotic Disorders and Adult Hemophilia Treatment Center are integrated into the Division of Hematology and Oncology. Inpatient and outpatient consultation services are provided in cooperation with the Coagulation Consultants Reference Laboratory, under the Department of Pathology. Weekly clinical conferences and case presentations, which enhance the educational value of the program, are attended by pathology and hematology faculty, staff, and subspecialty residents. Subspecialty residents participate in the Center’s services and assist in providing care in the clinic setting.

The Adult Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) is one of approximately 140 HTC’s across the country, which is funded by grants from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). The SLU HTC serves patients with bleeding disorders who live in Southern Illinois and Eastern Missouri and sponsors a 340B clotting factor distribution program. Treatment Center staff is active in community education and outreach. The Center supports and participates in the activities of the Hemostasis and Thrombosis Research Society, the Gateway Hemophilia Association, the National Hemophilia Foundation, the Hemophilia Federation of America and the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network. The HTC continues to support an international outreach program by maintaining a “twinning” relationship with the Hemophilia Treatment Center in Bangalore, India.

Our division continues to expand its research capabilities while participating in innovative trials with National Surgical Adjuvant Bowel Project (NSABP), Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG), Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), Breast Cancer International Research Group (BCIRG), Cancer Trials Support Unit (CTSU), NCI Clinical Trials, and multiple pharmaceutical clinical trials as well as physician initiated treatment protocols with a team of research nurses and an IRB coordinator.

Finally, the alliance between Saint Louis University and Sisters of Saint Mary's (SSM) has been activated. The initial focus of this alliance will be on collaboration in clinical research.

**Cancer Center Overview**
*(Summary provided by Mark A. Varvares, M.D., Director)*

The Saint Louis University Cancer Center was formed in 2002 as a joint venture between the Saint Louis University School of Medicine and the Saint Louis University Hospital. This project has grown steadily over the last eight years and has been instrumental in the facilitation of the growth of the clinical programs and clinical, translational, and basic science programs throughout the health sciences center campus. The center has also provided an extensive array of outreach and educational opportunities to our local and regional community.

The interaction between the Cancer Center and the Department of Internal Medicine has been collaborative and robust since the inception of the Cancer Center in 2002. The center has provided major support to many aspects of the Department of Internal Medicine’s clinical, educational, and research enterprises.
Clinical Collaborations

Internal Medicine's major clinical effort in oncology is in its Division of Hematology and Oncology which is housed in the Cancer Center space in the West Pavilion. The Cancer Center houses both the hematology and oncology clinical offices and the academic offices of the division's faculty and administrative support staff. In addition, the Infusion Center and the Chemotherapy Pharmacy are located immediately adjacent to the clinical space. Within the hematology and oncology clinical suite, multidisciplinary tumor clinics have developed, such as the Multidisciplinary Program in Head and Neck Oncology, for example. In this multidisciplinary setting the patients are seen together in one setting by all the related disciplines involved in their individual care. This has been facilitated only through great collaboration between Internal Medicine, Radiation Oncology, the Cancer Center (providing social services, nursing and dietetic support), and the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. In order to facilitate the functionality of this critical clinical space, the Cancer Center has provided significant support for key staff. Over the next year or two, the Cancer Center hopes to work in conjunction with the Division of Hematology and Oncology to improve and expand upon the space within the West Pavilion.

Clinical Research

Over the last year, the Cancer Center has worked extensively and collaboratively with the Division of Hematology and Oncology to help develop the Saint Louis University Cancer Center/Sisters of Saint Mary's Regional Clinical Research Alliance. This effort, which is a collaboration between the SLU Cancer Center and the SSM Cancer Care network, will allow clinical trials that are based at the Saint Louis University Cancer Center to be available to community oncologists that are members of the SSM network. This regional network will facilitate the growth of clinical trials throughout the region and make academic trials that are based at the Saint Louis University Cancer Center available to the patients under the care of SSM community oncologists in our region. In addition, this allows an opportunity for community oncologists to open trials at their sites and to make those trials available to all alliance participating clinicians, be they full time academic based or community based. This is a true two-way collaboration between our academic medical center and our community health care network that is truly novel for this region. We believe that this will be a very strong foundation for growth of clinical research programs in the region.

Basic and Translational Research

The Cancer Center supports a seminar speaker series and provides an educational foundation for the Saint Louis University cancer community. In May of 2010, the Cancer Center sponsored a Translational Science Seminar in Cancer at the Doisy Research Center. This seminar highlighted the translational programs that are ongoing in cancer at our institution. Many members of the Department of Internal Medicine were featured.

In addition, in 2009 the Cancer Center made seed grants available to members of the research community to help develop new projects in cancer research. Dr. Guangyong Peng was a recipient of one of these seed-grants to support his work on the immunological microenvironment surrounding a lymph node involved with metastasis from the head and neck cancer. This parallels works that Dr. Peng has done previously in melanoma.

The Center has helped to support the efforts of a new recruit, Dr. Reigh-Yi Lin of the Division of Endocrinology, who does innovative work with thyroid cancer stem cells. She will be an excellent addition to our community of cancer researchers.
DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Educational Programs

For many years the Saint Louis University Cancer Center has recognized the value of the Liver Cancer Program at our institution and how it enhances the overall visibility and quality of all the cancer programs here. For this reason, the Cancer Center has committed to help sponsor and support the Liver Fellowship Program through the Department of Gastroenterology. This has allowed ongoing growth and development of this critical and important fellowship program. In addition, the Cancer Center has been a regular supporter of the Annual Gastrointestinal Cancers Seminar headed by Dr. Banke Agarwal. This distinguished and high profile seminar truly accentuates the strength of the management of gastrointestinal cancers at this institution.

Other Collaborations

The Cancer Center has many other significant interactions with the Department of Internal Medicine. A longstanding relationship has been established with Internal Medicine faculty member, Dr. Suzanne Mahon. Dr. Mahon is truly one of the region’s experts on the genetic basis of breast cancer, the appropriate genetic workup for patients with hereditary breast cancer, and the prevention and treatment of this disease. The Cancer Center has worked with Dr. Mahon to achieve support for her programs in hereditary cancers. In return, Dr. Mahon has been one of our primary speakers with respect to community outreach as related to breast cancer. The recent development of the Komen nurse navigator and the initiation of the Show Me Healthy Women Program at the Cancer Center has been a great collaboration between the Cancer Center, the Department of Internal Medicine and Dr. Mahon.

In summary, Academic Year 2009-2010 was a year of growth for the Cancer Center. The total number of new patients seen by our cancer services continues to grow annually. With ongoing collaborations with colleagues in Internal Medicine and others in the St Louis University Cancer Community, we hope that these numbers will continue to grow as we expand the clinical, research and outreach programs through the Cancer Center.

Honors and Recognition

Best Doctors, St. Louis Magazine
Paul J. Petruska, M.D.
Steven M. Pincus, M.D.

Suzanne M. Mahon, RN, DNSc, AOCN, APNG
Missouri Delegate to the CDC task Force to Respond to Direct to Consumer Marketing for Genetic Testing for Hereditary Breast Cancer 2009-2010.

Grants and Contracts Held by Each Faculty Member

Suzanne M. Mahon, RN, DNSc, AOCN, APNG

Hans-Joachim Reimers, M.D.

The Children’s Mercy Hospital Subcontract, CDC U27/CCU7191050, “Preventions of Complications of Bleeding Disorders through HTCs,” 2009-2010, $39,000.
During fiscal year 2010 the Division of Hematology and Oncology had 12 active studies with different sponsors. Due to confidentiality agreements and non-publicity clauses in contracts with sponsors, specific information pertaining to industry sponsored research may not be released in public documents.

**Faculty**

**Professor and Director**
Paul J. Petruska, M.D.

**Professor**
Hans J. Reimers, M.D., Ph.D.

**Adjunct Professor**
Suzanne Mahon, RN, DNSc, AOCN, APNG

**Associate Professor**
Ganesh C. Kudva, M.D.
Steven M. Pincus, M.D., Ph.D.
John M. Richart, M.D.

**Associate Clinical Professor**
Stephen Janney, M.D.
Susan Luedke, M.D.
John Visconti, D.O.
Joel Zeffren, M.D.

**Adjunct Assistant Professor**
James V. Beattie, D.O.

**Assistant Clinical Professor**
Victoria Dorr, M.D.
James Glauber, M.D.
James Hays, M.D.
Kochurani Maliekel, M.D.
Matthew D. Miller, D.O.
R. William Morris, M.D.
Yagnesh Oza, M.B.B.S.
Robert Rosser, M.D.
Muhammad Salamat, M.D.
Mark Stutz, M.D.

**Office Manager**
Ms. Kathy Bilbrey