The Division of Hematology and Oncology continues to provide excellence in education, patient care, and clinical research. The division is currently staffed with seven attending physicians, a certified nurse specialist in genetic testing, six subspecialty residents and two research physicians with laboratory research in the area of regenerative medicine and gene therapy. This has been a transition year for the Hematology and Oncology Division.

The division director, Dr. Paul Petruska went on medical leave and in his absence Dr. Hans-Joachim Reimers took his place as the interim director. During Dr. Petruska’s absence a new division director was appointed Dr. Friedrich Schuening, from Vanderbilt University. His knowledge and expertise is in stem cell transplants and hematological malignancies. His mission is to further expand the division and especially our already established Bone Marrow Transplant program.

The division provides high quality education to our subspecialty residents, interns, medical students, and patient caregivers. 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.

Dr. Mark J. Fesler supervises the research protocols development for the division. We have many in house protocols and we have arranged abstracts this year in regards to some of our liquid tumors, acute leukemias and follicular lymphoma protocols.

We are working very hard to upgrade our Blood and Marrow Transplant Program for both autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplant. The Blood and Marrow Transplant Program offers autologous and allogeneic stem cell transplants for malignant and non-malignant diseases. 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, using reduced intensity transplantation. We are currently up for accreditation by (FACT) and will hopefully be re-certified by the year’s end.

We continue our multidisciplinary approach to many diseases including 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 now have a new orthopedic program; this gives us a chance to include patients that would need an orthopedic oncologist; there is a radiologist interested in sarcoma disease and the oncologist Dr. Fesler to provide the medical oncology support. This upcoming year, we will be acquiring a new breast cancer surgeon and this multidisciplinary approach will continue in the treatment of breast cancer.
During the past 11 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, over the last year Dr. Petruska and Dr. Fesler have traveled all over Missouri developing an outreach program to talk about Saint Louis University’s Cancer Center and what it can offer our community physicians. Since his arrival, Dr. Schuening has joined in this effort to establish a connection with various practices throughout the two state areas.

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.
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 nine 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. The Center, in conjunction with the Division of Hematology/Oncology and Saint Louis University Hospital, is currently in the process of planning a major expansion for the ambulatory space on the 2nd floor of the West Pavilion. The Center is also working closely with the Division of Hematology/Oncology’s new division director, Dr. Friedrich Schuening, to develop multidisciplinary clinics in all major cancer “disease site groups”. Each group, developed for all of the cancers treated at the Center, will develop a multidisciplinary approach to patient care that will include a group tumor board, multidisciplinary clinic, integrated and coordinated evaluation, and treatment planning and care delivery. Each disease site group will be headed by a “director” and will include surgical, medical oncology and in solid tumors, radiation oncology clinicians. Eventually, each program will have a basic and translational research program that runs parallel to the clinical program.

Clinical Research

Over the last two years, 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 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.

Over the next year the Center hopes to partner with Dr. Schuening and Saint Louis University Hospital to “dramatically change the landscape” of how we deliver and re-invent in cancer care at our establishment. This includes plans for a dramatic change to the infrastructure that will see the development of an outpatient BMT unit, a free standing cancer hospital in the West Pavilion, the establishment of a Phase I Clinical Trials Unit, recruitment of translational physician scientists, and a new financial model for the entire cancer service line. “Stay tuned”.

**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 2010-2011.

**Grants and Contracts Held by Each Faculty Member**

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

Hans Joachim Reimers, M.D.


During fiscal year 2011 the Division of Hematology and Oncology had 12 active studies with various industry 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., 2010-2011
- Friedrich G Schuening, M.D., 2011

**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.

**Adjunct Associate Professor**
- Christos Papageorgiou, M.D., Ph.D
- Dan Luedke, M.D.

**Assistant Professor**
- Mark J. Fesler, M.D.

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

**Adjunct Assistant Professor**
- Arif Bari, M.D.
- James V. Beattie, D.O.
- Christopher Heuser, M.D.
- Agha Jamshed, M.D.
- Robert Kraetsch, M.D.
- John Wilkes, M.D.
DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

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