MEDIA INFORMATION

A New Era in Cancer Care

This photo of the new MCGHealth Cancer Center shows the building’s focal point, the atrium on the north side of the facility, which is adjacent to the main entrance.

The state-of-the-art MCGHealth Cancer Center at 1411 Laney Walker Boulevard opened its doors on January 4, 2010, marking the beginning of a new era in cancer care in the Augusta community and beyond.

Designed with a team of patient advisors, the palatial two-story structure features plush furniture, eclectic fixtures, abundant windows, elegant artwork and other modern amenities, including a café, library, meditation retreat and ground-level and rooftop gardens.

The center houses a team of key cancer specialists who take a holistic approach to care using the most advanced treatments in the region. Medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, psychologists and other caregivers provide quick and easy access to patients all under one roof.

Medical amenities include a clinical lab, on-site pharmacy, 30 exam rooms, 30 chemotherapy infusion stations, six private treatment rooms and a bench to bedside clinical trials unit.
Designed by Patients for Patients

We partner with our patients and families in their personal health care decisions. With Patient Family Centered Care, we also gain the benefit of patients’ help and insights to better plan, deliver and evaluate our care for others. We’ve redesigned much of our physical structure with patients at the table, collaborating with architects, physicians, nurses and others. This is how the new MCGHealth Cancer Center came about.

“Every decision made in designing the facility was aimed at furthering MCGHealth’s dedication to Patient Family Centered Care and included the active participation of local cancer survivors,” said Rich Bias, Senior Vice President of Ambulatory and Network Services.

In planning the new Cancer Center, patient advisors said that they wanted a warm, nurturing environment.

“Cancer clinics are often alienating spaces,” said Nettie Engels, who served as patient representative on the Cancer Center’s steering committee. “So we wanted to include healing elements such as natural light, outdoor views, artwork, native plants and calming colors to remind patients that there is life after cancer.”

Advisors were particularly interested in the layout of exam rooms and even made sure that all exam rooms for GYN cancer patients included private bathrooms. Patient advisors were also involved with signage and what kinds of symbols would best identify specific areas of the clinic for better wayfinding.

“In every case, MCGHealth implemented our suggestions, even when they added to the costs,” said Engels.

Patient Advisors helped choose the dogwood art along the desk area as part of the navigational theme throughout the Cancer Center.
At a Glance

MCGHealth’s $31-million 57,000-square-foot adult outpatient cancer center features:

- A 146-space parking deck
- A circular driveway for convenient drop off and pick up.
- A spacious retreat with soft colors, gardens and natural light
- A chapel with an adjoining meditation garden
- Patient navigators to guide patients
- Multidisciplinary care at one time under one roof
- The largest, most specialized cancer clinicians in the area
- 30 chemotherapy infusion stations that overlook a rooftop garden
- Phase I clinical trials not offered anywhere else in the area
- A café, resource library, boutique and additional support needs
Mind, Body and Spirit

Sunlight shines through floor-to-ceiling windows, illuminating a hotel-like reception desk, a floating stairway and calming art. The adjacent family common area, with its comfortable furnishings, soothing colors and hardwood-like flooring, overlooks an intimate garden.

This is not your typical cancer clinic.

The first floor also houses a cozy cafe, a resource library for researching cancer, a patient boutique, which will open soon, and a chapel. The second floor houses a loft-like infusion area, several private treatment rooms, a pharmacy and a clinical research unit to coordinate clinical trials.

Here are additional details about some of the unique amenities that treat the mind, body and spirit:

- **Community Rooms** – There are several community rooms, which will serve as conference areas and gathering spaces too. Counseling can be done here, and volunteers also can use these rooms.

- **Meditation Retreat** – The chapel, or Meditation Retreat, connects to an outside meditation garden. It is intended to be a pleasant, quiet space.

- **Rooftop Garden** – This healthy green space includes trellises, planters, flowers and more. Infusion patients can experience a panoramic view of the rooftop garden.

- **Café** – A place where nutritious food and beverages can be purchased by patients, families, physicians and staff.

- **Family Resource Library** – The library will be filled with relevant brochures, information stations with computers, books and other literature for patients and families to use to find out more about cancer and related topics.
By the Numbers

- 57,226 square ft. inside the building
- 63,720-square-foot parking garage
- 146 parking spaces
- 2,218 square yards of asphalt
- 4,000 lineal feet of concrete curbs
- 6 tons of masonry rebar
- 300 tons of structural steel
- 207 doors
- 30 exams room
- 6 private treatment rooms
- 30 infusion chairs
- 56 windows
- 31 styles of windows
- Largest window: 54 feet wide x 50 feet tall
- 500 square feet of greenscreen, a fence-like trellis for climbing plants
- 1,500 light fixtures
- 36 feet is height of main building
- 43 feet is height to atrium’s top
- 3 elevators
- 1,000-plus plants and trees
- 77 employees
- 4,400 feet of communications cable
- Over 80 pieces of artwork

The parking deck includes 146 parking spaces and a covered walkway to the MCGHealth Cancer Center entrance.

More than 50 windows in about 31 different sizes and styles are in the Cancer Center. A large bank of those windows provides a panoramic view of the unique rooftop garden just outside this second-floor infusion area.
Healing Gardens

“The voice of nature is always encouraging.” – Henry David Thoreau

Rooftop garden
On the second-floor terrace outside the patient infusion room, clusters of native trees, plants, flowers and climbing vines are thriving in containers in the 4,000-square-foot rooftop garden. Tables and benches made of natural teakwood provide ample outdoor seating in this convergence of nurture and nature.

According to the National Garden Bureau, Friends Hospital in Philadelphia became one of the first medical facilities to develop a program to use plants in a therapeutic setting in 1879. A physician there noticed that psychiatric patients involved in the hospital's fields and flower gardens were calmer and that the gardens had a “curative” effect on them.

Today, advances in technology and pharmaceuticals are what define modern medicine. However, in recent years, the medical community around the world is rediscovering the healing power of gardens.

The MCGHealth Cancer Center incorporates green spaces, flowerbeds and several gardens into its healing landscape, recognizing that bringing in nature and sunlight can positively affect patient outcomes.
Meditation Gardens
For an individual recovering from a serious illness, such as cancer or stroke, gardens can be an important part of healing by providing hope and inspiration.

A healing garden can take many forms, but it always provides interaction with nature. Visually, plants produce influential hues and peaceful tones. The rich aroma of fresh earth can penetrate the air around it, cultivating a comfort that only nature can create. A patient can reach out and touch the soft, cool leaf of a plant or flower petal and be transported to another place.

Flowers help us to celebrate the special times in our lives, such as marriage, children or a new career. In the more difficult intervals, flowers and plants give us hope and inspiration to meet the challenges of life, such as cancer.
Healing Art

Ribbons of Hope
By Thomas Lyles
MCGHealth has long recognized the benefit that art plays in healing. Visual and performing arts have been incorporated into our environment of care since the founding of our Healing Arts Program in 2002.

Many Southern artists were invited to submit their works for consideration in the new Cancer Center. These are samples of the artwork from three of the 11 artists who were chosen.

**Thomas Lyles** of Martinez, Ga., a sculptor, welder and instructor, created the spiraling blue Ribbons of Hope piece that hangs in the atrium, the building’s tallest point.

**Lillie Morris** of Grovetown, a retired nurse, worked to create pieces that promoted calm and peace in her series of collage paintings above that decorate the Meditation Retreat. The four pieces contain natural elements of dried flowers and hand tinted, textured papers.

**Michael Fowler** of North Augusta, an Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina Aiken, is fascinated by the why and how of art design. Several of his paintings, including *Sienna Sentinels* and *Verdure Blast*, hang in the second floor hallway on the west side.

“We wanted to include healing elements such as artwork and calming colors to remind patients that there is life after cancer.” – Nettie Engels, survivor and Patient Advisor
Comprehensive Cancer Care

The MCGHealth Cancer Center physicians and staff members treat virtually every type and stage of cancer, including:

- Basal cell carcinoma
- Blood diseases, disorders
- Bone Marrow Transplants
- Brain cancer
- Brain tumors
- Breast cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Colorectal cancer
- Endometrial cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Gynecologic cancers
- Head and neck cancers
- Laryngeal cancer
- Leukemia
- Lung cancer
- Melanoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkins lymphoma
- Oral cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Skin cancer
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Thyroid cancer
- Uterine cancer
- Vulvar cancer
- Various others

In 2009, the MCGHealth clinical cancer program was reaccredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer for another three years, receiving special commendation in four of the nine standards. Additionally, five MCGHealth physicians were recently recognized as America’s Top Doctors for Cancer.
America’s Top Cancer Physicians

Five MCGHealth physicians have been included in the most recent edition of "America's Top Doctors for Cancer®," a patient reference guide that identifies the nation's most outstanding cancer physicians.

Dr. Sharad A. Ghamande, Gynecology/Oncology. Dr. Ghamande is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chief of the Section of Gynecologic Oncology. His clinical and research interests include ovarian cancer, cervix cancer and chemotherapy trials.

Dr. Anand P. Jillella, Hematology/Oncology. Dr. Jillella is Professor of Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation. His areas of study and practice include bone marrow transplantation, leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and blood-related cancers.

Dr. David Scott Lind, Surgical Oncology. Dr. Lind is Professor of Medicine, Chief of the Section of Surgical Oncology and the Jarrell Distinguished Chair in Surgical Oncology. His clinical and research interests are in the area of breast cancer.

Dr. David J. Terris, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Terris is Professor, Department Chair and Porubsky Distinguished Chair in the Otolaryngology Department. His clinical interests are minimally invasive thyroid and parathyroid surgery. His research focuses on innovative surgical techniques for thyroid and parathyroid tumors.

Dr. Martha K. Terris, Urology. Dr. Terris is Chief of the Section of Urology at the Augusta Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Professor of Urology at the Medical College of Georgia. Her research interests include prostate biopsy techniques, prostate cancer risk factors, bladder cancer risk factors, nutritional therapies for prostate cancer and new imaging techniques for urologic cancers.
Battling the Numbers

According to the American Cancer Society, in 2009 an estimated:

- 1,479,350 new cancer cases were diagnosed in the United States.
- 39,080 cases were diagnosed in Georgia.
- 22,100 in South Carolina.

There is a critical need for specialized cancer care in the Augusta-Aiken area. Here are some numbers that underscore the need for the MCGHealth Cancer Center. In 2008 at MCGHealth:

- 934 patients were diagnosed or received first course treatment.
- 366 patients were treated for recurrence or progression of cancer.
- 479 males were treated for cancer.
- 455 females were treated for cancer.

The types of cancer treated most frequently in 2008 were:

1. Lung
2. Breast
3. Prostate
4. Thyroid
5. Kidney
6. Various

The cancer registry staff at MCGHealth follows more than 7,000 patients annually to record disease status and survival data.

The second-floor waiting area, also known as “The Commons,” has intimate seating arrangements for patient privacy. The area is spacious, yet warm. Ample sunlight floods the area through floor-to-ceiling windows on the building’s north side.