



**Dignity Health.**

Northridge Hospital  
Medical Center

Leavey Cancer Center



**2014 Leavey Cancer Center  
Annual Report  
for the year 2013**

*Finding Hope for  
Cancer-Free Tomorrows*

## *Cover model and cancer survivor spotlight...*

*“Battling cervical cancer can take its toll emotionally. Thankfully, I have great lines of communication with my care team, including David Kim, MD, Medical Oncologist. He’s walked me through this very difficult journey, almost by hand, while attacking the cancer aggressively. It’s rare to find a doctor that empowers you so much that he strengthens your faith in God. And with the Navigator and nurses, I know I’m amongst friends who are fighting the cancer with me while keeping me focused and positive. I even receive rides to and from my appointments through the Harold and Carol Pump Foundation. I’m treated like a person who is cared for.”*

*—Gladis Chet  
Pacoima*

*I Found  
Hope*





# *Greetings from the Medical Director & Chairman*

The expanded award-winning Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center boasts the most comprehensive, technologically advanced treatments in the Valley. We are the first to offer the most sophisticated cancer fighting equipment, including:

- ❖ Gamma Knife
- ❖ da Vinci Si (single incision) Robotic-Assisted Surgery
- ❖ Trilogy Stereotactic Radiation Therapy

We also offer specialty programs such as our Liver and Pancreas Program and Surgical Oncology Clinic. In addition, the Harold & Carole Pump Department of Radiation Oncology offers state-of-the-art high-dose radiation treatments that avoid damaging healthy tissue and successfully treat all stages of cancer. We offer the most appropriate treatments for:

- ❖ Brain & Spine Cancer
- ❖ Breast Cancer
- ❖ Colorectal Cancer
- ❖ Gynecology Cancer
- ❖ Liver & Pancreatic Cancer
- ❖ Lung Cancer
- ❖ Lymphoma & Leukemia
- ❖ Prostate Cancer
- ❖ Skin Cancer

To foster a healing environment, the Center features warm finishes, a water wall, a meditation garden and sanctuaries for rest and reflection. We offer entertaining technology as well—all rooms feature an individual flatscreen television, headphones, DVD player, iPod and Wi-Fi access for computers. Patients also have access to:

- ❖ Massage Therapy
- ❖ Spiritual Care Support
- ❖ Personal Navigators for guidance

This 2014 annual report is a product of the efforts of many professionals who have contributed their expertise and energy to the improvement of cancer care in our community and is based on 2013 statistical data. Please enjoy this comprehensive report and feel free to contact us for more information on cancer services for you or your patients.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Gary Davidson".

J. Gary Davidson, MD  
Medical Director  
Thomas & Dorothy Leavey  
Cancer Center



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Afshin Safa".

Afshin Safa, MD  
Chairman, Cancer Committee

## Awards & Accreditations

The Leavey Cancer Center has earned two esteemed accreditations from the Association of Community Cancer Centers and the American College of Surgeons (ACOS). Only 25 percent of hospitals nationwide have received the prestigious ACOS accreditation.



Northridge Hospital has earned the National Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission.



Ranked Among the Top 5% in the Nation for Clinical Excellence by Healthgrades 3 Years in a Row.



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# Breast Cancer Update:

## Hypofractionation

### 4 Weeks Versus 6.5 Weeks of Radiation Therapy

Breast conservation surgery followed by radiation therapy (BCT) is the treatment of choice for patients who desire breast preservation.

Six randomized trials in North America and Europe comparing BCT and mastectomy confirmed these treatments are equivalent in terms of local control and overall survival. The most recent update of a European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer trial<sup>1</sup> with >20 years of follow up showed no difference between the groups in terms of time to distant metastases or overall survival.

Conventionally fractionated whole breast radiation therapy decreases the risk of ipsilateral breast cancer recurrence by 30%. This translates into 5% absolute improvement in 15 year overall survival. However, 6.5 weeks of CF-WBRT is inconvenient and costly, which can prove prohibitive for many women.

### Hypofractionation Equal to or Better than Longer Treatments

Four randomized trials examining the safety and efficacy of hypofractionated whole breast radiation therapy demonstrated equivalent outcomes to conventional radiation therapy: Whelan (Canadian<sup>2</sup>); Royal Marsden (British); START A; and START B (European multi-

center)<sup>3</sup>. These trials show that daily radiation therapy length can be shortened from 6.5 weeks to 4 weeks, in selected patients.

The 10-year results of the Canadian and British fractionation trials showed that shorter (4 weeks) whole-breast fractionation schemes resulted in equal local control and complication rates.

Canadian Trial<sup>2</sup> randomized 1,234 patients to standard fractionation (50Gy in 25 fractions) vs. Hypofractionation (42.5Gy in 16 fractions) and published their results with >12 years of follow up.

The START B trial<sup>3</sup> (which compared 50Gy in 25 fractions to 40Gy in 15 fractions) was very similar in principle to the Canadian trial<sup>2</sup> (which compared 50Gy in 25 fractions to 42.5Gy in 16 fractions) but also included node-positive patients and those treated with mastectomy. The START trials also allowed a boost of 10Gy in 5 fractions and nodal irradiation. Both the START B and Canadian trials showed that a modestly hypofractionated regimen worked at least as well as a longer one, with equal or fewer toxicities.

### Cardiac Event Risk

One of the objections to hypofractionated schemes was the concern that there might be an increased risk of late cardiac events. However, a recent study<sup>4</sup> showed there was no difference in the incidence of serious cardiac morbidity up to at least 15 years for



**Afshin Safa, MD, Medical Director**  
Pump Department of  
Radiation Oncology

those patients treated to the left side in relation to fractionation.

In conclusion, hypofractionated whole and partial breast radiation is a more convenient alternative to conventional radiation therapy. Data thus far suggests equivalence to standard fractionation with proper optimal patient selection. Investigations are ongoing regarding optimization of dose and fractionation to achieve optimal balance of convenience, toxicity and tumor control.

### References

1. Litiere S, et al. Breast conserving therapy versus mastectomy for stage I-II breast cancer: 20 year follow-up of the EORTC 10801 phase 3 randomised trial. *Lancet Oncol* 2012 Apr;13(4) 412-9.
2. Whelan TJ, Pignol JP, Levine MN, et al. Long-term results of hypofractionated radiation therapy for breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2010;362:513-520.
3. Haviland JS, Owen JR, Dewar JA, et al. The UK Standardization of Breast Radiotherapy (START) trials of radiotherapy hypofractionation for treatment of early breast cancer: 10-year follow-up results of two randomised controlled trials. *Lancet Oncol* 2013;14:1086-1094.
4. Chan, et al. Adjuvant hypofractionated versus conventional whole breast radiation therapy for early-stage breast cancer: long-term hospital-related morbidity from cardiac causes. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2014 Mar 15;88(4) 786-92



# Progressive Treatment Options

- ❖ **daVinci Si Robotic Surgical System** - The more refined da Vinci Si (Single incision) Robotic Surgical System allows physicians to perform a gallbladder removal (cholecystectomy) or a hysterectomy through one small incision in the bellybutton. da Vinci Si also allows physicians to perform prostatectomy and other urological and gynecological procedures through a few incisions the size of a dime. daVinci Si's enhanced high-definition 3D vision and unparalleled precision enables surgeons to maneuver and control instruments in ways not humanly possible, which increases accuracy. Patient advantages include a shorter hospitalization, reduced pain, less scarring and a faster recovery.



*Green Hsueh, MD, Gynecology, with the daVinci Si (Single incision) Robotic Surgical System*

- ❖ **Trilogy Linear Accelerator Stereotactic System** - for image-guided radiation therapy and stereotactic radiosurgery. The Trilogy can treat cancer anywhere in the body by delivering a dose of radiation with pinpoint accuracy, resulting in completing treatment in 3 to 5 sessions.



*Afshin Safa, MD, Radiation Oncologist, with the Trilogy*

- ❖ **Precise Radiation Therapy, including:**
  - Image Guided Radiation Therapy
  - Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
  - Brachytherapy
  - Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy

- Gamma Knife Radiosurgery** - The gold standard in controlling brain metastases without the need for conventional surgery or whole-brain radiation therapy. Requiring no incision, Gamma Knife is a safe, non-invasive treatment. More than 200 precise radiation beams converge deep within the brain to shrink or even destroy damaged tissue.



*Parham Yashar, MD, Neurosurgeon, with the Gamma Knife*

- ❖ **BrainLAB Image-guided Navigation System** - for surgery of head and neck cancers.



- ❖ **Chemotherapy** - innovative multimodality therapies offer patients the latest approaches, while minimizing side effects. We offer the most advanced methods of chemotherapy and hormonal therapy treatment in a comfortable lounge or infusion suites equipped with an individual television with headset, DVD players, iPods and Wi-Fi for laptop access.

- ❖ **Advanced imaging services include:**
  - PET/CT
  - Digital Mammography
  - 64-Slice CT
  - Triphasic CT scanning
  - Angiography



*Karin Fu, MD, Medical Director  
Carole Pump Women's Center*

# Liver & Pancreas Surgical Oncology Clinic



**Kambiz Kosari, MD, Surgical Oncology,  
Medical Director, Liver & Pancreas Program**

Patients with liver, pancreas or bile duct cancer have hope thanks to the Leavey Cancer Center's liver and pancreatic (hepatobiliary) cancer team. Our innovative approach for diagnosis and treatment includes conferences to discuss patient cases, review their diagnoses and create an individualized plan of care.

Patients benefit from the expertise of specialists in gastroenterology, hepatology, pathology, medical, surgical and radiation oncology, interventional radiology and oncology nursing. Our team approach has enabled patients to achieve excellent long-term, disease-free survival when many were deemed untreatable in the past. The Liver & Pancreas Surgical Oncology Clinic at the Leavey Cancer Center provides cutting-edge treatments including:

- ❖ Surgical and minimally-invasive laparoscopic procedures
- ❖ Non-invasive procedures

## Celebrating Survivorship

Follow-up care and the transition from active treatment to post-treatment care is critical to the long-term health of survivors. Therefore, with funding from the Hearst Foundation and the Harold and Carole Pump Foundation, the Leavey Cancer Center purchased specialized survivor software. This program was recently installed and is now fully operational.

### Key Survivor Care Software Features

- ❖ Clinical knowledge base that models industry guidelines for cancer survivorship
- ❖ Productivity tools that free more time of clinical staff to focus on providing care to survivors

### Coming Soon

- ❖ Web-based portal that links each survivor to their care team
- ❖ A patient electronic health record (EHR)





# Supportive Services

## ❖ Chronic Disease Transitional Care -

A compassionate team of physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, social workers, pharmacists and ancillary practitioners supports patients with chronic illnesses from admission throughout the hospital stay and after discharge. The team addresses physical, intellectual, emotional, social, palliative and spiritual needs of patients/care partners. An individualized plan of care includes a home visit and follow up phone calls.



*Jeremy Grosser, MD, Medical Director  
Chronic Disease Transitional Care*

## ❖ Chapel – A nurturing and peaceful place for silence, reflection or prayer

## ❖ Electronic Health Records – Medical, Radiation and Surgical Oncology Departments are film-free and paper-free

## ❖ Learning Library – free information on a wide range of cancer topics

## ❖ Healing Garden – A relaxing place for patients and visitors to compose their thoughts



## ❖ Look Good, Feel Better – classes to enhance patients' appearance with make-up and wigs

## ❖ Massage Therapy – Angie's Spa provides free in-hospital massages for patients undergoing chemotherapy, radiation and surgery



## ❖ Nutritional Counseling – patients learn to optimize nutrition to repair the effects of cancer treatments

## ❖ Pain Program - ensures that patients who have pain are identified and treated effectively

## ❖ Pet Therapy - utilizes special therapy dogs to help reduce stress in patients



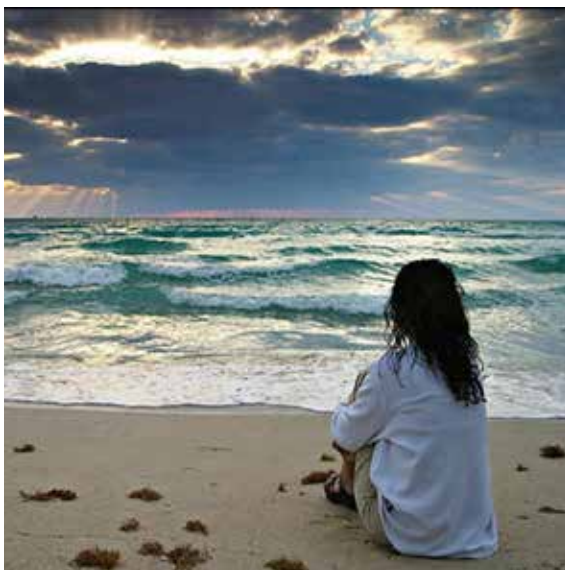


# Supportive Services

- ❖ **Social Services** - helps patients beyond their physical concerns
- ❖ **Spiritual Care** – honors patients' faith, beliefs and values and provides spiritual support to ease the stress of coping with cancer



- ❖ **Support Groups and Cancer Education** – opportunities to share and learn from others in similar situations
  - **Breast Cancer Support Group**
  - **Cancer Education Classes**
  - **Bereavement Program** - supports patients and families through a compassionate, multi-faith Spiritual Care Program



- ❖ **Facebook** - Leavey Cancer Center patients and survivors can visit our Facebook page to share their journeys and support one another, and to receive updates about upcoming cancer events and support group meetings.



- ❖ **Partnerships with outstanding organizations:**
  - **American Cancer Society** - collaborates with the Leavey Cancer Center to provide free additional supportive services, education and assistance to our patients
  - **Wellness Community** - offers a free professional program of emotional support, education and hope



# Navigator Program

Navigator Programs are nationally recognized for increasing a cancer patient's chances for survival and quality of life.

Northridge Hospital's patient-focused therapy begins with diagnosis and continues through treatment, remission and beyond. This is demonstrated by a total net community benefit for the Cancer Center of \$177,798 for FY13 to provide educational activities, mammogram/prostate screenings, support groups and patient assistance.

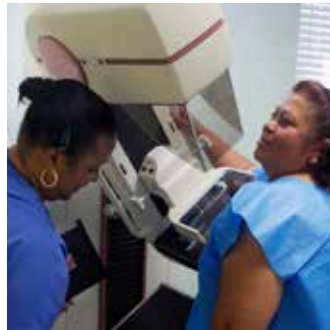


*Doris Rivas, Navigator Program Outreach Coordinator, and Kathleen Gentile, RN Navigator*



In 2006, the Leavey Cancer Center implemented the Navigator Program through a grant from the Avon Foundation for Women and began the Navigator Outreach Program with generous funding from the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation. It encompasses:

- ❖ **Harold & Carole Pump Foundation-Sponsored "Reaching Out" Screening Fairs** – These events provide free mammograms and prostate cancer screenings for those who are uninsured or underinsured.



- ❖ **Patient Advocate/Librarian** – A part-time, bilingual Patient Advocate assists the Outreach Navigator with both outreach and inpatient needs, including assistance with transportation and home health issues. Moreover, the Patient Advocate assumes the role of Librarian, helping patients and families at the Cancer Center Library.

## ❖ Navigator Program Community Outreach

– The goal of this program is to educate the community about cancer in general, ways to decrease risk factors and specific cancer screening guidelines. The Outreach staff also alleviates barriers to care by enrolling those who are uninsured or underinsured into the free mammogram screening program and providing assistance with obtaining health insurance. This program is also funded by the Leavey Cancer Center and the Harold & Carole Pump Foundation.

- ❖ **Community Group Outreach** - This program has increased cancer awareness for 7,209 individuals in 126 different community groups. Guardian Angel Church members, Vaughn School-based Clinic clients and the M.E.N.D. Community Center comprise a few of the community groups educated.

**School Wellness** - The Navigator Program has partnered with Northridge Hospital's School Wellness Initiative to educate parents of the program's students on screening guidelines and how to decrease cancer risk factors.





# Navigator Program

- ❖ **Support Groups** - The Navigator Program provides a professional liaison for the cancer support groups at the hospital, which include Breast and Trigeminal Neuralgia. Approximately 20 patients attend per session.



- ❖ **RN Navigator** - the patient's point-of contact concierge for any issues or questions. As a resource for each patient's unique needs during treatment, patients can rely on their Navigator whose role is to ensure a smooth transition among all hospital services by assisting with:

- Coordination of patient appointments with other specialists.
- Acquainting patients with all of our services including our Oncology Unit, Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center and the Carole Pump Women's Center.
- Pre-and-post operative surgery education.
- Connecting patients and families with psychosocial support and groups, classes and programs.
- Enrolling patients in the Hospital's comprehensive Patient Orientation Program, Navigating Through Your Cancer Journey.

- ❖ **Oncology Welcome Packages** - at their initial consult, patients receive a package designed to ease anxiety and provide comforts to common treatment side effects.



## Cancer Center Staff Team Up for Massage Therapy Match Grant

Northridge Hospital is privileged to be one of only six hospitals in the nation selected by Angie's Spa to receive funding to provide free in-hospital massages for men and women undergoing chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. These services are designed to alleviate painful side effects, provide relaxation, enhance traditional treatments and give cancer patients a self-esteem boost.



In 2013, Northridge Hospital Foundation received a continuing grant of \$35,000 to provide FREE therapeutic massage services for our in-hospital cancer patients. In addition, Angie's Spa provided a Matching Grant of up to \$3,000. A Matching Grant is a gift made with the specification that the amount donated must be matched by the organization. Motivated by this challenge, the Leavey Cancer Center Staff and patients held two bake sales to raise the matching funds. Moreover, Massage for You, the massage company for the Leavey Cancer Center, held a one-day massage therapy event at Everest College to provide massages by donation to Northridge Hospital. These three events ensured that Northridge Hospital exceeded the challenge by raising \$3,186 for a combined total of \$43,400. Enough to fund 1,847 patient massages.



In 2013, our Navigators scheduled massages for 1,736 individuals.

# *Honoring Their Memory by Raising Money to Fight Cancer*

## *Harold & Carole Pump* FOUNDATION



David, Carole & Dana Pump

The Harold and Carole Pump Foundation (H&CPF) honors a beloved father who lost his battle with cancer in 2000 and a loving mother who passed away in 2012. Using their unique relationship-building talents and skills, their sons David and Dana Pump working with Northridge Hospital Foundation, have raised more than \$5.5 million for the Carole Pump Women's Center, the Pump Department of Radiation Oncology and the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center. By engaging the community, sports figures and those touched by the disease, financial support is given to develop cancer treatments, programs and services and to obtain the most advanced medical technologies.



*At the Harold & Carole Pump Celebrity Golf Tournament and Dinner (L-R)*

- Emmitt Smith
- David Pump
- LaDainian Tomlinson
- Willie McGinest
- Jim Brown
- Marcus Allen
- Dana Pump
- Gale Sayers
- Eric Dickerson
- 'Bo' Jackson
- Actor Jamie Foxx



*At the Harold & Carole Pump Celebrity Golf Tournament and Dinner (L-R)*

- Al Michaels
- Bob Costas
- Bob Miller
- Vin Scully
- Steve Sax
- Brent Musburger



# Harold & Carole Pump Foundation

## ❖ Education Saves Lives

The Outreach Program's staff attended 126 community events and educated 7,209 people on cancer awareness in 2013. This education was provided in English and Spanish. Northridge Hospital and the H&CPF partnered with several community organizations to provide the vital outreach services listed below.

❖ **Harold Pump Foundation-Sponsored "Reaching Out" Screening Fairs** – the Carole Pump Women's Center hosted 12 free "Reaching Out" events to provide free cancer screenings for those who are uninsured or underinsured. The Northridge Family Practice Clinic provides follow-up care for all patients with abnormal test results.

- 1,004 women were provided with free mammograms. There were two positive breast cancer diagnoses in 2013.
- 18 diagnostic mammograms
- 27 ultrasounds
- 6 ultrasound needle placements
- 5 biopsies
- 40 prostate exams



Marie McCombs, MD, Women's Imaging/Breast Imaging

❖ **Patient Home Aid** – provides funding for home care to families who wish to discharge their loved one and continue their care in the comfort of their own home. Sponsored by H&CPF's Family Fund, this program provided nearly 2,100 hours of service in 2013.

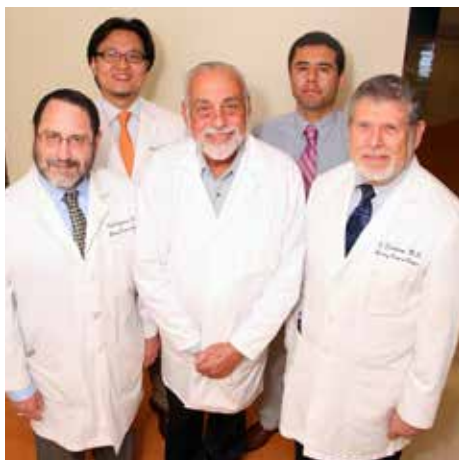


❖ **Transportation** – for those lacking transportation to-and-from medical appointments and the Levey Cancer Center, 1,027 rides were provided.

## ❖ Advanced Technology

The Endoscopic Video System purchased by the H&CPF is used for minimally invasive endoscopic procedures, which are far more beneficial to the patient than traditional open surgical approaches.

# 2013 Primary Site Table



**Leavey Cancer Center Physicians**

(l-r)

- Carl Singerman, MD
- David Kim, MD
- J. Gary Davidson, MD, Medical Director, Leavey Cancer Center
- Juan Alcantar, MD
- Sheldon Davidson, MD

SITE GROUP	ANALYTIC	NON-ANALYTIC	ALL CASES	% ALL CASES
TONGUE	3	0	3	0.4%
MOUTH	1	0	1	0.1%
TONSIL	0	1	1	0.1%
OROPHARYNX	1	0	1	0.1%
HYPOPHARYNX	1	0	1	0.1%
PHARYNX & ILL-DEFINED	1	0	1	0.1%
ESOPHAGUS	2	1	3	0.4%
STOMACH	8	2	10	1.4%
COLON	33	8	41	5.9%
RECTUM & RECTOSIGMOID	12	1	13	1.9%
LIVER	16	4	20	2.9%
GALLBLADDER	3	0	3	0.4%
BILE DUCTS	2	1	3	0.4%
PANCREAS	15	3	18	2.6%
PERITONEUM,OMENTUM,MESENT	1	0	1	0.1%
LARYNX	2	1	3	0.4%
LUNG/BRONCHUS-SMALL CELL	8	0	8	1.2%
LUNG/BRONCHUS-NON SM CELL	53	11	64	9.2%
PLEURA	1	0	1	0.1%
LEUKEMIA	13	10	23	3.3%
MYELOMA	6	6	12	1.7%
OTHER HEMATOPOIETIC	11	10	21	3.0%
SOFT TISSUE	1	1	2	0.3%
MELANOMA OF SKIN	8	3	11	1.6%
KAPOSIS SARCOMA	1	1	2	0.3%
BREAST	101	27	128	18.4%
CERVIX IN SITU CA	0	3	3	0.4%
CERVIX UTERI	10	1	11	1.6%
CORPUS UTERI	33	1	34	4.9%
UTERUS NOS	2	1	3	0.4%
OVARY	8	7	15	2.2%
VAGINA	1	0	1	0.1%
VULVA	3	0	3	0.4%
PROSTATE	56	18	74	10.7%
TESTIS	5	0	5	0.7%
PENIS	1	0	1	0.1%
BLADDER	12	5	17	2.4%
KIDNEY AND RENAL PELVIS	13	3	16	2.3%
EYE	0	3	3	0.4%
BRAIN	13	0	13	1.9%
OTHER NERVOUS SYSTEM	5	1	6	0.9%
THYROID	28	2	30	4.3%
OTHER ENDOCRINE	4	2	6	0.9%
HODGKIN'S DISEASE	2	1	3	0.4%
NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA	29	4	33	4.8%
UNKNOWN OR ILL-DEFINED	21	1	22	3.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>100%</b>

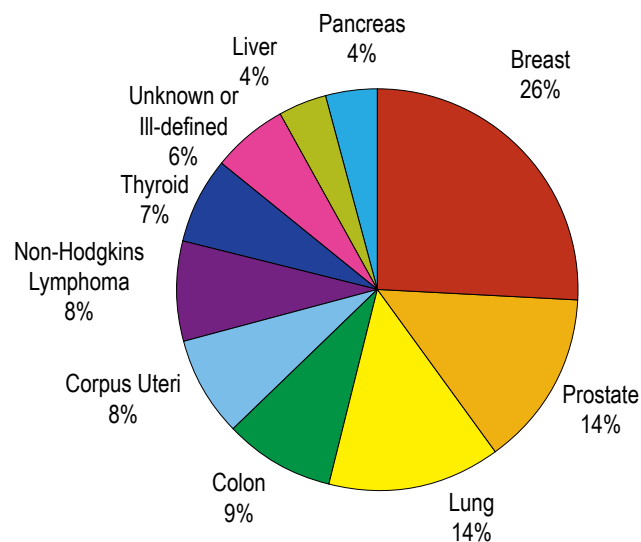


## 2003-2006 Overall Survival (all stages combined)

Stage of Disease	DX	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5
NHMC - BREAST	100%	97.1%	94%	90.9%	88.2%	85.5%
NCDB - BREAST	100%	97.1%	94%	90.9%	88.2%	85.5%
NHMC - LUNG	100%	44%	29.9%	21.1%	17.5%	16.1%
NCDB - LUNG	100%	46.1%	30.4%	23.5%	19.4%	16.7%
NHMC - PROSTATE	100%	97.7%	93.1%	90.8%	87.9%	84.8%
NCDB - PROSTATE	100%	97.6%	95.2%	92.8%	90.4%	87.9%
NHMC - COLON	100%	97.6%	95.2%	92.8%	90.4%	87.9%
NCDB - COLON	100%	81.1%	71.7%	64.8%	59.6%	55.2%
NHMC - BLADDER	100%	75.8%	64.4%	56.8%	56.8%	52.6%
NCDB - BLADDER	100%	85.4%	77%	71.2%	66.5%	62.2%

Please note: Numbers are not risk adjusted. (NCDB = National Cancer Data Base)

## Number of Persons Alive with Cancer by Site 2009



Latest data available.

## Oncology Conferences & Tumor Boards

Oncology Conferences are an opportunity for physicians to review and discuss treatment options available for specific malignant processes. The conferences are multidisciplinary and include physicians from Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Surgery, Radiology and Pathology.

Cases presented at the Oncology Conferences are at least 10 percent of the annual analytic cases accessioned into the Cancer Registry database and include cases from the five major sites seen at Northridge Hospital Medical Center. At least 75 percent of the cases presented are required to be prospective. In 2013, 36 Tumor Boards were held with 109 of the total 119 case presentations being prospective cases (91%).

Physicians are encouraged to contact the Cancer Registry at 818.885.8500, ext. 2835 or ext. 2833 to schedule case presentations for the following conferences:



Monthly Tumor Board

### Breast Tumor Board

#### Breast Conference:

2nd and 4th Thursday of each month

#### General Tumor Board:

3rd Thursday each month

#### Head and Neck Tumor Board:

1st Thursday, every other month

#### Brain Tumor Board

(malignant and non-malignant cases presented):

Please call 818.885.5432 for dates and times

Northridge Hospital Medical Center is accredited by the Institute for Medical Quality/California Medical Association (IMQ/CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Northridge Hospital Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s).™ Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Harold Marks, MD, Breast Surgeon & Moderator, Breast Tumor Board

## Medical Oncology

In partnership with Northridge Hospital Medical Center, West Valley Hematology Oncology Medical Group (WVHOMG) provides diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of all malignant disorders, including solid tumors and hematologic malignancies. They treat patients with the most current anti-cancer drugs and treatment protocols available. WVHOMG doctors are board-certified in Hematology and Oncology, and their distinguished affiliations include South West Oncology Group and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Cancer Network.

WVHOMG doctors are faculty members at UCLA. While working in conjunction with the Leavey Cancer team, these dedicated physicians also embrace a multifaceted, holistic approach that includes the latest therapies, clinical trials and symptom management.

**West Valley Hematology & Oncology Medical Group 818.700.2336**

**J. Gary Davidson, MD**, is a board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine and Hematology. He serves as the Medical Director of the Leavey Cancer Center.



**Sheldon Davidson, MD**, is a board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine and Hematology.



**Carl Singerman, MD**, is a board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology.



**Juan Alcantar, MD**, is a board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology.



**David Kim, MD**, is a board-certified specialist in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology.



## Radiation Oncology

The Harold & Carole Pump Department of Radiation Oncology is the only treatment center in the Valley that provides an impressive selection of advanced treatment options like the minimally invasive Gamma Knife, Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), Brachytherapy, Mammosite and high-dose rate treatment for all stages of cancer.

Cancer Care Consultants is a specialized Radiation Oncology physician group founded on the principle of using the latest medical and computer technologies. It is one of the largest groups of its kind in the area, providing treatment to over 1,200 cancer patients annually. Accordingly, they have been recognized and listed in the “Best Doctors in America” and “The Essential Guide to Los Angeles’ Best Doctors.”

**The Pump Department of Radiation Oncology 818.885.5331**

**Afshin Safa, MD**, is board-certified in Radiation Oncology and serves as the Medical Director at the Harold & Carole Pump Department of Radiation Oncology.



**Mi Kyung (Micki) Ko, MD**, is board-certified in Radiation Oncology.



**Daniel Schiffner, MD**, is a board-certified Radiation Oncology.



**Sayana Shah, MD**, is a Radiation Oncologist with broad clinical expertise in the treatment of a wide range of cancers.



## Gamma Knife Center Physicians

**Afshin Safa, MD**  
**David Huang, MD**  
**Daniel Schiffner, MD**

**Gamma Knife Center 818.885.5432**

## Surgeons

Northridge Hospital boasts outstanding surgical oncologists as well as specialized surgeons in thoracics, neurology and gynecology. Our surgical team provides patients with a range of options best suited to their individual needs. They are also extraordinarily precise in removing cancer while preserving as much normal tissue and function as possible. Studies show that, for many cancers, patients have fewer complications if their surgery is at a hospital performing a high volume of these operations and by a surgeon who has expertise in the procedure, like those found at Northridge Hospital.



*Azmi Atiya, MD, Thoracic Surgeon*

## Sub-Specialized Radiologists

Renaissance Imaging Medical Associates (RIMA) employs an extraordinary team of highly sub-specialized radiologists. RIMA offers distributed subspecialty radiology services along the lines typically seen only in top academic radiology departments.



*Anil Wadhwani, MD, Interventional Radiologist*

## Oncology Nursing

Specially-trained oncology nurses provide the balance between innovative, expert treatment and personalized care. They stay abreast of the latest treatments and technologies through research, certification and life-long learning and maintain certifications in the implementation of specialized treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, IV therapy and blood transfusion. Many are certified specifically in oncologic nursing.

## Clinical Research

### Helping Shape the Future of Cancer Through Clinical Research

Groundbreaking medical advances are the result of new ideas and approaches developed through clinical research. Northridge Hospital Medical Center remains on the forefront of current research developments by participating in clinical research and partnering with some of the nation's most credible institutions, such as UCLA. We currently have open and accruing clinical trials in the areas of breast, lung, colorectal, prostate, pancreas, MDS/AML, CLL, lymphoma and hepatocellular cancers.



*David Kim, MD, Medical Oncology*

For more information on Clinical Research Trials, please call 818.885.5458.





# Cancer Committee Membership 2013

The membership of the Cancer Committee or other appropriate leadership body, is multidisciplinary, representing physicians from the diagnostic and treatment specialties and non-physicians from Administrative and Supportive Services. Coordinators who are responsible for specific areas of program activity are designated by the membership.

*Attendance Requirement to be set by Cancer Committee Quorum Requirement: 7 voting*

## Physician Members:

### **Afshin Safa, MD**

Radiation Oncology, Cancer Committee Chair

### **Kambiz Kosari, MD**

Surgical Oncology, Liver and Pancreas Program  
Medical Director

### **Walid Arnaout, MD**

Surgical Oncology, Former Liver and Pancreas  
Program Medical Director

### **J. Gary Davidson, MD**

Oncology, Leavey Cancer Center Medical Director

### **Jeremy Grosser, MD**

Internal Medicine, Pain Control/Transitional Care  
Medical Director

### **Harold Marks, MD**

Surgery, Cancer Liaison Physician

### **Kimberly Mislick, MD, PhD**

Pathology and Laboratory Services, Medical Director

### **Anil Wadhwani, MD**

Diagnostic Radiology

## Administrative Members:

Nana Deeb, VP

Clinical Services

Jill Dickson, RN, OCN

Cancer Program Director/Performance Improvement

Rev. Leon Directo, MDiv

Director, Spiritual Care

Holly Hessel-Altman, BSN, MS, CPHQ

Director, Quality Management

Debra Horwits, MSPT

Director, Rehabilitation and Neuroscience

Chrissy Kim

American Cancer Society

Diane Killian, RT (R) (T)

Clinical Research Coordinator

Cheryl Lovett, RHIT, Director

Health Information Management

Sonja Flores, CTR

Certified Tumor Registrar

Angie Martinez, LCSW

Social Services/Case Management

Robert Sakamoto, PharmD

Pharmacy

Candice Upham, RN, BSN, NE-BC

Manager, Inpatient Oncology

Jenny Zeltser, MPH

Community Outreach



# Cancer Center Patient & Family Advisory Council

The Cancer Center Patient & Family Council is a team of staff members, patients and families whose purpose is to:

- ❖ Improve the patient experience based on feedback from the Council.
- ❖ Assist the Cancer Center Staff with a better understanding of unique cultural traditions, values and lifestyles.
- ❖ Allow patients and families to provide input on Cancer Center services and how to better involve the patient/family in the care process.

## *Our Mission*

Northridge Hospital Medical Center is dedicated to developing healthier communities by assuring access and facilitating compassionate quality healthcare service with a commitment to clinical and service excellence provided by caring professionals who respect the dignity of each individual.

## *Our Core Values:*

Dignity, Collaboration, Justice, Stewardship  
and Excellence





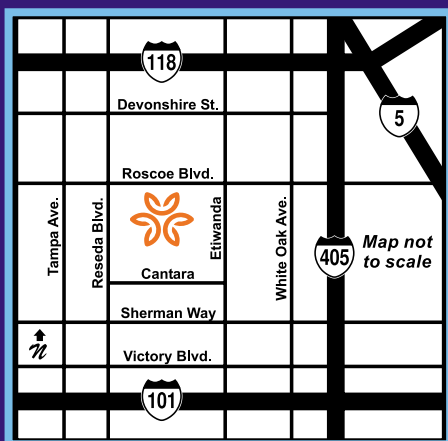
**Dignity Health™**

Northridge Hospital  
Medical Center

Leavey Cancer Center

### Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Cancer Center 3 FREE Ways to Find-A-Cancer Doctor

1. Call 818.908.8677
2. Visit [www.NorthridgeHospital.org](http://www.NorthridgeHospital.org)
3. [Healthgrades.com](http://Healthgrades.com)



*Free valet parking is available, enter by  
Leavey Cancer Center off of Roscoe Blvd.*

*Languages spoken: English, Spanish,  
Korean, Tagalog, Farsi, Arabic,  
Malayalam, Afrikaans, Urdu*

**Northridge Hospital Medical Center**  
18300 Roscoe Blvd. • Northridge, CA 91328

**Main Hospital 818.885.8500**

**Leavey Cancer Center 818-885.5341**

**[www.NorthridgeHospital.org/cancercenter](http://www.NorthridgeHospital.org/cancercenter)**



[www.hellohumankindness.org](http://www.hellohumankindness.org)