Mercy Regional Cancer Center

2019 Annual Report

Dignity Health®
Mercy Medical Center
Redding



Dear Colleagues,

Now that I have been given the opportunity to serve as the chair of the Cancer Committee I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has been genuinely contributing to deliver standard of care to cancer patients in our community.

Our medical professionals including physicians, nurses and support staff have not only dedicated their expertise to improve patient care but also remained resilient throughout the challenges of our journey during the past five years. Without their persistence we would not have achieved the stability, growth and infrastructure we have today.

Our leadership has established and maintained resources to meet or exceed our Commission on Cancer, national and governmental regulatory requirements and standards. Collaborative relationships among providers, administrators and the community has created a unique opportunity for redirecting our course to benefit patient care.

Our performance is manifested and exemplified in fully staffed clinics with sustained number of medical providers offering efficient patient care, enrollment in clinical trials, improved referral system, joint venture collaboration between institutes, dedicated education for patients, philanthropic activities, accreditation by joint commission, reliable inpatient palliative care and universal hospice, ancillary support for patients including transportation, genetic and social counseling, as well as a nurse navigation program. These are among our most prominent achievements that have transformed the previously known “cancer clinic” to a dependable “regional cancer care facility.”

Our future goals include but are not limited to creating a one-stop cohesive patient care center, expanding clinical trials, implementing precision-medicine, enhancing partnerships with academic institutes, upgrading our electronic medical record, and recruiting medical professionals. In conjunction with the community expectation and proportionate to available resources and ultimately transitioning to a patient centered comprehensive cancer care center.

In conclusion, compassionate care, futuristic leadership, along with exuberance in scientific advancements will make our center a driving force to provide optimal cancer care.

Alireza Abdolmohammadi, MD
Chair of Mercy Medical Center Redding’s Cancer Committee



Commission on Cancer®
A QUALITY PROGRAM of the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Highest Accreditation

American College of Surgeons has awarded Mercy Regional Cancer Center its highest level of accreditation for comprehensive cancer programs for more than 30 years.



Mission, Vision, and Values

Our Mission

Dignity Health and North State hospitals are committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. We dedicate our resources to:

- Delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services.
- Serving and advocating for our sisters and brothers who are poor and disenfranchised; and partnering with others in the community to improve quality of life.

Our Vision

A vibrant, national health care system known for service, chosen for clinical excellence, standing in partnership with patients, employees, and physicians to improve the health of the communities served.

Our Values

We are committed to providing high-quality, affordable health care to the communities we serve. Above all else we value:

- Dignity - Respecting the inherent value and worth of each person.
- Collaboration - Working together with people who support common values and vision to achieve shared goals.
- Justice - Advocating for social change and acting in ways that promote respect for all persons and demonstrating compassion for our sisters and brothers who are powerless
- Stewardship - Cultivating the resources entrusted to us to promote healing and wholeness.
- Excellence - Exceeding expectations through teamwork and innovation.

Mercy Regional Cancer Center

When it comes to providing cancer care, our providers incorporate the latest technologies to treat all types of cancer including lung cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, prostate cancer, hemeretic cancer and more.

We treat cancer with a team of doctors, nurses, and other health professionals who work together to help anyone diagnosed with cancer face their journey with dignity and grace. We offer a full range of cancer diagnostics and treatment options in a comfortable and supportive setting. This includes surgery, chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiation therapy.



Cancer Diagnostic Services

- Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan
- 64-Slice CT Scanner
- Genetic Testing
- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Interventional Radiology
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Mammography
- Nuclear Medicine Scans
- Pathology - Tumor Staging
- PET Scans
- Ultrasound Vascular Lab Studies

Our vision is to create a compassionate environment that will improve the care and quality of life for the oncology patients we serve in the North State, focusing on the whole person – mind, body, and spirit.

Cancer Support Services

- Early Detection
- Hospice Care
- Palliative Care
- Patient Advocate
- Patient Navigation
- Support Groups
- Social Services/Resources



Dr. Ali
Medical Oncologist



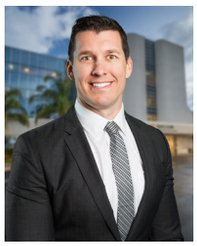
Dr. Allen
Radiation Oncologist



Dr. Ghraowi
Medical Oncologist



Dr. Kalra
Medical Oncologist



Dr. Kehrer
Radiation Oncologist



Dr. Ravindran
Medical Oncologist



Dr. Sandberg
F.A.C.S. Breast Surgeon

Mercy Regional Cancer Center continues to maintain a strategic partnership with *21st Century Oncology*, a national leader in radiation therapy, to provide the best in cancer-fighting technology, operated by highly educated and specially trained doctors, physicists, and therapists.

21st Century Oncology



Mercy Regional Cancer Center

Located within Mercy Medical Center Redding

Our Team

We Work Together To Help You

Oncologists that practice at Mercy Regional Cancer Center use a team approach to provide the finest quality of care.

We offer a full range of treatment options in a comfortable setting to treat your cancer aggressively and effectively.

We also support research for a cure by partnering with leading national organizations and providing education for patients and the public alike regarding awareness, prevention, detection and treatment of cancer.



Dignity Health Mercy Oncology Center

Located at 310 Hartnell Ave. Ste. A & C



Emmerson Oncology Unit

On the inpatient oncology unit, nurses are chemotherapy certified and trained in symptom management including pain management. Our newer oncology nurses, including those participating in the new graduate program, are required to become chemotherapy certified after their first year.

Many nurses are active in the local Oncology Nursing Society Chapter (ONS) and continue their education by attending presentations on the latest treatments and disease management.

The Emmerson Oncology unit recently added telemetry capabilities to monitor patient's heart rhythms. This provides safe monitoring and allows cancer patients to remain on the oncology floor. All nursing staff are trained in Basic Dysrhythmia Course for rhythm recognition.

Located on the 1st Floor of Mercy Medical Center Redding

The 17-bed acute care area specializing in the treatment and care of cancer patients provides:

- Care Coordinators
- Nursing Staff
- Palliative Care Team
- Social Workers
- Hospice Care Team



In order to provide a reflective and healing pause for our staff on the oncology unit, the hospital Chaplains hold a monthly “Catherine’s comfortable cup of tea.” This allows for spiritual healing and team bonding for our Oncology team.

Cancer Registry

To ensure Mercy Regional Cancer Center is following the best practices in cancer care, Cancer Registry collects data about cancer and tumor diseases. The data is collected by certified cancer registrars who capture a complete summary of a patient's history including diagnosis, treatment, and follow up. Cancer registrars throughout the United States and other countries capture this type of data to share information and help centers provide the best patient care.

The purpose of this data collection is to "determine the sources of malignant 'tumors' and evaluate measures designed to eliminate, alleviate, or ameliorate the effect," according to the California Health and Safety Code. Data is used to calculate cancer incidence and mortality, ascertain time trends, evaluate treatment alternatives and other predictors of survival, and assess the success of cancer screening programs.

In 2018, Mercy Medical Center's Registry collected 1,258 cases of cancer for the database. Both analytic (69%) and non-analytic (31%) cases were included. The registry excludes basal and squamous cell skin cancers, localized in data collection. Of the 1,258 cases, 873 were analytic.

Analytic Cases

- Patients whose cancers were diagnosed and initially treated at MMCR.
- Patients whose cancers were diagnosed at MMCR and treated elsewhere.
- Patients whose cancers were diagnosed elsewhere, but who received all or part of their treatment at MMCR.

Non-Analytic Cases

- Patients whose cancers were diagnosed and initially treated elsewhere, and who present to MMCR for disease recurrence or persistence.
- Patients whose cancers were diagnosed and initially treated elsewhere and have active cancer, recurrent, metastatic, or persistence, and present for other medical conditions.



Cancer Registry

Kelly Haas, Cindy Clark and Sara Stulir

Partnerships, Collaborations and Gratitudes

Classes and Workshops 2019

Beautiful You



This year Mercy Regional Cancer Center added Beautiful You to our cancer program. These free, 2 hour workshops are offered throughout the year and instructed by Shanna McCracken, Oncology-trained Esthetician and Manicurist. Shanna's compassionate approach supports and educates participants as they undergo cancer treatment.

The workshops cover the following topics:

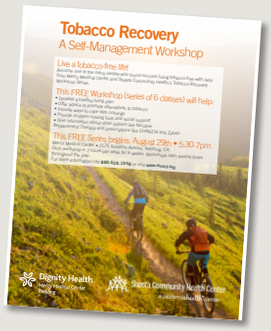
- Specialized skin care (face and body)
- Nail Care
- Scalp care and hair loss
- Head wraps, hats, and wigs
- Natural make-up techniques
- Oncology-safe products

Enrichment Art Classes

Art sessions facilitated by Connie Champe, began in the fall of 2018 continued this year. They are open to anyone with cancer and their loved ones to support, share, and engage with one another in a fun and creative environment. The sessions are free and include all the materials to create and bring home a handcrafted item.



Tobacco Recovery Self-Management Workshop

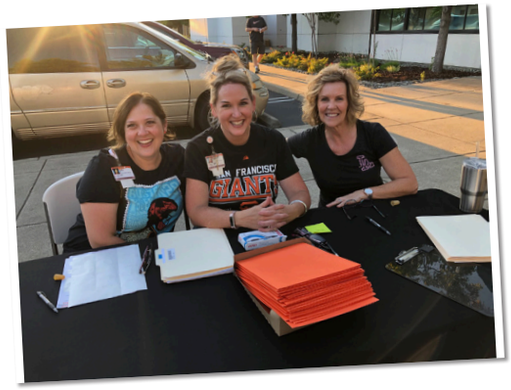


According to the American Cancer Society, "Smoking accounts for about 30% of all cancer deaths in the United States, including about 80% of all lung cancer deaths. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women, and is one of the hardest cancers to treat."Lung cancer ranked as the number one cancer site treated at Mercy Regional Cancer Center in 2018, indicating the importance of tobacco education and cessation classes in our community. Tobacco Recovery classes are offered throughout the year, are free, and open to anyone. In August of this year, evening workshops were added to accommodate participants who worked during the day.

Mercy Regional Cancer Center is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Shasta Community Health Center and offer this much needed resource to our community at no charge. It is our goal to promote healthy lifestyles and decrease the incidence cancer in the North State.

2019 Cancer Screenings

In addition to educating the community about cancer prevention, Mercy Regional Cancer Center organized cancer screenings to facilitate early detection of lung cancer and prostate cancer this year. Cancer screening programs apply screening guidelines to detect cancers at an early stage which improves the likelihood of increased survival.



Annual Prostate Cancer Screening

According to the Prostate Conditions Education Council (PCEC), "Prostate cancer is nearly 100% survivable if caught early." On September 12th, 2019, Mercy Regional Cancer Center partnered with Redding Urologic Association and Mercy Family Health Center to offer free Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) lab tests and Digital Rectal Exams (DRE) to men age 40 and above. This annual screening continues to be well received in the community; 76 participants attended this year. In addition to being screened participants were educated on risk factors, early detection, and importance of screening for prostate cancer. A majority of the men, 66 in all, also took part in a clinical trial in partnership with the PCEC.

Lung Cancer Screening Program

"Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer death among both men and women. Each year, more people die of lung cancer than of colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined." American Cancer Society (ACS) Early detection of lung cancer results in early treatment and can decrease cancer mortality. RN Navigators at Mercy Regional Cancer Center and St. Elizabeth Community Hospital in Red Bluff continue to screen patients with a history of tobacco use through the ongoing Lung Cancer Screening Program (LCSP). The American Cancer Society lung cancer screening guidelines recommend yearly low dose CT (LDCT) for certain people at higher risk of lung cancer that meet the following conditions: Patients are referred to the LCSP by primary care providers and during screening are offered information on upcoming Tobacco Recovery classes. Once LDCT performed, results are reviewed by ordering provider and RN Navigator follows up with recommendations for further LDCT as indicated.

The Floyd Morgan Family Cancer Resource Center

Located at Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center Redding, The Floyd Morgan Family Cancer Resource Center is supported by a generous grant from Mercy Foundation North. It serves as the location for support groups, classes, workshops, coordination of community cancer screenings and education, and a meeting space for cancer navigation by the Oncology Nurse Liaison (ONL).
The ONL is a Registered Nurse with expertise in cancer nursing and provides education, navigation, and support at any point during the cancer journey and can be reached by calling 530.225.7479.

We are also grateful for the support of volunteers Kathleen Patton LMFT, Barbara Howell, and Jill Whitney who facilitate and assist with the following groups: weekly Living Better with Cancer Support Group, bi-weekly Caregiver Support Group, and monthly Multiple Dysplasia (MDS) Support Group.

Soroptimist International



Soroptimist International of Redding (SIR) hosted the annual Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon on October 4th, 2019 at Win River Event Center to raise funds for uninsured or underinsured women and men who can't afford mammograms. Without SIR, hundreds of people in our community would not get screened for breast cancer. This year's luncheon honored our very own, Paula Amacker, FNP-BC, as the 2019 Person of Distinction. Her nominator said,

"She is so compassionate to all of her patients. She listens to them and they feel heard."

NorCal Think Pink



According to the ACS, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and breast cancer was the second most common cancer site for 2018 at Mercy Regional Cancer Center. Established in 1996, Nor-Cal Think Pink is a community effort to promote breast cancer awareness through education and early detection. Every year, 40,000 Think Pink bags filled with educational materials are distributed throughout the North State.
Friday, October 18th, the Sundial Bridge in Turtle Bay Exploration Park was lit pink for the popular "A Pink Sundial" event. Dignity Health oncology nurses were on hand to educate
the community about breast cancer prevention and teach breast self exams and speakers included Dr. Arun Kalra who gave a hopeful and energetic talk on the advances in breast cancer treatment and increased survival rates.

Relay for Life

Luminaria Reception



The evening of August 8th 2019, Mercy Regional Cancer Center hosted the Relay for Life Luminaria Reception in the Healing Garden at Mercy Medical Center Redding. Cancer survivor Kathy Challe played her Celtic harp and Chaplain John Mastalski read a reflection written by Sister Brenda O'Keefe. The garden truly was a place of healing with the sound of harp music playing and the soft glow of light from the many luminarias each representing a life touched by cancer.

Relay for Life Fall Family Fun Day



Mercy Regional Cancer Center is a welcome presence and supporter of the annual American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay for Life Event. ACS continues to support our north state community with transportation assistance, education, and lodging through hotel partners for those traveling out of the area for cancer treatment.

This year's event, Fall Family Fun Day, on October 12th, 2019 was a day filled with celebration, remembrance, and hope. Cancer survivors and their loved ones were greeted at the Shasta County Fairgrounds and treated to food, activities, and live music. Dignity Health nurses placed medals on survivors as they completed a celebratory lap around a track lined with luminarias remembering and celebrating survivors.

Cross Petroleum Funding

Every year, customers at Cross Petroleum stations across far Northern California are asked to participate in the "Think Pink" breast cancer awareness program with the proceeds benefiting Dignity Health North State Hospitals. Since 2006, Cross Petroleum has donated generous amounts to the "Think Pink" campaign.

The Cross Family, along with their generous customers, have contributed substantial and consistent funding for breast health services, which allows for free breast screening and the provision of specialized equipment. Additionally, Cross Petroleum supports the RN Navigator program, which assists breast and lung cancer patients through their health care journey at St. Elizabeth Community Hospital. The "Think Pink" campaign is an important part of the company's mission to provide resources of support to improve the quality of life for those living in far northern California.

"Providing resources of support to the communities we do business in is our mission," says Jim Cross, Vice President of Cross Petroleum. "We are dedicated to healthy, thriving communities and with the help of our active customer base, we are able to support these great programs!"

Since the League started the fund, other groups have been inspired to donate to the fund as well: The Chicks 'n' Chaps committee of the Redding Rodeo Auxiliary, the Tierra Oaks Pink Ball Tournament held at Tierra Oaks Golf Club, and the Lake Redding Women's Golf Association.

Gratitudes

Mercy Foundation North

Maggie Redmon, President of Mercy Foundation North (MFN) and her team work hard for donations that support cancer programs in the North State. The team includes Michelle Martin Streeby, Senior Development Officer; Alisa Johnson, Development Officer in Mt. Shasta; Delcie Strahan, Development Officer in Red Bluff; Randi Slaughter, Annual Giving Manager and Dianne Moty, Administrative Assistant

Collaborating with an outstanding MFN ancillary support team, the Foundation helps to raise much-needed funds for cancer patients and services in the North State. The North State Cancer League; The Louie Foundation; Cross Petroleum; The Emmerson Oncology Endowment; The Red Bluff Round-Up Association; the Chicks 'n' Chaps committee of the Redding Rodeo Association Auxiliary; and numerous individual and private funders are just a few of the generous supporters of the North State cancer care need. Redding is truly a community of generosity and Humankindness.

The North State Cancer Patient Services Fund

For the past five years, Mercy Regional Cancer Center has received generous grant donations from the North State Cancer League, administered through Mercy Foundation North. The North State Cancer Patient's Assistance Service Fund helps us provide care for patients in six counties.

Services range from transportation assistance to help patients get to treatment appointments, to food, lodging and other items as needed. In addition, the fund purchases much needed equipment, such as two new AccuVein machines, new infusion chairs for Mercy Oncology Center and a bladder scanner for the inpatient oncology floor.

Since the League started the fund, other groups have been inspired to donate to the fund as well: The Chicks 'n' Chaps committee of the Redding Rodeo Auxiliary, the Tierra Oaks Pink Ball Tournament held at Tierra Oaks Golf Club, and the Lake Redding Women's Golf Association.



Patient Transportation Supported by Two Grants

Recently, the American Cancer Society and the North State Cancer League awarded money to provide gas cards to help many patients get to their treatment appointments. Patients in six counties are served by these monies. Also, the North State Cancer League generously funded a pilot program to provide car services to assist with transportation needs of our patients.

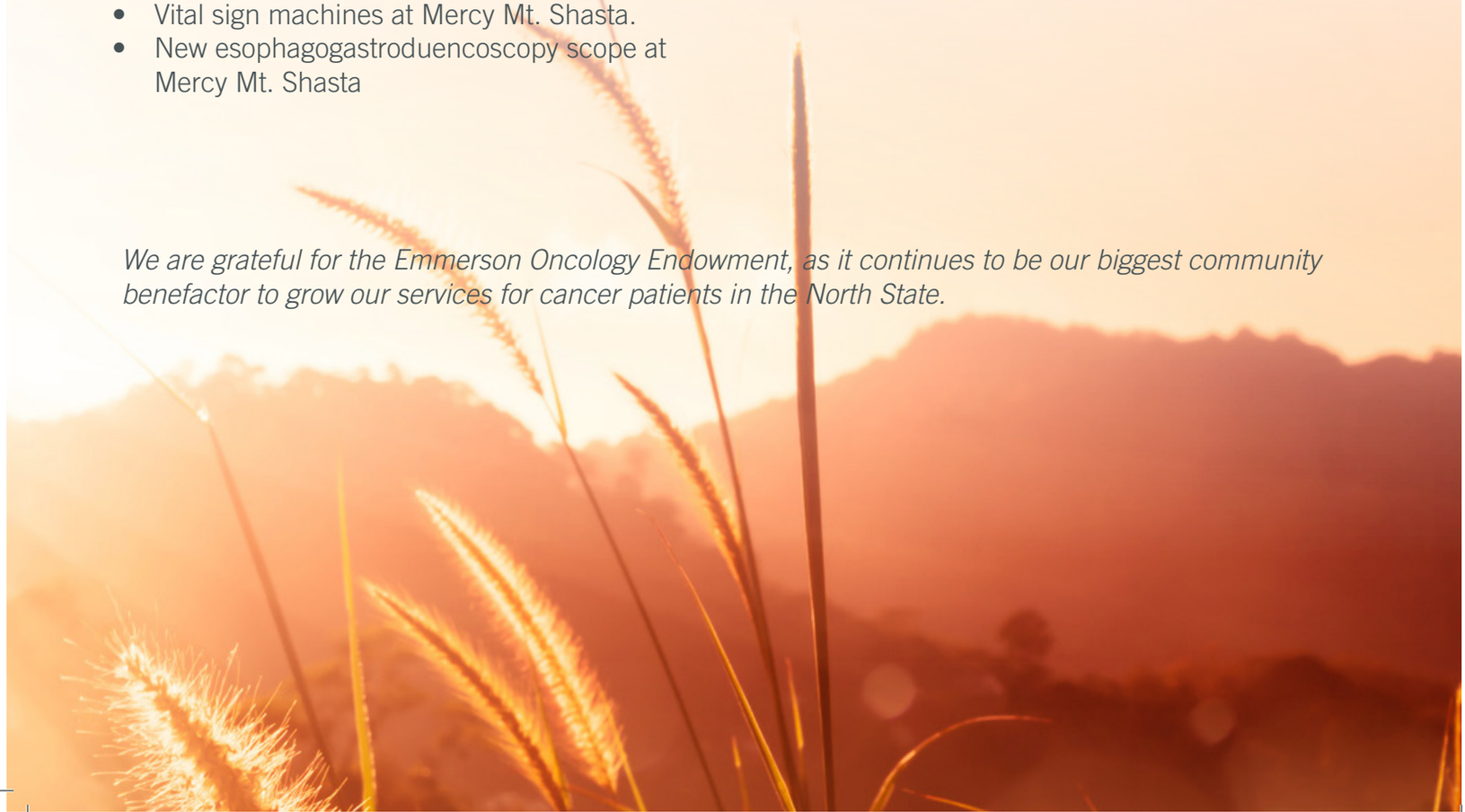
Emmerson Oncology Endowment

The Emmerson family created the generous Emmerson Endowment Oncology Fund in 1997 to support cancer patient care, education, and research in the North State in memory of Ida Emmerson, wife and mother. The Endowment is administered by Mercy Foundation North and benefits many services and projects.

In the past five years, this endowment administered by Mercy Foundation North, has helped purchase or support:

- TruFreeze technology to treat cancer legions in patient's airway
- New outpatient infusion clinic at St. Elizabeth Community Center /Surgical Center building
- Refurbish a family meeting room in the outpatient clinic at MMCR
- Vital sign machines at Mercy Mt. Shasta.
- New esophagogastroduencoscopy scope at Mercy Mt. Shasta
- New beds and a bladder scanner for our oncology rooms at MMCR
- New furniture in MMCR's outpatient chemotherapy waiting room
- Colonoscopy and Esophagogastroduodenoscopy scopes to help detect stomach and colon cancers at Mercy Medical Center Mt. Shasta
- A new echocardiogram at MMCR, which provides information about how treatment may affect a cancer patient's heart muscle and vessels
- A new ultrasound vein finder machine at MMCR, which assists nurses with needle insertion into cancer patient's veins
- New exam room beds for outpatient oncology
- New computer stations for oncology clinics and infusion rooms
- New blood cell analysis machine

We are grateful for the Emmerson Oncology Endowment, as it continues to be our biggest community benefactor to grow our services for cancer patients in the North State.



St. Elizabeth Community Hospital

New outpatient Infusion and Oncology Center opened in Red Bluff

With support from the incredibly generous community, cancer patients from Tehama County who need care will now be able to receive treatment close to home. Dr. Jed Freeman and staff started seeing and treating patients in October, 2019. We are deeply grateful to the Emmerson Oncology Endowment and the tremendous support from all the Tough Enough to Wear Pink events to help make this project a reality.

St. Elizabeth Community Hospital RN Navigator Program

Often, cancer patients in Tehama County must seek diagnosis and treatment for their cancer at St. Elizabeth Community Hospital, Mercy Medical Center Redding and other hospitals in Northern California. This process can be overwhelming and stressful, Jaci Franseth, RN Navigator helps set up and coordinate appointments, transportation and physician visits and supports individuals during cancer treatment. This program is funded by the community, including St. Elizabeth Community Hospital employees as well as organizations such as the Red Bluff Monster Trucks, Glamorous Day Spa, and the Susan G. Komen Foundation.



No-Cost Mammogram Programs Benefits Tehama & Siskiyou Counties

Women who reside in Tehama or Siskiyou County, who are uninsured, have high insurance deductibles, and who do not qualify for the Every Woman Counts (EWC) program, have the opportunity to receive free breast cancer screenings. Screenings include mammograms, breast ultrasound, and breast MRI. This program is made possible by generous donations from our north state community including: Tehama Tire, American Ink, Safeway Foundation, West Coast Monster Trucks “Crush Out Cancer” event, the Red Bluff Union High School “Pink Out” event, Cross Petroleum, Mountain Counties Supply Co., Ray’s Food Place, Soroptimist International of Red Bluff, Cornerstone Bank and Breast Cancer Prevention Partners.

In addition, these individuals and organizations helped fund the 3D mammography upgrades at Mercy Mt. Shasta and St. Elizabeth Community Hospital:

Many employees at both hospitals, The Louie Foundation, Mountain Counties Supply Co., Pacific Power, Tri Counties Bank, The McConnell Fund through the Shasta Community Regional Foundation, California Guest Services, Jane Flynn, the late Art Dowell in the form of an estate gift, Dr. Frank Greene, Jessie Shields Cornelsen, the Bernice Heffernan Family Foundation.



Spiritual Care Services

The Journey Toward Spiritual and Emotional Healing

We know that an illness or an injury has an effect on the whole person—body, mind, and spirit. At Mercy Regional Cancer Center, we are attentive to the spiritual as well as the physical dimension of healing. Spiritual care is provided to support the faith, beliefs, and values of all patients and families. Our Chaplains and employees are deeply committed to fostering an environment of healing for all.

A Mission to Heal

As a Catholic hospital and cancer center, we continue the healing ministry of Jesus: to reach out with respect and compassion to all we serve. Our heritage and mission call us to embrace a holistic approach to health that provides for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our patients and their families. In honoring the sacredness of life, our Chaplains offer hope.

Our Sacred Ministry

Our Chaplains honor and facilitate spiritual traditions that may sustain you during your treatments or hospitalization. Our professional Chaplains are specially trained and board-certified in healthcare chaplaincy. They are available daily from 8:00am-Midnight. They can assist patients with completing an Advance Health Care Directive. They respond to referrals in outpatient services, like in the Outpatient Chemotherapy and Outpatient Oncology clinics.

Our Sacred Spaces

To promote healing and wholeness, we created a Healing Garden at Mercy Medical Center Redding. Entrances are located on the first floor of the hospital near the main lobby as well as on the outside walkway near Pediatrics. The Catherine McAuley Chapel is located across from the Healing Garden and is open for prayer and spiritual reflection. Catholic Mass is celebrated three days a week at posted times in the Chapel. Patients and families are invited to spend some quiet reflection in these sacred spaces.



Mercy Medical Center Redding

Chaplains



Palliative Care

Palliative Care is specialized care and support for people with serious, chronic, or life-limiting illnesses. Care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms of pain and stress of a serious illness, whatever the diagnosis. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage of a serious illness and can be provided alongside curative treatment. Palliative Care team members provide an extra layer of support and are here to journey with patients and families during treatment and intervention throughout the hospital stay. The goal is to improve the quality of life for both the patient and the family.

Mercy Medical Center's palliative care team consists of nurses, social workers, and chaplains who work with attending physicians and specialists to provide ongoing support, education, and consultation. The team works closely with other interdisciplinary members such as pharmacists, physical therapists, and respiratory technicians.

The team provides for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs in a manner that honors an individual's dignity and supports their goals and aspirations.

Because palliative care is an extra layer of support, a consult can be initiated as soon as the patient enters the hospital and is concurrently receiving treatments and intervention for their illness.



Hospice

Mercy Medical Center Hospice Services continues to offer specialized care to our patients and families in the North State. We continue to focus on quality of life and bereavement support for our patients and caregivers at the end of life. We strive to improve community understanding of hospice services through educational presentations in both Shasta and Tehama counties.

The annual 2019 Light Up A Life remembrance events will be held December 4, in Redding; December 5 in Mt. Shasta; and December 11 in Red Bluff. All of the Dignity Oncology offices utilize Mercy Hospice staff for patient education of services and benefits.



Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) Annual Report: Maja Sandberg, MD

The Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) is a volunteer physician from the medical staff responsible for providing the leadership and direction to monitor, maintain, and improve quality the cancer program. The CLP position is a required component of Commission on Cancer-accredited cancer programs. The CLP also serves as the liaison among the cancer program, the Commission on Cancer (COC), and the American Cancer Society.

The primary responsibilities of the CLP are to monitor, interpret, and report the program's performance using the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) data to evaluate and improve the quality of care by comparing the facility's performance to the benchmarks identified by the NCDB for the CoC's standards of care. Those standards of care are based on clinical trial evidence and our facility is evaluated and compared annually to other similar facilities using accountability measures that determine the facility's performance.

Mercy Regional Cancer Center has consistently met or exceeded those standards, accreditation as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program.



CLP, Maja Sandberg, MD

A current review of the Cancer Program Practice Profile Report (CP3R) shows that Mercy Medical Center Redding meets or exceeds the CoC standards of care for the following:

- Radiation Therapy is administered within 1 year of diagnosis for women under age 70 receiving breast conserving therapy for breast cancer.
- Combination chemotherapy is considered or administered within 4 months of diagnosis for women under 70 with AJCC T1cN0M0, or Stage II or III hormone receptor negative breast cancer.
- Tamoxifen or third generation aromatase inhibitor is considered or administered within 1 year of diagnosis for women with AJCC T1cN0M0 or Stage II or III hormone receptor positive breast cancer.
- Radiation therapy is recommended or administered following any mastectomy within 1 year of diagnosis of breast cancer for women with 4 or more positive regional lymph nodes.
- Adjuvant chemotherapy is considered or administered within 4 months of diagnosis for patients under the age of 80 with AJCC Stage III (lymph node positive) colon cancer.
- Peroperative chemo and radiation are administered for clinical AJCC T3N0, T4N0, or Stage III; or Postoperative chemo and radiation are administered within 180 days of diagnosis for clinical AJCC T1-2N0 with pathologic T3N0, T4N0, or Stage III; or treatment is recommended; for patients under the age of 80 receiving resection for rectal cancer (Quality Improvement)
- Systemic chemotherapy is administered within 4 months to day preoperatively or day of surgery to 6 months postoperatively, or it is recommended for surgically resected cases with pathologic lymph node-positive (pN1) and (pN2) NSCLC (Quality Improvement)
- Surgery is not the first course of treatment for cN2, M0 lung cases (Quality Improvement)

Quality Process Improvement Outcomes: Closing the Referral Loop: Receipt of Specialist Report

Submitted by Mary E. Sanders, BA, CPHQ and Lesley Camiré, BS, CPHQ

Closing the loop on referrals help achieve correct and timely diagnosis and/or treatment

Upset patients and frustrated providers can be the result of incomplete referrals or the failure to provide referrals. These problematic referral issues are safety concerns as they affect correct and timely diagnosis and/or treatment.

Many clinicians feel they don't have complete control over this complicated process.

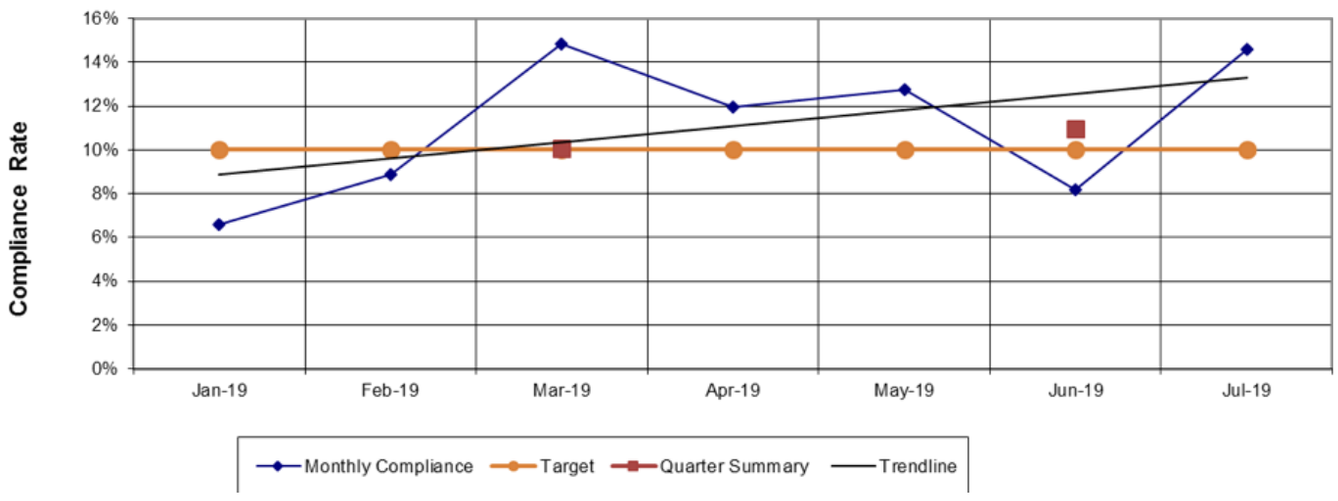
Mercy Medical Center Redding's Outpatient Oncology department conducted a study and process improvement project based on improving the referral process. The referral measurement reflected the rate of patients where the provider received a report from the referring provider. The baseline of the referral loop metric was 2.2% in December 2018.

The Outpatient Oncology department took four main steps to improve the referral process. The first step was to improve communication by training staff to track and manage referrals between patients and providers. The second step strengthened the providers' relationship with the department by reaching out to each provider to better understand preferences and expectations. The third step was working to improve/create workflows to ensure the referral loop gets closed. The final step was to standardize ways of exchanging referral information between the providers and the department.

The project took a slow and steady climb surpassing the goal of 10% within two months. The compliance rate is 15% as of July 2019.

This is a process that will require continuous work to make improvements that benefit both the patients and providers.

Closing the Referral Loop: Receipt of Specialist Report



Cancer Conference Report

Mercy Regional Cancer Center holds cancer conferences every Tuesday. This is a general cancer Conference and all cancer sites are discussed. The conference participation is made up of a multidisciplinary group of surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, medical and radiation oncologists. Physicians with site specific specialties, as well as other ancillary staff, are invited to attend and share their expertise as well as other ancillary staff.

Among the top 5 sites discussed for 2018 were non-small cell lung, breast, prostate, hemeretic, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Conferences exceed the 15% annual analytic case volume in case presentation. In 2018, 157 cases were presented for treatment planning, including options for clinical trials, prognostic indicators, and the patient's AJCC clinical cancer stage. The conference is a great benefit to the patient as their physician can present them a variety of treatment options to assist in making the best individual treatment decision.

2018 Cancer Registry Case Reporting

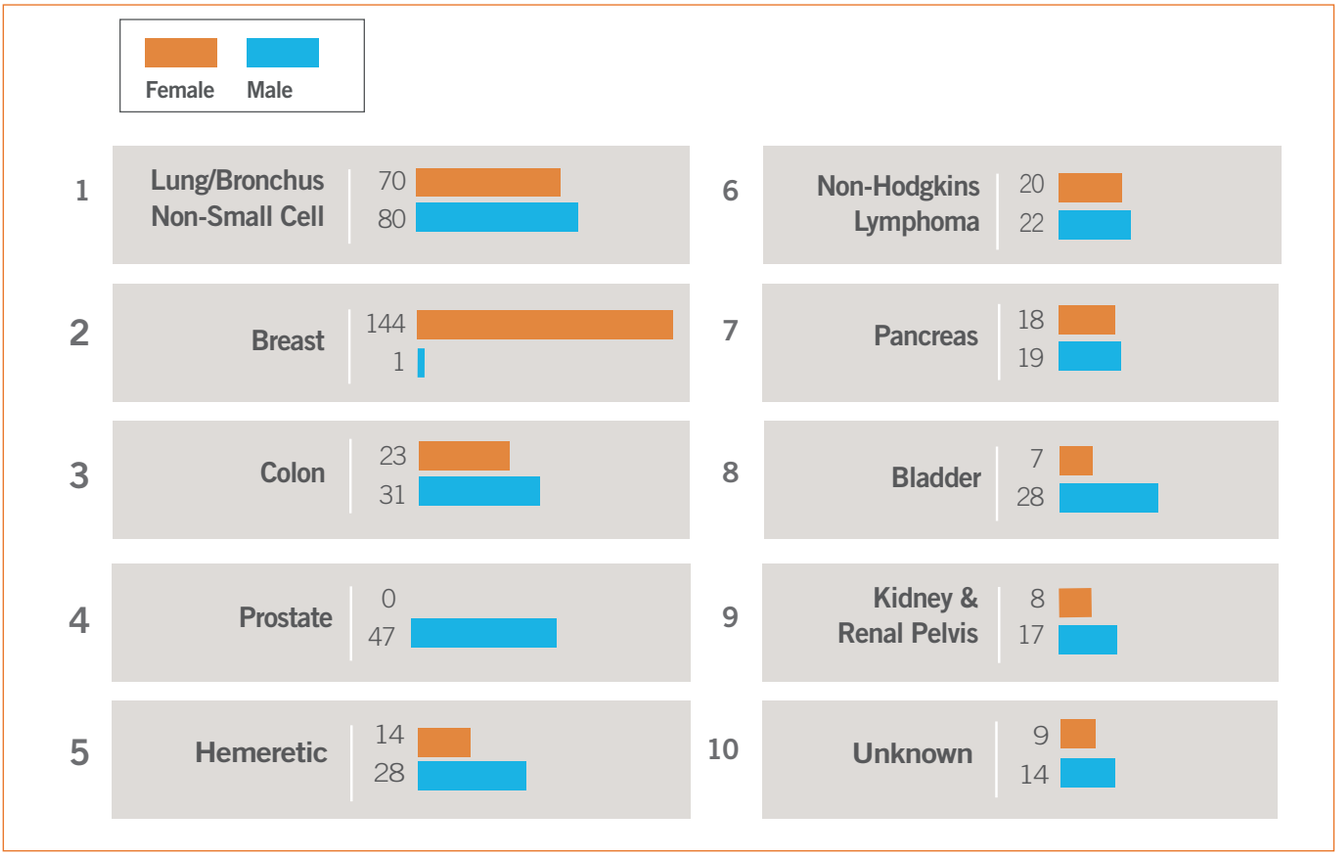
The Cancer Registry at MMCR abstracted and/or accessioned a total of 1258 patients in 2018. Basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin were excluded in this statistical summary.

Analytic Cases
69% of these patients were diagnosed and/or received first course treatment for their newly diagnosed cancer at MMCR. These patients are followed through their lifetime.

Non-analytic Cases
31% of these patients were seen at MMCR for recurrent or subsequent cancer treatment or were treated at MMCR for non-cancer related treatment.



Site Group By Sex 2018



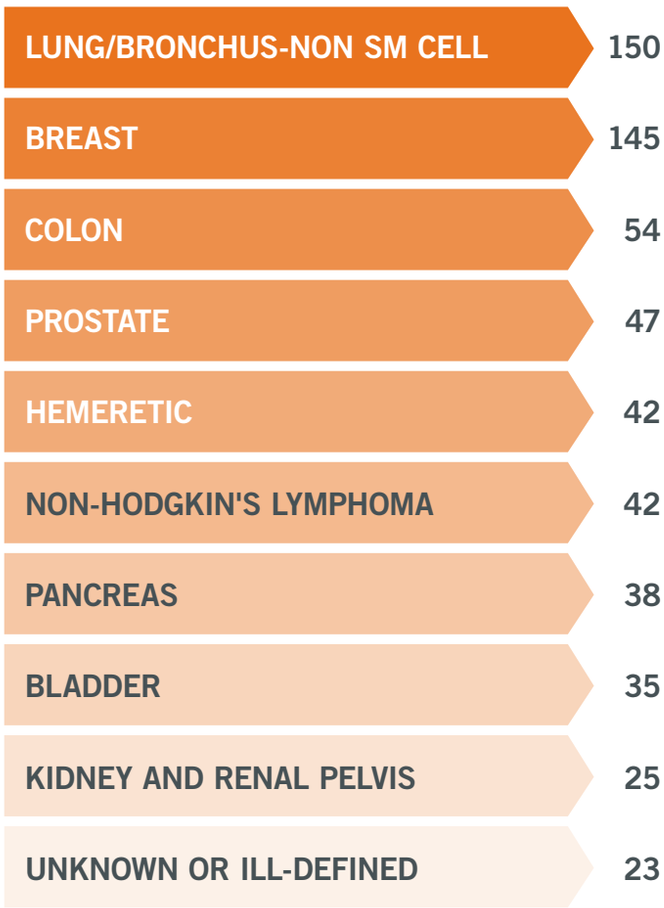
Stage at Diagnosis 2018

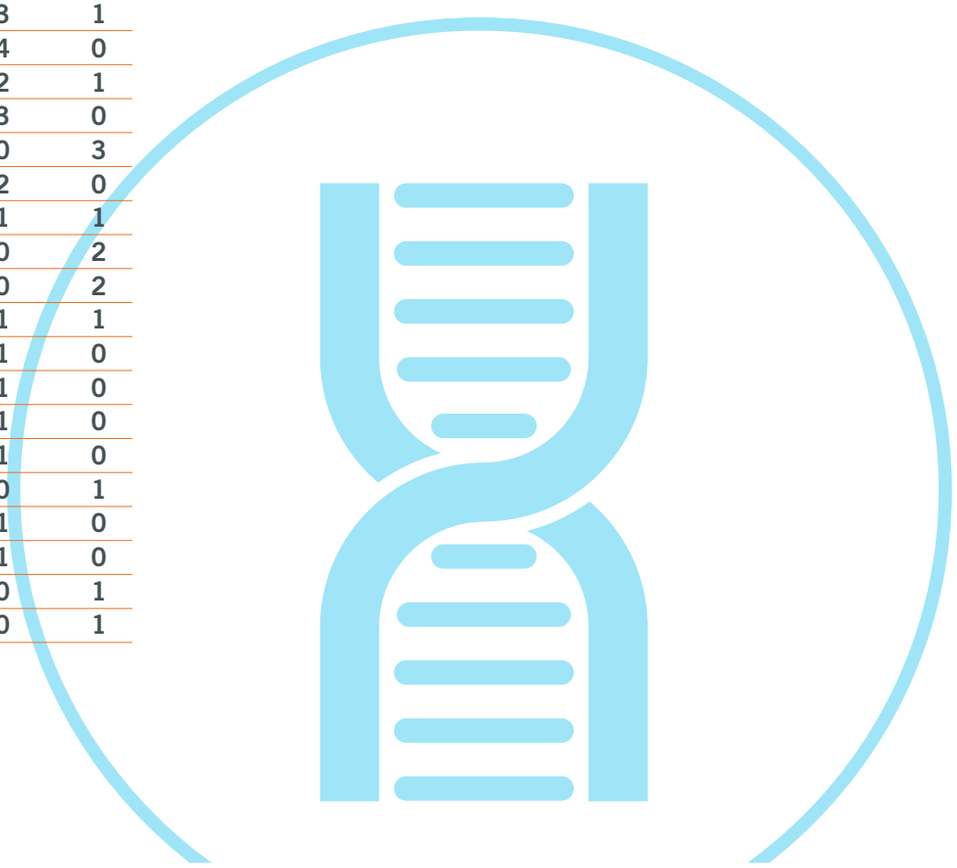
	Stage 0	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III	Stage IV	Unknown
Lung/Bronchus Non-Small Cell	0	17	11	34	77	2
Breast	8	82	26	15	12	1
Colon	2	3	17	14	17	0
Prostate	0	4	11	11	19	2
Hemeretic	0	4	0	0	2	2

All Sites 2018

	TOTAL	M	F
LUNG/BRONCHUS-NON SM CELL	150	80	70
BREAST	145	1	144
COLON	54	31	23
PROSTATE	47	47	0
HEMERETIC	42	28	14
NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA	42	22	20
PANCREAS	38	19	18
BLADDER	35	28	7
KIDNEY AND RENAL PELVIS	25	17	8
UNKNOWN OR ILL-DEFINED	23	14	9
RECTUM & RECTOSIGMOID	22	14	8
ESOPHAGUS	21	19	2
THYROID	21	6	15
LUNG/BRONCHUS-SMALL CELL	19	7	12
BRAIN	19	11	8
CORPUS UTERI	16	0	16
OVARY	16	0	16
OTHER NERVOUS SYSTEM	14	5	9
MYELOMA	13	11	2
STOMACH	11	5	6
LIVER	10	7	3
MELANOMA OF SKIN	9	5	4
SALIVARY GLANDS, MAJOR	8	6	2
TONSIL	8	7	1
ANUS,ANAL CANAL,ANORECTUM	8	2	6
CERVIX UTERI	6	0	6
SMALL INTESTINE	5	3	2
LARYNX	5	2	3
SOFT TISSUE	5	3	2
BILE DUCTS	4	3	1
TESTIS	4	4	0
NASAL CAVITY,SINUS,EAR	3	2	1
PLEURA	3	3	0
UTERUS NOS	3	0	3
TONGUE	2	2	0
OROPHARYNX	2	1	1
OTHER DIGESTIVE	2	0	2
VAGINA	2	0	2
HODGKIN'S DISEASE	2	1	1
FLOOR OF MOUTH	1	1	0
MOUTH, OTHER & NOS	1	1	0
NASOPHARYNX	1	1	0
HYPOPHARYNX	1	1	0
GALLBLADDER	1	0	1
OTHER HEMATOPOIETIC	1	1	0
URETER	1	1	0
OTHER URINARY	1	0	1
OTHER ENDOCRINE	1	0	1

Top 10 Sites 2018





Cancer Committee Leadership

Alireza Abdolmohammadi, MD Chair of Mercy Medical Center Redding Cancer Committee
Lesley Camire Director of the Dignity Health North State Oncology Service Line
Dyanesh Ravindran, MD Medical Director of Mercy Regional Cancer Center
Maja Sandberg, MD Cancer Liaison for Mercy Medical Center Redding Cancer Committee

Honorary Members

Todd Smith, President
James De Soto, MD, VP Medical Affairs

Physician Members

Alireza Abdolmohammadi, MD, Chair
Matthew Allen, MD
Marc Griffey, MD
Sean Pitman, MD
Maja Sandberg, MD

Non-Physician Members

Anna Bishop
Cindy Clark, CTR
Lesley Camirè, BS, CPHQ
Kelly Haas
Lauren Loffsner, RN
Lisa Martin, RN
John Mastalski
Seth Overton, RN
Mary Sanders, BA, CPHQ
Sierra Siedel, RN
Sara Stulir, CTR
Cathleen Zoller, ACS



Cancer Committee Leadership

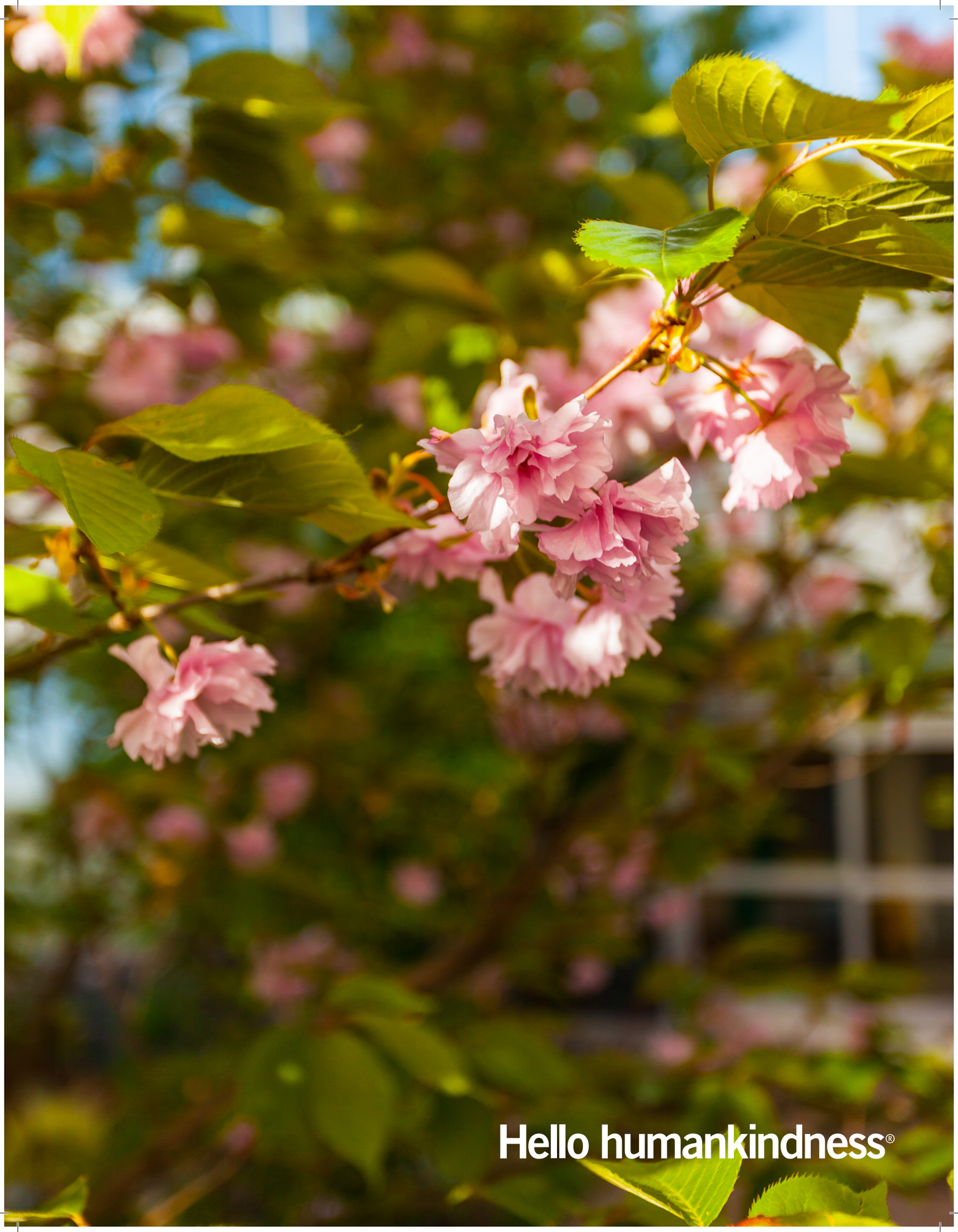
Services Associated with
Mercy Regional Cancer Center

Cancer Conference for prospective or didactic cases is offered every Tuesday at 12:30 pm	**530.247.3475**
Cancer Registry	**530.225.6149**
Clinical Trials	**530.225.6038**
Emmerson Oncology Unit	**530.225.7305**
Floyd Morgan Family Cancer Resource Center	**530.225.7479**
Hospice and Palliative Care	**530.245.4070**
Hospitality House	**530.247.3441**
Mercy Outpatient Oncology	**530.225.6458**
Care Coordination (Social Services) and Support Programs	**530.225.6257**
Spiritual Care Services	**530.225.6285**
Mercy Oncology Center	**530.245.2900**
21st Century Oncology - Radiation	**530.245.5900**






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