

## **Leaders' update**

**A message from Khalid Matin,**

**Medical director of community oncology and clinical research affiliations**

I am pleased to provide an update on clinical research affiliations at Massey, which continue to expand in several ways.

Through the Massey Research Affiliation Network, the cancer center partners with community hospitals and oncology practices across the state to offer Virginia residents access to cancer clinical trials close to where they live. We recently added affiliations with local Richmond organizations Virginia Cancer Institute for medical oncology and hematology studies and Virginia Gynecologic Oncology/Henrico Doctors' Hospital for gynecologic oncology and radiation oncology studies. With these additions, total affiliates now number seven, and they also include practices and hospitals in Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, Tidewater and Winchester.

Massey clinical trials are open at our satellite locations as well, including VCU Community Memorial Hospital in South Hill. We currently offer medical oncology studies there and are working to add radiation oncology studies in the fall. Our goal is to make CMH a major referral center for clinical trials in the Southern Virginia area.

In addition, Massey has expanded the clinical trials menu available to our affiliates. The total number of trials overall has increased as well as the types of trials. We are now offering affiliates wider access to more NCI-sponsored, large phase 3 trials that are likely to be game-changers in cancer care.

As our clinical research network has grown, we have been working to strengthen our communications with the affiliates. We now conduct formal teleconferences with them each month, and we held our third annual affiliate retreat this past April. The retreat was well attended by affiliate physicians and clinical research nurses and associates, who had the opportunity to interact with Massey investigators and the Massey clinical research team. Plans are also in the works to begin offering affiliate physicians continuing medical education (CME) seminars on a regular basis. Our first CME event will commence on November 1 with the rescheduled VCU Presidential Symposium on Cancer. The main audience for this event is oncology physicians and the topics will address how to care for tough, complex cancers, such as pancreatic cancer and acute myeloid leukemia.

We look forward to continuing to further develop our research affiliate program and, ultimately, to the acceleration of Massey's research that results from the network's ability to increase patient accruals to trials.

Best regards,

**Khalid Matin, M.D., F.A.C.P.**

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