

Leaders' Update October 2014

A message from Mary Ann Hager, R.N., M.S., associate director for clinical services

Massey's clinical services are continuing to expand, with new physicians and clinics, enlarged clinic space and additional programs and accreditations.

Massey welcomed nine new cancer-focused physicians this year. They include:

Medical hematologists-oncologists:

- Erin Alesi, M.D., head and neck cancer, lung cancer, palliative care
- Sosipatros Boikos, M.D., sarcoma, neuro-endocrine, solid tumor phase 1, metabolic and mitochondrial dysfunction in tumorigenesis
- Jennifer Myers, M.D., GI malignancies
- Elizabeth Phan, M.D., palliative care

Radiation oncologists:

- Timothy Harris, M.D., CNS and pediatric oncology
- Charles Leeland Rogers, M.D., high-dose brachytherapy for prostate cancer and meningiomas
- Alfredo Urdaneta, M.D., soft tissue sarcomas, skin cancers and palliative care

Surgeons:

- Giao Phan, M.D., melanoma, endocrine tumors, breast cancer and immunotherapy; Division of Surgical Oncology
- Deepa Taggarshe, M.D., colon and rectal cancer; Division of Bariatric & Gastrointestinal Surgery

On February 6, 2014, Massey began offering a gynecologic oncology clinic at the MCV Physicians at Temple Avenue location in Colonial Heights. Massey also offers an ENT clinic for head and neck cancer at that site.

Last week, the treatment area in the Dalton Oncology Clinic on the ground floor of North Hospital reopened after renovations were completed there. This new, state-of-the-art space was renovated to improve patient comfort, privacy and safety. The size of the treatment space was enlarged and includes four private treatment rooms as well as an expansive, open room comprised of 20 pods that give each patient a semi-private area with room for a family member or friend. Each pod is equipped with a television, set of headphones and nurse call bell system. More patient bathrooms, physician work rooms and nurse stations were also added. The renovations to the treatment space complete one phase of a larger, ongoing reconstruction of the Dalton Oncology Clinic. Improvements were made to the North Hospital entrance, lobby and valet circle in 2012, and more upgrades to other areas of the clinic are planned.

Additionally, two new clinics are in the works to begin operating within the Dalton Oncology Clinic. A sarcoma clinic will be led by Sosipatros Boikos and Andrew Poklepovic, M.D. A thyroid clinic led by surgical oncologist Amelia Grover, M.D., and pediatric endocrinologist Gary Francis, M.D., Ph.D., will be offered four times a year.

The supportive care clinic, which offers outpatient palliative care in the Dalton Oncology Clinic and hematology-oncology clinic at Stony Point, has been expanded from 2.5 to eight half-day clinics. A psychologist, social worker, occupational therapist, physical therapist and nutritionist are available for several of these clinics. Another half-day supportive care clinic is being planned for the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) Clinic.

Giao Phan has established a new program on the BMT Unit. The program will provide an FDA-approved inpatient treatment new to Massey—Interleukin-2, or IL-2, an immunotherapy used to treat melanoma and renal cell carcinoma. This biologic therapy helps increase production of several cancer-killer cells in the immune system.

In other exciting news related to the BMT Program, the team is expected to perform approximately 180 transplants this year, which is an all-time high record for the program. The program also recently renewed its accreditation by the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) and Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT).

Finally, I am pleased to report that for the first time, Massey's satellite clinic in South Hill, VCU Community Memorial Hospital, recently received accreditation by the Commission on Cancer.

Please visit Massey's [news blog](#) for more news related to Massey's clinical services.

Regards,

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Associate director for clinical services