

St. Louis Bi-State Edition

M.D. NEWS

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Features
SSM Cancer Care

**Bob Costas Cancer Center
at SSM Cardinal
Glennon Medical Center**



**SSM Cancer Care at
St. Joseph Hospital West**

Provides Advanced Cancer Treatment and Compassionate Care

SSM Cancer Care at St. Joseph Hospital West

Unique Collaboration of Cancer Experts from SSM Health
Care, Missouri Cancer Care and Saint Louis University Hospital

By Connie Mitchell

Cancer treatment has changed dramatically during the past few years, and one result is the move to more outpatient care. For many patients, this means juggling appointments, absorbing overwhelming amounts of information, and dealing with the emotional aspects of a cancer diagnosis while traveling to various, sometimes distant locations for procedures and follow-up care.

“The new technologies that allow us to treat cancer ever more effectively on an outpatient basis are wonderful advancements in our practice, but we know

that many patients are inconvenienced and even more stressed by the fact that they have to seek care in multiple locations,” says James Beattie, D.O., a medical oncologist with Missouri Cancer Care, PC.

This is changing for residents of St. Charles County and the surrounding area. The new SSM Cancer Care at St. Joseph Hospital West, located in Lake Saint Louis and funded in part by the family of H.W. Koenig, provides a patient-centered experience in a healing environment.

“SSM Cancer Care at St. Joseph Hospital West offers a unique, multidisciplinary approach that my colleagues and I are very enthused about,” Dr. Beattie says. “We’re able to provide comprehensive care while delivering an exceptional patient experience.”

The center is jointly operated by three entities. Missouri Cancer Care, PC, an independent oncology physician practice, is relocating their office from Wentzville, MO, to the new center. Missouri Cancer Care provides medical oncology, chemotherapy and radiation therapy services, including a linear accelerator with intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT). The Women’s Imaging and Breast Center, a cancer education center and a community room, are under the St. Joseph Hospital West umbrella. Saint Louis University Hospital joins the effort by bringing its CyberKnife

SSM Cancer Care at St. Joseph Hospital West combines the latest in technological advancements for cancer treatments while overlooking a serene view of Lake Saint Louis.





PHOTO COURTESY OF SSM HEALTH CARE

SSM Cancer Care at St. Joseph Health Center and St. Joseph Hospital West are among 38 sites across the world participating in the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program through Cornell University. Newer technology and patient convenience are key factors that differentiate the lung scan and a typical CT scan. Jonathan Root, M.D., radiologist, St. Joseph Health Center, discusses with his patient, Pete Harvey, the results of his lung scan.

Stereotactic Radiosurgery System to the facility. (See related article on Page 5.)

SSM Cancer Care is the innovative and comprehensive oncology program for SSM Health Care – St. Louis. SSM Health Care – St. Louis has seven hospitals located conveniently across the St. Louis area.

“Our goal is to embrace the model of integrated care in a single location,” says Gaspare Calvaruso, SSM Cancer Care and President of St. Joseph Health Center. “It’s preferred by physicians and patients alike. We’re looking forward to seeing cancer care services integrated seamlessly in a collaborative environment.”

John Wilkes, M.D., a medical oncologist with Missouri Cancer Care, PC, echoes Calvaruso’s sentiments. “We believe that patient care is best provided in a multidisciplinary setting with coordinated treatment programs,” he says. “Our new cancer center brings several entities together to do that.” He notes that in addition to the technologies and educational facilities, the center houses ample office space for a variety of specialists who want to work in the new extraordinary setting.

Set beside the beautiful Lake Saint Louis waterfront, the cancer center features restful views of the water through large windows placed so patients can easily look at the scenery as they receive chemotherapy treatments. A healing garden will bloom with plants that look, smell and feel comforting for patients and families alike.

“This is a real gem,” Dr. Wilkes says. “The serenity of the lake and the garden will blend with the interiors that are being designed to encourage healing and hope. And the proximity to St. Joseph Hospital West is very exciting in terms of improving our ability to quickly coordinate treatments.”

Working to make that process even easier for women needing breast diagnostic and treatment services, Nancy Gassner is one of SSM Cancer Care’s three breast health nurses. Also known as “nurse navigators,” Gassner and her colleagues shepherd patients from biopsies through lumpectomies and follow-up care. They set and coordinate patient appointments, deliver test results and offer information and reassurance. They work closely with medical offices as a physician-patient liaison. “Our job is to make life easier for

both the doctors and the patients,” Gassner notes.

While no one ever wants to receive a cancer diagnosis, it is good to know that the best care is readily available. The physician’s expertise, technology and innovative design at SSM Cancer Care is sure to bring a new level of care to area citizens and a new level of pride to the physicians who serve them.

For more information about SSM Cancer Care at St. Joseph Hospital West, call (636) 947-5009 or go to www.ssmstjosephwest.com.

Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.

— SSM Health Care Mission Statement

Missouri Cancer Care, P.C., an independent oncology physician group, provides medical, hematologic and radiation oncology services to patients at SSM St. Joseph Hospital West in Lake Saint Louis and SSM St. Joseph Medical Park in St. Peters.

Agha, Jamshed G., M.D., medical oncology
Beattie, James V., D.O., medical oncology
Bedwinek, John M., M.D., radiation oncology
Kraetsch, Robert E., M.D., medical oncology
Luedke, Daniel W., M.D., medical oncology
Wilkes, John D., M.D., medical oncology

CYBERKNIFE TECHNOLOGY COMING TO ST. CHARLES COUNTY

The best health care often happens in highly collaborative environments. And that’s one of the greatest benefits physicians can enjoy at the new cancer center at SSM St. Joseph Hospital West in Lake Saint Louis.

For the first time in St. Charles County, area physicians can offer their patients local access to the CyberKnife Stereotactic Radiosurgery System. The technology is being introduced to the cancer center by physicians who have been performing CyberKnife procedures at Saint Louis University Hospital since 2004.

“We’re looking to bring this cutting-edge technology, which is backed by research, to the St. Charles County region so that more patients can benefit from it without geographic barriers,” says Damon Harbison, Director of Oncology Services at Saint Louis University Hospital. “We really are thrilled to be placing this technology in the back yards of so many more people.”

“This just seemed like a perfect fit,” agrees James Beattie, D.O., a medical oncologist with Missouri Cancer Care, PC, who practices at SSM Cancer Care at St. Joseph Hospital West. Both Saint Louis University Hospital and Missouri Cancer Care physicians perform CyberKnife procedures in Lake Saint Louis. “Having the CyberKnife available locally is just one more example of how patients will be able to receive the highest-quality care available with the least amount of interruption to their day,” he says.

The CyberKnife system is designed to treat tumors anywhere in the body with submillimeter accuracy. It combines robotics and image guidance to deliver accurate, concentrated radiation to intracranial and extracranial targets that are often considered inoperable. “The CyberKnife can achieve a surgical-like outcome for lesions of the brain and spine,” Dr. Beattie says. “It is the first and only commercial application of robotic stereotactic radiosurgery for the spine and spinal cord.”

The procedure is offered in the outpatient setting without anesthesia and is also applicable for treating the lung, liver, pancreas and prostate. An average of three 60- to 90-minute treatments are typical. Patients may

The CyberKnife Robotic Radiosurgery System

