

HEALTHCARE JOURNAL

of Baton Rouge

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015 | HEALTHCAREJOURNALBR.COM | \$8

A New Face for Cancer Care



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Healthcare Journal of Baton Rouge
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The Mary Bird Perkins-Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center recently underwent a \$23 million renovation and expansion. And when you walk into the brand new entrance you might find something unexpected. Smiles. Smiles at the Guest Services desk, smiles on the fresh young faces of the patient escorts. “They are the most important people,” says Administrator Linda Lee. “They set the tone.”



“EVERYBODY THAT YOU SEE THAT WORKS here, you are going to be able to tell they want to be here,” says Lee, pointing out smiling staffers. “People feel a very sensitive connection and commitment to the work that they do here every day. Their compassion for patients is overwhelming. Bricks and mortar do not a cancer center make. Even before the renovation, we had incredible physicians and staff and unbelievable nursing care and services. We are so lucky that we are able to wrap it in this beautiful building with aesthetics that are calming.”

Patients can now be dropped off just steps from the entrance, where they are greeted outside by a patient guide, or can access the entrance from the covered parking lot. The new entrance opens into an airy glass-roofed atrium dominated by a towering three-dimensional stained glass back wall designed

by artist Stephen Wilson. Warm wood paneled walls absorb sound so the atrium is filled with glass and light, yet is still intimate.

Throughout the building colorful artwork by local artists not only draws the eye, but also helps guide patients through the facility. Using artwork for wayfinding is a beautiful and natural way to lead patients without overwhelming them with signage, explains Lee. Paintings adorn seating nooks throughout the cancer center, where a patient, family member, or staffer can sit for a moment’s rest, contemplation, or meditation. “If we can shift the patient’s mind to look at something beautiful, then we’ve been successful,” says Lee.

Even the wall recognizing donors incorporates the warm wood and inserts of artwork in soothing blues and greens. Magnetic placards allow donor names to be moved throughout the display, but the display itself welcomes more scrutiny than the standard brass wall plaque and adds to the overall atmosphere of the atrium.

On the first floor, the completely renovated and refurbished radiation oncology clinic includes a new private waiting room, the Anna B. Lipsey Waiting Room, and a dedicated suite for treatment simulation and special procedures. Here the check-in desk is backed by a large, colorful three-dimensional piece of art called What the Swamp Means to Me by Mia Kaplan. Every patient that looks at it sees different things. One of the staff keeps a running list of “what it means” to each visitor, which includes flowers, rabbits, angels, fairies, volcanoes, even the Eiffel Tower. The clinic features 12 exam rooms and four consultation rooms. There is also a new treatment room for the revolutionary Elekta Versa HD, a new radiation therapy technology, providing faster and more accurate treatments

1575

In France Ambrose Pare, known as the Father of Surgery, publishes his Complete Works. This includes practical information about dentistry such as tooth extraction and the treatment of tooth decay and jaw fractures.

1723

Pierre Fauchard, a French surgeon publishes The Surgeon Dentist, A Treatise on Teeth. Fauchard is credited as being the Father of Modern Dentistry because his book was the first to describe a comprehensive system for the practice of dentistry including basic oral anatomy and function, operative and restorative techniques, and denture construction.



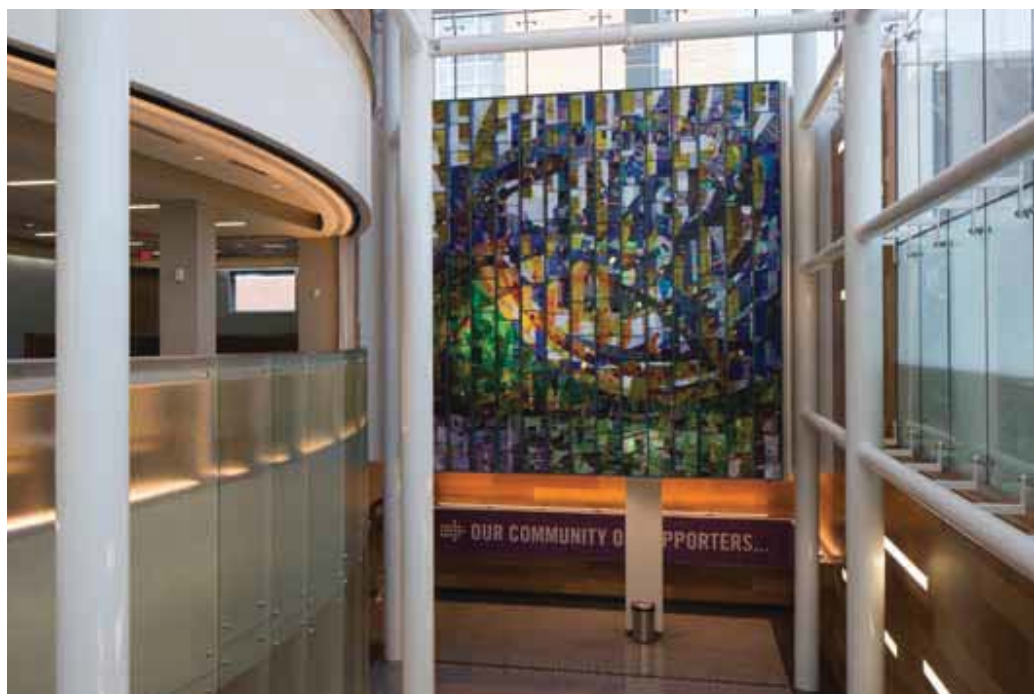
for a wide range of tumors and highly complex cancers.

Also on this level, the 8,149-square-foot Thomas J. Moran Imaging Center offers the latest in diagnostic technologies, including digital X-ray, CT, nuclear medicine, SPECT/CT, PET/CT, and MRI. Unlike other imaging centers in town, this one is dedicated exclusively to cancer imaging. The Imaging Center will soon expand its services to include fluoroscopy, mammography, and ultrasound imaging as well.

The first floor also features a new public pathway between Mary Bird Perkins and Our Lady of the Lake, allowing patients and visitors to move easily between inpatient and outpatient areas.

High speed elevators bring patients and visitors alike to the second floor, where one emerges from the elevator to huge picture windows offering spectacular views of the world outside, the trees, and most importantly, the sky. Again, this was by design, explains Lee. "We wanted to use the elements of Mother Nature because it is natural and as humans we gravitate toward that." The doctors and the nurses wanted the building design to constantly remind patients that there is a world out there and that they are still connected to it. "We are not trying to be a living room or not be an institution of health, but there are small things you can do to help a patient's comfort and that has been front and center, putting the patient in the center of the room, of every planning meeting that we've had."

The 2nd Floor features a new family and visitor hospitality area that will soon include a healthy food café offering local, fresh, organic choices. The Adamek Overlook is spacious with comfortable seating areas



ABOVE The Meditation Art Wall is a key architectural feature that sets the tone of the Cancer Center.

INSET The quiet and comfortable Adamek Overlook provides family members and caregivers a place to relax and look out into the Atrium from an elevated vantage point.

LEFT Named after T.J. Moran, a grateful patient, the Imaging Center fulfills a dream of Moran's to have all cancer diagnostics in one area.

1746

Claude Mouton describes a gold crown and post to be retained in the root canal. He also recommends white enameling for a more esthetic appearance.

1760-1780

Isaac Greenwood practices as the first native-born American dentist.

1760

John Baker, the earliest medically-trained dentist to practice in America, immigrates from England and sets up practice.



Open House Celebration guests visited the new meditation room, a place where patients, family members and Cancer Center team members can visit for a quiet moment of reflection.

and a raised bar area for working or eating. The 2nd floor also features a large high-tech conference room to support the collaborative work of physician multidisciplinary care teams. Named after a prominent surgeon and cancer center founder, the Rathbone Conference Room features state-of-the-art audiovisual and communication technology. It is also used for tumor conferences for the residency program. Just outside that room is a door leading directly to the main OLOL medical center, providing easy back and forth access for the physicians.

Clearly a favorite spot among patients, families, and staff, a meditation room is cleverly concealed behind the huge stained glass wall of the atrium. Seen from the back, the stained glass sculpture is muted, hypnotic,

offering a changing view depending on the light shining through. The quiet, softly lit room features a long cushioned banquette facing the stained glass wall, encouraging you to get lost in your gaze. It has a spiritual, yet nondenominational feel to it. Again by design. The idea was to make everyone feel welcome. “It was designed to be a neutral ground for people to be as spiritual or mindful as they want to be,” explains Lee. Mind-Body meditation classes are also held in this space for patients who have finished treatment or are in treatment, and now also, at their request, for staff members.

Mind-Body Medicine is a form of complementary medicine, where practitioners take the best practices from the medical oncologists and radiation oncologists,

chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery and complement those standard treatments with dealing with the mind a little and teaching patients tools to help with their anxiety, explains Lee. This can actually lead to healing. “It’s a little progressive for our region,” she admits. “It’s not rocket science, but when you are stressed there are stress hormones that are released in your body, cortisol and those types of things. If you are able to distract yourself or shift your thoughts, it can release relaxing hormones that help reduce anxiety.”

In addition to Mind-Body Together, the center’s THRIVE survivorship services include health and wellness coaching, yoga, water aerobics, Pilates, and massage therapy. THRIVE recently added seminars on proper nutrition, financial planning, and other educational workshops addressing common physical and emotional concerns of cancer survivors, family members, and caregivers.

Also part of THRIVE, the Healing Arts program is designed to provide a pleasant distraction for patients and others visiting the facility, as well as help patients and survivors better cope with the stress, anxiety, and side effects that come after a cancer diagnosis. Healing Arts is based on the Mind-Body Medicine approach, which uses the power of thoughts and emotions to influence physical health. The Healing Arts program consists of two elements: the soothing, engaging art displayed throughout the Cancer Center and an art program through which patients are given the opportunity to create original art, color beautiful mandala designs in adult coloring books, arrange flowers, and much more.

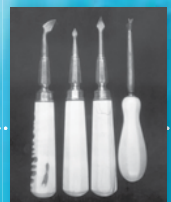
“What we believe as a cancer center is that a patient becomes a survivor at the moment of diagnosis,” says Lee. “And the tools that the doctors give them with all of the wonderful

3,000

About 3,000 newly diagnosed cancer patients a year come through the center.

1768-1770

Paul Revere places advertisements in a Boston newspaper offering his services as a dentist. In 1776, in the first known case of post-mortem dental forensics, Revere verifies the death of his friend, Dr. Joseph Warren in the Battle of Breed’s Hill, when he identifies the bridge that he constructed for Warren.



Paul Revere’s Dental Tools

1789

Frenchman Nicolas Dubois de Chemant receives the first patent for porcelain teeth.



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ABOVE The Anna B. Lipsey waiting room offers a comfortable and relaxing environment for patients to wait prior to radiation treatments. The room is named in honor of Lipsey who, over 40 years ago, was one of the Cancer Center's founders and served as a volunteer board member for many years.

BELOW Cancer radiation therapy is provided by the Elekta Versa HD technology. The Cancer Center is one of the first in North America with this machine, which offers increased speed and precision.



treatments that can be so curative are augmented by some of these other things, being able to take care of the mind and to teach tools that way.” Lee explains how a patient can sit in infusion and color or paint and their mind is now focused on something other than the toxic drugs going into their body. “I think society is becoming more embracing of these alternate ways for health and fitness and that is true of our physician community, too. Our doctors are very aware that this works. There is enough scientific study in the research now that proves that it works. So they rapidly and readily refer to THRIVE.”

On the 3rd Floor an Oncology Supportive Care Clinic offers onsite outpatient palliative care and survivorship services. The first outpatient palliative care clinic in the state, it offers a wholly different paradigm than most people’s understanding of palliative care. “We want this service to be available to patients earlier in their cancer, even when there are curative factors in play,” explains Lee. “We can help with symptom relief, side effect treatment, planning, talking.” A full-time certified palliative care physician, nurse practitioner, and a nurse will provide outpatient services. “Our physicians are very supportive of this and see it as another augmenting service. People should not have to suffer, not in 2015,” says Lee.

The 4th floor is home to the Head and Neck Center. With eight physicians collaborating and working interchangeably depending on each patient’s unique diagnosis, comprehensive services include: skull base surgery, anterior skull base surgery, microvascular reconstruction, neurotology and lateral skull base surgery, robotic surgery, and minimally invasive surgeries treating complications of the salivary glands due to cancer and the effects

1790

John Greenwood, son of Isaac Greenwood and one of George Washington’s dentists, adapts his mother’s foot treadle spinning wheel to rotate a drill.

1825

Samuel Stockton begins commercial manufacture of porcelain teeth.

1801

Richard C. Skinner writes the *Treatise on the Human Teeth*, the first dental book published in America.



Linda Lee, Cancer Center administrator, rejoices with Blake Lebran, a Hodgkin's Lymphoma survivor, and his family, as he rings the Celebration Bell signifying the end of his treatment.

of radiation treatment.

Each patient with a newly diagnosed or recurrent cancer of the head and neck is presented at the multidisciplinary Head and Neck Tumor Board.

This floor also offers the only full-service voice center in Louisiana. The team consists of two fellowship-trained laryngologist and five speech/language pathologists. This unique integrated model of care focuses on patients with cancer and non-cancer related voice, swallowing, and airway disorders. Head and neck cancer patients in particular may face challenges in these areas following treatment. The Voice Center provides therapy, rehabilitation, and treatment to restore these vital functions, and serves as a referral center for minimally invasive surgery for laryngeal cancer.

Finally, also on the 4th floor can be found Facial Plastic Reconstructive Surgery. Reconstruction and reanimation surgery is offered to those undergoing major facial or head and

neck surgeries to remove cancer. Reanimation surgery involves nerve grafts that give tone and can restore movement and function. This can mean regaining a smile or the ability to eat and drink.

The 5th Floor features a modernized clinic for Louisiana Hematology Oncology Associates, a team of physicians, and includes both functional and cosmetic upgrades designed to better facilitate patient care. It also includes an expanded blood draw and laboratory processing suite as well as a new clinical research suite.

The entire 14,000-square-foot 6th floor is dedicated to the Lane Infusion Center, including a state-of-the-art clinical oncology pharmacy, and a mixture of private infusion rooms and semiprivate infusion bays. The infusion center sees upwards of 100 patients a day, but you would not know it. The waiting room is small, again by design, because the goal is not to have the patients wait very long. Despite having 56 individual infusion bays (14

of which are in a second infusion area), each with its own entertainment system, multiple nursing staff, and constant activity, the atmosphere is calm, soothing, and quiet.

The pods, designed by the nurses, are closed in on three sides by privacy walls topped with glass. The glass allows light to travel through the room, but provides sound privacy. Embedded in the glass are real twigs and leaves bringing the element of nature into the room. Picture windows encircle the room giving each patient a view of the outside. A complex series of overhead lights allow the nursing staff to dim and brighten individual areas based on both patient preferences and the amount of natural light coming in. Heated, reclining chairs face individual large screen TVs and Get Well Network keyboards, allowing patients to choose their own distractions, from movies, TV, health videos, relaxation music videos, and email access. A small selection of books is also available, while handmade blankets are on hand for those who would rather just relax and sleep. Ear bud jacks for both patients and family members are mounted into the walls for easy access and to keep noise levels down. "There are 2000 examples of those little touches that a patient might not notice, but were intentionally put into the design for comfort," says Lee. A handful of private rooms are also available for truly frail patients who might need to lie down or those who want a little more privacy.

A dedicated infusion pharmacy is located next to the center so patients have minimal waiting time for their individualized treatment. For safety and quality, video cameras, robots, and digital systems are used to validate drug preparation with all processes documented in real time so nurses can be informed immediately when prescriptions

1832

James Snell invents the first reclining dental chair.

1839

The American Journal of Dental Science, the world's first dental journal, begins publication.

1833-1850

The Crawcours (two brothers from France) introduce amalgam filling material in the United States under the name Royal Mineral Succedaneum.

Charles Goodyear invents the vulcanization process for hardening rubber. The inexpensive material makes an excellent base for false teeth, and is soon adopted for use by dentists.



The infusion center sees about 100 patients a day, as does the radiation oncology center.

are ready. The turnaround time from when the patient sits in the chair to when the infusion is ready to go, is 30 minutes.

Patient areas and offstage staff areas are immediately identifiable by flooring changes. A linoleum block-type floor lets staff know they are offstage where they can relax a little. Even the break rooms for staff are open to the outside and decorated with commissioned artwork.

Offsite, but still part of the expanded Cancer Center, Medical Oncology, a team of hematology-oncology physicians, now offers patient management and infusion services at 8119 Picardy Avenue, near the main campus. In addition the Cancer Center's extended campus also includes the LSU North Baton

Rouge Clinic at 5439 Airline Highway. There they have their own infusion center. Members from one of the oncology groups supports patients at that location, so they don't have to travel.

Thoughtful design is evident even as you leave the center. One of the nurses was concerned about patients who were waiting for their rides to pick them up. In the old center it was difficult to see when a ride arrived unless one waited right in front of the door, subject to blasts of cold, wet, or hot air, depending on the season. She suggested a special waiting area behind a glass wall with full view of the patient pick up area and protected from the elements. Her idea was beautifully realized in the new design...a parting tribute to

5,048

From its opening in April to December 2014, the new imaging center saw 5,048 patients.

patient-centered care.

So what prompted the creation of this all inclusive cancer center? According to Lee, Mary Bird Perkins and Our Lady of the Lake had been working for several years to develop a formalized affiliation to combine the services OLOL offered as they related to cancer, which were surgery, inpatient cancer care, and a small infusion center, and what Mary Bird Perkins offered, which was research, radiation, and a lot of screening and early detection services. "They got really smart and decided that there were two separate institutions located right next to each other, how powerful it would be to affiliate those services and blend them so that you really have comprehensive cancer care," says Lee. "To blend them you needed the space to be able to accommodate all of those services." While many of the services were already here, the expansion allowed for technology upgrades, the new imaging center, a new conference center, an expanded infusion center, as well as many other services that were not previously available onsite.

"The patient benefit from that affiliation is overwhelming," says Lee. "It has been a tremendous collaborative effort. When a patient comes in the door they know it's the Mary Bird Perkins-Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center. They don't know which part is which, they just know that when you come here you can get radiation oncology, chemotherapy and other infusion services, imaging, bloodwork; it's all in one place. What we know from recent studies is that one of the top things cancer patients want is all their services in one place. When you are sick you don't want to have to get in your car and drive to a different parking lot. We have been successful in getting that all under one roof with room to grow." ■

1840

Horace Hayden and Chapin Harris found the world's first dental school, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, and establish the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree. (The school merges with the University of Maryland in 1923).

The American Society of Dental Surgeons, the world's first national dental organization, is founded, but dissolves in 1856.

1841

Alabama enacts the first dental practice act, regulating dentistry in the United States. The act called for the assignment of a dentist to the state's medical board in order to grant licenses for practicing dentistry in the state, but was never enforced.