



MAY IS SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

PREVENTION TIPS:

- **Seek the shade**, especially 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
- **Protect skin** by wearing a hat, long-sleeved shirt, long skirt or pants when outside.
- **Apply** high-quality, waterproof, UVA/UVB sunscreen of at least 15 SPF, even when only outdoors for a short time. Apply a large amount of sunscreen on all exposed areas, including ears and feet, at least 30 minutes before going outside.
- **Reapply** sunscreen often, especially after swimming.
- **Avoid** tanning and UV tanning beds.
- **Examine** your skin head-to-toe every month.
- **See your physician** every year for a professional skin exam.

To schedule an appointment with a MetroHealth dermatologist, call **216-778-DERM (3376)**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS

Cancer support groups can be an integral part of a cancer patient's journey and survivorship. To be surrounded by others in similar situations can help patients cope with their illness and enhance their quality of life. The groups give patients an opportunity to learn more about their disease from others who have experienced it first-hand, which helps reduce feelings of loneliness, tension and anxiety.

The MetroHealth Cancer Center offers a variety of helpful group education classes and support groups including:

Look Good, Feel Better, a free program through the American Cancer Society to help women learn techniques to manage hair loss and skin changes from chemotherapy and radiation.

Women's Cancer Support Group is a program for women to gather, discuss relevant topics, inspire each other and learn from presentations by MetroHealth providers.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 28, 2016, 6–8 p.m.
Women's Cancer Support Group
Girls Night Out at The Gathering Place

May 27, 2016, 1–3 p.m.
Women's Cancer Support Group
Body Image
Natalie Joseph, MD

June 6, 2016, 1–3 p.m.
Look Good, Feel Better

June 24, 2016, 1–3 p.m.
Women's Cancer Support Group
The Effects of Nutrition and Obesity on Cancer
Debra Bruno, MD

Groups are held at the MetroHealth Cancer Center, 2500 MetroHealth Drive.
For more information or to register, please contact us at 216-778-8204.

MEDICAL PROVIDERS: SAVE THE DATE

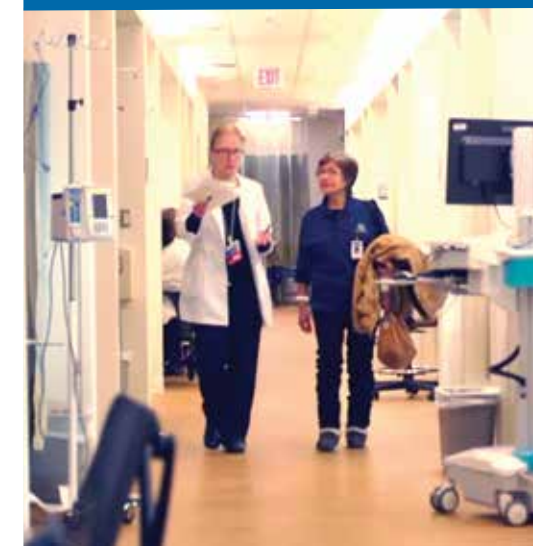
Plan now to attend the Cancer Care Symposium

Friday, September 30, 2016, 1–5 p.m.
Scott Auditorium,
MetroHealth Medical Center



SHARING OUR VISION

Watch our video and learn more about the full spectrum of integrated, compassionate care available at the MetroHealth Cancer Center at metrohealth.org/cancer.



A FOCUS ON LIFE AFTER CANCER

There are approximately 14 million cancer survivors in the United States and that number continues to grow. As director of the MetroHealth Cancer Center and a physician who has dedicated his career to treating cancer, I am proud of how far we have come. It was only 40 years ago that patients had less than a 50% chance of surviving five years after a cancer diagnosis. Today that number is better than 75%. That's a big jump and a direct result of improved cancer screenings, care and treatment.

Now that we are making progress in the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, we also have to think about survivorship. Life is different for patients after they have overcome cancer. They face long-term challenges from their disease and its treatment.

As health care providers, my colleagues and I have a responsibility to help our patients navigate the waters of survivorship just as we helped them through their diagnosis and treatment.

That is why here at MetroHealth Cancer Center we are focusing our efforts on developing a Survivorship Program to help our patients find their "new normal" and manage issues related to surviving cancer. From physical function and psychological well-being to sexual health and nutritional needs, we are bringing together the expertise and educational resources patients need to embark confidently on their next chapter.

At the end of treatment, patients will receive a customized Survivorship Care Plan based on recommendations from the Institute of Medicine, which MetroHealth physiatrist **Mary Vargo, MD**, helped develop as part of a national committee. The plans include a detailed overview of each patient's treatment, what to expect moving forward and steps for long-term follow-up.

For more information about our Survivorship Program, please feel free to give us a call through our cancer call line: **216-77-TREAT (87328)**. With one number, you will be linked to all of our cancer specialists and care providers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Benjamin Li, MHCC Director

WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUT PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY FIRST BECAUSE, FOR US, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

OUR MISSION LIFTS US UP. INSPIRES US TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALL WHO LIVE HERE.

METROHEALTH EXPANDS ONCOLOGY SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

MetroHealth is bringing its expert cancer care to Middleburg Heights, Parma and Cleveland Heights to meet the needs of patients seeking care in their communities. Patients now have access to the services they need as well as the strength and experience of the MetroHealth Cancer Center. Additionally, all MetroHealth physicians are linked to the main campus and with access to care presentations at Tumor Boards, they are able to provide a full spectrum of cancer expertise to their patients.

MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS

Susan Sharpe, MD, who also sees patients at MetroHealth's Cancer Center, is now seeing patients at the Middleburg Heights November Family Health Center, conveniently located at 7800 Pearl Road. To schedule an appointment, call **216-77-TREAT (87328)**.

PARMA AND CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

MetroHealth also is now offering medical oncology and chemotherapy infusion services in Parma, at MetroHealth Parma Medical Offices and Ambulatory Surgery Center, and Cleveland Heights, at MetroHealth Cleveland Heights Medical Offices. With HealthSpan Physician's discontinuation of care in northeastern Ohio, the cancer care team is dedicated to continuing patient care and working closely with patients fighting cancer.

In addition, **Yiping Wang, MD**, (see sidebar on right) has joined The MetroHealth System and will continue providing care as she always has in these two locations. This will allow patients to seamlessly receive the same care that they have come to know and trust without interruption. Dr. Wang also will be expanding her practice and taking over care for the patients of Dr. Ravi Verma and Dr. Hanspreet Kaur. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Wang, call **216-362-2029** for Parma or **216-297-2799** for Cleveland Heights.

With innovative medical expertise and the most state-of-the-art technologies, patients can find comfort in knowing that their care is also backed by the experts at the MetroHealth Cancer Center. To learn more, watch our video at metrohealth.org/cancer.

CLINICAL TRIALS GIVING WOMEN WITH GYNECOLOGIC CANCERS NEW HOPE

Through clinical trials, medical professionals at MetroHealth are providing patients with access to the most advanced treatments available for gynecologic cancers, which include ovarian, uterine, fallopian tube and cervical.

MetroHealth's active clinical research program is currently participating in numerous national NRG Oncology, pharmaceutical-sponsored and investigator-initiated trials, which are helping bring new and better ways to treat gynecologic cancers to patients.

One of these trials is evaluating a new immunotherapy drug for ovarian cancer. According to **Joanna Brell, MD**, director of oncology research at MetroHealth, the new immunotherapy drugs are "absolutely exciting because the sister to the new drug has been FDA-approved for melanoma and non-small cell lung cancer. The drugs are revving up the immune system in a new way and looking at it from a different angle."

This is encouraging news for the more than 100,000 women diagnosed with gynecologic cancers each year.

Another trial is a result of innovative thinking by **Kim Resnick, MD**, director of gynecologic oncology at MetroHealth. Dr. Resnick is looking at different diet options to help overweight, uterine cancer survivors have an improved quality of life.

By participating in clinical trials, MetroHealth strives to provide patients with improved outcomes and potentially save more lives.

MEET OUR NEWEST PROVIDERS



YIPING WANG, MD
Medical Oncology

Education: Peking Union Medical College (PUMC) Beijing, China

Fellowship: Hematology/Oncology Department, University Hospitals of Cleveland (Case Western Reserve University), Cleveland, Ohio

Residency: Department of Internal Medicine, Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Now seeing patients in Parma and Cleveland Heights.

Parma: Call **216-362-2029**
Cleveland Heights: Call **216-297-2799**

VICTORIA BROWN, LISW
Social Worker

Now seeing patients at MetroHealth's Cancer Center. Call 216-778-8277.

To refer a patient to MetroHealth's Cancer Center, call **216-77-TREAT (87328)**

BREAKTHROUGH DRUGS USING BODY'S OWN CELLS TO ATTACK CANCER

A new class of drugs is unleashing the human immune system to fight cancer cells and has far fewer side effects than traditional chemotherapy. This type of treatment, called immunotherapy, has vast potential in fighting the disease and is now available at MetroHealth.

Immunotherapy

- Given by IV infusion
- Treatment every two to three weeks
- Fourth pillar of cancer treatment, alongside surgery, radiation and chemotherapy
- Clinical trials underway for Hodgkin's lymphoma and bladder, breast, head and neck and gynecologic cancers

For years, researchers have believed that the body's immune system could fight cancer if it could be harnessed. Because cancer cells have a remarkable ability to disguise themselves from the human immune system, this has proven difficult and allowed the cells to continue spreading throughout the body.

With new immunotherapies, the body can now recognize and attack cancer cells as it would any other harmful invader. So far, melanoma has been the cancer most transformed by the wave of new immunotherapies with some patients far outliving the typical prognosis.

PINK ELEVATOR RIDES RAISE \$10,000 FOR CANCER CARE

The Susan G. Komen Foundation and Susan G. Komen Northeast Ohio were the recipients of \$10,000 raised by construction management and contractors working on the MetroHealth Critical Care Pavilion expansion. Individuals donated money to ride the Pink Elevator up the outside of the building.

MetroHealth is proud to support the life-changing work done by the Susan G. Komen organizations. A special thank you to Gilbane Building Company and Metro Elevator for their partnership of this fundraising event.



MHCC IN THE NEWS

Newsweek Magazine recently named **Bruce J. Averbook, MD, Surgical Oncology**, as a Top Cancer Doctor for 2015.

Kimberly Resnick, MD, Director of Gynecologic Oncology, has been named to the 2015-2016 Best Doctors in America List.

Cleveland Magazine named MHCC physicians **Bruce J. Averbook, MD, Surgical Oncology** and **Natalie Joseph, MD, Surgical Oncology** as Top Cancer Doctors for 2015.

MetroHealth chief clinical and quality officer **Alfred Connors, MD**, and Cancer Center director **Benjamin Li, MD**, co-authored a column in **Cleveland Magazine** about the importance of the 340B Program in providing patients with access to reasonably priced drugs. <http://tinyurl.com/340BProgram>