Why a Cancer Center at CentraState?

Cancer is such a feared disease that people don’t even like using the word but simply refer to it as the “c” word or the “the big C.” In treating cancer over the years, we’ve observed a couple of key phenomena first, it doesn’t travel well and second, it affects the entire family. So, all things being equal, your best treatment option is the one close to home and over the last several years, CentraState has worked to make sure that “all things are better than equal.” Our cancer services are based on the premise that your best option is having all the options.

CentraState has invested significant resources in building a comprehensive cancer program. “CentraState has made a long-term commitment to ensuring our community has immediate access to the most effective cancer prevention, treatment, and follow-up services,” says John T. Gribbin, President & CEO of CentraState, “and we will continue to introduce the latest cancer fighting technology and expand our team of leading physicians to deliver care that rivals top cancer institutions in the nation.”

CentraState is affiliated with leading state and national cancer institutions such as the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) and participates in research and clinical trials through the Cancer Trial Support Unit of the National Cancer Institute.

Here are just a few other examples of achievements in our cancer program:

- CentraState Medical Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) Commission on Cancer (CoC) and designated as a Community Comprehensive Cancer Center.

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The Only Proton Therapy In New York/New Jersey

In March 2012, CentraState Medical Center in partnership with Princeton Radiation Oncology and ProCure Treatment Centers opened the first Proton Therapy Center in the New York/New Jersey metro area and only the tenth in the nation. When all four treatment rooms in the 60,000 square-foot facility come on line, the staff of eight board-certified radiation oncologists, 30 licensed and registered radiation therapists, five licensed registered nurses, 10 medical physicists and 10 medical dosimetrists will treat up to 1,500 patients annually. Proton therapy has put CentraState in a national spotlight, which makes it easier to attract other qualified and highly skilled specialists.

Patients and their families will be welcomed to relax in a living room style support group atmosphere, where patients can feel free to talk with other patients, families and staff. James Jarrett, president of the ProCure Proton Therapy Center tells us “We’re passionate about making the patient’s experience a positive one”.

Proton radiation is safe, effective and extremely precise. The proton beam targets the tumor instead of other surrounding healthy tissue. This is important when the tumor is located near essential organs or structures like the brain, heart and spinal cord. Proton treatment is minimally invasive and painless with each treatment lasting 15-30 minutes over a period of five to seven weeks. Brian Chon, MD, board-certified radiation oncologist and medical director of the ProCure Center said “Our vision was to bring this amazing treatment to our backyard”. Before its opening last March, patients

Story continued on page 4

Beyond the Double Mastectomy

As a bank manager in her hometown of Jackson, 60-year-old Angela Cali is used to working hard for her successes. That determination – along with physician expertise and advanced treatment techniques at CentraState – has helped her survive cancer. Angela was diagnosed in October 2010 after receiving a routine mammogram, and that December she underwent a lumpectomy to remove the affected tissue. Following her procedure, she began treatment with Dr. Oren Cahlon, board-certified radiation oncologist. Radiation therapy has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of a breast cancer reoccurrence after a lumpectomy like Angela’s.

The approach to Angela’s therapy was unique in that she would receive treatment lying face down in a specially designed positioning system. According to Dr. Cahlon, “breast radiation therapy has been performed with patients lying on their backs, but CentraState also offers [this] approach... [This] allows the breast to fall away from the chest, which reduces radiation exposure to the heart, lungs, and ribs.” This position along with the intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) minimized skin irritation, allowing Angela to remain active throughout her treatment.

With continued efforts paving the way to a better understanding of breast cancer and its various forms of treatment, the road to a better recovery is now more open than ever. It is very important for women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer to realize that there are many options out there when it comes to treatment.

“Everyone I encountered at CentraState was clearly part of a team – from the receptionist to the technicans to Dr. Cahlon – and they took time to get to know me,” Angela says. “I became a part of the team, not just a patient walking in the door periodically. You don’t see that kind of care everywhere.” If you would like to learn more about the Breast Cancer Services available at CentraState, contact the Women’s Health Center at (732) 294-2528 or to schedule an appointment call (732) 294-2778.
Paulette Stallone says that a winning medical team, positive attitude, and supportive family and friends were key ingredients in her victory over cancer. A resident of Manalapan, NJ, Paulette was a cancer patient at CentraState. She had no risk factors, she ran marathons, ate well and never smoked. She did not have diabetes nor did she fit the ethnic profile, and no one in her family ever had colon cancer. Despite that, at age 44 she found herself facing weeks of chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgery for a shocking diagnosis of rectal cancer.

Understanding the importance of exercise for well-being, she continued to run three miles a day, four days a week through chemo and radiation therapy. After surgery, she needed to wait seven weeks to resume her running, but she did resume, continuing with more conviction than ever. Following her diagnosis, Paulette is dedicating herself to helping others beat this disease through education, prevention, early detection and a focus on wellness. Partnering with CentraState Healthcare Foundation, she organized an annual 5K Run/1 Mile Walk to help raise awareness. Last year this event had more than 500 participants, some from as far away as Texas and California, and raised over $25,000.

The Colon and Rectal Cancer Program at CentraState Medical Center offers state-of-the-art services, expertise, and technology for detecting, diagnosing, treating and helping patients recover from colon or rectal cancer. Because our focus is on the whole person, not simply the disease, we also offer guidance on maintaining colon and rectal health—including complementary therapies to support healing and emotional well-being, while helping patients maximize the benefits of conventional treatment.

The colorectal cancer team is led by an outstanding group of board-certified physicians specializing in medical oncology, gastroenterology, surgery, and radiation oncology. Trained at leading academic medical centers, these specialists combine their expertise to evaluate and treat all stages of colon and rectal cancer. The team also includes Magnet-designated nurses credentialed in chemotherapy and certified in cancer care, and other professionals focused on patients’ physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Our multi-disciplinary, integrated approach assures patients and families continuity of care and the convenience of finding everything under one roof in a friendly, attentive environment.

To learn more about cancer care services at CentraState, call 855-411-CANCER.

Why a Cancer Center at CentraState? Continued From Page 1

- CentraState’s Radiology Department, has earned accreditations from the American College of Radiology (ACR) in Computed Tomography, Mammography, Nuclear Medicine, Ultrasound, Breast Ultrasound and Stereotactic Breast Biopsy.
- Our Women’s Health Center is designated as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology, and a Pink Ribbon Facility by Hologic®.
- CentraState has been designated a Magnet hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for excellence in nursing care.
- CentraState has been awarded the CEO Cancer Gold Standard Award for “best in class” in prevention, detection and treatment of cancer.
- But the most convincing argument that a cancer center makes sense for a community hospital like ours is that cancer is becoming a chronic disease. Survival rates have been increasing from a few years to ten years and beyond. The number of cancer survivors has quadrupled over the last 25 years. In fact, more than 40,000 survivors live in our service area and 5,500 new cancer diagnoses are made each year.
- But survivors often find that getting ongoing care after remission has become more difficult because primary care physicians may have felt ill-equipped to handle the after effects of the disease or the possible side effects of the treatment. Because the core mission of a community hospital is primary care, it was a natural fit to link cancer care with survivor care. CentraState is addressing this issue by providing advanced training in survivor care to the family practice physicians we train in our Family Medicine Residency Program.

CentraState’s cancer program uniquely combines the strengths of a community hospital with advanced cancer care services into a unified approach that is tailored to the needs of each patient, no matter where they are on their road to recovery. “Our community should be aware of the tremendous range of sophisticated cancer services and technologies we have in place at CentraState,” says board-certified hematologist/oncologist Jeffrey Silberberg, MD, FACP, Chairman of CentraState’s Cancer Committee. “Our doctors and clinical staff work closely with patients and their families to consider all available options and agree on a personalized treatment plan.”

To learn more about cancer care services at CentraState, call 855-411-CANCER.
Can A Robot Cure Cancer?

CentraState is always expanding its surgical capabilities to make procedures less invasive and more accurate. In 2010, CentraState acquired the da Vinci robotic surgical system being used with patients for prostate and gynecological cancers. This new surgical system allows specially trained surgeons to offer an alternative to traditional open surgery procedures or for cases considered too delicate or complex for the older minimally invasive technology. In August 2011, Anna Hocker of Freehold, was one of our many patients to benefit from this new technology for a shocking diagnosis of rectal cancer.

Anna had been suffering for months with heavy vaginal bleeding that was excruciatingly painful. She had tried a number of treatments such as hormonal therapy, dilation and curettage (scraping away of the uterine lining) and endometrial ablation (destruction of uterine lining using heat, a chemical agent or extreme cold). To her dismay, none of these worked. After these failed attempts, Anna was referred by her primary care physician, Edward D. Stoner, MD, to an OB/GYN specialist Steven Goldstein, MD. After evaluating Anna, he diagnosed her with adenomyosis, a condition in which the endometrial tissue that lines the uterus grows into the uterine wall. After discussing her options, Dr. Goldstein felt that Anna would benefit greatly from robotic supracervical hysterectomy, surgery in which the uterus is removed but the cervix is left intact to help maintain support of the pelvic organs. According to Dr. Goldstein, the standard laparoscopic instruments have a limited range of motion while the robotic instruments function similar to the human hand and wrist allowing for finer movements and better control. Anna was able to leave the hospital the day after her surgery and was surprised at how quickly she was able to return to her everyday activities. Had she undergone a traditional hysterectomy, Anna would have required three days in the hospital plus four weeks or more for a full recovery. Dr. Goldstein also noted that she returned the prescription for her pain medicine, never having to use it.

The da Vinci robotic surgical system consists of a console in which the surgeon views three-dimensional magnified images of the surgical site and uses master hand controls to direct the robotic arms. “The expanded range of motion and excellent visibility afforded by the da Vinci system makes it much easier to get precise results within a very small space at difficult angles,” says board-certified urologic surgeon Troy Sukkarieh, MD. The system automatically translates the surgeon’s hand, wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of tiny surgical instruments, allowing for the surgeon to have full control of the procedure the entire time. Dr. Sukkarieh has performed more than 150 robotic-assisted urologic procedures.

While prostate and gynecologic procedures are the most common for the da Vinci system, other uses include colon, thoracic (chest) and bariatric (weight-loss) procedures. This new system uses only five small incisions rather than one large incision which reduces blood loss, pain and scarring. Other advantages include decreased risk of infection, shorter hospital stays and a faster return to daily activities. CentraState is always striving to provide the latest technology and clinical services to our patients.

For more information on robotic surgery at CentraState call (866-236-8727).

MoleSafe—Skin Safe

Most people don’t consider the effects that sun exposure can have on their skin. Skin cancer, the most common form of cancer accounting for almost half of all cancer cases, can happen if patients are not protecting their skin. CentraState’s MoleSafe program is helping patients recognize these signs and symptoms and taking action right away, take it from sisters-in-law Monica Walters of Freehold and Dominique Walters of Monroeville.

Both 36-year-old women were sun worshipers, laying in the sun for hours and spending time at tanning salons and both thinking they had nothing to worry about. However, after Dominique paid an unrelated visit to her dermatologist, he noticed a questionable mole on her leg and tested it. The results came back positive for an early stage melanoma and the mole was surgically removed. After hearing about Dominique’s alarming experience, Monica decided to visit a dermatologist as well. Monica’s doctor observed a “tiny dot with a little tail” on her arm that also turned out to be early-stage melanoma. Monica said that she would have not recognized it on her own, that she thought melanoma was “big and scary looking”.

The friends then heard about CentraState’s MoleSafe program and decided to give it a try. With a head-to-toe skin assessment, the women could trust that there was someone always looking out for their health. Dominique and Monica learned an important lesson and are determined to pass on their knowledge of preventive sun exposure habits to their children. Dominique says, “I’m a little more secure knowing I have a second layer of protection.”

The MoleSafe program is a non-invasive, painless process performed by a melanographer who is a nurse with specialty training in medical photography, dermatology and dermoscopy. The melanographer begins by taking a series of full-body digital photographs in order to document as much skin as possible. This procedure is followed by the head-to-toe skin assessment.

During this assessment any mole that meets imaging criteria is documented using a dermoscopic camera and sent to a board-certified dermatologist with specialized training in reading images. This specialist will read and assess the images and diagnose areas of concern. After the exam, patients receive a melanoma risk rating that gets sent to their physician and are given a MoleSafe follow up plan. At follow up visits, pictures will be retaken and submitted to make sure that no changes have occurred.

Schedule an appointment today and take control of your health by calling 1-877-MOLESAFE.
The Latest Radiation Treatment Technologies

While Douglas Jones, 49, was shaving one day, he noticed a lump on his neck. As a busy iron worker who traveled throughout New Jersey, Douglas waited to see a doctor for five months, only when he noticed the lump had grown. Douglas first went to a dermatologist who looked at the area and recommended he see an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) specialist. The ENT specialist examined Douglas’ throat and found an abnormality. “I had a tonsillectomy and they did a biopsy of the tumor and found it was malignant,” says Douglas. “Within three weeks, I went to CentraState Medical Center’s Radiation Oncology Department and Dr. Henry Tsai put a plan in place for me and I started treatment.”

To treat Douglas, intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) was used. IMRT allows the doctor to shape the radiation precisely to the tumor, while IGRT allows us to take three-dimensional images each day immediately prior to treatment to accommodate any changes in the patient’s position or body condition.

Dr. Tsai felt this combination of advanced technologies provided the best method of targeting the tumor, which maximizes the likelihood of a cure while minimizing the side effects of treatment.

“There are skilled and caring people on staff at CentraState who helped me get through it all. They put together a treatment plan that shrunk the tumor until it was gone,” says Douglas.

CentraState’s radiation oncology department is accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR). That means the department meets the highest standards of quality care. We offer the most advanced equipment, as well as leading board-certified radiation oncologists who are among the top in their field. Collaboration among members of the healthcare team is always a hallmark at CentraState. Our radiation oncologists work closely with surgeons and medical oncologists, nurse cancer navigators, and each patient’s primary physician to make sure every aspect of your treatment is carefully planned and coordinated with you and your family.

At CentraState, the radiation treatment delivery systems we use to combat cancer are the most advanced technologies available today. But that equipment is only as good as the people using it; and the training, experience and skills of Centrastate’s radiation oncology team is matched with that of any cancer center in the country.

To learn more about cancer care services at CentraState, call 855-411-CANCER.

Health Practitioner Chooses CentraState’s Prostate Cancer Program

Caring for patients is a role Donald W. Hinton of Neptune City understands well. The 70-year-old father of three worked as a clinical nurse specialist for more than 30 years. In October 2007, it was Donald’s turn to receive care. Donald was in remission for seven years, but when he learned he had prostate cancer again he turned to CentraState’s radiation oncology team. “Dr. Ed Soffen and the rest of the physicians and nurses at CentraState have been outstanding. They always explained things in a way I could understand, and they were always there when I needed treatment – whether it was 6 a.m. or 6 p.m.”

Prostate cancer patients like Donald may receive high dose rate (HDR) radiation therapy, which is the placement of a high-intensity radiation source inside the body near the tumor for a short time period. This therapy is not limited to prostate cancer treatment; “[HDR] offers patients another option in place of radioactive seed implants for prostate cancer. This newer form of treatment eliminates the precautions that patients who receive seed implants must follow after the procedure, and it also is tolerated very well,” says Edward Soffen, MD, Chairman of Radiation Oncology at CentraState.

Donald was the second prostate patient to receive HDR radiation therapy at CentraState, and hundreds more have received the treatment since then. “I feel blessed that each time the tumors were found, they were localized in the prostate and had not metastasized to the bone,” says Donald, “Dr. Soffen’s enthusiasm for the procedure is contagious. I can’t thank him enough.”

To learn more about cancer care services at CentraState, call 855-411-CANCER.

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The only Proton Therapy In NY/NJ

had to travel to Harvard, University of Pennsylvania or as far away as Texas or Colorado. In addition to being highly effective, patients receiving proton therapy experience fewer side effects and complications. Proton therapy is considered the ideal treatment for children because their bodies are still growing and x-rays can harm their more sensitive healthy tissue. Studies have shown that proton treatment reduces developmental problems, cognitive dysfunction and radiation-induced secondary cancers. Cure rates can potentially rise because healthy tissue is less affected and higher doses of radiation can be given, thus leading to a higher cure rate.

Proton therapy is effective in treating many types of cancers such as head and neck, brain, prostate, lung, gastrointestinal and pediatric. However, only a doctor can help determine the best treatment.

To learn more about cancer care services at CentraState, call 855-411-CANCER. To find out more about proton therapy and the ProCure Center, call (212) 584-0960 or visit online at procure.com/nj.

The new state-of-the-art ProCure Proton Therapy Center is located in Somerset, NJ.
Navigating Through Cancer Treatment

Being faced with cancer is difficult and overwhelming for patients and their families. There are multiple doctor visits, treatment plans, overwhelming fear and an abundance of questions. Karen Piasecki of Farmingdale found herself facing this situation when her 53-year-old uncle, Alan, was dealing with an advanced stage of cancer of the tonsils.

After Alan was released from the hospital he was required to use a home oxygen therapy treatment. Piasecki said “... I was unable to locate a home oxygen supplier that was financially viable for him”. Taking care of someone on a deadline is difficult enough and after many phone calls and no success, Karen became frustrated. That’s when Alan’s oncologist, Bhavesh Balar, MD, board-certified oncologist, recommended that Karen try CentraState’s Cancer Navigator Program. Karen called and spoke to Diana Chiaro, MSN, AOCN, a clinical nurse specialist. Diana found a low cost oxygen service that immediately began delivery to Alan’s home. Karen knows that Alan’s battle with cancer is ongoing, but that she always has Diana to call for support and expert help if any issues arise.

CentraState developed the Cancer Navigator Program to put patients and their families at ease. The program team provides these families with access to medical, social and financial resources. Michele Langevin, RN, MSN, nurse manager, Oncology Department, helps by breaking down medical jargon into language the patient can understand and the Navigator team provides the latest educational materials and local cancer support group information. The goal is to be as helpful as possible to the patient from helping to set medical appointments to finding child/elder care if needed. They will also arrange transportation to appointments if none is available to the patient. And here’s the best part – the Cancer Navigator Program is free to patients and their families. They can use the program at any time during a cancer diagnosis or treatment.
Lung Cancer

Vincent Stasio, developed a cough in March 2011 that quickly became more than an annoyance. His family suggested he have it checked out, so the 58-year-old Bayville teacher and athletic director visited his primary care physician in April. A potentially cancerous growth was discovered in Vincent’s right lung following a series of imaging tests. After a subsequent biopsy, what happened next, in Vincent’s words, “changed my whole life.”

His doctor, Bhavesh Balar, MD, didn’t agree with the initial pathology report, which indicated he had a possible gastrointestinal cancer that spread to his lung. Dr. Balar requested a second report from Johns Hopkins in Maryland, which indicated the cancer was lung-centered. Scans of other parts of his body also supported that conclusion. “My doctor took my case to a multidisciplinary committee of specialists at CentraState where I was fortunate to meet a doctor [Jean-Philippe Bocage, MD, FACS] who performs minimally invasive video-assisted thoracic surgeries (VATS).” Only three days after undergoing VATS in mid-June 2011, Vincent no longer needed pain medicine. Although he still has some miles to go in his cancer journey, he’s grateful for the care he received at CentraState during the first steps.

The Comprehensive Lung Program at CentraState offers clinical expertise and advanced technology for diagnosing, treating and helping patients recover from lung cancer. Our program is led by an outstanding group of diagnostic radiologists and board-certified physicians specializing in thoracic surgery, pulmonology, radiation oncology and medical oncology. Trained at leading academic medical centers, these doctors combine their expertise to evaluate and treat all stages of lung cancer. The team also includes Magnet-designated nurses credentialed in chemotherapy and certified in cancer care.

Advanced imaging testing helps to locate tumors so that a biopsy can be taken to verify the existence of cancer. Tissue samples are promptly analyzed on site in our Pathology Department. If cancer is found, further sample analysis will help predict how aggressively it may behave and how to direct therapies to stop it. Additional imaging tests may be needed to determine the stage (extent) of the cancer—whether it’s confined to the lungs or has spread. These tests can also help determine whether the cancer is in fact lung cancer or if it’s another type of cancer that started from another organ and spread to the lungs. This is important to know because the treatment is different for different types of cancers. All imaging tests are performed on site in our Radiology Department.

To learn more about cancer services at CentraState, call 855-411-CANCER.

How You Can Help

Join the growing number of individuals and businesses that are helping to build a comprehensive cancer center in our community. Because CentraState Medical Center is a nonprofit community hospital, your gift qualifies for a charitable tax deduction. That means Uncle Sam pays 20% to 35% of your donation.

You can help by making a pledge that can paid over five years, or make a gift now with check or credit card.

You can also help and help yourself as well:

• Make a gift or pledge payments with appreciated securities, personal property or real estate and...
  - get a tax deduction for the full market value
  - avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation

• Buy a charitable gift annuity from us and get guaranteed lifetime income for yourself and/or spouse.

• Make a gift and pay nothing out of pocket by donating an existing life insurance policy or donate a new policy and pay pennies on the dollar value.

• Create a charitable remainder trust and get guaranteed income for a set number of years.

• Create a charitable lead trust that may even return the principal of your gift to you or your beneficiaries.

• Include CentraState in your will and let us know of your bequest intention.

All donors will be recognized in our report to the community after the conclusion of the campaign and on our website beginning in January, 2013. Taking advantage of a naming opportunity is a very fitting way to create a permanent memorial for parents or other family members.

To make a gift or pledge, or to get more information on any of the gift types shown above, please call or send an e-mail to Roman Lucky, Vice President of Development 732-294-7030 or rlucky@centrastate.com

$5 Million Campaign

To help support our growing cancer center, the CentraState Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees approved a campaign which will run through the end of 2013 with a goal to raise $5 million. The funds raised will be used for:

• New construction and equipment for the expansion of our Radiation Oncology and Women’s Health Centers.

• Seed funding for new programs such as the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Center and colorectal cancer program.

• An endowment to provide a stable source of revenue for cancer services which operating revenues alone can’t sustain or which are provided free to patients and families.

• An endowment to provide a stable source of revenue for our Family Practice Residency Program with its survivorship training.

Your gift or pledge to this campaign is an investment which assures you, your family and your neighbors that the most comprehensive cancer care is available close to home.

Your gift or pledge will have a significant life-saving impact that will benefit the 40,000 survivors and 5,500 new cancer cases diagnosed each year in our community. These numbers are not just statistics, they represent us, our families, friends and neighbors.

Please join your friends and neighbors listed here who have already contributed to the $2.7 million raised to date and check our website www.centrastatefoundation.org throughout this next year for updates.
Leading the Cancer Campaign

Community leaders have stepped up to help organize and conduct a $5 million campaign to support CentraState’s comprehensive cancer center. For the past year they have identified potential donors, made presentations to individuals and groups, held receptions in their homes and written letters. Their efforts, supported by Foundation staff, have resulted in $2.7 million raised through September 30, 2012. The campaign is expected to run through 2013.
The list below represents donors who made commitments to the Cancer Campaign of $500 or more through October 31, 2012. A complete list of all donors will be published at the conclusion of the campaign. Our thanks to these and many other donors for their generous support of CentraState’s Cancer Center.

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