

DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE COMES TO LONDONDERRY



Dana-Farber/New Hampshire Oncology-Hematology



L to R: Edward J. Benz, Jr., MD, president and CEO, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Fred Briccetti, MD, medical director, Dana-Farber/New Hampshire Oncology-Hematology; Donna Indelicato; Lise Mendham, director, operations, Dana-Farber/New Hampshire Oncology-Hematology; Lawrence N. Shulman, MD, chief medical officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Doug Dean, president & CEO, Elliot Health System

When Donna Indelicato cut the ceremonial ribbon to mark the opening of Dana-Farber/ New Hampshire Oncology-Hematology (DF/NHOH) in Londonderry in December, she spoke of the opportunity the new center brings to cancer patients in southern New Hampshire and Northern Massachusetts. “This new center means so much to me,” said the Windham, NH native. “Hope will live within these walls.”

Indelicato had been a breast cancer patient at Dana-Farber in Boston while she lived in Massachusetts. After moving to New Hampshire, her cancer returned and she received care from physicians at New Hampshire Oncology-Hematology (NHOH), a well-recognized community oncology practice that sees approximately one-third of New Hampshire’s cancer patients. With the opening of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s 25,000 square

foot medical oncology unit located at the Elliot Medical Center in Londonderry, patients benefit from a model of care that blends the strengths of a top national academic medical center with those of a leading community oncology practice.

“The combination of first-rate oncology care and the resources of Dana-Farber provide a unique opportunity for residents of southern New Hampshire,” says Lawrence Shulman, MD, Dana-Farber’s chief medical officer. “It will enable many patients to stay close to home and smooth the transfer of care to Dana-Farber’s Boston campus when needed.”

Dana-Farber is a pioneer in the development of cancer treatments used around the world and is rated by *US News and World Report* as the best cancer hospital in New England. “Dana-Farber offers innovative therapies and hope to patients from all 50 states and more than 52 countries” says Doug Dean,



Cindy Maio, RN with Lorretta Cotroneo at Dana-Farber/New Hampshire Oncology-Hematology in Londonderry

president and chief executive officer of Elliot Health System, “and I’m thrilled that they are bringing these services right into our backyard.”

ADDRESSING THE FULL PICTURE OF CANCER CARE

The Londonderry center – which is Dana-Farber’s third satellite location – incorporates Dana-Farber’s philosophy of treating the “whole patient” with innovative medical care complemented by extensive support services. In addition to expert medical oncology, patients will have access to an array of services such as genetic screening and counseling, nutrition counseling, a survivorship program, a resource library for patients and families, pain and palliative care services, pastoral care, and second opinion clinics with Dana-Farber specialists. Patients will also have the opportunity to join clinical trials that explore new therapies for fighting cancer.

Four oncologists – Fred Briccetti, MD, Meredith Selleck, MD, Douglas Weckstein, MD, and Jeanna Walsh, MD – transferred from NHOH’s Derry practice to the new facility in Londonderry. The physicians have access to the resources and subspecialists at Dana-Farber in Boston through case reviews, consultations, and educational seminars. And they have the benefit of an experienced support staff of nurses, social workers, research coordinators, nutritionists, patient coordinators, and more to provide patients with a full range of medical and support services.

The relationship between Dana-Farber and NHOH is not new.

The two organizations have worked together for more than 25 years on clinical trials and physician consultations. In addition, Dana-Farber and NHOH jointly offer community education seminars in NH. This series – dubbed ‘Let’s Talk’ – has featured many talks on topics such as genetic counseling, smart drugs and new cancer therapies. Discussions on survivorship and breast cancer are planned for this spring and summer.

PATIENTS WEIGH IN

Though cancer is never easy, DF/NHOH tries to make people as comfortable as possible. The cancer center was developed with extensive advice from patients, staff, and clinicians. Patient input can be felt in the 20-bay infusion area where patients have the option of a private or communal bay, based on how they are feeling on a particular day. The area is also set up for wireless access, and patients and families are offered breakfast, snacks and lunch while in Londonderry for an appointment. In addition, the resource library on the first floor provides not only cancer information and resources, but also a respite from a busy clinic.

Kathleen Willard, a New Hampshire resident and Dana-Farber patient, says that the Londonderry clinic is a great benefit to people in the region. “I’ve heard from a lot of people from New Hampshire who have cancer who said that they would love to go to Dana-Farber but don’t because of the travel,” says Willard. “It is much more convenient to get the same level of care within a half hour of home.”

For more information, call 603-552-9100 or visit dana-farber.org/londonderry.