

# Components of the Cancer Program

## BREAST HEALTH SERVICES

The fight against breast cancer goes on every day of every month in St. Joseph Mercy Oakland's Women's Center. Our dedicated radiologists read 13,202 mammograms in 2004 and performed 706 breast biopsies. In April 2005, we acquired a new state of the art stereotactic core biopsy table, which has allowed for improved imaging when locating fine calcifications within the breast. The women's center staff continues to focus on providing quality, individualized care. Our mammography nurse contacts every woman before and after her biopsy to ensure that she is well prepared and less apprehensive. This personalized care contributes to the high customer satisfaction ratings given to the women's center staff.

We diagnosed 144 new breast cancer cases in 2004. Each woman's case was discussed at our weekly multidisciplinary tumor board. As always, this case conference affords each patient the benefit of a variety of physician expertise.

One quality improvement for breast services has included offering genetic counseling and testing on site here at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland. Women and their family members receive an education packet detailing the test and then choose to come in for counseling and testing. We also offer an opportunity to pre-determine insurance coverage which helps relieve some of the additional burdens of decision-making.

Our breast cancer support group has continued to meet monthly, with more involvement from the group members. We now have our own "grass-roots" newsletter, called the "Pink Ribbon Press." The members themselves write this quarterly newsletter. It's wonderful to see our group take ownership of a project, helping themselves and others. We also had another very successful team at the Clarkston Relay for Life, raising \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society.

## CANCER REGISTRY REPORT

The registry provides statistics on data collected for research and educational evaluation. With this information, the registry is able to observe trends and make comparisons regarding the frequency of cancer in certain sites and the level of survival in our patients at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland. The registry staff was reduced to two full-time employees; both are Certified Tumor Registrars (CTR). The Registrar's attend the Michigan Cancer Registrar Association (MICRA) annual meeting for updates and new information.

The registry accessioned 794 new cancer cases in 2004. This brings our total to over 12,300 patients diagnosed and/or treated at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland since 1991. Approximately 5,100 patients are followed annually at an average rate of 93 percent.

We continue to participate in the National Cancer Data Base's "Call for Data." We are also a part of the Facility Information Profile System (FIPS) through the American Cancer Society and the American College of Surgeons collaboration; which provides the public with information that pertains to our hospital cancer statistics. It also identifies us as an approved teaching hospital cancer program and it outlines our available services.

In December of 2004, the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Approvals program reviewed our oncology program. St. Joseph Mercy Oakland was approved for another three years with no deficiencies reported.