

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Brian O’Hea, MD, Acting Chief, Surgical Oncology

Overview: Surgeons in Stony Brook’s Department of Surgery offer the highest degree of specialization and expertise. Recognizing the relationship between volumes and outcomes, each surgeon focuses on a specific area of cancer. In addition, the Department of Surgery works closely with the Hematology/Oncology and Radiation Oncology divisions to provide multimodality approaches to cancer—often collaborating to design and implement new protocols for treatment of various tumors.

Implementation: The department has been on the forefront of using minimally invasive surgical techniques, including laparoscopy and robot-assisted surgery. It also has a number of

members with expertise in sentinel node biopsy for staging breast cancer and malignant melanoma; as a result, active clinical work is also being conducted. A major role for surgeons is serving as members and leaders of the Disease Management Teams. They also participate in ongoing tumor board meetings. Stony Brook’s surgeons are partners in more than 50 protocols activated by the Medical Center’s Institutional Review Board, including American College of Surgeons Oncology Group research protocols; the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project; Cancer and Leukemia Group B; and the National Institutes of Health-funded research on consent for tumor bank tissues.

In addition, surgeons are the primary collaborators with pathologists in the Stony Brook Tumor Tissue Bank, a prime resource for translational and basic science research.

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HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Program Leader: Theodore G. Gabig, MD, Chief, Medical Hematology/Oncology

Overview: The Department of Hematology and Oncology offers a comprehensive program in cancer treatment and research, evaluating and treating a wide range of malignant diseases using chemotherapy, biologic response modifiers, targeted therapies, and other new systemic therapies. Led by physicians and researchers who are best in their fields, the department includes nurse practitioners, chemotherapy-certified

oncology nurses, a Patient Navigator who is an oncology-trained nurse, and research nurses, most of whom participate in the site-specific Disease Management Teams. The Medical Oncology Inpatient Unit maintains 37 beds, four of which are dedicated for bone marrow transplantation. The outpatient oncology cancer clinic provides chemotherapy and expert oncology nursing, and sees approximately 11,000 patient annually.

Implementation: The department oversees a number of specialty programs, including the Blood and Bone Marrow Stem-Cell Transplant Program. With its own specialized unit that maintains state-of-the-art infection control, the program offers specialized services for autologous and allogeneic bone marrow transplantation for leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma. Clinical trials are open for every major cancer site and

include treatment for prostate, breast and colon cancers; glioblastoma multiforma; and aggressive malignant astrocytomas. Research includes the development of a system for detection of new cancer cell markers and for isolating cancer cells circulating in the blood, as well as collaborations with national research groups and pharmaceutical companies.

THE **CANCER CARE** PROGRAM

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