

April 4, 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

One of the hallmarks of the excellence of NCH Healthcare is our cancer program. The impact of cancer on society is staggering, as it will afflict one of three of us and, sadly, take one in four. By coordinating our superb oncology services—inpatient, outpatient and all of the medical, surgical and radiation therapy specialists—we can improve outcomes, while helping patients limit the time and energy in receiving diagnosis and care.

This year, once again, as it has for the past 30 years continuously, our cancer program has earned accreditation by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) Commission on Cancer. This year's survey resulted in the accreditation for three more years with five commendations awarded (when an institution exceeds one of the 34 accreditation standards).

- One commendation was awarded for our exceeding the ACoS Standard for *Clinical Trials*, due largely to the support from Florida Cancer Specialists (FCS), which placed 100% of the patients on our clinical trials. We congratulate and thank FCS for their superb support to state of the art therapy.
- Two commendations were due to the superb efforts of our *Cancer Registry* for abstracting time frame and for error-free submissions of data to the ACoS National Cancer Data Base. **Barbara O'Hara**, Certified Tumor Registrar and Manager of the Cancer Registry, and her terrific staff are to be congratulated for their efforts.
- The additional two commendations involved exceeding ACoS Standards for the number of *Quality Improvement Studies* implemented and documented, and for exceeding the number of prevention and early detection programs offered each year.

Congratulations to the members of the NCH Cancer Committee and all those who participated in preparations for this successful ACoS Accreditation. We especially want to thank our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Radiation Oncology partner for the leadership and time commitment of **Drs. Chaundre Cross** and **Michael Hanus** as Dr. Cross passed the Chairman's gavel to Dr. Hanus as he assumed the Chair of the NCH Cancer Committee and worked to support the accreditation efforts. General Surgeon **Dr. Sam Tunkle** serves as our ACoS Cancer Liaison Physician. As such, he has had—and continues to have—a significant amount of responsibility for our Cancer Committee and, therefore, for our accreditation success.

Our growing emphasis on cancer care is being led by **Roy Threet**, our new Administrator of the NCH Oncology Service Line, and a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Roy comes to us from Fort Worth, Texas with 30 years of quality experience, having led hospital-based cancer programs—including at three universities—as well as free-standing cancer centers and physician-owned oncology practices. Roy describes his task as "*getting up every day, working hard, and going to bed every night focused on making things better for cancer patients.*" He has committed to accomplish wonderful goals by communicating, coordinating, collaborating and integrating the many moving elements which form the NCH Oncology Service Line.

Beyond our distinction for cancer care, NCH has been a national leader in other areas, like cardiology, where we are ranked in the top 10% by the Society of Thoracic Surgery and by HealthGrades. We also have been for many years the busiest total joint replacement hospital for hips and knees in Florida for Medicare patients. All these leadership programs, buttressed by our Mayo affiliation, make NCH the preeminent hospital it has grown to become. Our challenge is to continue to improve that standing every day we come to work.

Respectfully,



Allen S. Weiss, M.D., President and CEO

***P.S. DO YOU HAVE A COLLEAGUE OR FRIEND WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THESE UPDATES?***

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