

UVM HEALTH NETWORK – CENTRAL VERMONT MEDICAL CENTER

# Selected Highlights of the 2016 Cancer Program

ADULT PRIMARY CARE, ONCOLOGY AND HEMATOLOGY  
Medical Oncology and Hematology / Patient Support Services

NATIONAL LIFE CANCER TREATMENT CENTER  
Radiation Oncology / Patient Support Services

## COMPLEMENTARY INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE FAIR

We partnered with Vermont Cancer Survivor Network to hold a day-long complementary integrative medicine event in Montpelier that attracted more than 100 participants from around the state. *Expanding Cancer Care: Exploring Choices in Complementary Integrative Medicine* offered workshops and displays on a wide variety of topics, including aromatherapy, Reiki, acupuncture, yoga, mindfulness meditation, medical marijuana, spirituality and health, and more. Amy Littlefield, a naturopathic physician certified in oncology, was the keynote speaker. The event received excellent reviews.

## HPV PRESENTATION FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Dr. Wendy Davis of the University of Vermont Department of Pediatrics, the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, and the state's HPV Task Force, presented at CVMC on *HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention: Increasing coverage rate to decrease the burden of disease*. One outcome of Dr. Davis' presentation was the participation by a CVMC pediatric practice in a multi-month evidence-based learning collaborative to improve HPV immunization rates.

The report on this cancer prevention project can be found at: <https://www.cvmc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cancer-Program-Community-Outreach-Report-2016.pdf>

## COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING COMMITMENT

In 2016, CVMC became the first medical facility in Vermont to join the National Colorectal Roundtable's "80% by 2018" initiative, which has a goal of 80% of adults age 50 and older receiving recommended colorectal cancer screenings by 2018. CVMC signed the 80% by 2018 pledge to work toward this goal and undertook several activities, which are documented in the 2016 community outreach report at: <https://www.cvmc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cancer-Program-Community-Outreach-Report-2016.pdf>

See Also:

<http://nccrt.org/what-we-do/80-percent-by-2018/>  
<http://nccrt.org/wp-content/uploads/80by2018Pledge-1Pager-10.3.17.pdf>

## STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Dr. Daniel Fram, our radiation oncologist and the medical director of our radiation oncology program, was appointed co-chair of the statewide group, Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer (VTAAC). VTAAC is a network of groups and individuals that is responsible for putting the Vermont Cancer Plan into action, with the goal of reducing the burden of cancer in Vermont. Dr. Ed Ziedins, UVM Medical Center surgeon practicing at CVMC, is Cancer Liaison Program state chair for the Commission on Cancer. In this position, he

serves as a resource to all six of Vermont's Commission on Cancer-accredited programs, including our own.

### **SURVIVORSHIP CARE PLANS**

The Commission on Cancer has been phasing in a requirement that all patients completing cancer treatment (with a few exceptions) receive a document that details the cancer treatment they received and a post-treatment plan of care. In 2016, we exceeded the requirement that 25% of our patients finishing treatment receive survivorship care plans. The 2017 requirement is 50%. We continue to develop the process for creating and distributing survivorship care plans, determining who should create the document, how comprehensive it should be, who should review the document with the patient and at what visit.

### **HOSPICE REFERRALS QUALITY STUDY**

It is generally acknowledged that hospice care is the gold standard for end-of-life care. Studies show that patients benefit more from longer stays on hospice than very short stays. With this in mind, we conducted a study of our hospice referrals over a 6-month period and identified opportunities to make earlier referrals so patients can experience all the benefits of hospice care.

### **ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

On occasion, a patient must have dental work performed prior to starting chemotherapy or radiation treatment. Arranging for dental services can be a challenge, especially when a patient does not have a regular dentist or cannot afford the services. Recognizing this obstacle to the timely start of cancer treatment, we entered into an agreement with the dental unit at The Health Center (Plainfield) that enables us to arrange for affordable care with minimal delay.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

about our Cancer Program, please visit [UVMHealth.org/CVMC/Cancer](http://UVMHealth.org/CVMC/Cancer) or call us at **(802) 371-2500**.

### **ADULT PRIMARY CARE, ONCOLOGY AND HEMATOLOGY**

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### **NATIONAL LIFE CANCER TREATMENT CENTER**

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[UVMHealth.org/CVMC](http://UVMHealth.org/CVMC)

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**University of Vermont**  
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