

Cancer Chairman's Report - 2016

Vassar Brothers Medical Center is committed to providing quality patient care to patients in New York's Hudson Valley. Founded in 1882, Vassar Brothers Medical Center has made a commitment to provide high quality diagnosis, treatment, care, education and support to cancer patients and their families in a caring and supportive environment. We continuously strive to provide our patients with early detection, lifestyle education, and support services along with the latest advancements in diagnosis and treatment options. The Cancer Program at VBMC has continued to expand and enhance the services including outreach, prevention, and screening programs for the community.

During the past year the Cancer Committee met five times and played an important role in the following activities:

- Cancer Program Annual Goals in 2016
 - Programmatic: Developed a process to initiate MOLST orders for HQMP medical oncology patients
 - Clinical: Participate in ASCO QOPI Program

- Cancer Conference
 - Multidisciplinary/Breast Conference
 - Head and Neck Conference
 - GI Conference
 - Thoracic Conference
 - Urology Conference

- Support Groups
 - Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group
 - Introduction to Chemotherapy
 - Healthy Eating for Oncology Patients
 - Living with Lymphedema
 - Look Good, Feel Better
 - Reach to Recovery
 - Women Moving Through Breast Cancer
 - Partnership with Support Connection, Inc.

- Community Outreach, Education, Prevention and Screening
 - Breast Cancer No Cost Mammography
 - Low Dose CT Scan Screening for Lung Cancer
 - Radio Woodstock – Pink October 3 day event
 - Cancer Survivors Day
 - Prostate Cancer Walk
 - Smoking Cessation
 - Melanoma education for farmers
 - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
 - Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Walk
 - Relay for Life

- Clinical Education
 - Oncology Teaching Day
 - Breast Teaching Day
 - Pulmonary and Critical Care Conference
 - Urology Teaching Day
 - OB/GYN Education Day: Grand Rounds
 - Advanced and Innovative Care Conference

Focusing on our Community Outreach, Education, Prevention and Screening efforts has involved the entire Medical Center and the Community. In 2016, we provided three prevention programs focusing on smoking cessation, melanoma and skin cancer prevention and nutrition with cancer. The Smoking Cessation Program had two attendees completing the entire program. Dr. Nitzkowski participated in an iHeart radio program sponsorship to promote and highlight skin cancer prevention. There were two presentations for nutrition, one with breast cancer and one with lymphedema.

Using low dose CT scans the Lung Screening Program enrolled and screened 134 patients in 2016. Of those screened, there were three patients positively diagnosed with lung cancer, and going on for appropriate treatment. The Annual Mammogram Screening Program is held throughout the year. This program provides mammograms to women with no insurance. There were 147 patients screened, five undergoing biopsy, one that was positive for breast cancer, going on for appropriate treatment.

Vassar Brothers Medical Center has partnered with the American College of Surgeons for the “80% by 2018” initiative for screening for colorectal cancer.

Respectfully submitted,

James Leonardo, MD
Chair, Cancer Committee 2016