

NOVEMBER
2005

100
SOLUCIENT
TOP HOSPITALS
Performance Improvement Leaders

UConn House Call

REMARKABLE CARE THROUGH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

PREVENTING COLON CANCER NEW PROGRAM PROVIDES HIGHEST QUALITY CARE, LIFELONG EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

Colon cancer is a leading cause of death among American men and women. But the good news is that colon cancer may be preventable. Smart lifestyle choices and understanding your individual risks can go a long way toward reducing your risks of ever getting this disease.

The New Colon Cancer Prevention Program

"Anyone who is concerned about their risk for colon cancer can join our new program," says Joel Levine, M.D., a gastroenterologist, professor of medicine and co-director of the new Colon Cancer Prevention Program at UConn Health Center.

"Prevention is more than a single test. It's looking at all your risk factors and determining how those risks can be lowered," he says, noting that patients will receive ongoing education about risk reduction strategies.

Because the UConn Health Center is a university hospital, this program draws on unique strengths from many areas, including today's most advanced imaging to detect the earliest changes in the colon.

"We are at the forefront nationally in technology that lets us see changes that may occur 10 years before polyps or cancers develop," Dr. Levine says.

And there's more. Through this program, patients can benefit from UConn's longstanding expertise in genetic counseling and testing as well as a broad range of research strengths from throughout the UConn School of Medicine. Some of today's most exciting colon cancer research is taking place at the UConn Health Center right now. When you join the Colon Cancer Prevention Program, you and your family can benefit from UConn's years of research experience and knowledge.

"This is a unique collaboration among physicians, patients, families and scientists that emphasizes education about the risk factors for colon cancer," he adds.

*Daniel Rosenberg, Ph.D.,
and Joel Levine, M.D.,
co-directors of the Colon
Cancer Prevention Program*

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Remarkable Care Through
Research and Education

continued from page 1

Your Personal Cancer Prevention Plan

Creating a personal cancer prevention plan begins with a detailed survey of each patient's colon cancer risk. After completing the survey, patients meet with Dr. Levine and the program's nurse practitioner to formulate personalized colon cancer prevention strategies.

"Our goal is to be your ally in prevention and to give you the information, support and resources to create and maintain a lifelong cancer prevention plan," Dr. Levine adds.

The Colon Cancer Prevention Program is part of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at UConn, and is conveniently located off the main Health Center lobby.

New patients are welcome. For more information about the Colon Cancer Prevention Program, please call 800-535-6232.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY PR CAROLYN D. RUNOWICZ, M.D.

Carolyn D. Runowicz, M.D., director of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at the UConn Health Center and a nationally prominent expert in gynecologic cancers, will become President of the American Cancer Society on November 17. She will assume the presidency during the annual Board of Directors and National Assembly meeting in Los Angeles.

"It's an honor to expand my role as an officer and ambassador for the American Cancer Society, especially during such an exciting time in cancer research," says Dr. Runowicz, who has been actively involved with the American Cancer Society's national board of directors for

about 15 years. "As president, I will continue to promote the cancer society's mission to eliminate cancer as a major health problem through research, education, advocacy and service—all of which are consistent with the mission, goals and vision of the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center."

The role of the president is to act as the lead medical and scientific spokesperson and advocate for the American Cancer Society.

As a gynecologic oncologist and a respected academician, Dr. Runowicz has devoted her career to advances in the treatment, early detection and prevention of cancer. She is also a strong patient advocate. She has authored several books

WHY WAIT?

INTRODUCING THE NEW WELL WOMAN SCREENING AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Attention all multi-tasking, on-the-go women: Are you overdue for a check-up? Have you been too busy to make time for your own health care?

Why wait? Call the UConn Health Center today at **800-535-6232** or **860-679-7692** and schedule an appointment through our new **Well Woman Screening and Prevention Program**.

You will be seen within days by Phyllis A. Tarallo, FNP-C, a woman's health expert who trained and works closely with Carolyn D. Runowicz, M.D., director of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at UConn and President-Elect of the American Cancer Society.

Appointments are held in the Charlotte Johnson Hollfelder Center for Women's Health, conveniently located off the main hospital lobby. You will receive a comprehensive history and physical exam as well as screenings, risk assessments, and, if necessary, diagnostic tests such as mammography and blood work to determine your risk of certain diseases. You may also be referred to a specialist, if necessary.

If there's a need to discuss test results, Ms. Tarallo will see you for a brief follow-up visit. She will help all patients find a UConn internal medicine or ob/gyn physician for ongoing care.

"This program was designed for women who want to be seen quickly," Ms. Tarallo says. "We also want to help women become empowered about their health and learn how to access important screening and prevention programs."



RESIDENT NAMED

to empower patients including *The Answer to Cancer*, a book about cancer prevention that she recently co-wrote with her husband, Sheldon H. Cherry, M.D. The book provides valuable information to help men and women understand their personal risk profiles and gives science-based examples of concrete steps people can take to reduce their risk.

Dr. Runowicz is the first breast cancer survivor to become the leader of this prestigious national organization.

In addition to her work with the American Cancer Society, Dr. Runowicz was recently appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as a member of the National Cancer Advisory

Board and was the first woman president of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists. She currently serves on the National Cancer Institute's Scientific Review Group and is also involved with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Dr. Runowicz has been chair of the Gynecologic Committee of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, a leading national organization in large-scale cancer research, since 1994.

Dr. Runowicz sees patients in the Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. For more information, call **800-535-6232** or **860-679-7692**.

Dr. Carolyn D. Runowicz, M.D.



HIGH SCORES ON CARDIAC CARE

Uconn Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital scored extremely well on its treatment of patients admitted for heart attack and heart failure in the most recent Hospital Performance Comparisons released by the state Department of Public Health.

The high scores mean that staff at John Dempsey Hospital administered the correct treatments to nearly every patient admitted for heart attack or heart failure.

"We are extremely pleased with our results," says Rhea Sanford, co-director of the Collaborative Center for Clinical Care Improvement, which is charged with improving patient safety at the Health Center. "We believe the scores clearly demonstrate our commitment to evidence-based medicine, which relies on empirical data from clinical trials and research as the basis for medical interventions."

The treatments measured are those considered best practices for the conditions, which are common and costly medical conditions for which people go to the hospital. Currently, data is collected on heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia. The data is updated throughout the year.

HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE COMPARISONS OCTOBER 2004–DECEMBER 2004

	JOHN DEMPSEY HOSPITAL	CONNECTICUT MEDIAN	NATIONAL MEDIAN
HEART ATTACK CARE (ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION)			
Percentage of patients who receive aspirin at arrival	100%	96%	94%
Percentage of patients prescribed aspirin at discharge	100%	97%	94%
Percentage of patients who receive an ACE inhibitor at discharge	100%	83%	79%
Percentage of patients prescribed a beta blocker at discharge	100%	95%	92%
Percentage of patients who receive a beta blocker at arrival	96%	94%	89%
Percentage of patients who receive smoking cessation counseling after AMI	100%	88%	85%
HEART FAILURE CARE			
Percentage of patients who have a left ventricular function assessment	96%	93%	86%
Percentage of patients who receive an ACE inhibitor at discharge	100%	79%	76%
Percentage of patients who receive appropriate discharge instructions	50%	61%	49%
Percentage of patients who receive smoking cessation counseling after heart failure	100%	82%	71%

For the complete report, go to www.cthosp.org/Quality/documents/CHAHPRWebsite-August05Update_001.pdf.

INTRODUCING...

Michael J. Giordano, M.D., F.A.C.S., a neurosurgeon with expertise in complex surgeries of the spine and brain, now sees patients in the Health Center's new Medical Arts and Research Building. A Connecticut native, Dr. Giordano joins the Health Center from private practice in the Midwest. He offers patients today's most advanced, image-guided, stealth surgical technologies to support his expertise in surgery of the spine, cervical spine, brain tumors and other complex injuries. In addition, Dr. Giordano offers kyphoplasty, a technique to repair painful spinal fractures caused by osteoporosis.

Dr. Giordano is a graduate of New York University School of Medicine and completed an internship at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics as well as an internship and residency at Washington University School of Medicine.



*Michael J. Giordano,
M.D., F.A.C.S.*

Lavern Wright, M.D., a geriatrics specialist, has joined the UConn Health Center and sees patients on the main campus in Farmington.

Earlier this year, Dr. Wright completed a fellowship in geriatric medicine at the UConn School of Medicine and the UConn Center on Aging. Dr. Wright is also a graduate of the UConn School of Medicine, where she completed her residency in internal medicine.



Lavern Wright, M.D.

Karoush Parham, M.D., Ph.D., an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist, recently joined the UConn Health Center and sees patients at the main Health Center campus in Farmington and at the West Hartford office of UConn Health Partners. Dr. Parham offers patients complete ENT care as well as expertise in Transnasal Esophagoscopy (TNE), a new technique to fully examine the esophagus without the need for sedation or general anesthesia. This procedure is performed in the office and is used to check for possible obstructions in the neck, throat, airway or esophagus. It can also help to visualize symptoms associated with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) or complications with GERD and asthma, and to diagnose swallowing difficulties.

Dr. Parham is a graduate of the UConn School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency in otolaryngology/head and neck surgery.



*Karoush Parham,
M.D., Ph.D.*

Lori Wilson, M.D., a surgical oncologist, has joined the UConn Health Center from the prestigious John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, California. Dr. Wilson has strong research interests and has been involved in several initiatives involving the latest approaches to detect and treat breast cancer, melanoma and GI cancers, including protein profiling, proteomics, lymph node staging and more.

Dr. Wilson is a graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed an internship and residency in surgery at Howard University Hospital. In addition, she completed a research fellowship at the University of Cincinnati with advanced coursework in cellular biology, molecular genetics and bioethics. Dr. Wilson has received numerous academic accolades including Chief Administrative Surgical Oncology Fellow during her fellowship at the John Wayne Cancer Institute.



Lori Wilson, M.D.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DISCOVERY SERIES

*Always Informative, Always Free.
All programs begin at 7 p.m.*

Thursday, November 10

Seeing into the Future: Overview of Common Eye Disorders

Glaucoma
Cataracts
Macular Degeneration
New Advances in Refractive Surgery

Thursday, November 17

Diabetes and Vascular Disease

Diagnosing and Treating Vascular Disease
Foot Care
Drug Interactions

**For a complete listing of community programs,
visit www.uchc.edu. To register for any of the above,
call UConnLink at 800-535-6232.**