



FROM LEFT: Cancer Committee Chair Sheila Lynam, MD, medical oncologist Zafer Yildirim, MD, PhD, and Cancer Program Director Dane Moseson, MD—dedicated and committed to the patients and families of the Lower Columbia Regional Cancer Center

Lower Columbia Regional Cancer Center Focus on gastrointestinal cancer care

By *DANE MOSESON, MD*

With the complexity of and improvement in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, the need for continued integration of services increases. The opening of the Lower Columbia Regional Cancer Center (LCRCC) has greatly aided the integration of cancer services provided in our own community with the specialized services available through the National Cancer Institute-affiliated program at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU).

OHSU partners Craig Nichols, MD, who served as the initial medical director of the LCRCC, has recruited many highly respected individuals to help provide the services needed.

Kevin Billingsley, MD, is a surgical oncologist trained at Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, and OHSU. He is the Cancer Committee chairman at OHSU and works closely with us in the Lower Columbia region.

In addition to his special interest in complex hepatobiliary (liver) cancer and sarcomas, Dr. Billingsley seems energized about facilitating the integration of services between our Lower Columbia communities and OHSU. His clearly stated vision is “to provide high-tech, complex University care

with the comfort and convenience of your own community.”

Charles Blanke, MD, is a nationally known and respected medical oncologist with special expertise in gastrointestinal (GI) tumors. For the past several years, Dr. Blanke has served as moderator of a weekly GI tumor forum.

LCRCC specialists Zafer Yildirim, MD, is the newest addition to the cancer program. After 14 years in academic centers, Dr. Yildirim moved to Longview to further develop the provision of medical oncology services at the LCRCC.

In addition to many other honors, Dr. Yildirim was the recipient of the American Society of Clinical Investigators Award as a young investigator into the treatment of malignant disease. He is a key individual in advancing the capabilities of our local infusion services, as well as contributing expertise in the provision of the complex research protocols coordinated through OHSU.

The GI team One of the experts in gastrointestinal diseases providing services for many years, Gordon Matlock, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist who has diagnosed more than 1,000 cases of cancer of the intestinal tract since joining

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Gastrointestinal cancer care

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our community. He provided leadership in developing outpatient diagnostic services and then recruited Donald Kirkpatrick, MD, to join him.

Both physicians came to us from impressive academic centers, and they continue to bring advances to the community they so ably serve. As gastroenterology has become more specialized, they have developed a strong working relationship with subspecialty gastroenterologists at OHSU.

Mission statement

Our mission is to provide comprehensive, efficiently integrated, yet compassionate care through collaborative efforts aligned to place first the needs of the cancer patient and family.

A gastroenterologist from OHSU who has been integral in the diagnosis and treatment of many patients from our community is Doug Faigel, MD. He is an expert in the use of endoluminal ultrasound to accurately determine the precise stage of rectal, esophageal, and pancreatic cancers.

This technology allows accurate tailoring of the treatment to the specific cancer involved.

Dr. Faigel's skill has benefited many members of our community, and they have expressed appreciation for his professionalism as well as his expertise.

Because surgery of the intestinal tract has become more specialized, the surgeons of Longview Surgical Group, with help from OHSU, recruited Tony Simons, MD.

Dr. Simons was on the faculty of USC as a colorectal surgeon with advanced training in intestinal cancer. Known to many as the "polyp man," he has endeavored to heighten awareness of the need to work toward preventing death due to colorectal cancer.

Dr. Faigel and Dr. Simons work together to better determine which rectal cancers can be treated with minimally invasive surgical techniques.

Working together to provide quality care with compassion

OHSU-affiliated physicians



Kevin Billingsley, MD, is associate professor of surgery and chief of surgical oncology at the OHSU School of Medicine, and a member of the OHSU Cancer Institute.



Charles Blanke, MD, is leader of the Solid Tumors Program, OHSU Cancer Institute, and associate professor of medicine (hematology/medical oncology), OHSU School of Medicine.



Douglas Faigel, MD, specializes in endoscopic ultrasound, gastrointestinal oncology, helicobacter pylori, and Barrett's esophagus. He received his medical degree and completed a fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of Pennsylvania, and completed his residency at the University of California at San Francisco.



Craig Nichols, MD, specializes in testicular cancer, Hodgkin's disease, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He earned his medical degree from OHSU, and currently serves as the associate director of the Oregon Cancer Center.

LCRCC-affiliated physicians



Dane Moseon, MD, current board president of Longview Surgical Group, is certified by the American Board of Surgery in general surgery. He is the medical director of the Lower Columbia Regional Cancer Center and the Columbia Regional Breast Center.



Donald Kirkpatrick, MD, is a gastroenterologist in private practice in Longview. He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Gordon Matlock, MD, is a gastroenterologist in private practice in Longview. He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Anthony J. Simons, MD, a surgeon at Longview Surgical Group, is board-certified by the American Board of Surgery and by the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery.



Zafer Yildirim, MD, PhD, is the medical oncologist for the Lower Columbia Regional Cancer Center. He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in hematology/oncology and internal medicine.