

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN MONCRIEF CANCER CENTER OFFERS EXPANDED PATIENT CARE

FORT WORTH – Jan. 29, 2001 – Most people in the Fort Worth area are familiar with the name Moncrief. What they might not know is how much the name now means to patients undergoing treatment for cancer.

The UT Southwestern Moncrief Cancer Center now offers comprehensive cancer diagnostic and treatment options to patients in Tarrant County, West Texas and beyond. The center includes divisions of medical and surgical oncology, in addition to radiation oncology, and offers chemotherapy.

A 7,000-square-foot diagnostic center opened in the summer of 2000. And an adjacent breast-imaging center also has opened. Risk assessment and genetic counseling services are available, and the center has the latest state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment.

The Moncrief Radiation and Research Foundation, chaired by W.A. “Tex” Moncrief Jr., gave the Moncrief Radiation Center to The University of Texas System in 1995. Moncrief is a Fort Worth oilman and former member of the UT System Board of Regents. The cancer treatment and research facility is the first community radiation-therapy center in the Southwest. The UT regents transferred the center to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas in 1999. An endowment from the Moncrief family will ensure the continued operation of the facility for the Northwest Texas area.

With the partnership between UT Southwestern and the Moncrief Cancer Center cemented, the center with facilities near downtown Fort Worth, in southern Tarrant County at Huguley Hospital and in Weatherford at Campbell Health System, is now drawing on resources from one of the country’s top clinical, research and teaching institutions to offer more extensive care and services to patients.

“The UT Southwestern Moncrief Cancer Center will continue to play the vital role in delivering cancer treatment that it has for years,” said Dr. Willis Maddrey, UT Southwestern

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executive vice president for clinical affairs and chairman of the UT Southwestern Moncrief Cancer Center's board of directors. "The association with UT Southwestern Medical Center has allowed the Moncrief Cancer Center to expand to become a multidisciplinary cancer-detection and treatment center designed to meet the broad needs of cancer patients in Fort Worth and throughout the area."

The partnership allows the cancer center to reap the benefits derived from basic and clinical cancer research programs at UT Southwestern, which has more than 1,000 distinguished researchers and clinicians on faculty, Maddrey said.

Dr. David Pistenmaa, UT Southwestern professor and chairman of radiation oncology, is medical director of the radiation oncology division; Dr. John Freese, a respected Fort Worth surgeon and clinical assistant professor of oncology at UT Southwestern, is the medical director of the surgical oncology division. Dr. Richard Gaynor, chief of hematology/oncology at UT Southwestern and director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, is helping develop the Moncrief Center's medical oncology program. Dr. Brian Loggie, a professor of surgical oncology at UT Southwestern and director of surgical oncology at the Moncrief Cancer Center, brought his nationally known practice to the Moncrief Diagnostic Center (adjacent to the cancer center) last year. He is a pioneer in development of treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis.

"The Moncrief Cancer Center is an unequaled facility for radiation therapy," said Pistenmaa. "In addition to conventional treatments, we offer the sophisticated Peacock system of intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) – the only such system in North Texas. And we recently purchased another linear accelerator that will provide another means of intensity-modulated therapy."

The new system, which has 120 multileaf collimators to shape the beam of X-rays to outline any tumor shape and eliminate the current process of fabricating field-shaping blocks, will enhance efficiency and expand the types of cancer that the center is able to treat with IMRT.

"Medical oncologists at Moncrief, in conjunction with cancer researchers at UT

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Southwestern Medical Center, can now provide patients with the latest advances in drug therapy, cancer treatment and prevention,” Gaynor said.

The center offers patients a complete array of cancer therapies, as well as access to clinical trials, which are tied to research programs at UT Southwestern and target a variety of different malignancies including those of the lung, breast, prostate, blood and gastrointestinal organs. Social and nutritional services also are provided to help make cancer patients’ lives more manageable.

For details on the Moncrief Cancer Center, 1450 8th Ave., visit www.help4cancer.org on the Internet or call 1-800-775-2387.

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