

Women & Infants Opens Expanded Infusion Center, Integrative Care Suite

PROVIDENCE – Women & Infants Hospital has opened the Murray Family Infusion Center and the Carter Family Integrative Care Suite within its Program in Women's Oncology facility in the Bernard and Ina Wasserman Family Building.

The Murray Family Infusion Center is more than twice the size of the Program's former facility, offering private and semi-private treatment spaces, and a lounge and nourishment center for patients and their families and caregivers. In addition, the Carter Family Integrative Care Suite was created as a dedicated space for wellness programs and complementary therapies for patients undergoing cancer treatment and their caregivers.

"The Program in Women's Oncology has been providing superior care to women with cancer and their families for 25 years, drawing hundreds of women from as far away as Cape Cod and Connecticut for its clinical excellence and skilled, compassionate staff," says Mark Marcantano, president and chief operating officer of Women & Infants.

"This Program is a regional and national leader in the field and the new facilities now better reflect that excellence."

The former Infusion Center, located in one part of the building's third floor became too small to comfortably accommodate the more than 6,000 chemotherapy and other infusion treatments being given there each year.

The Murray Family Infusion Center now occupies a portion of the first floor of the building and was designed with the latest in ergonomics in mind, as a mix of private infusion areas and double infusion rooms was created for patients who prefer company during treatments, which can last up to six hours. Each infusion station has enough room for a caregiver to accompany the patient for treatment. The Center also includes expanded consultation space.

The Murray Family Charitable Foundation stepped forward early with a leadership grant giving tremendous momentum to the campaign. The hospital later received an inspiring challenge grant from the Carter Family Charitable Trust which was instrumental in

completing the effort. In recognition of their generosity, the new Integrative Care Suite honors the Carters.

In addition, the Champlin Foundations also played a significant role with very generous funding. In all, more than 1,300 individuals, corporations and foundations contributed \$3.4 million.

"The outpouring of gifts for this project in particular has been exceptional. We are grateful to all of our donors. Every oncology patient and her family will benefit from the community's support," Marcantano says.

"This new space is absolutely beautiful and helps us fulfill our mission of providing safe, quality care for women with cancer," says Cornelius "Skip" Granai III, MD, director of the Program in Women's Oncology. "The increased capacity afforded by this larger space will not only help us care for more women, but will allow us to continue to attract top residents, fellows and other providers to train here at Women & Infants." ❖

Rhode Island Hospital Acquires New Gamma Knife

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital has acquired the Leksell Gamma Knife® Perfexion™ for the treatment of intracranial tumors, vascular malformations and other neurological disorders. It provides patients with a safer, less-invasive option to neurosurgery for complicated diagnoses, and can be used for the treatment of brain tumors, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), trigeminal neuralgia, essential tremor and more. It also can be used in place of whole-brain radiation, in essence, targeting multiple brain tumors without radiating the entire brain.

"For some patients, neurosurgery simply isn't an option due to the location of the tumor, or the severity of the diagnosis," said **Wael Asaad, MD**, of the Department of Neurosurgery. "For these patients, targeted radiation is often the best course of treatment."

Perfexion allows noninvasive cerebral surgery to be performed with extreme precision, without opening the skull. It also minimizes the amount of radiation delivered to surrounding tissue. As with the previous gamma knife, patients are fitted with a stereotactic frame to prevent movement of the head during treatment. Perfexion then delivers a single dose of ionizing radiation from multiple sources simultaneously. Procedures generally take 15 to 40 minutes, and are typically performed with local anesthesia as an outpatient procedure.

"Patients have had a few options over the last few years, but Perfexion will provide patients with the most targeted, and fastest, treatment possible, allowing them to have fewer side effects, and the ability to go home the same day, in most cases returning to normal activities the next day," Asaad said. ❖