

# 2018 CANCER CARE ANNUAL REPORT



As chairman of the Doctors Hospital Cancer Committee, I am pleased to present this annual report to the medical staff and the community. Our Committee of cancer

specialists, physicians, navigators, nurses and other professionals is committed to ensure that our patients receive quality care. Here are some of our accomplishments over the last year:

**Colorectal Cancer Screening:** Colon cancer diagnoses in the region are consistently higher than the national average, according to statistics by the National Cancer Database (NCDB). To address this statistic, Doctors Hospital of Augusta, in partnership with the American Cancer Society (ACS), committed to the 80/20 initiative for colon cancer patients.

For the past three years, we have been proud to dedicate March to focus on the ACS 80/20 initiative. Since March is national colorectal cancer awareness month, it is a great time to educate the community about colorectal cancers and how easily they can be prevented through recommended screenings. WJBF, a local television station, continues to partner with our team to promote the importance of colorectal cancer screenings. Doctors Hospital held a large community event at the news station, where colorectal screening kits were provided to attendees.

Kits were also available for pick up anytime during the a month of March at Doctors Hospital and community partner locations across the CSRA. Participants were instructed to return their kits to the Doctors Hospital lab at their convenience.

In 2018, there were 216 participants for the colorectal cancer screening event. Of the kits that were returned to the lab, there were 23 positive findings for cancer. Each individual with positive findings received a personalized letter with their results, a phone call and referral to the oncology nurse navigator to assist with scheduling a follow up screening colonoscopy.

**CT Lung Cancer Screening Program:** Through careful analysis of the annual Community Needs Assessment, Doctors Hospital identified the need to address lung cancer rates in our community. Customized mailers are sent to high risk patients to educate them about the importance of early detection and Medicare's updated approval guidance for CT lung screenings.

In 2017, there were 237 participants in the CT Lung Screening Program which included 181 occupational medicine patients and 56 community patients. The CT lung screening program has proven effective for diagnosis and early treatment of lung cancer.

- 108 patients had normal findings
  - 10 patients were found to have abnormal findings and referred for follow-up
  - 4 patients had positive findings for cancer
- Patients with normal findings or no evidence of disease were recommended to follow up in 6-12 months.

Patients with abnormal findings and requiring further follow up were referred to the oncology nurse navigator. The occupational medicine patients were referred to their own physician for follow up care. The community patients are followed by the oncology nurse navigator and referred back to their primary care physician for further follow up. All recommendations are based on guidelines set forth by the American College of Radiology.

**Oncology Navigators:** Our cancer patients have a lot on their minds. We want them to focus on their healing and recovery and have two oncology navigators to help patients with appointments, access to resources, transportation and being a compassionate part of the caregiving team supporting their fight to beat cancer. Brenda McGarr is our Oncology Nurse Navigator and Carolyn Byrd is our Breast Cancer Nurse Navigator.

**Relay for Life:** We are proud to support ACS, their research and resources to help cancer patients and caregivers. We continue our partnership as the presenting sponsor for this community prevention and education activity. We linked the nearly 3500 people in attendance with our website to complete health risk assessments for lung and breast cancers. We even had a special butterfly release for cancer survivors and caregivers at the event this year.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the medical staff, healthcare professionals and volunteers for their commitment to deliver high quality health care and services to our cancer patients and their families.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Blake Walker Chairman



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## CANCER PROGRAM at DOCTORS HOSPITAL:

The hospital and physician specialists work with each patient to create and follow individualized treatment plans. Many of our affiliated physicians are experienced and the most advanced cancer treatment options, which helps make our multi-disciplinary program one of the most recognized in the area. Our accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and the American College of Radiology show our commitment to excellence.

## MEET OUR CANCER CARE NAVIGATORS

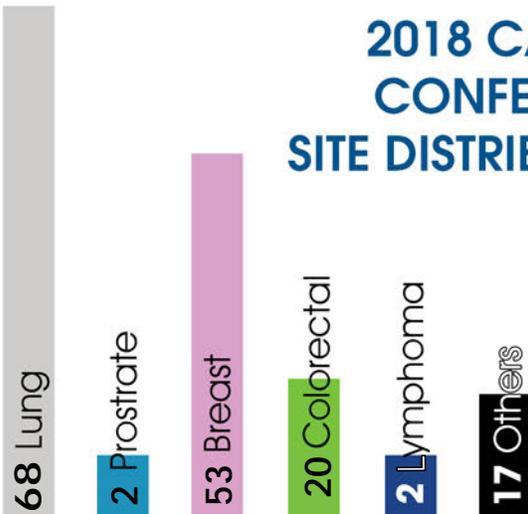


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### 2018 CANCER CONFERENCE SITE DISTRIBUTION



Every other week, surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, our nurse navigators, and other specialists meet to review clinical and diagnostic information. They discuss current research, clinical trial eligibility and nationally accepted therapeutic treatment guidelines. This comprehensive team approach provides patients with the best possible care and treatment outcomes.

The conferences provide continuing medical education credit and are open to all medical staff as well as outside physicians. They are also open to the hundreds of employees that are involved in the care of our cancer patients. Any doctors hospital physician may submit a patient's case for a full team review.

We encourage our primary care physicians and specialists to submit cases for review at cancer conferences.

