

REVOLUTIONARY cancer care



Mercy Regional Cancer Center and Mercy Women's Center are two dynamic forces that have taken an enterprising step together toward revolutionizing the concept of breast cancer care with the Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Clinic.

"Our patients have given us such positive feedback. They get all of their questions answered quickly and know their doctors are working together to provide the best care."

*Dr. Janet Merfeld
Medical Director
Hall Radiation Center*

In fact, this clinic serves as the prototype for the future of all other types of cancer care provided at Mercy Regional Cancer Center.

Comprised of a team of cancer specialists, including surgeons, radiation oncologists and medical oncologists, the breast cancer care team offers a comprehensive approach to provide women newly diagnosed with breast cancer the kind of care they deserve: seamless, coordinated, convenient, personalized, supportive and evidence-based.

Piloted in June 2007, results already prove this cohesive approach has shortened the time from diagnosis to treatment. Significant benefits include:

- **One point of contact.** A breast health specialist acts as a liaison between the patient and the entire health-care team, providing support and education from diagnosis through treatment – reducing anxiety, confusion and fear.
- **One appointment with multiple specialists.** Patients meet with a surgeon, a radiation oncologist and a medical oncologist during this appointment, and leave with a treatment plan for consideration.

Dr. Jeff Nielsen, Dr. James Renz, Dr. Janet Merfeld, Dr. Abby Thrower and Dr. Rasa Buntinas are regular participants in the Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Clinic. Additional referrals such as MRI exams, breast reconstruction consults, or genetic counseling also can be arranged. Family support is always welcome. Copies of all consultations are sent to the patient's health-care provider's office for follow-up.

Patients virtually have an entire "dream team" of health professionals at their sides

taking a multidisciplinary approach. In the case of the breast care clinic, Breast Health Specialists always are available to provide information on benign breast conditions, as well as guidance for women navigating the breast cancer experience from diagnosis through treatment.

In the future, cancer navigators at the Mercy Regional Cancer Center also will act as liaisons for other cancers, such as lung, prostate and colorectal, in order to ease concerns, clarify options and offer resources for each patient undergoing tests and treatment. Cancer navigators are backed by a strong professional network of support and compassionate care.

For more information, please contact the Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Clinic at (319) 398-6821.

