



April 15, 2015

Contact Patty Peterson

SBL Breaks Ground for New Regional Cancer Center

After more than a year of planning and anticipating, Sarah Bush Lincoln broke ground Wednesday for its new Regional Cancer Center.

The freestanding Regional Cancer Center will offer comfort, privacy and space to its patients. Construction should take about 18 months.

The new facility, which will be built on the front lawn of the Sarah Bush Lincoln campus, will span 21,000 square feet and will feature 17 individual chemotherapy areas where people can receive their care in a comfortable space that allows companionship during the treatment.

BSA Life Structures of St. Louis designed the center with The Upchurch Group of Mattoon, and SM Wilson, also of St. Louis is the general contractor. The cost of the project is \$15.8 million, which includes a new \$4 million linear accelerator used to deliver powerful radiation directly and precisely to tumor; and an underground pneumatic tube transport system to quickly send specimens to the hospital laboratory and critical supplies to the cancer center at a cost of \$1.1 million. The exterior will feature a drive-up canopied entrance and a healing garden which can be enjoyed from inside in the infusion bays or by siting among the landscaped areas.

While the size and amenities of the facility are vital to delivering the best possible experience, SBL President and CEO Tim Ols was quick to praise the cancer center staff members. "People are eager to share the experiences they've had in our cancer center. They always talk about how kind the staff members were, how they listened to their concerns and gave them hope for the future. Today is an exciting day for us, and I'm thankful to be a small part of the center's future," he said.

Regional Cancer Center Medical Director Abdur Shakir, MD, echoed his sentiments and explained the need for more than doubling the space needed to treat cancer. "In the last two years, the number of people seeking care in the Regional Cancer Center has increased by 26 percent. Sadly, that's expected to increase by about 40 percent over the next 10 years."

In East Central Illinois in 2013, four cancer cases were diagnosed daily. Currently there are 11,000 people living with cancer in Coles and the surrounding counties. At



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Building Hope Campaign Helps Fund New Cancer Center

While ground was broken on Wednesday for a new Regional Cancer Center on the Sarah Bush Lincoln campus, community members are already “Building Hope” by helping to fund this \$15.8 million project.

The Building Hope capital campaign has already garnered nearly \$2 million of the \$3.5 million goal.

The freestanding Regional Cancer Center, which will be built on the front lawn of the Sarah Bush Lincoln campus, will span 21,000 square feet and will feature 17 individual chemotherapy areas where people can receive their care in a comfortable space that allows companionship during treatment. The cost of the project includes a new \$4 million linear accelerator used to deliver powerful radiation directly and precisely to tumors; and an underground pneumatic tube transport system to quickly send specimens to the hospital laboratory and critical supplies to the cancer center at a cost of \$1.1 million. The exterior will feature a drive-up canopied entrance and a healing garden, which can be enjoyed from inside the infusion bays or by sitting among the landscaped areas. Construction is expected to take 18 months.

Building Hope Campaign Co-Chairs, Medical Oncologist Abdur Shakir, MD, and Kuppuswamy Jagarlamudi, MD, are excited to be leading this project that will directly affect their patients. Twenty-three other community members who have been touched in some way by cancer, and believe in making the best in cancer care available in the community, have joined the Building Hope committee.

Dr. Shakir said, “This campaign isn’t just about a building or a spacious facility, but it’s about creating a comforting experience for people who are going through what is often the scariest times of their lives.”

Dr. Jagarlamudi echoed his words and added, “While we are a bit cramped now in terms of space, our cancer team delivers optimal care everyday, making everyone feel as though they are a part of a larger family that really cares for them and about them. This new facility will be amazing and we are all anxious for it to be completed.”

One of the largest donations in the Building Hope campaign came from long-time philanthropist Richard Lumpkin, who gave \$1 million in honor of former SBL Medical Oncologist Edward C. Hoppin, MD. Dr. Hoppin was the sole medical oncologist in the Regional Cancer Center from 1991 until 2008 and set the gold standard of care that is synonymous with the cancer center. Other gifts include those made in honor of loved ones, including Glennie Hamel.

Other Building Hope campaign committee members include: Ann Beck, Ph.D. Charleston; Joe Dively, Charleston; Greg Ervin, Toledo; Carol Jo Fritts, Toledo; Joshua Garrett, MD, Charleston; Barb Hall, Toledo; Bill Hill, Ph. D., Charleston; Steve Honselman, Casey; Barbara Hoppin, Mattoon; Edward C. Hoppin, MD, Mattoon; Matthew Jones, MD, Charleston; Philip Kepp, DDS, Mattoon; Richard Lumpkin, Mattoon; Joyce Madigan, Charleston; Tracey McCord, Oblong; Tess Melvin, Sullivan; Carol Myerscough, Charleston; Jill Nilsen, Ph.D., Charleston; Bernie Ranchoero, MD, Charleston; Nancy Schilling, Mattoon; Selma Sweeney, Humboldt; Robert Wochner, MD, Charleston; and Jim Zimmer, Mattoon.

Sarah Bush Lincoln Foundation Director Amy Card said, "Much like the 1980s when area residents rallied around a capital campaign to build the first Regional Cancer Center, we once again look to the community for support for this very important project. Supporting the Building Hope campaign is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, by making a gift in his or her honor. We're grateful for those who have made gifts thus far."

For more information and to learn how to be a part of Building Hope, please contact Amy Card, 258-4177.

Sarah Bush Lincoln, there are approximately 270 new cancer cases treated annually with more than 5,500 visits.

The proposed facility will provide medical oncology (chemotherapy), radiation therapy, exam rooms and physician work areas, a clinical laboratory for preparing and transferring specimens from the Cancer Center to the hospital's laboratory, a pharmacy for preparing chemotherapy infusions, shared patient support, educational programs and support groups, cancer resource center and administrative offices.

The additional space will also allow the Regional Cancer Center to be involved in drug trials with the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC), which widens the opportunity for a cure for people with hard-to-treat cancers and allows them more choices, Dr. Shakir said.

"Because of our close affiliation with UIC, we are able to consult with some of the brightest minds in cancer care when we're faced with particularly difficult cancers. This gives our patients the best available treatments and the greatest opportunity to beat their cancers," he added.

Nurse navigators will also help guide the care and recovery of people fighting cancer, while providing education and support to patients and their families after the cancer diagnosis and throughout treatments.

"Our goal is to create a healing environment that is both comfortable and comforting to our patients and their families by providing private space for them. The gardens on the south side of the building are natural spaces that are intended to be experienced and enjoyed. Our team is very excited about starting the next chapter in cancer care at Sarah Bush Lincoln," Dr. Shakir said.

The facility will serve a 10-county area including, Coles, Clark, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, Shelby, Crawford, Effingham and Jasper counties.

For more information, please contact Erica Stollard, Director of Planning, at 258-2106.