To the left: “Esperanza,” an original John Henry sculpture was graciously donated to Flagler Hospital by Walter P. Scott, MD. Dr. Scott felt honored to donate this piece from his collection to the hospital, as he feels it will help bring inspiration and hope to all oncology patients. Embracing this message of hope, the Cancer Care Resource Center now uses the symbol of “Esperanza” to represent the center’s continuing pursuit to guide oncology patients through every step of their journey at Flagler Hospital.
The Cancer Care Resource Center moved to its new location, Suite 1010 in Flagler Hospital, in July of 2007. The new library houses books, videos, DVDs, and other resources pertaining to oncology, specific cancers, treatment, managing side effects, caregiving, self-help, spirituality, and wellness. Also featured are two computer stations with internet access for visitors to collect more information pertaining to their specific situation. Another addition to the Resource Center is a beautiful boutique-styled gift closet with wigs, hats, scarves, prosthetic bras and prosthesis available to cancer patients at no charge. Support groups for patients, families, and caregivers meet monthly in the library and programs as “I Can Cope” and “Look Good Feel Better” are held on a regular basis. The CCRC staff works closely with the Oncology Program at Flagler Hospital to provide patients with the best possible resources to make them as well educated and comfortable as possible during this difficult time in their lives. The staff of the CCRC is dedicated to following each patient during their diagnosis, treatment and beyond, in an effort to ensure that every patient who comes through the CCRC receives the quality care and compassion that is always provided to patients at Flagler Hospital.

In September of 2007, the CCRC was notified that it was awarded the American Cancer Society’s Community Education Grant to address cancer disparities. The grant will be used for a community health fair aimed at providing information on breast cancer early detection and prevention, and other types of cancer prevention to the African American population in St. Johns County and surrounding communities. The CCRC staff hopes to make this an annual event.

To our many patients and families, we want you to know that we are honored to serve as the Chair of the Cancer Committee for the past two years. The many members of this committee work tirelessly and are rewarded only with the knowledge that their efforts will ensure the best possible cancer care for our patients and their families.

The 2007 analytical data in our tumor registry included 562 newly diagnosed cancer cases. These 562 individuals underwent treatment and continued care within our community. Due in large part to the continued dedication of the Cancer Committee, our local physicians are able to offer cancer patients the variety of important aspects of women’s health. Activities such as an art show, musical entertainment, refreshments, guest speakers and door prizes were featured. Plans are already underway for the 2008 Survivors Day celebration.

The CCRC’s Third Annual Women’s Health Education Seminar took place at Flagler Hospital on September 22, 2007, with nearly 100 people in attendance. This year’s seminar featured six of Flagler Hospital’s physicians, covering a variety of topics related to breast cancer. All proceeds from the seminar benefited the Cancer Patient Emergency Fund, which continues to provide assistance to patients who are experiencing financial difficulties while undergoing cancer treatment.

In order to maintain accreditation by the CoC, our cancer care program must adhere to published core standards. We must also implement and maintain ongoing quality improvement studies, a community outreach program, multidisciplinary cancer conferences, and quality control of our cancer registry data.

The Cancer Committee maintains a strong quality improvement program with the goal of advancing cancer care in our community. The approval of our 2007 goals and objectives is a testament to the continued excellence of our cancer care program at Flagler Hospital. We are proud of our continued accomplishments and accreditation by the Commission on Cancer (CoC).
Registry Report / 2006 Data Summary
By: Claudia Downs RHIT, CTR

For accession year 2006, a total of 859 new cases were entered into the cancer registry database. This represents an 8% increase over the previous reporting year. Of the total caseload, 562 were newly diagnosed cases, 298 were for those patients previously diagnosed and/or treated at Flagler Hospital or a combination thereof (Fig. 1). The remaining cases (non-analytic) were classified as historic and/or recurrence.

The projected cancer incidence for 2006 totaled 1,399,790 according to the American Cancer Society Cancer Facts and Figures. Based on the national estimates for that year, 51% of the cancers were expected to occur in males and 48% in females. The actual reported occurrences at Flagler Hospital were 46% male and 54% female, respectively (Fig. 2).

The 10 most frequently diagnosed sites are illustrated in Figure 3. However, the top leading sites between genders combined are lung, breast, colorectal, prostate and kidney. Collectively, these accounted for 63% of the newly diagnosed cases in 2006. Lung and breast cases at Flagler Hospital ranked far above average in comparison to national figures.

Since the registry reference year (1999), and based on the most complete year, there have been over 5,000 new cases entered into the registry database (Fig. 4). As the registry matures, follow-up activities become increasingly challenging, since all analytic patients are followed for life. Our chemotherapy rate has always been maintained above the recommended 90% requirement.

Registries personnel remain abreast of national and state reporting guidelines to manage the timely, accurate, and comprehensive database. As the information becomes available, each patient's abstract is continuously updated to reflect the most complete information regarding management of the cancer. This data allows us to draw conclusions, report outcomes, and analyze the cancer care delivered at Flagler Hospital.

The Oncology Nursing Unit has been experiencing many new changes in the past year. We have been provided a Nurse Manager who is responsible for day-to-day operations and is a working member of the unit staff. The nursing department has implemented electronic medical record verification and computerized documentation this year. We are currently rolling out lattics, which allows physicians to complete discharge orders and discharge medication reconciliation through our hospital-wide, patient based computer system. These changes in the computerized documentation system and medication administration process have increased accuracy and patient safety.

The long awaited remodeling of the East end of our unit (E-pod) is expected to begin by the end of the year. This remodeling will provide a more updated environment with a “homey” feel. The changes will make the atmosphere for our most ill cancer patients more serene, and is expected to provide some comfort to those patients and their families who spend countless hours at the bedside.

Several of the registered nurses are actively working toward certification as oncology nurses. More than half of the registered nurses are new Level I chemotherapy certified. The new nurses are able to provide inservices to all levels of the oncology nursing staff regarding pain management, end of life care, dealing with grief for both the families and the staff, and specific patient education regarding the resources available to them. The admission for admission through discharge and treatment, cancer patients are assured continuity of care.

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Several of the registered nurses are actively working toward certification as oncology nurses. More than half of the registered nurses are now chemotherapy certified. The Infusion Room is now providing outpatient chemotherapy to those patients whose conditions warrant this level of care.

Through the assistance of both Community Hospice and Haven Hospice, we have been able to provide more education to all levels of the oncology nursing staff regarding pain management, end of life care, dealing with grief for both the families and the staff, and recognizing the signs of end of life. The Chaplain Program here at Flagler Hospital plays an active role in providing spiritual guidance and comfort to our patients.

Flagler Hospital, with support and guidance from the Cancer Committee, has developed standards to ensure continued ACS6 accreditation, improved ACS collaboration, and patient education regarding the resources available to them. From admission through discharge and treatment, cancer patients are assured continuity of care.

Legend: Highlighted = Top Sites

Fig 1

Fig 2 - 2006 Accessible Analyses by Gender National vs. Flagler Hospital

Fig 3 - Frequently Diagnosed Cancers in 2006

Fig 4 - Access by Class Since Reference Year
The Flagler Hospital staff and physicians are committed to providing comprehensive oncology care to our community and surrounding areas. One part of that commitment is analyzing and benchmarking results for our annual report. Each year, a specific cancer is studied in order to ensure that Flagler Hospital is meeting national and state standards. Breast cancer remains one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the United States. Statistics from the American Cancer Society estimate that approximately 215,000 people were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006, and that there were approximately 41,000 deaths from breast cancer in the same year. Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, and is the second leading cause of cancer death in women.

At Flagler Hospital, breast cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers. In 2006, 111 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed. Figure 1 demonstrates an increase in the total number of breast cancers diagnosed from the initiation of the hospital’s cancer registry in 1999 until the present. Of the 111 patients, 90 were diagnosed and treated at Flagler Hospital and 11 were diagnosed elsewhere but received treatment at Flagler. The remaining 10 patients were diagnosed at Flagler Hospital but received treatment elsewhere.

Figure 2 depicts the stage at diagnosis of patients at Flagler Hospital as compared to national and state of Florida statistics. Flagler Hospital has a slightly higher percentage of stage I and IV patients and a slightly lower percentage of stage 0, II and III.

Treatment for breast cancer typically involves a multimodality approach, using a combination of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and hormonal therapy. Statistics from Flagler Hospital is compared to national and state of Florida data, are shown in Figure 3. Flagler’s data shows similar rates across the various treatment categories.

Overall survival is presented in Figure 4. This table demonstrates a similar 5 year survival rate for patients at Flagler Hospital in comparison to state of Florida and national statistics. Flagler Hospital’s cancer registry began tracking statistical records in 1999, so therefore only 245 breast cancer patients with 5 years of follow up data were available for analysis. Despite the limited number of patients, the Flagler Hospital survival rates are remarkably similar to those from the state of Florida and national databases.

In summary, the data presented in this report demonstrates that Flagler Hospital breast cancer statistics are similar to those of combined data from hospitals across the state of Florida and the nation. This applies to stage at diagnosis, treatment type, and overall survival.