

# ANNUAL REPORT

 **The Sarah Cannon  
Cancer Center**

---

TRI STAR HEALTH SYSTEM





*Jeff Patton, M.D.*

MEDICAL ONCOLOGIST & CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER  
TENNESSEE ONCOLOGY

“The skill and dedication of the more than 100 cancer specialists who are a part of The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network are supported by the cancer network’s unwavering commitment to rapidly invest in the most advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies.”

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center .....	1	Treating Prostate Cancer .....	13
Sarah Cannon Research Institute .....	2	Treating Gynecological Cancer.....	13
The Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation.....	3	Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Network.....	16
CyberKnife .....	6	Digital Mammography .....	17
Advanced Radiation Therapy .....	8	Breast MRI .....	17
High Dose Rate Brachytherapy (HDR) .....	8	Stereotactic Breast Biopsy .....	18
Image-guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT).....	8	The Sarah Cannon Blood and Marrow Transplant Program .....	19
Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) .....	9	Patient Navigation Services.....	20
Minimally-Invasive Robotic Surgery .....	12	Cancer Committee Report.....	23

## THE SARAH CANNON CANCER CENTER

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center (SCCC) is the largest community-based, privately funded, diagnostic and treatment center in the country. A network of 8 affiliated medical facilities in Tennessee and south central Kentucky, SCCC is composed of physicians and teams who provide diagnosis and treatment for cancer patients throughout the region. This allows our patients treatment and medical care in a community setting close to home. All of our facilities operate cooperatively to provide state-of-the-art diagnostic tests as well as the latest treatment modalities.

Through the work of The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center and its network of more than 100 medical oncologists, gynecological oncologists, and radiation oncologists in 2 states, more patients are benefiting from life-saving cancer diagnosis and treatment. The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network diagnosed and treated over 4000 new cancer patients last year.

Through its affiliation with Sarah Cannon Research Institute, one of top two cancer research programs in the country, SCCC helps its patients gain access to research studies and oncology clinical trial programs. Annually, over 2,100 patients are participating in the treatment protocols established by our Nashville cancer center.

## GROWING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center recently celebrated a groundbreaking for the new Sarah Cannon Cancer Center at Centennial Medical Center, the first stage of construction on an approximately \$160 million expansion project on the Centennial Medical Center Campus.

“As more and more physicians and patients are choosing The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, we need to ensure that we can accommodate their needs with adequate inpatient care and surgical suites,” said Rocky Billups, administrator of The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center. “This expansion at Centennial will ensure we can continue to meet the growing needs of the area’s population.”

The dedicated cancer center will integrate inpatient nursing units, radiation oncology which now includes the area’s only CyberKnife technology, operating rooms, a comprehensive cancer imaging center, outpatient services, and laboratory services.



POST CARD  
*Howard 'Skip' Burris, III M.D.*

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER  
DIRECTOR OF DRUG DEVELOPMENT  
THE SARAH CANNON RESEARCH INSTITUTE



"A world-class team of doctors, nurses and staff all work together through The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center and The Sarah Cannon Research Institute to ensure patients have the best possible care, and that our patients benefit from access to the very latest cancer research and clinical trials."



SARAH CANNON RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## SARAH CANNON RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SCRI)

SCRI, an industry leader in clinical trials, is dedicated to advancing therapies for patients. It is the largest community-based program in the nation, conducting studies in ten therapeutic areas through its affiliation with a powerful network of hundreds of physicians. Additionally, it offers management, regulatory and other research support services to drug development sponsors and strategic investigator sites across the country.

John Hainsworth, M.D, chief scientific officer, SCRI, oversees our team of physician investigators across all tumor types. In 2008, 28 of the 41 abstracts submitted by our investigators were selected for presentation at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting, the most prestigious clinical oncology research conference in the world. This included two studies selected for the highly esteemed clinical science symposium presentation, which demonstrated that these research projects were among the best at the meeting.

The SCRI Drug Development Unit has experienced an annual growth rate of 20 percent in patient enrollment in clinical trials with 463 patients in 2008 compared to 357 patients in 2007. The DDU has administered more than 50 first-in-man compounds. DDU resources included a fully staffed team comprised of clinical and research nurses; project and clinical trial managers; data coordinators; regulatory affairs specialists; pharmacy technicians; pharmacokinetic technicians; and administrative office support.

## THE MINNIE PEARL CANCER FOUNDATION

Founded in 1987, The Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of adults affected by cancer through support, education and access to clinical research in the community. The Foundation is named after “Minnie Pearl”, the charming Grand Ole Opry character established by legendary comedienne, Sarah Cannon. As a cancer survivor, Sarah knew first-hand the value of hope and compassion after a cancer diagnosis. The Foundation honors her memory by emulating the warmth, kindness and genuine caring that she demonstrated throughout her life.

The Foundation staffs oncology social workers for assistance in finding resources, and an oncology dietitian who offers counseling in specific nutritional practices to combat dietary problems associated with cancer. The Foundation also supports cancer patients and their families through a myriad of partnerships.

The Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation is proud to work with a number of partners to provide financial assistance to fund free screenings and travel assistance to cancer patients whose travel from rural areas for treatment poses financial hardship. Through a variety of projects, programs and educational events, we counter the devastation of cancer with hope. Survivorship is an ongoing process, and we are dedicated to helping plan for a healthy future.

By supporting cancer clinical trials through access and education, we strengthen the cancer research and clinical care provided by hundreds of oncologists across the country, which in turn allows patients to stay home and receive the latest treatments. Additionally, the Foundation’s Resource Library offers a treasure of cancer-related materials in a lending library that is well-stocked with an updated selection of educational and inspirational materials, as well as computers to access bookmarked Internet cancer sites for research on up-to-date cancer information.

THE  
MINNIE PEARL  
CANCER FOUNDATION



*Opie*

“We are proud to be able to partner with The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center in supporting cancer patients and their families through their journey to recovery.”

*Susan Hoshbach*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
THE MINNIE PEARL CANCER FOUNDATION





**The Sarah Cannon  
Cancer Center Network**

The map displays the following locations: GREENVIEW, SKYLINE, HENDERSONVILLE\*, SUMMIT, CENTENNIAL, SOUTHERN HILLS, STONECREST, PARKRIDGE, PARKRIDGE EAST\*, HORIZON, and NATCHEZ. Major highways shown include I-24, I-40, I-55, I-75, and I-85. The map also shows the KY/TN border and the Tennessee River.

- \* SCCC Affiliated Medical Facility
- CoC Accredited Facility
- ▲ Radiation Therapy Services



The physicians and staff affiliated with The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network are unwavering in their dedication to delivering superior cancer care and excellent patient outcomes. Today, with facilities in Tennessee and Kentucky, and state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment technology, The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network has become the largest community-based, privately funded, cancer diagnostic and treatment center in the country.

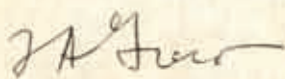
The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network provides patients in our region with unparalleled access to services close to home through its network of 8 affiliated medical facilities – all accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and many with Outstanding Achievement Commendations.

Only about 25 percent of all cancer centers meet the rigorous quality of care standards set forth by the Commission on Cancer to attain accreditation, and certainly this achievement is a testimony to the dedication and commitment of the physicians and staff who are affiliated with The Sarah Cannon Cancer Centers.

A key part of our quality care commitment is significant and ongoing investments to ensure our patients have access to the very latest, most sophisticated technology and treatments for cancer diagnosis and treatment. A multi-disciplinary team approach to cancer care is complemented by Patient Nurse Navigators who aid and support our patients and their families through the many facets of diagnosis, treatment and aftercare.

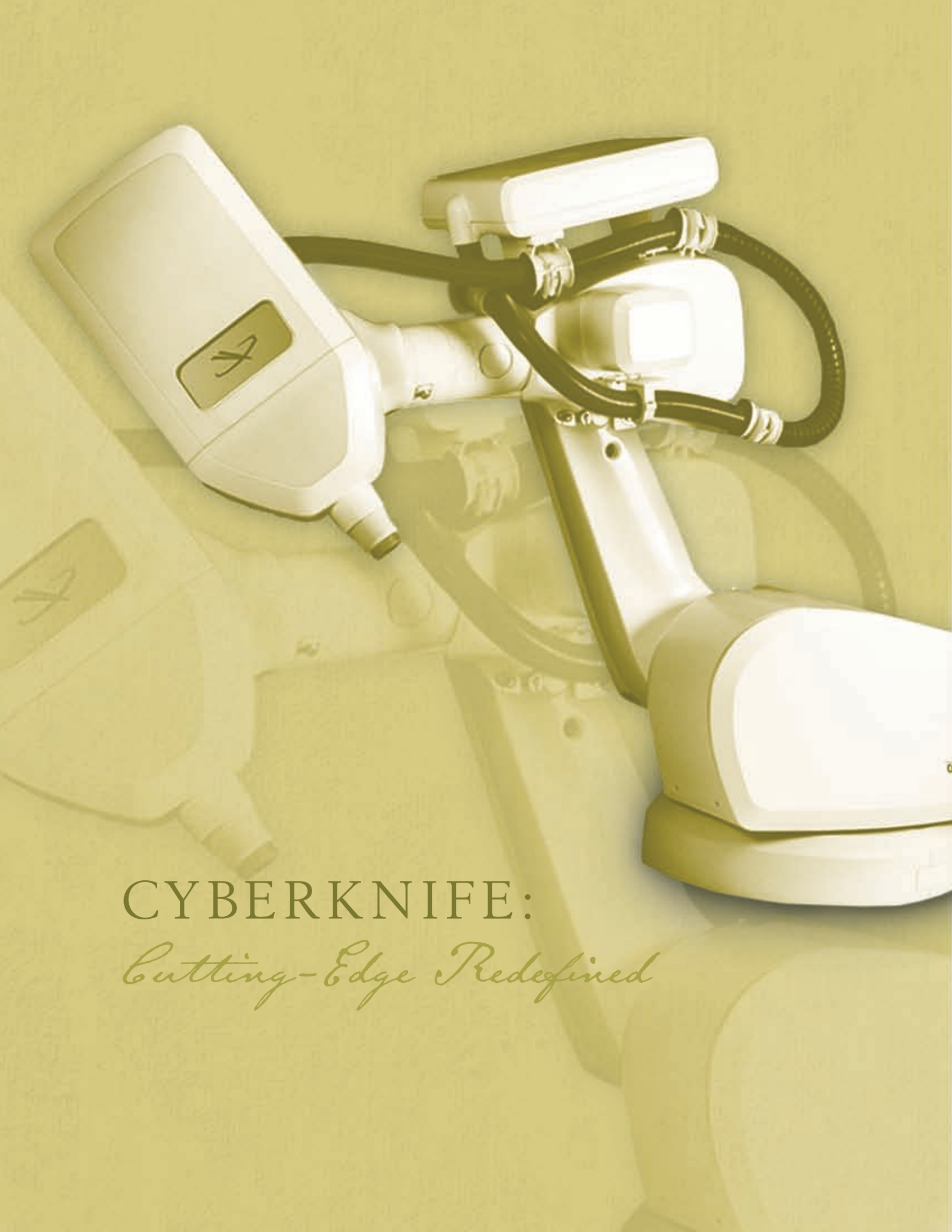
Through its affiliation with The Sarah Cannon Research Institute – one of the top cancer research institutes in the country – with 550 participating oncologists in 24 states, The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network helps its patients gain access to research studies and oncology clinical trial programs. In 2008, over 2100 patients participated in all the treatment protocols established by The Sarah Cannon Research Institute and our Sarah Cannon Cancer Center in Nashville.

I am proud to introduce The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Annual Report. Within these pages you will learn more about the comprehensive cancer services provided by our organization, hear from some of our patients about their experience, and gain hope from the positive patient outcomes and successes in treating a disease that touches each of us in some fashion.



F. ANTHONY GRECO, M.D.  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
THE SARAH CANNON CANCER CENTER NETWORK





CYBERKNIFE:

*Cutting-Edge Redefined*

## CYBERKNIFE®

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center is proud to continue delivering on our promise to provide cancer patients the highest quality, most advanced treatment options available in our region. CyberKnife®, the latest advancement in stereotactic radiosurgery, is now available at The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center in Nashville – the only place in the region where this sophisticated technology is offered.

The CyberKnife offers cancer patients a highly effective and less invasive alternative to traditional radiation therapies. With CyberKnife technology, radiation oncologists at The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center can deliver pinpoint beams of radiation with sub-millimeter accuracy, and with little or no damage to surrounding tissue. Therapy can be directed at any part of the body, from any direction with the help of a robotic arm. The system tracks the tumor's position, detects any movement of the tumor or the patient, and automatically corrects radiation delivery. It then targets the tumor with multiple beams of high-energy radiation, destroying abnormal tissue.

## NEW HOPE FOR INOPERABLE TUMORS

It is now possible to easily reach and treat tumors anywhere in the body, including the brain, spine, lung, prostate, liver and pancreas, without surgery. The treatment is so accurate that we can now treat tumors previously thought to be inoperable and untreatable.

Patients benefit from this cutting-edge treatment approach in so many ways:

- Treatment is painless, bloodless and anesthesia-free
- 4-D imaging helps make treatment safer, faster, more accurate and more comfortable for patients
- Tumors anywhere in the body, including the brain, spine, lung, prostate, liver, and pancreas can be easily reached
- Patients can resume normal activities immediately after treatment
- Treatment can be completed in one to five days
- Patients with previously inoperable or surgically complex tumors can often be successfully treated with CyberKnife technology



## ADVANCED RADIATION THERAPY

Radiation therapy is used to fight many types of cancer and can be used in combination with surgery and chemotherapy. It is often used to shrink a tumor as much as possible before surgery. Radiation can also be given after surgery to prevent the cancer from coming back.

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network offers the most advanced technology available in radiation therapy for the treatment of cancer. In addition to Cyberknife technology the following treatment modalities are available:

### HIGH DOSE RATE BRACHYTHERAPY (HDR)

High dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy is one of the latest advances in radiation treatment methods. In this procedure, radiation oncologists insert plastic tubes or needles directly into the tumor or place a hollow applicator inside a body cavity. A remote-controlled machine inserts radioactive material through the tubes into the tumor. Several treatments may be given during a few days to weeks.

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center is the only facility in Middle Tennessee with a dedicated HDR suite, affording patients much more convenient scheduling and access.

### IMAGE-GUIDED RADIATION THERAPY (IGRT)

IGRT is the newest generation of conventional radiation therapy that uses two and three-dimensional imaging during a course of radiation treatment to more precisely direct radiation therapy. The goal of the IGRT process is to improve the accuracy of the radiation field placement, and to reduce the exposure of healthy tissue during radiation treatments.

By improving precision and accuracy through IGRT, radiation is decreased to surrounding healthy tissues, allowing for increased radiation to the tumor for control.

## INTENSITY-MODULATED RADIATION THERAPY (IMRT)

IMRT is a type of radiation treatment that uses radiation beams of varying intensities to deliver different doses of radiation to small areas of tissue at the same time. The sophisticated technology allows for the delivery of higher doses of very targeted radiation within the tumor, resulting in less radiation exposure and damage to nearby healthy tissue.

In some cases, IMRT can be administered to the patient each day, potentially shortening the overall treatment time and improving the success of the treatment. IMRT may also lead to fewer side effects during treatment.





EUGENE WITH HIS BROTHERS

# BANDING TOGETHER

## to BEAT the ODDS

Eugene Crain, a 67-year-old retired coal miner, has always gotten regular check-ups with his family physician, and for a number of years those exams have included an annual screening for prostate cancer. According to Crain, the importance of those screenings became all the more apparent when his own PSA test came back abnormal just two short months before his eldest brother lost his battle with prostate cancer.

Fortunately, Crain's cancer was in its very earliest stage and confined to the prostate, so surgery was the recommended treatment. For his medical care, he turned to Ram Dasari, M.D., a urologist with The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center at Centennial Medical Center, who is specially trained and highly experienced in performing robotic prostate surgery.

"We use the da Vinci Robotic system for radical prostate surgeries that has totally revolutionized the way we treat prostate cancer," said Dr. Dasari. According to Dr. Dasari, patients who undergo the robotic surgery benefit from smaller incisions, less blood loss and less pain. "Patients usually stay overnight and return to their normal, baseline activities in as little as 2-3 weeks," he said.

"Fear should not get in the way of men getting screened early and regularly for prostate cancer," said Crain, who has needed no follow-up chemotherapy or radiation to treat his cancer. "It is so important to catch it early before it spreads."

"Fear should not get in the way of  
men getting screened early.. "

*Eugene Crain*



TO READ MORE ABOUT GENE CRAIN'S EXPERIENCE, GO TO [SARAHCANNON.COM](http://SARAHCANNON.COM).



“For women facing the diagnosis of cancer and a complete hysterectomy, robotic-assisted surgery offers a less invasive procedure and faster recovery.”

*Stephen E. DePasquale, M.D.*

## MINIMALLY-INVASIVE ROBOTIC SURGERY

Surgery is the oldest form of cancer treatment and it continues to be one of the best ways to stop many forms of cancer. Surgery is also effective for diagnosing, staging and supporting cancer treatment in combination with chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

Today, minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery allows surgeons to perform many kinds of major surgery with a variety of benefits for the patient: less trauma and pain, minimal scarring, faster recovery and shorter hospital stays.

Robotic technology allows very complex surgeries to be performed in a minimally invasive manner, including prostatectomy and laparoscopic hysterectomy.

## TREATING PROSTATE CANCER

Robotic-assisted prostatectomy is an excellent choice for the treatment of localized prostate cancer, and is rapidly being chosen by more men and their physicians. With this amazing technology, surgeons at The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center are able to remove the cancerous prostate gland and related structures with excellent results.

Benefits of robotic surgery over traditional prostatectomy typically include:

- Improved and early return of sexual function
- Improved and early return of continence
- Significantly less pain; less blood loss
- Shorter recovery time
- A faster return to normal activities.

## TREATING GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER

New advances in robotic-assisted surgery are shortening the recovery time, reducing pain and letting women get back to their lives in record time. More women today who are facing a cancer diagnosis are increasingly seeking less-invasive treatment alternatives. It is good to know that surgeons at The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center are skilled in this advanced surgical option.

At The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center, robotic gynecologic surgery is commonly used to treat cervical and uterine cancer, as well as some non-cancerous gynecological conditions.

Benefits of robotic surgery include:

- Shorter hospital stays
- Less pain and scarring
- Less risk of infection
- Less blood loss and fewer transfusions
- Faster recovery
- Quicker return to normal activities
- Improved quality of life

With robotic surgery the surgeon has better vision with the robot's three-dimensional view of the surgical area; and also has finer, more complex control. The result is a gentler, more natural movement during surgery which results in much less pain and post-surgical trauma for the patient.

"We use the da Vinci® Robotic System for radical prostate surgeries that has totally revolutionized the way we treat prostate cancer."

*Ram Dasari, M.D.*



# KNOCKING OUT Breast Cancer

Today's 30-something woman has many opportunities and experiences to consider . . . career, dating or perhaps marriage, children . . . and a whole host of other lifestyle factors. And even though one in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime, most women in their thirties simply do not think that is a concern for them.

Unless of course, you are 34-year old Jennifer Goss, mother of three children, who last year was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“Last summer, I started developing breast milk in both breasts,” said Goss whose youngest child is three years old. “I did some research on the internet and learned that that could be a sign of breast cancer.”

Initial testing and physician exam did not reveal cancer. Goss said she wanted to believe that the symptoms were hormone related and said she knew that was the most likely cause, but continued to have a feeling that something was just not right. Goss returned to her physician and additional testing revealed she had ductal carcinoma in situ, the most common form of non-invasive breast cancer.

The cancer was treated with surgery, followed by radiation therapy at The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center at Natchez Park in Dickson. “I feel like we’ve beaten this,” she said. “And I am so glad I did not ignore my instincts. Women need to keep pressing if they think something is wrong, no matter what age they are.”

TO READ MORE ABOUT JENNIFER GOSS'S EXPERIENCE, GO TO [SARAHCANNON.COM](http://SARAHCANNON.COM).

"I am so glad I did not ignore my instincts. Women need to keep pressing if they think something is wrong, no matter what age they are."

*Jennifer Goss*

$\frac{1}{2}$  tea  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  ..  
pinch of  
all in a  
mix well.  
Add one  
table sp.  
one tab sp  
mix a little  
add fra  
sufficient  
a fair of the  
Grease a  
(fiddle) e



## THE REGION'S LARGEST BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT NETWORK

While there is no single diagnostic test that can accurately diagnose cancer, The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center offers the most sophisticated diagnostic imaging technology available for the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. Diagnostic imaging can be used to confirm the presence of cancer or to monitor the progression of the disease. Diagnostic imaging can aid in the treatment planning process and is also effective for helping physicians monitor the effectiveness of cancer treatment.

With one in eight women likely to develop breast cancer in their lifetime, it's good to know the region's largest breast cancer diagnosis and treatment network offers the most sophisticated technology available for diagnosing breast cancer early, when it is most treatable.



## DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY

Digital mammography is a relatively recent addition to breast imaging that allows data captured during a mammogram to be enhanced, magnified and manipulated for further evaluation, unlike traditional analog mammograms. Digital mammography can be particularly effective in detecting breast abnormalities in women who have dense breasts, which make it difficult to view abnormalities on analog mammograms.

According to the National Cancer Institute, digital mammography may offer the following advantages:

- Long distance consultations with other specialists may be easier
- Subtle differences may be more easily noted
- The number of follow-up procedures may be fewer
- Fewer repeat images may be needed, reducing the patient's exposure to radiation

Digital mammography can only be done in certified mammography facilities that have received FDA approval to offer digital mammography, like those offered in convenient, accessible locations throughout The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network.

## BREAST MRI

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center Network now offers another new advancement in the detection of breast cancer. State-of-the-art high definition magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is combined with computer assisted diagnosis (CAD) to provide sophisticated Breast MRI capability that aids in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Breast MRI is a painless, noninvasive diagnostic procedure that uses magnets and computers to examine the inside of the breast through hundreds of images. There is no compression or flattening of the breast during the exam and there is no radiation exposure.

MRI does not replace mammography or ultrasound imaging of breasts. Instead, it provides a powerful supplementary tool for detecting breast cancer and accurately depicts the size and extent of the disease so that surgeons and other specialists can plan the best course of treatment. Many physicians recommend breast MRI screenings for women who have a history of breast cancer or are at high risk of developing breast cancer. Breast MRI is also especially useful for detecting tumors in younger women with denser breast tissue or in women with breast implants.

Physicians at The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center also can use special instruments that allow them to perform an MRI-guided biopsy of a spot that is not visible by other methods.




## STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY

Biopsy is the only certain way to diagnose breast cancer, and today the procedure can be performed with very little discomfort or inconvenience. In many cases, a band-aid covers the biopsy site and women can return to normal activities immediately.

Over a million breast biopsies are performed each year, and 80% of these biopsies will be benign. The evolution of image-guided biopsies of the breast has greatly impacted the management of abnormalities detected by mammogram and ultrasound. Whereas an open surgical biopsy was the gold standard for definitive diagnosis of breast cancer, minimally invasive image guided procedures have become the preferred method of diagnosis, especially for abnormalities that can't be felt during an exam.

One of the most common forms of image-guided breast biopsies is the stereotactic biopsy. The procedure is performed in an outpatient setting, using local anesthetic. Stereotactic biopsies are performed by the radiologist or the surgeon in the imaging department of the hospital. The lesion is identified and is magnified on the computer screen. A small incision is made into the breast, and the needle is placed through this incision in order to obtain multiple core biopsies.

There are several advantages to having this type of minimally invasive breast biopsy:

- Image-guided biopsies prevent unnecessary trips to the operating room, as nearly 80 percent of all breast biopsies are benign.
  - Less breast tissue is removed, so there is less distortion of breast tissue.
  - If a diagnosis of breast cancer is made with the image-guided biopsy, a definitive treatment plan can be established that requires, in most cases, just a single surgical procedure.
  - Overall, the stereotactic procedures are very accurate, require less time, and cause less discomfort.
- 

## THE SARAH CANNON BLOOD AND MARROW TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center is proud to offer a nationally accredited stem cell blood and marrow transplant program (BMT) at Centennial Medical Center.

Some of the most effective treatments for cancer – such as chemotherapy and radiation – are damaging to the bone marrow. Bone marrow transplantation replaces stem cells destroyed during cancer treatments and restores the body's ability to produce blood cells and regain the vital infection-fighting functions they perform. Patients can therefore receive more aggressive treatments and recover more easily than would otherwise be possible.

Using your own stem cells (autologous), or another person's stem cells (allogeneic), facilitates the incorporation of innovative treatments in the management of a variety of disorders including:

- Hodgkin's and Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Acute and chronic leukemia
- Myelodysplastic Syndromes
- Amyloidosis
- Aplastic Anemia

The BMT program is a partnership between The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center and Tennessee Oncology. Together, we offer patients access to promising new therapies and cutting-edge research. The Sarah Cannon Blood and Marrow Transplant program team includes a comprehensive group of transplant professionals who guide our patients through the transplant process.

The Sarah Cannon Blood and Marrow Transplant program is accredited by The Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). To contact or refer to The Sarah Cannon Center Blood and Marrow Program, call (615) 986-7600.



## CARD

“Patient navigation is an essential service for our cancer patients and their families. It offers invaluable comfort, support, and peace of mind which is so important for the healing process.”

*Jitendra Ghandi, M.D.*



Sharon Moore, patient navigator for The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center at Centennial Medical Center, guides a patient through The SCCC Personal Health Journal.

# GUIDING PATIENTS to QUALITY OUTCOMES

At The Sarah Cannon Cancer Centers, we understand how difficult it is for patients and their family members to grapple with all the implications of a cancer diagnosis. We offer a full range of cancer services to help simplify the process of cancer care.

The Sarah Cannon Cancer Centers at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville and Parkridge Medical Center in Chattanooga are proud to have expanded our cancer support programs with the addition of an oncology patient navigation service. Provided at no cost to the patient as a part of their total cancer care, the oncology patient navigator assists patients in identifying and removing barriers which allow more timely access to cancer care.

We know that coordination of cancer care can be monumental, even when a patient has health insurance, paid medical leave, transportation to and from appointments and a strong support system – seemingly no obvious issues present. However, when a cancer patient presents with problems that may hinder or delay care, the removal of these barriers is vital.

Our patient navigators are available for cancer patients from diagnosis throughout treatment, providing personal and reliable services to meet their changing needs. The navigator can help make arrangements for diagnostic studies, treatments and follow-up services. Regardless of where patients are in the process, the patient navigator can:

- Guide patients through the healthcare system
- Direct patients to resources and support
- Help patients to find ways to get to and keep track of appointments
- Help patients who don't have insurance find ways to pay for treatment
- And, help get questions answered



Laura Robinson, patient navigator for  
The Sarah Cannon Cancer Center at  
Parkridge Medical Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PATIENT NAVIGATION SERVICES AT THE SARAH CANNON CANCER CENTER, CALL 800-242-5662 OR GO TO [SARAHCANNON.COM](http://SARAHCANNON.COM).

