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A new era of leadership



**Donna
Handley**

Vice President
of Operations,
Hartford
HealthCare
Cancer
Institute

Welcome, Drs. Yu and Sauter

The past several weeks have been truly momentous for the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, as we have brought two highly distinguished and experienced physicians to assume clinical leadership roles that will help lead us to new heights in the delivery of world-class care to patients.

I am so excited to welcome Peter Paul Yu, MD, as the first physician-in-chief for our Institute, and Ed Sauter, MD, as HHCCI's new director of the Breast Surgery Program.

The physician-in-chief role is one which we have been striving to fill for well over a year. Our national search was extensive and painstaking, but we wanted to make sure that we found the right person to assume medical leadership of our cancer program and our relationship with Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK).

Dr. Yu was an obvious choice from the moment we connected with him. It was clear that his values as an accomplished and experienced cancer leader were perfectly aligned with our own. More than that, he has deep and lasting connections to MSK, where he started his career, and strong attachments to the Northeast, where he was born

and raised. We are so pleased to have him guiding the clinical direction of our Institute.

Dr. Sauter comes to us with an equally distinguished background in the field of breast surgery and research. He joins us after serving as director of the Cancer Treatment and Prevention Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, and has a resume that includes over 4,000 clinical trials referrals for breast cancer patients. In this new role, Dr. Sauter will lead the breast surgery programs at each of the cancer centers within the Institute, working collaboratively with our surgeons to ensure that a consistently high standard of care is being delivered. He will also work closely with colleagues at MSK to bring the very latest advances in research to our patients.

Please join me in welcoming these two new medical leaders to our team.



Dr. Peter Paul Yu is appointed Institute's first physician-in-chief

Peter Paul Yu, MD, a highly accomplished, internationally respected cancer expert with more than 30 years of experience, has been named the first physician-in-chief of the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, ushering in a new era of leadership and marking a significant milestone in the Institute's continued evolution as a center of excellence in cancer care.

"I am greatly looking forward to working with the outstanding team of physicians, specialists, nurses and staff who do so much to support the mission of the Institute," said Dr. Yu, who assumes his new role after spending the past eight years as director of cancer research at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation in California. Dr. Yu also served in 2015 as president of the prestigious American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), which represents nearly 40,000 professionals in all cancer subspecialties.

Dr. Yu's appointment comes after an extensive national search for a physician leader to oversee clinical operations and programs both within the cancer service locations of HHCCI as well as the Institute's pioneering membership in the Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Alliance. As physician-in-chief, Dr. Yu will be responsible for working closely and collaboratively with physicians and nurses who practice within HHCCI to ensure a single, elevated standard of world-class care for pa-

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HHCCI joins prestigious nurse fellowship program

The Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute (HHCCI) has announced that it has become a participant in the prestigious Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program for student nurses who wish to pursue a career in oncology.

The summer academic fellowship program was established by Frederick C. Flynn, a business executive whose wife, Susan, died of ovarian cancer in 2013. The program is meant to foster the interest and further the professional development of student nurses who wish to pursue a career in oncology and palliative medicine. The fellowship is offered at 15 cancer centers across the country, including Johns Hopkins, New York Presbyterian and Penn Medical Center.

“We are delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this unique nursing internship program, and value our new partnership in this important area with Mr. Flynn, the program sponsor,” said Donna Handley, vice president of operations for HHCCI.

Two junior undergraduate students from the University of Connecticut



Maura Kenny, left, a third-year nursing student at the University of Connecticut, and Lindsey Hermann, a third-year nursing student at the University of Saint Joseph, will be participating in the Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program at the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute this summer.

and the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford have been selected to take part in the eight-week summer internship being offered at the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute. They are:

- Maura Kenny, a third-year nursing student at the University of Connecticut

- Lindsey Hermann, a third-year nursing student at the University of Saint Joseph

Competition for the two openings was intense, with numerous applications submitted. Kenny and Hermann, both natives of Connecticut, said they were thrilled to be selected, adding they were inspired to pursue a career in oncology nursing because of the opportunity it provides to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives.

The program provides fellows with extensive clinical experience and expert training through a comprehensive program of observational and learning experiences.

The students will also have support to create an evidence-based clinical project in an identified area of interest.

“I am pleased to add the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute and the University of Connecticut and the University of Saint Joseph as program partners and look forward to working with these leading institutions to help develop the next generation of oncology nurses,” Flynn said.

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tients with various types and stages of cancer.

A medical oncologist and hematologist, Dr. Yu will also work collaboratively with HHCCI’s colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering, serving as the Alliance’s director of health informatics. He is well-suited for the role, having twice been elected by EPIC Systems users to the Epic Oncology Steering Board and is on the Board of Governors for ASCO’s digital health learning system, CancerLinQ.

“Dr. Yu’s deep experience and passion for enhancing treatment options makes him uniquely well-suited to oversee the continuance

of HHC’s pioneering membership in the MSK Cancer Alliance,” said Jeffrey A. Flaks, Hartford HealthCare executive vice president and chief operating officer. “With his appointment in this key clinical leadership role, we are positioned to take HHC’s exceptional cancer program to an even higher level, guiding our cancer institute’s evolution and future.”

Dr. Yu will report to Flaks in his role as HHCCI physician-in-chief; in his role at MSK, he will report to Jose Baselga, MD, MSK physician-in-chief and chief medical officer.

For Dr. Yu, the move to Connecticut is a near-homecoming of sorts, as he began his career in

the cancer field as a research fellow and associate at Memorial Sloan Kettering, where he formed lasting relationships with colleagues who will now be working closely with him as part of the Alliance. A native New Yorker, Dr. Yu also completed his undergraduate studies at Brown University in Rhode Island, so the Connecticut landscape is a familiar one, he said.

“I grew up in Westchester and went to college and medical school in Providence, so I am looking forward to returning to my roots,” he said. “This is a wonderful opportunity for me and my family. We are looking forward to it.”

Dr. Sauter named new breast surgery director

Ed Sauter, MD, PhD, a highly accomplished breast surgeon with extensive experience in surgical leadership and training, has been appointed Director of the Breast Surgery Program at the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute (HHCCI). He will lead the breast surgery programs at each of the Institute's five cancer centers.

"We are enormously pleased to have Dr. Sauter joining our Institute in this very important role," said Donna Handley, Vice President of Operations for HHCCI. "We are greatly looking forward to benefiting from Dr. Sauter's experience as a leader in the field of breast surgery research and practice."

Dr. Sauter is joining the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute after serving as Director of the Cancer Treatment and Prevention Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, where he built on an international reputation as a world-class surgeon, scientist, medical educator and physician administrator. He has been practicing in the field of breast surgery for more than 25 years, and as a leader in clinical research he has referred over 4,000 women to active clinical trials while conducting more than 70 clinical research trials himself.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity to work at Hartford HealthCare, which is moving in a very impressive direction with its cancer program both within the



Dr. Ed Sauter

Institute framework and through its collaboration with Memorial Sloan Kettering," said Dr. Sauter. He pointed to the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute's pioneering membership in the Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Alliance as a significant factor in his decision to come to Hartford HealthCare.

HHCCI became the charter member of the MSK Cancer Alliance in 2013, making it possible for patients at each of the cancer centers within the Institute to have access to world-class research and clinical trials and protocols at MSK — widely regarded as one of the premier cancer centers in the world. The bi-directional nature of the relationship means patients benefit from the expertise and experience of specialists at both HHCCI and MSK.

Prior to working in Texas, Dr. Sauter was a professor of surgery at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The National Institutes of Health has supported Dr. Sauter's research for more than 25 years, awarding him several dozen grants.

In his new role, Dr. Sauter will report to Handley and Peter Paul Yu, MD, Physician-in-Chief for HHCCI. Dr. Sauter said he is looking forward to continuing the work of expanding and enhancing HHCCI's relationship with MSK to further elevate the standard of care for patients in the areas of breast cancer prevention and early detection, optimal care with minimal side effects and research. He also said he looks forward to working with the surgical staffs throughout HHCCI, Hartford HealthCare and MSK to ensure surgeons are working in the best possible environment to bring innovative, effective care to patients. Dr. Sauter will also continue to practice at the HHCCI locations in Hartford and Avon.

Dr. Sauter, who is married with an 11-year-old daughter, said he looks forward to living in New England, where he and his wife spent many summers vacationing in the past.

"It's an exciting time personally and professionally," he said.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Alliance
Physician Referral Line

Hartford
HealthCare
Cancer Institute



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Alliance
MEMBER

646.497.5862

This number is now available for referral purposes to physicians who practice within the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute — a member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance. It can be used by any participating physician who wishes to refer a patient to Memorial Sloan Kettering for care.



MSK Alliance kicks off eight-part lecture series

Bone marrow transplant specialists at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Center are offering an eight-part lecture series for colleagues and fellow providers within the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute that began with a March 28 discussion by Sergio Giralt, MD, chief of the Adult Bone Marrow Transplant Service at MSK.

The series is being offered as part of HHCCI's membership in the MSK Cancer Alliance.

Dr. Giralt's presentation, called "Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation," reviewed the basic concepts of bone marrow transplant procedures while describing the rationale for early evaluation for bone marrow transplant in hematologic patients and identifying clinical standards for hematologic populations eligible for the procedure.

The lecture focused on the historical factors which initially led scientists to explore the possibility for bone marrow transplant, and how that understanding has evolved and advanced over the past several decades.

The lecture series continued Monday, April 25, with a presentation by Miguel Perales, MD,



Sergio Giralt, MD, chief of the Adult Bone Marrow Transplant Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, delivers a lecture March 28 at Hartford Hospital, the first of an eight-part lecture series on bone marrow transplantation being offered to providers across Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute this year.

deputy chief of the Adult Bone Marrow Transplant Service and director of the Adult Bone Marrow Transplantation Fellowship Program at MSK. Dr. Perales discussed current indications for up front transplantation, strategies to enhance timely referral to transplantation and the logistics of donor search and procurement, as well as provide a review of current Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation (HCT) strategies. Details for future lectures will be announced soon.

Lectures take place at the Taylor Conference Room at the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital from 5:30-7 pm. Lectures can also be viewed via videoconference (meet.cancer@video.hhchealth.org) at the following locations: Backus Hospital, MOB Conference Room; MidState Medical Center, Conference Room IV; The Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Conference Room A; and Windham Hospital, Johnson Room.

Auxiliary completes \$1M pledge to the HHC Cancer Institute at HOCC

The Hospital of Central Connecticut Auxiliary at New Britain General made their final pledge payment of \$200,000 in December benefitting the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at The Hospital of Central Connecticut. This gift marked the completion of the Auxiliary's \$1 million pledge to the cancer center's fundraising campaign, which began in 2011. Monies were raised by the Auxiliary's annual golf tournament, Chrysanthemum Ball, and gift shop. New Britain Auxiliary President Judy Kilduff shared the following sentiment, "We, the members of the Auxiliary, are happy to have completed our \$1 million pledge on time. We wish to thank all of our sponsors, patrons and event guests who share our vision of serving our healthcare community. I speak for all Auxiliary members in saying that we could not have completed the pledge without you."



Members of the HOCC New Britain General campus Auxiliary recently presented Lucille Janatka, HHC Central Region president, with a check for \$200,000 for the HOCC cancer center campaign. Pictured left to right are board members and fundraising committee chairs Roberta Chant; Kathleen Yuskis; Lucille Janatka, Central Region president; Virginia Phillips; Stacie Rulkowski; and Judy Kilduff, Auxiliary president. Missing: Maureen Carlson.