



**NORTHSIDE
HOSPITAL**

CANCER INSTITUTE

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Stronger Together





2023 Leadership Message

In 2023, Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (NHCI) built upon the strong foundation as an integrated cancer network by leveraging teamwork across its geographic footprint and continuing a focus on access and quality. NHCI provided personalized, multidisciplinary patient care by adding new physicians and increasing access to diagnostic services, oncology practice locations and treatment programs. With over 15 new oncology physicians and new locations for radiation and medical oncology, more patients receive expert care at convenient facilities closer to where they live and work.

New and expanded services included:

- High-Risk Program catering to patients with an elevated risk of cancer, offering specialized care to manage the risk of developing cancer through prevention and early detection. Services include comprehensive cancer screenings, genetic testing, lifestyle change and options for follow-up care.
- Precision Oncology Program expanding resources for practitioners through the Genetic Oncology Advisory Board, creation of a new multidisciplinary steering committee and development of molecular testing protocols.
- Second Opinion Program assisting cancer patients and referring physicians in obtaining timely second opinion consultations with expert NHCI providers.
- Advanced prostate cancer treatments providing two new technologies, one for metastatic prostate cancer and another for localized prostate cancer.
- Chimeric antigen receptor t-cell therapy (CAR T-Cell Therapy) program offering patients new opportunities for cutting-edge immunotherapy.

- MRI-guided radiation therapy for more accurate treatment across multiple cancer types.

To maintain NHCI's status as one of the largest cancer care providers in Georgia, investments in continuous quality improvement through initiatives and accreditation programs are a high priority. A multidisciplinary approach led to significant achievements including completion of nine quality improvement studies, successful management of physician quality indicators across nine affiliated practices and successful attainment of multiple accreditation accolades. Two NHCI facilities received 3-year full reaccreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, seven radiation oncology centers were awarded 3-year full reaccreditation from the American College of Radiology and one facility completed a successful reaccreditation visit from Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapy. Additionally, an initial accreditation visit from NAPRC was successful. Most admirably, NHCI received National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program Platinum Certificate of Excellence for high enrollment in combined Treatment and Cancer Control, Prevention, and Screening Trials.

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute aspires toward excellence as evidenced by our success as an integrated network cancer program and striving together to meet the needs of patients while improving continuity of care. We are humbled to offer the 2023 Northside Hospital Cancer Institute Annual Report.



Guilherme Cantuaria, MD, PhD
Chair, Cancer Committee



Patti Owen, MN, RN
Director, Oncology Services



Quality Improvement Initiatives

Oncology Quality, in collaboration with multidisciplinary cancer teams, clinical research and nursing, conducted nine quality improvement studies in 2023. The studies consisted of an inpatient nursing study on predictability of a falls risk assessment tool in oncology patients, disease site studies for melanoma and primary colorectal cancer with liver metastases, sexual health survey in gynecologic cancers and synoptic operative reporting compliance. Continued participation in national quality improvement studies was achieved through enrollment in two quality studies sponsored by the American College of Surgeons, improving provision of tobacco cessation assist and breast cancer timeliness of care.

Study Spotlight – Beyond ASK

Beyond ASK is a national quality improvement initiative sponsored by the Commission on Cancer, which helps cancer programs learn skills and implement local process improvement strategies aimed at providing newly diagnosed cancer patients with tobacco cessation assistance and resources. In Beyond ASK, the goal is to increase the number of patients offered assistance

for tobacco cessation. Post-pandemic, NHCI noted an improvement in the patient referrals to tobacco cessation classes but a decline in number of patients enrolled. The oncology quality team collaborated with three Northside affiliated medical oncology practices to implement a quality measure fostering physician engagement in assessment of patients' readiness to quit tobacco

use and provide counseling about the importance of quitting. An extension of the study included follow-up calls by our Built to Quit program managed by Community Outreach.

A noted positive trend resulted across all Northside Hospital campuses from April to October 2023, with Assist Rate (provision of cessation assist & resources) ranging from 78% to 100%.

Cover Story

Meet RALPH

Ralph is thankful for everyone at Northside who "gave their all" to him and his wife and made them feel at home in the hospital — from the admissions, pre-op and OR teams to the Extended Recovery Unit staff and transport volunteers.

"The level of professionalism and tender loving care was over the top," said Ralph. "Everyone went the extra mile."



GROWING TOGETHER | New Services and Programs

Precision Oncology

In 2023, Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (NHCI) launched the Precision Oncology Program. Precision oncology is a comprehensive approach to preventing, treating and curing cancer. It incorporates an individual's inherited genetics, tumor genetics, pharmacogenomics and social or patient-derived factors. Precision oncology allows providers to create a personalized treatment plan. Efforts are underway to expand molecular testing and improve timeliness of care through reflexive testing for non-small cell lung cancer and gliomas.

Another initiative of Precision

Oncology is the Genomic Oncology Advisory Board, which facilitates discussion of biomarker alterations, pathways and molecular signatures of clinically complex cases. This team consists of a molecular pathologist, oncology pharmacist(s), medical oncologist(s), a research nurse and genetic counselor. The purpose of the team is to interpret patient specific next-generation sequencing results while also considering the patient diagnosis, prior therapy, treatment response and prior genetic testing. The primary goal is to enhance the providers' clinical

application of the information based on the latest research and available clinical and scientific literature and guidelines, including personalized pharmacological implications and potential clinical trial participation. Our vision is to bridge the gaps between patient care and science through decision support tools, technology and multi-disciplinary teams. We are committed to giving our patients and providers the resources needed to navigate this rapidly evolving approach to cancer prevention and treatment.

High Risk Program and Nutrition Services

Northside launched a new High Risk Program to provide specialized care for patients who may be at increased risk for developing cancer. The program aims to improve outcomes for high-risk patients by promoting cancer prevention, facilitating early detection and providing ongoing patient surveillance. Patient consultations are provided by a specially trained nurse practitioner. The program's initial focus is on patients at high risk for developing breast/ovarian cancers.

A unique feature of the program is our dedicated registered dietitian nutritionist. Through the High Risk Program, patients are offered two complimentary nutrition appointments. During these visits, patients will receive a personalized nutrition care plan and nutrition education.

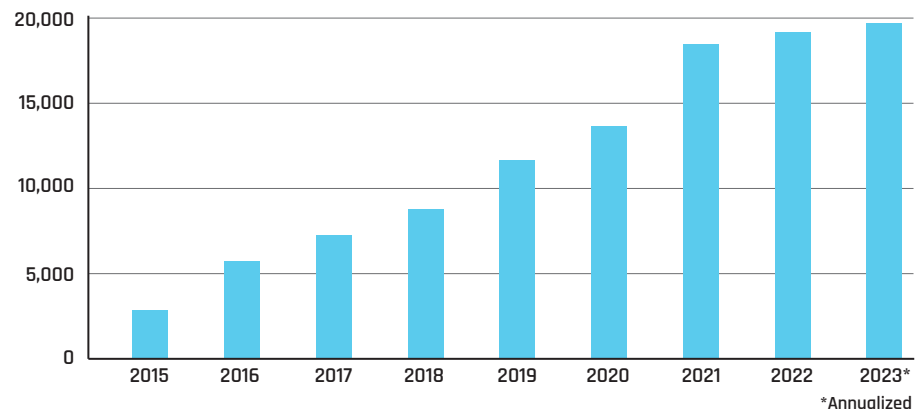
Oncology Nutrition



Oncology Nutrition Location Coverage



Total Nutrition Encounters by Year



Meet JEANNETTE

"I can't express how wonderful my Northside care team was," said Jeannette. "I appreciate the receptionists for booking and reminding me of my appointments, my oncologist and surgeon for executing a successful healing plan, the nurses who performed my lab work, and those who administered the chemo treatments."

Jeannette said she has resumed attending sporting events with her husband, date nights, attending church in person and traveling to spend time with her family.

"I am presently on this recovery journey and I'm not taking one second for granted."



STRONGER TOGETHER | Expanding Services and Teams

New Therapeutics for Prostate Cancer Treatment

Theranostics is a new personalized treatment approach that uses radioactive drugs (radiopharmaceuticals) to diagnose and treat different types of cancer. Patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) often fail conventional treatments, including surgery, radiation therapy, hormone therapy and chemotherapy. In March 2022, the FDA approved a new nuclear medicine treatment that uses radiopharmaceutical Pluvicto® that targets prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) on

prostate cancer cells. In some cases, additional months of improved quality of life resulted. Northside Hospital Atlanta is one of only four locations in Georgia offering this treatment. Plans are underway to expand access throughout our footprint.

A treatment known as focal therapy has emerged for prostate cancer considered intermediate risk, with small tumors confined to one area of the prostate. High-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) focuses the energy of sound waves to create

heat and destroy cancer cells. HIFU is a noninvasive precision treatment that spares healthy tissue and lowers the chances of negative side effects associated with radical prostate surgery or radiation, such as impotence, incontinence and bowel function disturbance. This fills a significant treatment void for men with localized prostate cancer who find themselves in between active surveillance and whole gland treatments such as radiation or surgery.

Genetics

The Cancer Genetics Program achieved 96% overall patient satisfaction and 100% patient satisfaction with overall experience with genetic counselors, while increasing patient encounters by 27% in 2023. The team grew to seven certified genetic counselors and added administrative assistance to support this growth and the development of the High Risk Program.



96%

Overall patient satisfaction with the Cancer Genetics Program

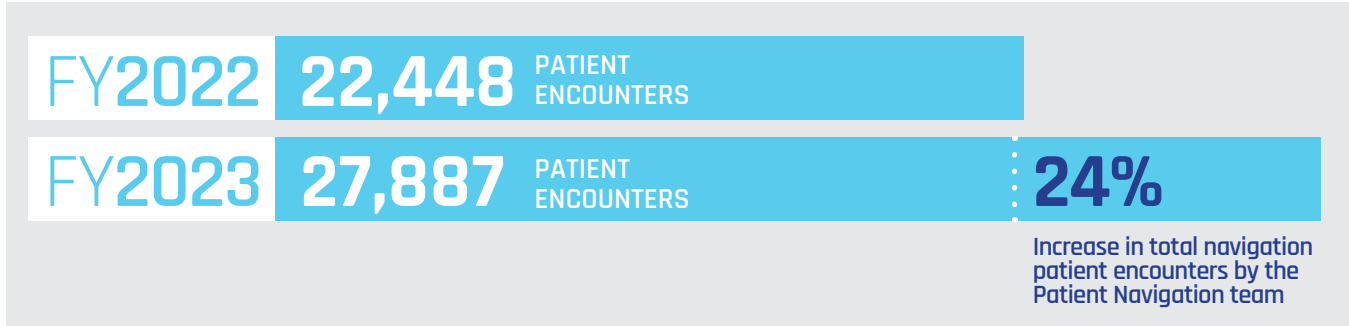
100%

Patient satisfaction with overall experience with genetic counselors

Patient Navigation

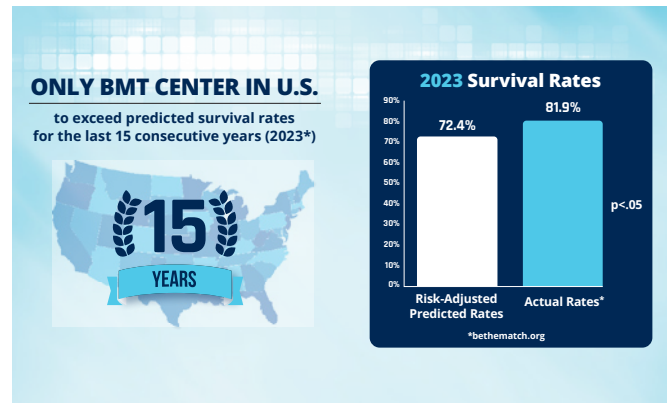
The Patient Navigation team increased total navigation patient encounters by 24%.

The team is piloting a disease-specific navigation team structure consisting of an oncology nurse navigator, cancer care liaison and an oncology social worker to provide holistic care and individualized response to patient needs. Results have shown a more than 5-fold annual increase in the number of referrals to Oncology Social Work to address barriers of care.



Blood and Marrow Transplant

The Northside Hospital Blood and Marrow Transplant Program (NH-BMT) provides exceptional, state-of-the-art care to patients undergoing acute leukemia treatment, CAR T-cell immunotherapy, and blood and marrow stem cell transplantation. NH-BMT is the only BMT program in the country to have achieved survival outcomes that significantly exceeded the expected survival rate for allogeneic and unrelated donor transplants for the last 15 consecutive reporting cycles (2009–2023). As one of 20 national BMT Programs and Consortia selected as a Core Clinical Center for the Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN), we provide patients access to cutting-edge clinical research trials in a community hospital setting.



2023 Survivor Celebration at the Atlanta Braves game.

Transplant and Oncology Infectious Diseases

Patients who have cancer, are undergoing a bone marrow or blood cell transplant, or are getting cancer treatment, often have a higher risk of getting an infection. Our specially trained infectious disease specialist provides comprehensive care for transplant and oncology patients at risk for infections. Committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes, they work collaboratively with all members of the cancer multi-disciplinary care team to manage complex infections.

TOGETHER WE MAKE CHANGE | Multidisciplinary Teamwork



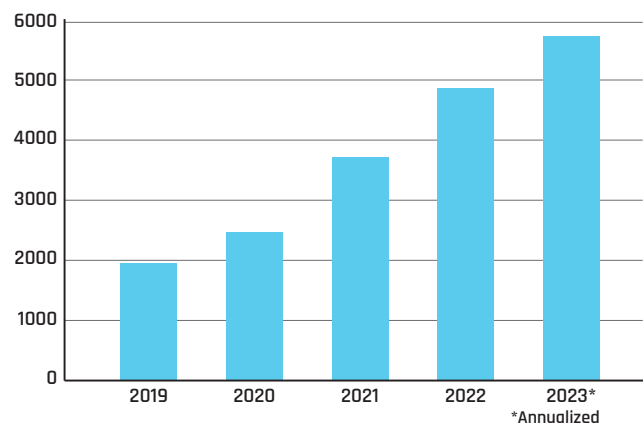
Lung Cancer

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute's (NHCI) commitment to teamwork and spirit of continuous improvement expands beyond its integrated network to its society partners. This year, NHCI played a pivotal role in partnering with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) to identify and resolve data issues, which impacted thoracic programs across the country. Through NHCI's ongoing quality initiatives, the Oncology Analytics team identified areas of concern within two analytic metrics. First, the team identified a formula discrepancy used by STS to calculate Esophagectomy Total Length of Stay (LOS.) Upon alerting STS of this discrepancy, the LOS formula was changed resulting in improvement that not only serves Northside Hospital, but also other programs nationwide.

The team also determined inconsistencies with readmission criteria between facilities utilizing EPIC versus Cerner as their EHR. Follow-up communications with STS resulted in prompt resolution, again impacting programs nationwide.

To continue NHCI's close collaboration with the STS Thoracic Surgery Core Group, a member of the Oncology Analytics team has been invited to continue NHCI's involvement in this organization. In this capacity, the team member will be responsible for helping shape data collection requirements and addressing issues. NHCI's demonstration in quality leadership will enable us to continue to play a pivotal role with STS in enhancing quality across all facilities.

Lung Screening Volumes



The Lung Cancer Program implemented software to detect lung nodules found incidentally during radiology imaging. The software notifies the Lung Cancer Screening team of the incidental lung nodule. The team reviews the imaging results against established criteria to determine if follow up screening and diagnostics are needed. They also manage systemwide lung cancer screening results and patient follow up. The Lung Cancer Screening team has expanded over the year to manage the program growth.

Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences

The Multidisciplinary Cancer (MDC) Conference team adopted a new conference software platform to improve workflow and management of the increasing case presentations. The NAVIFY® Tumor Board platform enhances the conference operations, data collection and access to information. NAVIFY is integrated with our EMR

to help our multidisciplinary teams coordinate care in a more efficient manner and ensure providers have easy access to the treatment planning discussion.

MDC Conferences have seen an 10% increase in the number of cases presented from 2022 to 2023. All nine conferences have seen growth in case presentations.

NHCI Connect

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (NHCI) Connect is an endeavor to standardize and provide consistent and accurate communication across the NHCI system. Due to the expanding network of physicians and staff, it is important to have consistent timely communication. NHCI Connect offers providers, staff, administrators and other care team members a web-based platform that allows them access to NHCI information and tools, including:

- Physician and service directories
- Clinical and support service referrals
- Multidisciplinary Cancer (MDC) Conference
- Clinical research options
- Community events and sponsorship activities
- Education resources for physicians, nurses, and patients

**NORTHSIDE
HOSPITAL
CANCER INSTITUTE
CONNECT**



Quality Accreditations & Certifications



NHCI achieved reaccreditation status for three accreditation programs

National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers – Atlanta/Forsyth

- Awarded 3-year full reaccreditation

National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers – Gwinnett

- Awarded 3-year full reaccreditation

American College of Radiology – Radiation Oncology Accreditation

- Awarded 3-year full reaccreditation for seven radiation oncology centers

Clinical Quality

#1

IN GEORGIA FOR GAMMA KNIFE TREATMENT OF BRAIN TUMORS



15th

CONSECUTIVE YEAR BMT PROGRAM EXCEEDED PREDICTED OUTCOMES FOR ALLOGENEIC TRANSPLANTS



21

CANCER QUALITY ACCREDITATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS



TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE | Advancing Oncology Education



Patient Story

Meet DOROTHY

“My experience at Northside Hospital in Atlanta was truly wonderful, from consultation to check-in to check-out. Dr. Jim Robinson and Kelly visited me while in the hospital to check my vitals and progress. The nursing staff was absolutely fabulous and checked on me frequently to assure I was comfortable. I really felt as though I received the royal treatment.”

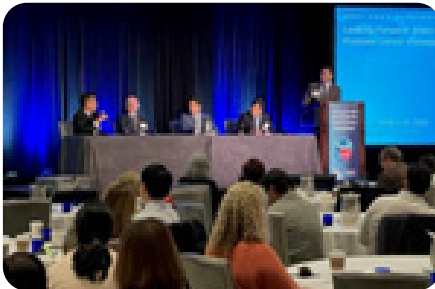
Together We Can Do More

Cancer care and treatments are evolving at a rapid pace. In order to keep up with advancements, Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (NHCI) is dedicated to providing excellent education for our physicians, providers, staff and patients. In 2023, we carried out over 20 education events reaching more than 500 participants.

In addition to the education we provide at Northside, our physicians and staff speak at national and regional meetings as experts and key leaders in their areas. Our BMT and Cellular Therapy physicians presented over 15 posters and lectures at the annual American Society of Hematology meeting.

NHCI physicians, nurses and staff presented or were panelists at the following:

- American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting
- Congress of Clinical Dermatology
- Georgia Society of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery Annual Meeting
- NCORP National Meeting
- Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigators/ Midyear Conference
- National Cancer Registrars Association Annual Meeting
- Georgia Tumor Registrars Association Fall Conference
- Washington State Tumor Registrars Spring Conference



NHCI 2023 Symposium on Prostate Cancer



Brain Tumor Symposium



11th NHCI Nursing Symposium



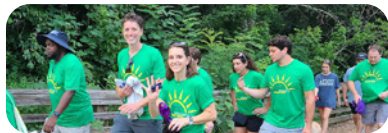
Patient and Caregiver Education Conference

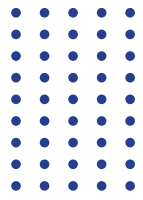
GREAT TOGETHER | NHCI in the Community



Community Outreach

- Educated nearly 10,000 residents through more than 60 community educational events about various cancer prevention and awareness topics.
- Coordinated nearly 25 off-campus cancer screening events in collaboration with strategic partners at community locations (clinical breast exams, skin and prostate cancer screenings).
- Provided cancer education, preventive health screenings and access to health care programs to more than 5,000 residents within the Hispanic community in collaboration with valued partners.
- Collaborated with Hispanic media and community partners (Telemundo, Univision, Georgia Hispanic Chamber, Latin American Association) to promote oncology services lines, cancer education and screenings, physician referrals, and support services programs, resulting in a series of 20+ interviews, promotional videos, press notes and public service announcements, and reached of over 800K viewers.





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2023

A N N U A L R E P O R T

Stronger Together

In 2024, look to Northside Hospital Cancer Institute for:

- **Continued Growth**

- » Adding new locations to offer cancer care close to home
- » Providing easy access to care through Second Opinion and High Risk Programs

- **Exceptional Quality**

- » Ensuring clinical excellence through multiple accreditations, certifications and designations
- » Exceeding national average for patient satisfaction ratings

- **Innovation and Research**

- » Offering innovative treatment through Cellular Therapy and Precision Oncology Programs
- » Ongoing leadership of the Georgia National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (GA NCORP)

[BuiltToBeatCancer.com](https://www.BuiltToBeatCancer.com)

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