

Foster J. Boyd, MD, Regional Cancer Center,

Clinton Memorial Hospital, Wilmington, Ohio

Comprehensive, quality care close to home

For residents of Clinton County and the surrounding counties of Greene, Fayette, Warren, Highland, Butler, and Adams in southwestern Ohio, the Foster J. Boyd, MD, Regional Cancer Center brings a new level of integrated cancer care services

in one convenient, nearby location. Patients can access top-notch medical oncology services and state-of-the-art linear-accelerator-based radiation therapy all in one facility. The new cancer center is part of CMH Regional Health System, which is anchored by Clinton Memorial

Hospital (CMH), a 150-bed, county-owned medical/surgical acute care hospital established in 1951.

Construction of the \$8 million, 18,000-square-foot Boyd Cancer Center began in March 2006. Located across from CMH on two acres of land, the Foster J. Boyd, MD, Regional Cancer Center celebrated its grand opening just one year later in February 2007. The new facility is named in honor Dr. Foster J. Boyd, a member of the hospital's medical staff since 1951, and founder of the hospital's accredited cancer program.

Today, the more than 43,000 residents of Clinton County have a full range of outpatient cancer services centrally located in an easily accessible, state-of-the-art facility. Patients can be dropped off at the covered entrance and ample free parking is close by.

The cancer program at Clinton Memorial Hospital has been ACoS approved since 1991. However, now all outpatient oncology services are provided in a patient-centered, healing environment designed specifically for the delivery of high-quality cancer care.

Yet it is not the bricks-and-mortar facility alone that sets this community-based cancer program apart, according to director of Medical Oncology Cheryl Skinner, MD. "I have been in practice 20 years, and I think what attracted me to the Boyd Cancer Center was the comprehensive view of patient care. Not just the delivery of medical oncology and radiation oncology care—I think we do a stellar job there—but rather looking at the patient's and family's social, spiritual, nutritional, and financial needs, the total care of the patient and family," she said. Stella Ling, MD, MPH, director of Radiation Oncology, concurred stating that, "The enthusiasm and creativity of the team looking at patient-oriented care was a major attraction for me to travel across the



The lobby's warm earth tones, natural light, and dramatic stone fireplace create a peaceful ambience for visitors.

Vital Statistics

- Total hospital bed size: licensed for 150, currently operating 95 beds
- Number of unduplicated patients in two years: 750
- Number of patient visits per year: 23,300

Selected Patient Support Services

- Nutrition services
- Social work services
- Pastoral care
- Financial counseling
- American Cancer Society patient navigator



The new radiotherapy treatment suite offers patients a soothing, starry ceiling view.

country to be part of this innovative, but much-needed concept.”

The center’s interior design, which won an award in *Cincinnati Magazine’s* 6th Annual Interior Design Competition, reflects input from patient focus groups and cancer center staff. Visitors enter into a light-filled lobby featuring a soaring wood-beamed ceiling, a dramatic natural stone fireplace, and cozy seating. Adjacent to the lobby is a well-stocked resource library, which offers community access to books, videos, and an online medical library. Also located off the main lobby is the center’s positive appearance boutique, providing wigs, hats, prosthetics, and skin care products.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

The one-story facility integrates medical and radiation oncology services into treatment “neighborhoods.”

The diagnosis of cancer is often accompanied by feelings of loss of control. One of the design goals for the Boyd Cancer Center was to give patients as much control over their treatment environment as possible. This is evident in the chemotherapy infusion area, which incorporates plenty of natural lighting along with open views of a restorative healing garden that features shade trees, seasonal plantings, and a tranquil waterfall with a pond and koi fish tended by volunteers from the community gardening businesses, the staff, and neighborhood gardeners.

The infusion area includes ten chemotherapy infusion suites. One suite offers complete privacy, and nine suites have connecting doorways, giving patients the choice of privacy or companionship during treatment. Each infusion treatment recliner has an individual TV with remote control, CD/DVD player, and headphones. Patients have Inter-

net access and can use their laptop computers during treatment. Family members are welcome to join patients during the delivery of care in the infusion center. Adjacent to the infusion area is the Boyd Cancer Center’s dedicated oncology pharmacy, where anti-cancer therapy drugs are mixed on site.

Dr. Skinner takes particular pride in the patient education the cancer program provides. “Our patients and families come out of the [cancer] center well informed about the disease and their treatment,” she

said. The cancer program offers patients access to clinical trials through a CCOP program in Dayton, Ohio, and has its own clinical trials nurse.

Dr. Stella Ling, the main radiation oncologist on staff, is present five days a week at the Boyd Cancer Center. She consults with patients, coordinates patient care with other physi-

cians, and prescribes radiotherapy treatment for patients. Radiation therapy is provided on the Boyd Cancer Center’s new Electa Synergy multi-energy linear accelerator, which includes record and verify functionality, a multi-leaf collimator, I View digital imaging, and Isoloc technology. The Radiation Oncology Department also has a dedicated Toshiba Asteion CT simulator. Radiotherapy treatments are provided in an open suite-like environment that offers patients a starry-night ceiling view. (See photo on page 15.) The technology allows for such advanced treatment planning as intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) for multiple cancer sites.

An important initiative underway at the new Boyd Cancer Center is implementation of electronic health records. The radiation oncology department is fully electronic using the IMPAC electronic medical records system. The medical oncology department is in the process of

EMR adoption and will ultimately also have computerized physician order entry (CPOE).

The Boyd Cancer Center actively promotes education for its own physicians as well as others. A regularly scheduled tumor board is open to all physicians. Residents from CMH’s Family Practice Program regularly rotate through the Boyd Cancer Center to obtain teaching about oncology. Throughout the year, an Oncology Lecture series brings in guest speakers to enlarge upon and update current practices.

Support and Outreach Services

Patients and families have access to a range of supportive services including nutritional, psychosocial, pastoral, and financial counseling. An American Cancer Society patient navigator is available to help patients and caregivers access community-based resources. All support services are provided to patients free of charge.

In June, the Boyd Cancer Center hosted its third annual Survivor’s Day celebration honoring cancer survivors and their families. This year’s celebration featured an ice cream social, live entertainment, and an opportunity to view the Lilly *Oncology on Canvas* art exhibit at the Boyd Cancer Center.

Looking Ahead

In keeping with the Boyd Cancer Center’s focus on providing comforting, holistic care, future plans include growing the program’s complementary services to include five programs: therapeutic exercise and massage; mind/body/spirit; environmental health; nutrition; and counseling/social services/pastoral care.

The best indication of the value of this new facility to the community it serves—since the Boyd Cancer Center’s opening 28 months ago, patient volumes for both medical and radiation oncology have seen steady growth.

This growth, in turn, has prompted the addition of a second medical oncologist, Leanne Budde, MD, and Renee Roth, NP, to the staff. The additional providers complement the mission of the Boyd Center. They are focusing on providing survivorship counseling as well as genetic screening. ■

One of the design goals for the Boyd Cancer Center was to give patients as much control over their treatment environment as possible.