



Willis Knighton Cancer Center

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2022

WK
Willis Knighton
Cancer Center

Chairman's Message

Dear Willis Knighton Friends and Supporters,

I am delighted to present this annual report that reflects the efforts and commitment of our Willis Knighton Cancer Center team as together we pursue better cancer care. This annual report summarizes the years 2020 through 2022, a period during which our patients and cancer center team worked and overcame the challenges of COVID-19.

Radiation oncology embraced cutting edge technologies to deliver more precise and effective treatments, including using artificial intelligence tools to assist individual contouring during treatment planning and acquiring a new treatment machine with diagnostic quality level imaging during treatment setup. Our radiopharmaceutical programs that target prostate cancer using PSMA (prostate-specific membrane antigen) took a giant leap forward.

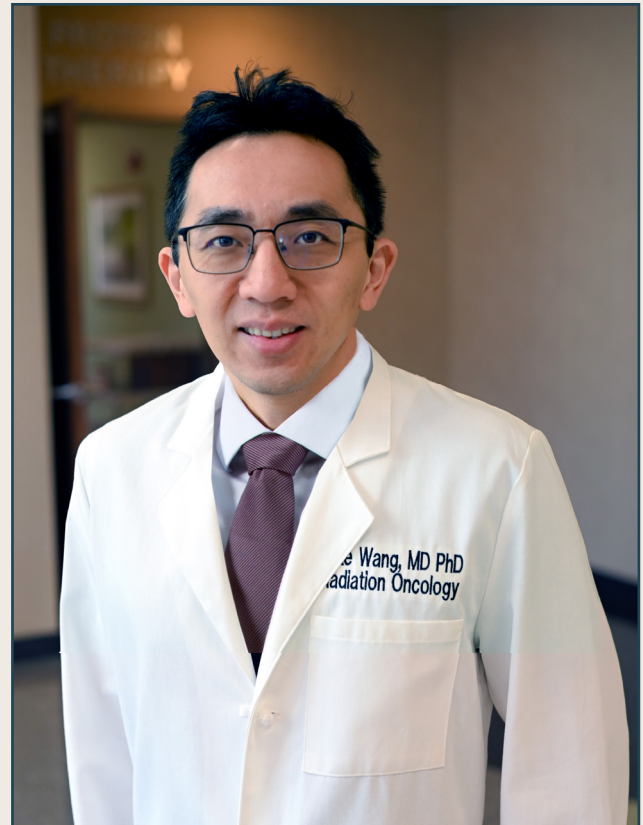
New PSMA PET/CT scans and Lutetium-177-PSMA-617 therapy demonstrate promise for the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

In medical oncology, many new therapies are available in the fight against cancer. We are expanding our research efforts with clinical trials for gynecologic and liver cancers that could significantly improve patient outcomes. Beyond clinical treatments, successful patient outcomes are tied to ancillary programs like social services, nutrition, genetic education programs and more. Our annual Survivors Day event was a huge success, offering patients and their families a supportive community to share their stories and also connect with WK and community health resources.

As we reflect on progress, we are optimistic about the future. Our commitment to better cancer care for our patients remains steadfast. As we move forward, we continue to offer hope and strength to our patients and their loved ones.

Thank you for your continued support!

C. Jake Wang, MD, PhD



Willis Knighton Cancer Committee

PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Jake Wang, MD – Chairman, Cancer Committee and Radiation Oncology

Heather Bracey, MD – Diagnostic Radiology

Julie Cupp, MD – Surgery

Joyce Feagin, MD – Cancer Liaison Physician and Palliative Care

Tyler Lash, MD – Hematology/Oncology

Maxwell McDonald, MD – Hematology/Oncology

Lane Rosen, MD – Director, Radiation Oncology

Gregory Wellman, MD – Pathology

Ramin Zamani, MD – Diagnostic Radiology

NON-PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Melody Reed-Adams, RN – Breast Navigator

Briana Barrow, BS, CCRC – Clinical Research Coordinator

Lauren Brown, BS, RT (R)(QM)(AART) – Radiology

Santi Cook, MCD, CCC-SLP – Rehabilitation Services

Shannon Cruey, RN – Oncology Nurse

Eileen Czerwinski, LPC – Care Manager and Psychosocial Services Coordinator

Jennifer Edwards, BSN, RN, OCN – Survivorship Coordinator and Lung Cancer Screening Navigator

Debra Evans, RN – Oncology Nurse

Kevin Gallagher, MD – Radiation Oncology

Dawn Harris, CTR – Cancer Registry



Kenneth Harrison, MD – Willis Knighton Performance Improvement

Lanie Hesson, RN, OCN – Hematology/Oncology Nurse

Krystal Jeffery, BSRT (R)(T) – Radiation Oncology Manager and Quality Improvement Coordinator

Dana Jones, MSN, RN – Director, Willis Knighton Cancer Center and Cancer Program Administrator

Sanford Katz, MD – Radiation Oncology

Casie Karevicius, CPC – Gynecologic Oncology

Amber Mandino, CTR, RHIA – Cancer Registry Manager and Cancer Registry Quality Coordinator

Sara Beth Massey, CTR, RHIA – Cancer Registry

Kara Naquin, PA-C – Gynecologic Oncology

Lauren Patterson, MSW – Care Manager and Psychosocial Services Coordinator

Mary Nordberg, PhD, CGRA – Genetics/Patient Education

Daniel Speir, BSRS (R)(T) – Radiation Therapy and Quality Improvement Coordinator

Patricia Thomas, RN – Inpatient Chemotherapy

Brenton Thompson, RD – Registered Dietitian and Cancer Nutrition

Haley Tuminello, R.T. (R)(ARRT) – Radiology



Caring Team at Willis Knighton Cancer Center

Cancer care is complex. Doctors and staff care about the future of cancer treatment, bringing cutting edge technologies and treatments to Shreveport-Bossier City and surrounding communities. It takes a team to handle all the intricate details. We're making northwest Louisiana healthier with care to change your world.

Patients bring their challenges, and we bring the best cancer care available anywhere. Investment in cutting edge technologies and resources right here in one place means patients don't have to visit many different buildings for care. Willis Knighton Cancer Center is one big family that truly cares about patients and the future of cancer treatment.

Patients feel energy and hope from the moment they drive up. They're greeted and wheeled in, if necessary, by Eddie Owens, the face of Willis Knighton Cancer Center. Patients and staff know him as "Ed. O," a shining star that lifts spirits and makes patients feel at home when they come for a full day of treatment.

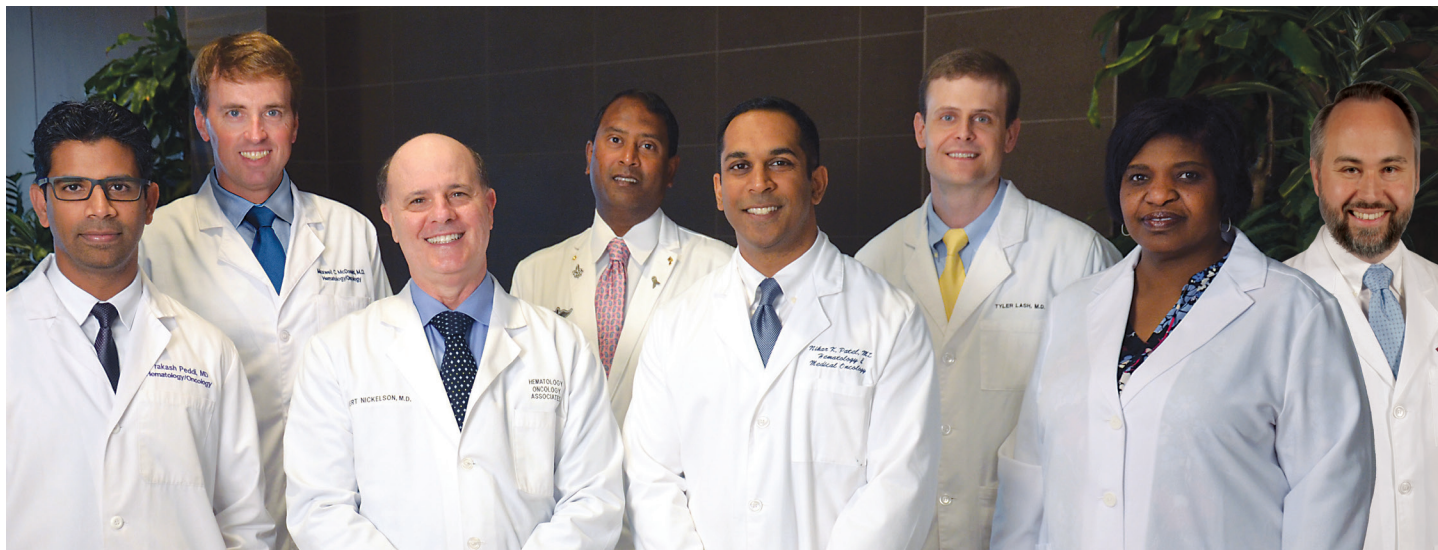
▲ Throughout these pages, you'll meet the team wanting to be here to improve lives of cancer patients. Whether it's direct work with patients or behind-the-scenes coordination of services, Willis Knighton Cancer Center values the team.



Care to
Change
Your World



Hematology and Medical Oncology



▲ Each cancer patient receives personalized medical care with a treatment plan designed by their personal quarterback – hematologists and medical oncologists at Willis Knighton Cancer Center.

The QB provides continuity of care as they see patients at every visit and coordinate all the plays using different treatments to fight cancer. It's a disease that can originate anywhere in the body and through abnormal cell growth has the potential to spread.

- Hematology treats benign and malignant blood disorders.
- Medical oncology treats solid tumors in the body's bones, muscles and organs.

Hematology/oncology physicians primarily use systemic therapies that travel through the body to kill cancer cells. One option is traditional chemotherapy that uses high powered drugs to treat cancer. A second option is newer targeted therapy and immunotherapy programs that are examples of precision medicine:

- Molecular profiling of tumors to identify targets for treatment

- Deliver the right cancer treatment to the right patient at the right dose and at the right time

Developments in hematology/medical oncology:

Advanced diagnostic tests like **next generation sequencing** use DNA sequencing to help doctors find the optimal treatment for each patient. For example, five to 10% of lung cancer patients have an EGFR mutation. When next generation sequencing uncovers this mutation, a certain targeted therapy for specific molecules on cancer cells is more effective than standard chemo.

Unheard of just 15 years ago, **immunotherapy** is a game changer in cancer treatment that is less toxic than chemotherapy. It stimulates a patient's immune system to attack and kill cancer cells thus far able to avoid immune destruction. Doctors say immunotherapy works phenomenally well, revolutionizing cancer from a terminal disease to a chronic illness that can be managed with the healthcare team.

About one-third of our patients are treated using different immunotherapies that result in patients living much longer and having a very good quality of life, often without side effects.



- **Keytruda** is FDA approved to treat certain early stage and advanced cancers, including melanoma, lung cancer and many more.
- **Opdivo** is approved to treat certain forms of lung, colorectal and skin cancer.
- **Tecentriq** is approved as an adjuvant treatment for some patients with lung cancer, unresectable or metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma or melanoma.
- **Jemperli** is approved as the new standard of treatment for advanced endometrial cancer.

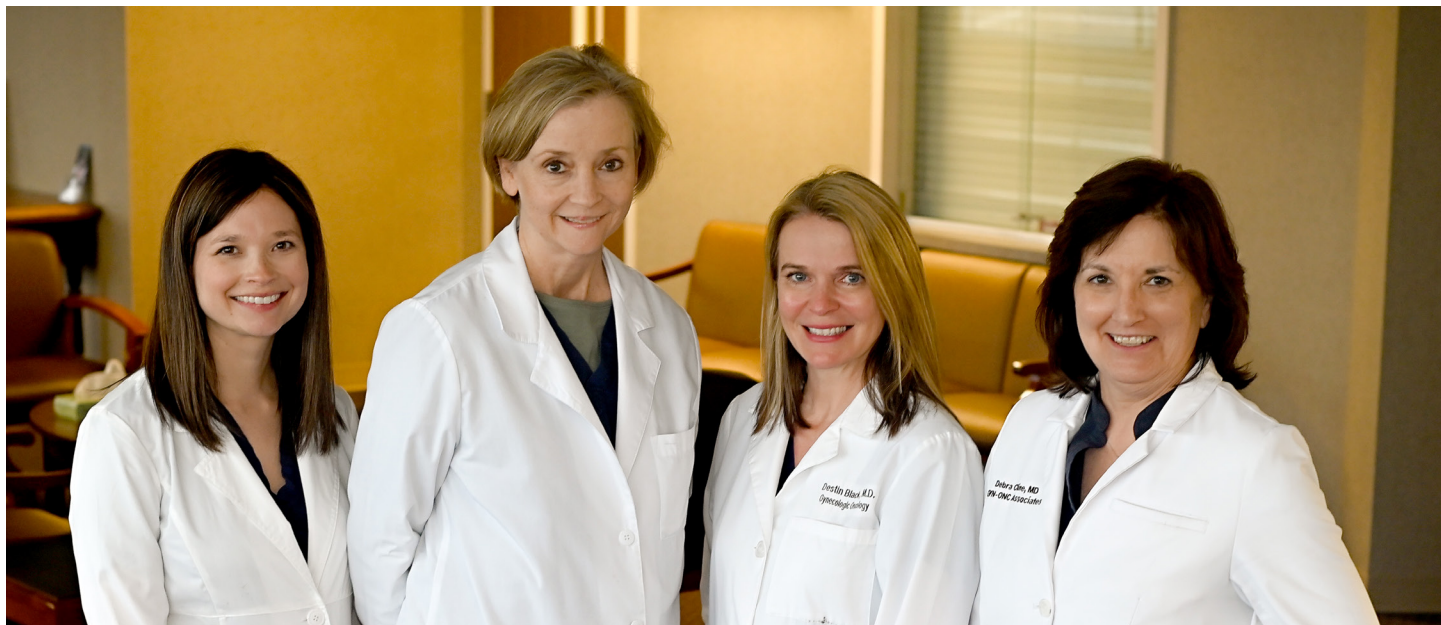
Cancer clinical trials allow patients the opportunity to receive the latest targeted and immunotherapy treatments that otherwise may not be available.

For example, the **RUBY** trial in conjunction with gynecologic oncology was a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy to treat advanced

endometrial cancer. As the first treatment to improve survival for advanced endometrial cancer in about 20 years, RUBY is the new standard of care for this condition. Dr. Chip McDonald was sub-investigator for the RUBY trial at Willis Knighton, the second highest enroller in all North America.

FIRST is another combination chemotherapy and immunotherapy trial that was a collaboration between primary investigator Dr. Destin Black and sub-investigator Dr. Chip McDonald. This trial for patients with ovarian cancer or fallopian tube cancer is expected to have promising results.

New team member: The hematology/oncology team welcomed Kevin Gallagher, MD, in 2022. Dr. Gallagher specializes in the treatment of blood disorders such as anemia and rare bone marrow diseases, as well as cancers of the lung, liver, stomach, pancreas, kidney, bladder and prostate.



Gynecologic Oncology

▲ Gynecologic oncology is a highly specialized medical field that focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of cancers affecting the female reproductive system.

This includes cancers of the cervix, uterus, ovary, vagina, vulva and fallopian tube. The treatment options available are tailored to the type of cancer and the extent to which it has spread and may include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy or immunotherapy.

Gynecologic Oncology Associates at Willis Knighton is a team of highly skilled medical professionals with two board certified gynecologists and a board certified gynecologic oncologist. They specialize in performing minimally invasive robotic surgeries for eligible patients and have developed a comprehensive surveillance program for cancer survivors. The program focuses on important issues such as smoking cessation, sexual health following cancer treatments and clinical research trials. Women with gynecologic cancers can participate in national and international clinical trials through Trials365, LLC, which operates within Willis Knighton Cancer Center. This provides patients an

opportunity to receive cutting edge therapies, such as novel immunotherapy treatments. In June 2023, the New England Journal of Medicine released an article announcing a major breakthrough in the fight against advanced endometrial cancer.

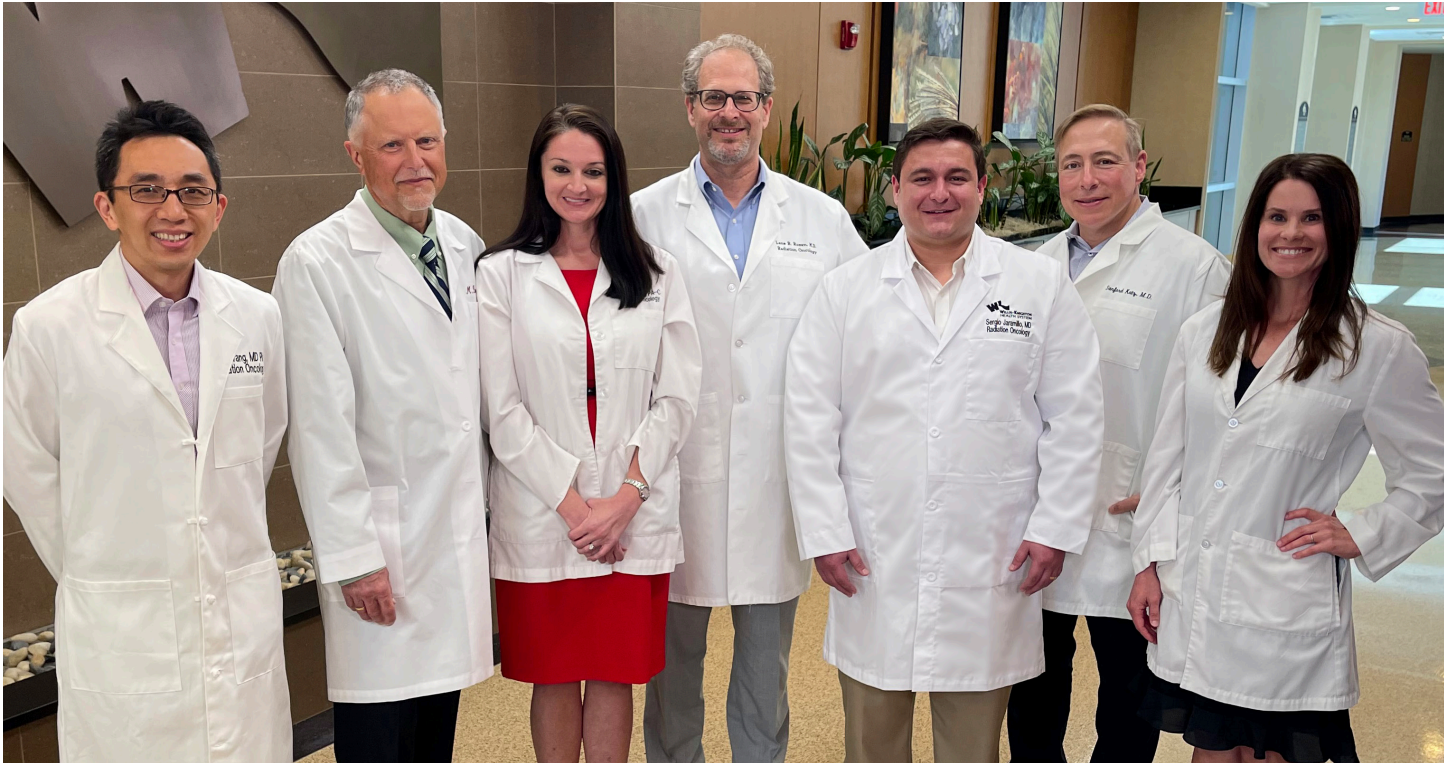
The article, coauthored by Dr. Destin Black, highlighted the positive results of a phase 3, global, double blind, randomized, placebo controlled trial that tested the combined effects of chemotherapy and immunotherapy. The RUBY trial demonstrated a significant increase in progression free survival, meaning that eligible patients experienced more time without their condition deteriorating. This development is a promising breakthrough and is considered the new standard of care for treatment of advanced endometrial cancer, giving hope to patients and their loved ones.

GYN oncology innovations:

- Minimally invasive robotic procedures
- Clinical trials
- Genetic testing

wkgynonc.com

Radiation Oncology



▲ Cancer patients receive cutting edge treatments with the most advanced treatment equipment and techniques from a knowledgeable team. The radiation oncology team at Willis Knighton Cancer Center delivers the most accurate radiation treatments to patients every day.

Dedicated members of the team include:

- **Radiation oncologists** are physicians who prescribe radiotherapy and oversee the powerful treatment that kills cancer cells with high energy X-rays or particles. The methods used at Willis Knighton Cancer Center Radiation Oncology target unhealthy cancer cells while sparing normal healthy tissues sitting nearby. From beginning to end, the radiation oncologist customizes treatment to effectively treat disease while easing treatment related side effects.
- **Medical dosimetrists** create the complex treatment plans that our radiation therapy machines deliver. Dosimetrists work alongside radiation oncologists to tailor a plan for each patient's specific treatment needs for both external beam radiation and brachytherapy, which is an internal source of radiation.
- **Medical physicists** are clinicians and scientists who ensure overall quality, accuracy and safety of the treatment. They make certain that the radiation equipment delivering the plan and the overall radiation therapy process is safe and precise. Medical physicists often work behind the scenes but are directly involved in patient care during the simulation, planning and delivery of special procedures like high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy and stereotactic radiosurgery.
- **Radiation therapists and nurses** spend the most time with patients throughout treatment. Radiation therapists operate the equipment and help ensure proper radiation exposure for effective treatment and safety. Together with nurses, they position patients for treatment, comfort them and answer questions.



Developments in radiation oncology:

Proton therapy

- A high tech alternative to X-ray radiation. Targeted protons use a lower entrance dose than traditional radiation and deliver their dose inside a tumor or designated organ, leaving adjacent tissues unaffected. As we broaden our ability to image a patient's tumor and healthy tissue, the use of proton therapy allows for a level of precision available in very few centers around the world. The Willis Knighton team is positioned as a leader in this expanding field.

As the 14th American proton center and the first community hospital in the world to offer compact intensity modulated proton therapy (IMPT), Willis Knighton continues to be home to Louisiana's only proton therapy center. Patients across the United States and even from other countries travel to Willis Knighton for proton therapy, with the 1,000th patient treated April 1, 2022. While fewer American patients received healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic, treatment services at the Willis Knighton proton therapy center continued uninterrupted. Willis Knighton Radiation Oncology marks 10 years of successful proton therapy in September 2024.

Radiopharmaceuticals and precision medicine

- **Lutathera:** A radioligand therapy that is the first in a class of drugs to enter specific cancer cells of rare neuroendocrine tumors and deposit tumor killing energy like a smart bomb.
- **Pluvicto:** A new option for men with metastatic prostate cancer. Designed for select patients who do not respond to other therapies, this highly targeted radiopharmaceutical delivers ultra precise particles to all involved disease sites across the body. As the first center in the Ark-La-Tex to offer this therapy, Pluvicto advances Willis Knighton's prostate cancer program.
- **Artificial intelligence:** Our dosimetrists, physicists and physicians began using the Limbus AI system to enhance treatment and improve outcomes. Limbus AI uses learning algorithms to help distinguish healthy tissue from diseased tissue during the treatment planning process. Limbus has significantly improved the ability to spare critical healthy structures from radiation exposure. Willis Knighton recently hosted a national seminar for this technology.

Technology upgrades

- In July 2020, the department installed a dual energy capable Philips CT simulator. This CT scanner was the first of its model type in the world.





- An Accuray Radixact unit replaced our existing TomoTherapy IMRT machine in November 2021. We performed the world's first clinical ClearRT kVCT imaging on the Radixact platform in 2022 after assisting with the development of ClearRT, which allows for nearly diagnostic quality daily patient treatment images. The result is improved precision and patient immobilization.
- In August 2022, Radiation Oncology commissioned a new version of our multi-leaf collimator and cone based Brainlab treatment planning system to fully embrace the Brainlab Elements treatment planning suite. This allows for faster, more accurate, high dose stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) for brain and spinal tumors. In conjunction with this upgrade, we also commissioned an SRS mapcheck system for precision quality assurance measurements of each patient's SRS treatment plan.
- Also in 2022, the department installed a new Elekta Flexitron HDR brachytherapy afterloader for internal radiation treatments. The new unit reduces treatment time and offers an improved safety profile for patients.

Medical Physics



Bethany Broekhoven, MS



Troy Jacobs, MS

New team members: The medical physics team welcomed two new staff physicists, Bethany Broekhoven, MS, in 2021, and Troy Jacobs, MS, in 2022, following the retirement of longtime team member Joseph Syh, PhD.



Joseph Dugas, PhD, DABR

Leadership in the medical physics community: Joseph Dugas, PhD, DABR, served as president of the Southwest Regional Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine in 2020 and completed a three year term as past president in 2021.



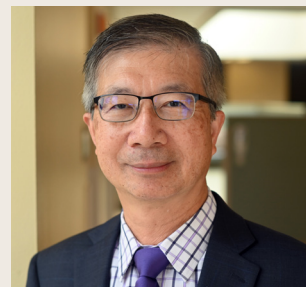
Yohan Walter, MS



Anne Hubbard, MS

Medical physics residency: Our accredited two year residency program emphasizes hands on training in a clinical environment. Training includes clinic visits, academic research and projects related to a medical physics career. As one of three affiliates of a combined medical physics consortium along with Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Baton Rouge and University of Mississippi Medical Center, the program develops world class medical physicists who are prepared to enter the workforce. Each affiliate selects candidates from a common applicant pool and provides most of the required resident training. Supplemental experiences are offered by affiliates (proton workshops at Willis Knighton, total body irradiation at UMMC, total skin electron therapy at Mary Bird). This consortium allows broader training than would be possible at any single site.

Medical physics education: Residency program director Joseph Dugas, PhD, DABR, and chief medical physicist Terry Wu, PhD, DABR, consulted with Louisiana Tech University to help develop the school's undergraduate concentration in medical physics. The joint program is taught at both Louisiana Tech and Willis Knighton Cancer Center.



Terry Wu, PhD, DABR



Clinical Research

▲ Clinical research is essential to advance cancer treatments and increase survival.

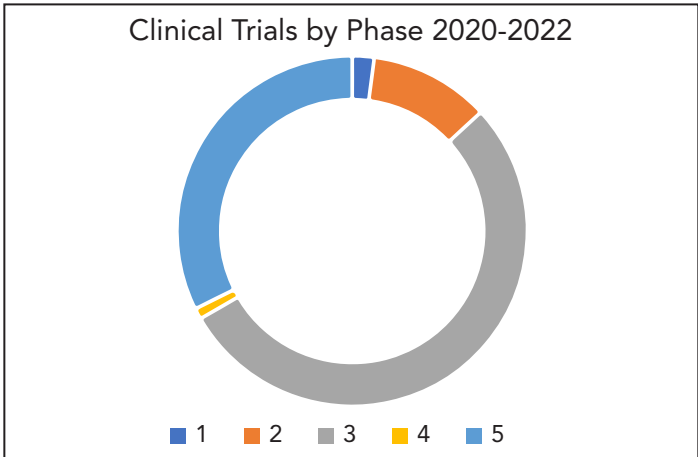
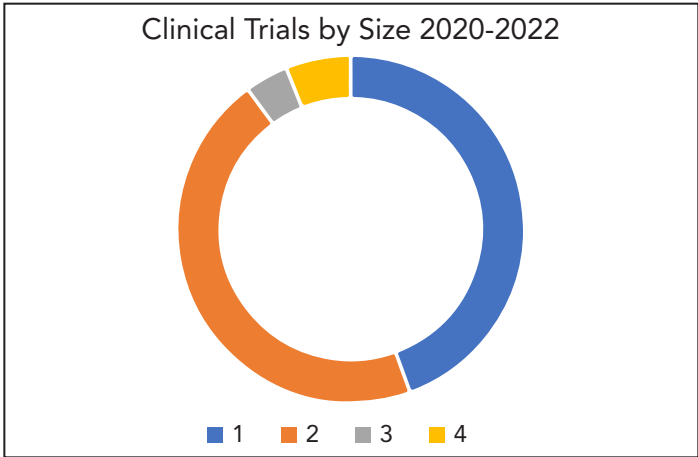
Oncology clinical trials improve the current standard of care as researchers discover new ways to prevent, detect, diagnose and treat cancers throughout the body. They test new and different uses of medications, radiation, surgery, immunotherapy and even complementary lifestyle therapies. The findings ultimately mean a longer and stronger quality of life when people have cancer.

Today, people live longer after successful cancer treatments that are the result of past clinical trials. From 2020 to 2022, 648 patients at Willis Knighton Cancer Center enrolled in 45 different clinical trials. Innovations in cancer clinical research provide WK physicians and patients with the most up-to-date treatments available.



2020-2022 Clinical Trial Treatment Sites

SITE	2020	2021	2022
Prostate	86	89	72
GYN	41	32	20
Brain	19	13	10
Head and neck	18	13	23
Breast	15	31	27
Lung	12	14	20
Liver	9	1	5
Blood/Bone Marrow	8	4	5
Colon	5	0	4
Pancreas	4	2	2
Esophagus	3	0	2
Rectal/Anal	2	7	5
Renal	2	0	0
Spine	1	2	3
Bladder	1	0	0
Thyroid	1	0	0
Skin	0	1	0
Other	3	5	6





Genetic Testing and Familial Risk Assessment

▲ Detect, prevent and reduce the risk of cancer with WK resources like genetic testing and familial risk assessment.

In hereditary cancer, increased risk is passed down in a family via genes. For example, nearly one in four women with ovarian cancer and one in eight women with uterine cancer have genetic variants shared with family members. Approximately five to 10% of colorectal cancer patients have a genetic risk for the disease.

At Willis Knighton Cancer Center, about 15% of our patients carry inherited mutations. In addition to genetics, about 30% of our patients have a close family member who also had cancer, which suggests a familial link even though no specific hereditary link can be found. Families benefit from comprehensive genetics education as the program assesses their overall risk.

Mary Nordberg, PhD, CGRA, is Willis Knighton's genetics expert. She works with many departments, including all medical oncologists, hematologists and staff to assess patient risks for genetic cancer variants. Genetic risk assessment/testing is required

for Commission on Cancer accreditation, with clinical genetics testing and management guidelines established by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Early intervention saves lives.

Genetic testing available for many types of cancer (not inclusive)	2022 By the numbers	
	Referrals across WKHS	652
	Genetic tests completed	475
	Variants (pathogenic)	99 (21%)
	Family/personal risk assessments	56
	Genetics education only	65

Know your genetic risk. Create a plan.

Prevent cancer entirely.

Identify cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage.

Manage cancer throughout treatment.

Multidisciplinary Cancer Conferences



▲ Regular meetings of cancer doctors, nurses, social workers and other health professionals improve the quality of care patients receive.

Medical professionals discuss patient cases to recommend treatment plans, including clinical trials when appropriate. A patient’s history, diagnostic testing and pathology review are all considered for the treatment plan. Appropriate staging is discussed when necessary. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) treatment guidelines are referenced to ensure patients receive the best available standard of care.

Type of Conference	Number of Conferences	Number of Cases Presented
General cancer	40	92
Breast cancer	19	74
Hepatobiliary cancer	42	201
Head and neck cancer (started mid-year)	4	20
Total	105	387

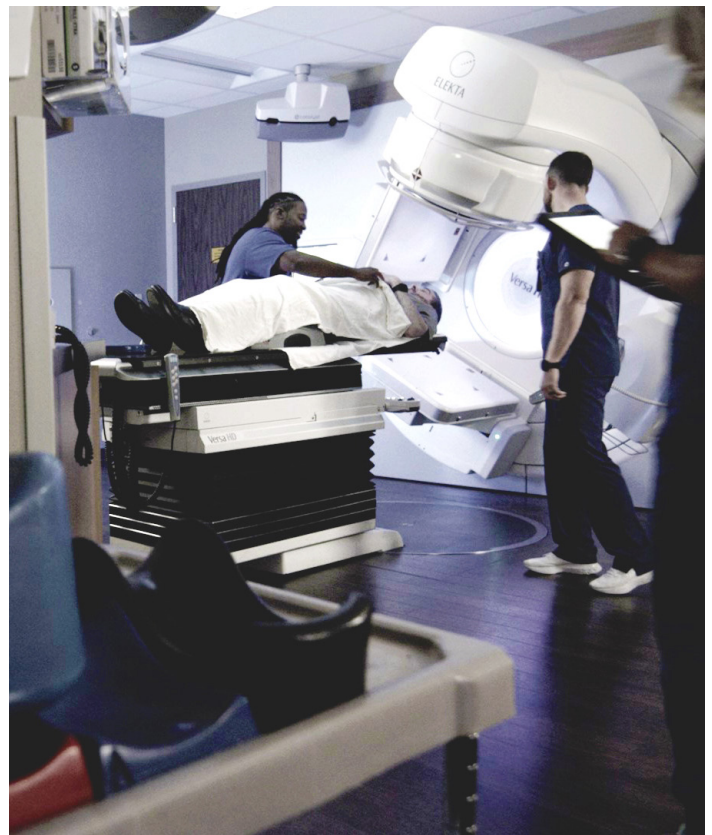
Cancer Registry

▲ With cancer as the second leading cause of death in the U.S. for more than a decade, cancer data helps us understand how we're making progress in this battle.

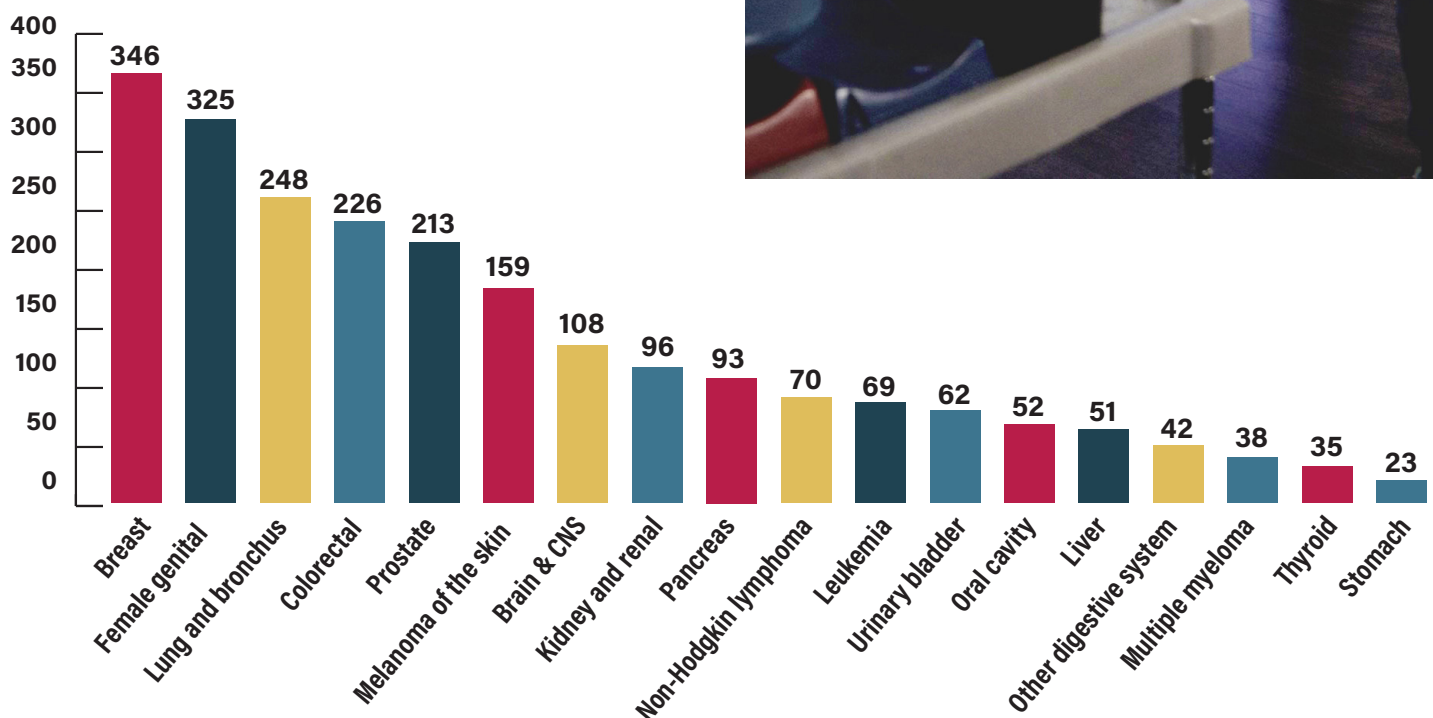
The cancer registry collects comprehensive data on cancer cases from diagnosis all the way to survivorship to identify trends, improve cancer care and ultimately reduce the cancer burden on our community. It includes a complete summary of each patient's history, diagnosis, treatment and status throughout his or her life. The data is used internally as well as reported to local, regional, state, national and global cancer agencies for use in the planning and evaluation of cancer prevention and control programs. All registry statistics are from 2021.

Origin of Cases by Parish 2021

Number of Cases	
Caddo	762
Bossier	590
Webster	137
Out of State	180
DeSoto	93
Ouachita	83
Natchitoches	67
Bienville	65



Cancer Cases by Site 2021



How does cancer in Louisiana compare to the U.S.?

Incidence rates for new cancer cases among all races and ethnicities, 2016-2020.

State and national figures are per 100,000 people, age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

	MEN		WOMEN	
Cancer Type	Louisiana	USA	Louisiana	USA
All sites	550	481	424.7	416
Brain	6.8	8	4.8	5
Breast	N/A	N/A	127.5	127
Cervix	N/A	N/A	8.8	8
Colon and rectum	51.7	42	38.2	32
Uterus	N/A	N/A	21.1	27
Esophagus	8	8	1.7	2
Kidney and renal	30.9	23	15.9	12
Larynx	8.2	5	2.1	1
Liver and intrahepatic bile duct	16.8	13	5.1	5
Lung and bronchus	75.4	61	50.6	49
Melanoma of the skin	23.5	29	13.1	18
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	22.2	23	15.6	15
Oral cavity and pharynx	20.1	18	6.9	7
Ovary	N/A	N/A	8.6	10
Pancreas	15.9	15	12.8	12
Prostate	138.2	111	N/A	N/A
Stomach	9	8	4.7	5

Tribute to Willis Knighton Cancer Center Visionary, Robert Nickelson, MD

The early inspiration and leadership of Dr. Robert Nickelson set the tenor of success for Willis Knighton Cancer Center. As early as 1996, Dr. Nickelson began working part time with Willis Knighton as part of a combined effort with LSU Health Sciences Center to ease the burden of cancer in Shreveport-Bossier City and the Ark-La-Tex. He later transitioned to practicing full time at Willis Knighton as a hematologist/oncologist treating all types of cancer. Over time, his practice narrowed to specialize in the treatment of breast cancer.

Patients were fond of Dr. Nickelson's folksy, easy going bedside manner. Colleagues appreciated his deep understanding of cancer and especially breast cancer, which continues to be the largest cancer diagnosis at Willis Knighton. Radiation oncologist Dr. Lane Rosen teamed up with Dr. Nickelson to treat breast cancer patients for more than two decades. "I certainly miss his companionship, patient care experience and his leadership," Dr. Rosen said.

In addition to treating patients, Dr. Nickelson was a mentor for younger physicians as they joined the practice. "He was a source of objective, thoughtful advice and wisdom," said hematologist/oncologist Dr. Chip McDonald, who worked with Dr. Nickelson for 15 years. "His mission was to make Willis Knighton Cancer Center the largest and best in the region, and I believe he succeeded," McDonald said. "Mostly, I miss his friendship and sense of humor." Ready to spend more time with his grandchildren and flyfishing, Dr. Nickelson retired in 2021. He was a patient advocate and a strong believer in the future of Willis Knighton Cancer Center for 25 years.





Treating the Whole Person //////////

▲ **Patient and family centered support services fulfill our WK promise to patients and the community:**

- Reduce barriers to quality healthcare right here at home
- Provide the highest level of cancer care using Willis Knighton Cancer Center expertise, treatment and technology
- Empower people with resources to take charge of their health
- Elevate health across our region

When hit with a cancer diagnosis, patients are affected physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually and financially. As a comprehensive community cancer center, our multidisciplinary care teams support patients and families across the spectrum, taking care of things that could hinder the healthcare they need. From beginning to end, we offer services to care for the whole person.

The day starts with a smile when Mr. Ed, our patient greeter, provides a warm welcome at the door and directs patients to the correct location. His kindness, compassion and energy kindle hope and emotional

strength, just what patients need as they get ready for treatment.

- **Navigation services.** Patients and caregivers have a ton of questions about treatment, like how to set up regular appointments and how to get medications. The intake coordinator gets patients started in the treatment process. Clinic nurses, front desk staff and care managers assist patients and families with various needs throughout the treatment journey.
- **Social services care manager.** Care managers partner with patients and loved ones to address psychological, economic and social barriers. They empower patients to identify and build on personal strengths, practice self-care and create a personal support network. Care managers assist patients with referrals to rehab services so they can regain independence. Insurance may cover some of these services and others are provided free to our cancer patients, like chair yoga. Social services care managers also provide links to external assistance programs for counseling, advance care planning, home care, local lodging and transportation services, as well as support for employment concerns during treatment.

Cancer education – Empowering patients for treatment success

- **Lifestyle classes.** Address topics such as symptom control, stress management, nutrition and lifestyle changes of value during and after treatment.
- **Chemo 101.** Erase the fears and uncertainty when patients learn how to prepare for chemo, changes to expect and tips for a better quality of life.
- **Radiation 101.** Online materials highlight the process of radiation therapy and coping strategies.
- **Proton therapy new patient orientation.** Receive a special tour by a licensed proton therapist.
- **Cancer resource library.** Browse books, pamphlets and flyers to learn about a diagnosis, treatment options including clinical trials, and survivorship.
- **Genetic and familial risk.** Our genetics educator helps patients know if their cancer diagnosis has a genetic influence, or if there is a familial or environmental risk. Find additional treatment options and learn what family members can do to reduce their risk of cancer.
- **Support groups.** The cancer journey brings emotional and daily life challenges that are often best addressed with fellow patients and caregivers who have similar diagnoses. Leaders of each group can recognize and provide psychosocial support and distress screening. Support groups are an avenue to think out loud about diagnosis, values, treatment decisions and wishes for the future. Likewise, family caregivers also benefit from having time with other caregivers who share similar questions, worries and successes.
- **Spiritual services.** Care, comfort and compassion. Spiritual health combines with physical and emotional health to serve every person's well-being. Whether a patient, doctor, nurse or family member, WK spiritual care services reflect the diverse needs of our WK community. Care managers connect people with a member of our spiritual care team upon request.
- **Financial advocacy.** Our team helps patients locate financial resources for cancer treatment. Financial advocates help WK patients connect with insurance companies, access copayment for oral drugs and IV drugs, determine eligibility and apply for Willis Knighton's financial assistance program.
- **Nutrition services.** Food is medicine. The body needs nutritional support to help fight against cancer and get well. A registered dietitian shares nutrition strategies to help with changing dietary needs during chemo and radiation therapy. This includes tips to navigate monetary challenges that food and nutrition support may present.
- **Rehabilitation care services.** Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy can help overcome limitations in movement, daily activities (e.g. dressing and bathing), problem solving, speech, swallowing and more as patients move beyond cancer.
- **Survivorship services.** Survivorship begins on Day 1 when diagnosed with cancer and continues throughout treatment and beyond. Patients undergoing treatment and in remission have access to many resources and programs helpful for the healing journey. The National Cancer Survivors Day event with a resource fair is a "one stop shop" for patients to find and ask questions about services offered across Willis Knighton Health and our community.



Survivorship



Survivorship begins on Day 1 when you are diagnosed with cancer. Patients undergoing treatment and in remission have access to many resources and programs

to assist with the healing journey. The Survivors Day celebration is a time when cancer patients and long-time survivors gather together to celebrate the Greatest Life on Earth, our theme in 2022. Patients and families get to visit their doctors and nurses, and hear doctors share tips for life beyond cancer. The event is combined with a resource fair that showcases helpful services offered at the cancer center and across the health system.

Community Partnerships

Caddo-Bossier Cancer Foundation League

Emotional and financial assistance brings joy and helps make ongoing cancer treatments possible. Caddo-Bossier Cancer Foundation League provided \$330,353 support for 761 new patients who made 6,729 treatment visits during 2020-2022. Patients in need received gas cards, bus passes, taxi vouchers and lodging support. Many patients travel from all across Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas and as far away as Colorado to receive state-of-the-art treatments like proton therapy. The independent 501(c)3 organization began in 2011 by local cancer survivors sensitive to the needs of cancer patients. It is operated by volunteers and depends on donor support.

American Cancer Society

With a mission to end cancer as we know it, American Cancer Society generously supports treatment and prevention programs. They ease the burden of travel for cancer patients who travel 40+ miles for regular treatments with gas cards and taxi vouchers. ACS also works with hotels to provide free nights when treatment is needed on consecutive days. During 2020-2022, social service care managers at Willis Knighton Cancer Center made 998 ACS referrals for patients to receive gas cards, taxi vouchers and lodging for treatment visits.



Keeping Patients Warm

Harvey Subaru covers cancer patients in warmth and kindness as part of the Subaru Loves to Care campaign. The dealership is a loyal community partner working with the American Cancer Society and Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to spread hope, love and warmth. Chemotherapy often takes hours each visit and patients are in a cold environment. In 2022, Harvey Subaru donated boxes of blankets, arts and crafts kits, and masks for patients to use during their cancer treatment.



