



The voice of *hope*

Advancing care together

Building a cancer center designed by cancer patients

Mercy Cancer Center | Oklahoma City



There are 1.6 million new cases of cancer in the U.S. each year. One in three women and one in four men in Oklahoma will be diagnosed with cancer, resulting in 18,000 new cases a year.



Inside these pages you'll see the pictures and words of people who shared their experience with cancer, both the ups and the downs. Their words have helped us to plan a cancer center truly focused on the patient and caregivers.



For too many people, the cancer experience becomes a reality each year.

Patients and their families have to quickly become familiar with a whole new world. We wanted to better understand this world and how it affects our patients and their families. So, we talked to lots of patients and we asked questions. And our patients had a lot to share.

No matter where they lived, no matter what type of cancer, no matter their background, they told us there are five basic fundamental truths to the cancer experience.

- **Diagnosis is unforgettable.**
- **Treatment is overwhelming.**
- **Cancer makes the little things big.**
- **Cancer is a community.**
- **The new normal.**

These five fundamentals were so strongly expressed that Mercy is designing all of our cancer services around the voices we heard.

Mercy's new cancer center in Oklahoma City is being designed with the voice of our patients and their loved ones in mind. From the design of the building to the services within, this building represents what patients need during one of the most difficult times in their lives.

What did we learn?

Diagnosis is *unforgettable*

A moment never forgotten ... even 15 to 20 years after remission.

Patients can remember the details and emotions they felt in those moments of diagnosis. That's why support and coordination needs to begin from the start.

Mercy's new Oklahoma City Cancer Center will provide immediate and ongoing support for the patient. All services are in one place, making it easier for the patient and their loved ones to focus on getting the information and help they need. This continuity of care will allow patients and families to receive the best care without leaving Oklahoma City or the state. Services, resources and amenities include:

Cancer Center

- Radiation oncology
- Medical oncology
- Infusion
- Cancer resource center with library
- Nutritional counseling
- Appearance boutique
- Surgical oncology
- Patient navigation
- Pharmacy
- Lab

Breast Center

- Mammography
- Breast MRI
- Genetic testing
- Bone density
- Stereotactic

Cancer Imaging Services

- CT (computed tomography)
- PET/CT (positron emission tomography)
- MRI
- Nuclear medicine
- Ultrasound

Amenities

- Prayer chapel and pastoral care
- Conference and education center
- Café
- Gift shop with specialty clothing, hats and other cancer care items
- Healing gardens
- Valet parking



It was a whirlwind.

"I kept having to ask what my plan was because I was in a whirlwind. It was hard to get it all written when they were rattling it off, so that I can look up my treatments, what to expect. They handed me this stack of books when I was diagnosed. I didn't have time to read all of that and wasn't sure what to look up."

- Angela G.



What did we learn?

Treatment is *overwhelming*

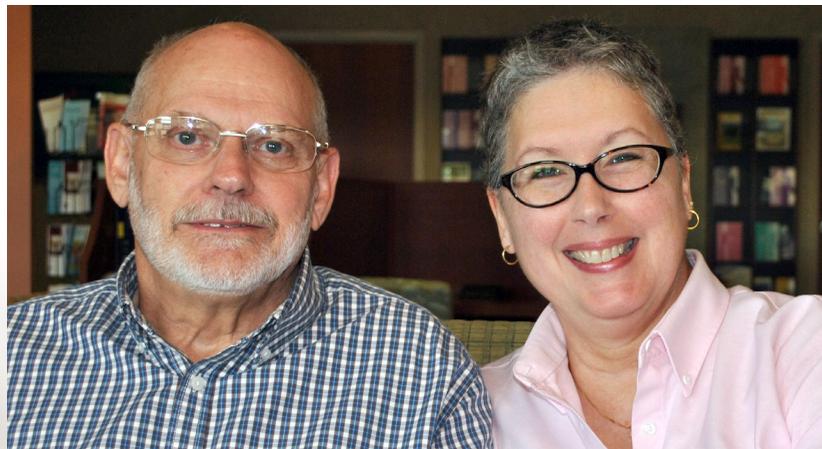
There are many decisions to make and a lot of information. Patients need dedicated oncology providers to help them navigate.

Mercy's new Oklahoma City Cancer Center is designed to make it easier for patients and their families to get the help they need navigating cancer care. A care coordinator, serving as a resource for patients and their families, will shepherd a patient and family through diagnosis, treatment and beyond. The coordinator will also work with the medical team to help patients get answers to questions, access to specialists and coordinate other services.

Support and education will help patients make informed decisions about their health in a variety of ways.

- What to expect at various points in treatment.
- Making and coordinating appointments.
- Clinical education.
- Care options for pain management and other symptoms.

- Emotional and spiritual support.
- Patient and family networking opportunities like support groups.
- Access to outside resources like the American Cancer Society.
- Insurance and billing issues.
- Help with transportation.



I wasn't prepared.

"No matter how the doctor describes the treatment, it doesn't prepare you for what actually happens. You learn you can't control the process. Having a notebook where we could store her information, a book about her cancer and nurses we could talk to all helped."

- Tom H.

"We made a commitment to see this through to the end together. When there were too many people, too many questions, too many side effects, he was my advocate through it all. He had the harder job, taking care of me. It's important that he's not an afterthought, that he's taken care of, too."

- Dela H.

What did we learn?

Cancer makes the little things *big*

Patients find all the little things that were no big deal before cancer become magnified after their diagnosis. Whether it's feeling a sense of loss when they can no longer take care of themselves, struggling to find a ride to the many treatments they have, or increasing financial burdens, cancer magnifies everything.

The big things also translate to the very environment where they get their treatments and care. Mercy is designing a cancer center that will transform the experience for our patients to help minimize their stress. In addition to all the services being housed together to help ease physical navigation, the spaces have been designed to give them choice.

Patients have told us they want a more comfortable infusion experience. The new Mercy cancer center offers patients the choice of reclining chairs, to stroll the hallways, relax in rooftop garden or even a more private space. They'll have the ability to control lighting, temperature and sound to their liking.



Support when it's needed

With the stress of a cancer diagnosis and all that comes with it, spiritual and emotional support becomes very important. Mercy's cancer center will also offer a prayer chapel along with chaplains dedicated to helping and supporting patients and their loved ones.

The big things are really big.

"Even during treatment, I wasn't sure what to eat sometimes or how to cook it. It was hard to figure out how to cook some of the new things we had to eat. And there are things you can't eat. Having a dietician and cooking classes would have been nice to help me through that. "

- Terry B.

What did we learn?

Cancer is a *community*

One of the biggest surprises for many cancer patients and their loved ones is the community they find as they go through treatment. Whether it's the regular group of chemo buddies you see every week or the people who share the same radiation oncology treatment times each day, they found cancer offered a community they never expected.

Mercy's cancer center has been designed to offer patients the ability to be as connected as they want to be. Along with support groups and meeting spaces, the center also offers infusion spaces that support patients in creating a community.

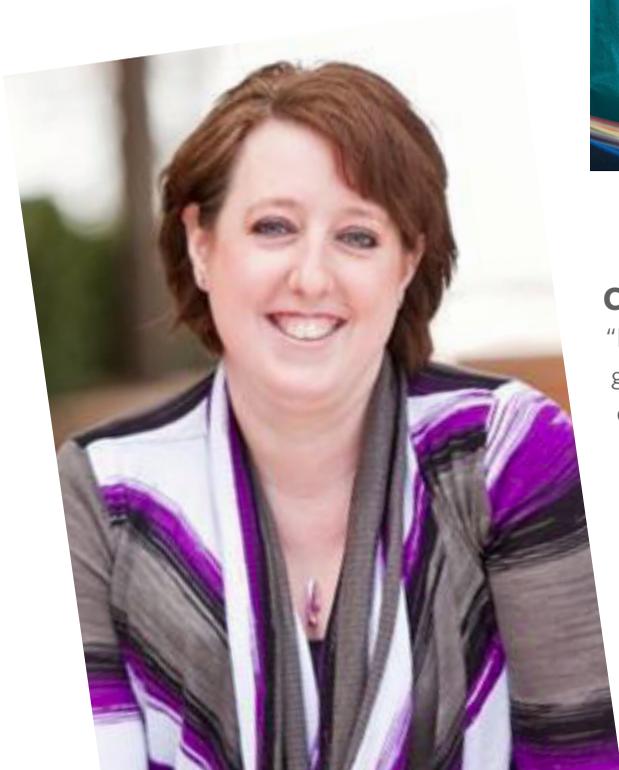
Mercy's new cancer center will be home to medical oncologists, like Dr. Vikki Canfield (right), and many other specialists.



Chemo buddies.

"I think the biggest shock for me ... as far as a good thing ... is that the treatment room was a community. We made very strong bonds and very good friends. I found I was looking forward to chemo. I asked my mom, 'Am I crazy that I'm looking forward to Thursday?'"

- Michele N.



What did we learn?

The new *normal*

Now what? More patients than ever before are surviving cancer, but they find that when they've finished treatment they are faced with a new normal: life after cancer. Transitioning from a life surrounded by health care providers to only seeing doctors and nurses every couple of months can be shocking.

There are many questions, and Mercy's new cancer center is designed to help them find

answers through a survivorship program and classes with trained professionals. This focus on survivorship includes:

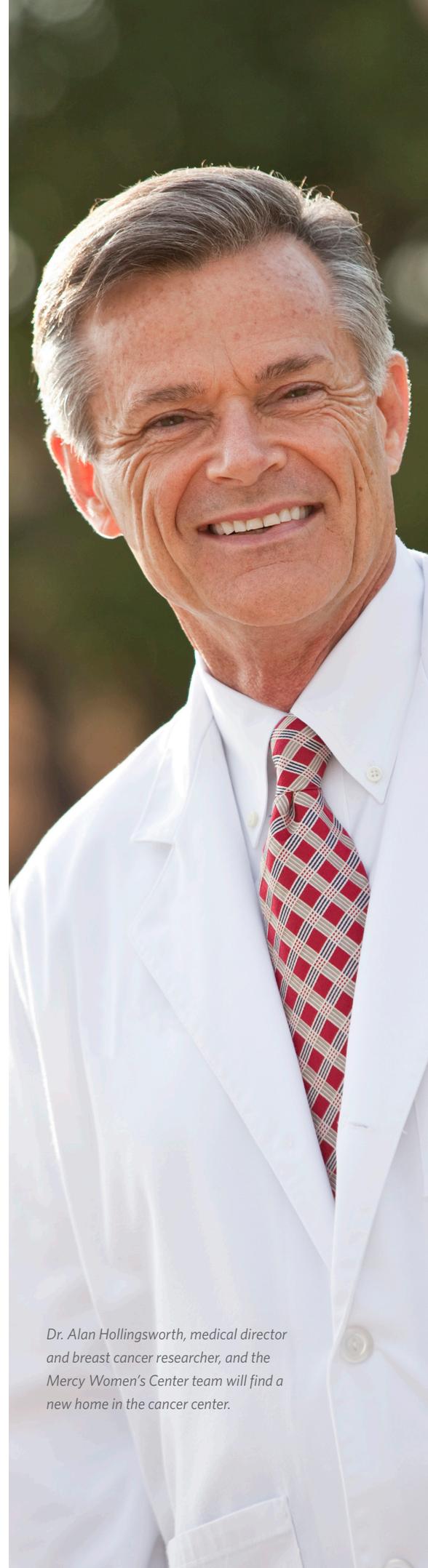
- Nutritional counseling.
- Exercise planning.
- Emotional and spiritual support.
- Access to follow-up care questions with oncologists and care coordinators.
- Access to a mentoring program allowing them to help others through their cancer journey.

One day at a time.

"I just recently hit the 10-year mark as a cancer survivor. It is huge celebration for me, but nothing went back to 'normal' after my cancer treatment. Going from seeing your doctors and nurses every day to only every few months or once a year is scary. You worry about the cancer returning. You wonder if you should be eating, exercising or doing other things differently. Life after cancer is your goal throughout treatment, but it can be overwhelming when you're finally facing it."

– Jill G.

Jill is Chair of Mercy's community campaign.



Dr. Alan Hollingsworth, medical director and breast cancer researcher, and the Mercy Women's Center team will find a new home in the cancer center.

We invite your *partnership*

Mercy comes from a body of beliefs – firmly rooted in Oklahoma City since 1884 when the Sisters of Mercy traveled to the West for the sole purpose of providing medicine and care to those in need.

Almost 130 years later, that mission continues – bringing enhanced cancer care with the same sense of mission and service. Mercy's \$50 million investment includes new infrastructure, skilled health care professionals and advanced technologies so patients can receive convenient, continuous, streamlined care in a compassionate manner.

An opportunity for partnership

Philanthropy is as integral to Mercy's fabric as are our highly skilled health care providers and advanced medical technologies. Mercy Cancer Center presents an opportunity for you, too, to make a tremendous difference in our community. **We cannot do it alone.** When you make a gift to the Cancer Center, not only will you simplify and improve the lives of cancer patients, you'll simplify and improve the lives of their families and friends.

Mercy Health Foundation seeks to raise an additional \$20 million for programs and construction of a new Cancer Center. Your philanthropic support will help Mercy bring a whole new system of cancer care to our community – high-quality care that comprehensively meets the needs of cancer patients and their families.

We invite you to be our partner and support our mission. Your commitment combined with Mercy's visionary plans will make it possible.

Legacy

The Sisters of Mercy never dreamed their harrowing journey into Oklahoma Territory to teach school and care for the sick would lead to the life-saving miracles that happen in health care today.

Catherine McAuley, Mercy Foundress, never imagined her ministry on the streets of Dublin, Ireland, nearly two centuries ago would reach around the world to Oklahoma Territory.

Today, Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City continues the Sisters of Mercy legacy of goodness, faith, courage and service to others.

What we choose to do at any given moment may become the legacy we leave. Our journey will influence generations to come in ways we can only imagine.



Mercy Mission | As the Sisters of Mercy before us, we bring to life the healing ministry of Jesus through our compassionate care and exceptional service.

Building upon *strength*

We're dedicated to ensuring each patient experiences the highest level of care and service possible. As a health care leader, we place our focus on tomorrow even as we strive for excellence today. With our new cancer center, we're planning now, just as we did for our other existing health programs and services, to provide enhanced care every day for all who come to us - our families, our friends, our neighbors.

In 2002, Mercy partnered with premier cardiologists in Oklahoma City and established Oklahoma Heart Hospital. Oklahoma Heart Hospital is ranked among the top 5 percent of hospitals in the United States for cardiovascular care.

In 2013, Mercy's team of highly skilled neuroscience specialists - neurosurgeons, neurologists, psychiatrists, interventional

radiologists, and technicians - was awarded an Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center certification, transforming the care of stroke patients. Mercy was one of the first 15 hospitals in the nation to earn this esteemed recognition and the only health care system in Oklahoma.

Mercy is a leader in high-risk breast cancer assessment, breast imaging and research. The American College of Surgeons consistently gives Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City the highest level of accreditation for non-university hospitals and identifies ours as one of the top cancer treatment programs in the United States for both inpatient and outpatient care. When our new cancer center is complete, our cancer care will be all the better.

Thank you for your support!



Mercy's comprehensive cancer program will be housed in the new 86,000-square-foot, \$69-million facility, which makes up the first two floors. An additional 42,000 square feet of shelled space will be included on the third floor for future growth.



"It is important to me to give to an organization with a mission that I believe in. Mercy - and its cancer program - are just that. They are focused on the patient. Hope and compassion are the things that carry patients through difficult times - these are the things Mercy does exceptionally well."

- Jose Freede

Mrs. Freede is Honorary Chair of Mercy's community campaign.

Mercy Health Foundation

P.O. Box 3266 | Oklahoma City, OK 73101
405-486-8775 | mercy.net