A Powerful New Tool for Patients Fighting Cancer

Albany Med patients now have one of the most advanced tools available in the U.S. for treating serious and complex tumors.

The TrueBeam linear accelerator is able to deliver powerful cancer treatments with advanced precision—some measured in increments of less than a millimeter. The delivery of these treatments is significantly faster and more effective than those offered by previous technologies.

“We are proud to offer this very advanced therapy option to our patients,” said Susan Gibbons, MD, chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology.

Operated under the guidance of Albany Med’s skilled radiation oncologists, the TrueBeam automatically and continually adjusts for any breathing movement by patients, ensuring that the radiation treatment is targeted only to the intended site. In addition, the system delivers treatment doses at higher rates than previous generations of radiation technology, reducing patients’ treatment times. In some cases, the overall course of treatment can be shortened significantly.

At Albany Med, the TrueBeam will be used to treat tumors of the lung, abdomen, head and neck, breast, prostate, spine and brain, including the most complex tumors that may not otherwise be treatable due to their location in the patient’s body.

New Medical Office in Niskayuna Offers Many Types of Care

Albany Med continued its commitment to bring high-quality care closer to the patients it serves, opening a new medical office complex at 1769 Union Street in Niskayuna on April 1. More than 200 people attended an open house and a ribbon-cutting ceremony held the day before the official opening.

The Niskayuna location features an Albany Med EmUrgentCare on the first floor, where adults and children of all ages can see experts every day of the year for both urgent and non-urgent illnesses and injuries. The building is also the new home of Albany Med’s Community Gastroenterology and Community Surgery groups, formerly located at 2147 Eastern Parkway in Niskayuna.

In addition, the building will house a multi-specialty clinic for Albany Med physicians from several disciplines, a comprehensive blood draw and laboratory operated by Albany Med, and offices of Cardiology Associates of Schenectady, P.C.

Beginning in June, Albany Med surgeons will also offer outpatient endoscopy and ambulatory surgery services on the third floor.
Albany Med Receives State’s Only 5-Tier Rating for Kidney Transplant Outcomes

Albany Medical Center’s kidney transplant program was one of only 30 programs in the nation—and the only one in New York State—to receive the highest possible rating for transplant outcomes, according to The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients. Of the 123 transplants evaluated in the report over a two-and-a-half-year period through December 2015, 100 percent of Albany Med patients who received a kidney from a living donor were alive with a functioning transplant one year after surgery, and 99 percent of recipients who received a kidney from a deceased donor were alive with a functioning transplant at one year. In 2015, the registry found that Albany Med had among the highest three-year kidney transplant graft survival rates in the United States.

Interested in Joining the Albany Med Orchestra and Chorale?

Are you an Albany Med employee or student who plays a musical instrument or enjoys singing in a chorus? Albany Med boasts a chamber orchestra and chorale comprised of faculty, staff and students from Albany Med and the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Join us and share your love of music with your colleagues. The group meets on Wednesday evenings twice a month in Choices Café and performs occasional concerts at Albany Medical Center and in the local community. Professional conductors lead both groups. Rehearsals will resume in September in preparation for holiday performances. To learn more, please contact Martha Lepow, MD, at lepowm@mail.amc.edu.

Strong Show of State Support for Albany Med’s BACC

A regional economic initiative supported by Albany Medical College to bring biomedical innovations to market recently announced it has received New York State Certified Incubator designation and significant funding from the New York State Department of Economic Development.

The Biomedical Accelerator and Commercialization Center (BACC) at Albany Medical College received New York State Certified Incubator designation from the state agency’s Division of Science and Technology. This designation includes up to $125,000 per year for three years and, with successful recertification, potentially five additional years of state funding. In addition, the BACC now joins an existing network of 10 Regional Hot Spots and 10 New York State Certified Business Incubators for sharing ideas and best business practices.

“For the BACC to earn this designation as early as two years into its operation is a tremendous accomplishment,” said Vincent Verdile, MD, ’84, The Lynne and Mark Groban, MD ’67, Distinguished Dean of Albany Medical College and senior executive vice president for System Care Delivery. “This vital funding will further boost the ability to contribute to the region’s business vitality, stimulate job growth and promote the next generation of biomedical-centric innovation that will improve patient outcomes.”

Launched in 2015, the BACC houses medical device and software start-up companies on the Albany Med campus. It offers a variety of assets, including wet lab space, business and financial guidance, as well as connections to world-class researchers, medical talent, industry leaders and more. To date, eight companies and three affiliates are located in the BACC, with the site rapidly reaching its capacity.

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE
Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Symposium
Saturday, June 3, 2017
Hilton Garden Inn — Troy
Osborn Amphitheater
235 Hoosick Street
Troy, New York

Sponsored by the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and the Office of Continuing Medical Education, this symposium is a state-of-the-art review of major clinical topics in pulmonary and critical care. The program is designed for pulmonologists, intensists, primary care physicians, respiratory therapists and nurses. For more information, please contact the Office of Continuing Medical Education at (518) 262-5828.

Why wait?
Keep current on Albany Med happenings through social media.
Join tens of thousands of your friends and colleagues who follow Albany Med every day.
Albany Med’s Cystic Fibrosis Care Center Marks 60-Plus Years in Capital Region

One of the country’s oldest centers dedicated to treating cystic fibrosis (CF) is right here at Albany Medical Center.

When it opened more than 60 years ago, Albany Med’s Cystic Fibrosis Care Center was one of only two in the nation. Today, it is part of a national network of more than 120 centers accredited by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF).

Cystic fibrosis is a progressive, genetic disease that causes persistent lung infections and limits a person’s ability to breathe over time. Approximately 30,000 Americans are living with this chronic disease.

May is Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

While there is no cure, long-term care and treatment options have expanded significantly since patients first began seeking treatment at the center six decades ago. “The genetics of the disease are now understood—they weren’t known at all back then,” said Thomas Smith, MD, interim director for the adult program at the CF Care Center.

Dr. Smith leads a team of nurses, nutritionists and social workers who work closely with nearly 85 adult patients per year, tailoring therapy and treatment plans to each individual’s unique circumstances. The pediatric team, headed by CF Care Center Director Robert Kaslowsky, MD, ’81, serves approximately 110 patients with CF, from birth to about 21 years. The pediatric CF center is where sweat testing is done, to exclude or make CF diagnoses.

Clinical research is another key endeavor at the CF Care Center. Affiliated with the CFF’s Therapeutics Development Network, the largest CF clinical trials network in the world, Albany Med’s researchers actively participate in clinical studies to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new CF therapies.

“Over the past 25 years alone, clinical research has led to the introduction of medications that can partially modify or repair the effects of genetic defects in CF patients, increasing the average life expectancy from 25 years to 40 years,” Dr. Smith said. “And now, with newborn screening, infants with the CF gene can be treated very early in life, so they may never even have to face a CF diagnosis.”

A New Home for Albany Med’s Breast Services

Albany Med’s Breast Surgery Program and Breast Imaging Care Center recently relocated to a shared space on the fourth floor of Albany Med’s South Clinical Campus at 25 Hackett Blvd.

The new facility, located just upstairs from both services’ previous locations, is designed to make breast health services more integrated and convenient for patients.

“We can now offer breast cancer prevention, detection and treatment services all in one place,” said B. Marie Ward, MD, director of Breast Surgery. “The adjoining offices are contemporary, bright, well-equipped and welcoming.”

The new space houses six exam rooms and one procedure room for breast surgery, in which ultrasound-guided biopsies, fine needle aspirations and cyst aspirations can be performed in the office.

Breast radiology contains four mammography units, including two 3-D mammography (tomosynthesis) units, designed to provide a more in-depth view of breast tissue. The unit also has two dedicated ultrasound units, and a DEXA scan machine to measure bone density. In addition, breast radiologists now have their own spacious pods in which to interpret breast images in the reading room. Both areas have their own check-in areas and waiting rooms.

As physicians and staff work to continue to streamline their services, they plan to unveil their new space to colleagues and referring providers in the fall.

From left: Dr. B. Marie Ward, Dr. Christa Abraham, Arabella Agcaoili, RN, Dr. Lynn Chu, Lynda Burden, LPN, and Dr. Richard MacDowell.
Albany Med and the American Heart Association Step Out for Region’s Health

Albany Med and the American Heart Association continue to collaborate during 2017 to improve heart health in the Capital Region. Last month, nearly 400 Albany Med employees took steps toward a healthier lifestyle as part of the American’s Heart Association’s National Walking Day. After brief remarks from cardiologists Suzie Mookherjee, MD, and Mandeep Sidhu, MD, and Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, enthusiastic participants departed from the Pillars entrance and enjoyed a brisk 15-minute walk through the revitalized Park South neighborhood. Many sported red caps bearing the logos of the American Heart Association and Albany Med side-by-side.

The following week, Michael Dailey, MD, center in photo, chief of the Division of Prehospital Emergency Medicine and an emergency medicine attending physician at Albany Med, spoke at a news conference held by the American Heart Association at Albany High School. Albany Med donated 10 CPR in Schools kits to the Albany City School District. Dr. Dailey helped train students on the proper Hands-Only CPR technique to the song “Stayin’ Alive.”

He Got Game: Extra Life Guild President Plays for Children’s Hospital Patients

Extra Life gamer and Albany Guild President Lucas Fox, center left in photo, recently competed at Extra Life United in Orlando, a gaming competition that benefits Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

Who won? Albany Med’s youngest patients, that’s who.

Fox, of Acra, a middle-school science teacher, won a $7,000 donation for the Bernard & Millie Duker Children’s Hospital at Albany Medical Center. Fox and his fellow gamers played tabletop games, exclusively, though Extra Life marathons can feature any number of activities, from card games to video games to Pokéwalks. To learn more, please visit: www.extra-life.org.