

## DELAWARE HEALTHCARE PROFILES

# Know The Risk, Seek Out Care



## The patient is us.

That's what Diana Dickson-Witmer, M.D., FACS, wants you to know during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



“**T**hroughout my career, one of the things I have always tried to keep in mind is that the patient is us. We, the providers, are going to be in the same position, maybe not with the same diagnosis, but if we live long enough, we will eventually sit in the patient's chair,” says Diana Dickson-Witmer, M.D., FACS, a preeminent breast surgical oncologist who recently joined Beebe Medical Group to lead the Beebe Center for Breast Health. “We always need to treat the patient exactly the way we would want to be treated.”

Dr. Dickson-Witmer began seeing patients in March 2021 at Beebe's Tunnell Cancer Center and Beebe's South Coastal Cancer Center.

“The Women's Health group at Beebe is also interested in

prevention. Not everyone can do things that will prevent a breast cancer from happening, but there are modifiable risk factors. It's better to prevent a cancer from ever happening than to treat it even at an early stage,” says Dr. Dickson-Witmer.

Beebe is working to help inform the public about how each woman can estimate her personal risk of developing breast cancer and what she can do to reduce that risk. The Breast Cancer Prevention Program will facilitate appropriate surveillance of women at greater than 20% lifetime risk of breast cancer, and will make appropriate referrals to genetic counseling or specialists to consider tamoxifen for risk reduction.

“The aim of these efforts is to reduce the risk of breast cancer wherever possible and to find breast cancer at an early stage should it occur,” Dr. Dickson-Witmer says.

### Leading the Charge

Dr. Dickson-Witmer joins Beebe with decades of experience and expertise in the field of breast surgery. Known for her trailblazing work, she has set the standard and developed programs to train future surgeons. In 1994, she introduced stereotactic breast core needle biopsy to Delaware and trained radiologists and surgeons in the technique. She also introduced sentinel node biopsy to the Delaware valley in 1999.

Dr. Dickson-Witmer has been featured in numerous medical publications, given hundreds of presentations, and served on three medical missions—one in Africa and two in Central America.

Previously, Dr. Dickson-Witmer was the medical director of the ChristianaCare Breast Center at the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center, where she chaired the weekly breast tumor conference.

Dr. Dickson-Witmer is an expert member of the newest American College of Surgeons program, the Cancer Surgery Standards Program. She is also a member of several national professional organizations and committees, and is the Delaware state chair for the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. She was also a founding board member of the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC), serving from 1996 to 2009, and was the inaugural recipient of DBCC's Shining Lights Award in 2014.

“Beebe Healthcare has a clear vision. It will provide the very best healthcare in Sussex County,” Dr. Dickson-Witmer says. “I am excited to join this growing, forward-looking, patient-centered institution, and to be given the extraordinary opportunity to play a leadership role in the development of the next generation of healthcare in Sussex County and beyond.”

Call **302-645-3332** to make an appointment.  
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