

NEW TREATMENTS OFFER HOPE, BUT DETECTION IS STILL CRUCIAL FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Nothing inspires fear like a cancer diagnosis. But modern medicine increasingly allows doctors to offer an alternative to that fear: hope.

Just ask Stephanie Dublis, DO. As a hematologist and oncologist, she serves on the front lines in the battle against cancer at Metro Health – University of Michigan Health, where she and her team have access to some of the most advanced expertise and research in the world.

“We are curing more people than ever before,” Dublis says. “I mean, precision medicine is here. Immunotherapy is here. And it’s exciting.”

Statistics show reasons for optimism. The American Cancer Society’s “Cancer Statistics, 2020” report calculates the death rate for all cancers declined 29 percent from 1991 to 2017. Even more impressive: breast cancer death rates fell 40 percent among women from 1989 to 2017.

But these improvements come with a caution: awareness, detection and prevention are crucial to better survival rates.

In fact, the American Cancer Society notes the overall cancer rate for women has remained mostly unchanged for decades. Meanwhile, breast cancer rates have increased about 0.3 percent every year since 2004. Among the estimated 912,930 women projected to face a cancer diagnosis this year, nearly one-third of those cases will be breast cancer. Roughly 1 in 8 will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

Alongside constant advancement in treatments, experts say, it’s important to emphasize the need for detection and prevention.

That is why Metro Health places such an emphasis on access to the most advanced diagnostic tools, such as mobile digital mammography. Metro Health also is one of the first health systems in Michigan to use artificial intelligence to improve reading mammograms for earlier detection and to reduce false positives.

**“This is true with all cancers,”
Dublis says. “Early detection
saves lives.”**

In addition to diagnostic innovations, Metro Health provides West Michigan a seamless connection to some of the nation’s leading cancer expertise and research as the premier affiliate of Michigan Medicine.

“We have access to high-quality clinical trials, and we have a very dedicated research program here,” Dublis says. “You don’t have to travel to another state or across the world.”

Amid scientific and organizational advances, Dublis says her greatest inspiration comes from the patients she sees, as together they confront fear and seek hope.

“Every day, I get to witness courage, perseverance, faith and joy. It’s what invigorates me. It’s what reminds me of why I went into this field.”

Stephanie Dublis, DO
Medical Oncologist
& Hematologist



**CANCER
NETWORK**

To give patients broader access to state-of-the-art diagnosis, treatment and support, Metro Health joined this year with Mercy Health and Michigan Medicine to develop the Cancer Network of West Michigan. This joint venture allows all patients, no matter what system they enter, to benefit from the strengths, resources and capabilities of each organization.

wmicancernetwork.org

Metro Health Cancer Center

5950 Metro Way, Wyoming, MI 49519
Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm
metrohealth.net/cancer-care



METRO HEALTH

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Cancer Care