

MEMPHIS HEALTHCARE PROFILES

Innovation and Care

At the forefront of adult cancer care, **West Cancer Center & Research Institute** embraces the constantly evolving healthcare landscape with unwavering compassion.

As chief medical officer at West Cancer Center & Research Institute, Sylvia Richey, M.D., has noticed cancer prognoses are met with more hope than in previous years thanks to rapid research.

“We’re at the forefront of treatment breakthroughs and constantly pioneer innovative clinical practices to offer patients the most advanced and effective treatment options,” she says. “I’m helping patients who’ve been with me for almost 20 years, and it’s a function of how patients can manage their lives while actively undergoing treatment.”

One promising option is chimeric antigen receptor T-cell immunotherapy, which has opened doors for innovative approaches in treating blood-borne cancers like leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma. Immune cells are extracted from a patient’s blood and genetically modified before being reintroduced, which can effectively prime the immune system to target abnormalities while posing fewer risks than a transplant. When tumor removal is required, on-site robotic surgery is less invasive than traditional open procedures, can significantly reduce recovery times, and often improves patient outcomes.

The West Cancer Center team also utilizes molecular testing to analyze cancer cell DNA, allowing for personalized treatment according to specific attributes. “Breast cancer, for example, is a non-homogeneous disease with varying molecular features,” says Dr. Richey. “Yet, in some instances, mutations can be identified and new drugs developed to combat the pathology and inhibit growth signals.”

One way West Cancer Center stays on the cutting edge of treatment options is through its access to clinical trials. In 2022 alone, 465 patients were enrolled in trials, and over 877 cases were reviewed in comprehensive tumor boards.

Hope on the Horizon

Clinical excellence extends beyond conventional care at West Cancer Center, with additional programs and services focusing on the mind, body, and spirit to improve treatment outcomes. Cross-disciplinary care includes preventative screenings, genetic counseling, gynecological or medical oncology, chemotherapy, psychological services, palliative care, radiation therapy, and reconstructive and cosmetic surgery. Annually, more than 100 skilled medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, genetic counselors, researchers, and other healthcare professionals serve thousands of patients with both acute and ongoing treatment across 11 campuses in West Tennessee, North Mississippi, and East Arkansas.



As innovation drives the healthcare industry forward, West Cancer Center stands out for its value-based approach, ensuring patients receive the necessary treatment precisely when needed while avoiding unnecessary costs. Financial assistance ensures no one is denied treatment, and nurse navigators, psychologists, and palliative care experts dedicate themselves to patients and their families so they’re not alone in their journeys.

Patients don’t have to go to faraway cities to receive top-notch care. “A cancer diagnosis can be an intimidating experience, but timely detection leads to a broader range of treatment choices and a greater possibility of recovery,” says Dr. Richey.



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