

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE

A NEW CANCER HUB IN NEW BRUNSWICK WILL BE A MODEL FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE.







t will soar 12 stories and cover 510,000 square feet. It will cost an estimated \$750 million and will be completed in 2024.

Most important, the Jack & Sheryl Morris Cancer Center, which broke ground in June, will transform cancer research and care throughout New Jersey and beyond. The state's first and only freestanding cancer hospital is a joint venture of RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, in partnership with the New Brunswick Development Corporation.

"The Jack & Sheryl Morris Cancer Center will be a model for cancer care delivery, bringing together the three mission areas of academic medicine—

Healthy Together | 14 | Fall 2021







Opposite page, renderings of the new center and scenes from the ceremonial groundbreaking, where Governor Phil Murphy, Middlesex County Freeholder Director Ronald G. Rios, New Brunswick Mayor Jim Cahill, DEVCO President Chris Paladino and Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway joined healthcare leaders and others. Above, left to right: cancer survivor Keosha Doyle, who was treated at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey; Barry Ostrowsky, President and CEO, RWJBH, with Sheryl and Jack Morris and Steven K. Libutti, MD, Director, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Senior Vice President of Oncology Services at RWJBH: Jack Morris delivers remarks at the event.

research, education and patient care—under one roof," says Barry Ostrowsky, President and Chief Executive Officer, RWJBH.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

"The new cancer center brings together all the facets of research, prevention and clinical care that we drive and deliver into one location," says Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Director Steven K. Libutti, MD, who is also the Senior Vice President of Oncology Services at RWJBH.

The facility will have 10 stateof-the-art laboratories where teams
of scientists will study cancer as a
disease and develop new treatments.
Many of the discoveries from these
laboratories will be translated directly
to the clinical setting at Rutgers
Cancer Institute and across the RWJBH
system.

"We will be bringing science from the bench to the patient's bedside and back again," says Dr. Libutti. "That means we'll be able to further tailor patient treatments and collect important research data more rapidly and directly."

Patients will be able to receive a wide range of both inpatient and outpatient cancer care in the new cancer center, including advanced imaging services as well as radiation and chemotherapy treatments. The facility will have 96 inpatient beds, including an entire floor dedicated to surgical services.

Exam rooms have been designed so that a multidisciplinary team of specialists can see a patient in one location, rather than having the patient travel from doctor office to doctor office. Specially trained oncology nurse navigators will guide patients on their journey from diagnosis through survivorship.

Wellness, prevention and education resources, including a wellness garden, will be available for the community, patients, caregivers and families.

A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

RWJBH and Rutgers Cancer Institute, the state's only National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, have partnered to provide close-to-home access to the most advanced cancer care.

Cancer specialists throughout RWJBH collaborate with experts at Rutgers Cancer Institute to devise the best treatment plan for each patient, including clinical trials, immunotherapy and precision medicine. That means that a patient being treated for cancer at any RWJBH hospital will have access to the treatment options and clinical expertise anywhere in the hospital system, as well as at Rutgers Cancer Institute.

"The new cancer center will be integrated into our multidisciplinary care paradigm, which is across the entire RWJBarnabas Health system," says Dr. Libutti.

"We believe it is critically important that we have sites and facilities all across the state to bring cancer care as close to home as possible," he says. "We also believe that we need one hub that allows us to bring the highest level of extremely specialized, multidisciplinary cancer care in the setting of groundbreaking research."

The center is named in recognition of the philanthropic leadership of Jack Morris, who has been a longtime supporter and pillar in New Brunswick development, and his wife, Sheryl.

"People shouldn't have to go all over the country to get great care," says Jack Morris. "We're doing it right here. It has been our vision, our hope and our dream to have the top cancer center in the nation here in New Brunswick. Sheryl and I are so proud that we can play a role in helping to make this dream a reality."

To learn more about the Jack & Sheryl Morris Cancer Center, visit www.cinj.org/jackandsherylmorriscancercenter.

