

SRMC Launches New 3D PET/CT

The next generation 3D PET/CT scanner with the fastest and highest image quality available anywhere in the nation is now available to patients at SRMC. Chosen as a Siemens' National Showcase Site, SRMC is the first hospital to offer this technology within an 8-state region of the country.

The new 3D PET/CT scanner is used to diagnose cancers, monitor cancer treatment and detect cancer recurrence.

"Salem Regional Medical Center has a long-standing reputation for offering the latest breakthroughs in medical imaging to help diagnose diseases in their earliest stages," said Dr. Peter Apicella, SRMC's Chief Radiologist. "The clarity and detail of the new 3D PET/CT scanner with leading-edge technology benefits our region's cancer patients with the most advanced medical imaging available."



Pictured with the new 3D PET/CT scanner are (l-r) LuAnn Ayers, RT(R), Director of Medical Imaging; Peter Apicella, M.D., Chief Radiologist; Clarissa Goehring, RT(R)(N), CNMT; Miranda Mayle, RT(R)(N)(MR), CNMT; and Debbie Mesmer, RT(R)(CT), Medical Imaging Operational Supervisor.

Advanced Imaging for Cancer

SRMC's new 3D PET/CT can obtain the most detailed images of cancer anywhere in the body in half the time (less than 15 minutes), and at half the radiation dose of older area PET scanners. Dr. Apicella noted that the superior detail of the new 3D PET/CT images makes it possible to distinguish between cancerous and non-cancerous tumors, as well as to help pinpoint the precise size, location and extent of the disease. This can help reduce the need for patients to undergo invasive procedures like biopsies or other diagnostic tests and allows for more effective and targeted treatment of the cancer.

"Knowing the exact location of cancer helps guide surgical planning, chemotherapy and radiation treatment to provide the best treatment success," he added.



Dr. Apicella explained the benefits of SRMC's 3D PET/CT during an open house to introduce physicians and community partners to this new technology.



Foundation Gala Benefits SRMC's Cancer Services

On March 23, the Salem Regional Medical Center Foundation hosted its 9th Annual Hearts & Stars Gala, which raised over \$65,000 to support SRMC's cancer services. The sold-out event was held at The Vineyards at Pine Lake in Columbiana and featured former Ohio State All-American and NFL All-Pro linebacker Chris Spielman (center), who spoke about his family's personal cancer journey. Shown with Spielman are (l-r) Amy Reed, Director of Development, and Dr. Anita Hackstedde, President/CEO.

“Patient Access” Redesign



SRMC has developed a new Patient Access service, to better coordinate the management of our patients' scheduled procedures and tests, and to improve communication with our patients.

“The Patient Access process has become an important focus of our revenue cycle management process,” explained Anita Hackstedde, M.D., SRMC President/CEO. “In response to the national emphasis on greater transparency in health care billing, the Patient Access staff will help patients better understand their financial responsibility upfront and also identify those who may require financial assistance before they enter the Hospital for their scheduled visit.”

Jeff Dixon, Director of Revenue Cycle, added, “Financial counseling will be part of the pre-visit process so that we can help patients connect with assistance options, if necessary.”

The new service will allow for a more streamlined workflow and communication of the various functions that occur before a patient visit, including scheduling, pre-registration, insurance verification, insurance pre-authorization and customer service. Office space has been renovated in the former DCU, so that many of the involved staff can work together in one location to efficiently coordinate their processes and information systems. The Patient Access function will initially start out with coordinating the processes for SRMC’s Surgery and Endoscopy patients, before expanding to other SRMC services.

Medical/Surgical Education Conference

Over 50 physicians attended SRMC’s annual Medical/Surgical Conference focusing on advanced cancer treatment. The day-long conference featured physicians from SRMC’s Medical Staff and University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center.



Shown are conference organizers (l-r) Janet Moore, Health Sciences Librarian; Dr. Walter Dombroski, Program Founder; and Donna Thompson, Medical Staff Coordinator.



Presenting the benefits of SRMC’s new 3D PET/CT are (l-r) radiologists Dr. Charles Spirtos and Dr. Peter Apicella, Chairman of Medical Imaging.

SRMC Faces



**Melissa Mellott
RN, BSN**

Melissa Mellott, RN, BSN Assistant Director of Case Management

- Helps manage the daily functions of SRMC’s Case Management Department, which assists inpatients and their families with discharge planning, community resource referrals, short-term counseling and crisis intervention.

- Has served as an RN Case Manager at SRMC since 2012.

- Earned Bachelor’s in Nursing from Kent State University.



**Leigh Knife
RN, BSN**

Leigh Knife, RN, BSN Nursing Supervisor

- Serves as a primary resource for the nursing staff during her designated shift, conducts patient rounds, monitors admissions and discharges, and assists with staffing.

- Prior to joining SRMC, was a charge and floor RN at Mercy Health – St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital and nursing supervisor at Crandall Medical Center.

- Earned Associate in Nursing degree from Stark State College and Bachelor’s in Nursing degree from Grand Canyon University.

SRMC Mission Moment

Living Out Our Mission: *To Serve. To Care. To Heal.*

Fighting cancer is never easy, and for Dawn Milliken, the responsibilities of being both a working mom and her father's primary caregiver added to the challenges of her breast cancer diagnosis in July 2018. Dawn was thankful that she could receive world-class cancer care locally at SRMC, and is grateful for the compassionate care provided by the Oncology staff, who helped ease her personal journey.

"Because of my ongoing family responsibilities and the effects of my illness, I couldn't travel a long distance for appointments," Dawn explained. "I feel so fortunate that I had local access at SRMC to the best possible treatments for my cancer. **My care was exceptional, and as of my last exam, I'm cancer-free.**"

"I'm extremely grateful to the Oncology staff for the support and encouragement they provided to help me through a very difficult time," she continued. "They understood the challenges I was facing with my diagnosis and treatment, and always seemed to sense just what I needed without me having to ask. **I consider them not just caregivers, but my friends.**"



Dawn Milliken, pictured with her son Michael, is grateful for the care she received in SRMC's Oncology department.

Columbiana County Health Needs Assessment Underway



The 2019 Columbiana County Health Needs Assessment (CCHNA), a comprehensive report about the health of county residents, is currently in process as a tool to help understand and improve the health of community members.

Findings from the CCHNA will focus on the top priorities of **Mental Health/Addiction, Chronic Disease/Obesity** and **Access to Care**. Input can be shared with workgroup representatives from: Col. Cty. Educ. Service Ctr./CASH Coalition, Col. Cty. General Health District, Col. Cty. Mental Health & Rec. Serv. Board, Comm. Action Agency, East Liverpool City Health District, East Liverpool City Hospital, Family & Children First Council, Salem City Health District and Salem Regional Medical Center (Contact Debbie Pietrzak, ext. 7152).

Volunteers of the Year

Congratulations to **Joan Kelch** and **Judy Woodring**, who were recently honored as SRMC's "Volunteers of the Year," at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Joan and Judy are long-time SRMC volunteers, with a combined 33 years of dedicated service to the hospital. Both ladies generously donate their time providing assistance to patients and families visiting SRMC's Information Desk and Surgical Waiting Room. Pictured with the honorees are Dr. Anita Hackstedde, President/CEO, and Amy Reed, Director of Development.



Thank You to Our SRMC Volunteers

In 2018, 12,279 hours of service were donated by 113 adult and 22 teen volunteers to support our patients, visitors and staff.



Photo Journal



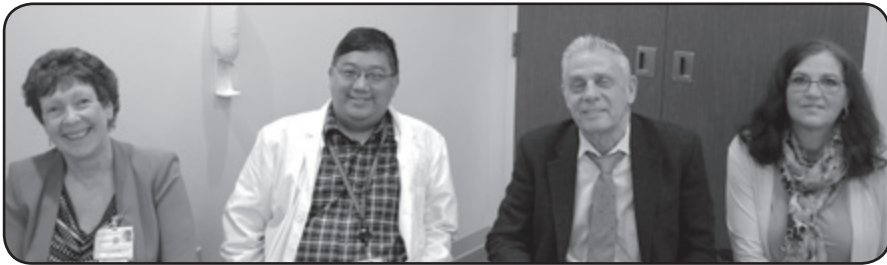
Doctors' Day

SRMC celebrated Doctors' Day to honor our physicians for their dedication to our patients and communities. Hospitalist and Vice Chief of Staff Dr. Richard Beatty is pictured with Donna Thompson, Medical Staff Coordinator.



Valley Health & Wellness Expo

Public Relations staff shared information about SRMC's advanced health care services with over 2,000 participants at the Covelli Centre.



Re-Admission Prevention Initiative

Over 50 health care professionals attended the recent Tri-county Care Coalition NEO meeting at SRMC to discuss how to prevent hospital readmissions. Shown are program panelists: (l-r): Lorrie Nelson, SRMC; Dr. Mike Sevilla, Family Medicine; Dr. Walter Dombroski, Family Medicine; and Lori Rusyn, Blossom Nursing and Rehab.



Regional Mass Casualty Drill

SRMC staff practiced their disaster preparedness skills during Northeast Ohio's regional drill in March.



Safety Council Presentation

Dr. Vidya Counto, Family Medicine, recently presented information about heat-related illnesses to area employers at the Columbiana Chamber of Commerce's Safety Council meeting.



SRMC Foundation Car Raffle Winner

Nate Mullen (second from right) was the winner of the SRMC Foundation's 2019 Buick Encore SUV raffle, donated by Stadium GM Superstore. Presenting Mullen with the keys for his 2-year vehicle lease are (l-r) Mike Hudock, Stadium GM Superstore; Amy Reed, SRMC; and Chris Tittle, Stadium GM Superstore. The car raffle raised over \$6,000 to benefit the Hospital.



Coming Events

• SRMC Auxiliary Chair-ity Raffle

Ticket Sales: April 22 – 25; 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Drawings: April 26 at 9 a.m.
Cafeteria

- Support the Auxiliary by purchasing raffle tickets to win chairs uniquely designed by 28 local artists. Tickets are \$1 each/6 for \$5.

• Medication Take-Back Event

Sat., April 27; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Salem Regional Professional Building

- Safely discard expired or unwanted medications.

• Blood Drive

Wed., May 8; 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Tower Conference Room

- Call ext. 7227 for an appointment.

• Ostomy Support Group Meeting

Mon., May 13; 6 – 7 p.m.
Private Dining Room

- The group is open to ostomy patients and their families/support persons. Register at ext. 7607.

• Benefit Car Show

Sat., June 29; 4 – 7 p.m.
Firestone Farms TownCenter, Columbiana

- All proceeds will benefit SRMC's Foundation. For more details or to register a vehicle, call 330-549-2165.

