

Commonwealth Cancer Center anchors new comprehensive treatment facility in Danville



The Central Kentucky Cancer Center opened in June on the South Danville Bypass.

The road to receiving state-of-the-art, highly-specialized cancer care just got shorter. And much more dynamic.

Central Kentucky Cancer Center (CKCC), a fully-integrated and comprehensive cancer care facility that opened in Danville in June, aligns the entire spectrum of cancer-care options,

including medical oncology, radiation oncology and a multitude of support services in one, accessible location.

The concept for this one-stop treatment facility was born out of a strategic vision to provide a regional destination for the most thorough and technologically-advanced cancer care.

This vision has culminated in a partnership of four leading medical providers: Commonwealth Cancer Center (CCC), Ephraim McDowell Health, 21st Century Radiation Oncology and UK Healthcare, and their shared commitment to provide highly-specialized cancer care, from beginning to end, in one location close to home.

The key visionary in planning the new treatment center is well-known oncologist/hematologist Thomas Baeker, M.D., whose medical oncology practice Commonwealth Cancer Center has provided care to Danville and surrounding communities for more than 15 years. In 2007, he and CCC's practice administrator Mark Allen RN, BSN, OCN began forming the concept for the facility after recognizing a need to expand their own offices to provide more accessible, comprehensive cancer care in the region.

The result: a 36,000 square-foot state-of-the-art treatment facility on the South Danville Bypass designed to fulfill virtually every cancer care need in central Kentucky.

“We wanted to bring the outdoors in...”

Just as much detail and strategic planning went into the architectural design of the new 36,000 square-foot-facility, as the coordination of services contained within. Safety, efficient patient flow, and a comfortable, calm atmosphere that reflects natural elements were key components of the planning process.

“It was clear when we first selected this site – originally a farm – that we wanted to preserve and reflect the surrounding natural elements in the design of the building, both on the interior and exterior,” CCC practice administrator Mark Allen explained. “We wanted to give the sense that the building was lifted straight out of the ground.”

Inside, large windows and high ceilings create a bright, open atmosphere, complemented by architectural elements that incorporate the natural landscape in an effort to “bring the outdoors in,” Allen said. The building’s exposed natural stone, native to this area, mirrors what you see when you look outside.

“The intention is to provide our patients with a comfortable and relaxing environment,” Allen added. “When they’re sitting in a treatment area, surrounded by windows and a beautiful view, we want them to experience a seamless transition from where the outside stops and inside starts – that’s the whole concept of this building.”



The interior of the building features exposed natural stone that is native to this area.



High ceilings create a bright, open atmosphere inside the Central Kentucky Cancer Center.

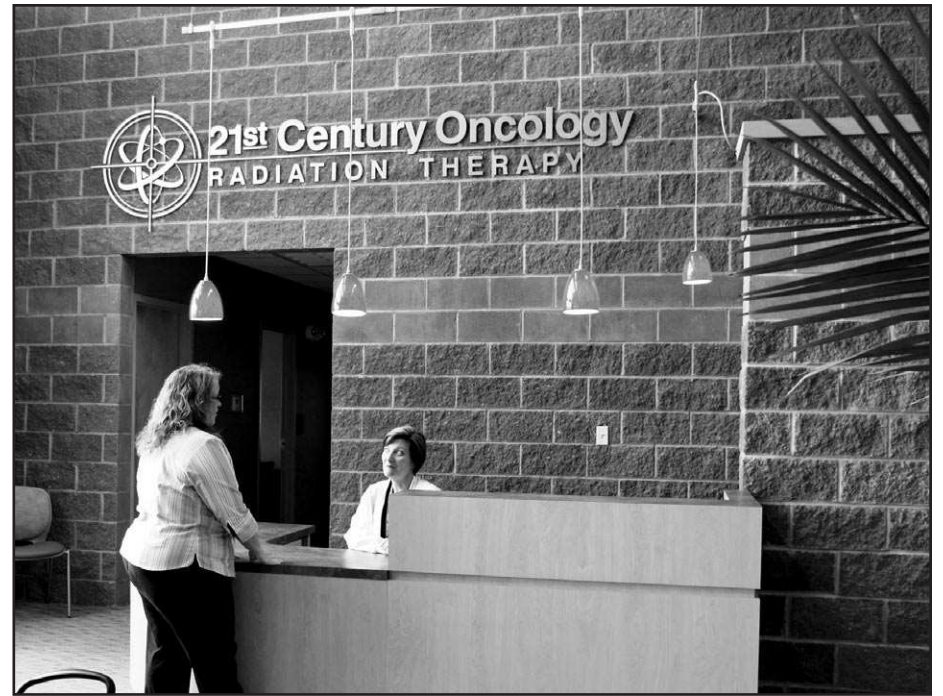
Anchored by Commonwealth Cancer Center's medical oncology offices for Dr. Baeker, his partners Drs. Aruna Arekapudi, Yinong Liu, and Emmanuel Nidhiry, CKCC also houses the therapeutic radiation services of radiation oncology specialist Dr. Greg Carlsen with 21st Century Oncology and the Ephraim McDowell Cancer

According to Allen, this strategic alignment of cancer care services under one roof allows the center to streamline treatment for patients.

"This is not a collection of providers in one place. It's a coordinated team approach, where each partnering service complements the other in providing the entire continuum of cancer care for patients," says Allen.

The scope of coordinated services offered at the new facility ranges from the latest technology in chemotherapy and radiation treatments, to opportunities to participate in clinical trials and breakthrough research. Social Services and patient support care, such as physical therapy, dietary counseling, labs and X-ray machines, even transportation assistance and a developing volunteer program work in concert to provide the most advanced and complete cancer treatment systems available.

Commonwealth Cancer Center itself occupies 34 semi-private and two private treatment areas, 12 exam rooms,



Another partner provider in the joint venture of the Central Kentucky Cancer Center is 21st Century Oncology, which provides radiation oncology services.

Nucleus drug management inventory system. CCC is one of the early adopters of this new technology, which provides safety and accuracy in chemotherapy delivery. According to Cheryl Bolling, RN, OCN, Commonwealth's Director of Education and Resources, the utilization of appropriate technology like this brings significant safety features in providing care and streamlines technical work loads, allowing staff to spend more face-to-face time with patients.

"In the end, it comes down to our patients and our commitment to meet their complete needs with the most thorough, personalized, comfortable care possible," said Baeker, who also serves as Medical Director for CKCC.

"Our ability, with this new facility, to combine modalities of chemotherapy and radiation with other aspects of care in a single, accessible location is extremely beneficial to patients, and that's why this is so exciting."

Allen adds it's likely Commonwealth Cancer Center will utilize its Danville comprehensive care concept as a model for its other key offices in central Kentucky. Commonwealth has locations in Frankfort, Somerset, Corbin, London, Russell Springs, Harrodsburg and Columbia.

"It's our goal for Danville – and for each of our practice centers – to serve as a primary destination for families seeking centralized cancer care without having to travel long distances," Allen said. "You don't have to go to a metropolitan area to get the care you deserve. You can receive world-class, comprehensive cancer treatment right here at home – and, it's our mission to provide this."

For complete information on specialized care provided by Commonwealth Cancer Center's nine central Kentucky clinics, including its offices at Central Kentucky Cancer Center in Danville, visit www.commonwealthcancercenter.com.

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Support Center. University of Kentucky Health Care augments specialty clinical services through providing on site, complementary specialty physicians, such as board-certified thoracic surgeon Timothy Mullett, M.D. Commonwealth is also working closely with UK Healthcare to augment the center's clinical research program.

and an expansive atrium that serves as a patient education and support group venue – spacious, state-of-the-art accommodations for Commonwealth's 50-plus member staff to provide a safe and comfortable care delivery system for its patients.

Also worth mentioning is Commonwealth Cancer Center's