

FIGHTING CHANCE



Photo Image "October Ocean"
by Ken Robbins

SEPTEMBER 2019

THE CHAIRMAN'S INSIDER LOOK at the Phillips Family Cancer Center

For those of you who are not familiar with the Phillips Family Cancer Center -- and our new office there -- I would like to take this opportunity to provide a guided tour with the help of photos.

Let's start out on the right hand side of this page with a photo of Lauren Richard who is credentialed as an "Oncology Social Worker."

Lauren joined Fighting Chance in April 2019 after 7 years with Stony Brook Medicine, spending most of that time on the floor of its Cancer Center. By any standard she would be considered exceptionally experienced.



Duncan N. Darrow
Founder & Chairman
Fighting Chance



Lauren Richard-Holt
LCSW-C



Now let's go inside The Phillips Center from the upper level parking lot. We will use the **Level 2 Entrance**, which is the level of the facility mainly dedicated to offices for Medical Oncologists -- the physicians who prescribe chemo therapy.

The Center, which cost \$25 Million to build has 2 levels:

Level 1: Main Entrance; 14 chemo suites; a pharmacy, doctor offices and conference centers.

Level 2: Radiation Therapy, the offices of Fighting Chance and a separate patient entrance.

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Moving inside the facility, the visitor finds that most of Level 2 is dedicated to **Clinical Oncology**, and there's a sizable **Patient Registration & Waiting Area**.

The dominant feature of Level 2 is a massive **Chemo Suite** with 14 infusion stations. Before progressing to the Chemo Suite the first stop is a **Patient Registration & Waiting Area**.



Chemo Suite at The Phillips Center



Level 1 Patient Registration



Radiation Treatment Center at Phillips

An elevator takes us to **Level 1**; the space is largely dedicated to **Radiation Oncology**. It houses a state-of-the-art linear accelerator. The treatment starts with taking a high definition 3-D image of the area to be treated, permitting pin-point accuracy for the radiation beam targeting the patient's lesions.

Radiation therapy throughout all of Stony Brook's facilities -- including the Phillips Center -- is overseen by Samuel Ryu, MD, who is widely acknowledged to be one of the most outstanding radiation oncologists in the country.

One of the hallmarks of a truly outstanding comprehensive cancer center is a connection to what is often called "**Academic Medicine.**" This refers to a cluster of scientists and their laboratories who are dedicated to the discovery of new anticancer drugs.

Stony Brook has such a facility in Port Jefferson. It is known as the "**MART**" -- which stands for the Medical and Research Translation Building. Its construction was recently completed at a cost approaching \$200 Million, and it houses a new cancer center as well as abundant space for research and clinical trials,

The MART also provides a unique resource of knowledge that can be accessed by oncologists at The Phillips Center.



The Cancer Center at Stony Brook is incorporated into the 10-story MART Building recently completed at a cost of nearly \$200 million.



Suite 102, The Fighting Chance Office at The Phillips Center

The **Patient Counseling Office for Fighting Chance** also is located on Level 1, down the hallway from Radiation Oncology. The technical term for the services provided is **Psycho-Oncology** which aims to help patients cope with the many psychological and emotional challenges of a cancer diagnosis. They include a profound sense of disorientation, paralyzing fear, hyper-anxiety, sleeplessness and depression.



Patient Appointment Kiosk.

Another feature inside the Fighting Chance office is an interactive screen -- akin to an ATM -- where patients, on their own, can select a date and time for an appointment with a Fighting Chance counselor.



So you have now seen the major features of the Phillips Center and our tour concludes by exiting by the **Level 1 Entrance** which is adjacent to the Lower Level parking lot.

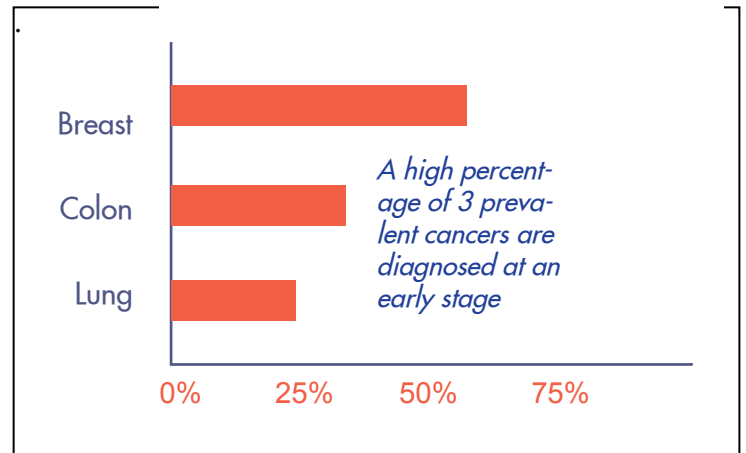
My hope is that from this Photo Tour you have a better understanding of the counseling services provided by Fighting Chance and how they integrate with the medical therapies at the Phillips Center to deliver a uniquely holistic form of cancer care.

- Duncan Darrow
Chairman of Fighting Chance

RENEWED ATTACK ON EARLY STAGE CANCERS

When someone's cancer has not spread beyond the original tumor site, it often is referred to as "**early stage cancer**." Oncologists have a strong track record of putting this type of cancer into remission using three tools that have been available for decades -- surgery, radiation and chemo. This has, however, stunted the expansion of new drug development focused on the early phase of the disease.

But recently drug development tactics seem to be changing, especially at one drug company, Astra Zeneca, which has announced it will place **much more emphasis** on discovering drugs that attack cancer at the earliest signs of the disease. The strategy was largely devised by the company's CEO, who previously served as Head of Medicine at Memorial Sloan-Kettering



LUNG CANCER -- GETTING HARDER TO CALL A DEATH SENTENCE

One of the under-reported positive trends, in the nation's War Against Cancer, has been **steady progress in improving** the five-year survival rate for lung cancer which for decades was stuck at about 13%.

Today early stage lung cancer has a five-year **survival rate approaching 50%** due to three factors.

One reason for the survival rate improvement is greater use of computed tomography -- known as a "CT-Scan" -- which provides a type of high resolution 3-D x-ray that reveals even the tiniest pre-cancer nodules.

Second, the advent of microsurgery for lung cancer -- starting about five years ago -- requires much smaller incisions (for tumor removal) than were commonly seen for decades.

Finally, in the last few years immunotherapy -- with drugs such as Keytruda and Opdivo -- have become a new weapon of choice for oncologists treating many forms of lung cancer.

Of all the cancer types that Americans have suffered from, it was lung cancer -- because of its dismal survival rate -- that was most often referred to as a "death sentence." In many cases it may be a death sentence no longer.

AARP-FUNDED STUDY: FREE RIDES IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOME

The **AARP** recently decided to fund a study, costing \$1 Million, in which 150 patients, all over 60 and many suffering from cancer, received free rides to their doctor over a period of a year.

The Study, run by the Cancer Center at the University of Southern California, arranged for patients to contact LYFT whenever they needed a free ride to their doctor. The LYFT drivers were paid from funds in the \$1 Million grant.

The patients rarely missed a doctor appointment leaving the President of the AARP Foundation to say:

“When older adults can’t get to medical appointments the negative effect on well-being is enormous. There is a vital connection between good transportation and good health”.

Fighting Chance reached basically the same conclusion as the AARP from the experience of our **Volunteer Driver Corps**. During the past 10 years they have driven cancer patients, on a free-of-charge basis, to and from hundreds of doctor appointments on the East End.

In addition, for the past six years, a generous subsidy from The **Hampton Jitney** has permitted Fighting Chance to give away 1,000 free Jitney tickets to our cancer patients (accompanied by caregivers) who need to travel into New York City for specialized treatment.

Patient feedback from the both Programs -- operated under the headline “**Cancer Patients Ride Free**” -- has been exceptionally positive, and we say that based upon scores of poignant thank you notes and appreciative phone calls.

MEDICARE NOW COVERS CANCER TREATMENT COSTING UP TO \$750,000

In August of this year the CMS Agency-- better known as **Medicare** -- announced that it would cover the cost of “**CAR-T Therapy**” which is the **most expensive** cancer treatment now available.

CAR-T extracts a patient’s T-Cells, has them turbo-charged in a laboratory and then infuses them back into the patient where they have an uncanny ability to assassinate cancer cells.

The entire treatment -- which includes the turbo-charged T-Cells and additional hospitalization -- costs approximately \$750,000.

For the vast majority of Americans suffering from cancer, a treatment that comes with a **\$750,000 hospital bill** would be out of the question, putting CAR-T Therapy completely out of reach.

Such a result seems heartless since the treatment -- at least for a couple of cancers -- seems to offer long-term remission for patients who were literally on their death bed.

When Medicare decided to “pick up the tab” for CAR-T Treatment, many applauded the move as remarkably compassionate. However, others wondered if paying for ever more expensive new cancer therapies will someday be unaffordable for Medicare.

PARTY IN THE BARN . . . GALA 2019

Your Hosts . . .
Eleven
Directors of
Fighting Chance



Wesnofske Barn on Scuttlehole Rd



Cocktails on the Lawn



Ray & Lynda Wesnofske



Susan Scanlon



Tim & Susan Davis



Geoff Lynch
& his wife Marie



Barbara Groves



David Kelley



Duchy & Roman Roth



Stu Schoener



The Barn welcomes 180 guests for farm-to-table dinner



Robert Chaloner
Chief Administrative Officer
Southampton Hospital

Fred Thiele
Member
NY State Assembly
(seen here with
Mrs. Thiele)

Samuel Ryu, MD
Director, Phillips Family Cancer Center
& Chief, Radiation Oncology
at The Stony Brook Cancer Center
(seen here with Mrs. Ryu)

MEDAL OF HONOR 2019 . . . GALA HIGHLIGHT



The Medal of Honor has been awarded for 18 consecutive years traditionally part of The Fighting Chance Summer Gala.

Inscribed on the Medal is the basis for the award, which is made to a person or organization who:

"Have made an extraordinary contribution towards improving the quality of care for cancer patients on the East End of Long Island."

Rodney and Colleen were deemed to deserve this Medal because their Sag Harbor Studio, Yoga Shanti, has been providing free classes to cancer patients being treated at Fighting Chance . . . and they have done so for a decade.

IN THE WORDS OF COLLEEN SAIDMAN:

To be awarded the Medal of Honor is an honor beyond description. The Founder started the organization when his mother was dying of cancer. He would go down to the beach every evening and pray for his mother to have a "fighting chance." Yoga Shanti is honored to be a small part of that prayer.

- From Colleen's Facebook Page



Donna Karan, who joined in the award ceremony is seen here with Colleen.

SHELTER ISLAND FRIENDS OF FIGHTING CHANCE . . . AUGUST RECEPTION



Guests gather on the lawn of the Ressler House in Dering Harbor



Sue Scanlon and Chris Carey prepare to address the guests



Barbara Groves
Event Hostess
& Fighting Chance Director



A group of Shelter Island Friends



Julie Karpeh
Event Hostess



FIGHTING CHANCE

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Addressee: