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## **Main Line Health Community Clinical Oncology Program**

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## Main Line Health Community Clinical Oncology Program

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The National Cancer Institute (NCI), recognizing that more than 80% of cancers in this country are diagnosed and treated in local communities, established the Community Clinical Oncology program (CCOP) in 1983. The aim of the project was to provide cancer patients with access to NCI-sponsored cancer treatment trials and up-to-date cancer management in patients' own communities. Three years later, the NCI expanded the CCOP focus to include cancer prevention and control research. In 1994, the cancer programs of the three acute care hospitals of Main Line Health (Bryn Mawr, Lankenau and Paoli Memorial) were awarded a CCOP designation by the NCI. The Main Line Health CCOP has access to cancer prevention and treatment protocols from four research bases: M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group and the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project. Through the dedication and efforts of our medical, radiation and surgical oncologists, as well as our data managers, Main Line Health successfully met all of its CCOP goals. On recent resubmission, we were awarded a five-year extension of our NCI grant.

Through the CCOP, Main Line Health is able to offer innovative cancer treatment and new approaches to cancer prevention and control to area physicians and their patients. Primary health care providers and specialists are increasingly involved with our CCOP investigators in the conduct of clinical research trials. This ongoing collaboration facilitates education about new strategies in cancer care and prevention as well as how these advancements may impact on community medical practices.

Our CCOP is involved with a variety of community activities of the Main Line Health Community Services, including cancer screenings, educational programs, and health fairs, which increases our access to women's groups, minorities and the underserved population. Continued interaction with community leaders provides the CCOP with an opportunity to address their concerns about research protocols as well as to determine appropriate responses to their needs.

By increasing community awareness and fostering participation in clinical research protocols, the individual and societal impact of cancer can be addressed. Prevention and early detection strategies, state-of-the-art treatment technologies, and novel approaches to patient management and rehabilitation are all areas of cancer care that are now available at the community level through the CCOP.

Anyone wishing additional information about the Main Line Health Community Clinical Oncology Program and its cancer research studies may contact the Program Administrative Director, Colleen Scarpato, BSN at (610) 645-2680 or the Principal Investigator, Abigail Silvers, MD at (610) 649-5080.

### **About the Authors**

Abigail Silvers, MD and Principal Investigator of the Program, is based at Bryn Mawr Hospital. Colleen Scarpato, BSN and Program Administrative Director, is based at Lankenau Hospital.