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On behalf of Capital Health, I would like to welcome you to the Department of Radiation Oncology. At Capital Health we provide comprehensive radiation oncology services including traditional 3-D radiation, intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), CyberKnife® radiosurgery and high dose brachytherapy radiation. Established close to 30 years ago, our department offers the finest in radiation oncology technology and services, and this tradition continues at our new, state-of-the-art hospital Capital Health Medical Center - Hopewell. Oncology is a center of excellence at Capital Health, having received commendation as an outstanding community cancer center from the American College of Surgeons - Commission on Cancer. To assure we provide patients with the highest levels of quality care, we follow all the standards and maintain accreditation through the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC). The Department of Radiation Oncology is accredited by the American College of Radiology; a distinction that only one-third of New Jersey hospitals have received. Our Oncology Center serves Philadelphia, Mercer, Bucks, and Burlington counties and beyond.

As the Director of Radiation Oncology Services, I want to tell you a little bit about myself and our department. After receiving my medical degree from the Howard University College of Medicine, I studied radiation oncology at Howard University Hospital and completed my residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. As a board certified physician in radiation oncology, certified in brachytherapy and CyberKnife® radiosurgery I began my career at Capital Health in 1996. I spent the next nine years at Capital Health, affiliated as a faculty member of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. From 2005 to 2008, I established and directed the radiation oncology department at the new Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute in the U.S. Virgin Islands. I returned to Capital Health in 2008, again as faculty of the University of Pennsylvania and as Medical Director of Radiation Oncology and CyberKnife®. In 2010, Capital Health's oncology program became independent of the University of Pennsylvania and I remained as the Medical Director of Radiation Oncology Services, overseeing both radiation oncology, CyberKnife® and brachytherapy services.

The history of our radiation oncology department is extensive and continues to evolve to meet the needs of our patients. The new radiation oncology department at the Hopewell campus has the latest, most up-to-date Varian® linear accelerator called TrueBeam. TrueBeam performs three-dimensional conformal treatment planning, IMRT and electronic portal imaging.

In 2007, the CyberKnife® Robotic Radiosurgery System was introduced at Capital Health to provide cuttingedge treatment as an alternative to surgery. The latest version of CyberKnife®, VSI, is now at the Hopewell campus. This system treats brain, spine, lung, prostate, pancreas and liver tumors without an incision. CyberKnife® is the most accurate, real-time, image-guided noninvasive robotic radiosurgery system in the world that delivers conformal radiation beams so small that it can treat complex-shaped tumors while minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissue.

We also provide high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy using the Varian Gamma med machine. We are therefore able to treat gynecological cancers such as cervical and endometrial using vaginal cylinders and tandem and ovoids and also treat cancers of the prostate, breast, lung, bile duct and skin using brachytherapy.

In addition, we participate in clinical trials and have nurse navigators for different cancer sites, a dedicated oncology nutritionist, dedicated oncology financial navigator, social worker and supportive care and survivorship care all available. Our cancer program is certified by the American College of Surgeons with commendation and the Radiation Oncology Department is accredited through American College of Radiology.

We understand that this can be a very stressful time for you and your family and it is our goal to provide you with only the most professional and courteous service. If during the course of your care you have any concerns regarding our services, I encourage you to discuss the matter directly with your doctor, or bring it to the attention of our Director of Oncology Services, Rona Remstein, by calling 609-537-7043.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you as part of your healthcare team.

Sincerely,

Shirnett Williamson, MD

Director, Radiation Oncology Services

Capital Health