



**Cancer
Control
Month**

Cancer Care in New Mexico

Pushing the Leading Edge of Cancer Care with a Gentle Hand of Compassion The Cancer Center at Presbyterian

Deliver a coordinated system of cancer care, with the most sophisticated advances in a compassionate setting close to where patients work and live. That was the vision of farsighted leaders at Presbyterian Healthcare Services, the oldest and largest not-for-profit system in New Mexico. In September 2007, Presbyterian completed two new and dramatic investments to enhance inpatient and outpatient cancer care. From diagnosis through recovery, patients benefit from a unified approach that coordinates radiation oncology, hematology, medical oncology, surgical oncology and support services.

Presbyterian has long had a highly respected cancer program. Early in 2007, it contracted with M. D. Anderson Cancer Center to add world-class radiation oncology services at Presbyterian Kaseman Hospital. "Establishing an M. D. Anderson satellite in New Mexico was a significant coup," says board-certified radiation oncologist Ramesh Gopal, MD, PhD, who serves as medical director of the radiation treatment center. "Ours is the first M. D. Anderson satellite outside of Houston. The stature of the Presbyterian system and its dedication to excellence parallels M. D. Anderson's commitment to providing the very best for cancer patients."

By fall, Presbyterian hired an impressive team of board-certified Medical Oncologists/Hematologists, and created a state-of-the-art clinic on the Kaseman campus called The Cancer Center at Presbyterian. The Center is directed by Mitchell Binder, MD, who has practiced in Albuquerque for 18 years, and includes Bernard Agbemadzo, MD who is another well known area physician, and our most recent addition, Kathryn L. Faccini, MD.

"We bring together in one convenient, state-of-the-art campus a diverse team of specialists who work together to treat cancer from every angle," explains Jim Hinton, President and CEO of Presbyterian. "Adding M. D. Anderson to our team brings nationally excellent cancer care to New Mexicans."



Comprehensive, Compassionate Cancer Care in One Location

The Cancer Center at Presbyterian is the model of how care should be provided. It offers sophisticated

**The goal is to care for the person
and not just the cancer.**



Medical oncology and radiation oncology are key components of cancer care at the center.

inpatient and outpatient services on a par with the best-known programs in the nation. Every healthcare professional involved in a case collaborates on each patient's individualized treatment plan.

Membership in the New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance allows the Center to offer patients the option of enrolling in a wide number of clinical trials. "The number of patients nationwide who participate in promising trials is too low," says Dr. Binder. "We move state-of-the-art diagnostics and therapies from the research bench to the communities where patients live."

As part of a not-for-profit system, the Center specializes in unsurpassed emotional and physical support for patients and their families during a difficult period in their lives. Doctors' appointments are unhurried. Experienced oncology nurses are available to answer questions. A nurse navigator specially trained in oncology and chronic disease guides patients every step of the way. Our team of physicians and oncology pharmacists use advanced computer modeling to help patients make informed decisions based on realistic expectations and possible side effects. The goal is to leave no detail undone so a patient can concentrate on healing.

"By creating a setting where people can receive the most effective treatments close to home," says Dr. Binder, "we have reduced the burden on patients and family members in the weeks and months that lie ahead of them."

**MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER**
RADIATION TREATMENT CENTER

 **PRESBYTERIAN**

Ask your physician or call 505-559-6100 to learn more about the Cancer Center at Presbyterian.