

**Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC
Magee Women's Cancer Center
Women's Cancer Research Center (WCRC)
Report Period: 12/31/2019 to 3/31/2021
Report to A Glimmer of Hope Foundation
April 30, 2021**

Integrative Medicine Services and BCSCC Support

(Troy Treanor, Director, Women's Cancer & Specialty Services)

Since our acupuncturist opened additional appointment times at the end of 2020, we have seen some of the highest visit totals for acupuncture services and that is reflected in the results from the first quarter of 2021. In total, 229 patients were seen from January 1 to March 31, 2021 for a sum of \$14,656. This leaves \$8,464 in funding.

With the recent news that more than 50% of Allegheny County residents have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, we are working to bring massage therapy back into the clinic. This is exciting news and our patients will be delighted for the service to return to UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital. We have been in contact with the massage therapist and anticipate having her back early in Q2 2021.

Our BCSCC clinic provided parking vouchers for 10 patients for a total of \$50 and lunch vouchers were provided for 12 patients and their support people for a total of \$87.

Recent patients have shared the following comments with staff:

- My mind was able to focus on other things.
- Time moves a little faster, which is a blessing.
- Getting chemo is hard but with this service, it also helps me sleep.
- Being with people with positive attitudes helps me stay positive to fight to kill this cancer.
- Makes us feel special and pampered at a time when we really need that.

Research Benefitting Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer

Liquid Biopsy Research

(Steffi Oesterreich, Jennifer Xavier, Lori Miller, Peg Rosenzweig, Adrian Lee)

Analysis of cancer mutations in cfDNA (liquid biopsies) from patients with metastatic breast cancer

We continue to enroll and register patients in our multiyear clinical trial (APOLLO) to analyze liquid biopsies and reactions to therapy in advanced breast cancer. As noted in prior reports, we had to adjust our collection protocols in response to the ongoing pandemic because our staff aren't allowed direct interaction with patients and nurses. Lori Miler, research specialist, continues to identify patients and organize the sample collection by working with clinical staff. Because of our flexible response to the pandemic restrictions, our enrollment continues at a pace that approaches our pre-COVID rates.

As we shared in our last report, we found numerous mutations when studying banked plasma samples to investigate mutations in the estrogen receptor (ESR1). Based on those results, we submitted a proposal for funding to the National Institutes of Health. That application was approved and we received an award of

\$3.35M over 5 years. This is a wonderful illustration of how pilot funding and banking can advance research and ultimately lead to greater investment from other funding sources and better outcomes for patients with breast cancer.

Finally, we are currently examining the possibility to use these banked samples to sequence for clinically actionable targets using a new technology (TSO500, Illumina). We have begun sequencing blood samples and will be able to provide reporting on those results in 3 – 6 months.