

**Hospital
HIMA-San Pablo**

Oncológico

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 DATA

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INTRODUCTION



It is my distinct privilege to present to you the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital cancer program 2014 Data Annual Report. The Cancer Committee has been working hard throughout the year in developing a program which is consistent with the best practices accompanied by compassion in these challenging times. We continue to have an aggressive tumor board program which meets weekly to provide a multidisciplinary approach to the care of our patients. NCCN guidelines are used as a framework for recommendations for treatment of each case. The purpose of our cancer committee is to ensure high quality of care in a safe environment with compassion, so that the needs of our community are met.

We continue to have community events for education and awareness in collaboration with the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Foundation. We celebrate the life of our survivors with an annual event; *Share Hope Fair and 5K Run* in June. The American Cancer Society continues to support us and their resources are invaluable. We are very excited about the future of cancer care at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital. We will continue to work on enhancing our services and coordination of care as we look forward to continued improvement in both, delivery of care and improving access for our community.

The 2014 Annual Report highlights the wide-range of services offered within the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital and recognizes the important contributions from all service lines and departments. We thank our medical faculty for their continued support of the Cancer Care Program and continue to strive to provide the highest quality cancer care for our patients.

Mayra M. Collazo Castro, MD, CTR
Director
HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital



*We have great reasons
to celebrate!*



HIMA-San Pablo Oncologic Hospital
obtains a prestigious accreditation
from the **Commission on Cancer**
of American College of Surgeons.

MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



The Cancer Program at HIMA•San Pablo has continued to evolve and our goal is to provide the best care possible for all of our patients affected by a cancer diagnosis. Our comprehensive program is enhanced by a strong team-oriented approach. This year, a weekly multidisciplinary oncology ward round was established and has impacted positively the care of our patients by allowing to standardize common medical problems our patients endure such as pain management, nutritional assessment, psychosocial support and discharge planning. We have been able to increase the number of cases presented in our Tumor Boards where Surgeons, Pathologists, and Medical and Radiation Oncologists discuss and plan the best treatment option for each individual case.

Our Cancer Registry department has been collecting and reporting data to the National Data Base which allows us to compare local data to national data, helping us identify the differences in the prevalence of the different types of cancer in our population. For this reason, we have been participating in clinical trials and are working to identify the possible causes for these differences in order to determine if changes in treatment may be recommended.

This year our Community Outreach Program continued to meet our patient's needs by offering many educational sessions and activities to help our patients better understand their illness. Monthly genetic counseling is offered at our clinic as part of our new services. Our screening clinic for breast, prostate and colon cancer continues to achieve great community participation.

Our Radiation Therapy Unit has added High Dose Radiation/ Brachytherapy equipment specialized to complement our Gynecology Oncologic Services for patients with cervical cancer. Today, we find our services in medical oncology have outgrown our current space and we are excited for an upcoming expansion that will enhance clinic space and provide patient comfort.

The Autologous Stem Cell Transplant Program continues to grow under the guidance of Dr. Norma Salgado. This year we celebrated reaching our 100th transplant with excellent outcomes and also our first pediatric autologous stem cell transplant performed by our Pediatric Oncology Medical Director, Dr. Jhon Guerra.

We are very proud of our Cancer Program achievements and will look forward to providing new advances in treatment as we are committed to continue offering the best care possible for cancer patients and those at risk of developing it in Puerto Rico.

Edgardo J. Rodríguez Monge, MD
Medical Director
HIMA•San Pablo Oncologic Hospital

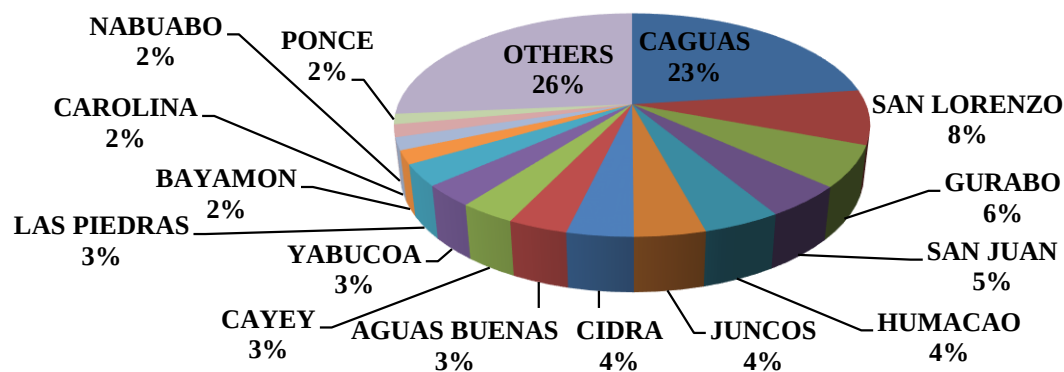
OVERVIEW OF THE CANCER REGISTRY 2014 DATA REPORT

Mayra M. Collazo Castro, MD, CTR

The Cancer Registry at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital gathers information on all tumors diagnosed or treated at the Institution. During 2014, 1,353 analytic cases and 194 non-analytic cases were added to the registry database. We give active follow-up to more than 4,000 patients annually, maintaining a 97% follow-up rate.

In the geographic distribution for 2014, 23% (354) of our cancer patients are residents of the city of Caguas, 76% (1,173) come from neighboring cities and 1.3% (20) of our cancer patients traveled from the Virgin Islands to receive treatment in our Institution.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



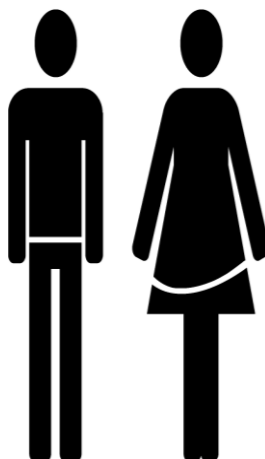
* "Others" includes the sum of all cities of Puerto Rico with less than 2%.

The Cancer Registry at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital is a detailed database of each tumor type diagnosed or treated in the Institution and it's a vital component of the Cancer Program. Continuous monitoring of the survivors and recurrence statistics of the conditions raises the standards of treatment and care for the cancer patients, and it also gathers data to launch new research and clinical trials.

TOP 10 CANCER SITES BY GENDER

MALE (695 cases) 45%

CANCER	CASES	%
1. Prostate	236	34.0%
2. Colorectal	83	11.9%
3. Lung & Bronchus	52	7.5%
4. Lymphoma	43	6.2%
5. Brain & CNS	39	5.6%
6. Oral Cavity & Pharynx	42	6.0%
7. Myeloma	25	3.6%
8. Urinary Bladder	23	3.3%
9. Liver & Bile Duct	18	2.6%
9. Larynx	18	2.6%
11. Others	116	16.7%



FEMALE (852 cases) 55%

CANCER	CASES	%
1. Breast	230	27.0%
2. Corpus & Uterus	127	14.9%
3. Thyroid	78	9.2%
4. Colorectal	64	7.5%
5. Brain & CNS	58	6.8%
6. Cervix Uteri	49	5.8%
7. Lung & Bronchus	41	4.8%
8. Lymphoma	29	3.4%
9. Ovary	25	2.9%
10. Myeloma	24	2.8%
11. Others	131	14.9%

2014 CANCER SITE REPORT

SITE	SEX		CLASS OF CASE		STATUS***		AJCC STAGE AT DIAGNOSIS (ONLY ANALYTIC CASES)				
	M	F	A*	NA**	ALIVE	EXP	0	I	II	III	IV
Total (1,547)	695	852	1,353	194	1,422	125	47	322	142	116	133
Oral Cavity & Pharynx (58)	42	16	50	8	54	4	0	8	2	7	23
Digestive System (254)	145	109	210	44	220	34	6	23	20	50	29
Esophagus (8)	7	1	7	1	5	3	0	0	0	2	3
Stomach (14)	7	7	13	1	11	3	1	4	0	4	0
Small Intestine (6)	2	4	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	3	0
Colon (98)	49	49	70	28	91	7	4	8	10	25	12
Rectum (49)	34	15	48	1	44	5	1	11	5	12	7
Anus (4)	1	3	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liver (22)	18	4	17	5	21	1	0	0	0	0	2
Gallbladder (3)	0	3	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0
Other Biliary (8)	2	6	8	0	7	1	0	0	1	0	0
Pancreas (20)	14	6	18	2	13	7	0	0	4	1	5
Retroperitoneum (4)	1	3	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other Digestive (18)	10	8	17	1	12	6	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory System (116)	71	45	101	15	103	13	0	7	4	11	29
Nose, Nasal Cavity & (4)	1	3	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
Larynx (19)	18	1	16	3	19	0	0	3	1	1	4
Lung & Bronchus (93)	52	41	84	9	80	13	0	4	3	10	24
Bones & Joints (5)	4	1	4	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Soft Tissue (6)	5	1	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Skin (9)	6	3	5	4	7	2	0	1	0	0	0
Melanoma (6)	4	2	2	4	4	2	0	1	0	0	0
Other Non-Epithelial (3)	2	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Breast (231)	1	230	208	23	224	7	32	60	33	15	4
Female Genital System (211)	0	211	187	24	198	13	0	69	15	18	15
Cervix Uteri (49)	0	49	42	7	44	5	0	11	7	6	4
Corpus & Uterus (127)	0	127	116	11	122	5	0	53	5	11	4
Ovary (25)	0	25	19	6	23	2	0	4	3	1	7
Vagina (2)	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vulva (4)	0	4	4	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other (4)	0	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male Genital System (239)	239	0	220	19	230	9	0	90	66	3	4
Prostate (236)	236	0	218	18	227	9	0	89	66	3	4
Testis (2)	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Penis (1)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urinary System (57)	36	21	51	6	49	8	9	3	1	5	10
Urinary Bladder (29)	23	6	27	2	26	3	9	0	1	0	5
Kidney & Renal Pelvis (27)	13	14	24	3	22	5	0	3	0	5	5
Ureter (1)	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eye & Orbit (3)	3	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brain & CNS (97)	39	58	89	8	78	19	0	0	0	0	0
Endocrine System (116)	24	92	107	9	116	0	0	41	0	2	4
Thyroid (91)	13	78	84	7	91	0	0	41	0	2	4
Other Endocrine (25)	11	14	23	2	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lymphoma (72)	43	29	59	13	67	5	0	20	1	5	14
Hodgkin (13)	7	6	8	5	13	0	0	3	0	3	1
Non-Hodgkin (59)	36	23	51	8	54	5	0	17	1	2	13
Myeloma (49)	25	24	38	11	47	2	0	0	0	0	0
Leukemia (11)	4	7	8	3	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
Other (13)	8	5	8	5	7	6	0	0	0	0	0

Data based on HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital 1st contact year 2014.

* Analytic (A): diagnosed and/or received first course treatment at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital.

** Non-Analytic (NA): All cases for which the registry does not have information on the original diagnosis and/or first course of treatment. (E.g. treatment was for persistent disease; metastatic disease; recurrence, palliative).

*** Status: data obtained from patients alive or expired from follow-up done until 11/17/15.

RAPID QUALITY REPORTING SYSTEM (RQRS)

The Rapid Quality Reporting System (RQRS) promotes and facilitates evidence-based care for patients at Commission on Cancer-accredited programs by actively monitoring and assessing compliance with four National Quality Forum-endorsed measures and two surveillance measures of cancer care for breast and colorectal cancer patients in real clinical time. It is a Web-based, systematic data collection and reporting system that advances evidenced-base treatment through a prospective alert system for anticipated care which supports care coordination required for breast and colorectal cancer patients at participating cancer programs. HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital has been enrolled since October 9, 2014 and has been using this system to optimize and monitor the care of our patients.

TUMOR BOARDS

HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital offers weekly Tumor Boards. During 2014, 47 Tumor Boards were held following National Treatment Guidelines and AJCC Staging. A total of 301 cases were presented, 97% of them prospectively, to a multidisciplinary panel of doctors and allied health professionals.

SITES DISCUSSED (301 CASES)

Bone and Joints	16	Gynecology	8
Breast	101	Cervix Uteri	1
Brain & CNS	72	Ovary	6
Digestive System	44	Corpus Uteri	1
Esophagus	3	Kidney and Renal Pelvis	5
Stomach	5	Lung	6
Colorectal	27	Lymphoma	16
Liver	2	Melanoma Skin	3
Pancreas	2	Oral Cavity/ Pharynx	3
Retroperitoneum	3	Soft Tissue	19
Peritoneum, Omentum		Testis	4
& Mesentery	2	Thyroid	4

SPECIALIZED TUMOR BOARDS

The Specialized Tumor Boards are given weekly from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

- Breast Surgery – bi-monthly (the first Thursday and the second Monday of each month)
- Surgery & Medical Oncology – the second Monday of each month
- Neurosurgery and Head & Neck Surgery – the third Thursday of each month
- Pediatric Oncology – the last Thursday of each month

Every meeting is composed by a multidisciplinary panel that includes hematologist-oncologists, surgeons, radio-oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, nutritionists, speech therapists, nursing, social workers and psychosocial support.

Tumor Boards are accredited by *Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education* and *Junta de Licenciamiento y Disciplina Médica de Puerto Rico* with a joined sponsorship of *Universidad Central del Caribe School of Medicine* and the *HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital*. The Tumor Board was approved for 2 hours credit of Continuing Medical Education. A total of 54 doctors have benefited from this initiative and multidisciplinary attendance was 93.25% on 2014.

The Health Education and Community Outreach (HECO) Department at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital works with all initiatives related to health promotion, cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection in the community. We deliver educational services to cancer patients and caregivers in order to promote patient quality of life and patient compliance with treatment and follow-up care. Activities are held according to the cancer program standards of care of the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons.

SCREENING & EARLY DETECTION PROGRAMS

Mammogram Institutional Program

In October 2013, a mammogram program with no co-pay charges for HIMA San Pablo regular employees came to effect as a screening program to promote breast cancer monitoring and early detection. In 2014 the program was activated in April, August and October. A total of 212 women were tested and those with positive findings were referred to medical follow-up care and to counseling and further psychosocial and educational assistance with the Breast Cancer Navigator and the Psychosocial Team.

PSA Clinics

Nine free of charge Prostate Specific Antigen Test (PSA) Clinics were also offered in eight municipalities of Puerto Rico: Culebra, Vieques, Fajardo, Luquillo, Río Grande, Ceiba, Naguabo and Bayamón. A total of 143 males were tested of which 4% (6) were referred for urologic follow-up medical care due to test results. One on one counseling regarding advantages and disadvantages of

PSA testing and the importance of the digital rectal examination was offered to participants, with distribution of educational material. Participants with abnormal test results were contacted by phone for additional education and support.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Community Education

The Community Outreach Coordinator collaborated as speaker in the *Puerto Rico Cancer Educational Prevention Program (PR-CEPP)* from Ponce School of Medicine & Moffitt Cancer Center Partnership U-54 Project. Education was provided to community leaders from municipalities with limited access to medical care of the southwest region of Puerto Rico. Interventions were held in Hormigueros, Guayanilla, Aibonito, and Villalba. Approximately 200 community leaders received education on weekends regarding healthy lifestyles and strategies for cancer risk reduction, prevention and early detection. An educational booklet with written contributions from speakers was distributed to all participants.

PR-CEPP Intervention



Salud Hoy Radio Program

The Health Capsules Program initiated in 2011 and continued as proposed, providing short cancer awareness and prevention messages at the end of HIMA San Pablo Radio Program *Salud Hoy*. The program is aired at prime time every Saturday, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm in WKAQ 580 AM Radio Station.

Educational Resource Center

A small library was organized at the Health Education and Community Outreach Department. Updated written educational material about cancer and other related topics, both in English and Spanish, was developed and made available to patients, caregivers, health professionals and general public. Such material supported all health education interventions.

Educational Resource Center



CANCER AWARENESS

Breast Cancer

Breast Cancer Ribbon Competition

To create breast cancer awareness, a cancer ribbon competition was held in October 2014. A notice was delivered through the institutional social media system asking for handmade ribbons with motivational messages to all patients and hospital personnel. Artwork had to comply with certain specifications related to size, weight,

material and message content. More than 20 ribbons were submitted for the competition and shown in an exhibition. Patients and caregivers at the Breast Institute waiting area voted to choose three winners.

Breast Cancer Ribbon Artwork



Bulletin Board Educational Program

HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital promotes the continuity of the multidisciplinary cancer educational program, intended to educate patients, caregivers, health professionals and the general public with information posted in bulletin boards located at oncology ambulatory care areas. The strategy intended to educate about cancer related topics with material developed by members of the health care team. In 2014, six topics were covered:

1. Commission on Cancer Accreditation: what does it mean to patient care?
2. Basic Nuclear Medicine tests for cancer diagnosis
3. Oncology Quality Care and Patient Satisfaction
4. Prostate Cancer Early Detection
5. Healthy Christmas Season with good nutrition
6. Benefits of Cancer Support Group Meetings

SURVIVORSHIP

Puerto Rico Cancer Control Coalition

HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital is represented in the Steering Committee of the Puerto Rico Cancer Control Coalition; a group of community organizations in charge of developing and delivering to the Island a cancer control action plan for 2015-2020. In 2014 our HECO Coordinator worked as leader of the Survivorship and Quality of Life Committee. Action plan main objectives on survivorship are the following:

- 1) To increase the number of cancer survivors who receive a survivorship care plan as a quality standard of care in oncology, and
- 2) To increase the use of survivorship services and resources among cancer survivors, families and caregivers.

Members of Steering Committee PR Cancer Control Coalition



Blood Cancer & Bone Marrow Transplant Symposium

In May 2014, HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital, in conjunction with the Puerto Rico American Cancer Society, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and The National Donor Program of “Be the Match”, hosted a Blood Cancer & Bone Marrow Transplant Symposium for Puerto Rican adults and pediatric bone marrow recipients or recipients to be, caregivers and allied health professionals. Forty three (43) participants

attended to the symposium from which 28% (12) were patients, 53% (23) caregivers and 19% (8) health professionals.

Three local plastic artists provided an art tutoring session for children 4 years old and older while their relatives attended the symposium. All speakers belonged to the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital medical faculty.

Registration at the Symposium



Breast Cancer Survivors Forum

In October 2014, a forum was held to honor breast cancer survivors who completed treatment according to HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital Cancer Registry data. Approximately 60 participants attended by invitation including caregivers. The program started with a catered breakfast followed by motivational speeches given by four breast

cancer survivors. Afterwards, a group discussion focusing on strategies to overcome cancer treatment and long-term side effects took place. The program also included an exercise session provided by a personal trainer and a classical music live presentation.

Breast Cancer Survivors Forum



Cancer Center Staff



Educational Program in Ostomy

HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital provided education to patients with ostomy surgery due to cancer and other conditions. Ostomy patients were managed according to a protocol delivered by a multidisciplinary team of skin care nurses, a nutritionist/dietitian and the health educator. Patients received individual education before or after surgery. Additionally, they received a written appointment for an educational meeting free of charge held once a month at the hospital to offer support while coping with lifestyle changes related to an ostomy procedure.

Topics discussed were: How to install the ostomy bag, how to prevent skin infections, and how to deal with emotional challenges related to an ostomy. Information about nutrition and physical activity was also provided. For closure, a step by step practice was completed by patients under the supervision of a skin care nurse about how to properly install an ostomy system.

Meetings were open to nurses and health professionals in training. In 2014, a total of 106 participants attended to meetings of which 15% (16) were patients, 13% (14) caregivers and 72% (76) health professionals.

Support Group Meetings

Adult Patients & Caregivers

Semi-structured emotional support group meetings were available twice a month for patients and caregivers in ambulatory care at the radiotherapy and medical oncology units.

Specific themes were presented according to patient interests and particular needs. Cancer survivors and other special speakers were invited as co-facilitators for certain presentations. Twenty five (25) support group meetings were completed with a total of 369 participants.

Relatives of Pediatric Patients

Support group meetings for parents and relatives of pediatric cancer patients were held twice a month at the Pediatric Oncology Ambulatory Care Unit. Twenty five (25) meetings were delivered with an average of 9 participants per session. Art therapy, canine assisted therapy and other non-traditional emotional support approaches were included during meetings.

Educational Guide for Pediatric Oncology

In 2013 a proposal was presented to the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital Cancer Committee, for the development of an educational guide for pediatric oncology

patients recently diagnosed, and their family members. The proposal was approved as a quality improvement measure.

In 2014 the drafting of 22 topics was completed by members of the editorial committee and the first version of the educational guide was delivered to six independent readers for quantitative and qualitative evaluations. Parents of pediatric patients were included as readers.

An evaluation form was developed with five quality indicators ranging from 1 for '*poor*' to 4 for '*excellent*'. Additionally, readers were provided with a section for comments and recommendations that were included in the study results. The final score for the educational guide was 3.94. Its publication is expected for 2015.

Bell of Hope

As part of the end of treatment celebration for cancer patients, we inaugurated three bells in the areas where our patients conclude their treatments.

The first bell was installed and inaugurated on June 12, 2014 celebrating with our 100th patient who completed a Bone Marrow Transplant in our Institution.

The second bell was inaugurated in the Cancer Center on October 2nd, 2014 celebrating with the first breast cancer patient who completed her radiotherapy treatment during the Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Finally, the third bell was placed in the Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Medical Office and was inaugurated on November 6th, 2014, coinciding with the Thanksgiving month celebration.

Every bell ring that rumbles through the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital is a symbol of hope for those beginning a new treatment.

Campana de la Esperanza



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

American Cancer Society: *Relay for Life*

In April 2014, HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital participated for the fourth consecutive year in the American Cancer Society Puerto Rico Chapter Annual Event: *Relay for Life*. The event took place at the athletic field of *Universidad del Turabo*. Skin cancer prevention education was provided to cancer survivors, caregivers and the general public. HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital was recognized with second place in the category of Corporate Donations.

Relay for Life 2014 – Gold Team



HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Foundation: *Share Hope Fair and 5K Marathon*

In June 2014, HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital was the host for the *Share Hope Fair and 5K Marathon* Fundraiser Event of HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Foundation. The non-profit organization provides economic support to cancer patients with limited resources, who are diagnosed and/or treated in any medical institution in Puerto Rico. Testimonials and cancer awareness messages were shared with the general public between artistic presentations. Over 800 runners attended the event.

5K Marathon



3rd Voices of Hope Concert

The 3rd *Voices of Hope Concert* took place in December 2014 at the HIMA San Pablo Bayamón Auditorium. The concert was delivered in alliance with the Puerto Rico American Cancer Society to a group of approximately 80 senior citizens. It was organized by adolescent cancer survivors.

The concert main objectives were: 1) to educate and create awareness of cancer early detection between senior citizens and 2) to present health promotion messages to the geriatric population. The artistic event included an art exhibition by cancer survivors (*Estaciones de Vida*), a modern rock band presentation, classical Puerto Rican music, pantomimes, testimonials and a special performance by the Ponce Children Chorus.

Ponce Children Chorus



Susan G. Komen PR: *Race for The Cure*

In October 2014, the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Foundation sponsored for the first time the *Susan G. Komen Race for The Cure* supporting all breast cancer patients of Puerto Rico. A group of employees from HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital attended the event to represent the Institution.

Susan G. Komen Race for The Cure



Dr. Petion Rivera Foundation Pediatric Oncology Christmas Celebration

Dr. Petion Rivera Foundation held a Christmas celebration for pediatric oncology patients on December 17, 2014. We had the pleasure to enjoy various entertainment performances, including an all student Bell Choir.

Bell Choir



Puerto Rico Baseball Academy Oncology Units Visit

Every year the Puerto Rico Baseball Academy students bring joy to the hospitalized patients in the Oncology Units along with gifts and a special “parranda” which everyone loves and enjoys.

Puerto Rico Baseball Academy



Pediatric Unit Nurse Station



As part of the Educational Program for the oncology nursing personnel, the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital offered educational sessions, specialized courses and seminars to improve employee competencies and the quality of our services.

An Oncology Course was offered to our nursing personnel by highly accredited speakers. We had 37 participants including personnel from HIMA San Pablo Caguas, Fajardo and Humacao.

During our 2014 HIMA San Pablo Medical Faculty Convention, our Bone Marrow Transplant Unit presented the study of the survival rates of multiple myeloma patients who received an autologous bone marrow transplant in our Institution with results of 0% mortality associated to the procedure.

Quality Studies:

To evaluate the percentage of patients referred for breast reconstruction after a mastectomy and assure that all qualified patients are referred to a board certified surgeon and that it's properly documented as required by the national guidelines.

Mrs. Karmín Rodríguez, Breast Navigator, reported the following results: In 2012 there were 33 mastectomies performed and 1 breast reconstruction for 3% of the cases. In 2013 when Plastic Surgeon, Dr. Diana Aviles joined our Institution, we had an increase in these procedures; 45 mastectomies and 20 breast reconstructions were performed for 44% of the cases. 18 patients did not have reconstructive surgery (15 were oriented but not interested), 3 were male patients, 3 patients did not have contact information and 1 patient had passed away.

All qualified mastectomy patients are oriented and offered to be referred to a board certified surgeon for breast reconstruction consideration. This information is documented on the patient's record.

Quality Improvement Measure:

To develop a mandatory e-seminar on Oncology Education for all HIMA San Pablo Caguas employees.

The module was created and revised by the Health Education Department and the Nursing Personnel Development Department. Infection Control was included. The module was added to the e-seminars for all HIMA San Pablo Caguas personnel and by January 2015 all employees had completed the e-seminar.

Clinical Goals selected for 2014:

To develop and evaluate competencies for 100% of the oncology nursing personnel, Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Room and Operating Room personnel, in the safe management of Port-A-Cath (Med Port).

A protocol, a guide, and competencies for the personnel were developed for all areas mentioned above. 100% of the personnel received training. Competencies have been evaluated, and we continue to see positive results.

Programmatic goals selected:

To establish and implement a protocol for the care of patient's at the end of life stage.

The protocol was approved and implemented. Mrs. Marie Claudio, Oncology Nursing Manager also created a guide for the nursing personnel for the care of patient's at the end of life stage.

NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

Joselyn Pérez Reyes, Oncology Clinical Dietitian



2014 was a year of intense activity and growth for the Nutritional Services Department. At HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital we are committed to helping our patients meet their nutritional needs as we believe that nutrition is essential in contributing to optimal outcomes in patients undergoing cancer treatment.

A total of 1,111 patients, hospitalized and in active radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments, were referred to our services and evaluated for nutritional risks and malnutrition during 2014.

Weekly orientations for new patients are offered every Monday by our multidisciplinary team to inform our patients, caregivers and family members of all the services available to them in our Institution and in our community.

During 2014, 112 patients and family members participated of the low iodine diet orientations offered to patients beginning radioactive iodine therapy, in collaboration with Nuclear Medicine Department.

Monthly orientations are offered to ostomized patients in collaboration with the Health Educator and the Nursing Department, providing nutritional and skin care information to our patients. As a result of these orientations, ostomized patients are also referred for nutritional evaluations.



The Nutritional Services Department also participated in support groups for adult and pediatric patients. Educational sessions on nutrition were offered to the oncology nursing personnel. Our department actively participated in the Radio Program “Salud Hoy” and many Health Fairs held by our Institution.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES

Maribel Delgado Colon, MSW, Psychosocial Coordinator



On February 2014 we began offering orientations for new patients beginning radiotherapy treatment. Orientations are held every Monday and are conducted by; Maricarmen Ramirez, Health Educator, Maribel Delgado, Psychosocial Coordinator and Joselyn Pérez, Oncology Nutritionist. Our multidisciplinary team is dedicated to offer the best care and services available in our Institution.

During 2014, 219 patients and 164 family members participated of the orientations. During every session important information is provided regarding radiotherapy treatment,

possible side effects, nutritional needs, also covering the social and emotional aspects related to cancer treatment.

All patients are asked to complete a Distress Screening form and a Nutritional Assessment form to help our Multidisciplinary Team identify patient needs and generate referrals to other services available in-house or in the community. Patients and family members have been very pleased with the orientations and have expressed to feel more at ease and relaxed after the session.

During 2014 a protocol was created to better care for patients with a life expectancy of 6 months or less. Following the NCCN Guidelines, the Palliative/Psychosocial team documented the aspects to be evaluated during this stage in life and each professional of our multidisciplinary team developed their own guidelines for intervention. The Protocol was approved by the Cancer Committee and it was made available to all Oncologists in our Institution.

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2014 AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY REPORT: Collaboration with HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital

Detailed information is included below:

Adult Support Groups: **18**

Pediatric Oncology Parent Meetings: **13**

Radiotherapy Group Orientations: **12**

Ostomized Patients Orientations: **6**

Community Outreach Activities: **34**

Total participants: **373**

Total participants per session: **7**

Total participants: **125**

Total participants: **54**

Total participants (estimated): **11,133**

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES	PARTICIPANTS
Prevention and Early Detection	10	639
Educational displays	9	3,175 + (Estimated)
Non-traditional emotional support activities	5	1091 + (Estimated)
Awareness	5	2,000 + (Estimated)
Publication of educational articles or brochures	1	80,000 (Estimated)
Relay for Life 2014 Sponsors RFL \$5,000	1	89
“Gran Gala” 2014 Sponsors \$10,000	1	10
5K HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Foundation Volunteers (10) registered runners 25	1	35
SAC participation in Cancer Committee Meetings	4	1
Blood Cancer & Bone Marrow Transplant Symposium - SAC & HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital - May 2014	1	25
HIMA Health: Patients hosted at the Hope Lodge from US Virgin Islands and British Islands		69
SAC Participation in “Voces de Esperanza” Concert - December 2014	1	35
SAC Participation in the Breast Cancer Conference October 2014	1	29
Adult Patients Referred to SAC by HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital 2014		179
Pediatric Patients Referred to SAC by HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital 2014 (Families)		2



The HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Foundation is a non-profit organization established in June 2013, in order to respond to the economic and social needs many cancer patients in Puerto Rico encounter. The Foundation efforts are geared towards improving the quality of life and care of cancer patients in the Island. The organization executes many fund raising activities to help and offer support services for adult and pediatric cancer patients in Puerto Rico.

Financial Aid Programs

The Foundation offers four financial aid programs for patients with limited economic resources who are receiving treatment in Puerto Rico. First, the “Direct Help Program” offers monetary assistance for treatment related expenses such as: deductibles, medications, transportation, diet and other expenses that will ensure our patients receive a complete and effective treatment. Second, the Foundation maintains a “Petty Cash” program to assist patients instantly with treatment related expenses for up to \$500.00 at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital. Third, the Foundation matches financial aid given by *Dr. Petion Rivera Foundation* and the American Cancer Society for up to \$5,000 per month. And finally, the Foundation offers the “Buen Trato” Program for breast cancer patients through allocated funds from *Susan G. Komen Puerto Rico*.

Support Programs

On the other hand, the Foundation strives to offer relief and provide better tools to help cancer patients face the diversity of challenges associated with their condition. The Foundation sponsors an Educational Program for patients and the community along with the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital. The calendar of activities is published monthly on the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Foundation Facebook page and also on our website. With the same objective, the Foundation recently published a Pediatric Oncology Educational and Support Guide. The Foundation also supports other aid programs from entities that are based in our Institution such as *Fundación Hechos de Amor* and *Dr. Petión Rivera Foundation* which offer many services to cancer patients.

Our Logo

In accordance with our philosophy of establishing alliances with other organizations helping cancer patients in Puerto Rico; the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Foundation Logo represents the community support that members of the organization wish to create for all cancer patients in Puerto Rico through the colors that make allusion of all types of cancer which combine in a hopeful, optimistic and cheerful spirit.

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NUCLEAR MEDICINE: Lymphoscintigraphy for Sentinel Node detection

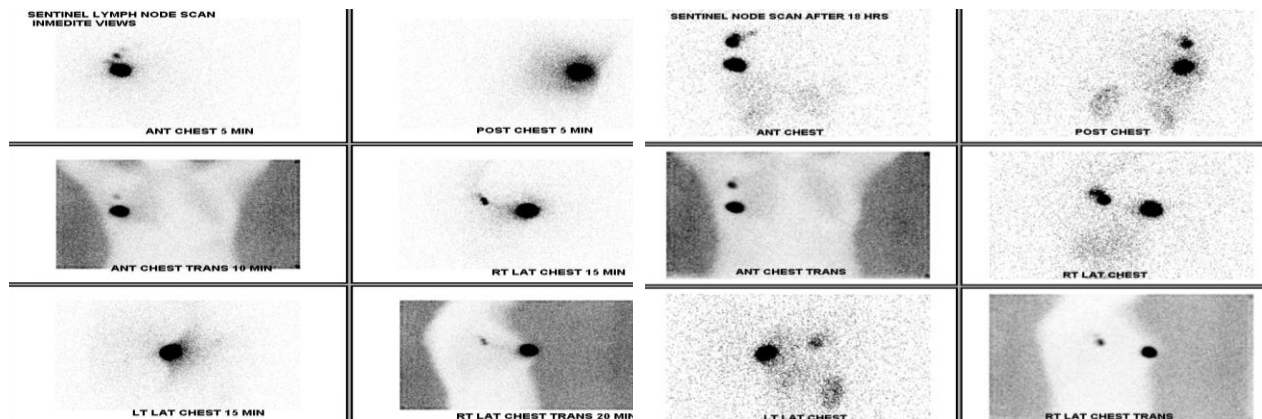
Aris Camacho Agosto
Supervisor, Nuclear Medicine Department

Nuclear Medicine is a branch of medical imaging that uses small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose or treat a variety of diseases, including many types of cancer, cardiac disease and other anomalies in the body. Nuclear Medicine imaging or radionuclide procedures are non-invasive with the exception of intravenous injections, and generally involve painless medical exams to better diagnose many health problems.

Lymphoscintigraphy, studies the lymphatic drainage direction of a tumor to the lymph nodes. The sentinel node is the first barrier of defense in skin (melanoma) and breast cancer. Identifying the location of this node has therapeutic and purpose implications, as it helps the surgeon remove and examine the node to determine whether it's compromised or disease-free. This study is performed through a radiopharmaceutical called Tc99m SC that is filtered with a single intradermal injection performed in the areola of the affected breast. After the injection, images are taken; and after 24 hours are taken again to know if the tumor migrated through the lymphatic system. These images are captured with a gamma camera that provides a clearer picture for the physician to be able to eliminate the affected nodes on the patient. When surgery is performed, a portable gamma probe that detects radioactivity is used to locate the node and then proceed with selective removal.

This Nuclear Medicine procedure has replaced other complex procedures that were previously used to evaluate the lymphatic nodes system and also used to determine cancer dissemination to the lymph nodes. Information provided by nuclear medicine examinations is unique and frequently impossible to obtain through other diagnostic imaging procedures.

In 2014, 75 cases were performed. An increase is expected in 2015 due to the increased incidence of breast cancer cases. Also, a new radioactive material dedicated to sentinel nodes, called "Lymphoseek" will be evaluated in the Nuclear Medicine Department at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital.



During 2014 the HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital actively participated in 5 research initiatives; 132 patients were involved in the research studies which represent 10% of the total analytic cases, meeting and exceeding the percentage required for commendation by the Commission of Cancer.

Research initiatives are divided into screening, treatment and quality of life. Among the most important to mention in this annual report are:

- (1) The agreement between Moffitt Cancer Center/ Ponce Health Sciences University/ HIMA San Pablo for the establishment of the Puerto Rico Biobank.
- (2) University of Puerto Rico/ HIMA San Pablo for the qualitative study to understand the barriers for recruitment and participation of women survivors of breast cancer in clinical trials.
- (3) Ponce Health Sciences University/ HIMA San Pablo Nucleotide Excision Repair (NER) Research.
- (4) Central Caribbean University/ HIMA San Pablo for the glioblastoma study about the dispersal of human glioma cells through the Pyk2 intracellular pathway.
- (5) Exploratory study on the use of herbal medicine in a group of patients diagnosed with cancer and participants of the radio and chemotherapy programs at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital.

PUERTO RICO BIO BANK U54 PSM-MCC (BIOREPOSITORY)

Authors: Jaime Matta MD, Idhaliz Flores PhD, Teresita Muñoz PhD and Luis Ferrer MD

Affiliations: HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital, Caguas, PR; MOFFITT Cancer Center and Ponce Health Sciences University

Abstract: The primary aim of this study is to develop the first tumor tissue bank in Puerto Rico, capable of the optimal collection, processing and distribution of biological materials derived from the island's Hispanic population and available for researchers.

QUALITATIVE STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS FOR RECRUITMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN SURVIVORS OF BREAST CANCER IN CLINICAL TRIALS

Authors: Dr. Vivian Colon and Dr. Marinilda Rivera

NIH grant number: U54CA096297

Affiliations: HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital, Caguas, PR and University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus

Abstract: Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Hispanic women living in the United States and Puerto Rico. One of the biggest potential to reduce cancer mortality is increasing participation in cancer clinical trials. Clinical trials provide information for the development of new treatment strategies, raising awareness on cancer and improving their effectiveness. In order to design strategies and efforts to help in the recruitment and retention of participants in future clinical trials, it is necessary to identify facilitators and barriers that can help or interfere with their participation. The purpose of the focus group is to encourage discussion among people with breast cancer to identify potential barriers and facilitators that could encourage or discourage their participation in clinical trials in Puerto Rico.

This research has as main objective to meet the facilitators and barriers that women survivors of breast cancer may have to participate in clinical research.

Method: Three groups of women with experience in clinical research and three groups of women without experience, for a total of 60 participants.

MICROGLIA PROMOTE DISPERSAL OF HUMAN GLIOMA CELLS THROUGH THE PYK2 INTRACELLULAR PATHWAY

Author: Lilia Kucheryavik, PhD

Affiliations: HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital, Caguas, PR and Caribbean Central University, Bayamón, P.R.

Abstract: Glioblastoma is the most malignant form of glioma. Prognosis is poor because tumor cell invasion into surrounding brain leads to recurrence even after radical surgery. Development of medical approaches targeting the ability of glioma cells to migrate is a highly important goal in enhancing the effectiveness of glioma treatment. Gliomas harbor multiple cell types, in particular, microglial cells which can contribute up to 30% of a brain tumor mass and play a role in glioblastoma cell invasion. The tumor cells shut down the immune properties of microglia and stimulate the microglia to release tumor invasion -promoting factors. The result of such modulation is that a kind of symbiosis occurs between microglia and tumor cells that favor tumor dispersal and proliferation. Microglia promote glioma cell invasion by engaging two mechanisms.

Specific Aim #1: To test the hypothesis that microglia activates migration/invasion of glioma cells through a Pyk2 intracellular pathway.

Specific Aim #2: To test the hypothesis that phospholipase C γ 1 (PLC γ 1) and epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mediate microglial activated glioma mobility.

Specific Aim #3: To test the effectiveness of combined treatment of temozolomide (TMZ) and PF-562271 in decreasing glioma growth and dispersal as compared to the current treatment of TMZ alone.

BREAST CANCER GENETICS NUCLEOTIDE EXCISION REPAIR STUDY (NER Study)

Author: Dr. Julie Dutil and Dr. Elinette Albino

Affiliations: HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital, Caguas, PR and Ponce Health Sciences University

Abstract: The nucleotide excision repair (NER) pathway specializes in repairing a wide variety of DNA helix distortions. Significant decreases in DNA repair capacity (DRC) levels, which measures mostly the activity of the NER, have been observed in breast cancer cases from Puerto Rico when compared to non-cancer controls. In the current proposal, we propose to investigate the association (aim#1) and the functional impact (aim#2) of copy number variations (CNVs) in determining inter-individual variability in DNA repair capacity and breast cancer risk. We will also use admixture analysis to localize the genomic regions favoring the development of estrogen and progesterone- negative tumors (aim#3). This relies on our preliminary data showing that in Puerto Rican women, African ancestry is associated with higher risk of ER-PR- tumors.

Inclusion criteria:

- All participants must be able to comprehend the nature of the study and be willing to sign the study Informed Consent form;
- 21 years and older;
- Females with histopathologically confirmed breast cancer;
- 4/4 grandparents born in Puerto Rico.

Requested materials:

- Informed consent;
- Epidemiological questionnaire;
- Pathology report;
- Blood sample (8ml)

EXPLORATORY STUDY ON THE USE OF HERBAL MEDICINE IN A GROUP OF PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE RADIOTHERAPY AND CHEMOTHERAPY PROGRAMS AT HIMA SAN PABLO ONCOLOGIC HOSPITAL

Author: Victor E. Reyes-Ortiz, PhD & Marian Lourdes Nuñez-Sierra, MPHG

Abstract: The overall objective of this study is to identify the use of herbal medicine in a sample of cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico. This is intended to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Describe the socio-demographic profile of cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico.
- Describe the health profile of cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico.
- Identify the prevalence of self-disclosure use herbal medicine for cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico.
- Quantify the use of herbal medicines for cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico.
- Explore the associations between socio-demographic profile and health profile of cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico.
- Explore the associations between socio-demographic profile and the use of herbal medicines for cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico.
- Explore the associations between health profile and the use of herbal medicines for cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico.
- Set socio-demographic and health factors that predict the use of herbal medicines for cancer patients receiving treatment at a hospital in Puerto Rico.

Inclusion criteria: All candidates to participate in this study must meet the following requirements: (a) be of legal age (b) be able to read, speak and write Spanish (c) must have a cancer diagnosis confirmed by a physician licensed in Puerto Rico (d) should be able to consent to participation in the study (e) must be receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy at HIMA San Pablo Oncologic Hospital. The breach of any of these 5 criteria disqualifies the participant.

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