The Lucy Oncology Clinic at the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital

A State-of-the-Art Clinic for Veterinary Oncology Patients
The clinicians and staff at the Flint Animal Cancer Center have always dedicated themselves to providing the very best cancer care, despite limitations imposed by existing facilities. The FACC is known for delivering high-quality, individualized care, and clear, open communication along with innovative cancer treatment. But the oncology team struggled with space inefficiencies that spread its service out among several different sites within the hospital. Thanks to the generosity of longtime supporter Jeff Neu, and major gifts from the estate of Patt Hall, Bets Keen, the Pierce family, and the Eldred family, the veterinary oncology team at the FACC now has a state-of-the-art, custom-designed clinic to match its skills.

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The Lucy Oncology Clinic, located within Colorado State University’s James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital, is an investment in the health and well-being of our patients as well as an investment in our skilled and dedicated staff. It allows the oncology team to offer the most up-to-date medical technology in an efficiently designed space that also consolidates points of service.

The renovated clinic space adds 3,000 square feet within general oncology located at the front of the hospital, and 1,000 square feet to the radiation oncology unit to be consolidated at the north end of the hospital. Construction on the radiation area begins in 2017.

**Meeting a Serious Need**

The hospital, completed in 1979, was considered state-of-the-art at that time. The 36 intervening years brought changes in process, workflow, technology, and an increase in caseloads for specialties, especially oncology. The 35,000-square-foot Flint Animal Cancer Center wing, completed in 2002, was built to house clinician offices, research laboratories, 12 examination rooms, meeting rooms, and the Argus Institute counseling service. Clinical work, including clinical trials appointments, was conducted in separate areas of the older Veterinary Teaching Hospital, creating inefficiencies.

The Lucy Oncology Clinic consolidates all examination and treatment areas into a single space designed to be patient- and staff-oriented, emphasizing functionality from the minute a patient checks in to when they check out.

The center books about 6,000 appointments a year and provides an additional 3,000 consultations by phone and email. It has trained more surgical, medical, and radiation oncologists than any other veterinary institution in the world, in addition to housing the largest group of scientists studying and treating naturally occurring cancer in pets.

**Clinic features include:**

- An open floor plan with windows to allow better patient monitoring, improved communication among team members, enhanced teaching opportunities, and more light in an interior space
- Dedicated exam rooms for oncology patients
- A dedicated chemotherapy infusion room that provides chemo “suites” for patients requiring longer infusion times
- A separate procedures area
- Ceiling-mounted medical gas and power columns
- A dedicated clinical trials area
- A modern, comfortable day-holding area for patients requiring a full-day work up
- Rounds rooms for daily oncology case meetings and team work space
- An office for staff and for doctors
- “Flex space” for use by staff for medical activities during busy times
- A computer-modulated tunable lighting system that mimics the natural sunrise-to-sunset quality of light for the benefit of patients and staff

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**Lucy Oncology Clinic features**

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“We believe the best veterinary cancer care is about more than delivering the most current treatment available, more than just providing a continuity of patient care and good client communication. It’s about teamwork, and providing compassion and support to both patient and client during one of the most difficult times a family can experience.”

— Rodney Page, DVM, MS, DACVIM

Director of the Flint Animal Cancer Center
Lucy Neu
A Beloved Rottweiler Demonstrates the Advantage of Using Nuclear Imaging in Cancer Staging

Jeffrey Neu and his sleek Rottweiler, Lucy, first came to Colorado State University’s Flint Animal Cancer Center from their home in southern California in 2011, a year after Lucy lost her right rear leg to osteosarcoma. Jeff knew the cancer’s potential for recurrence, and was determined to catch any return at its earliest stage. PET/CT scans, he had learned, are often used by physician oncologists to aid in early detection, grading, and staging of many cancers, as well as evaluating treatment success. That’s what he wanted for Lucy, but found that such sophisticated imaging was not as accessible in veterinary medicine except at a handful of teaching and research hospitals such as CSU’s Flint Animal Cancer Center.

The combined Positron Emission Tomography - Computed Tomography scanner has been used in human medicine since 2001, but its use with veterinary patients is more recent, and available only at larger veterinary centers engaged in advanced diagnostics and therapy for cancer, and developing new treatment options through comparative cancer research.

At the FACC, Lucy’s first PET/CT confirmed her primary veterinarian’s earlier findings: the development of nodules in her lungs, which was being treated with chemotherapy. Nine months later, an MRI revealed a tumor pressing on her cervical vertebrae, which was deemed inoperable. A second PET/CT scan at CSU brought more bad news: in addition to the tumor in her neck, a metastatic tumor had invaded her pelvis.

On the recommendation of her FACC oncologists, Lucy underwent stereotactic radiation therapy, a sophisticated technique that delivers the maximum dose of radiation to a precisely targeted area while sparing adjacent, healthy tissue. Her recovery exceeded expectations when she began to walk again within just a few days; but three months later a scan revealed a medium-sized mass on her liver. Jeff knew he had only a little more time with Lucy, and he was grateful for the additional months her treatments gave them.

Since she was a puppy, Lucy had accompanied Jeff to work, on business and vacation trips, and even to fundraising events where she lay quietly under the table, just happy to be with him. Throughout early health scares, including two surgeries for cruciate ligament tears in her knees, and her battles with cancer, Jeff gave her his love and the best care possible. Jeffrey and his brother Robert, through their company Neu Brothers Holdings, Inc., have provided a lasting legacy in Lucy’s name: The Lucy Scholars Fund at the Flint Animal Cancer Center, and the Lucy Oncology Clinic within the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
True and Story Keen Consult and Comfort Room

Story and True Keen were typical of golden retrievers: calm, intelligent, fun-loving, and devoted to their owner, Bets Keen. Story was mother to True, and was also Bets’ “heart dog,” as she likes to say. From the day Story was born to Bets’ first golden, Seeker, the two were deeply bonded. When Story was diagnosed with mammary cancer, the bond only strengthened, but she eventually succumbed to the disease in 2011 at age 11 years.

When Story’s beautiful daughter, True, was diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma in 2015, Bets sought advice from FACC oncologists via the center’s free-of-charge, web-based consultation service. Although True also succumbed to her cancer the same year, Bets is grateful for information and support provided by the FACC that helped her make decisions on behalf of True, and is a strong believer in the center’s comparative oncology research.

Continuing the matrilineal story, Bets’ connection to the FACC began with her mother, Berta, and her endearing Sheltie named Shelly. In 1988, Berta and Shelly traveled to Colorado State University’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital in hopes of a cure for Shelly’s pituitary tumor. Shelly was enrolled in an FACC study that would take two months, so the two stayed in a local hotel and visited the veterinary hospital daily. Ever-friendly Berta began volunteering at the hospital, and spent her summer helping in the same hospital where a young orthopedic surgeon named Stephen Withrow and his colleagues worked to heal her dog. Shelly eventually recovered and lived a long, healthy life.

In gratitude for the legacy of care her family received, Bets keen named the consult/comfort room in honor of her two golden retrievers, True and Story.

Patt Hall Patient Examination Room (“Patt’s Pit”)

Patt Hall was a frequent volunteer in both the oncology unit and the pharmacy of the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, dedicating more than 1,100 hours between 2008 and 2014.

Patt loved the VTH and she was always willing to help faculty, staff, students, clients, and patients. She also trusted the CSU VTH team with the specialty dermatology care of her dog, Hobbi.

When she worked with the oncology team, she was usually found in the patient evaluation space, otherwise known as “The Pit” because it refers to a pit stop for a patient’s physical exam and care team discussion.

Patt was diagnosed with aggressive cancer in 2014 and passed away that April. The hospital team planted Patt’s Tree at the VTH in 2014 to celebrate Patt’s many contributions.

In her estate, she designated significant gifts to the VTH, the Flint Animal Cancer Center, and the VTH Pharmacy. The units applied their respective gifts to the oncology remodel project. In her memory, the team has designated the oncology space where she spent most of her time the Patt Hall Patient Evaluation or “Patt’s Pit.” In this way, her memory, incredible service, and generosity live on at the hospital.

Millard M. and Bertha Mae Schindler Examination Room (on behalf of David and Maxine Pierce)

David and Maxine Pierce first came into contact with the Colorado State University James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital more than 30 years ago. Their dog had just been diagnosed with cancer and their veterinarian recommended the hospital as the place to go for the best care and latest treatments.

“Since then, they have continued to bring their pets to the hospital for cancer care, and for specialty treatments. In addition to access to specialists, the Pierces take comfort in knowing they and their pets will receive individualized, compassionate care that eases the stress of a hospital visit.

As the oncology department grew, the Pierces wanted to help as much as possible – not only because of the benefit to their pets and others, but because they believe that the Flint Animal Cancer Center’s research will help people, too.

“This giving opportunity serves as a fitting tribute to my parents because they not only taught me a love for animals, but also to care about and offer help to others,” says Maxine Pierce. The Pierces named the Millard M. and Bertha Mae Schindler Examination Room in honor of Maxine’s parents.
Naming Opportunities

Clinical Trials Room................................................................. $250,000
Chemo Infusion Room............................................................... $200,000
Oncology Procedure Rooms (2).................................................... $150,000 each
Radiation Rounds Room............................................................. $125,000
Argus Counseling Room............................................................. $100,000
Radiation Procedure Room........................................................ $100,000
Radiation Client Consult Room.................................................. $75,000
Examination Room.................................................................... $75,000

Lucy Oncology Clinic*
Lucy Rounds Room*
True and Story Keen Consult and Comfort Room*
Patt Hall Patient Examination Room*
Millard M. and Bertha Mae Schindler Examination Room*

*Room has already been named.

Your donation, in any amount, will help us provide the state-of-the-art care that you, your pet, and countless other families deserve.

For additional information and giving opportunities, please contact:

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