

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ETHEL MURPHY

Head Nurse, Maine Center for Cancer Medicine

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"I thoroughly enjoy working with cancer patients," says Ethel Murphy, Head Nurse at the Maine Center for Cancer Medicine. Ethel graduated from Maine Medical School of Nursing in 1969 and then went to work as an RN for the Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine.

In 1971, Dr. Carroll with the Maine Center for Cancer Medicine approached Ethel and asked her to join his oncology practice. Ethel was enticed by Dr. Carroll's offer due to the fact she would be able to enjoy a more consistent and flexible work schedule. Once she began her career at Maine Center for Cancer Medicine, Ethel discovered she had found her calling as an oncology nurse.

Maine Center for Cancer Medicine is located in Scarborough, Maine, a suburb of Portland, Maine. The practice is proud to be affiliated with Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine, which was just voted one of the top medical centers in the country.

Maine Center currently has three different office locations, including practices in Brunswick and Biddeford, Maine. The practice employs a total of 80 people, including 10

physicians, a physician's assistant, a medical internist and a psychologist. On average, the practice sees between 175 and 200 patients per day.

"As an oncology nurse, I like the long lasting friendships I am able to form with the patients and families," says Ethel. Maine Center is special because it has a warm compassionate atmosphere and each employee strives to make it this way.

One method the practice uses to ensure that the patients receive the best care possible is to assign the same nurse to the patient for every visit. In addition, each physician is paired with a nurse, to ensure the patients have the same contacts every time.

"Oncology Associates has helped me gain easy access to current issues in oncology that affect our practice, such as reimbursement and government policies. I can rely on OA to provide me with the educational materials and knowledge I need to make important decisions in my practice."

It takes a very special person like Ethel to be an oncology nurse and we are proud to have her and the Maine Center for Cancer Medicine as members.

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- Shares insurance guidelines for private, federal, and state programs and plans
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ORTHO BIOTECH



From the Desk of

Dr. DiBenedetto, Jr.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer related mortality in men and women in the United States and is expected to result in over 150,000 deaths during 2003. Non-small cell carcinoma of the lung accounts for approximately 75% of the new cases of lung cancer diagnosed each year and is associated with a poor prognosis, since the majority of patients with this disease at presentation are Stage III or Stage IV.

Recently, several active antineoplastic agents for the treatment of non-small cell carcinoma of the lung have been developed and approved and have been shown to be effective in improving both the survival and quality of life in patients with this malignancy.

Today, a platinum-based combination of drugs is recommended and widely used as a component of first-line management in unresectable non-small cell carcinoma of the lung. Taxotere has now been FDA approved for first-line therapy in patients with unresectable, locally advanced non-small cell carcinoma of the lung in combination with cisplatin.

The approval of Taxotere as first-line therapy for advanced non-small cell carcinoma extends to newly diagnosed patients the benefits of therapy, which have previously been seen when this agent was used as second-line treatment. Oncology Associates is glad to have contracted with Aventis, the maker of Taxotere, for the mutual benefit of our patients and our members.

A practicing oncologist in Providence, RI, Dr. DiBenedetto directs the Oncology Associates (OA) advisory board for establishing treatment guidelines, selection of product and therapeutic alternatives and reporting on reimbursement/legislative issues that affect the OA membership. Dr. DiBenedetto is active in ASCO as well as many other societies and committees specific to the practice of oncology treatment. In his columns, Dr. DiBenedetto, Jr. discusses topics pertinent to the community-based oncology practice.