



Pancreatic Disease Center

The Pancreatic Disease Center, co-directed by Dr. Andrew Lowy of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Dr. Lehel Somogyi of the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Digestive Diseases, focuses on the multidisciplinary care of patients with benign and malignant diseases of the pancreas. The multidisciplinary team comprises gastroenterologists, gastrointestinal surgeons, surgical oncologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists and a surgeon expert in cellular transplantation, all with special interest in diseases of the pancreas. Additional support is provided by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and the Department of Nutrition Services.

The University of Cincinnati is currently investigating a new drug called Iressa® (Astra-Zeneca) in treating pancreatic cancer. Iressa® attacks the cancer at the cellular level, targeting the hormone that causes the disease, Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR). Pre-clinical studies have demonstrated that this drug, when combined with chemotherapy, may prevent the cancer from spreading, growing or returning. The University of Cincinnati is the only institution in the country that has permission to use Iressa® for treating pancreatic cancer. This study is currently enrolling patients and will be conducted over the next several years to assess how effective this new drug is in controlling pancreatic cancer.

The Pancreatic Disease Center is one of only three places in the United States with a successful program offering total pancreatectomy with auto islet

cell transplant for treatment of chronic pancreatitis.

A wide range of specific pancreatic problems are diagnosed, evaluated and treated, including:

- complicated or recurrent acute pancreatitis
- chronic pancreatitis
- cystic lesions of the pancreas
- pancreatic neoplasms.

The Center offers:

- some of the country's foremost pancreatic disease specialists
- quick evaluation of patients and rapid turnaround of diagnostic tests, providing answers before patients leave the premises
- on-site treatments ranging from the most simple and basic, to cutting-edge and complex
- participation in a vast array of breakthrough clinical research protocols

- first-class diagnostic, research and patient care facilities

All staff at the Pancreatic Disease Center are appointed faculty at the University of Cincinnati and include:

- Syed A. Ahmad, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery within the Division of Surgical Oncology
- William Barrett, M.D., Director of the Division of Radiation Oncology and Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology
- Kyuran Ann Choe, M.D., Associate Professor of Radiology and Director of the Radiology Residency Program
- Andres Gelrud, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Digestive Diseases
- Abdul-Rahman Jazieh, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology
- Andrew M. Lowy, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology, and Associate Director of the Barrett Cancer Center
- Jeffrey B. Matthews, M.D., Christian R. Holmes Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery
- Jonathan S. Moulton, M.D., Professor of Radiology and Director of the Section of Body Imaging and Interventional Radiology
- Horacio L. Rodriguez Rilo, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, and Director of Cellular Transplantation
- Malek Safa, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology
- Lehel Somogyi, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Digestive Diseases

The staff are involved in numerous clinical and basic research studies relevant to pancreatic disease, and have published extensively in leading medical journals. Interested and eligible patients are given the opportunity to participate in clinical research protocols. Current research includes the study of antioxidants and pancreatic enzyme replacement in the treatment of pain due to chronic pancreatitis, and neoadjuvant chemoradiation therapy for pancreatic cancer. The talents of Dr. Horacio Rilo have allowed expansion of the islet cell transplant program for the prevention of diabetes as well as a cure by enabling patients already afflicted to live without the burden of insulin injections.

Patients and visitors are offered comfortable, first-class accommodations conveniently located on the University of Cincinnati east campus. The new Kingsgate Conference Center, managed by Marriott, features 200-plus technologically advanced guest rooms, as well as conference, dining and parking facilities. Alternative affordable accommodations are

located within easy driving distance of the facilities, and reduced rates are available at the various hotels in the Greater Cincinnati Area.

Among the most active such programs in the world, the Center has experienced a threefold increase in the number of patients coming to Cincinnati for specialized treatment for pancreatic disease, especially pancreatic cancer. The Pancreatic Disease Center, which opened in 2000 with approximately 20 patients per week, now sees approximately 60 patients per week. Patients have come from as far as Montana, Idaho, Kansas, South Carolina, Florida, and Connecticut for treatment.



Timmy Jordan, a patient with chronic pancreatitis, who was unsuccessfully treated at a number of other institutions, received an islet cell transplant at the UC Pancreatic Disease Center and now is on a low-dose insulin pump. Timmy, who is from Atlanta and had never seen snow, is shown with an ice sculpture he made while at The University Hospital. Forced to be home-schooled for years because of his pancreatitis, Timmy has returned to public school and is seen here at his prom.



The Pancreatic Disease Center holds an annual Pancreatic and Hepatobiliary Disease Symposium for surgeons and gastroenterologists as well as other interested participants. Speakers include faculty from the Center and noted guest speakers. For information and online registration, visit <http://www.ucpancreas.org>.