

A NEW WAY TO PINPOINT CANCER

Upstate urologist Srinivas Vourganti, MD uses the new UroNav fusion biopsy system to locate hard-to-identify prostate cancer.

Your patient dutifully sees you to be screened for prostate cancer because he has a strong family history. His PSA levels suggest prostate cancer, but the subsequent biopsy shows none — year after year.

This is what happened to Jeffery Barkley, 59, of Phoenix starting with his first biopsy in 2005. He had four more before his urologist sent him to a urologic oncologist at Upstate. Srinivas Vourganti, MD used the UroNav fusion biopsy system to locate the cancer that was hiding in Barkley's prostate. "It was definitely a cancer that any urologist would treat and not want to miss," the doctor says.

Until now, prostate biopsies using ultrasound would guide surgeons to areas where cancers tend to form. If the cancer was in another part of the prostate, it would not show up in the biopsy. UroNav is designed to pinpoint areas that could be suspicious of cancer, such as a spot where the blood supply is abnormal.

Barkley underwent MRI. Those images were fused with ultrasound-guided images so that Vourganti could see precisely where within the prostate the cancer might be growing.

Upstate acquired the Philips UroNav Fusion Biopsy System in October, becoming the only provider in Central New York and one of a few sites in the country to offer this breakthrough technology. The machine bears the serial number 002

signifying it is the second of its kind, after the prototype at the National Institutes of Health.

Gennady Bratslavsky, MD, professor and chair of Upstate's Department of Urology, and Vourganti assisted in the development and testing of this new technology, working closely with Invivo, a subsidiary of Philips Healthcare, while they were working at the National Institutes of Health. As soon as UroNav was available commercially, Bratslavsky wanted to make it available to Central New Yorkers. He says it is a major breakthrough in the fight against prostate cancer.

"UroNav incorporates precise knowledge of the needle location within the prostate, and using a technology similar to GPS navigation it directs the biopsy needle to the heart of the suspicious lesion," says Bratslavsky.

"Compared with the traditional biopsy technique that uses random prostate sampling, the new technology helps to avoid missing hard-to-find and often aggressive prostate cancer, and potentially helps give greater certainty as to the extent and aggressiveness of the disease, as well as allowing patients to avoid unnecessary repeat prostate biopsies," he says.

UroNav is not just about locating insidious cancers, however. Vourganti says equally important is being able to locate and differentiate the cancers that need treatment — and those that do not. ■

**To refer a patient for urologic oncology,
contact MD Direct at 1-800-544-1605 or 1-315-464-4842**

Andrea Berg MD, assistant professor of medicine, talks with May Bell Mercado, a patient at University Geriatricians. Services include geriatric assessments (physical and medication review), primary care for frail elders and memory assessments. The program, located at the newly renovated Upstate Specialty Services at Harrison Center, is accepting new patients.



NEW PHYSICIAN-FACULTY AT UPSTATE

Paul Aridgides, MD is a new assistant professor of radiation oncology at Upstate, seeing patients in downtown Syracuse and at Oswego County Radiation Oncology. Aridgides' medical degree is from Upstate, where he also completed residency training after an internship at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York. Aridgides also completed a pediatric radiation oncology fellowship program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Paul Aridgides, MD

Vascular surgeon **Palma Shaw, MD** joined Upstate's Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery in February as an assistant professor. She is board certified in both general and vascular surgery. Her medical degree is from Hahnemann University School of Medicine, and she completed surgical training at St. Vincent's Medical Center in New York. Shaw is an international expert on diabetic limb salvage, having given several national and international presentations on the topic while she was a member of the limb salvage team from 2003 to 2010 at Boston University Medical Center.

Podiatrist **J. Kurt Concilla, DPM** is a new assistant professor of medicine at Upstate's Joslin Diabetes Center. Concilla received his degree from the California College of Podiatric Medicine and completed his surgical residency in Portland, Ore. Before joining Upstate, Concilla worked as a board certified foot surgeon and podiatrist at Crouse Medical Practice.



Geriatrician **Andrea Berg, MD**, joined Upstate in November as an assistant professor of medicine specializing in geriatric medicine after completing a geriatric fellowship at Harvard. She received her medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine and did her residency in Yale New Haven Hospital's Primary Care program. She provides geriatric assessments, memory assessments and primary care for frail elders in the newly renovated Upstate Specialty Services at Harrison Center, 550 Harrison St., Syracuse. Patients, family members and physicians may request appointments by calling 315-464-5166. ■



RADIOTHERAPY: PART OF NEW CANCER CENTER

Progress continues on the construction of the Upstate Cancer Center, with work focused on the interior during the winter months. Administrators expect to open the doors to patients this summer.

Among the new equipment in the center will be the Vero SBRT (stereotactic body radiotherapy) System. Upstate will be one of only a few institutions in the world to offer this advanced technology for the treatment of cancer. The Vero delivers extremely high doses of radiotherapy to complex tumors located in critical areas while protecting neighboring organs. This will allow for safer, more accurate treatment options, particularly for patients with lung, liver or prostate cancers.

The system's purchase was made possible with a \$250,000 grant from SEFCU, one of the largest credit unions in upstate New York.

The \$74 million Upstate Cancer Center will bring together under one roof all of Upstate's outpatient cancer services for adults and children. The center will occupy 90,000 square feet on three stories and feature 27 private infusion areas, three linear accelerator rooms, all-season rooftop healing gardens, meditation room, family resource center, multidisciplinary practice locations, private space for genetic, financial and other counseling services and a boutique for patient apparel and other personal products. ■



Construction shots of the Upstate Cancer Center, Feb. 2014



OB-GYN Unzila Nayeri, MD of Upstate's Perinatal Center talks with patients at the centering pregnancy program.

OB-GYN SERVICES EXPAND AT UPSTATE

Upstate expands its patient capacity with the addition of fellowship-trained faculty in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the only practice in Central New York offering a complete range of general and specialty women's health care you will not find elsewhere. These are the OB-GYNs who train many of the OB-GYNs practicing in the Syracuse area. Here's a look at some of the services:

- Comprehensive care for any high-risk pregnancy is provided through the Regional Perinatal Center, at the University Health Care Center (UHCC), 90 Presidential Plaza, Syracuse. The center is one component of the **Regional Perinatal Program**, which has a new director. Alexandra Spadola, MD, is fellowship trained and board certified, and oversees the program, which provides clinical support, quality review and educational outreach to 19 affiliate hospitals across a 17-county area of central and northern New York State.
- Complete care for low-risk pregnancies and comprehensive gynecology services are available through the **Women's Health Service**, in two Syracuse locations: UHCC at 90 Presidential Plaza, and the Physicians' Office Building at 725 Irving Ave., Suite 600, Syracuse.
- Group care for pregnant women with diabetes is now offered through **Upstate's Regional Perinatal Center**. Called "Centering Pregnancy," the program is one of the first in the country that focuses on women with diabetes.
- Eddie Sze, MD, Director of **Urogynecology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery**, recently achieved board certification at the first offering of this specialty certification. He and colleagues see patients at the physician office buildings at the Upstate University Hospital Community Campus and at 725 Irving Ave., Suite 600, Syracuse.



Eddie Sze, MD



Rinki Agarwal, MD

Douglas Bunn, MD

Mary Cunningham, MD

Leah Kaufman, MD

Renee Mestad, MD

Alexandra Spadola, MD

Jodi Wallis, DO

- **Gynecologic oncologists** Rinki Agarwal, MD, Douglas Bunn, MD and Mary Cunningham, MD provide comprehensive care for women with gynecologic malignancies to include radical surgery, laparoscopic surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Also, patients have the opportunity to participate in regional and national clinical trials through the division’s participation with the National Cancer Institute’s Gynecologic Oncology Group. Dr. Agarwal sees patients at 725 Irving Ave., Suite 600, Syracuse.

- Renee Mestad, MD is a fellowship-trained physician who specializes in all aspects of **family planning**, particularly for patients with complex medical histories.

- Upstate offers assisted reproductive technology through its IVF Program (phone 315-464-7249) and a variety of services for women and men through the Division of **Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility** at 725 Irving Ave Suite 600.



Frederick Sengstacke, MD

- **Midwifery** services are based at the Upstate University Hospital Community Campus. The team provides personalized pregnancy care before, during and after childbirth and routine gynecology. Deliveries take place at the Jim and DeDe Walsh Birth Center in the hospital.

Upstate’s Midwifery and Gynecology, at right: Brian Thompson, MD, consulting physician; Heather Shannon, MS, CNM, NP, MPH, director, and Lesli E. Warren, MS, CNM

In addition, several general board certified OB-GYNs have recently joined the department, including Leah Kaufman, MD, Brian Thompson, MD and Jodi Wallis, DO. They are available for the **comprehensive care of women** in all facets of their life cycle including pregnancy and menopause. ■

REFERRALS

Phone 315-464-5162 for referrals to any Upstate OB-GYN services.





BOTH HOSPITAL CAMPUSES CELEBRATE 50 YEARS IN 2014

Community Hospital’s grand opening was June 30, 1963. University Hospital’s was May 24, 1965. So why is Upstate University Hospital celebrating 50 years THIS year?

Because even though Community’s grand opening was in 1963, it wasn’t until Sept. 5, 1964 that it merged with Syracuse General Hospital to become Community-General Hospital.

And although University’s grand opening was in 1965, the doors actually opened to patients in late summer 1964. Later, University became known as Upstate University Hospital.

The two hospitals became one in July 2011 when Upstate acquired Community-General Hospital.

How can you join in the celebration?

- 1) Share your memories, scrapbooks, photos and more with the anniversary committee. (Contact Susan Keeter at keeters@upstate.edu or 315-464-4834.)
 - 2) Subscribe to the What’s Up at Upstate blog at www.upstate.edu/whatsup and read a post about the anniversary every Thursday this year.
- 1) When you are at Upstate University Hospital, downtown campus (750 East Adams St., Syracuse), stop by Café 750 (second floor) for a 64-cent coffee any Thursday this year. A variety of other deals will also be featured as “Throwback Thursday” specials.



Summer 1960. The Post Standard read: “Mrs. Josephine Reidy turns the first shovelful of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Community Hospital of Greater Syracuse at Broad Rd.”
Photo from Onondaga Historical Association



Summer 1961. New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Upstate President Carlyle Jacobsen review the architect’s model of Upstate University Hospital, downtown campus.
Photo from Upstate’s Health Sciences Library.

UPSTATE ROUND UP

The Department of Ophthalmology received a \$110,000 unrestricted grant from Research to Prevent Blindness. This brings the department's total amount of RPB funding to more than \$2.6 million since 1998.

The money "can act as seed money to support novel ideas that haven't been funded through other sources yet, to help researchers who need additional support, and to help veteran researchers continue their investigations when they are between funding," says **Ann Barker-Griffith, MD**, the department's interim chair, who will direct the grant. Research to Prevent Blindness is the largest supporter of vision research outside of the federal government.

Physician-scientist **Michael C. Iannuzzi, MD** has been ranked as one of the world's leading experts on sarcoidosis by Expertscape, a global online health information database. Iannuzzi is chair of Upstate's Department of Medicine. His most recent research focuses on the genetic epidemiology of sarcoidosis. The rankings were determined by a review of all medical journal articles found in the National Library of Medicine's Pubmed.gov database.



Michael C. Iannuzzi, MD

Upstate Psychiatrist **Kevin R. O'Connor, MD** has been appointed chief of psychiatry at the Syracuse VA Medical Center. He will continue working for Upstate University Hospital's inpatient consultation/liaison service.

Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner appointed acting Upstate President **Gregory Eastwood, MD** to a task force to evaluate a new Syracuse University sports arena in the city.



Upstate student **Sam Mackenzie** PhD to serve as AMA trustee



Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital medical director **Thomas Welch, MD** (above right) announces a grant to add dental screenings as part of routine pediatric exams.

A \$65,000 grant from Wal-Mart and the Children's Miracle Network will help integrate preventive dental and oral health screenings into routine pediatric and adolescent physical exams at Upstate. The money will cover the costs of supplies and equipment for oral examinations, fluoride treatments, educational materials and home care kits.

"Oral health has been recognized as one of the major unmet needs in pediatric care," says **Thomas Welch, MD**, chair of pediatrics and medical director of the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. "We frequently care for children who have developed serious complications because of unrecognized dental problems. This new grant will help our youngest patients achieve good oral health and develop strong, lifelong habits and healthy smiles."

Researchers at Upstate Medical University will use a \$100,000 grant from the Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation to study potential new treatments for children with cancer, the fourth leading cause of death in children.

The Boeheim Foundation made the contribution to the Foundation for Upstate to support two studies: one will investigate new treatment options for children with osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma, two bone cancers that occur mainly in adolescents; the other will look at ways to reduce the adverse effects of radiation treatments for childhood cancer on bone growth and development. Faculty member **Timothy Damron, MD** will lead the research efforts.



Timothy Damron, MD

Infectious disease specialist **Mark Polhemus, MD** continues to seek participants between the ages of 18 and 45, and in good health, to be involved in a clinical trial that tests the effectiveness of an investigational vaccine against the four types of dengue virus. Learn more by calling 315-459-3031 or emailing trials@upstate.edu

Sam Mackenzie, an Upstate MD/PhD student has been elected to the American Medical Association board of trustees, a first for Upstate in the 30 years students have held an AMA trustee seat. Mackenzie is a third-year medical student who earned his PhD in neuroscience at Upstate last year. He begins his one-year term in June. ■