

SALEM HEALTH CANCER CENTER

# 2024 Annual Report





With appreciation,

**Andi Petrone, MHA**

Salem Health oncology service line director

**Nancy Reyes-Molyneux, MD**

Salem Health Cancer Center medical director

**Jennifer Fowler**

Salem Health vice president of finance

## Welcome letter

The last few years have been a remarkable period of progress and collaboration in our cancer program, and we are excited to share some highlights in this Salem Health Cancer Center Annual Report.

As cancer care continues to evolve, so do we. Our team has remained focused on adapting, growing, and innovating to ensure we provide the highest quality care and support to each of our patients and their families.

- We opened our new **Breast Care Center**, a dedicated clinic designed to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered breast cancer care in a setting that fosters comfort and healing. This space represents our continued commitment to expanding access to high-quality, specialized services within our local community.
- We also introduced **Pluvicto**, a new therapy for patients with advanced prostate cancer. This targeted radiopharmaceutical offers new hope and makes it possible for patients to receive this specialty treatment close to home. We continue to develop our partnership with **Salem Health Urology** with the goal of improving coordination of care for prostate cancer patients to ensure a seamless experience and better outcomes.
- In our ongoing effort to strengthen patient safety, we implemented the **Epic Beacon electronic medical record system** for chemotherapy. This platform enhances precision in medication management and safety monitoring, reinforcing our promise to deliver care that is as safe as it is effective.
- We are especially proud to have launched our **first investigator-initiated clinical trial**, *Healing Sexual Dysfunction After Prostate Cancer*. This important study addresses a deeply personal and often overlooked aspect of survivorship. It demonstrates our dedication to treating the whole person — not just the disease — and is an example of the growing engagement of our physician team in advancing research and innovation.

None of this progress would be possible without the collaboration of our physicians, nurses, staff, and community partners. Each step forward reflects our shared commitment to the patients we serve. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible team for the meaningful progress we've achieved together over the past several years.

To our patients and their families, thank you for placing your trust in us. At the Salem Health Cancer Center, our team remains committed to walking beside you every step of the way on your cancer journey — offering compassion, delivering excellence, and inspiring hope.

## Salem Health earns top cancer care designation once again

In October 2024, Salem Health was once again fully accredited by the **Commission on Cancer** and the **National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers**. This means we meet high national standards for cancer and breast care.

These honors show our strong commitment to giving patients the best care — from early detection to treatment and recovery. We follow the latest research and best practices to help patients get the best results.

A cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming, but at Salem Health, patients can count on expert, caring support every step of the way.



Breast Program Leadership Committee and Cancer Committee chairs Patricia Luckeroth, MD, and Eric Laro, MD

## Thank you to our generous supporters

We're grateful to the **Salem Health Foundation**, the **Knit Well support group**, **T-Mobile** and the **Linda L. Vladyka Breast Wellness Foundation** for their support.

Thanks to their donations — totaling **\$11,500** in 2024 — we can support cancer patients with free or discounted medication, rides to treatment, chemo care bags and recovery camisoles. Their support also helps us offer free cancer screenings in the community.



The Knit Well support group is a place for patients and survivors to bond over their shared experiences.

## Supporting ostomy patients: A new day of awareness in Oregon

With support from patients and Salem Health staff, Governor Tina Kotek declared the first Saturday of October as World Ostomy Day in Oregon, starting in 2024.

This day helps raise awareness about ostomies — a surgery that changes how urine or stool leaves the body. It's often needed because of birth defects, cancer, injuries or diseases like Crohn's.

World Ostomy Day honors the strength of people living with ostomies and helps others understand this life-saving procedure.



Patient and advocate for people living with ostomies Jane Raddatz and wound and ostomy certified nurse Mindy Close, RN, WOC-RN

### Ostomy support group at Salem Health

- Second Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December
- 6 p.m., Salem Hospital Building C, first floor conference room

Learn more:

[salemhealth.org/cancer-support](https://salemhealth.org/cancer-support)

## Support team helps more than 1,700 cancer patients

In 2024, 1,781 patients met with our **Cancer Support Services** team, which provides supportive care from diagnosis through survivorship. These services are all offered at no cost.

In the 2,596 appointment visits:

- **Oncology nurse navigators** guided patients through care and answered questions.
- Our **resource coordinator** helped with things like transportation and money concerns.

- A **registered dietitian** gave advice on eating well during treatment.
- Our **licensed clinical social worker** offered emotional support to patients and families.

This team makes sure no one faces cancer alone — offering care for the whole person, not just the disease.

Contact Cancer Support Services at **503-814-1449, option 5** — or [cancercenter@salemhealth.org](mailto:cancercenter@salemhealth.org).

## Holiday food drive brings hope to patients in need

In December 2024, staff from **Salem Health** and **Oregon Oncology Specialists** donated a large amount of food and toiletry items to help local families.

These donations support cancer patients who need some extra help during treatment. Items are available for free throughout the year, not just holidays, through **Cancer Support Services**, and our **resource coordinator** also connects patients with local food banks and churches.

This act of kindness shows the true spirit of giving and community care.



## Advancing cancer care through local research

In 2024, Salem Health's **Clinical Research team** continued to expand the clinical trials offered locally to support patients close to home.

Many of our trials are offered through the **Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG)**, a national cancer research network supported by the National Cancer Institute.

- We launched a new study, **NRG-CC011**, to test if a computer program can help breast cancer survivors with memory and thinking problems.
- We enrolled patients in two major trials: **Lung-MAP**, which studies lung cancer tumors — and **S1703**, which tracks blood markers in people with metastatic breast cancer.
- The team followed up with **398** people in the **Pathfinder 2** study — a simple blood test that may help find cancer sooner.

- The team worked collaboratively with **Ralph Yates, DO**, and pelvic floor physical therapist, **Courtney Hanks, PT**, to develop a new investigator-initiated protocol, *Healing Sexual Dysfunction After Prostate Cancer*, that opened to enrollment in Spring of 2025.

These efforts show Salem Health's strong commitment to better, more personalized cancer care.



# New breast care center and support programs improve patient experience

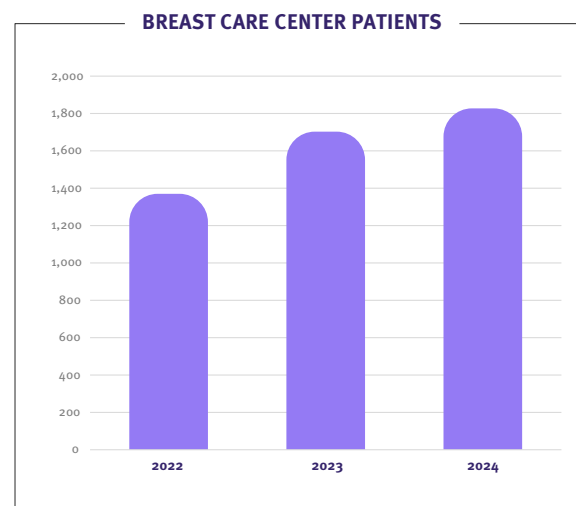
On Oct. 7, 2024, Salem Health Cancer Center opened its new **Breast Care Center**. A ribbon-cutting event featured hospital leaders, care providers and a cancer survivor.

The new space includes exam and procedure rooms, a private fitting room, and a consultation room for patients to meet with a breast nurse navigator — helping us care for more patients in the Salem area.

In addition, **Cancer Support Services** launched a new program for breast cancer patients finishing radiation treatment.

- During their final week, patients meet with an oncology certified breast nurse navigator to review their care, ask questions and get helpful information for the next steps.
- Six months later, patients return for a follow-up visit to check on their health, talk through any concerns and receive a Survivorship Care Plan — a summary of their treatment and tips for long-term care.

Thanks to the success of this program, Salem Health plans to expand it to help even more patients in the future.





## Care by the numbers

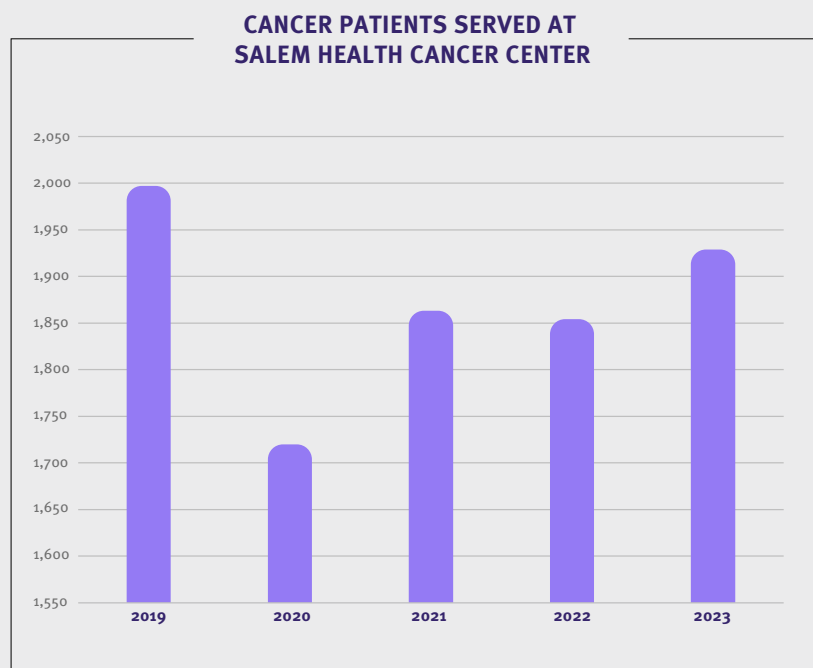
Thank you to our **Cancer Registry team** for collecting and organizing important data about cancer diagnoses and treatments.

This information not only helps our local cancer program monitor progress and improve patient care, but the data is also reported to the Oregon State Cancer Registry and National Cancer Database to track and trend cancer incidence and outcomes.

Primary site	Salem Health 2023 new cases*	Marion-Polk County** 2023 cancer incidence
<b>Breast</b>	418	358
<b>Lung/thoracic</b>	261	222
<b>Prostate/male GU</b>	240	201
<b>Bladder</b>	97	82
<b>Colorectal/lower GI</b>	147	132
<b>Gynecology</b>	129	107
<b>Other</b>	719	601
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>1,703</b>

*\*Most recent full year of data available. Total number of new cases seen at Salem Hospital that used services – includes all classes of cases. Includes patients served across Oregon.*

*\*\*Marion and Polk counties are Salem Health's primary service area. Cancer incidence is estimated by the CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) using data from the National Cancer Database (NDCB) and other sources.*



*\*2023 is last full year of data available*

## Quality measures

Site	Key metric	Salem Health 2023* Data
<b>Breast</b>	<p><b>Clinical staging</b></p> <p>Clinical staging helps doctors find out how much cancer is in the body. They use physical exams, scans and biopsies to gather this information.</p> <p>Knowing the stage of cancer helps doctors plan the best treatment and understand what to expect.</p> <p><i>Source: American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers</i></p>	<p>97% of breast cancer patients had clinical staging documented in the medical record before first course treatment.</p>
<b>Lung/ thoracic</b>	<p><b>Lung lymph nodes</b></p> <p>When doctors remove part of the lung to treat cancer, they also take out lymph nodes to check if the cancer has spread. This includes at least one lymph node near the lung and three from the middle of the chest.</p> <p>This helps make sure the surgery is as effective as possible.</p> <p><i>Source: American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer</i></p>	<p>100% of pulmonary resections performed with curative intent had the correct lymph node stations sampled.</p>
<b>Prostate</b>	<p><b>Pretreatment evaluation</b></p> <p>For prostate cancer stages I–III, doctors do a few key tests before starting treatment. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A digital rectal exam (DRE)</li> <li>• A PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test</li> <li>• A Gleason score to check how aggressive the cancer is</li> </ul> <p>These tests help doctors choose the best treatment plan.</p> <p><i>Source: The Advisory Board Oncology Roundtable</i></p>	<p>99% of stage I–III prostate cancers had documentation of a DRE or PSA evaluation.</p> <p>100% of stage I–III prostate cancers had documentation of Gleason score.</p>
<b>Colorectal</b>	<p><b>Colon lymph nodes</b></p> <p>When doctors remove part of the colon to treat cancer, they also take out at least 12 nearby lymph nodes. These are checked under a microscope to see if the cancer has spread.</p> <p>This helps guide the next steps in treatment.</p> <p><i>Source: American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer</i></p>	<p>97% of colon resections for colon cancer had at least 12 regional lymph nodes removed and pathologically examined during resection.</p>

\*Most recent full year of data available

# Cancer care specialists

## Cancer surgery

Catherine Boulay, MD  
G. Andrew Clarke, MD  
Jiyoun Kim, MD  
Eric Laro, MD  
Hsinchen Lin, MD  
Patricia Luckeroth, MD  
Rajan Nair, MD  
Patrick O'Herron, MD  
Brandon Tieu, MD  
Sergio Toledo Valdovinos, MD  
Nicole Vanderheyden, MD

## Gastroenterology

Falguny Bhavan, MD  
Nabil Choueiri, MD  
Shyam Dang, MD  
Charles Du, MD  
Makkalearn Em, MD  
Sandi Fields, MD  
Katherine Hoda, MD  
Patricia Kao, MD  
Robert Ponec, MD  
Nizar Senussi, MD  
Christian Speer, MD  
Srinivasan Subamanian, MD  
Eric Tatro, MD

## Gynecologic oncology

Andrea Buras, MD

## Medical oncology

Nicholas Barber, MD  
Rashim Jawandi, MD  
Janelle Meyer, MD  
Charles Petrunin, MD  
William Pierce, MD  
Renee Prins, MD  
John Strother, MD  
Herschel Wallen, MD

## Neurosurgery

Maurice Collada, MD  
Seymour Gahramanov, MD  
Charles Hatchette, MD  
Benjamin Kafka, MD  
Michael Nanaszko, MD

## Otolaryngology

John Donovan, MD  
Bruce Johnson, MD  
Christopher Prze, MD  
Suzanne Strand, DO

## Pathology

Kaia Adams, MD  
Larry Ha, MD  
Andrew Judd, MD  
Debbie Wu, MD  
Pamela Smith, MD  
Sara Smith, MD

## Plastic surgery

Dustin Christiansen, MD  
Dann Leonard, MD  
Sharon Monsivais, MD  
Keith Neaman, MD  
Katie Yonker, MD

## Pulmonology

Fayez Bader, MD  
Firas El-Baba, MD  
Hadya Elshakh, MD  
Yasaman Eslaamizaad, MD  
Kamran Firoozi, MD  
Martin Johnson, MD  
Nimeshkumar Mehta, MD  
Laila Shiekh Sroujeh, MD

## Radiation oncology

William Chance, MD

Matthew Kang, MD

Nancy Reyes-Molyneux, MD

Samuel Wang, MD

## Thoracic surgery

Eric Laro, MD  
Brandon Tieu, MD

## Urology

John Mhoon, MD  
Philip Rosen, MD  
Bradley Warner, MD

## Radiology

Bret Abbott, MD  
Scott Ambruster, MD  
John Bradshaw, MD  
S. Leon Burrows, MD  
Richard Collins, MD  
Thomas Cullen, MD  
Travis Fromwiller, MD  
Michael George, MD  
Nicholas Hanson, MD  
David Harrison, MD  
Cody Hedge, MD  
Jessica Hoyle, MD  
Yama Kharoti, MD  
Ryan Moore, MD  
Jose Novoa, MD  
Michael Pass, MD  
Dominik Prosser, MD  
Jared Sadler, MD  
Jake Sharp, MD  
Kathryn Snyder, MD  
Sean Stack, MD  
Peter White, DO





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