
Blessing Health System Cancer Annual Report 2021

FINDING HOPE IN NUMBERS

As a result of the pandemic, cancer care providers have found little solace in numbers regarding screenings.

A May 2022 story from the National Cancer Institute said, “An estimated 9.4 million screening tests that normally would have taken place in the United States in 2020 didn’t happen,” as a result of a number of factors related to the COVID pandemic.

In the pages of this 2021 annual report, you’ll find reason to be hopeful. Look at our lung cancer screenings, for example. True, the number of new patients took a small hit in 2020, but bounced back well in 2021 and finished the year more than 400% higher than in 2016.

Responses to other Cancer Center screenings are equally as encouraging, including the “Kit Return Rate” for the free colorectal cancer screening test. It exceeded 60 percent in 2020 after results in the low 50 percent range during the three preceding years.

Other exciting news in this report includes renewed accreditation, continuing national recognition for high performance and the first success for clinical research at the Center.

The work we do is a team effort. Please take pride of the accomplishments listed in this report as you play a key role in bringing high quality cancer services to the communities we serve.

Thank you.

Robert Johnson, MD
Medical Director & Committee Chairman
Blessing Cancer Center

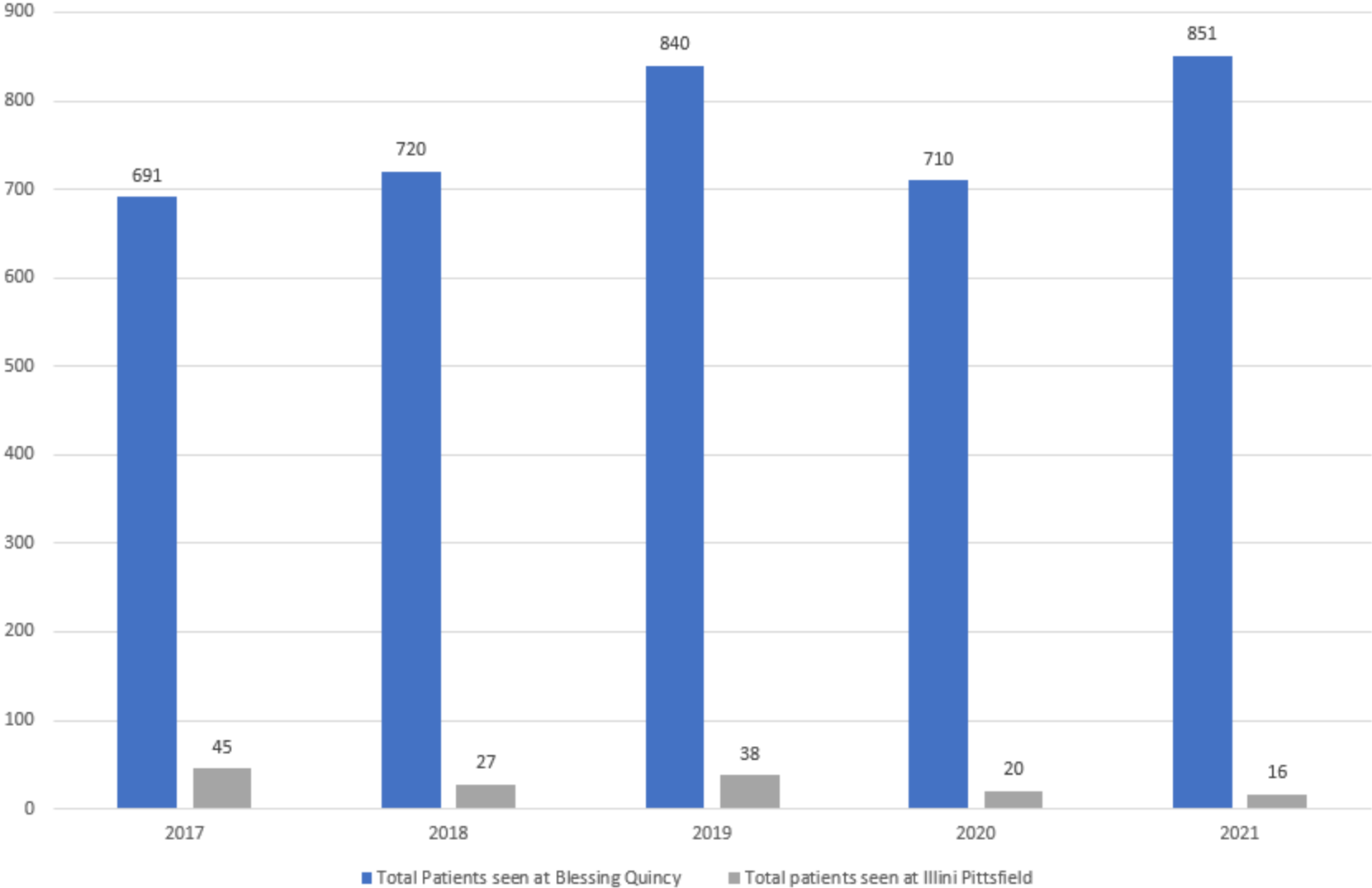
Lori Wilkey
Administrative Director
Blessing Cancer Center

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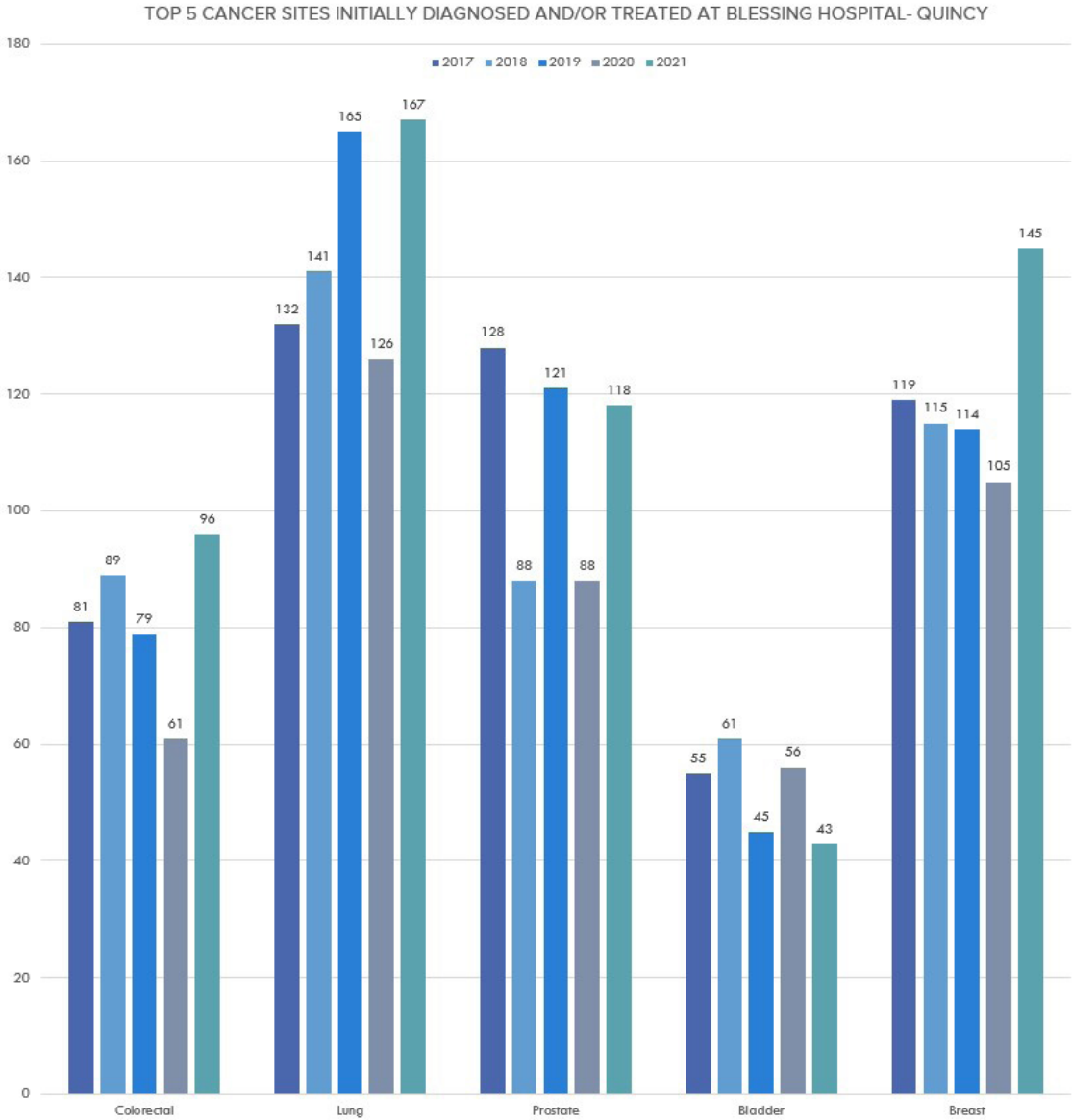
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Patient Data: Total Patients, Quincy & Pittsfield

2021 TOTAL PATIENTS INITIALLY DIAGNOSED AND/OR TREATED

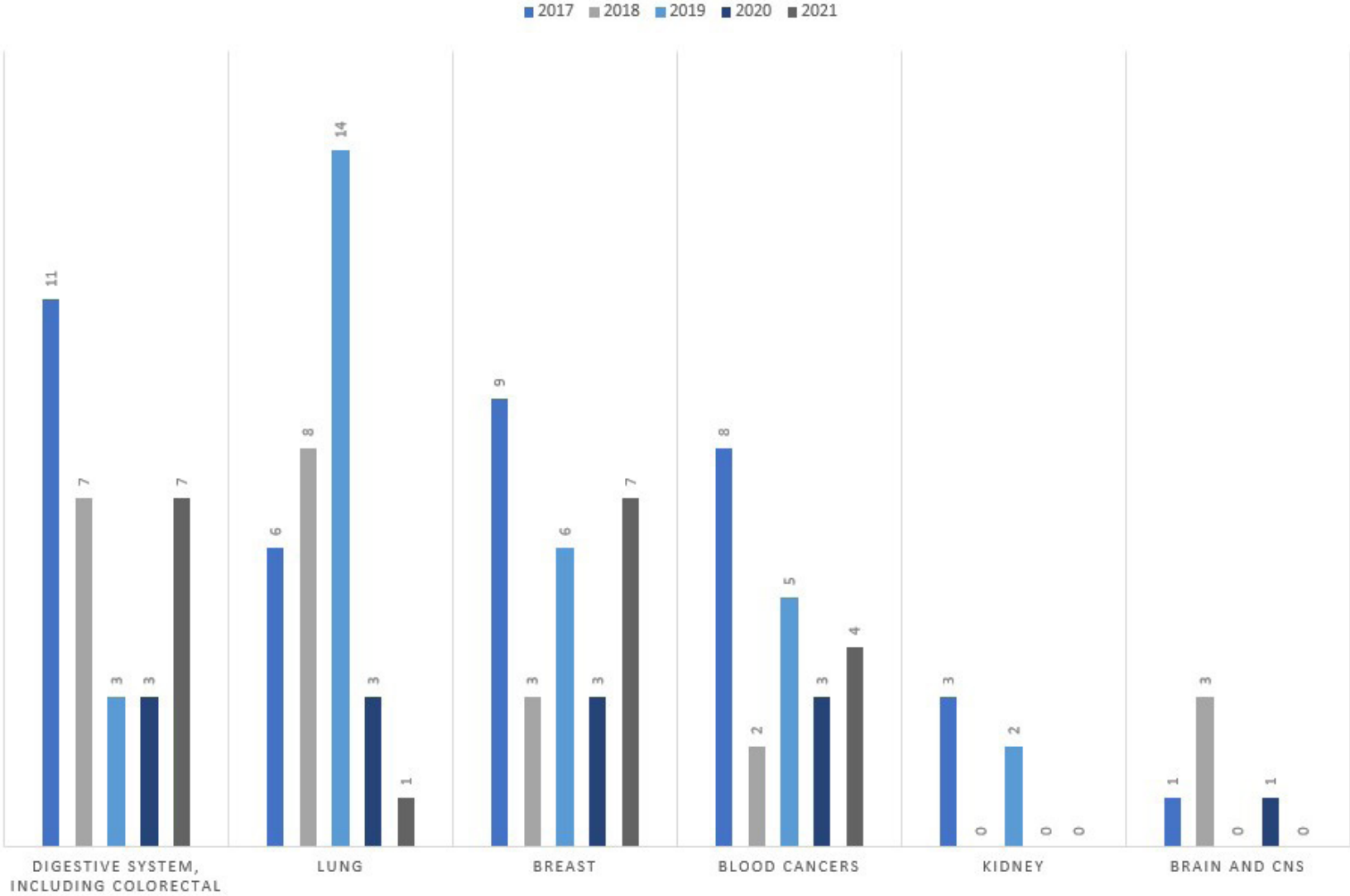


Patient Data: Cancers Treated, Quincy



Patient Data: Cancers Treated, Pittsfield

TOP SITES INITIALLY DIAGNOSED AND/OR TREATED AT ILLINI PITTSFIELD



Patient Data: Appearance Center

Wigs Provided to Patients	51
Turbans Provided to Patients	55
Hats & Scarves Provided to Patients	112
Knitted Knockers	6
Breast Forms	8
Bras for Mastectomy Patients	7
Heart Pillows	14
Neck Pillows	30
Total Number of Oncology Patients Served:	95

Patient Data: Multi-Disciplinary Team

“Cancer outcomes are better when patients are managed according to the principles of multidisciplinary team evaluation. This process is associated with improved clinical decision making, clinical outcomes, and patient experience.”

- *Commission on Cancer*

Blessing’s Multi-Disciplinary Team members include medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, surgeons, pulmonologists, specialty physicians and non-physician specialists including clinical research. In 2021 the team held general conferences in addition to specialty conferences for breast, colon, lung and rectal. In total for 2021 the team had:

98

conferences held
in 2021

542

cases presented

Patient Data: Financial Assistance

In 2021, the Blessing Cancer Center provided and connected patients with financial assistance in multiple ways:

227

patients received
charity care

58

patients helped
with Drug Co-Pay
Assistance
Program

414

patients assisted through
the Blessing Foundation,
including 346 patients who
received gas/transportation
assistance



Screenings

Every year, the Blessing Cancer Center hosts multiple free screenings for different types of cancer - especially prostate and skin - in addition to the free colorectal cancer screening kits given out each March and our low dose CT screening program for lung cancer.

Screening Type	Screening Date	Total Screened	Total Negative	Total Positive	Cancer Diagnosed
Skin Cancer	5/14/21	34	24	10	1 (melanoma, stg 1B)
Prostate Cancer	9/30/21	56	49	7	0
Prostate Cancer	4/28/21	24	24	0	0
Oral Cancer	6/29/21	13	12	1	0

Screenings: Colorectal

Every March, in recognition of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, the Blessing Cancer Center gives out free take home screening kits to help raise awareness. Fecal Immunochemical Test screening kits were distributed from March-October in 2021.

# of Distribution Sites	Screening Year	# of Kits Distributed	# of Kits Returned & Processed	Kit Return Rate	# of Negative Results	% of Negative Results	# Positive for Blood	% of Positive Results	# Diagnosed with Cancer
14	2017	94	50	53%	46	92%	3	6%	0
11	2018	50	26	52%	24	92%	1	4%	0
15	2019	366	195	53%	186	95%	9	5%	3
18	2020	347	214	62%	196	92%	18	8%	0
23	2021	574	289	50%	268	95%	21	5%	2

Screenings: Lung

The Blessing Cancer Center's Low Dose CT screening program for lung cancer continues to grow.

Data	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
# of New Patients	43	77	113	174	147	221
LungRads 1	16	31	36	60	39	109
LungRads 2	15	25	50	77	70	89
LungRads 3	9	15	20	23	21	11
LungRads 4A	2	3	4	14	10	7
LungRads 4B	1	3	1	1	2	5
LungRads 4X			2	0	5	0
Cancers Diagnosed	1	2	0	5	6*	10

*One of the six diagnosis in 2020 was a non-Lung cancer.



Prevention & Education

MY QUIT PLAN

WHAT'S THE WHY?

My Reasons to Quit:

CHOOSING A QUIT AID

Using a quit aid can increase your chances of success by helping reduce withdrawal symptoms. Talk to your doctor about options for you.

Over-The-Counter Quit Aids	Prescription Quit Aids
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicotine patch• Nicotine gum• Nicotine lozenge• Nicotine nasal spray	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicotine inhaler• Bupropion (Wellbutrin/Zyban)• Varenicline (Chantix)

My Quit Aid: _____

CHOOSING A QUIT DAY

Picking your quit day is important. You want a day that gives you time to prepare, but isn't too far away. Avoid busy or stressful days.

My Quit Day: _____



Our Community Needs Assessment shows a high rate of smokers in our area. In an effort to help those wanting to quit, Blessing added resources to our website and promoted them during our participation of the American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smokeout Event.

Early intervention and education is also a focus of the Blessing Cancer Center, with **over 400 4th grade students in Adams County attending a presentation by the Community Outreach Educator on the many dangers and health risks of tobacco and vaping.**

Survivorship

“The cancer committee oversees the development and implementation of a survivorship program directed at meeting the needs of cancer patients treated with curative intent.”

- *Commission on Cancer*

Blessing’s Survivorship Program offers the following services:

- Treatment Summaries/survivorship care plans
- Screenings for cancer recurrence and new cancers
- Rehabilitation services
- Nutritional services
- Psychological support and psychiatric services
- Support groups including a Facebook group for cancer patients/caregivers, art classes, Renew classes
- Sexual wellness clinic
- Financial support services
- Physical activity programs
- Gong ceremony after treatment completed

Clinical Research

At Blessing, the Clinical Research Department contributes to medical knowledge. We are involved in various types of clinical research studies, trials and treatments. The Blessing Clinical Research Department offers different types of interventional clinical trials including medication, devices, psychotherapy, new approaches to radiation therapy, surgery or a combination of the mentioned.

Health Services Research	77
Treatment	4
Total Number of Patients Served:	81

Events: Survivor Day 2021

To celebrate our Survivors outside of the hospital due to COVID visitor restrictions, Blessing organized a Survivor Parade event in one of the outlying parking lots for patients to drive through and see staff and other Survivors. We offered print- and color-at-home signs on our website for Survivors and their families to decorate their vehicles with and had prizes and giveaways for them at the event.



[Click Here to Watch](#)



Events: Cancer Center Open House

Wednesday, July 21 • 4-6 pm

You're invited to join us for a

Public Open House

at the Blessing Cancer Center



Tour the newly renovated Medical Oncology suite, Radiation Oncology and Outpatient Infusion Center, meet the providers and staff, learn about our comprehensive cancer care and more.

Refreshments will be served.

Please use the Cancer Center Entrance at Blessing Hospital's main circle drive at 11th & Spring.

B **BLESSING**
Health System
blessinghealth.org/cancer

On July 21 Blessing Cancer Center hosted an Open House after completing the renovation of its Medical Oncology Suite. Tours of all areas of the Cancer Center were offered and informational handouts about staff and services were given out.

People: Cancer Committee

Committee Position

- Cancer Committee Chairman
- Cancer Liaison Physician
- Diagnostic Radiologist
- Pathologist
- Surgeon
- Medical Oncologist
- Radiation Oncologist
- Cancer Program Administrator
- Oncology Nurse
- Psychosocial Services Coordinator
- Certified Tumor Registrar/Cancer Registry Quality Coordinator
- Quality Improvement Representative
- Cancer Conference Coordinator
- Clinical Research Coordinator
- Survivorship Program Coordinator

Committee Member Alternate Member

Dr. Robert Johnson	Dr. Harsha Polavarapu
Dr. Harsha Polavarapu	Dr. Emmanuel Bessay
Dr. Aparna Yepuri	Dr. Haritha Yepuri
Dr. Nicholas Hunter	Dr. Adam Lang
Dr. Harsha Polavarapu	Dr. Jeffrey Larson
Dr. Mohammed Memon	Dr. Daniel Koh
Dr. Rob Johnson	Dr. Mark Khil
Lori Wilkey	Tim Tranor
Sara Heinecke	Sarah Pruett
Mary Ripper	Bridgett Ormond
Vera Bickhaus	Cathy Brogdon
Heather Girouard	
Cathy Brogdon	
Kiley McGlauchlen	
Mary Ripper	Bridgett Ormond

Active Committee Members

Dr. Christian Zwick, Dr. John Arnold, Dr. Kristi Gillette, Dr. Halley Anderson, Anna Fee, Karen Kerns, Quentin Mayer, Laura Harcharick, Jen Micho, Mary Winkeljohn, Dr. Rami Abumasmah, Dr. Osama Qubaiah, Dr. M. Amjad Ali, Dr. Ray Smith, Karen Dames, Leah Heming, Dr. Kellie Flippin, Kristen Cook, Lee Goehl, Alyssa Crowe, Brenda Blickhan, Dr. Rex Schulz, Dr. Kirk Hill, Chad Noggle, Angie Loos, Stephanie Willey, Jessica Nuebel, Sarah Pruett, Diana Seals, Dawn Herzog, John McDowell Sherri White, NP, Rebecca Dedert, Melissa Sorrill, Dr. John Hammock (Ex-officio), Dr. Chris Solaro (Ex-Officio)

People: New Faces & Departures

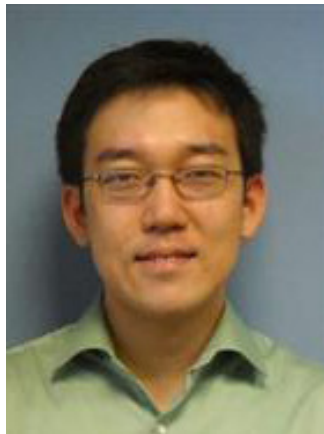
New Faces



Kellie Flippin, MD
Medical Oncologist



Daniel Koh, MD
Medical Oncologist



Joseph Kim, PharmD
Pharmacist



Diana Seals, RN
Colorectal Nurse Navigator

Departures



Roberty Gutekunst, MD
Pathologist

Dr. Robert Gutekunst retired on 12/31/2021 after serving as a Pathologist at Blessing for over 13 years and as a member of the Blessing Cancer Committee

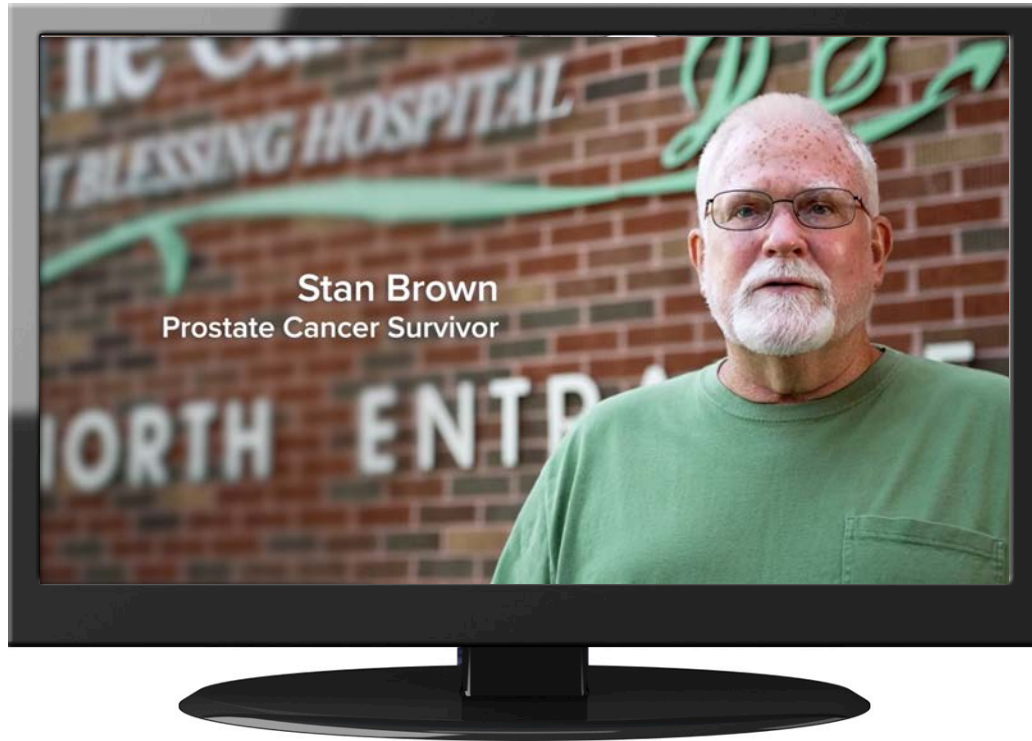


Christian Zwick, DO
General Surgeon

Dr. Christian Zwick completed his thirteen-year service as the Cancer Committee Chairperson



People: Stan Brown Patient Story



Stan Brown, a Prostate Cancer patient, was featured in a marketing campaign for the Cancer Center including TV, radio, print ads, billboards, social media, email, and digital ads.

[Click Here to Watch](#)

Milestones

U.S. News & World Report



Blessing Hospital once again earned a “High Performing” rating for treatment in colon cancer surgery.

Quincy Herald-Whig’s 2021 Readers’ Choice Award



Blessing once again earned the Quincy Herald Whig’s 2021 Readers’ Choice Award.

CoC Accreditation



A QUALITY PROGRAM
of the AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

The Commission on Cancer completed a site survey to renew Blessing’s accreditation on 2/5/2021. The Blessing Cancer Center received notification of full renewed accreditation on 06/28/2021, with the accreditation lasting three years.

New Medical Oncology Suite

On 1/18/21, the Blessing Medical Oncology suite moved in to it’s newly renovated space, complete with room for an on-site lab, pharmacy and infusion center.

Clinical Research

As of 12/31/21, the Blessing Clinical Research department completed its first clinical research project.



OUR MISSION

To improve the health
of our communities.

blessinghealth.org

