

A community united against cancer

Adena Cancer Center 2025 Community Report



INSIDE

Meet a few of our team members caring for patients in south central and southern Ohio

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Defining rural cancer care through innovation and collaboration

At Adena Cancer Center, we believe cancer care begins long before a diagnosis. It starts in the community when a primary care provider takes time to encourage a screening, or when a patient feels equipped to make healthy choices to prevent cancer. These early connections lead to earlier detection and better outcomes, and they're pivotal in reducing the cancer burden in our community.



Cancer care doesn't begin at a biopsy. It begins with relationships, prevention, and early conversations."

When cancer is found, we want to be there for our patients and provider partners. No one should face a cancer diagnosis alone. At Adena Health, we have built an entire team to go to battle alongside patients.

Today, patients throughout our nine-county service area have access to state-of-the-art cancer care without needing to drive to Columbus or Cincinnati. **Through investments in advanced technology and modern facilities, we've expanded access to services such as precision tumor localization, minimally invasive procedures, and collaborative infusion and surgical care.** Our expansion at Fayette Medical Center is one example of how we're strengthening access to specialized treatment right where patients live.

Behind every advancement is a team committed to collaboration. Multidisciplinary tumor boards bring together surgeons, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, and other

specialists to create one clear, coordinated plan for each patient — mirroring best practices of leading academic centers. This teamwork extends to nurse navigators, financial advocates, nutritionists, and survivorship counselors who walk beside patients through treatment and beyond.

Our caregivers could work anywhere, but they choose to serve here — caring for neighbors, friends, and sometimes family. Their compassion and expertise are our most valuable resource.

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for our caregivers, our primary care partners, and our community. Together, we're not just treating cancer. We're helping people return to the things they love.



William Wilson

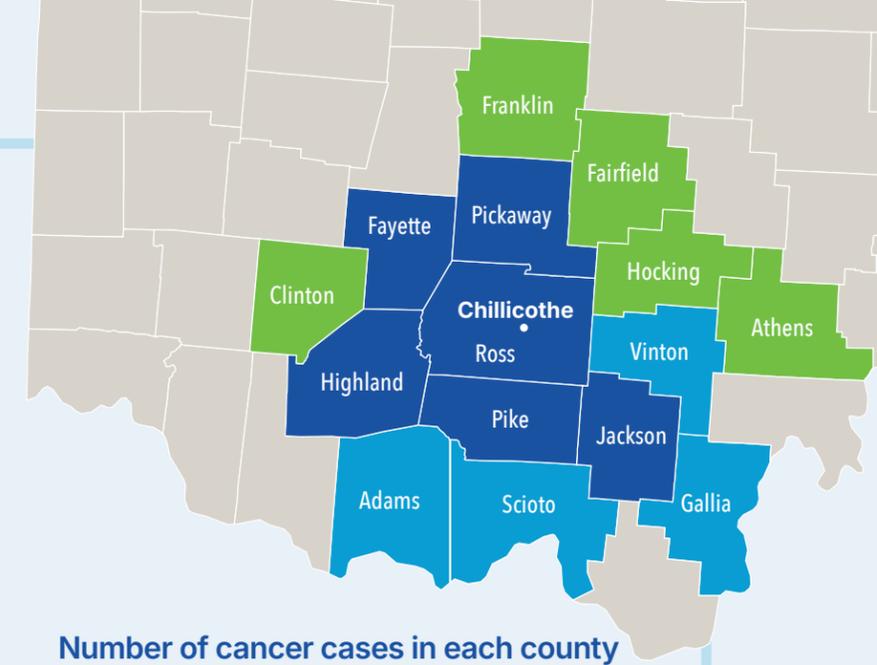
William Alexander Wilson, MD
Medical Director, Adena Cancer Center

HIGHLIGHTS

- Expanded care in Fayette County to increase infusion capacity and surgical collaboration
- Expanded tumor boards to connect more patients with multidisciplinary expertise
- Invested in new precision technologies: SCOUT, Ion, and Brainlab stereotactic radiosurgery



In 2024, Adena Cancer Center cared for **1,031 patients** from across south central and southern Ohio, as well as patients from outside the state. Nearly two out of every three Adena patients were treated for cancers that are highly treatable when detected early, supporting the need for regular cancer screenings.

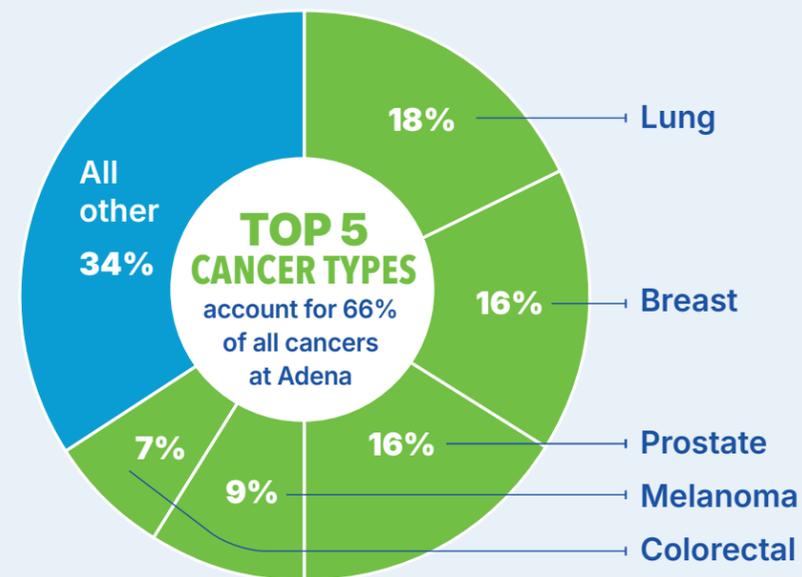


Adena Cancer Center information for 2024

1,031
Patients

1,083
Analytic cases

Note: Number of patients and number of cases may not match due to some patients having multiple cancers.



♀ FEMALE **48%**
♂ MALE **52%**

91%
Adena cancer patients would recommend Adena Cancer Center to friends and family for care

Data is for 2024. Analytic cases are the number of cancer cases either diagnosed at Adena Health, or cases first treated at Adena.

Early connections, better outcomes

Adena's primary care and oncology teams work together to find cancers earlier and treat them faster

At Adena Cancer Center, Jeffrey Rose, MD, medical oncologist, views early detection — driven by primary care — as the cornerstone of effective cancer care.

"Our relationship with primary care physicians is collegial and constant," he says. "They call us directly, and we talk through what's next. That coordination truly makes a difference."



Collaboration begins in primary care offices across south central and southern Ohio, where proactive screenings — from lung cancer scans and colonoscopies to blood tests for prostate cancer and mammograms for breast cancer — help detect cancer early, when it's most treatable.

Dr. Rose highlights Adena's lung and breast cancer screening programs as models for how strong systems and trusted relationships save lives. In 2024 alone, Adena performed 2,311 lung cancer scans, detecting 246 cases of cancer. Adena also performed 13,276 screening mammographies during the year, identifying 156 cases of breast cancer.

"Our primary care physicians have really embraced the screening," he says. "We're diagnosing more people when their cancer is still curable."

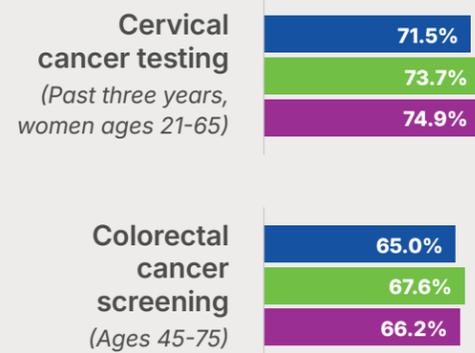
National data echo what Adena caregivers see every day: Early detection saves lives. According to the National Cancer Institute, prevention and screening have driven most of the progress against cancer over the past 50 years, accounting for 80 percent of lives saved.

Dr. Rose recalls one patient whose primary care provider investigated trace blood found during a routine urine test. This decision led to the discovery of bladder cancer at Stage 0, the earliest possible stage.

"That kind of vigilance changes everything," Dr. Rose says.

EARLY DETECTION

The Ohio Department of Health tracks cancer screening rates by regions. Region 11 encompasses seven counties served by Adena Health. This region has lower rates of screening for breast, colorectal, and cervical cancers than the rest of the state but higher rates for lung cancer, which is the No. 1 cancer type in the region.



*Ohio Department of Health Region 11 includes Adams, Brown, Fayette, Highland, Pike, Ross, and Scioto counties.

Prevention is a practice

At Adena Family Medicine–Waverly, Kristen Pertuset, CNP, weaves cancer screening into everyday primary care



In a region where time and distance can delay preventive care, Kristen Pertuset, CNP, is closing the gap at Adena Family Medicine–Waverly.

Rather than leaving prevention to chance, Pertuset integrates preventive screening reminders into her daily patient schedule, making it easy to identify and order overdue tests. This means that even when a patient comes in for a non-related visit, such as for blood pressure, diabetes, or a wellness check-up, she reviews their screening history, explains what's due, and orders tests on the spot.

"If I can get it done before they walk out the door, that's one less barrier," she says.

It's a hands-on approach that has increased colorectal and lung screening completion across her growing patient panel, helping diagnose more rural patients early when cancers are most treatable.

"People here are caring for families, farms, and small businesses," she says. "They don't always have time to think about themselves. My job is to make prevention easy — to keep them healthy enough to keep doing what they love."

Kristen's tips for PCPs on how to boost screening rates

Make it personal.

Explain why a test matters, not just when it's due. Connect it to the patient's story or family history.

Remove the barriers.

Order screenings before patients leave the office.

Celebrate small wins.

Acknowledge each completed test to reinforce positive behavior and trust.

Lead with care.

"When people know you genuinely care," Pertuset says, "they're more likely to follow through."



Source: 2022 Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Ohio Department of Health.

Team-powered healing

Adena provides treatment plans crafted through the shared knowledge of a multidisciplinary team of specialists

At Adena Cancer Center, collaboration is more than a meeting — it's the heart of how we care. Our multidisciplinary tumor boards bring together specialists and support staff to review cancer cases, tailor treatment plans, and deliver advanced, compassionate care close to home. These boards are organized by disease type, including breast, gynecologic, gastrointestinal, thoracic, and head and neck cancers. This helps ensure every patient's care reflects the latest science and our best collaborative thinking. Every new patient case is reviewed at these tumor boards, as well as the cases of patients whose cancer has changed stages or treatment is not working as expected.



"I tell my patients, 'If your ears are burning at 7:30 Friday morning, it's because we're discussing your case,'" says Holly Hooks, RN, an Adena nurse navigator who guides breast and gynecologic cancer patients. Hooks and the other six Adena cancer nurse navigators call patients after each tumor board meeting to share updates, explain next steps, and make sure patients feel supported throughout their care.

When a patient's case is presented, the team discusses diagnostic findings, imaging, pathology, and treatment options such as surgery, chemotherapy, targeted therapies, radiation, clinical trials, and supportive care. This collaborative decision-making ensures every treatment plan is grounded in the latest evidence, guided by expertise, and centered on the whole person — not just the disease. Research shows that multidisciplinary tumor boards improve diagnostic accuracy, align treatments with national guidelines, and enhance coordination of care.

For providers, these meetings offer a structured forum for collaboration and cohesive recommendations. For patients, they bring seamless communication, fewer delays, and confidence in knowing a unified team is focused on their healing.

While similar in structure to programs at large academic cancer institutes, Adena's tumor boards are designed around the most prevalent cancers in the region and conducted by local experts with skill, compassion, and trust.

The result is world-class oncology care, delivered with hometown integrity.



“Adena's multidisciplinary tumor boards bring academic-level collaboration to our community. Each week, specialists come together to review treatment options and shape plans grounded in the latest science and shared clinical judgment.”

— William Wilson, MD, Adena Cancer Center Medical Director

A better approach to breast cancer surgery

A new way to pinpoint breast tumors is bringing patients greater comfort and peace of mind

Adena Health surgeons are using innovative radar technology to more accurately locate and remove breast tumors, making treatment more comfortable, precise, and reassuring for patients.

SCOUT, a wire-free radar localization system, replaces traditional wire localization. With SCOUT, surgeons place a tiny reflector — about the size of a grain of rice — into the tumor up to 30 days before surgery. Unlike wire localization, the reflector is invisible and cannot be felt, and patients experience no limits on their daily movement.

In the operating room, Adena surgeons use a handheld radar device to detect the reflector's signal, guiding them directly to the tumor for precise removal within one millimeter. The system uses safe, nonradioactive radar waves.

"SCOUT allows us to remove the tumor more precisely while preserving healthy breast tissue," says Christin Spahn, MD, general surgeon. "This often means better cosmetic outcomes for our patients."

Compared to traditional wire localization — which can cause discomfort, scheduling challenges, and less accurate results — SCOUT offers several key benefits:

- **More comfort:** The reflector can be placed up to a month before surgery with no movement restrictions, helping reduce stress and anxiety.
- **Greater precision:** By sparing healthy tissue, patients experience less pain and better cosmetic results.
- **Fewer repeat surgeries:** Because the reflector stays securely in place and provides precise guidance, surgeons have a better chance of removing the entire tumor during the first surgery.

"Adopting advanced tools like SCOUT shows Adena's ongoing commitment to innovation in cancer care," says Damien Benjamin, MD, general surgeon. "Our goal is to give every patient the best possible outcome — with confidence and compassion."

Reaching every corner of the lung

Robotic bronchoscopy enables physicians to biopsy difficult-to-access lung lesions with fewer complications

In early 2024, Adena Health pulmonologists began performing robotic bronchoscopies to collect tissue samples inside the lung to test for cancer.

Using the new Ion robotic bronchoscopy technology, which acts like a car's GPS mapping system, pulmonologists guide a thin catheter to small masses of dense tissue, called lung nodules. They can reach every section of all 18 lung segments without having to perform surgery, says Rajinish Jesudoss, MD, pulmonologist. Compared with standard CT-guided biopsies, robotic bronchoscopy reduces the risk of causing a collapsed lung, Dr. Jesudoss says.

Adena pulmonologists are now performing more than 200 lung biopsies annually using the new technology.

"We have become one of the premier peripheral lung nodule programs in the region," Dr. Jesudoss says.



TECHNOLOGY that keeps care close to home

• **Precision equipment.** Adena's two Varian TrueBeam linear accelerators deliver highly targeted treatments usually found only in major cancer centers.

• **Surface-guided accuracy.** The Identify system tracks each patient's position in real time, enhancing both comfort and precision, without the need for extra imaging.

• **Next-generation therapy.** The team is preparing to launch Brainlab stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS), expanding access to one of the most advanced forms of radiation treatment available. This technology allows high doses of radiation to be delivered with extreme accuracy to tumors in the brain and other areas near vital organs.



“These capabilities, along with our highly experienced staff, make Adena a destination for advanced radiotherapy—ensuring patients don't have to travel far for state-of-the-art care.”

— William Wilson, MD,
medical director of oncology

Hometown connections

Advanced care, family, and friends keep Adena radiation therapists rooted to home

For Erica Petty, radiation lead at Adena Cancer Center, the decision to work in Chillicothe came down to balance — both professional and personal. After years in a private health care practice, she joined

Adena for a healthier work environment and found something even better: “an uncommon mix of advanced technology and genuine teamwork.”

“Most community hospitals don't have what we have,” Petty says. “We're able to offer treatments that patients used to have to travel to Columbus

to obtain. Now they can stay close to home, and that means everything when they're tired or not feeling well.”

She also credits Adena's support structure, including on-site physicists, dosimetrists, nurses, and clinic staff, for helping the small, specialized team deliver top-tier care safely, efficiently, and compassionately.

For Lindsay Fisher, a radiation therapist who grew up in Chillicothe, the reason for staying has always been personal.

“This is home,” she says. “I've treated family members, former teachers, even people I went to school with. It comforts patients to see a familiar face during such a difficult time.”

Even as a national shortage gives radiation therapists opportunities to work anywhere, both say Adena provides a sense of belonging.

“We have the same technology as the big centers,” Fisher says, “but here, we still feel like family.”

Precise care, personal touch

New surgeon brings advanced expertise and compassionate care to Adena Fayette Medical Center

Kavita Deonarine, MD, a general surgeon specializing in surgical care for skin, colon, breast, and soft-tissue cancers, could have chosen to practice anywhere in the country.

She chose Adena Fayette Medical Center — and the community that surrounds it.

“We moved here to be closer to my husband’s family and to raise our family here. It just seemed very natural,” she says. “I was drawn to Adena’s people and purpose.”

A large part of the draw, Dr. Deonarine says, is the new hospital in Fayette County where she will be working. “I’m thrilled to join Adena during this dynamic time of investment and growth.”

That growth includes innovative technologies and expanded access to advanced surgical options, including robotic-assisted surgery. Dr. Deonarine’s training and experience in this field are matched only by her enthusiasm.

“Robotic surgery provides enhanced visibility and precision,” she explains. “That translates to shorter hospital stays, less discomfort, and faster recovery. Patients heal more quickly and get back to their lives sooner. It’s truly optimal care.”

Dr. Deonarine is equally inspired by Adena’s focus on people and the human side of medicine. She values the collaborative culture, where providers work together with empathy guiding their decisions.

“Adena is committed to the traditional values of medicine,” she says. “We provide the kind of care patients deserve — care that helps them return to living their lives to the fullest.”

Outside the operating room, Dr. Deonarine enjoys a full and active life with her husband, two sons, and two dogs. When she’s not caring for patients, she’s often practicing archery or painting — two pursuits that reflect the same focus and creativity she brings to surgery.

Her career choice, she says, was the natural result of her aptitude for math and science plus a lifelong passion for any subjects dealing with analysis and critical thinking.

“Every day I walk into the operating room, and I take care of patients and see their great outcomes,” she reflects. “When I see them afterward and see their smiles and know that they are on the way to getting better, that reaffirms my commitment every day.”

Kavita Deonarine, MD
General surgeon at Adena Fayette Medical Center

Specialty: Surgical treatment of skin, colon, breast, and soft-tissue cancers using minimally invasive and robotic-assisted techniques.

Education and training:

- **Medical school:** Howard University College of Medicine
- **General surgery residency:** Howard University Hospital
- **Board certification:** American Board of Surgery

Clinical focus:

Dr. Deonarine brings advanced robotic surgery technologies and a patient-centered, team-based approach to cancer care that is designed to deliver the highest standard of precision and recovery so that patients can stay close to home for care.



I’m thrilled to join Adena during this dynamic time of investment and growth.”

Kavita Deonarine, MD



Community calling

For Beth Harper, serving Adena cancer patients is more than a job — it’s family

Beth Harper, CNP, has always known what she wanted to do.

“Ever since I can remember, I wanted to be a nurse and take care of people,” says Harper, a chemotherapy infusion nurse at Adena Fayette Medical Center. “I used to put bandages on my dolls and feed them those little cinnamon candy pills.”

She’s spent the past 32 years doing exactly that. Harper, a 2025 Ohio Hospital Association Health Care Worker of the Year nominee, has built her career in the community she calls home.

“I just appreciate that we can care for our community right here at home, especially our cancer patients,” she says.

Before Adena began offering cancer treatment in Fayette County, patients had to drive to Chillicothe, Cincinnati, or Columbus for care. Harper has seen firsthand how much difference advanced care close to home makes.

“It’s one of the most important things you can do for them,” Harper says. “It helps the entire family.”

The advantage is more than convenience.

“We know them, and they know us — and that makes all the difference,” she says. “We’ve got music playing, and we’re visiting with people. It’s meaningful to know we made their day a little better.”

Harper worked in the birth center before joining the outpatient cancer clinic, where she first worked with an oncologist who visited weekly.

“Once I started doing that, I saw how much I loved taking care of cancer patients,” Harper says. “My family also went through a cancer diagnosis. That was very hard, but it also showed me that this is truly what I love to do.”

At Adena Fayette Cancer Center, Harper has found not only her calling, but a second family.

“This is probably the best team I’ve ever worked with,” she says. “We do a great job working together to take care of our patients.”



I just appreciate that we can care for our community right here at home, especially our cancer patients.”

— Beth Harper, CNP



Care beyond medical treatment

Comprehensive cancer support services help care for patients in body, mind, and spirit

At Adena Cancer Center, expert treatment is only part of the story. Here, patients receive not just exceptional medical care, but the compassion, support, and resources they need every step of the way.

"We bring together an expert, multidisciplinary team to ensure every patient has the tools they need in their fight against cancer — whether that's nutrition support, financial help, or spiritual guidance," says Julie Mathey, RN, OCN, oncology director of operations.

Comprehensive patient services include:

 **On-site laboratory and diagnostic testing:** Cancer patients can complete testing and imaging right inside the cancer center, keeping care seamless, convenient, and coordinated.

 **In-house pharmacy:** Board-certified oncology pharmacists work closely with care teams to review treatment plans, manage medications, and help ease side effects. Patients can fill prescriptions on-site and get answers in real time.

 **Financial advocacy:** When costs or insurance challenges arise, Adena's dedicated financial advocate connects patients with community resources, grants, and assistance programs to help ease the burden so patients can focus on healing.

 **Transportation assistance:** With patients traveling from nine surrounding counties, transportation can be a real barrier to care, Mathey says. Thanks to a community grant, Adena helps patients get to and from appointments safely and reliably.

 **Dedicated social workers:** Adena's on-site social workers provide education, emotional support, and connections to local resources — from billing and transportation assistance to spiritual care.

 **Nutritional support:** A registered dietitian consults with patients to help manage symptoms, maintain strength, and support recovery. Supplements and guidance are available as needed.

 **Wig program:** Through Adena's wig room, patients can try on low-cost wigs in a private, supportive space where they are guided by social workers who understand the emotional side of treatment.

 **Survivorship care:** Adena provides survivorship tracking and counseling for five years or longer, depending on diagnosis, after treatment. Adena also partners with the local YMCA's Live Well program, a 12-week, evidence-based exercise and wellness program that helps survivors rebuild strength and confidence in a safe, encouraging environment.

"At Adena, we know cancer care is about more than medicine," Mathey adds. "It's about meeting patients where they are — and walking with them every step of the way."

Need support beyond treatment?

Patients, families, and referring providers can talk with a nurse navigator to learn about available cancer support services by calling Adena Cancer Center at 740-542-3030.

Steps to strength

Adena Cancer Center partners with the community to prevent, diagnose, treat, and triumph over cancer

At Adena Cancer Center, our care and concern extend beyond our walls into the heart of the community. Through events like our 2025 **Breast Cancer Awareness 5K Walk/Run**, we invite friends, families, and neighbors to take powerful steps together against cancer. Participants learn about symptoms, prevention, screenings, and treatment, with proceeds used to support patient care through the Adena Health Foundation cancer fund.

Our annual **Colon Cancer Awareness 2 Mile Run/Walk** is a community call to action. With accessible screening information, a fun run for kids, and a walk-through learning experience in a giant inflatable colon, we make awareness come to life. Proceeds from this event also support local cancer care.

And when treatment is complete, we gather to celebrate survivorship. At picnics, concerts, and other special events, survivors, families, and caregivers regularly gather with music, food, and ceremony to help remember how far we've come and how far we will go. It's a reminder that our mission isn't just clinical, it's personal.

By walking beside you in these events, Adena Cancer Center reaffirms that cancer care is a collective effort rooted in connection, compassion, and community.



Nearly 500 community members turn out each year to support Adena Health's cancer awareness events, raising more than \$38,000 in 2025 to support cancer care for friends and neighbors in our community.



Early detection, better outcomes

A major part of Adena's fight against cancer begins with finding cancer at its earliest, most treatable stages. Every year, Adena screens community members throughout a nine-county area with on-site and mobile mammography and on-site low-dose CT lung cancer screenings. In 2024, we provided:



2,311 Lung cancer screenings

13,276 Mammograms

Adena Cancer Center providers

Medical oncologists



Akaolisa Eziokwu, MD



Sandip H. Patel, MD

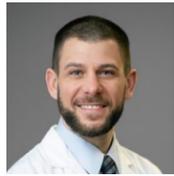


Jeffrey Rose, MD



Sara Singer, MD

Radiation oncologists



Greg Thompson, MD



William Wilson, MD,
medical director

Clinical nurse practitioners



Danelle Rhoads, CNP



Angela Wellman,
CNP



Carissa Hines-
Mitchell, CNP

Cancer nurse navigators

Bill Barron, RN, lung/prostate

Mika Campbell, BSN, gastrointestinal/genitourinary

Laken Chain, RN, head and neck/hematological

Holly Hooks, RN, breast/gynecological

Kirsten Noble, RN, Adena Fayette Medical Center
cancer care clinic

Carrie North, RN, breast/gynecological

Jennifer Thompson, RN, lung/prostate



Scan to meet our
providers, or visit
Adena.org/Cancer.

Oncology hospitalist

The Adena team also includes Rifat T. Elkhatab, MD, a medical oncology hospitalist who cares for hospitalized cancer patients.

Adena Cancer Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC). CoC-accredited cancer programs offer their patients:

- Quality care, close to home
- Comprehensive care
- A multidisciplinary team approach
- Information and education
- Patient-centered services
- Options for genetic assessment and counseling and palliative care services
- Care monitoring and quality improvement
- Treatment planning based on evidence-based national treatment guidelines
- Clinical trials and new treatment options
- Follow-up care, including survivorship care plan
- Patient tracking through the cancer data system

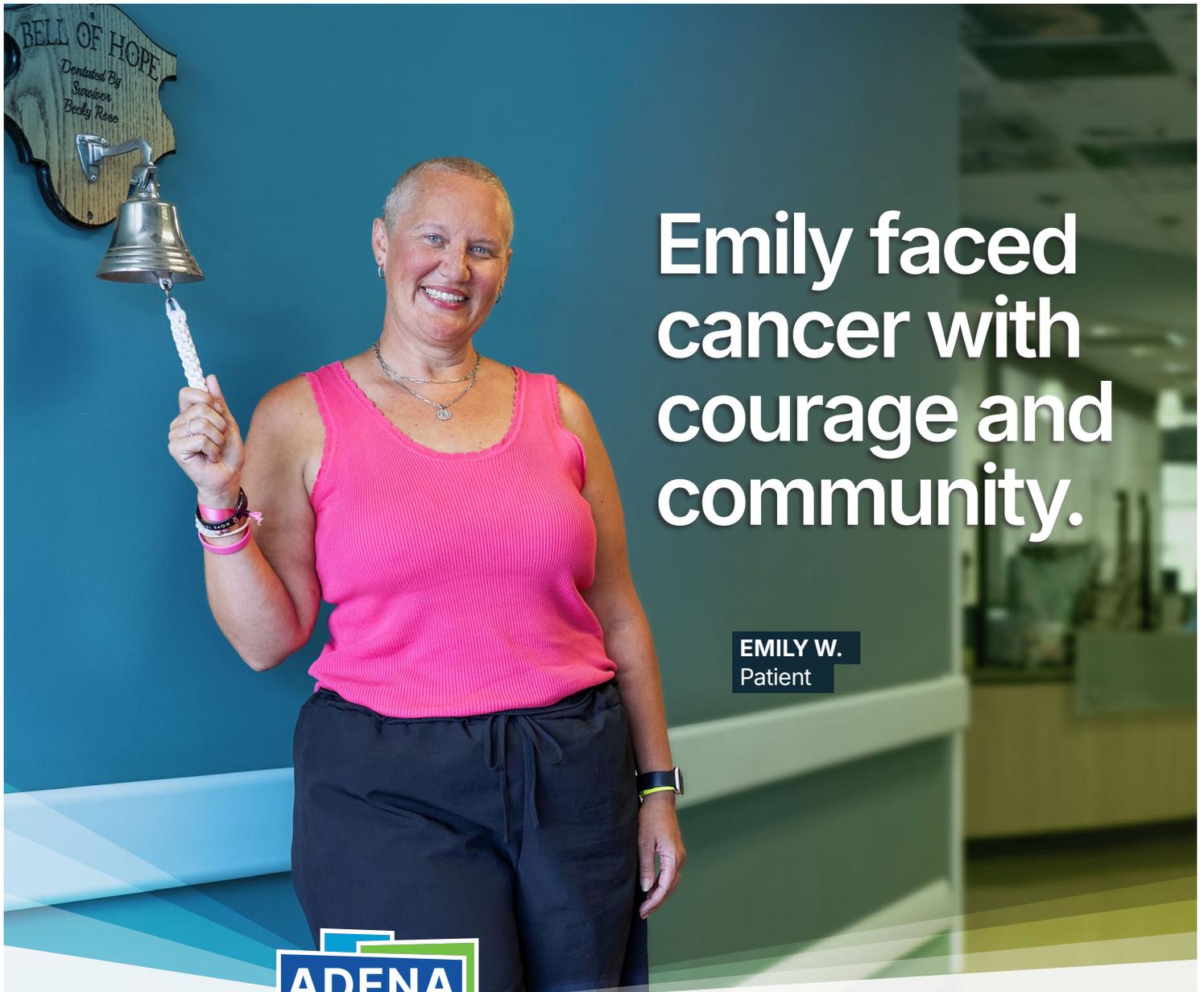
2024 Cancer Committee

Richard Ash, PharmD, pharmacy
Lindsay Barnett, PharmD, pharmacy
Erica Berry, RT, radiation oncology
Paula Benner, RN, quality improvement coordinator
Mary Brown, LSW, psychosocial services coordinator
Matthew Christian, MD, urology
Jennifer Crawford, community outreach coordinator
Tisha Dellos, DO, pathology
Lawrence DeRenne, MD, pathology
Robert Fraley, OT, rehabilitation director
Janine Gabis, RN, ODS-C, cancer conference coordinator
Kelly Gallina, MD, dermatology
Jill Haller, LSW, social worker
David Hathaway, RD, nutrition
Tina Hollis, MHA, RT, CRA, radiology director
Holly Hooks, RN, genetics
Lisa Hughes, LSW, social worker
Stephen Johnson, MD, urology
John Karlson, chaplain, spiritual care
Hydi Laidlaw-Smith, DO, surgery
Gwen Lanning, RT, BTAS, CRA, radiology manager
Thomas Lewis, MD, dermatology
Julie Mathey, RN, OCN, oncology nurse
Jamie McGee, BSN, RN, psychosocial services coordinator
Michael Meade, MD, diagnostic radiology
William Mitchell, MD, radiology
Jennifer Moore, RN, hospice

Janie Murphy, LSW, social worker
Elise Ngalle, MD, palliative care
Sandip Patel, MD, medical oncology
Melissa Richendollar, MEd, AT, rehabilitation director
Danelle Rhoads, CNP, survivorship program coordinator
Ray Seitz, RN, clinical research coordinator
Kate Shane-Carson, LGC, genetics
Sara Singer, MD, medical oncology
Anne Smith, pathology secretary
Christin Spahn, MD, surgery
Sonia Thacker, ODS-C, cancer registry quality coordinator
Greg Thompson, MD, cancer committee chair, cancer liaison physician
Richard Villarreal, MD, gynecology
William Wilson, MD, radiation oncology
Autumn Wolfe, RN, hospice
Erin Woltz, BSN, RN, cancer program administrator
Saba Zahid, RD, nutrition



Adena Cancer Center has earned accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer for 27 years.



Emily faced cancer with courage and community.

EMILY W.
Patient



When Emily felt a lump in her breast, she contacted her Adena Health OB/GYN, who got her in for imaging the next day. Tests confirmed grade three, stage two breast cancer. She chose Adena Cancer Center for chemotherapy and radiation — not just for expert care, but to be close to the people who knew her, cared for her, and helped her stay present for ball games, dinners, and every moment that mattered. Today, she's home, healthy, and in remission. Emily is one of the many faces of our patients in the community we call home.

See Emily's story and more at Adena.org/Faces.

4435 State Route 159 • Chillicothe, OH 45601 • Adena.org/Cancer • 740-542-3030

