

2020 CANCER ANNUAL REPORT





Anna N., Breast Cancer Survivor



Quentin K., Pediatric Cancer Survivor



Beuncole B., Cervical Cancer Survivor



Melissa B., Brain Cancer Survivor



Anna P., Cervical Cancer Survivor

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2020 Milestones



Ochsner Health’s approach to cancer treatment combines clinical expertise, research leadership and a patient-centered culture. It’s an approach that improves outcomes for thousands of cancer patients each year and attracts patients from all 50 states and 31 countries.



Launched a new partnership with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Cancer Focus Fund for early-stage clinical trials of novel cancer therapies.

\$50 million
state-of-the-art cancer center

Announced construction of a new \$50 million state-of-the-art cancer center on the Northshore in partnership with St. Tammany Health System. The center opened in June 2021.



Expanded our Baton Rouge skin cancer treatment capabilities with the opening of a new \$2 million Mohs Surgery Center and the addition of Mohs-trained surgeon Nicholas Frank, MD. Mohs micrographic surgery is a specialized procedure to precisely identify and remove the entire tumor layer by layer.



Completed the expansion of the Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center in New Orleans, doubling its size, so that we can continue to make advancements that provide hope to our patients and their families – in research, screenings, clinical trials, genetic testing and more.

Urged patients to complete vaccinations and cancer screenings despite the pandemic, **completing more than 178,000 screenings for breast, colon, cervical and other cancers, and 3,381 HPV vaccinations** that help protect against certain cancers.

FIRST & only

Became the first and only cancer center in the Gulf South to perform minimally invasive robotic surgery using Focal One® HIFU technology, which uses high-frequency sound waves precisely directed at the cancerous tissue through an ultrasound probe.

The Benson Cancer Center: Building on Strengths to Holistically Serve More Patients



Already renowned as one of the leading comprehensive destinations for cancer care in the Gulf South and beyond, the Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans took another important step forward in September 2020 with the completion of a \$56 million facility expansion.

Made possible by the generosity of Ochsner Health donors, including a \$20 million gift from Gayle Benson and her late husband, Tom Benson, the Cancer Center has now doubled in size. With its new capacity, more than 18,000 patients will be cared for here annually by a multidisciplinary team of specialists and subspecialists – experts in treating more than 20 different types of cancer.

“Ochsner Health’s emphasis on treating the whole patient through our Integrative Oncology Program, a holistic approach developed to individually treat the patient in body, mind and spirit, is reflected in the design of the expanded Benson Cancer Center,” says Zoe Larned, MD, Chair of Hematology/Oncology.

Among the features of the expanded center are:

- A new patient wellness space for integrative services like nutrition, acupuncture, meditation and yoga
- 58 personalized and semi-private chemo infusion stations
- Dedicated infusion and clinic spaces for bone marrow transplant patients
- A multidisciplinary clinic where patients benefit from a collaborative approach to cancer care and Ochsner Precision Cancer Therapies Program research

In conjunction with the expansion, the Lieselotte Tansey Breast Center relocated to the Benson Cancer Center to further integrate the multidisciplinary treatment approach.

The Benson Cancer Center remains home to the largest clinical trials network in Louisiana. This includes early phase trials that can treat cancer at the molecular level through our Precision Cancer Therapies Program. Our specialists can also pinpoint those at the highest risk for cancer through our Hereditary Cancer Program, which supports prevention and early tumor detection through high-risk screenings. 🌟



Ochsner Health and St. Tammany Health System Set a New Bar for Cancer Care

Today there is more demand than ever for cancer care on the Northshore region of Greater New Orleans. To address that need, Ochsner Health and St. Tammany Health System have announced the opening of a new \$50 million, three-floor, 75,000-square-foot cancer center on the Ochsner campus in Covington.

It is the largest building project Ochsner has undertaken on Louisiana's Northshore. The new center more than doubles the space of the previous St. Tammany Cancer Center. It will provide west St. Tammany Parish patients, caregivers and families with better access to more coordinated cancer services across a variety of specialties.

"When you think about the vulnerability of an individual in the process of treatment or the early stages of awareness that they have a cancer diagnosis, it is so important that they have the resources to surround them and support them and their families," says Joan Coffman, President and CEO of St. Tammany Health System. "We see the clear, growing need to expand local access to care, and we are excited that this new cancer center will provide patients with more local services." ✓



Slidell Memorial Hospital: Extending a Critical Partnership and Strong Support During the COVID-19 Surge

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on relationships, both personal and professional. The partnership between Slidell Memorial Hospital (SMH) and Ochsner Health has grown even stronger through this crisis. The partners' shared response helped to bond employees in various units, and their teamwork was incredible.

At the start of the pandemic, Ochsner and SMH developed a daily call to assess needs, including beds, staffing and equipment. As COVID-19 progressed and Ochsner's Southshore hospitals were inundated with patients, coordination calls that included the Regional Referral Center became critical to alleviating operational pressure. SMH was able to assist in decompressing Ochsner hospitals by taking many of their ICU and medical/surgical patients from places like Ochsner Baptist and Ochsner Medical Center – West Bank Campus. Patient transfer needs, and also equipment needs such as ventilators and PPE that were necessary to care for both transferred and existing patients, were met through this arrangement. Communication between the two partner facilities proved invaluable, with both organizations supporting not only each other but also the residents of St. Tammany Parish and southwest Mississippi. ✓

Physician Perspective: Pivoting From Cancer Surgery to Critical Care to Save Lives

By Brian Moore, MD, Director of the Ochsner Cancer Institute

I'm a head and neck cancer surgeon and the medical director of the Ochsner Cancer Institute. Most days, you'll find me in the operating room, removing tumors of the throat, mouth and glands of the head and neck; in the clinic; or working to expand our cancer care program across the region.

In response to the emerging COVID-19 crisis, in March 2020, Ochsner Health stood up several new intensive care units. A call went out to anyone with critical care experience to staff them. I'm but one of many physicians in surgery and other medical subspecialties who volunteered to be redeployed.

The experience was a bit like rolling the clock back 21 years to my days as an intern – leaning on the critical care staff, the ICU nurses and those with more experience to help get you through, even the residents and fellows in anesthesiology and critical care.

When you're specializing in an area like cancer surgery, your knowledge grows deep over time, but it's also narrowly focused. You contribute what you can, but you trust the experience of the nurses, therapists and specialists who do this for a living. They are amazing and the true heroes.

The ICU was an environment in which titles and seniority didn't matter. I spent several days working with a critical care attending physician who was just in his first year out of fellowship, Louis Cannizzaro, MD. He was our leader, he told us what to do, and he was fantastic. I was particularly impressed with how he checked on every member of the team – from the nurses to the therapists to the ward clerks – and made sure that they were staying strong in what were some stressful times.

One night, a patient I was assigned to took a sudden turn for the worse. Working at the bedside with a nurse redeployed from the OR, we were trying to make heads or tails of the sudden change. Quickly, I turned to find one of the anesthesiology senior residents there to help. And then help came from every direction. Everybody was rowing in the same direction – pulling together to save a life. At that moment, with a patient's life hanging in the balance, I was grateful to be a part of our group practice with so many talented partners to depend upon. 🙏



Cancer Care in the Time of COVID-19

Continuing to provide first-class care while navigating the disruptions and uncertainty brought about by a global pandemic was not easy – but it was a mission the Ochsner Cancer Institute was committed to accomplishing for the good of its patients.

That started with testing and telemedicine. When COVID-19 first hit the nation, the team at the Ochsner Cancer Institute developed and rapidly scaled in-house COVID testing capabilities to ensure all patients with cancer could be tested prior to surgery, chemotherapy or radiation. Providers also turned to technology when it came to monitoring patients in between treatments.

“There were some delays in March and April of 2020, but we never stopped treating patients,” says Brian Moore, MD, Director of the Ochsner Cancer Institute. “We quickly pivoted to telemedicine, ultimately completing more than 20,000 of these encounters so that we could maintain therapeutic relationships with our patients at various stages of treatment and survivorship.”

Ochsner has always been defined by its forward-thinking care. COVID-19 only accelerated the need to leverage data in a high-powered way, especially concerning how the disease might affect patients with cancer – and how best to protect them.

“A team led by Dr. Zoe Larned and Dr. Mike Lunski explored the link between COVID-19 and cancer utilizing our extensive database,” Dr. Moore says. “Looking at the coronavirus cases rolling in, we found that those with a history of cancer were at a higher risk of developing COVID-19. This research meaningfully and fundamentally changed how we approached cancer care to keep these at-risk patients safe.”

Their study, published in the journal *Cancer*, is one of the largest and most significant studies exploring COVID-19 and cancer to date.

Ensuring that the places patients needed to visit were safe, and providing at-home diagnostic options when possible, were key components of the Ochsner Cancer Institute’s efforts to protect patients.

“Ochsner’s population health team has done a remarkable job encouraging patients to use non-invasive, at-home colon cancer screening tests such as FIT kits and Cologuard kits,” Dr. Moore says. “Recently, the hospital has seen a resurgence of patients returning for preventive screenings. Our breast imaging team has seen significant growth in mammography numbers, for example, reflecting the confidence that patients have in the safety of our imaging centers.” 🙌

Supporting Our Heroes

Frontline workers have put their lives on hold and have taken great personal risks to protect the lives of their patients, colleagues and communities. Gifts to support Ochsner Health's Employee Assistance Fund provide financial assistance for Ochsner employees directly impacted by COVID-19 or facing other difficult situations, ensuring that resources are always there when frontline employees need them most. In 2020, the Employee Assistance Fund provided support to 341 employees across Ochsner Health to assist them with hurricane relief, unexpected COVID-19 crises, childcare and a variety of temporary financial disasters. 🍀



Funding Critical COVID-19 Research

Ochsner's Pandemic Response Research Fund was used for a COVID-19 seroprevalence study led by Principal Investigator Amy Feehan, PhD. Using a novel recruitment method and paired molecular and antibody testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection, her study determined seroprevalence in a racially diverse municipality in Louisiana. Infections were highly variable by zip code and differed by race and ethnicity. Overall census-weighted seroprevalence was 6.9%, and the calculated infection fatality ratio was 1.61%. 🍀



Moonlight & Miracles Gala: Raising Funds & Hope

The eighth annual Moonlight & Miracles Gala may have been largely virtual, but its fundraising results were very real. The event raised more than \$1.4 million for patients and programs at the Ochsner Cancer Institute, a show of generosity that will help the Institute deliver the most effective and innovative oncology treatments to patients.

Chaired by Gayle Benson from the Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation and broadcast on FOX 8 WVUE-TV, the gala was hosted by Lori Ochsner, broadcast journalist and daughter-in-law of Dr. John Ochsner; Mark Romig, stadium announcer for the New Orleans Saints; and David Bernard, chief meteorologist for FOX 8 News. During the live 60-minute broadcast on Nov. 1, 2020, viewers learned about how the Ochsner Cancer Institute changes and saves lives every day.

This virtual event featured compelling presentations, including the recognition of two "Miracle Makers" – Burke J. Brooks, Jr., MD, Chairman of the Department of Hematology/Oncology and Chief of Staff at Ochsner Medical Center – Baton Rouge, and Robert Merrick, owner of real estate brokerage Latter & Blum, who with his wife, Sheryl, donated \$1 million to the Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center at Ochsner Medical Center. The Moonlight & Miracles Gala also featured a raffle drawing for a 2020 Mercedes-Benz GLB, an online auction and entertainment. 🎉



1. Store Merchandise Manager of Winn-Dixie Josh Castellanos and SVP & Chief Development Officer of Ochsner Health Michelle Dodenhoff.
2. Medical Director of Transfusion Services & Medical Director of Professional Staff Services of Ochsner Health Dr. Bobby Rodwig, Ochsner Foundation Board Member Karen T. Stall, Vice President of Cancer Services of Ochsner Health Emily Pirch and Medical Director of Ochsner Cancer Institute & System Chair of Otorhinolaryngology and Communication Sciences of Ochsner Health Dr. Brian Moore.
3. Sheryl Merrick and 2020 Miracle Maker Robert Merrick with Vicki Brooks and 2020 Miracle Maker Dr. Jay Brooks.
4. VP & General Manager of Fox 8 WVUE Ronna Corrente, Host & Chief Meteorologist of Fox 8 WVUE David Bernard, Host & Ochsner Health Foundation Board Member Lori Ochsner and Host & SVP & Chief Marketing Officer at New Orleans and Company & Stadium Announcer for the New Orleans Saints Mark Romig.



Robert Merrick Beat Cancer Five Times – and Now He Is Giving Back to Ochsner in a Big Way

Robert “Bobby” Merrick, 77, is a born-and-raised, lifelong New Orleanian whose name is practically synonymous with the city. He attended Tulane University and entered the family real estate appraisal business alongside his stepfather straight out of college.

“As time went on, I realized I was more interested in real estate development than appraisal,” Merrick says. “In 1970, I started building my first business, and it just grew. On October 1, 1986, I bought the company Latter & Blum, setting my sights on expanding it.”

With Merrick at the helm, Latter & Blum has grown to become the largest real estate group not only in Southern Louisiana, but also the 20th largest in the United States.

Over the past several decades, Merrick has built a company and a life in New Orleans, raising a family with his wife, Sheryl. But six years ago, that life was forever changed.

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"I woke up at midnight one day in pain, and I told my wife I thought I might have appendicitis," he says. "I went to the Ochsner emergency room right away, and they found a lump pushing on my colon.

After receiving this devastating news, Merrick sought a second opinion from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. This appointment confirmed what he already knew: he had stage 3 colon cancer.

When looking at long-term care options, the Ochsner Cancer Institute emerged as the obvious choice.

"I could've gone anywhere to receive chemo and radiation, but the fact was that I could get world-class care at Ochsner without traveling," Merrick says.

It took six months of chemotherapy followed by 35 days of radiation and an operation to remove the cancerous growth, but the treatment left Merrick cancer-free.

A Long Journey to Health

Before he could celebrate his victory, Merrick and his Ochsner care team discovered melanoma on his chest. The melanoma required a simple removal, a relatively painless procedure.

Not too long after, a cancerous growth was found on Merrick's right lung. This required a more advanced robotic procedure to remove a quarter of his lung and eliminate any malignant cells. Throughout it all, Merrick maintained a positive attitude.

"The procedures were all really a piece of cake," he says. "I couldn't believe it, all things considered."

Several months later, Merrick faced one of the hardest parts of his journey.



“My physician found a spot on my tongue that turned out to be cancerous, and removing it was probably one of the most painful things I’ve gone through,” he says.

Most recently, Merrick was diagnosed with rectal cancer. The treatment was extremely taxing, both mentally and physically.

“I had chemotherapy, then about 35 days of radiation,” he says. “I felt so out of control of my body during that time and didn’t know what my chances would be.”

If the cancer was eliminated, Merrick would be able to resume his daily life. If not, there was a strong chance he would need a colostomy, which would change his life permanently. He was told there was a 10% chance that treatment would be completely successful.

After six years, seemingly endless rounds of chemo, and five surgeries, Robert received the greatest news of all: his cancer was gone.

Supporting the Team That Supported Him

Throughout it all, Merrick remained unshakably positive. He maintains that his treatment and rapid recovery would not have been possible without the Ochsner team.

“The amazing thing about Ochsner is that all of the staff and physicians involved with cancer patients understand what we’re going through,” he says. “They’re the nicest people in the world.”

This journey – and all of the people involved – inspired Merrick and his wife to give \$1 million to the Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center at the Ochsner Cancer Institute. Their contributions will help support first-floor renovations and expansion of the cancer center facility and its patient services.

“The Ochsner team has been very, very good to me,” he says. “I never had a hugely adverse reaction to my chemo. So, every time I went to the fifth floor of the center and saw how hard other patients had it, my heart went out to them.”

The Benson Cancer Center offers patients access to advanced diagnostic and treatment resources, like the region’s only Phase 1 clinical trials program, tumor board reviews and robotic surgical procedures that are more precise and less painful. Its expanded space allows for an integrative oncology program that includes patient education and evidence-based, holistic therapies like acupuncture, yoga, mindfulness and exercise.

Throughout the course of his treatment, Merrick got to know Anna Combes, Director of Development for the Ochsner Cancer Institute.

“The Ochsner difference is that we provide multidisciplinary, world-class care,” Combes says. “You can see your oncologist, radiologist and surgeon under one roof. With gifts from people like the Merricks, we’ve been able to support the talent that we’ve always had – and now, the building matches that.”

“The Merricks’ gift is essential to the growth of our cancer center and its programs,” says Brian Moore, MD, Director of the Ochsner Cancer Institute and one of Merrick’s physicians. “Thanks to our donors’ generosity, we’ve immensely grown the support services for our patients that are necessary to a cancer journey. Navigators, social workers, psychologists, and physical, occupational and speech therapists are now able to work side by side with the oncology team.”

With the help of the Merricks’ gift, the Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center has become the Gulf South’s premier destination for innovative cancer treatment, delivering comfort and high-quality care to those who need it most.

Today, Merrick is happily still cancer-free. He gets an MRI scan every three months to ensure he remains healthy. He is also hopeful for others who are diagnosed with this harrowing disease.

“Until you’ve had cancer, you don’t know what goes through your mind,” Merrick says. “My wish is that I can help future cancer patients as they face their own journeys.”

Helping Patients Find Stability in Uncertain Times

Patient Assistance Funds at the Ochsner Cancer Institute provide critical financial resources and other support to patients undergoing treatment for cancer. Here are some examples of how donors' generous contributions to these funds change people's lives.

Aiding Many Aspects of Recovery

A patient was coping well after her new cancer diagnosis, only to have the rug pulled out from under her when – within a week – her caretaker stole from her and a hurricane struck, causing roof damage and electrical failure. The Ochsner Cancer Institute Patient Assistance Fund covered her home repairs and helped keep her phone functional and charged while she coordinated with contractors and volunteers who could bring her to appointments. She is now thrilled to be functioning independently, without a caretaker, and awaiting one final scan before she will officially be declared in complete remission. She is grateful for all the help she has received.

Easing Financial Burdens

Before his recent diagnosis, one patient worked most of his adult life as a painter. Because of the physical demands of his treatment, he could no longer support his family with this skill. As a result, his rent went unpaid for two months. While he was very concerned about his housing situation, he was hesitant to ask for assistance because he had always been self-sufficient. The Patient Assistance Fund paid two months of the patient's rent and utilities, allowing him to catch up and keep him and his daughter in their home until other resources could be located to help him through the course of his treatment.

Helping With a Place to Heal

A patient diagnosed with multiple myeloma lost his job of 38 years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The patient was required to secure local lodging for a scheduled stem cell transplant, but was only earning \$247/week in unemployment benefits while incurring an additional monthly expense for his health insurance. The Ochsner Cancer Institute's Patient Assistance Fund helped secure this patient pre- and post-stem cell transplant lodging in his time of great need.

Bridging the Gap

A 40-year-old patient experiencing a recurrence of testicular cancer was told by his oncologist that he would need to undergo several rounds of chemotherapy, during which he would not be able to work. The sole income-earner for his family, he was supporting his wife and a 9-year-old daughter. While he made a decent living, he did not have short-term disability insurance through his employer. His time away from work was uncompensated, and he and his wife had already exhausted their savings to keep their mortgage and living expenses current. The Patient Assistance Fund allowed this patient to pay his mortgage, bridging the gap until he was able to return to work.

*thank
you* **TO OUR
DONORS**

Connecting Patients in Our Community With Innovative Therapies

2020 Clinical Trials:

- 16** Breast
 - 12** Gastroenterology
 - 9** Lung
 - 9** Genitourinary
 - 6** Gynecology
 - 1** Head & Neck
-



Each year, an estimated 27,880 Louisianans receive a cancer diagnosis, and 9,380 Louisianans die of cancer. Age-adjusted mortality rates from cancer are higher in Louisiana than the national average. The Ochsner Cancer Institute is doing everything possible to change these statistics.

Through an innovative partnership with the Translational Genomics Institute (TGen), the Institute offers the Ochsner Precision Cancer Therapies Program. Giving cancer patients across the Gulf South region access to cutting-edge treatments, this program has made early (Phase 1 and 2) clinical cancer trials a viable option within the local community. At the same time, the Precision Cancer Therapies Program is driving molecular diagnostic and clinical strategy, including next-generation sequencing of tumor specimens.

“Today, we know more about genes than ever before. With the mapping of the human genome, we’re shifting away from treating cancer based on the tumor of origin and toward treating it based on the genetics of the tumor itself,” says Marc Matrana, MD, medical director of the Ochsner Precision Cancer Therapies Program.

Early phase clinical trials allow patients to receive innovative therapies years before they are more widely available. They provide often efficacious treatment options to patients who have exhausted all other options. Since its inception, the Ochsner Precision Cancer Therapies Program has opened dozens of early phase trials and recruited hundreds of cancer patients to these studies, increased referrals, and brought new options and hope to cancer patients in our region.

The Precision Cancer Therapies Program is the region’s only program dedicated to early phase clinical trials in patients with advanced cancer. Before this program’s inception, made possible with the support of our generous donors, most cancer

patients in our region did not have access to clinical trials, especially in these early phases. The Ochsner Cancer Institute received recognition in 2018 as an Innovator from the Association of Community Cancer Centers for partnering to deliver precision cancer therapy in the community.

Contributions directed toward the Precision Cancer Therapies Program provide funds for:

- A dedicated physician medical director and physician researchers
- Two advanced practice providers
- A full-time nurse supervisor
- A scheduler/concierge/navigator
- Phase 1 research nurses
- Full-time data coordinators
- Research infusion nurses
- Phase 1 regulatory coordinators and a full-time grants officer
- Data analysis and lab technicians
- A Phase 1 infusion center area
- A dedicated Phase 1 clinic, lab, pharmacokinetics room, intratumoral injection room, eight exam rooms, two nurses stations, administration offices and research pharmacy space

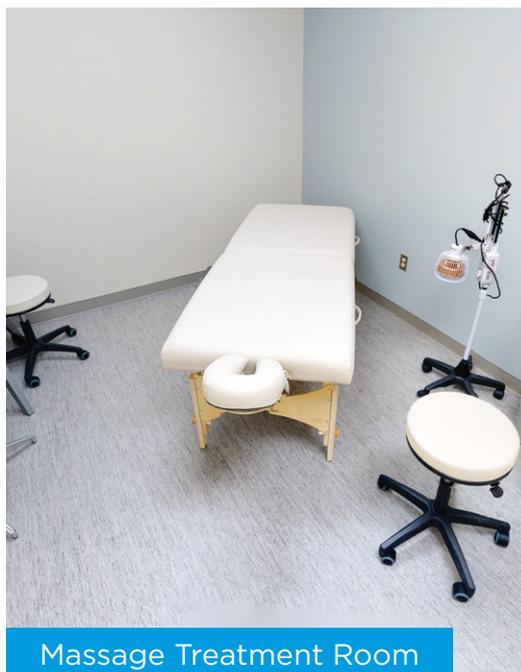
In recognition of an inaugural \$1 million gift from former Entergy Chief Executive Officer and Ochsner Precision Cancer Therapies Program patient J. Wayne Leonard and his wife, Jackie, the Ochsner Precision Cancer Therapies Program clinic was named in their honor. 🙌



Introducing the Chemotherapy Care Companion Program

Ochsner Health's early phase clinical trial research patients and chemotherapy patients across Louisiana now have access to the Chemotherapy Care Companion Program, which closely monitors patients who are undergoing chemotherapy through questionnaires and vital signs tracking. The program is designed to provide patients with early intervention for side effects that may arise during their treatment.

In 2020, the Precision Cancer Therapies Program received an Excellence Fund grant to expand this program to all active chemotherapy patients.



Treating the Whole Patient – Not Just the Cancer

Facing a cancer diagnosis or coping with side effects from treatments can seem overwhelming, but the Ochsner Integrative Oncology program is here to help. The complementary therapies offered through this program are designed to restore patients' health and well-being during and after their treatments so they can enjoy an improved quality of life.

Members of Ochsner's Integrative Oncology team connect patients with resources like:

- Nutrition guidance
- Acupuncture
- Psychology
- Physical therapy
- Music and art therapy
- Mindfulness and meditation
- Massage therapy
- Yoga

A new 20,000-square-foot Center for Integrative Oncology, located on the third floor of the expanded Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center, includes special spaces for these holistic services.

Supporting Breast Cancer Patients' Recovery

Ochsner is incredibly grateful for recent support from the owners of Le Boulevard Marketplace, community champions who hosted a holiday soiree raising funds for the patients and programs at the Lieselotte Tansey Breast Center at Ochsner. Their generous donations support the Breast Surgery Recovery Fund, which helps patients diagnosed with and recovering from breast cancer access supplies like bras and pads used after surgery, as well as education and any other assistance they may need.

"As a local retail business, giving back to an organization that supports our community makes an incredible impact," says Debbie Boudreaux, co-owner of Le Boulevard Marketplace. "We are proud to contribute to the Breast Surgery Recovery Fund and all the amazing services it provides."



Pictured in the check presentation are Le Boulevard owners Debbie Boudreaux and Sandy Faught; Le Boulevard employee Elena Figueroa; Kim Gros, who is an Ochsner donor and started the Breast Surgery Recovery Fund; and Riley Donohue, Community Champions Program Manager.



Guiding Patients Through Their Cancer Journeys

In 2020, Ochsner Health continued to expand its Oncology Nurse Navigators program across the system. Nurse Navigators help patients and their families navigate the complex healthcare system. When someone is diagnosed with cancer, a Nurse Navigator will establish early contact with them to identify and eliminate barriers to timely diagnosis and treatment. After assessing each patient's clinical, emotional, spiritual, psychosocial, financial and other needs, Nurse Navigators work with our multidisciplinary team to provide improved comprehensive oncology services to patients, including scheduling tests, procedures, appointments and treatments, as well as initiating and completing the survivorship care plan. They regularly connect patients and families with available community resources and supportive services, serve as a clinical resource with expertise in oncology care management and help to reinforce education.



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