

# A Collaborative Approach *for* TREATING BREAST CANCER



Leslie Montgomery, M.D., FACS

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY ESTIMATES THAT MORE THAN 15,700 WOMEN WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER IN NEW YORK THIS YEAR. AT THE MONTEFIORE EINSTEIN CENTER FOR CANCER CARE, THE BREAST CANCER PROGRAM COMBINES THE EXPERTISE OF PHYSICIANS AND SPECIALISTS TO CREATE A PATIENT-FOCUSED TREATMENT EXPERIENCE FOR WOMEN BATTLING THIS CONDITION.

**D**URING A DEDICATED day every week, all members of the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care team meet for tumor boards to review breast cancer cases. Surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists and plastic surgeons review the cases with other staff members to create a treatment plan customized to each patient.

“Treatment plans are developed to treat not just the disease but the whole person,” says Leslie Montgomery, M.D., FACS, Director, Breast Cancer Program, Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care; Chief, Division of Breast Surgery, Montefiore Medical Center; and associate professor, Department of Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. “There is more to being a breast cancer survivor than eliminating cancerous cells, and our staff works to provide a full range of support to cancer patients throughout treatment.”

Patient appointments are consolidated when possible to allow for fewer trips to the Center for Cancer Care, providing further convenience for patients.

Available comprehensive services and offerings include:

- + sentinel lymph node biopsy

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- + breast-conserving lumpectomy

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- + nipple-sparing and skin-sparing mastectomy

- + breast reconstruction, including autologous tissue reconstruction and tissue expander and implant reconstruction

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- + partial breast radiotherapy

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- + intensity-modulated radiation therapy

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- + novel chemotherapeutic and targeted agents

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- + genetic counseling

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- + nutrition counseling

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- + social work

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- + support groups

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- + bilingual support

In addition to providing the latest in surgical, medical and radiation oncology techniques, Breast Cancer Program physicians are also involved in numerous clinical trials and research studies through Montefiore Medical Center’s partnership with the Albert Einstein Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-designated facility. Investigations include testing new anticancer agents, molecular characterization of tumors and new strategies to reduce cancer treatment side effects. Through this robust clinical trial program, breast cancer patients often have

access to 20 to 25 clinical trials at any point in time.

### A Specialized Team Member

An oncology patient navigator, Maureen Patrickakos, R.N., M.S.N., OCN, provides support for patients from diagnosis to recovery. Patrickakos identifies patients’ needs and facilitates treatment with other members of the medical team. She serves as a liaison for patients during their journeys through breast cancer treatment and helps ensure smooth communication between patients and their treatment teams. Patrickakos can also connect patients with additional resources, including nutritional counseling, financial planning and support groups.

For more information about the Montefiore Breast Cancer Program, visit [www.montefiore.org/breastcancer](http://www.montefiore.org/breastcancer). ■

