

Three LVHN Institutes Formed

This message is from Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer.

From offering the first trauma unit in the region

to starting heart surgery and much more, LVHN has set the standard for care and innovation in the region for many years. We are announcing another significant commitment designed to

advance our clinical services leadership, provide continuing medical education and pursue research that saves lives. We are increasing our commitment and fervor to combat heart disease, cancer and conditions that require surgical treatment through the development of the LVHN Heart Institute, LVHN Cancer Institute and LVHN Institute for Special Surgery.

The institutes will enable us to focus on conditions that impact many members of the community and will allow us to create better patient experiences and outcomes.

I'm excited to share with you how the formation of these institutes will help our community and why each of you, your family and friends should feel confident that the highest standards of care for these specialized services are available right here at LVHN.

WHAT IS AN INSTITUTE?

The word "institute" in successful health care organizations describes a location where clinicians of the highest caliber collaboratively conduct patient care, research and provider education at the highest level to better predict, prevent and combat disease. We are adopting the institute model because we have the necessary infrastructure, programs and partnerships in place to help our communities stay healthy and provide the most advanced treatment when needed. This includes our membership in the Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Alliance, which offers the nation's highest standard of oncology care, access to key MSK clinical trials and integrated learning.



LVH–Cedar Crest will host the three institutes and serve as the hub where innovation, research and education originate. LVH–Muhlenberg, LVH–Hazleton, LVH–Schuylkill and LVH–Pocono will be members of each institute and provide patients with access to the institutes' distinct services and expertise in their respective communities.

WHO WILL LEAD THE INSTITUTES?

Each institute will lead with a clinical and operational dyad reporting to the Executive Vice President level of Tom Whalen, MD, Chief Medical Officer, and Terry Capuano, Chief Operating Officer. The leadership teams are as follows:

- ▶ **LVHN Heart Institute:** Ronald Freudenberger, MD, Physician-in-Chief, LVHN Heart Institute, and Vincent Tallarico, Vice President, LVHN Heart Institute
- ▶ **LVHN Cancer Institute:** Suresh Nair, MD, Physician-in-Chief, LVHN Cancer Institute, and Keith Weinhold, Senior Vice President, LVHN Cancer Institute
- ▶ **LVHN Institute for Special Surgery:** Raymond Singer, MD, Physician-in-Chief, LVHN Institute for Special Surgery, Brian Leader, Vice President, LVHN Institute for Special Surgery, and Dan Quay, Director of Service Line Development.

HOW DOES AN INSTITUTE MODEL BENEFIT OUR PATIENTS?

- ▶ **Teamwork** – The best and brightest doctors and clinicians meet regularly to share their expertise with one another and work together to care for the patient as one team.
- ▶ **Advanced Treatment and Education** – LVHN doctors provide the most advanced technology and techniques in treating the patient's condition. The team continues learning the most innovative approaches for care through ongoing formal training and medical education, and offers free programs and information about prevention, risk factors and screenings.
- ▶ **Research and Clinical Trials** – Doctors and clinicians consult the latest research to inform decisions based on the best and most current evidence available. Patients who qualify are able to participate in the latest clinical trials.
- ▶ **Access and Convenience** – Patients at all LVHN locations will have access to the services, resources and expertise from our institutes.

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WHY HEART, CANCER AND SPECIAL SURGERY?

We are focusing on cancer and heart disease because they are the top two causes of death in our region. LVHN leads the fight against these diseases, as well as other serious conditions that require surgery. Our focus is to provide the best access, service and outcomes to our patients by offering collaborative, innovative and specialized care.

People with heart conditions can take comfort knowing LVHN has the most experienced cardiologists and cardiac surgeons in the region, consistently ranking in the nation's top 1 percent for heart attack survival. Consider LVHN was the region's first to perform [transcatheter aortic valve replacement](#) (TAVR) and is recognized as a center for performing complex mitral valve repair surgery. We lead the region in the life-saving technology known as [ECMO](#) and have specialized programs in women's heart health, sports cardiology, advanced heart failure technologies, peripheral vascular and venous care and rhythm disturbance care. [Learn more about the breadth and depth of quality and expertise at the LVHN Heart Institute.](#)

People with cancer can have confidence knowing they have access to hundreds of life-saving and breakthrough clinical trials through our MSK partnership and other clinical relationships, and can receive surgical precision and comprehensive expertise through our [multidisciplinary clinics](#) for skin and soft tissue, upper GI, breast, prostate, lung and esophageal, and soon head and neck cancers. [Learn more about the breadth and depth of quality and expertise at the LVHN Cancer Institute.](#)

People who have serious illnesses that require surgery can be assured our surgeons have the most experience in the region, specializing in robotic and minimally invasive surgery for chest, cancer, obesity, esophageal reflux, colon and rectal conditions, hernia surgery and more. Our emphasis on minimally invasive,

leading-edge technologies, such as [robotic surgery](#), allows our patients to return to their work and lives more quickly. [Learn more about the breadth and depth of quality and expertise at the LVHN Institute for Special Surgery.](#)

BRINGING VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

At the forefront of our everyday innovation is the overall expertise of the LVHN medical staff and nursing teams. Our institute physicians are top-notch. They have been published in the nation's most prestigious journals and trained at the nation's best academic institutions, including Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Harvard Medical School, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Memorial Sloan Kettering and Moffitt Cancer Center. Since 2002, our Lehigh Valley hospitals and nurses have held the American Nurses Credentialing Center's [Magnet designation](#), the highest and most prestigious distinction a health care organization can achieve for nursing excellence and quality patient care. LVHN is the only Magnet-designated organization in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding region.

Our strong leadership and relentless pursuit of innovation coupled with the adoption of an institute structure deliver true clinical value to our community. We hope to instill confidence that LVHN has a sharp focus on our community's greatest health needs and provides unparalleled and convenient care close to home in these specialties. I have so much faith in LVHN – and all of you – that I bring my family here for all their health care needs. And you should too.

It's an honor for us to be able to validate our commitment to cancer, heart and surgical care in this manner. It's also another way for us to share the incredible work all of our colleagues do every day. Thank you for all you do for LVHN.

LVHN Daily–Hazleton to Launch Sept. 11

Every Friday you're been receiving information about LVH–Hazleton and our health network through our colleague newsletter, LVHN Weekly–Hazleton. Beginning Monday, Sept. 11, you'll be able to get information more frequently and at your convenience when we launch a website just for colleagues in Hazleton. It's called LVHN Daily–Hazleton.

You will access LVHN Daily–Hazleton from the LVH–Hazleton intranet home page. New stories will be added to the website regularly, so visit often. Now you don't have to wait until Friday to get information. You can visit LVHN Daily–Hazleton 24/7 from a health network computer to stay on top of what's happening.

THE TRANSITION

LVHN Weekly–Hazleton, the newsletter emailed to all colleagues in Hazleton every Friday, will soon change. The two editions of LVHN Weekly–Hazleton (Sept. 15 and 22) following the premier of LVHN Daily–Hazleton will continue to include full stories and photos. On Sept. 29, LVHN Weekly–Hazleton will change to include headlines that link to the week's LVHN Daily stories. Think of it as a wrap-up of everything that happened at LVHN and LVH–Hazleton that week.

Because not all colleagues have regular access to a computer, managers are asked to share the information provided in LVHN Daily and LVHN Weekly



with colleagues during huddles or staff meetings as part of the Communication Cascade.

At LVHN, we give colleagues the information they need to be informed about and engaged with our health network. These new communication resources will allow you to receive information more frequently and on your schedule so you have the information you need to be at your best.



Welcome New Colleagues

We are happy to welcome these new colleagues to our LVHN family. (Front row, l-r) Samantha Nikola, LVPG Surgery, Isbeth Francisco, switchboard, Kaycie Andrew, emergency department, Felisha Guinta, imaging services, Vali Nedici, housekeeping, (second row, l-r) Erica Stiefel, emergency department, Carolyn Walko, RN, LVPG Hematology Oncology, Sandra Swank Portelli, CRNP, LVPG Physiatry, and George Zatorsky, housekeeping. Missing from the photo is Sara Baker, LVPG Orthopedics.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Lori Nicholas, a Dietary Aide in the food services department. She spent much of her time with patients, taking food orders and delivering meals. Our condolences go out to her family and her many friends at LVH–Hazleton.

The management and staff of the food services department would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who offered their support during this difficult time. They especially would like to thank colleagues from the housekeeping department for going above and beyond by helping to collect patient food trays for them.

Service Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following colleagues celebrating milestone service anniversaries:

35 years

Mary Magazzu, RN, short procedure unit

30 years

Rosanne Jubick, patient registration

Lisa Whitaker, RN, step down unit

25 years

Kathleen Markle, RN, Healthy

Beginnings

15 years

Carolyn McKinley, RN, pediatrics/

med-surg 7

10 years

Jean Callavini, operating room

Timothy Cunningham, home health

Scott Muir, DO, LVPG Obstetrics and

Gynecology

Alisa Repetz, RN, home health

5 years

Janet Brown, Fitness Center

Mildred Combs, LVPG Obstetrics and

Gynecology

Sean Dura, operating room

Michele Roberts, RN, administration

Help Save a Life on Sept. 14



LVHN and Miller-Keystone Blood Center make it easy for you to give the gift of life. Visit giveapint.org/LVHN

to sign up for the LVH–Hazleton blood drive on Thursday, Sept. 14, noon–5 p.m. in the hospital's first floor lobby conference room.

By signing up online, you save time and are rewarded by earning points for each donation you make through the LifeSaver Rewards Program. These points can be redeemed for a variety of gifts at the online shop. You also can attend the blood drive without signing up online; registration will be done at the time of donation.

To reserve an appointment, visit giveapint.org/LVHN or call Lisa Marie Halecky at **570-501-4249**. Walk-ins also are welcome. Each donor will receive a \$5 cafeteria voucher.