

Medical Center Recognized as 'Key Leading Institution' in Project to Increase Mammography Screening Rates

Thursday, June 12, 2025 | Medical Center, Medical Group | Our Care



From left: Tejas Mehta, MD, MPH, Director, Equity Inclusion and Population Health in Radiology; Gopal Vijayaraghavan, MD, Chief, Division of Breast Imaging; and Carisa Lozoraitis, BHSS, BSN, RN, MSN-EL, CPHQ, Quality Regulatory Project Manager, Cancer Quality Program Manager

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted routine cancer screenings across the United States, including mammography services. In fact, the Medical Center experienced a 15.5% decline in screening volumes, prompting participation in the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer 2021 Return to Screening Quality Project to restore and enhance breast cancer screening rates. (Ultimately, the Return to Screening effort was interconnected with two other concurrent projects, the Breast Cancer Redesign Project and the Simply Woman's Campaign.) The objective was to increase monthly mammography screening rates by at least 10% over pandemic-era

levels, returning to or exceeding pre-pandemic volumes.

The Medical Center's response was impressive, with a 16.5% increase in mammography screening rates during implementation, as well as a reduction in time between screening to biopsy from 15 days to 5. A Site Reviewer and longtime breast field expert for the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) acknowledged the reduction in screening to biopsy time as "impressive," "huge strength," "success" and "never seen such remarkable results" in his career.

The Breast Cancer Redesign Project/Simply Woman's Campaign and the Commission on Cancer 2021 Return to Screening Quality Project received national recognition from the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and the Medical Center was highlighted by ACS as the "key leading institution" in the project.

A big thank you to everyone involved in this fantastic effort, including those pictured, as well as Marcia Amaral, Director, Radiology Operations; Jennifer LaFemina, MD; Aaron Easton, AVP, Radiology Services; Julie Dingui, Mammography Manager; Crystal Reardon, Senior Practice Administrator; and Jennifer Bacigalupo, Supervisor, Mammography.

And there's more good news! Gopal Vijayaraghavan, MD, Chief, Division of Breast Imaging; Carisa Lozoraitis, BHSs, BSN, RN, MSN-EL, CPHQ, Quality Regulatory Project Manager, Cancer Quality Program Manager; and Paul Lofrumento, former AVP, Radiology Services, are collaborating with ACS and the Editor-in-Chief of Surgery, the official journal of the Society of University Surgeons, to develop a special edition focused on cancer quality.

Everyone, Everyday.