

Meet Our Staff

Members of the Multidisciplinary Team

- **Director, Gastrointestinal Surgery/Peritoneal Surface Malignancy Program (PSMP):**

Jesus Esquivel, M.D., F.A.C.S.: Dr. Esquivel is our PSMP director. Dr. Esquivel came to the U.S. in 1990 after earning his M.D. from the Universidad Autonoma de Tamulipas in Mexico. His first stop in the U.S. was Washington, D.C. where he completed a one-year internship at Washington Hospital Center. After that, he accepted a surgical residency position at New York Hospital of Queens, completing his residency in 1996. He stayed on an additional year to serve as Chief Surgical Resident. In 1997 he returned to Washington, D.C. to complete a two-year Gastrointestinal Surgical Oncology Fellowship at Washington Cancer Institute, training under renowned surgeon Dr. Paul H. Sugarbaker. It was during this time that he learned to perform the HIPEC (Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy) surgery. From 1999-2004, Dr. Esquivel served as an Attending Physician in General and Oncology Surgery at Kaiser Permanente in Washington, D.C. He joined St. Agnes Hospital in December 2004 as the Director of the Peritoneal Surface Malignancy Program.

- **Peritoneal Surface Malignancy Program Coordinator:**

Robin Cianos, R.N., OCN is the program nurse coordinator. She brings twenty years of surgical experience, working with preoperative and postoperative surgical patients. She has twelve years of experience in Oncology. She is a registered nurse with certification in oncology and chemotherapy administration. Robin helps in coordinating your care from the initial contact through discharge and follow up. You are encouraged to ask as many questions of her as needed to help you through this difficult time. Robin can be reached at 410-368-2751 or 1-866-844-1869.

- **Physician Assistant (PA-C):**

Allison Pitroff, PA-C is the Advance Surgical Physician Assistant for the PSM Program. She is nationally certified and graduated from an accredited Physician Assistant Program. Additionally, she completed a Postgraduate Surgical Residency Training Program. Allison works under the direct supervision of the physician providing a broad range of medical services in the evaluation and care of the surgical oncology patient. She first assists during your surgery, conducts comprehensive physical exams, diagnoses and treats illnesses, orders and interprets tests, consults other disciplines when necessary, and writes prescriptions. These services are provided as needed in the hospital's operating room, nursing units, emergency department and pre-admission testing suite. She will be following

you from the initial consultation, throughout your hospital course, and to discharge and follow-up.

- **Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP):**

Tricia Roesch, CRNP, is our program nurse practitioner. Tricia is a registered nurse who has acquired specialized knowledge and skills by completing a Masters Degree in Science. CRNP's provide direct, episodic health care to prevent and meet the acute, symptomatic, and palliative care needs of patients with cancer. CRNP's scope of practice includes comprehensive health assessments, differential diagnosing, ordering, supervising, and interpreting diagnostic tests, and prescribing pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic treatments. CRNP's serve as researchers, consultants, educators, and advocates in addressing patient needs and cancer care. The CRNP works closely with all members of the interdisciplinary team for a collaborative approach to the care of the surgical oncology patient. Her office is on the 7th floor where she will be readily available.

- **Surgical Oncology Administrative Assistant:**

Karen Moderacki is our program administrative assistant. She coordinates your appointments and insurance authorizations. In addition, Karen will be assisting you with scheduling follow up appointments and any diagnostic testing which may be indicated. Karen can be reached at 410-368-2750.

- **Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS):**

Sharon LaFever is our CNS. She is a registered nurse with a Masters Degree in Nursing. The CNS's scope of practice may include providing clinical expertise in integrating quality care across the cancer continuum. This includes assisting patients and families in understanding and navigating cancer care, developing staff and healthcare programs to provide evidence-based, outcome-guided practice, and creates environments through mentoring and system change that empower nurses to serve as patient advocates, team coordinators, program designers, administrators and/or researchers. CNSs work collaboratively with the multidisciplinary team and the cancer care community in promoting health and well being for patients, families and communities.

- **Dietician:**

Julie Katz is the staff dietician who will be working with you and the multidisciplinary team to assist you in meeting your nutritional needs. She can answer any of your questions or concerns related to your personal nutritional status. The dietician will

assist you in planning a nutritious diet, while taking into consideration your likes and dislikes. She will also provide you with assistance and information needed to help maintain or improve your nutritional status to enable you to optimize your recovery.

- **Pastoral Care:**

Sister Monica is the pastoral care representative for the inpatient oncology unit, providing for the spiritual well being of patients, families, and staff members. Our hospital Chaplains visit patients on a regular basis and helps them experience the presence and companionship of God in times of stress and crisis.

The Pastoral Care staff is in partnership in ministry with all staff members at St. Agnes. We believe all those who service in our hospital are in ministry to the sick and adhere to the principle of caring for the sick whatever their faith tradition may be.

The St. Agnes chapel is located on the first floor of the hospital and is open to people of all faiths. To contact any member of the pastoral care staff, call the Pastoral Office at (410) 368-3197 or ask the operator to page the individual you wish to speak with. The Pastoral Care Office is located on the first floor down the hallway beside the pharmacy and is open from 6:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

- **Research Clinicians:**

Imene Beayache, M.D. and Maryanna Cain, RN are the clinical research clinicians working with surgical oncology. These clinicians may be working with clinical trials specific to your diagnosis. They are responsible for coordinating pharmaceutical trials and other trials sponsored by the National Cancer Institute. The research clinicians are also responsible for following patients enrolled in clinical trials.

- **Physical and Occupational Therapy (PT/OT):**

Betsy McBee is the physical therapist that will be working with you. Mobility is essential for your recovery and assists in the prevention of complications. Betsy and her team will be educating you and your family members on assisting you with ambulation and functional abilities. They will help you set goals to achieve independence with activity.

- **Respiratory Therapy:**

The respiratory therapist, in collaboration with the physicians, physician assistants, and nurses, assumes responsibility for all respiratory care, therapeutic treatments pertaining to your pulmonary status. They will be working with you in the AICU while you are on the ventilator and will be following you on 7 North. They will be teaching you deep breathing and coughing exercises through the use of the incentive spirometer and other means for mobilization and removal of lung secretions as well

as mechanisms to promote lung ventilation and blood oxygenation. These exercises are essential to the prevention of respiratory complications, such as pneumonia and blood clots in the lungs.

Social Worker:

Sarah Penna and Jennifer Broaddus are the social workers for 7 North. Social work services are available to all cancer patients and their family members. The Social Worker can assist with dealing with the emotional, social, and other problems associated with cancer. If you have any concerns such as those listed below, please feel free to discuss them with the Social Worker.

- Managing stress, anger, worry, sadness, and other emotions related to cancer.
- Communicating with children, partners, and family members
- Individual counseling or support groups
- Financial and transportation issues
- Medical equipment and home care needs
- Handicapped parking
- Medical insurance
- Information on benefits available through Social Service

Community Phone Numbers:

Social Security Administration:	1-800-772-1213
American Cancer Society:	1-888-227-6333
Cancer Care:	1-800-813-4673

• 7 North Staff:

7-North is the inpatient oncology floor. Through a multidisciplinary team made up of Oncology and Chemotherapy Certified Nurses, a Nurse Practitioner, an Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, and a dedicated unit based Nursing Educator your stay on the inpatient unit will be personalized and coordinated to your health care needs during your hospitalization. It is the goal of their nursing team to involve the patients and their families in achieving the best possible outcomes for all of their patients.

Through coordinating your care with your physician and the 7-North Nursing team, you will receive quality care that is delivered with excellence and compassion. Upon admission to the inpatient oncology unit you will be greeted by professional nursing care providers that receive ongoing education to keep abreast of the latest in oncology nursing. Each shift has a dedicated Team Leader to support and facilitate the care that is provided to all our patients through our dedicated Oncology Nurses and Patient Care Technicians that will be assigned to your care on a twenty-four

hour basis. During your hospitalization at St. Agnes, you are our mission, and assisting you in healing is our joy. If you have any further questions prior to your hospitalization or at the time of hospitalization that cannot be answered by Robin Cianos, the Nurse Coordinator, please contact the Nurse Manager, Jerrilyn K. Spiegel at 410-368-2211

- **OR Staff**

There are many people who will be providing for and directing your care in the Operating Room suites. The first person you will meet from this department is the anesthetist. Kathy Crowley, Arlene Waldo and Kevin Lopez are the CRNA'S (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists) that work most often with Dr. Esquivel. The anesthetist most often will visit you on 7N in the afternoon before surgery. If that does not happen they will meet with you in the preoperative area of the OR the morning of surgery. Here you may also meet the "Patient Advocates", Donna Beadenkopf or Julieanna Sullivan. The role of these nurses is to keep your family informed of the progress of your surgery at regular intervals throughout the operation. Surgical preparations are done in the preoperative area. Your next stop will be the operating room itself. Here you will briefly meet and see the nurses and technicians, along with your doctors, who are an essential part of the team. The entire OR staff work as a cohesive team, bringing each area together to provide the best of care each step along the way. When you awaken, you will be in the AICU. Our patients bypass the PACU (recovery room) and go directly to the AICU from the OR.

- **AICU Staff**

The Adult Intensive Care Unit (AICU) staff will be caring for you to meet your immediate postoperative needs. Your medical care in the AICU is provided by intensivists who are physicians who specialize in critical care medicine under the directorship of Anthony Martinez, MD. The nursing team leaders in the AICU are Fran Keith and/or Terri Poole and Jan Townley, RN IV on day shift during the week and Patty Rudrow on the weekend night shift.

AICU staff work collaboratively with surgeons and other disciplines to provide skilled, compassionate care during the first 24-48 hours after your surgery. Upon admission to the AICU, patients and families will be introduced and educated to the various equipment and monitors in the unit by the AICU multidisciplinary team. The intensive care unit is a highly technical environment to most patients, but through tours prior to surgery and supportive staff, we can make this a positive experience in your healing process.

If you have any questions during your stay in the AICU please contact a Team Leader at 410-368-2225 or the Nurse Manager at 410-368-3275.

