



**Hunterdon Healthcare**

Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center

*A Fox Chase Cancer Center Partner*

**2009**  
**Cancer Program Annual**  
**Report**

**A summary of program activity from 2008**

## Message from the Cancer Committee Chairman and the Director of HRCC

*Brian Quinn, MD*

*Barbara Tofani, RN, MSN*

Since Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center opened its doors in 1999, Hunterdon Medical Center has made a commitment to providing outstanding cancer care to the residents of Hunterdon and surrounding counties. In February 2008, the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer again recognized that commitment by awarding Hunterdon Medical Center's Cancer Program **Accreditation with Commendation as a Community Hospital Cancer Program**.

According to the Commission on Cancer, only twenty-five percent of all cancer programs in the United States are accredited, and even fewer receive commendation. The Commission on Cancer commended us for our ongoing quality improvement efforts.

The Commission also recognized the superior quality of our community outreach program. As you'll see later in this report, staff of Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center offered over thirty-five different educational and cancer screening programs, reaching thousands of people using a variety of forums to deliver the messages of the importance of cancer prevention, early detection and healthy lifestyle choices. The significance of those efforts is evident in the results of our colon cancer Patient Care Evaluation. Consistent with state and national trends, Hunterdon Medical Center has noted a 10-year decline in the number of patients diagnosed with colon cancer. Hunterdon Medical Center's mission is for each of us to be "leaders in the provision of quality health care that is compassionate and effective." We're proud of how effective our outreach program is in supporting our mission, and we won't stop our efforts until cancer is no longer a threat to the health and well-being of our community.

Achievements like these can't be realized without the cooperative effort of a very large team. If you noticed, we referred to our team of cancer experts as an interdisciplinary team, not a multidisciplinary team. Quite frankly, anyone can put together a group of healthcare professionals from multiple disciplines all focused on a particular disease or illness. The challenge, however, is having those healthcare professionals talk to each other, work with each other, and rise above individual agendas and special interests. The accomplishments, improvements and outcomes outlined in this report demonstrate that our team successfully meets that challenge every day.

The interdisciplinary cancer care team at Hunterdon Medical Center is committed to providing the best cancer care available to our patients. The responsibility is daunting and the methods are complex, but the goal is simple—to improve the life of every person we serve.

## Annual Goals and Objectives

*“We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone...and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one’s life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.”*

*Sandra Day O’Connor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States*

### Clinical

#### Care Coordination/Patient Navigation

- ✓ Lori McMullen, RN, BSN was hired as the Cancer Care Coordinator. Lori joins Pamela Vlahakis, RN, Breast Care Coordinator, in providing coordination of cancer care services to residents of Hunterdon County and surrounding areas from the time of a suspicious diagnostic finding through diagnosis and treatment. Goals of the Care Coordination Program include:
  - Facilitating a collaborative interdisciplinary approach to care that best meets the needs of the patient;
  - Assisting in the timely scheduling of appointments for diagnostic work-up, consultation and treatment;
  - Enhancing communication among physicians specialists, primary care physicians and other providers and patients;
  - Connecting patients to resources within the community;
  - Offering support and education to promote informed patient decision making.
- ✓ In 2008, 850 patients were navigated by the care coordinators



Lori McMullen, RN, MSN and Pamela Vlahakis, RN, BSN

## Breast Care Program

- ✓ With the Care Coordinators navigating patient care, Hunterdon Medical Center's Breast Care Program met or exceeded national benchmarks for timeliness of care from time of abnormal screening mammography through definitive surgery.

Breast Cancer Clinical Quality Dashboard Comparison - Oncology Roundtable Timetable vs. HRCC Timetable						
	Indicators/Measures	Definition (Include Numerator/Denominator & exclusions)	Reporting Frequency	Source	Comparative Data 2005	HRCC Benign and Malignant - March - May 2008
Operations	Time from Abnormal Screening Mammo to Diagnostic Mammo	Number of working days from abnormal screening mammo to diagnostic mammo	Quarterly	BCC	Average 20 days : 1-7 days best observed Oncology Roundtable	March - 6.5 days April - 9.7 days May - 8.9 days Average - 8.4 days
	Time from Diagnostic Mammo to Biopsy	Number of working days from diagnostic mammo to biopsy	Quarterly	BCC	Average 19 days : best observed 1-7 days Oncology Roundtable	March - 18 days April - 18.1 days May - 21.2 days Average - 19.1 days
	Time from Initial Biopsy to Diagnostic Pathology	Number of working days from initial biopsy to diagnostic path report	Quarterly	BCC	Average 8.1 days : best observed 48hrs Oncology Roundtable	March - 1.4 days April - 1.3 days May - 1.7 days Average - 1.5 days
	Time from Diagnostic Pathology to Initial Surgery	Number of working days from diagnostic pathology to definitive surgery	Quarterly	BCC	Average 16.9 days : best observed 24hrs. Oncology Roundtable	March - 11.75 days April - 14 days May - insufficient data Average - 12.9 days
	Time from Surgery to final pathology including margins.LNs status	Number of working days from surgery to path report including margins/LN status	Quarterly	BCC	Average 5-7 days : best observed 96hrs Oncology Roundtable	March - 2 days April - 2.2 days May - 2.6 days Average - 2.3 days*

## Oncology Nutrition and Psychosocial Services

- ✓ Nicole Schaldone, RD, became a **Board Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition**. The Commission on Dietetic Registration defines the Board Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition as an individual who has maintained Registered Dietitian status for a minimum of two years, has completed 2,000 hours of oncology clinical practice within the last five years, and has successfully completed the Board Certification Specialist in Oncology Nutrition examination.
- ✓ A process was put in place for the oncology dietitian to assess all patients diagnosed with head and neck and esophageal cancers for nutritional risk.
  - Staff demonstrated 100% compliance with the policy, which included assessment of weight at every patient treatment and follow up visit
  - Patients identified at risk were referred to the oncology dietitian for counseling and intervention
- ✓ The oncology dietitians managed 1,166 patient consult and follow up visits in 2008.
- ✓ The psychosocial oncology staff managed 1,177 patients for consults and follow up visits in the same time period.

## Community Outreach

### Grants

- ✓ Hunterdon Medical Center was awarded the Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) Grant from the NJ Department of Health and Human Services
  - The program provides comprehensive outreach, education and screening services for breast, cervical, colorectal and prostate cancers.
    - Through the CEED grant, over 200 under-and uninsured residents of Hunterdon County were screened for cervical, breast, prostate and colon cancer.
- ✓ The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation awarded Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center a grant to improve the screening mammography rates for women over 65 years of age in Hunterdon County.
  - With funding provided by the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Hunterdon Medical Center educated close to 200 women over the age of 65 about the importance of obtaining a screening mammogram and has set a goal of decreasing the percentage of women diagnosed with late stage disease to 1% of all breast cancer diagnoses.

### Cancer Screenings

- ✓ Physicians and staff conducted cancer screenings for:
  - Oral Cancers
    - ✓ 22 screened
    - ✓ 0 diagnosed
  - Skin Cancer
    - ✓ 152 screened
    - ✓ 8 diagnosed/treated
  - Prostate Cancer
    - ✓ 19 screened
    - ✓ 0 diagnosed

### Cancer Education, Community Outreach and Support Programs

- ✓ Community education sessions were offered on the following topics:
  - Cancer Genetics – 251 attendees
  - Cancer Treatment Orientation – 237 attendees
  - Wigs and Accessories/Look Good Feel Better – 55 attendees
  - Cervical Cancer Awareness – 35 attendees
  - Cancer Risk Reduction – 151 attendees
  - Prostate Cancer Education – 27 attendees
  - Head and Neck Cancer Awareness – 56 attendees
  - Sun Safety – 229 attendees
  - Lifestyle Choices – 69 attendees
  - Breast Cancer Education – 43 attendees
  - Accupuncture and Cancer -- 10 attendees
  - Lung Cancer and Tobacco Cessation – 78 attendees
  - Cancer Nutrition Education -- 21 attendees

- Understanding Colorectal Cancer – 15 attendees
- Survivorship Lecture Series
  - ✓ Meditation – 6 attendees
  - ✓ Healing from Cancer – 9 attendees
  - ✓ Returning to Work – 7 attendees
  - ✓ Beyond Coping: Persevering and Healing Relationships in Times of Stress -- 7 attendees
- Return to Wellness: An 8-week Breast Cancer Program – 12 attendees
- Community Outreach Programs and Events
  - ✓ Senior Health Fair – Importance of Cancer Screening
  - ✓ Diabetes Fair – Cancer Risk Reduction
  - ✓ Baby Fair – Sun Safety
  - ✓ Barbara Walters Event – Sun Safety
  - ✓ Music Under the Stars – HRCC Services and Lifestyle Choices
  - ✓ Somerset County 4H Fair – Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center Services
  - ✓ Women’s Day of Health – Lifestyle Choices
  - ✓ WalMart – Breast Cancer Awareness
  - ✓ Sanofi-Aventis Health Fair – Cancer Prevention and Early Detection
  - ✓ Hunterdon Medical Center Lobby Display – Breast Cancer Awareness
  - ✓ Merck Employee Event – Breast Cancer Awareness
  - ✓ MOMS Club of Whitehouse Station – Breast Cancer Awareness
  - ✓ Latino Health Fair – Cancer Awareness and Early Detection
  - ✓ WDVR Radio
    - Skin Cancer Awareness
    - Services of Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center
    - The Importance of Finding a Medical Home



Mary Vecchio, RN, Outreach Nurse Practitioner and Maria Montano, Latino Outreach Counselor at the Somerset County 4H fair

## Quality/Patient Care Improvements

### Patient Satisfaction

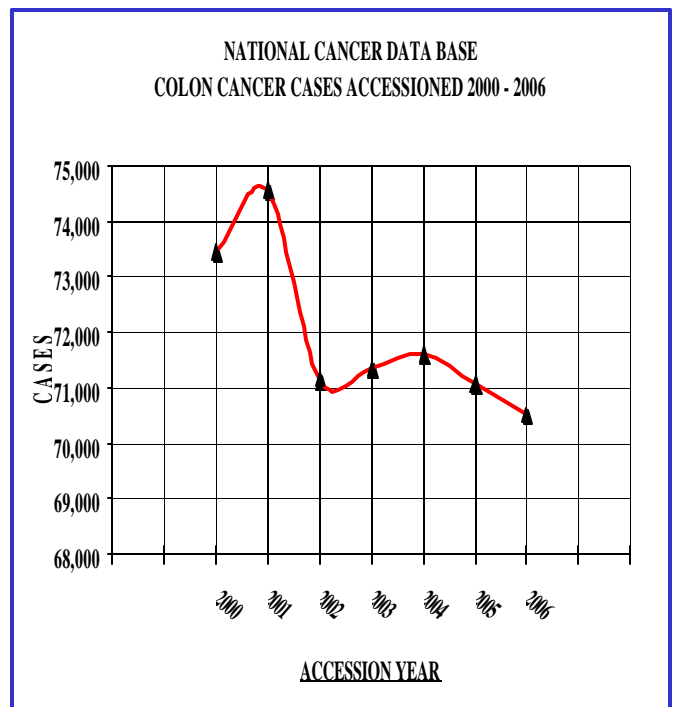
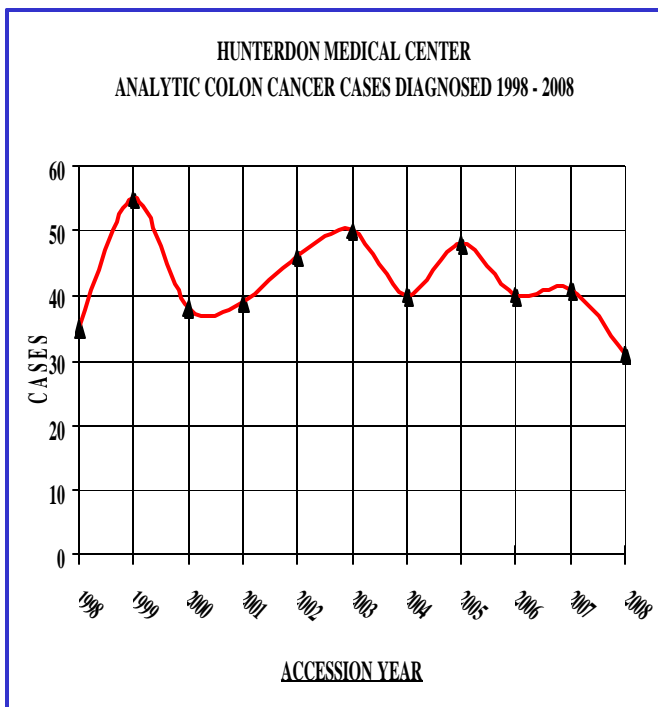
- ✓ Eighty-six percent of the respondents to our patient satisfaction survey said Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center was an excellent facility
- ✓ Eighty-two percent of patients rated staff and physicians as excellent
- ✓ Over 70% of the respondents noted the care and attention they received from staff was excellent

### Treatment Orientation

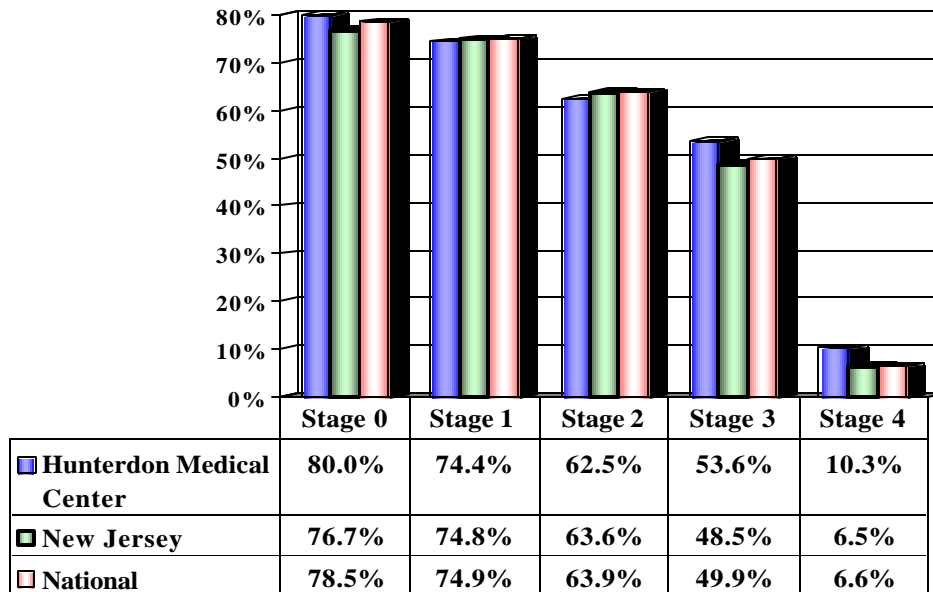
- ✓ Treatment Orientation classes are offered bi-monthly to familiarize active and prospective patients with the services available at Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center
  - One-hundred percent of the treatment orientation attendees noted the class was helpful
  - Ninety-one percent of patients stated treatment orientation was excellent

### Colon Study

- ✓ Review of 2008 Colon Cancer Data showed Hunterdon Medical Center's colon cases are trending down from 1998 to 2008.
  - Stage of disease at diagnosis at Hunterdon Medical Center was comparable with the State and National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) rates and five year survival rates were comparable with NCDB and the State of New Jersey rates.



**COLON CANCER 5 YEAR OBSERVED SURVIVAL RATES**  
**HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER - NEW JERSEY - NATIONAL**  
**AJCC TNM 5th EDITION STAGING SYSTEM**



**Cancer Registry**

Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center’s Cancer Registry is an information system used for the collection, management and analysis of data relating to patients diagnosed with cancer and treated at Hunterdon Medical Center. The information is reported to the New Jersey State Cancer Registry and to the National Cancer Data Base. The data is used by these agencies to evaluate cancer trends as well as in analytic research at the state and national level. Only aggregate information is analyzed and published. Patient confidentiality is strictly maintained.

The New Jersey State Cancer Registry presented Hunterdon Medical Center with their Award for Excellence in Timely and Complete Cancer Case Reporting of the Year 2007 Data.

**Research**

Cancer researchers use the information gathered through the registry and similar registries from around the country to investigate the cause, diagnoses and treatment of cancer. With input from local, state and national programs, the Cancer Registry serves as a primary resource for cancer diagnosis, treatment and survival statistics. Cancer Registry data is also utilized in long-term survival studies such as the 2008 Colon Study.

**Tumor Boards**

Tumor Boards are interdisciplinary meetings that provide a forum for communication between the managing physician, specialty physician and support staff concerning diagnostic and treatment decisions relating to Hunterdon Medical Center’s cancer patients. The interdisciplinary team approach to patient management and treatment enables the medical

specialists to stay abreast of the most current treatment modalities. NCCN Guidelines are reviewed and discussed at tumor boards along with AJCC staging.

The Cancer Registry is responsible for the organization of Tumor Boards, also known as cancer conferences. Cancer Registry data is presented at Tumor Board Conferences throughout the year. In 2008 Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center held biweekly general and breast tumor boards. Lung Conferences were held monthly. In 2008 Hunterdon Medical Center held 57 tumor boards. Several tumor boards were held through WebEx so that physicians from Fox Chase Cancer Center and Lehigh Valley Heart and Lung Surgeons could lend their expertise. In 2008, 241 prospective cases were presented at tumor boards. This represents 43% of our analytic caseload.

**Follow up**

Annual lifetime follow-up of former patients is a very important part of the program. This is accomplished through letters or phone calls to attending physicians. Currently, 3,717 patients are in active follow-up. The Commission on Cancer requires that 90% follow-up rates be maintained, and the Cancer Registry has maintained this rate.

Patients coming to Hunterdon Medical Center reside in a wide area surrounding the hospital. As Table 1 demonstrates, Hunterdon Medical Center served the residents of 14 New Jersey Counties along with patients from out of state. As expected, the majority of patients (more than 77%) lived in Hunterdon County. Table 2 depicts the town of residence at the time of diagnosis. Only towns in which five or more patients resided are included.

Table 1  
NJ County of Residence  
2008 Patients/Analytic Cases

County	Patient Number
Essex	2
Gloucester	1
Hunterdon	435
Mercer	4
Middlesex	3
Mercer	4
Middlesex	3
Monmouth	2
Morris	2
Ocean	1
Out of State	26
Somerset	28
Sussex	1
Union	3
Warren	57

Table 2  
Town of Residence  
2008 Patients/Analytic Cases

Town	Patient Number
Annandale	13
Asbury	12
Bloomsburg	13
Bridgewater	5
Califon	9
Clinton	15
Flemington	124
Frenchtown	17
Glen Gardner	22
Hampton	13
High Bridge	14
Hillsborough	11
Hopewell	5
Lambertville	28
Lebanon	25
Milford	31
Neshanic Station	8
Phillipsburg	13
Pittstown	23
Princeton	7
Ringoes	17
Stewartville	8
Stockton	21
Washington	18
Whitehouse Station	24

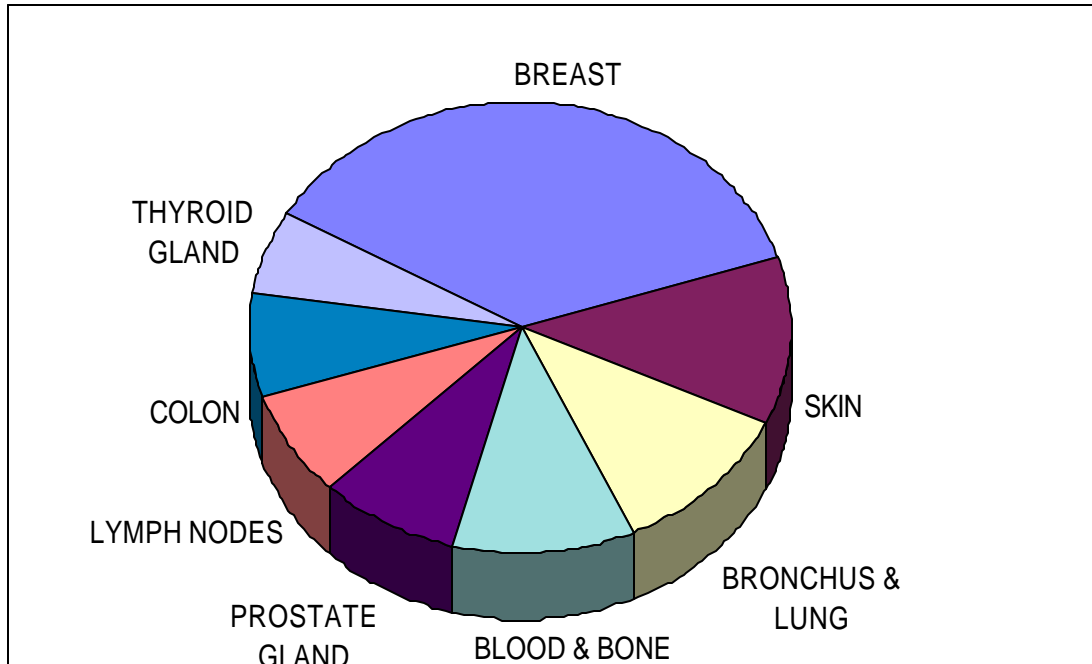
**Incidence**

The American Cancer Society estimated that 45,900 people would be diagnosed with cancer in the State of New Jersey in 2008. A total of 647 cancer cases were seen at Hunterdon Medical Center in 2008 (see table 3). The pie chart displays the analytic top ten major sites seen at Hunterdon Medical Center in 2008. Of these 647, 567 (88%) were analytic cases and 80 (12%) were nonanalytic cases. Analytic cases are those cases initially diagnosed at Hunterdon Medical Center where patients chose to receive all or part of their initial treatment at Hunterdon Medical Center. Non-analytic cases are those cases where patients were not initially diagnosed and treated at Hunterdon Medical Center but later came to Hunterdon Medical Center for treatment of recurrent or persistent disease. Data from non-analytic cases are excluded from analyses.

Table 3

PRIMARY SITE	TOTAL	CLASS		SEX	
	CASES	ANALYTIC	NON-ANALYTIC	MALE	FEMALE
ALL SITES	647	567	80	280	367
ORAL CAVITY	16	15	1	9	7
TONGUE	9	8	1	6	3
OROPHARYNX	1	1	0	1	0
OTHER	6	6	0	2	4
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	111	94	17	69	42
ESOPHAGUS	9	8	1	8	1
STOMACH	4	2	2	2	2
COLON	36	29	7	18	18
RECTUM	24	19	5	18	6
ANUS/ANAL CANAL	4	4	0	3	1
LIVER	4	3	1	3	1
PANCREAS	19	19	0	10	9
OTHER	11	10	1	7	4
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	56	50	6	23	33
LARYNX	5	5	0	4	1
LUNG/BRONCHUS	51	45	6	19	32
BLOOD & BONE MARROW	45	44	1	27	18
LEUKEMIA	16	15	1	8	8
MULTIPLE MYELOMA	17	17	0	11	6
OTHER	12	12	0	8	4
CONNECT/SOFT TISSUE	1	1	0	0	1
SKIN	50	48	2	26	24
MELANOMA	47	46	1	24	23
OTHER	3	2	1	2	1
BREAST	159	147	12	7	152
FEMALE GENITAL	35	30	5	0	35
CERVIX UTERI	1	1	0	0	1
CORPUS UTERI	16	14	2	0	16
OVARY	15	14	1	0	15
VULVA	1	0	1	0	1
OTHER	2	1	1	0	2
MALE GENITAL	67	37	30	67	0
PROSTATE	64	34	30	64	0
TESTIS	3	3	0	3	0
URINARY SYSTEM	31	29	2	19	12
BLADDER	22	20	2	15	7
KIDNEY/RENAL	9	9	0	4	5
BRAIN & CNS	8	8	0	1	7
BRAIN (MALIGNANT)	6	6	0	1	5
OTHER	2	2	0	0	2
ENDOCRINE	25	23	2	8	17
THYROID	25	23	2	8	17
LYMPHATIC SYSTEM	32	30	2	20	12
HODGKIN'S DISEASE	4	4	0	2	2

NON-HODGKIN'S	28	26	2	18	10
UNKNOWN PRIMARY	8	8	0	3	5
OTHER/ILL-DEFINED	3	3	0	1	2



In 2008, the Hunterdon Medical Center Cancer Registry had 19 requests for cancer statistics or cancer-related material. Within the confines of maintaining patient confidentiality, the information requested has been used to assist with service development, clinical research, treatment planning, community and staff education, and cancer program-sponsored survivor events. The registry staff is available to assist all individuals with their cancer data inquiries. Mary Stamets can be contacted by phone at 908-788-6544.

## Cancer Committee

The Cancer Committee oversees all the cancer-related programs and activities of Hunterdon Healthcare. The 2008 Cancer Committee members included:

MEMBER	SPECIALTY
Brian Quinn, MD – Chairman	Medical Oncology
Samuel Bae, MD	Gastroenterology
Maureen Basius, D. O.	Pathology
Myron Bednar, MD, QI Coordinator	Medical Oncology
Kenneth Blankstein, MD, Cancer Conference Coordinator	Medical Oncology
Christopher Cassetty, MD	Dermatology
David Cohn, MD	Pulmonary
Steven Diamond, MD, Cancer Registry Quality Coordinator	Pathology
Andrew Greenberg, MD	Radiation Oncology
Michelle Grove, MD	Gynecology
Carla Jardim, MD, Community Outreach Coordinator / Physician Liaison	Family Practice
Allen Kern, MD	Urology
Mark Malzberg, MD	Medical Imaging
Robert Pickoff, MD	Chief Medical Officer, Administration
Pedro Vieira, MD, FACS	General Surgery
Jackie Allen, RN, CNS, AOCN	Prevention and Risk Assessment Nurse
Michele Capossela	American Cancer Society
Donna Miller, RN, OCN	Oncology Unit QI
Rene Falls, RN, OCN	Clinical Research Nurse
Carrol Fiorino, RN, MSN, AOCN	Nurse Manager, 3 West
Nicole Baker, MS, RD	Oncology Dietician
Joan Grady, RN, MSN, AOCN	Executive Dir, Hunterdon Regional Community Health
Michele Kamin, RT (T)	Manager, Radiation Oncology
Carol Klein, MA, CCC-S, MPA	Director, Rehabilitation Services
Claire Long, RN, BSN, CPHQ	Director, Quality Improvement/Risk Management
Pat Longworth, RN, BSN	Assistant Director, 3 West
Marci Paulk, RT	Assistant Director, Medical Imaging Services
Janice Pellegrino	Pharmacy
Elaine Sein, RN, BSN, OCN	Fox Chase Cancer Center Partners
Mary Stamets, CTR	Cancer Registry Manager
Barbara Tofani, RN, MSN	Director, HRCC
Pamela Vlahakis, RN, CEN, CRN	Coordinator, Breast Care Program
Audrey Vitolins, LCS	Coordinator, Oncology M/B Services