

Building Hope:

Advancing Cancer Care for Our Community



NANCY HOWELL AGEE
CEO EMERITUS

“The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center is planting the seeds for a healthier future, and we can’t wait to see it flourish.”

MESSAGE FROM NANCY HOWELL AGEE: A SEASON OF GROWTH AND HOPE

Dear Friends,

Spring is a season of renewal, a time of new beginnings and the promise of brighter days ahead. At Carilion Clinic, we embrace this spirit of growth. This season, we celebrate the arrival of spring and exciting new beginnings.

As I write, site prep is underway for construction of our Carilion Taubman Cancer Center! This important undertaking signifies our continuing journey of transforming cancer care in our region. Take a look at the video below to learn more. Just as springtime symbolizes hope and renewal, so too does this center.

Our new cancer center will bring leading-edge treatments, groundbreaking research and a team of renowned experts dedicated to delivering the highest level of care. But beyond the technology and expertise, the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center represents something even greater—a promise that longer and sunnier days are just ahead.

As we look forward to the months ahead, we remain committed to growing, evolving and blossoming—just as nature does each spring. The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center is planting the seeds for a healthier future, and we can't wait to see it flourish.

With heartfelt gratitude,

CEO Emeritus
Carilion Clinic

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REACHING FAR, CARING CLOSE: A CAMPAIGN TO TRANSFORM CANCER CARE

A Vision for Innovative Care

The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center represents Carilion's commitment to transforming cancer care for our region. "Sometimes the outcomes that our patients experience are dictated by their ZIP code," says Executive Vice President and Chief Physician Executive Tony Seupaul, MD. "By placing a cancer center here in Roanoke, we can help change that."

The highest level of care requires top oncologists, researchers and healthcare professionals. The new facility for clinical excellence promises to attract medical experts seeking to shape the future of cancer treatment, improving patient outcomes close to home in a thriving, collaborative, research-driven environment. This next-level care will ensure patients do not have to travel so far for treatment.



[WATCH TO LEARN MORE](#)



CANCER CARE CLOSE TO HOME ROANOKE DOCTOR'S DAD RECEIVES EXCELLENT CARE

Dr. Jon Sweet is an Internal Medicine physician and the Chair of the Department of Medicine for Carilion Clinic and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. So it's fair to say Dr. Sweet knows a thing or two about how to support patients living with cancer.

Dr. Sweet's dad, Michael Sweet, who lives in Minnesota, started noticing some difficulty with swallowing in the fall of 2022. After an endoscopy, he was diagnosed with near-obstructing cancer of the esophagus.

Mr. Sweet had heart bypass surgery, so he wasn't a good candidate for additional surgery. His care team recommended chemotherapy and radiation as the best treatment options.

Despite living in the same state with excellent healthcare options, Dr. Sweet was convinced his father could receive world-class cancer care in Roanoke, supported by family, which was also what Mike preferred. Dr. Sweet contacted an oncology navigator on his dad's behalf and got quick, expert and convenient appointments with the Oncology and Radiation Oncology teams at Carilion and Blue Ridge Cancer Care. His chemo radiation treatments started within a few days of his arrival in Roanoke, and arrangements were made for an implanted intravenous port and feeding tube.

"Dad did very well with the efficient and convenient access to care over the course of his 6-week treatment. He returned home a few weeks after chemoradiation ended. He gained back the weight he had lost, is doing well, and has been cancer-free for over 2 years," said Dr. Sweet.

His story is a great example of what expert, timely, coordinated, patient-centered care can and should look like, especially when considering the coordination required to work across multiple departments."

The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center is starting to form on our Riverside Campus, but the real building blocks of an exceptional cancer program have been in the making for many years. The building itself is a critical part of the healing process and so are the expert doctors, nurses and other care team members who make patients their top priority. I'd like to introduce you to one of them this month. Expect to see more in the future. I'm grateful for all those who serve our patients.

– Steve Arner, President and CEO, Carilion Clinic



PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: CHARLES DANIEL, MD



Charles Daniel, MD
UROLOGY
CARILION CLINIC

Dr. Charles Daniel specializes in urology and genitourinary cancers and is highly regarded by patients and colleagues alike. Dr. Daniel is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine and completed his internship and residency at the University of Alabama. He has been practicing medicine for over 20 years.

In addition to testicular cancer, Dr. Daniel also treats other genitourinary cancers such as bladder, kidney and prostate cancer. Dr. Daniel performs robotic surgery procedures such as radical and simple prostatectomies, nephrectomies and cystectomies. He also performs ureteral reconstruction. Robotic surgery allows Dr. Daniel to perform these complex procedures with greater precision, resulting in smaller incisions and ultimately faster recovery times with an increased focus on patient care.

CANCER AWARENESS FOR ESOPHAGEAL AND TESTICULAR CANCER

Bringing attention to less common cancers to help foster early detection.



In April, we focus awareness on two kinds of cancer that don't receive as much recognition or as much funding as other kinds of cancers (like breast or lung cancer). Yet both of these cancers respond well to treatment—especially when detected early—so it's important to understand signs and symptoms.

Esophageal Cancer Awareness

Many people initially go to a primary care physician with somewhat common symptoms, like heartburn or acid reflux, and try to treat their issues with antacid medications. People may also have difficulty swallowing, which may be attributed to a sore throat or seasonal allergies. If you experience these symptoms, especially if they get worse or if you've had them for some time, you should get evaluated.

Testicular Cancer Awareness

Testicular cancer is the most common cancer in younger men, with the average age at diagnosis of just 33, yet the cure rate is over 95% if detected early. The most common method of early detection is through self-exams, so it's important for men to be proactive and visit their doctor if they notice lumps, swelling or changes in the size or feel of their testicles.

Carilion Clinic is dedicated to reducing the incidence of both esophageal and testicular cancers through comprehensive care that spans screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship support. By promoting awareness and encouraging proactive health measures, Carilion helps our patients take charge of their well-being and improve their chances of successful treatment.