

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Multidisciplinary Care

At Abbott Northwestern Hospital, the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute's Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancer Center is composed of surgeons, oncologists, gastroenterologists, pathologists, radiation oncologists, nurses, nutritionists and integrative medicine practitioners dedicated to GI cancer care. They work together to provide comprehensive care for patients with cancers of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas, liver, bile ducts, small bowel and colon. Team-specific **clinical nurse coordinators** ensure the integration of care, keeping the patient, referring doctors and treatment team working together for the best outcome. Our **research nurse coordinators** work with our physicians to offer our patients access to innovative, relevant clinical research trials. All members meet for a biweekly **GI tumor conference** to discuss patient care and to formulate treatment plans.

Program Teams

HEPATO-PANCREATO-BILIARY (HPB) TEAM

Timothy Sielaff, MD, PhD, is a HPB surgeon and the medical director of the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute. His group treats patients with pancreatic neoplasms (adenocarcinoma, islet cell tumors, IPMN), primary and metastatic liver tumors, gallbladder cancer and benign and malignant lesions of the bile ducts. We offer a full spectrum of novel therapies including radiofrequency ablation, laparoscopic resections, SIRT, neoadjuvant strategies in pancreatic and metastatic colorectal cancers. We also participate in the **Pancreatic Cancer Research Team** (PCRT-www.pcart.org) to advance research in pancreatic cancer and offer the most advanced treatments to our patients.

Nurse coordinator: Marie Kramer, RN - 612-863-6423

ESOPHAGEAL / GASTRIC TEAM

Our surgeons and gastroenterologists are leaders in minimally invasive approaches to esophageal and gastric diseases. The group uses breakthrough endoscopic, surgical and radiation oncology techniques to optimize the outcome for patients with all stages of disease. Neoadjuvant strategies are employed under the direction of our medical oncologists to promote the potential for surgical therapy for patients with locally advanced tumors.

Nurse coordinator: Julie Morphew, RN - 612-863-4648



To discuss a case with a member of the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute's GI Cancer Team or to make a referral call **612-863-4633**. You can also visit our Web site at www.abbottnorthwestern.com/vpci.

COLORECTAL TEAM

The colorectal team is dedicated to the prevention, early diagnosis, and management of colorectal cancer. Surgeons perform minimally invasive colon resections and transanal endoscopic microsurgery for rectal tumors. The Colon Cancer Risk Evaluation Clinic is staffed by gastroenterologists, surgeons, expert GI pathologists and **genetic counselors** to help identify and care for high-risk families. **Nurse coordinator: Jill Koenig, RN - 612-863-0210**

GI PATHOLOGY

Our GI pathology specialists apply the latest techniques and years of experience in the assessment of GI tumors. As members of the High Risk Colon Cancer Clinic, they are employing **DNA sequencer technology** to screen for heritable mutations.

GENETIC COUNSELING

The Virginia Piper Cancer Institute provides our patients, families and referring physicians with access to experienced genetic counselors to screen patients for heritable disorders of the GI tract.

Genetic counselors: 612-863-8651

Advanced Diagnostics and Treatment

MINIMALLY INVASIVE THERAPIES

Our surgeons have exceptional experience with all aspects of **complex GI surgery** but also have a particular interest in laparoscopic approaches. Our outcomes in pancreatic and liver surgery are excellent (e.g. mean length of stay - eight days for Whipple operations) and laparoscopic approaches are employed for many liver and pancreas resections. Minimally invasive colectomy and esophagectomy are now standard surgical approaches and are associated with reduced length of stay, more rapid recovery and equivalent oncologic outcomes.

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Radiation oncologists at the Virginia Piper Cancer Institute use state of the art technology to provide comprehensive radiation therapy options including IMRT, **stereotactic radiosurgery**, external beam radiation and brachytherapy for bile duct cancer and **selective internal radiation therapy (SIRT)** for unresectable liver tumors.

GI Cancer Team Members

Surgery

Esophageal & Gastric

Daniel Dunn, MD, - Med. Dir.
Eric Johnson, MD
Timothy Kroshus, MD

Colon & Rectal

Karim Alavi, MD
Charles Finne, III, MD
Amy Thorsen, MD

Hepatopancreatobiliary

Timothy Sielaff, MD, PhD

Gastroenterology

Colon & Rectal

John Allen, MD - Med. Dir.
Robert McCabe, MD

Esophageal & Gastric

Robert Ganz, MD

Liver

Coleman Smith, MD

Pancreas & Biliary

Robert Mackie, MD
Federico Rossi, MD

Genetic Counselors

Shari Baldinger, MS, CGC
Shanda Reinke

Medical Oncology

Patrick Flynn, MD -
Med. Dir. of Research
Thomas Flynn, MD
Dean Gesme, MD
Margaret MacRae, MD
Obinna Nwaneri, MD
Burton Schwartz, MD
John Seng, MD
Paul Zander, MD

Pathology

Kenneth Batts, MD
Lawrence Burgart, MD
Parry Dilworth, MD

Radiation Oncology

Carol Grabowski, MD - Med. Dir.
David Monyak, MD
Patsa Sullivan, MD

Radiology

Subbarao Inampudi, MD
Wendy Nazarian, MD
Michael Plunkett, MD
Eul Kang, MD

ENDOSCOPIC THERAPIES

The **Center for Advanced Endoscopy** provides the most comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic techniques in GI care. The Center is a leader in advanced **endoscopic therapies for Barrett's esophagus** (Barrx, photodynamic therapy and endomucosal therapy). Advanced diagnostic techniques such as endorectal ultrasound, endoscopic ultrasound and ERCP are also used as compliments to our state of the art diagnostic radiology. This includes CT, MRI, PET/CT and percutaneous interventions, e.g. radiofrequency ablation.

CLINICAL TRIALS

The Virginia Piper Cancer Institute is committed to promoting clinically relevant research to the benefit of our current and future patients. Under the leadership of Patrick J. Flynn, MD, we work with national cooperative groups and conduct local protocols. Dr. Sielaff is the vice chair of the PCRT, thereby making leading-edge basic science and therapeutic protocols available to our patients with pancreatic cancer.

Virginia Piper Cancer Institute Associates

- Colorectal Surgery Associates, Ltd.
- Consulting Radiologists, Ltd.
- Hospital Pathology Associates
- Minnesota Gastroenterology
- Minnesota Oncology Hematology, P.A.
- Minnesota Radiation Oncology Group, P.A.
- Surgical Specialists of Minnesota



**ABBOTT
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