



## Translational Research: caBIG<sup>®</sup> in Action at Christiana Care

### Dr. Nicholas Petrelli

The technology of caBIG<sup>®</sup> is going to be a tremendous advantage to moving cancer care forward.

### Dr. Bruce Bowman

I see the caBIG<sup>®</sup> as a tremendous resource that will catalyze translational research.

### Rajiv Haravu

What excites me most about being part of the caBIG<sup>®</sup> program is the ability to collaborate.

### Dr. Brian Little

We must collaborate.

### Dr. Nicholas Petrelli

Delaware used to be number one in cancer incidence and mortality in the United States.

As medical director and actually as a surgical oncologist by training, my real role is to build programs and projects that lead to better care of patients, earlier detection. Because we know that if you detect a cancer in an earlier stage the survival is going to be better and the quality of life is going to be better.

### Dr. Brian Little

To be an excellent institution caring for people as Christiana Care is, we have to be a learning organization. We have to stimulate every single person within the institution, challenge them every single day to be better. We must collaborate.



### **Dr. Bruce Bowman**

If we can get the basic researchers and the clinicians to work together, perhaps we can start to make strides towards better treatment, towards better ways to detect it early and actually make an impact on mortality and morbidity from cancer.

At Christiana Care we've made several strides to try to bridge the gap between the basic science and the clinicians. First off, they've built a new center for translational cancer research. We've teamed together the clinicians and the basic researchers to try to get them to work together. In this team effort, we hope to work together to be able to actually accomplish what translational research is theoretically set out to do as its goal.

I see caBIG<sup>®</sup> as a tremendous resource that will catalyze translational research.

### **Dr. Nicholas Petrelli**

One of the biggest issues we have is with databanks. Getting those databanks to talk to each other is the real key. They can't be exclusive and kind of working in their own black boxes. caBIG<sup>®</sup> has allowed us to work more globally and allowed us to communicate within those systems. And certainly where it's helped us tremendously is with caTissue.

### **Brenda Rabeno**

As a tissue bank manager some of the challenges that we face include obtaining sufficient tissue to meet the needs of our researchers, obtaining reliable follow up data on the patients that we do collect tissue on and letting researchers outside of our organization know what types of tissue that we have available.

Using caTissue has totally transformed our day-to-day data collection operations. The major piece of criteria that we are currently meeting when we bank all tissue is a twenty minute from resection until freezing time. We are typically freezing tissue in about eleven minutes from resection so we are really proud of that.

caTissue was really pivotal in allowing us to be able to participate in The Cancer Genome Atlas Project.

### **Rajiv Haravu**

The tissue bank of Christiana Care is tasked with supplying tissue to the biospecimen core resource for the TCGA.



caTissue became very important because the legacy application that was being used in the tissue bank was a homegrown application, it was a very simple application using Microsoft Access. It served the needs of the tissue bank before TCGA, but we weren't sure that going forward that it would serve the needs of the tissue bank.

I think there's immense value in sharing data that can enhance research.

### **Dr. Nicholas Petrelli**

The American Cancer Society estimates for 2009 have shown that Delaware is now number eleven in cancer mortality. And in terms of cancer incidence, it's number eight. So everything is going in the right direction

We have moved very rapidly in building many programs that have delivered a high quality of cancer care to patients in the state of Delaware.

We couldn't do it without caBIG®.