The Nemours Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (NCCBD), which includes Nemours sites in the Delaware Valley and those in Northern and Central Florida, continues to rank among the best programs in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. We are among the top five programs in the country in our enrollment of children on National Cancer Institute–sponsored clinical cancer research trials. And we continue to be among the top three programs nationally in enrollment on studies designed to reduce the side effects of cancer therapies. This is the third year in a row that I am able to proudly highlight these accomplishments. Central to the NCCBD mission is participation in national cancer clinical trials that provide state-of-the-art and innovative new therapies for children with cancer and blood disorders. For many children, clinical research trials are their best and only hope for cure.

In just this past year, the NCCBD received a national designation as a Hemophilia Treatment Center and the NCCBD National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program grant was renewed. In 2019 and beyond, we expect to expand our clinical research portfolio for children with sickle cell disease as well.

Also in 2018, Nemours emerged as one of the lead institutions in a global precision medicine effort for children with relapsed leukemia. We are excited about the potential for this trial to dramatically change our approach for children with leukemia and expect several more announcements this year about the scope and impact of this exciting project.

The NCCBD has had an outstanding year as we strive to provide the best care possible to children and families in the communities we serve, while extending our reach globally. As our research program grows, so too does our ability to impact and improve the lives of children with cancer and blood disorders.

E. ANDERS KOLB, MD
Director, Nemours Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders
Finding out your child has cancer or a blood disorder can be overwhelming. You need an expert team that can deliver top-notch care and be there for you every step of the way. At the Nemours Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (NCCBD), we offer patient- and family-centered pediatric oncology and hematology care that includes expansive clinical and support services alongside internationally recognized research programs.

The NCCBD isn’t actually a single “place,” but an established, multisite pediatric oncology and hematology program made up of four core locations, each a member of the Children’s Oncology Group:

- **Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children**
  Wilmington, Del.

- **Nemours Children’s Specialty Care**
  Jacksonville, Fla.
  *(in collaboration with Wolfson Children’s Hospital)*

- **Nemours Children’s Specialty Care**
  Pensacola, Fla.

- **Nemours Children’s Hospital**
  Orlando, Fla.

These core facilities, together with our many satellite locations, pool our resources and expertise to offer families care that crosses geographic lines — focusing on improving outcomes, reducing side effects and providing state-of-the-art therapies.
Why Choose Us

One of only two pediatric NCORPs* in the country

Cross-campus collaboration, expanded expertise

Advanced research and care go hand-in-hand

Ongoing commitment to clinical trial participation

Excellent outcomes

U.S. News & World Report Best Children’s Hospital

Best Doctors in America®

Center of Excellence in sickle cell disease research

Long-standing FACT** designation

Pioneer in family-centered care

Comprehensive, full-service program

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* National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program
** Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy
Cancer predisposition syndromes (CPS) cause a significant percentage of pediatric cancers.\(^1\) A child with a CPS has an increased risk of developing more than one type of cancer. Fortunately, research innovation and discoveries have enabled genetic screening that can help detect CPS. In 2018, we made it a priority to screen children at high risk for cancer and provide subsequent screening recommendations. This goal is focused on detecting any genetic cancer predisposition and ensuring that as providers we can recommend appropriate screening practices tailored to each patient.

In 2018, 99.7 percent of patients identified as having a high cancer risk were screened and counseled by our dedicated Licensed Genetics Counselor who is available to meet with any family going through the screening process. The 303 patients that received this service obtained individually targeted care and recommendations for screening.

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There were 189 total enrollments to clinical trials at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children for 80 total eligible patients. Our 236 percent enrollment rate speaks to our commitment to providing patients with the opportunity to participate in research and receive leading-edge care.

- Biorepository studies involve the collection of specimens for research testing.
- Genetics studies investigate the molecular basis of cancers and contribute to understanding genetic risk factors for cancer development.
- Quality of life studies assess how disease and treatment affect the lives of patients and families, usually through questionnaires and noninvasive testing.
- Registry studies involve the collection of data only.
- Treatment studies monitor the efficacy and impact of innovative treatments used in cancer care.
Starting in 2017, we began providing formal fertility preservation consults to patients likely to undergo treatment that could affect their fertility. During consultation, the physician discusses the level of infertility risk associated with the planned treatment, as well as potential preservation options and future monitoring.

Through contracts with a local reproductive endocrinology specialist and infertility specialists, we are able to offer sperm banking and egg harvesting to our pubertal patients.

In 2018, we prioritized offering this service to all eligible patients. Through the end of 2018, 39 patients received a fertility preservation consult — and were offered the choice to build a family of their own after beating their disease.
2018 Quality Initiative

During 2018, we embarked on creating comprehensive chemotherapy supportive care guidelines. These guidelines are critical to standardizing best practices while caring for patients and making them as comfortable as possible as they undergo difficult therapy. These guidelines will be completed and implemented during 2019.
The NCCBD cancer program is accredited by the American College of Surgeons (ACOS) Commission on Cancer and has been since 2015.

One requirement for this accreditation is holding a cancer conference, also known as a tumor board. These conferences help to improve the monitoring of patient care by providing multidisciplinary treatment planning and collaboration among physicians and allied medical staff.

This meeting is attended by health professionals in oncology, hematology, pathology, radiation oncology, radiology, surgery and many other specialties.

The weekly conferences took place 38 times in 2018. Options for clinical trial enrollments were discussed for 95 percent of cases, demonstrating a commitment to provide the best, most innovative care to our patient population.
2018 Cancer Committee Members

ACOS accreditation is contingent upon establishment of a Cancer Committee, which “is responsible for goal setting, planning, initiating, implementing, evaluating and improving all cancer-related activities in the program.”¹ The membership of the Cancer Committee is multidisciplinary, representing physicians from diagnostic and treatment specialties and other professionals from administrative and supportive services.

- **National Marrow Donor Program Designated Transplant Center**
  2010–present

- **Center for International Blood and Bone Marrow Transplant Research**
  Center in Good Standing 2010–present

- **Member of Pediatric Immunodeficiency Treatment Consortium**
  2013–present

- **National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program**
  2014–present
  One of only two designated pediatric NCORPs in the country, recognized by the NCI as a fully integrated pediatric cancer network with excellence in research, clinical care and quality improvement

- **American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer accredited facility**
  2015–present

- **Magnet designation in 2012 and granted redesignation in 2017 by the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition Program**

- **Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best children’s hospitals in the nation for cancer**