

REPORT TO DONORS AND FRIENDS COLORECTAL CENTER AT LANKENAU MEDICAL CENTER

The Colorectal Center at Lankenau Medical Center (LMC), led by John H Marks, MD, has been supported by many generous donors over the last several years. Their gifts are supporting two key goals: educating the next generation of colorectal surgeons and continually developing new techniques and procedures that advance the global standard of care of patients with colorectal cancer and related diseases.

In April 2020, Dr. Marks was named the first holder of *The James Widener Ray Endowed Chair in Colorectal Surgery*, established through a generous gift from the Raynier Institute & Foundation. This gift permanently endows a significant portion of the research and education initiatives being conducted by Dr. Marks and his colleagues. Major examples of the Colorectal Center team's work are highlighted on the following pages.

Lankenau Medical Center is the hub of Main Line Health's Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery and one of a handful of robotic academic epicenters in the nation. Our Colorectal Center is home to multi-disciplinary teams specializing in the exploration, development and clinical application of advanced technology, with emphasis on robotic and minimally invasive procedures. It is our pleasure to update our generous friends on the latest accomplishments made possible with your support.

CLINICAL UPDATE

As a long-time global leader in colorectal surgical care, particularly robotic and minimally invasive surgery, Lankenau's Colorectal Center helped develop colorectal applications of the da Vinci® SP Surgical System. The Center's Director, John Marks, MD, became the first surgeon in the country to use this groundbreaking single port robot to perform colorectal surgery in a procedure completed at Lankenau in October 2018. The team completed its 100th case in November, and the results have been tremendous.

Dr. Marks is System and Campus Chief of Colorectal Surgery for Main Line Health and Lankenau Medical Center. He is also Director of the Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Colorectal and Advanced Rectal Cancer Management and is Professor of Surgery at the Lankenau Institute for Medical Research. He serves on the Executive Committee of the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC).



Because of his experience in treating patients with the most advanced surgical tools available, Dr. Marks was selected to consult on the development of the da Vinci® SP Surgical System.

Having performed more than 3,000 laparoscopic colorectal surgeries throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Marks views robotic-assisted surgery as the new frontier in the field with Lankenau as a pioneer. Lankenau continues to lead the way in

conducting over 90% of surgical cases laparoscopically compared to a national average between 40-50%.

Lankenau's colorectal cancer team meets biweekly to discuss every rectal cancer patient in order to make sure outcomes are optimal. While challenging during COVID restrictions, this has continued via Zoom meetings, during which x-rays, pathology and surgical approaches are reviewed. Team members are:

Surgery: John Marks, MD; Henry Schoonyoung, MD; Robert Noone, MD
Pathology: Kimberly Heightchew, MD; Pradeep Baghat, MD
Radiology: Ronit Devin, MD; Samuel Borofsky, MD
Medical oncology: Erik Zeger, MD; Renee Rubin, MD
Radiation oncology: Albert Denittis, MD
Program Coordinator: Anne Becker, RN



DESIGNATED A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Lankenau is the only hospital in the Philadelphia region, and one of twelve in the nation, to earn the recognition of the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC), a program developed by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to improve the care of rectal cancer patients across the country. Presently, Lankenau is the only hospital between New York and Florida with this special endorsement.

This accreditation designates Lankenau as a center for excellence in the field, and ensures that our program meets the highest standards of care including a highly qualified and trained multidisciplinary team, data collection and monitoring to ensure constant performance improvement, verified adherence to evidence-based procedures, and patient protocols supported by research.

Additionally, Main Line Health received a silver-level commendation from the Commission on Cancer (CoC), a program of the ACS dedicated to improving the quality of care for cancer patients across the country. CoC accreditation is a pre-requisite to receiving the NAPRC accreditation.



The table on the next page illustrates why patients from 38 states, 16 countries and five continents come to Lankenau's Colorectal Center for the most advanced colorectal cancer treatment.

	<u>Lankenau</u>	<u>Nationally</u>
Sphincter Preservation Rate	93%	40-60%
Local Recurrence Rate	2.3%	10-25%
Survival Rate	88%	68%
Experience Treating Rectal Cancer with Minimally Invasive Surgery	>1,000 cases, one of the largest in America	

SELECTED FOR MAJOR CLINICAL TRIAL

Lankenau Medical Center was certified in 2018 as the first external site in the United States to initiate a new clinical trial to study an important treatment for patients battling rectal cancer. This multi-center study is testing the safety and efficacy of low anterior resection with transanal total mesorectal excision (taTME) using laparoscopic or robotic surgery in patients with resectable rectal cancer. The trial, for which Dr. Marks is serving as a principal investigator, aims to determine if taTME, which uses a “bottom-up approach,” can overcome the technical difficulties of a low pelvic dissection that uses an abdominal approach.

Commenting on the taTME trial for this report, Dr. Marks observed, *“It is gratifying to be involved in this study that aims to validate across the country many of our groundbreaking contributions to rectal cancer management. These types of endeavors help solidify Lankenau’s position as a national leader in the care of patients with rectal cancer, as well as a world leader in minimally invasive surgery.”*

PHYSICIAN TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

In keeping with Lankenau’s long-standing tradition of medical education, the Colorectal Center offers a fellowship and advanced postgraduate programs for surgeons and multidisciplinary specialists. Since 2002, Dr. Marks has directed one of only four Minimally Invasive Colorectal Surgery and Advanced Rectal Cancer Management Fellowships in the United States.

Under Dr. Marks’ tutelage, Colorectal Fellows receive intensive instruction in minimally invasive surgical approaches to the treatment of a broad spectrum of colorectal disorders. Seventeen physicians have completed the Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Colorectal Surgery and Advanced Rectal Cancer Management and are now implementing the knowledge they gained under Dr. Marks in surgical practices throughout the United States and abroad. Graduates are highly sought after for faculty positions at Cleveland Clinic, Cornell University, Columbia University, University of St. Louis, Medical College of Wisconsin, and the University of Toronto. Many are also entering private practice around the country.

This specialized training is critically important. Studies show that patients who see a general surgeon rather than a colorectal surgeon are more than three times more likely to develop a local recurrence. [Dorrance et al. Dis Colon Rectum 2000]

In addition to the aforementioned Fellowship, Lankenau has established the *Barbara and Gerald Marks Annual Rectal Cancer Lectureship* which brings together experts from around the world to define standards of rectal cancer treatment.

In May 2019, Lankenau's Colorectal Cancer Center was honored to host the Multidisciplinary International Rectal Cancer Society (MIRCS)'s scientific symposium. The program featured research updates, clinical presentations, and panel discussions by international leaders in the field of rectal cancer, with a focus on strategies for optimizing oncologic and quality of life outcomes. During the three-day symposium, a live taTME procedure performed by Symposium Director John H Marks, MD was telecasted to the audience. This was followed by lectures from an all-star international faculty. Some participants performed taTME surgery on cadaveric models to master the procedure themselves.



SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE

Lankenau's global reputation as an innovator in colorectal surgery procedures attracts specialists from around the world to study and learn new robotic techniques from Dr. Marks and his colleagues. The former is a sought-after lecturer at national and international conferences, symposia, workshops, and hospital grand rounds on the treatment of colorectal disease. He continues to be invited to perform live telesurgeries to demonstrate and teach the surgical techniques developed at Lankenau.

Indicative of the Marks team's commitment to pursuing and sharing knowledge is the Colorectal Center's extensive database of rectal cancer patients treated with minimally invasive colon and sphincter-preserving surgery. One of the largest indexes of its kind comprising pre-, intra-, and postoperative data on more than 1,400 rectal cancer cases, the database is a valuable resource for analyzing patient outcomes and promoting best practices for treating and managing colorectal cancer patients.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

The attached Academic Report includes a full listing of Dr. Marks's and colleagues' publications, lectures, honors and awards, surgical society and professional organizational affiliations, live telesurgeries and media coverage for the period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

A GLOBAL DESTINATION FOR COLORECTAL CANCER PATIENTS

The Colorectal Center's regional, national, and international reputation for clinical excellence and superior outcomes is complemented by the Center's state-of-the-art facilities located within the colorectal unit in the Lankenau Heart Pavilion. The unit is the only integrated Colorectal Center in the region with a dedicated outpatient unit in the office, colorectal surgical team, and post-operative unit on site.

Patients appreciate the unit's healing environment, private reception and waiting areas, and modern exam rooms with adjoining bathrooms, all designed to ensure comfort and privacy. Surgical patients are admitted to a dedicated inpatient floor staffed by nurses specially trained in

pre- and post-operative colorectal care. Every member of the staff understands the fear, pain, embarrassment and disability associated with colorectal cancer and related diseases. Their expertise and compassion drive the Center's mission to restore hope, save lives and preserve the highest quality of life for every patient entrusted to our care.

PATIENT STORY

Patients from around the nation and the world are referred to Dr. Marks and his associates at Lankenau's Colorectal Center because their pioneering breakthroughs are considered the global standard of care for treating colorectal cancer. Following is the story of one grateful patient, a 25-year-old woman from North Carolina who was diagnosed with colorectal cancer and told she would spend the rest of her life with an ostomy.

Researching options for a second opinion led this young mother to Lankenau and an appointment with Dr. John Marks who mapped a plan to remove her tumor while preserving normal bowel function. Describing her experience, the delighted patient declared, *"I simply can't say enough about Dr. Marks's skill, his reassuring manner, and the competence and compassion of his entire staff. Throughout my surgeries and recovery, I always knew I was in the best of hands. Dr. Marks gave me back a normal life, something I thought I'd lost forever."*

"JUST DO IT!"

In March 2020, Main Line Health observed National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month as it does each year by reminding members of the community to be proactive in screening for colorectal cancer. Of particular concern are recent studies demonstrating that colorectal cancers are becoming increasingly prevalent among younger people.

"Colorectal cancer remains one of the nation's leading causes of cancer deaths," warned Dr. Marks. *"Fortunately, it is a highly treatable disease. Colonoscopy can detect and remove precancerous polyps. And if malignant growths are found and treated early, the five-year survival rate is close to 90 percent."* Dr. Marks advises everyone to get screened regularly and talk to their doctors about risk and prevention.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

Throughout our history, philanthropy has played a pivotal role in Lankenau's evolution from a local community hospital to a thriving, internationally renowned medical center. We wholeheartedly express our appreciation to the generous benefactors whose gifts have helped us provide the highest standard of colorectal surgical and oncologic care to patients from all over the world. We are proud and grateful for your support and committed to continue earning it. Thank you!