



Welcoming, Calming and Aesthetically Pleasing

Progressive Cancer Care provides leading-edge treatment
in a pleasant, relaxing environment

Physicians in Marion, Indiana, wanted to be able to provide the best possible full-service cancer care for their patients in a single, local facility.

Spearheaded by Dr. Keith Rockey, a Marion radiologist, they formed a joint venture with Marion General Hospital and Cardinal Health System of Muncie, Indiana, and named it Progressive Cancer Care LLC. Their mission was to build a leading-edge center to provide medical and radiation therapy for cancer patients in northeast and north central Indiana. While its primary purpose was to bring new technology to the area and to better coordinate patient care, the new

PROGRESSIVE CANCER CARE

Butler Builder: Felderman Design-Build, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Size: 16,280 square feet

Butler® Systems:
Widespan™ structural system
Multi-Story structural system
MR-24® standing seam roof system

facility also had to function well and look its part.

“We wanted the building to look modern—in order to inspire confidence—but also to be as open, aesthetically pleasing and homelike as possible,” says Dr. Rockey. “You don’t need more stress in your life when you’re trying to deal with cancer.”

The new treatment center, Progressive Cancer Care (PCC), fits the image exactly. Designed and constructed by Felderman Design-Build, a Butler Builder® in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the 16,280-square-foot facility is attractive, professional and upbeat. It features many comfort factors such as plenty of windows to let in natural light,

BY JUDY FINDSEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DENNIS IVY

WELCOMING, CALMING AND
AESTHETICALLY PLEASING

“This is not treatment in a ‘hospital’ setting, and patients have really embraced that”

CRAIG MILLER



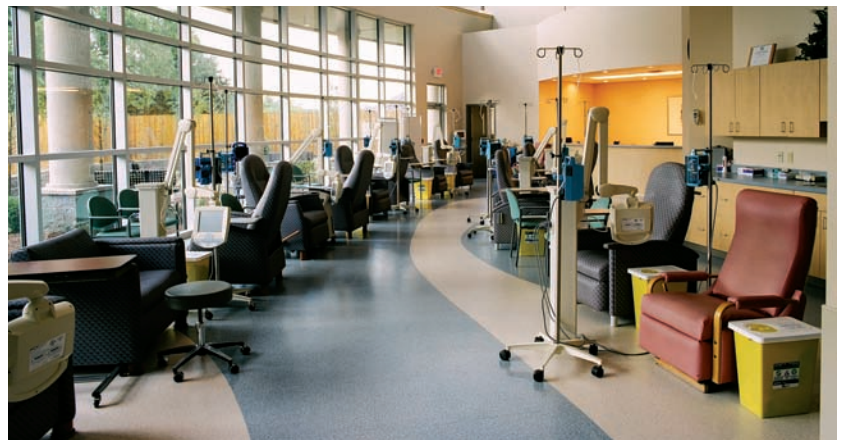
and a single-floor plan so elderly patients don't have to cope with stairs or use an elevator. Welcoming wings reach out on either side of an attractive, two-story glassed atrium, accented and protected from the weather by arched canopies.

The PCC board interviewed several design-build contractors for the project. Rockey was pleased and not surprised when they selected Felderman Design-Build. Felderman had built his own facility, Progressive Medical Imaging, just a few years before. “They did the job well, and provided excellent customer service,” he says. “I knew they could handle this project.”

One of the most important features of Progressive Cancer Care is its new linear accelerator, which provides extremely precise external-beam radiotherapy treatments. Before the center was built, patients in need of IMRT (intensely modulated radiation therapy) had to travel to Indianapolis or Fort Wayne, where the nearest up-to-date equipment was available.

Pouring the concrete vault for the accelerator and the installation of the instrument dictated how construction would proceed, says Dan Eads, the Felderman project manager. “The vault had walls from 4- to 6 feet thick of solid poured concrete, which was all poured in eight to nine hours,” he explains. “We used special concrete mixes to keep it from overheating or forming stress cracks.”

The building was erected over the course of a winter in three phases, with the atrium completed last. Felderman used the Widespan™ structural system to construct the two wings, topped with the long-lasting, weathertight MR-24® standing seam roof



Executive Director Craig Miller (far left, above) is pleased that PCC's entrance, waiting areas and infusion area are open and comfortable rather than institutional and threatening. Patients who once had to travel to Indianapolis or Fort Wayne for IMRT treatments can now receive them locally, thanks to the facility's linear accelerator (far right, next page).

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DR. KEITH ROCKEY



system. Butler engineers detailed the Multi-Story system for the connecting atrium that ties the facility together, and also designed custom architectural standing seam roof panels to fit the tight radius of the atrium's arched roof and arched entrance canopies.

Craig Miller, executive director of the new center, watched Felderman coordinate the construction with interest. “By the time the accelerator was moved into position and set up, the rest of the building was in place,” he says. “They did a great job for us. It took a lot of organization and planning from a finishing standpoint.”

The atrium entrance is divided into two pleasant reception and waiting areas—one for medical oncology (chemotherapy) to the left, and the other for radiation oncology. The medical wing has its own on-site lab, pharmacy, examination rooms and physicians' offices. Its large infusion area, where chemotherapy patients receive treatment, was designed to be as pleasant as possible. It has a window wall facing out onto a landscaped garden, and there is a television set for every two treatment chairs. Family members and friends who are waiting for patients are free to walk in the garden if the weather permits.

The radiation wing has a joint conference room where doctors can meet and discuss patients' progress, physicians' offices, exam rooms, the linear accelerator treatment room and a CT simulation room.

As planned, many services are networked under the Progressive Cancer Care umbrella, providing patients with continuity of care.

Physicians from Marion General Hospital use the medical wing, while Indiana Radiotherapy, from Muncie, provides the radiation therapy.

The facility also provides a satellite office for a local nonprofit organization, Cancer Services of Grant County, which helps provide patients with transportation to and from treatments and assistance with such things as prescriptions, nutritional issues and wigs.

The building includes a 5,323-square-foot basement, centered primarily under the atrium, which is presently used for storage. The conference room can later move downstairs if the center needs more space, and the radiation wing can expand to accommodate a second linear accelerator.

The need to expand may not be far away.

“We've had many compliments on the building since the day it opened,” Rockey says. “Our physicians are pleased and the number of patients we're treating has actually gone up—I would say well over 10 percent. I think this means we are reaching people who were traveling outside the area before, when the services they needed were not available. Based upon this, we are actively recruiting more physicians to complement those we have and to add more services for cancer patients.”

Miller estimates that PCC presently treats around 33 to 36 patients a day. “This is not treatment in a ‘hospital’ setting, and patients have really embraced that,” he says. “They're telling their friends and families that now we have progressive treatment right here in our own community.” ■

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