Continuum Health Partners is proud to have established the Eliana Center, where patients with thoracic cancer receive advanced medical care and supportive services geared especially to their needs.

**Focus on Thoracic Cancers**
Thoracic cancer patients can benefit greatly from a center that focuses on their specific medical, emotional and social circumstances. Cancers of the pulmonary system and adjacent organs often advance rapidly and the disease is discovered at a relatively late stage. To be successful, therapy must be timely, comprehensive and aggressive. At the Eliana Center, we offer the most advanced medical and surgical care; the ability to participate in a broad spectrum of current clinical trials; and an array of supportive services addressing psychological and spiritual needs of patients. Ours is truly a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of thoracic malignancies.

**Program Activities**
The Eliana Center encompasses a comprehensive program of tertiary medical care, patient education and research, and public awareness. We are committed to making treatment as positive an experience as possible.

To this end, each patient is assigned a Patient Navigator who ensures seamless continuity across the various disciplines involved in a personalized treatment plan. This includes setting up and coordinating all appointments and tests, arranging transportation if needed, and ensuring the timely and efficient coordination of treatment modalities.

Most patients benefit from treatment protocols involving multiple modalities—surgery, medicine and radiation—with pain management and supportive services integrated into the treatment plan. Supportive services include nutrition and wellness education, stress reduction instruction, family counseling and financial counseling.

**Research**
To advance effective treatments, the Eliana Center participates in a variety of clinical trials through national cooperative groups. Recent or current trials involve preventative therapy, "frontline" therapy, brachytherapy and robotic surgery.

To promote investigator-initiated research, the Eliana Center awards up to three grants annually to Continuum Cancer Center clinicians to support initial data gathering. Supported projects are expected subsequently to attract substantial federal or other external funding. The center will also participate in ongoing Continuum Cancer Center and multi-institutional research programs.

**Medical Education**
The center’s program encompasses education to disseminate current knowledge and research to community physicians. Education projects include an annual conference to educate regional physicians in the management of thoracic malignancies and associated thoracic disorders through new techniques, therapies and procedures in surgical, medical and radiation oncology.

The center also provides grants to enable its clinicians to learn new techniques and treatments.

Continuum is deeply grateful to Mr. Joseph and Dr. Carol F. Reich who provided generous initial funding for the establishment of the Eliana Center.

**PATIENT NAVIGATION AT THE ELIANA CENTER**
From the first sign of an abnormality, patients can experience an enormous amount of pre-treatment testing. This level of testing continues through the confirmation of a diagnosis and preparation for multidisciplinary treatment, which is distributed across various disciplines or among a range of providers. Some testing procedures are complex and unpleasant for the patient. Among the most common tests are MRIs, CT scans, and stress tests in nuclear medicine. In addition, bronchoscopies, esophagogastroduodenoscopy, and mediastinoscopies must often be completed before main treatment begins.

Coordination of care, and attentive care, are critical to creating positive patient experiences. Carefully coordinated care is also essential to ensuring timely procedures throughout the treatment process, and, ultimately, to promote better outcomes.

To ensure that this fundamental aspect of optimal treatment is provided, the Eliana Center has hired a dedicated patient navigator. The key functions of the patient navigator are:

- Serve as a single contact for each patient throughout his or her treatment process
- Act as liaison for the patient with other professionals in the treatment process
- Provide the patient with information about resources in other areas of support such as pain management, stress reduction instruction, nutrition counseling, family counseling, and financial counseling

The Eliana Center is very pleased to have as our Patient Navigator Ms. Patricia Stacey, a longtime member of the Continuum Cancer Centers staff. Ms. Stacey was administrator for the Radiation/Oncology and Hematology/Oncology Departments at Beth Israel Medical Center and then Roosevelt Hospital for a total of 15 years. She is a former radiation oncology therapist who is thoroughly familiar with the Continuum Cancer Centers and the needs of thoracic oncology patients. Ms. Stacey lost her own father to lung cancer.

In her role as Patient Navigator, she sees herself as not only expediting procedures, but as humanizing the process — providing emotional and psychological support for the patients and easing pressures on the medical staff. An important part of her interaction with patients is simply listening.

Ms. Stacey consults closely with Stewart B. Fleshman, MD, director of Continuum’s Cancer Supportive Services (CSS). Dr. Fleshman is a psychiatrist with a specialty in oncology. The CSS staff includes a pain management specialist, social worker, an oncology nutritionist, and a chaplain. As Patient Navigator, Ms. Stacey will encourage Eliana Center patients to use CSS services, thus helping them develop effective coping strategies and enabling them to be active partners in their own care.
RESEARCH PROJECTS
The Thoracic Oncology group participates in clinical trials coordinated by major cooperative groups (SWOG, ECOG, RTOG, ACOSOG). In addition, we are active in a number of local protocols and other areas of research interest:

Cooperative Groups
SWOG/ECOG 5597: Use of selenium as a treatment to prevent new primary lung cancers
SWOG 0454: Gender differences in Lung Cancer, a molecular biology study
RTOG 0214 Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation in patients with locally advanced NSCLC

Other Trials and Interests
Imclone CP-02-52: Investigational agent after failure of primary platinum-based therapy
IRISSA: Use of this agent after failure of primary therapy or first line in female patient with adenocarcinoma of Asian/Pacific background
BETA: Bevacizumab and Tarceva vs Tarceva alone as second-line treatment
Use of endoscopic ultrasound mediastinal biopsy in non-small cell lung cancer
Robotic-assisted thoracic surgery
Minimally invasive limited lung resection and implantation of radioactive iodine with robotic assistance in high-risk patients with lung cancer

FDG/PET scanning and minimally invasive staging/restaging with F18/PET
Intercostal analgesia for pain control in patients undergoing thoracic surgery
Videoassisted thoracic surgery for resection of paravertebral tumors
Effect of preoperative anemia on survival in patients with early stage lung cancer
Videoassisted thoracic surgery in patients with indeterminate pulmonary nodule

ELIANA CENTER CORE PROFESSIONAL STAFF
Cliff P. Connery, MD, FACS, is Codirector of the Eliana Center and Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Beth Israel Medical Center and St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals.

Michael L. Grossbard, MD, is Codirector of the Eliana Center and Chief of the Division of Hematology-Oncology at Beth Israel Medical Center and St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals. Dr. Grossbard is also an Associate Director of Continuum Cancer Centers of New York.

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Nutritionist
Bridget Bennett

CANCER CENTERS RECEIVE THREE-YEAR ACCREDITATION WITH COMMENDATION

The American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer (CoC), has granted the Continuum Cancer Centers of New York (the multidisciplinary cancer programs of Beth Israel, St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals) a full, three-year network accreditation with commendation.

The CoC grants approval of a network cancer program only to those hospital systems that have voluntarily committed to provide the best in cancer diagnosis, treatment and research, and are able to comply with established CoC standards across all the hospitals in the network. Each cancer network must undergo a rigorous evaluation and review of its performance and compliance with CoC standards.

Continuum is the first hospital system in New York State to earn network accreditation. There are less than 25 in the country.

HOT LINE FOR REFERRING PHYSICIANS
If you are a physician with a patient who has a newly diagnosed lung nodule or a condition needing more urgent evaluation, you can reach an appropriate consultant 24 hours a day at (212) 636-3333.