Reflecting on the past and remarkable achievements in delivering quality and state-of-the-art cancer care to the Saginaw community and beyond over the past 36 years, St. Mary’s of Michigan and Seton Cancer Institute continue to be the leader. As Chairman of the Cancer Committee and the Division of Medical Oncology and Hematology, and as Medical Director of Oncology Research, I would like to thank the dedicated and focused colleagues and professionals that comprise our Multidisciplinary Team for their tireless efforts that guarantee optimal and top quality care and experience, that our patients and their families so deserve!

Two-thousand and thirteen (2013) was pivotal in re-focusing on the objectives of our Oncology Program, given the onerous burden of the implementation the Affordable Care Act, the erosion of physician-driven initiatives, leadership and collaborations, as well as the increasing distrust created thereby.

The timely consolidation and reconfiguration of the Executive Leadership structure in Mid-Michigan by Ascension Health Michigan will definitely strengthen our resolve at St. Mary’s of Michigan in creating “physician-driven, regional and clinically integrated system of care – a model that improves health as well as the patient and physician experience, and better aligns to meet the needs of patients, physicians, employers and insurers” in the words of Gwen MacKenzie, Senior Vice President, Ascension Health, Michigan Market Leader. We also welcome Betsy Aderholdt, President and CEO of Genesys Health System who will assume expanded duties to include overall leadership responsibilities at St. Mary’s of Michigan-Saginaw, St. Marys of Michigan – Standish Hospital, and St. Joseph Health Systems. This reconfiguration means that, geographically, Saginaw continues to be the critical piece in this integrated system of healthcare.
Already in place and operational are three (3) centers of Radiation Oncology services well-positioned within the state, to the north (West Branch), east (Marlette) and centrally (Saginaw City) with unrivaled array of complimentary cutting-edge machinery and technology, including Hi-Art TomoTherapy unit and stereotactic robotic CyberKnife radiosurgery systems, one of only 3 such precise and accurate units in the entire State of Michigan. Seton Cancer Institute’s CyberKnife unit has treated an average of 570 treatment units per year from within the state, neighboring states and internationally; and the Hi-Art Tomotherapy unit has also treated an average of 9,180 treatment units per year over the past 3 years. Even some tertiary cancer referral centers do not have such an array of radiotherapy machines, bringing to near perfection the art and science of radiotherapy safety and precision to our patients. I would like to give many thanks to the Radiotherapy Staff at Seton Cancer Institute for their continued dedication and compassionate care to their cancer patients.

Much of these successes would not be possible without the tireless efforts and dedication of the skeletal framework upon which Cancer Programs are based on. I would like to recognize and give credit to where it is due. Our Research and Tumor Registry staffs have been the engines that have run our success story.

Clinical research in Oncology and Hematology at St. Mary’s of Michigan through the Michigan Cancer Research Consortium (MCRC) remains unrivaled in the region. The restructuring of Community Clinical Oncology Programs (CCOPs) into the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) brings home the availability of translational advances in cancer genomics and with the focus on tissue bio repository and banking is creating an enormous gene pool of resources. Gene sequencing studies are underway discovering newer pathways & targets and the pharmaceutical industry continues the parallel trend in developing newer targeted agents in cancer therapy. These novel advances and discoveries into the cancer cells mystery take us several steps ahead of schedule. But the reality of making these new anti-gene drugs available and affordable to our patients remain as the biggest obstacle we encounter. On the brighter side, MCRC became the recipient of 10 million dollars after scoring an unprecedented perfect score of 10 on its grants and contracts application process to the NCI. St. Mary’s of Michigan is the only MCRC site (out of 13 in-state and out-of-state members) to receive two (2) consecutive years of Silver Certificate Award of Recognition for outstanding accrual by an investigator/program. Thanks to the tireless efforts of my Research Nursing Staff, Lori A. Srebinski, LPN and Debra K. Sawicki, RN, BSN.
Our Tumor Registry has been in existence since 1981, the first in the region, and has received multiple levels of commendation through the years. I am proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of our Tumor Registry staff both in their responsibility to collect accurate data and statistics, facilitate weekly Multidisciplinary Tumor Board and quarterly Cancer Committee meetings, and ensure that the Cancer Program is meeting the Standards of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. The Tumor Registry has 27 years of combined experience in the field. Sheila Tolfree, RHIT, CTR has been in the Tumor Registry at St. Mary’s of Michigan for 13 years and has held multiple offices within the Michigan Cancer Registrars Association including Secretary, Treasurer, and President. Amy Salter, RHIT, CTR has been with the Tumor Registry for 10 years and has held the office of President within the Michigan Cancer Registrars Association. Angela Green, BS, CTR has been in the Registry for 3 years. And the newest member of our team, Jennifer Bader, BS, MT (ASCP) has been with us for 1 year.

Program Highlights:

- **Achievements / Accreditations:**
  - Accreditation as an *Academic Comprehensive Cancer Program* through the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) Commission on Cancer (CoC)
  - Accreditation through the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO). SMM offers state of the art radiation treatment including Tomotherapy and CyberKnife

- **CMU Medical Students:** Anticipate their arrival for clinical training later this year on the Saginaw campus

- **Director:** The cancer program continues to flourish under the guidance of Kathi Smith-Nowlin, Director of Cancer Care Services/SETON Cancer Institute

- **Education:** The 20th annual Fall Symposium featured “Breast Cancer” and was the largest symposium to date with 134 in attendance, featuring nationally and internationally known breast cancer panel of experts and was sponsored in partnership with the Institute for Medical Education

- **Inpatient Oncology:** 4 beds on 4-North have been redesigned for Medical Oncology patients with a conference/meditation room for patients and their families

- **Lung Cancer Center of Excellence:** The implementation of a Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Program started and patient volumes continue to grow
Program Highlights (continued):

- **Nurse Navigator**: Expansion of the Nurse Navigator role and responsibilities to include breast and lung cancer patients

- **Outpatient Oncology**: Implementation of ambulatory cancer care services including chemotherapy infusions and other related services at Towne Centre location

- **Palliative Care**: St. Mary’s of Michigan welcomed Joseph Chacko, NP, to the newly developed palliative care program

- **Newly employed physicians**:
  - Dr. Joseph Adel, Neurosurgery
  - Dr. Adebambo Kadri, Cardiothoracic Surgery
  - Dr. Shrinivas Kambali, Pulmonary
  - Dr. Mohd Kanjwal, Pulmonary
  - Dr. Asma Taj, Medical Oncology

- **Statistics**: In 2013, the Tumor Registry reviewed a total of 1,464 cases of cancer and benign tumors of the brain or central nervous system, of which 881 were analytic (diagnosed and/or treated at St. Mary’s of Michigan)

- **The top 5 cancer sites were (analytic cases)**:
  - Lung & Bronchus 22%
  - Breast 19%
  - Colorectal 8%
  - Prostate 8%
  - Bladder 7%
  - Other 36%

- **Tumor Conference**: In accordance with the ACoS and CoC standards, there has been continued growth in the number of analytic cases presented
Events of interest that St. Mary’s of Michigan participated in:

• Prostate Cancer Screening Clinic (A free prostate cancer screening clinic to help detect prostate cancer or abnormalities, held at the Saginaw Seton location with 161 participants)

• Look Good, Feel Better (Free program developed to help cancer patients learn how to cope with appearance-related side effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatments, sponsored by the American Cancer Society)

• Annual Cancer Survivors’ Day (A free event to celebrate survivorship in our community, provided in partnership with Covenant HealthCare, the American Cancer Society and Horizons Conference Center)

• Road to Recovery Discovery Session (A free event to describe the need for drivers who would be willing to transport patients to and from treatment (medical oncology, radiation oncology, other) sponsored by the American Cancer Society)

• A Game to Remember (A fundraiser sponsored by Saginaw Nouvel catholic High School at a football game)

• Camp Healing Hearts (A grief camp for children (and adults) who have lost a loved one. Held at the Saginaw Children’s Zoo at Celebration Square and Seton Cove; sponsored in partnership with Heartland Hospice and the Saginaw Children’s Zoo at Celebration Square)

• The Cancer Rainbow, Focusing on Lung and Breast Cancer (A free Lunch & Learn for the general public where we shared information on healthy lifestyles, groundbreaking procedures and tender care for patients and their families when cancer is a reality)

• Volley For a Cure (A fundraiser at a Saginaw Nouvel Catholic High School volleyball game where information was provided on breast cancer and healthy lifestyles with the teenager in mind)
Events of interest that St. Mary’s of Michigan participated in (continued):

- Pink-Out Hockey game (42 breast cancer survivors were honored at a Saginaw Spirit hockey game)

- *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* (Participants included survivors, care givers and anyone interested in the fight against breast cancer. $1322 was raised and donated to the American Cancer Society)

- Quit Tobacco Use / Smoking Cessation (A free informative evening on discontinuing the use of tobacco. Expert panelists included a cardiothoracic surgeon, a certified tobacco treatment specialist and a registered dietician. Additional vendors included an acupuncturist, a hypnotist and representatives from Pfizer, the American Cancer Society and one for electronic cigarettes)

- Surviving Life Retreat (Provided for cancer survivors, care givers or anyone seeking new ways to improve or create healthy behaviors; manage heart disease, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis or improve their overall mental health)