

## **The Head and Neck Cancer Program at Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care**

The Head and Neck Cancer Program at Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care pursues a threefold mission of providing the highest quality patient-centered and research-driven cancer care, conducting investigations to advance the field of head and neck cancer, and training the next generation of specialists.

### **Advanced Research Leads to Excellent Patient Care**

Our extensive research program means that we are aware of and most often initiate and participate in the most recent studies to understand the causes, diagnosis methods and treatment approaches for head and neck cancers. We also understand the changing landscape of head and neck cancer. Our pioneering treatment approaches are based on the most recent research findings.

Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care partners with the Albert Einstein Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute–designated cancer center in conducting trials, and also participates in trials sponsored by the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) and the AIDS Malignancy Clinical Trials Consortium (AMC).

Our large clinical trial portfolio enables us to give head and neck cancer patients access to the newest treatments, challenging the current standards of care, including new chemotherapeutic anticancer agents such as Reolysin®, which was initially studied in phase I and II clinical trials at Montefiore and is now the focus of a worldwide phase III trial. We are also involved in a phase III trial of a new agent (E7080, levantinib) for patients with thyroid cancer.

#### ***Current Clinical Research***

- The use of robotics in the management of head and neck cancer - looking at quality of life and outcomes.
- Clinical trial participation (ECOG) in a transoral surgery<sup>i</sup> with post-operative adjuvant therapy for HPV (human papilloma virus) positive oropharynx cancer.
- Bedside tracheotomy analysis.
- Airway predictors for thyroid disease.

#### ***Translational Research***

- We are developing a clinical trial for novel biomarkers<sup>ii</sup>-guided therapy for recurrent head and neck cancer
- Biomarker assessment for head and neck cancer.
- Molecular signatures for recurrent head and neck cancer.

#### ***Basic Research***

- Prognostic markers<sup>iii</sup> for head and neck cancer including methylation<sup>iv</sup>, cDNA arrays, proteomics, metabolomics, whole exome sequencing and others.

---

<sup>i</sup> Transoral surgery involves entering through the mouth rather than cutting open the neck or jaw, which speeds healing and reduces the risk of major complications.

<sup>ii</sup> Predictive biomarkers identify patients who are most likely to benefit from a particular therapy.

<sup>iii</sup> Prognostic markers can predict likely disease progression in untreated patients

“Cancer, in particular, is a model disease for applying such technologies to identify unique biosignatures and biomarkers responsible for the diagnosis, prognosis and therapeutic prediction of such disease. Biomarkers are biological molecules found in blood, other body fluids, or tissues that are a sign of a normal or abnormal process, or of a condition or disease. They may also be used to see how well the body responds to a treatment for a disease or condition. “

(National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health)

### **Head and Neck Cancer Program Leadership**

*Richard V. Smith, MD*

Director, Head and Neck Program, Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care  
Vice Chairman, Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, Montefiore Medical Center  
Professor, Otorhinolaryngology, Surgery and Pathology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Smith received the Byers Award for the best clinical research from the American Head and Neck Society in 2003, and a Presidential Citation from the Society in 2011. Dr. Smith serves on numerous regional and national society committees and boards. He is past President of the New York Head and Neck Society and of the New York Laryngological Society and Chair of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery’s Head and Neck Surgery Education Committee, and he also serves on the Robotic Surgery Task Force. He is also Chair of the Cancer Committee at Montefiore and is on the Executive Committee for Translational Research in the Albert Einstein Cancer Center.

Dr. Smith, who received his medical degree from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 1990, has published 60 original reports and 26 reviews, chapters, and invited papers, and he has co-edited two books: *Complications in Otolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery* and *The Larynx*. Dr. Smith has been listed in the *Best Doctors in America* and *Best Doctors in New York* (Castle Connolly Medical LTD) and was named a *Top Doctor: New York Metro Area* (*Consumers’ Guide to Top Doctors*). Dr. Smith trained in otolaryngology–head and neck surgery at Georgetown Hospital and School of Medicine in Washington, DC.