



Messino Cancer Centers Announces Partnership with Sarah Cannon Research Institute to Expand Patient Access to Community-Based Clinical Research

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Messino Cancer Centers to offer cutting-edge research to patients throughout Western North Carolina through new partnership

Asheville, N.C., Nov. 9, 2020, [Messino Cancer Centers](#) (MCC), a partner practice of [American Oncology Network, LLC](#) (AON), recently aligned with the [Sarah Cannon Research Institute](#), a global leader in offering community-based clinical trials.



Christopher Chay, MD
Medical Oncologist

MCC has partnered with Sarah Cannon Research Institute to expand access to cutting-edge cancer research through clinical trials for patients in the community. For over 30 years, the MCC physicians have been providing a full range of exceptional cancer care in the Western North Carolina region. MCC offers convenient access to comprehensive treatments and support services close to where the patient lives. Having in-house laboratory, pathology and oral pharmacy services all under one roof makes it easier for patients to receive the care they need in one location. Through the partnership with Sarah Cannon Research Institute, clinical trials will now be offered as part of MCC's oncology services at its Asheville, N.C. location.

MCC Medical Oncologist Dr. Christopher Chay said, "This collaboration with Sarah Cannon Research Institute will enhance medical oncology services for patients in Western North Carolina, serving many that live in rural areas. The partnership provides access to pioneering research close to the patient's home where, in many circumstances, would not otherwise be available. This really helps open up many different clinical trial opportunities right here in our practice where the patients are already receiving cancer care and treatment."

MCC medical oncologists serving patients in Asheville are Dr. Michael Messino, Dr. Charles Bryan, Dr. Shantae Lucas, Dr. Christopher Chay, Dr. Wieslawa Pekal, Dr. Mridu Chand, Dr. Mohan Thakuri, Dr. Martin Palmeri, Dr. Trevor Austin, Dr. Rachel Raab, Dr. Sean Warsch, Dr. Hiromi Terawaki, Dr. Andrew Beardsley and Dr. Brent Skiver. Providing personalized care in six convenient community locations, MCC also offers patients 24/7 care management services through their affiliation with AON.

AON is an alliance of physicians and seasoned healthcare leaders that provides a unique array of enhanced services to its affiliated community-based oncology practices. It consistently strives to find innovative ways to connect with patients. AON's community oncology model allows physicians to focus on what matters most — their patients.

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About Messino Cancer Centers: ([MessinoCancerCenters.com](https://www.MessinoCancerCenters.com))

Messino Cancer Centers (MCC) provides treatment for adult patients diagnosed with all types of cancer and blood disorders. We are experienced physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses and clinical support staff dedicated to providing the most advanced and innovative treatments of the highest quality. We work together as a team and recognize that each patient is not just a person with cancer, but a unique individual. Care is provided with the utmost concern and consideration of what is best for the whole person throughout their cancer journey.

MCC physicians provide state-of-the-art evidence-based medicine for patients, incorporating personalized medicine, standard and nationally accepted guidelines, and clinical trials. Through care management and dedicated oncology certified staff, we provide support for patients through all phases of their diagnosis and treatment. The physicians of MCC are grounded in the region of Western North Carolina and devoted to providing care to patients in their communities.

About American Oncology Network, LLC: (AONcology.com)

American Oncology Network, LLC (AON) is an alliance of physicians and seasoned healthcare leaders partnering to ensure the long-term success of community oncology. Launched in 2018, the rapidly growing AON network represents 88 physicians and 57 nurse practitioners and physician assistants practicing across 15 states. The executive management team of AON brings more than three decades of oncology practice management experience, enabling physicians to focus on what matters most – providing the highest quality care for patients.

The organization provides unique and comprehensive protocols for managing administrative procedures and enhancing ancillary services for its affiliates. AON is able to aggregate volume and attain economies of scale, as it guides its member physicians and practices through the transition to value-based reimbursement models that improve the patient experience and help to reduce the per-capita cost of cancer care.

AON also provides a unique model of physician led, community-based oncology management. With services such as a centralized specialty pharmacy, diagnostics, pathology, fully integrated electronic medical records, a care management team and a variety of financial assistance programs, an alliance with AON ensures that patients' experiences will be at the very pinnacle of cancer care today.

About Sarah Cannon Research Institute

Sarah Cannon Research Institute is the research arm of HCA Healthcare's global cancer institute, Sarah Cannon. Focused on advancing therapies for patients, it is one of the world's leading clinical research organizations conducting community-based clinical trials throughout the United States and United Kingdom. Sarah Cannon's network of strategic sites includes hundreds of physicians who engage in research. The organization has led more than 450 first-in-man clinical trials since its inception in 1993, and has been a clinical trial leader in the majority of approved cancer therapies over the last 10 years. Additionally, Sarah Cannon offers management, regulatory, and other research support services for drug development and industry sponsors as well as strategic investigator sites through its contract research organization (CRO), Sarah Cannon Development Innovations. For more information about Sarah Cannon and the latest news from across the network, visit <https://sarahcannon.com/about/newsroom/>.

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