

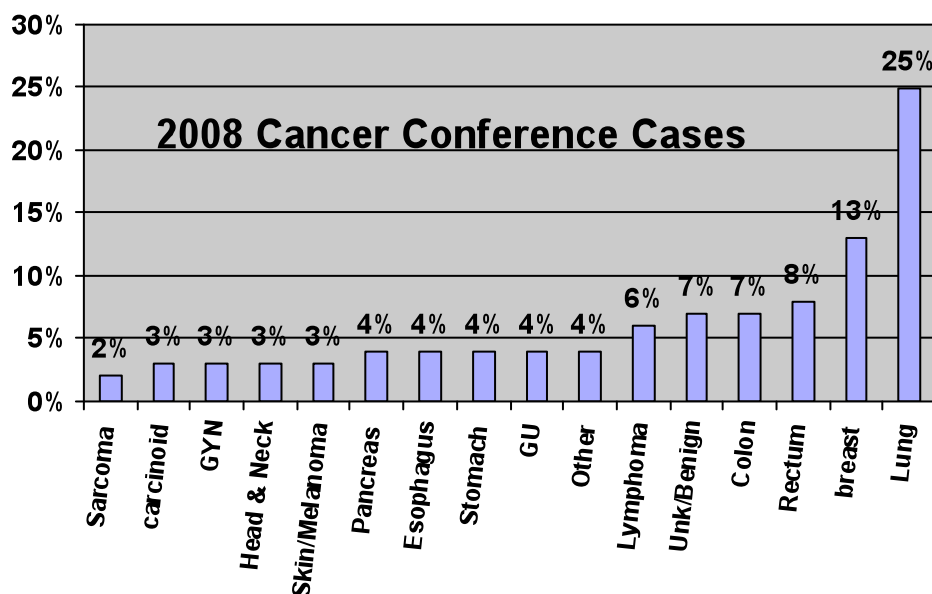
## 2009 Cancer Conference Report

**Cheryl Blalock, RN, CTR, Cancer Registrar**  
**Michael Spiritos, MD, Interim Cancer Committee Chairman**

Weekly educational cancer conferences are held at 7:00 a.m. every Friday morning at Duke Raleigh Hospital to facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to cancer diagnosis, staging, and treatment. The conference is attended by physicians representing general, oncologic, thoracic surgery, neurosurgery, medicine, pulmonology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, GYN oncology, diagnostic radiology, pathology and gastroenterology. Also included are representatives from nursing, palliative care, patient navigators, dietary, and genetic counseling. Occasionally, visiting physicians and specialists from area hospitals attend and present educational topics of interest. Cases for discussion can be scheduled by faxing a case presentation form to the cancer registry (secure fax # 862-5406) or calling 954-3090.

Each week, cases of various types of malignant diseases are selected for presentation on the basis of complexity, unusual manifestations of the disease, clinical course, or special interest. Occasionally, benign tumors of unusual pathology or clinical presentation will be discussed. Each presentation includes an outline of pertinent patient medical history, physical findings, clinical course, radiographic studies and pathological interpretations. Open discussion follows regarding treatment options, available clinical trials, and published literature or research pertinent to the case.

In 2008, a total of 48 conferences were held with 182 cases presented. Ninety-eight percent of the cases were prospective presentations, discussing diagnosis, treatment, or follow-up care. The average attendance per conference was 26 members. Surgery, diagnostic radiology, pathology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, and allied health disciplines all maintained 100% attendance. The major sites of presentation were lung, breast, lymphoma, rectum, and colon.



Tumor boards or cancer conferences maintain standards set by the Commission on Cancer (COC) and the ACOS (American College of Surgeons). Duke is a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, an alliance of 21 of the world's leading cancer centers, working together to develop treatment guidelines for most cancers and dedicated to research that improves the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of cancer care. At the Duke Raleigh conference, physicians discuss the clinical stage or "working stage" of the disease. and national

guidelines are used to direct their treatment decisions. The stage, guidelines, and treatment options discussed are documented and retained in the cancer registry department.

The overall goal of the conference is to offer patients the very best and most current therapy that medicine has to offer through the sharing of information and ideas in a confidential manner. To increase physician awareness of the most current standards of care for oncology patients, physicians attend national conferences and report changes in protocol or advances in diagnostics or therapeutics to the tumor board. It has been inspiring to watch our conference grow each year, and we anticipate continued growth and expansion for the future. We send a special thank you to all who participate in our conference and make it a wonderful venue for learning and collaboration.