

# A new way to study cancer

## Patients asked to donate tissue for research

**C**ancer patients now have a new way to help in the fight against cancer—including their own. Through a state-of-the-art research program known as Total Cancer Care, St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital patients who are undergoing procedures to diagnose cancer can elect to participate. This is in partnership with H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., which has developed a consortium of hospitals across the United States to enroll patients.

As an oncology patient who enrolls, you'll be eligible for any new therapies or studies resulting from these research efforts. At the same time, tissue acquired from you may help researchers develop treatment for other cancer patients.

St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital launched the program in June 2008. "This is the wave of the future of cancer research—tailoring therapies to each patient's specific tumor makeup," says Amy Starling, executive director of the oncology service line at the hospital. "This will be the next generation of cancer care, identifying why some patients respond

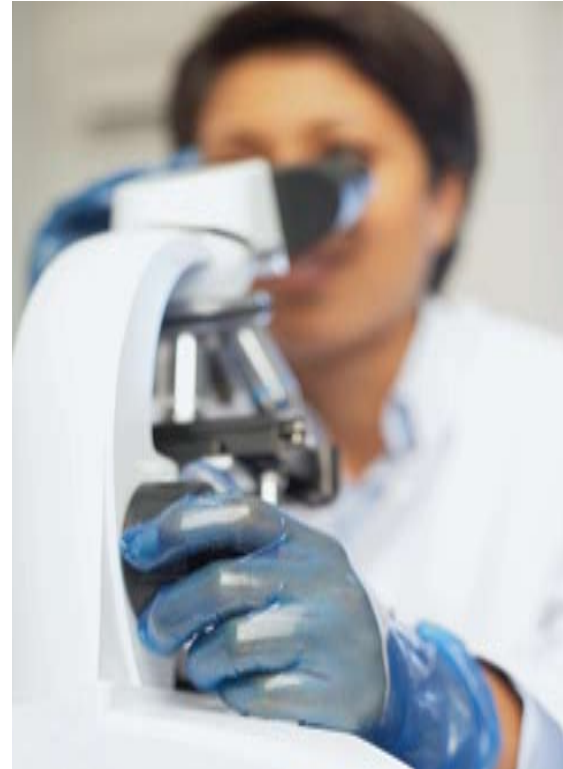
better to certain drugs and providing them with those therapies."

### The latest gene-based technology

Individual patients with the same kind of cancer don't always respond to standard treatment for that cancer in the same way. Only recently has technology advanced so that each tumor can now be tested for approximately 30,000 genes. These genes provide a molecular fingerprint unique to each tumor. By studying this fingerprint, scientists will eventually develop new drug therapies personalized for each individual.

St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital invites patients to enroll in the program, as the studies involve thousands of patients. The hope is that these studies will provide far-reaching access to the latest discoveries in lifesaving research. "This type of research requires many specimen samples. The greater the number of patients participating, the greater the number of specimens—and the sooner the research can be conducted," Starling explains.

There's no cost to participants, and the only time commitment is



about 30 minutes to complete a consent form. Some tissue removed during a biopsy or surgery is submitted for research, along with clinical data that are protected under federal privacy laws. If you change your mind after donating tissue, it will be removed from the research pool. ■



### Talk to us

For more information about participating in the study, contact the St. Vincent Center for Cancer Care at (317) 338-CARE (2273) or visit [cancer.stvincent.org](http://cancer.stvincent.org).