

Wilmot Cancer Institute has the only multidisciplinary breast team in Rochester, and research is at the heart of the care we provide. With the Comprehensive Breast Care Clinic at our Pluta Cancer Center campus, Wilmot brings a strong clinical trials infrastructure, expert pathology, a history of integrative oncology, advanced radiation therapy techniques—including prone breast radiation—and personalized survivorship care.

Wilmot has been granted a three-year/full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers—a program administered by the American College of Surgeons—and is the only breast center in the Rochester region to receive this accreditation. The designation is given to centers providing the highest level of quality breast care.



BATTLING BREAST CANCER WHILE PREGNANT

“To go through chemotherapy and cancer while you are pregnant and deliver a healthy child is nothing short of a miracle.” Heather Garigen had to endure this life-changing scenario at age 33 when it was discovered she had a rare, aggressive type of breast cancer.

Heather, and her husband, TJ, were looking forward to the birth of their third child when they received this disturbing news. “I went to the obstetrician for my first prenatal visit,” says Heather. “He found a lump in my breast. And it turned out to be cancer.” Her obstetrician referred her to the Wilmot Cancer Institute, and an appointment was set up for the next day with surgical oncologist Dr. Kristin Skinner. “Dr. Skinner was very straightforward with me,” says Heather. “She told me, ‘You don’t need to make a choice between your health and your baby. We can treat you. We’ve done it before.’”

A team of doctors—from surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, and high-risk obstetrics—created a plan to aggressively treat Heather’s cancer while protecting her unborn baby’s health. The first step was a lumpectomy. However, it was the next stage—chemotherapy—that created the greatest concerns for Heather. Fortunately, medical oncologist Dr. Alissa Huston had previous experience with treating cancer in

pregnant women. Heather’s chemotherapy regimen lasted 16 weeks, ending just one month before the birth of her baby.

Despite all the tests and assurances, Heather and TJ were nervous as they neared her due date. Heather was induced at Strong Memorial Hospital and there was a huge sense of relief when a healthy baby, Molly was born. After several weeks, Heather underwent the final stage of her cancer treatment—seven weeks of radiation therapy—before being able to finally focus on her family and her new baby.

Heather is now cancer-free. “For me, cancer has been a blessing. I look at my family in a whole new light now. It’s wonderful to have that appreciation for everything in life a little bit more.”



“We want to grow our breast cancer program to national prominence. To accomplish this, we will be recruiting clinical scientists to substantially increase our clinical trials portfolio, to allow a more rapid translation from the laboratory to the clinic. With the addition of these recruits, Rochester will become a destination for the most innovative clinical trials integrating exciting novel agents into the therapeutic paradigm.”

—Jonathan Friedberg, M.D., M.M.Sc.
Director, Wilmot Cancer Institute
Samuel E. Durand Professor of Medicine

How You Can Help Us in the Fight Against Breast Cancer

Wilmot Cancer Institute's plan is to elevate its breast cancer research program to a national level and be recognized for its translational as well as clinical research. We will recruit lead scientists to build clinical research leadership in medical and surgical oncology. This includes an established breast cancer investigator to focus on the underlying science of the disease, collaborate with the Wilmot Distinguished Professor in Cancer Genomics, and to bring those discoveries into the clinic.

Your generosity to support breast cancer research will serve as start-up capital to support the recruitment of these investigators as well as equipment and infrastructure for them to establish laboratories.

With your support, we will be able to:

- Expand the portfolio of breast cancer clinical trials to bring new treatments and technology to patients long before they are widely available.
- Discover and develop novel therapeutics.
- Offer new drug trials based on promising clinical data.
- Grow our capabilities in translational research, which provides avenues to bring therapies from the laboratory into the clinic to help breast cancer patients.



“Because of research, breast cancer care has improved so much and the effects of chemotherapy and radiation have become less debilitating. In order for treatments to continue improving, we need to support research.”

—Elaine Bucci, right, pictured with daughter-in-law Meghan Bucci, left, and husband, Joseph G. Bucci. The Buccis have committed \$1 million to support breast cancer research at the Wilmot Cancer Institute. Four members of their family, including Meghan, were treated for breast cancer at the same time.