



Banner Health News Center

Banner Health, M. D. Anderson announce cancer care facility for Arizona

PHOENIX (May 6, 2009) – Today Banner Health and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center announced they will create the M. D. Anderson Banner Cancer Center here. The initiative joins Arizona's leading provider of health care and the nation's leading cancer center to provide patients and their families with an unprecedented level of cancer care in Arizona.

Located at US 60 and Higley Road on the campus of Banner Gateway Medical Center, the [M. D. Anderson Banner Cancer Center](#) is scheduled to open late in 2011 and will be anchored by a 120,000 square-foot cancer outpatient center and supported by 76 patient beds on two floors inside of [Banner Gateway](#).

Services will include medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology, pathology, laboratory, diagnostic imaging, as well as other supportive clinical services. M. D. Anderson will have clinical oversight for all aspects of care delivery.

"This is a great day for all people in Arizona who are touched by cancer," said Banner Health President and CEO Peter S. Fine. "We are bringing patients and their families the latest in knowledge-based cancer care, guided by the top cancer center in the country – M. D. Anderson."

For more than 60 years, M. D. Anderson has devoted itself to eradicating cancer through patient care, research, education and prevention at its main campus in Houston, Texas. The renowned center treats more cancer patients, offers access to more therapeutic clinical research exploring novel treatments, and has more National Cancer Institute-funded studies than any other cancer-fighting organization in the U.S.

"We've made great strides in our understanding and ability to effectively treat cancer, however, with our aging population we must be prepared to help many more people fight this disease," said Thomas W. Burke, MD, executive vice president and Physician-in-Chief at M. D. Anderson. "The M. D. Anderson Banner Cancer Center is a key collaboration in a fast-growing area where we can truly make a difference with leading-edge therapies and prevention."

The anticipated groundbreaking for the M. D. Anderson Banner Cancer Center outpatient center is late 2009 or early 2010. The architectural firm for the project is Cannon Design and the general contractor is DPR Construction, Inc. The center will be modeled after M. D. Anderson's Houston outpatient clinics that feature individual areas for specific cancers. This center represents a \$90 million project that will be funded by nonprofit Banner Health through bonds.

Leading Together

The M. D. Anderson Banner Cancer Center represents M. D. Anderson's most comprehensive extension of its patient care outside of Houston. For Banner Health, the center is its largest collaboration.

Since the survey's inception, M. D. Anderson has consistently been recognized in the *US News & World Report* "Best Hospitals" survey as the nation's number one or two cancer hospital. This top recognition has been attained four out of the past six years, including the most recent 2008 survey.

Banner Health is one of the few hospital systems in the country that is far along in the implementation of digital health records into all of its hospitals. Banner Gateway already features an electronic medical records system and computerized physician order and entry systems. "We believe this capability will offer a strong foundation for excellent patient care in the M. D. Anderson Banner Cancer Center," said Fine.

About Banner Health

Headquartered in Phoenix, Banner Health is one of the largest, nonprofit health care systems in the country. The system owns or manages 22 acute-care hospitals, long-term care centers, outpatient surgery centers and an array of other services including family clinics, home care and hospice services, and a nursing registry. Banner Health is in seven states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming.

About M. D. Anderson

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston ranks as one of the world's most respected centers focused on cancer patient care, research, education and prevention. M. D. Anderson is one of only 40 comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute. For four of the past six years, including 2008, M. D. Anderson has ranked No. 1 in cancer care in "America's Best Hospitals," a survey published annually in *U.S. News & World Report*.

News

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