GEORGIA CANCER CENTER
AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

GCC's Pharmacogenomics Program may help reduce side effects from chemotherapy for some patients

CONTACT: Chris Mullooly, (706) 825-9804, cmullooly@augusta.edu

Augusta, GA (May 8, 2023) – The Georgia Cancer Center Pharmacogenomics Program (CaPP) has launched its pharmacogenomics testing services for Georgia Cancer Center patients and oncologists. Pharmacogenomics employs genetic sequence alterations in drug metabolism genes to predict toxicity.

These genetic tests are done to measure changes in genes that make proteins that metabolize common chemotherapy drugs. If a patient has a mutation in these genes, their metabolism will not handle the drug properly. This may cause the patient to become sick.

The program is co-led by Dr. Katherine Saunders-Wohlfrom in Oncology Pharmacy and Dr. John W Henson in the Hereditary Cancer Clinic.

“These tests can help people avoid severe toxicity from chemotherapy. We want to optimize treatment for patients who need a lower dose when they have any gene mutation,” said Henson.

The initial focus will be on patients with gastrointestinal cancers, in conjunction with Dr. Asha Nayak. Henson said this is where the biggest impact will come right away, and other service lines including breast cancer will benefit as more testing is done.

“This is a valuable message to the community,” said Henson. “CaPP services will include testing support, report interpretation, document management, clinician consultation and patient and family consultation.”

Henson also pointed out the help of Dr. Brandy D. Gunsolus in Clinical Laboratory Science was instrumental in developing the order process.

Download pictures of Dr. Henson, the Pharmacogenomics team and the CaPP banner here.

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The Georgia Cancer Center at Augusta University is dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer in Georgia and across the globe through superior care, innovation, and education. Through unprecedented expansion, the Georgia Cancer Center is providing access to more first-in-the-nation clinical trials, world-renowned experts and lifesaving options.