Under the bold vision of director Robert Winn, M.D., Massey Cancer Center is leading the way in women’s cancer research and innovation. Through the Women and Wellness initiative, Massey is making an impact on women’s health, having raised over $5 million in the past 27 years through comprehensive programs focused on holistic patient care, access to clinical trials and health equity impacting women.

Massey invites philanthropic partners to join us as a champion of women’s health as a Women and Wellness partner in support of the Women’s Health Initiative for Clinical Trials at Massey.

Philanthropic support will advance the innovative work of Massey researchers and physician-scientists, many of whom are outstanding women in their fields, to increase our clinical trials including for women’s cancers, expand integrative health and survivorship programs and increase access to high-quality cancer care for all members of our community.

YOUR INVESTMENT in women’s health and clinical trials at Massey will:

- Increase number of clinical trials and patient access to clinical trials at Massey, including for breast, cervical, ovarian and other cancers affecting women.
- Enhance community engagement to increase cancer awareness and address disparities in our communities, which include 57% of Virginia’s minority population.
- Increase access to early cancer screenings and prevention strategies.
- Provide patients with promising new therapies before they are more widely available.
- Enrich Massey’s Integrative Health, Survivorship and Health Disparities programs to assist women at all stages of their disease.
- Support Massey’s quest to become a NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center by 2023.

Massey’s goal is to increase the number of active clinical trials to 400 each year. This is a critical part of Massey’s quest to become a NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2023.

As a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center in the top 4% of all cancer centers in the United States, Massey receives NCI funding to conduct research and clinical trials as a leader in the nation’s fight against cancer.

SOURCE: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (ACS) | MASSEY OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY AND DISPARITIES RESEARCH
Dr. Sheppard is conducting a clinical trial to examine adherence to breast surveillance guidelines among breast cancer survivors. She is also conducting a study on improving uptake of genetic cancer risk assessment in African American women. As Associate Director, Community Outreach Engagement and Health Disparities, Sheppard is committed to addressing health disparities across all cancer, including women’s cancers.

The cancer survival rate in the U.S. increased by 29% from 1991 to 2017. Early detection and new treatments are critical to improving cancer outcomes.

Black women have a 13% higher mortality rate from cancer (and 41% higher for breast cancer) than white women, despite a 7% lower rate of diagnosis.

37% of Massey patients are underrepresented minorities.

Philanthropic support for the women’s health initiative and clinical trials at Massey will support the following and other research initiatives and make a positive impact on women’s health and equality.

**Breast**

**Mary Helen Hackney, M.D.**
Medical Director of Community Oncology

Dr. Hackney is leading the *Breast Cancer Weight Loss (BWEL)* study, examining the impact of weight loss on preventing breast cancer recurrence, this clinical study tracks activity and weight loss among patients for 10 years. Still enrolling women participants, the study’s outcomes could affect standard treatment for breast cancer.

**Breast Surgery**

**Kandace McGuire, M.D.**
Chief of Breast Surgery

McGuire is leading a *Comparison of Operative to Monitoring and Endocrine Therapy (COMET)* study at Massey. COMET is a national clinical study exploring a possible change in standard care for women with a ductal carcinoma in situ (or DCIS) discovered during a mammogram, but with a low risk for developing invasive breast cancer. The study is enrolling 1,200 women nationwide, including patients at Massey.

**Cervical and Ovarian**

**Leslie Randall, M.D.**
Director of Gynecologic Oncology

As the cervical cancer clinical trials advisor for the national Gynecologic Oncology Group Foundation Partners Leadership Committee, Dr. Randall regularly conducts *cervical and ovarian cancer trials*. One current study on immunotherapy for cervical cancer explores its use before and after radiation as a way to prevent recurrence, and another, as treatment for women whose metastatic cancer has spread or have a recurrence following surgery or radiation.

**Breast and Integrative Health**

**Masey Ross, M.D.**
Medical Director of Clinical Research Affiliations
Director of Integrative Health

The statewide *Clinical Research Affiliate Network* headed up by Ross seeks to expand patient access to the latest therapies, medical devices and prevention methods obtained through clinical trials. As part of the *Breast Cancer High Risk Clinic*, Ross is also dedicated to fighting breast cancer for all women, including those at higher risk for early onset or invasive breast cancer based on family history or genetic testing.

**Breast and Health Disparities**

**Vanessa Sheppard, M.D.**
Associate Director of the Office of Health Equity and Disparities Research

Breast Cancer Adherence - Dr. Sheppard is conducting a clinical trial to examine adherence to breast surveillance guidelines among breast cancer survivors. She is also conducting a study on improving uptake of genetic cancer risk assessment in African American women. As Associate Director, Community Outreach Engagement and Health Disparities, Sheppard is committed to addressing health disparities across all cancer, including women’s cancers.

"Although you may have cancer, cancer does not have you. It is the job of every person at Massey to ensure that every woman, every patient and their families, are able to live their best lives with cancer, and in many cases, well beyond cancer."

- Kandace McGuire, M.D., Chief of Breast Surgery, VCU Massey Cancer Center