

The Roundtable

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Bangor Area Rotary Club Breakfast

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Cancer. And Caring.

Living in Maine, and particularly in the Bangor region, has a strong medical benefit. Dr. Rodrigo Maegawa, appointed three months ago as the new medical director of Eastern Maine Medical Center Cancer Care, gave us a PowerPoint tour of the facility's location and its services. **Tom Violette** introduced him at today's meeting

The extensive services include hematology, medical oncology and radiation oncology. The center added pediatric oncology recently.

EMMC is the only Maine hospital to have a collaboration agreement with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute that gives EMMC physicians a team approach to treatments and cures. Cancer Care patients can get priority appointments at Dana-Farber within two business days.

Patient and family support is a critical component of Cancer Care's services. These include a Patient Navigator to help patients and their families negotiate paperwork and answer questions such as "where do I go now?"

Dr. Maegawa said that Dr. Tom Openshaw leads the clinical research work of the center, and they offer sixty clinical trials to patients. The center is a member of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology.

Recent research shows that there are specific genes that can be altered. "Once we discover the patterns, care can get started sooner. It's more of a holistic approach," Dr. Maegawa said.

What causes cancer? Dr. Maegawa said smoking and alcohol contribute, "but there are people who drink and smoke for years and never get cancer. And not all lung cancers are caused by that. Viruses can contribute.



Dr. Maegawa and Caroline King

The cost for cancer care is a major concern. “We don’t turn away anyone because of their ability to pay,” Dr. Maegawa added. He cited one cancer requiring a treatment costing \$475,000. “But it needs only one treatment.”

“Our practice is invested in the care for our patients,” he said. “We offer also the benefits of a small community.”

Omelets, Oatmeal, Other Opportunities

Caroline King served as President *du jour*. She said she was going to run the meeting the way she wanted. That was fine, until she discovered there was no bell. Later she tried to move the Joker’s Wild drawing before the Happy/Sad Dollar event, but The Desk reminded her that money from those dollars is folded into the Joker’s Wild cache. The potholes in the agenda got filled just fine.

Kristy Kimball’s Challenge for Charities Fundraiser meeting is February 28 at 7:05 am at Dysart’s on Broadway - 7:05 am, promptly. **Lisa Wahlstrom** promoted the business card ads for the *All That Jazz* program booklet. **Ken Huhn** is handling the larger ads. He said also that there is a membership seminar in Waterville this Saturday. He plans to attend, and will welcome company. Contact him for details.

Lisa is happy about the success of the women’s cross-country Olympic team, and a Happy \$ came forth for the beauty of this morning’s sunrise.

Les Myers- February 22, 2018



Breakfast, coming and going



6:20 am, Thursday, February 22, 2018