

Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center  
55 Fruit Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(877) 726-5130  
[www.massgeneral.org/cancer](http://www.massgeneral.org/cancer)

## DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

The Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center is conveniently located in downtown Boston, and it is accessible by automobile and public transportation. For driving, parking and public transportation details, call (617) 724-1666 or visit [www.massgeneral.org/cancer](http://www.massgeneral.org/cancer)

*Cover Art from Illuminations:  
Glorious Morning — Jeanne Nevard*

*As a three year ovarian cancer survivor,  
I am extremely fortunate to experience life  
in a full and healthy way.*

*I love to elevate the commonplace object  
into a memorable image - portraying unique  
viewpoints that invite the viewer to linger  
and to use one's imagination.*

## CENTER FOR CANCER RISK ANALYSIS

*...genetic counseling, testing and support  
for individuals and families*



Jeanne Nevard "Glorious Morning"

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL  
CANCER CENTER<sup>SM</sup>



**NCI**  
**CCC** DANA-FARBER/HARVARD CANCER CENTER  
A Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Designated by the National Cancer Institute

DANA-FARBER / PARTNERS CANCER CARE



## THE CENTER FOR CANCER RISK ANALYSIS

We live in a time of growing insight into the role of genes in our health. New information about genes is helping medical professionals and their patients plan and manage life-long care and prevention.

Helping you uncover and understand this important genetic information is the mission of the genetic counselors, physicians, and other staff of the Center for Cancer Risk Analysis (CCRA) at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. We combine knowledge gained through cutting edge genetic research with comprehensive, compassionate counseling for individuals and families.

## WHY SEEK GENETIC COUNSELING?

Approximately one in three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in his or her lifetime. Often, the reason cancer develops is unknown, or it may be caused by a combination of factors, including environmental exposures or lifestyle. But for 5 to 10 percent of individuals with cancer, the disease has a hereditary component, meaning that genetic patterns inherited from parents may influence cancer risk.

You may be considering genetic counseling because:

- You have already had cancer and you are concerned about the risk of additional cancers for yourself and other family members, such as children or siblings;
- A close family member or several members of your family have had cancer and you want to determine if your own risk is elevated;
- You have another medical condition that may increase your risk for cancer, for example, some people who have benign (non-cancerous) polyps in the colon may have an elevated risk for colon cancer.

Although research advances continually identify new areas that could benefit from genetic counseling and testing, the CCRA currently has clinics for these cancers or syndromes:

- Breast/ovarian cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Colon, rectal, pancreatic, gastric cancer
- Melanoma (skin cancer)
- Colon polyp syndromes (FAP/HNPCC/Lynch)
- Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS)
- Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease
- Cowden syndrome
- Other cancers/syndromes

Whatever your concern or type of cancer, the CCRA staff will work with you to determine the significance of your genetic information. To find out more about the diseases listed above, visit [www.massgeneral.org/cancer](http://www.massgeneral.org/cancer).

## WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH GENETIC INFORMATION?

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While it is true that you cannot change the genes you inherit, there are many ways genetic information may benefit you:

- Determining your risk of future cancer in order to provide appropriate screening, medication, surgery, etc.
- In some cases, determining the best course of treatment for a recent cancer diagnosis
- Understanding the causes of cancer in the family and determining your family members' risk of cancer

## CONFIDENTIALITY AND GENETIC TESTING

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You may have heard or read about concerns that health insurers, employers, or other organizations could use genetic information to discriminate against you or deny you benefits. Rest assured that any information obtained through your contact with the CCRA will be kept confidential as any medical record would. Your genetic counselor is a ready resource of information about confidentiality and the specifics on current state and federal legislation regarding genetic privacy protection.

## YOUR CCRA TEAM

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The Center for Cancer Risk Analysis is led by Daniel A. Haber, MD, PhD, and staffed by genetic counselors as well as specialized physicians, in some cases.

CCRA Genetic Counselors have expertise in translating complex scientific and emotional topics into understandable terms to help you make the most appropriate decisions about your health care and wellness.

In some cases, cancer specialists in oncology and other areas may be part of your CCRA team. Additional support to deal with family, societal or other emotional concerns, is available through mental health professionals experienced in genetic concerns.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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We welcome questions from anyone who is concerned about genetics and health. Please call us for more information or to set up an initial appointment.

### Center for Cancer Risk Analysis

Zero Emerson Place, Suite 104

Boston, MA 02114

Phone: (617) 724-1971 Fax: (617) 726-9418

For more information, visit  
[www.massgeneral.org/cancer/cancer\\_risk\\_analysis\\_home.htm](http://www.massgeneral.org/cancer/cancer_risk_analysis_home.htm)

## WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT CANCER

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The Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center is a founding member of the Dana-Farber/Partners CancerCare, a collaboration in adult oncology between Massachusetts General Hospital, the Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Together the institutions form the largest system for cancer care and research in the United States. All three are affiliated with Harvard Medical School and are founding members of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC).

The DF/HCC, which is a designated Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute, is the largest collaborative effort in the world against cancer. Hundreds of physicians and scientists, who are able to easily interact and exchange information, are working together to control and combat cancer through accelerating research in order to increase the speed with which new therapies become available to patients and those at risk.

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