

THE MONITOR



Doctors Hospital opens new cancer center

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EDINBURG — Cancer knows no boundaries.

Its effects spread throughout communities, taking lives and draining economies of money for medical treatment.

Leaders at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance said they hope their new cancer center will

Dignitaries attend a ribbon cutting Wednesday in front of the new Cancer Center at Renaissance in Edinburg.

Joel Martinez/The Monitor

ceremony and reception Wednesday that included speeches from the mayors of Edinburg and McAllen, state Rep. Veronica Gonzalez, D-McAllen, as well as members of the hospital's board of managers.

The 54,000-square-foot center includes two linear accelerators, 30 infusion treatment stations, a positron

help stop the disease and improve the area's quality of life.

The doctor-owned-and-managed hospital unveiled its new cancer center with a

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emission tomography (PET CT) scanner and a 16-slice computerized tomography (CT) scanner.

The cancer center is part of an ongoing expansion project that includes a women's hospital, behavioral health center and administration building.

The project is estimated at \$75 million and is expected to bring in \$1.85 million in tax revenue. It also plans to provide 1,500 new jobs, according to a news release the hospital issued.

Everyone who spoke at the ceremony stressed how important it is to continue battling the disease with medical technology, legislation and community support.

"Cancer is terror. It is physically, psychologically, economically exhausting. But with this facility we have a weapon that helps the afflicted with that problem," said hospital CEO Dr. Lawrence Gelman.

Gonzalez said that cancer kills one in four Texas residents and 85,000 residents are diagnosed with the disease each year. Cancer costs taxpayers \$30 billion.

But she's hoping that will change with legislation she and other local representatives co-sponsored that would bring \$3 billion to Texas over 10 years for cancer research. Voters will have the opportunity to vote on that legislation, which would be a constitutional amendment, in November.

Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance has undergone about 10 expansion projects since it opened in 1997.

The four-story, medical office building is complete and already has staff working there.

The 200,000-square-foot women's hospital — which includes 48 post-partum beds,

55 neonatal beds, seven Caesarian section operating rooms and 24 gynecological operating rooms — is expected to be completed by September.

The 80-bed behavioral health hospital should be finished by mid-November and will provide inpatient and outpatient psychiatric programs for adults and children.

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