

# Montefiore

Montefiore Einstein  
Center for Cancer Care

## Breast Cancer Program

The right oncologic specialists.  
The right multidisciplinary approach.



# What defines “premier” breast cancer care?

Oncologic experts agree on a few crucial features that characterize great breast cancer care. A world-class breast oncology program provides:

- Expert, subspecialized oncologic care from fellowship-trained physicians
- Collaborative multidisciplinary care that is seamlessly coordinated
- Novel therapeutics and National Cancer Institute (NCI)-supported clinical trials
- The latest diagnostic and therapeutic technologies—and staff trained to make the most of them
- Nurses dedicated to the practice of breast cancer treatment
- A patient navigator who facilitates the patient’s experience
- Higher levels of expertise that come from treating a large number of patients with a wide range of cancer presentations
- Compassionate support services that address the patient as a whole

The Breast Cancer Program of the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care offers this and much more in its beautiful, new, 8,200-square-foot outpatient facility. Patients can consult with our entire team of breast cancer specialists, which includes surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, radiologists and reconstructive plastic surgeons.

## **She talks tough. But your patient is scared to death.**

Your patient may put up a stoic front, but you know better. She's overwhelmed: work, family, community responsibilities. And now... a cancer diagnosis.

That's why we've designed our program to guide and support your patient every step of the way, from diagnostics to therapy, postoperative care and emotional support.

## **Patient care begins *before* her first visit.**

Cancer is a disease in which time matters. We begin coordinating your patient's care *before* her first consult. Our patient navigator gathers key documentation, orders necessary tests and ensures our team has *all* the information needed to best serve your patient when she arrives.

## **Every visit advances your patient's treatment.**

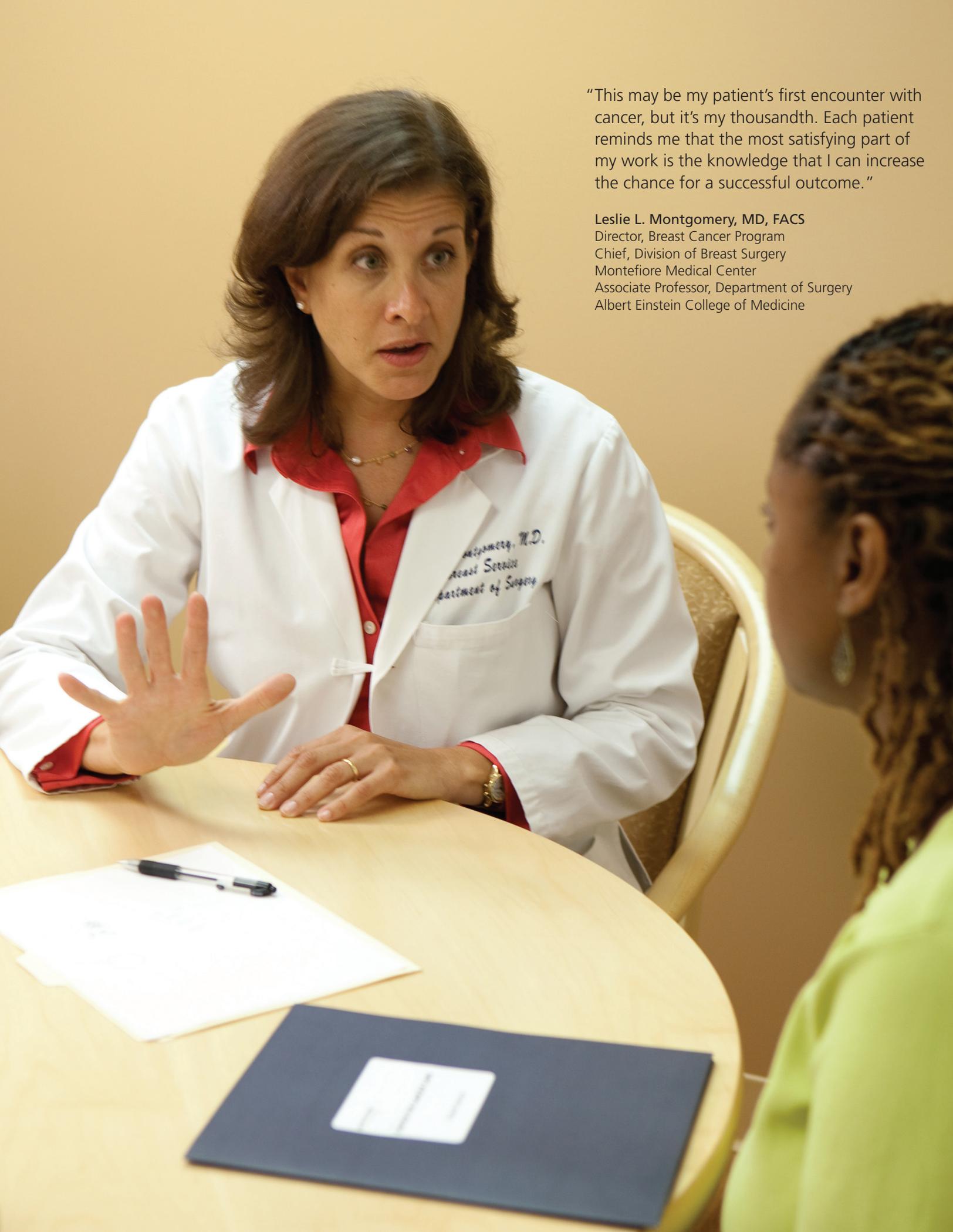
Our goal is for your patient to walk out of her first consult—and every visit—with the facts, figures, action plan and support she needs to make decisions and take next steps.

## **Patients have access to comprehensive support services.**

We provide an array of services to support your patient and her family:

- Emotional and social support from an oncologic social worker, psychologist and psychiatrist
- Individual and group counseling
- Nutritional counseling
- Financial planning
- Pain and palliative care services
- Lymphedema consulting
- Complementary services, such as massage, Reiki, meditation, yoga and more
- Breast Oncology Living Daily (BOLD) survivorship program
- In It Together Fund—women helping women after reconstructive surgery





“This may be my patient’s first encounter with cancer, but it’s my thousandth. Each patient reminds me that the most satisfying part of my work is the knowledge that I can increase the chance for a successful outcome.”

**Leslie L. Montgomery, MD, FACS**  
Director, Breast Cancer Program  
Chief, Division of Breast Surgery  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Associate Professor, Department of Surgery  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

# Our Breast Cancer Program physicians, experts in their specialties, collaborate to customize your patient's care.

## Diagnostics

Fast, accurate radiology gets your patient immediate answers. Your patient sees expert fellowship-trained mammographers who review tens of thousands of images each year.

## We offer the latest breast imaging technology.

Our mammography specialists use the most advanced technology:

- GE digital units and high-resolution ultrasound at all diagnostic sites
- Stereotactic core biopsy tables for image-guided biopsies
- Suros vacuum-assisted biopsy devices to reduce the number of needle insertions
- 1.5 and 3 Tesla MRI magnets with dedicated breast coils that detail breast lesion characteristics, as well as MRI-compatible biopsy devices

"We see the person behind the images and treat each patient as an individual. Every cancer patient consults with one of our breast imaging specialists on the day of her mammography study, leaving our department with a clear understanding of the imaging findings."

**Tova C. Koenigsberg, MD**  
Chief, Division of Breast Imaging  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine



# Surgical Oncology

Our breast cancer surgeons are among the most experienced in the world. Surgery is often the first therapy for patients with breast cancer. Our breast cancer surgeons work closely with their colleagues in radiology, pathology, radiation oncology, plastic surgery and medical oncology to customize treatment that includes these latest surgical techniques:

- Breast conservation surgery (“lumpectomy”) with oncoplastic reconstruction
- Skin-sparing and nipple-sparing mastectomy
- Sentinel lymph node biopsy

## **Immediate breast reconstruction: Yes we can.**

Breast reconstructive surgery is almost always an option for patients undergoing mastectomy. Yet many patients—especially women of color and economically disadvantaged women—are left uninformed of this treatment.

At the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care Breast Cancer Program, we always inform our patients.

Our surgeons are also women’s health advocates: Evan Garfein, MD, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Montefiore, recently authored state legislation to ensure breast reconstructive rights for every woman in New York State.

Our surgeons discuss breast reconstruction with *all* mastectomy patients. We offer a number of advanced reconstructive therapies that dramatically enhance your patient’s quality of life and well-being:

- Autologous tissue reconstruction
- Tissue expander and implant reconstruction





## What determines our therapeutic approach?

Breast cancer is not a *single* disease—it encompasses a range of pathologies. In tailoring therapeutic options for your patient, Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care Breast Cancer Program physicians consider many factors.

### Biology of breast cancer

Hormones and other growth factors that fuel tumor growth categorize your patient's breast cancer. The tumor may be characterized by:

- Estrogen and/or progesterone hormone receptor expression (positive or negative)
- HER2/neu expression (positive or negative)

This critical information is used to determine whether patients may benefit from hormonal therapy (if the tumor is hormone receptor positive) or treatments directed at HER2 such as Herceptin, Tykerb or other drugs (if the tumor is HER2/neu positive).

### Cancer invasiveness

The Breast Cancer Program team determines whether your patient's tumor is noninvasive—limited to its place of origin—or invasive, with cancer cells having spread to surrounding areas.

### Tumor characteristics

Our pathologists assess:

- Tumor size
- Presence or absence of spread to regional lymph nodes
- Hormone receptor and HER2/neu expression

### Other factors

When planning treatment, our multidisciplinary team factors in your patient's age and other relevant demographics, as well as home, work and personal issues that affect her therapy.

# Medical Oncology

The right systemic therapy for the right patient—at the right time. The Breast Cancer Program's medical oncology team customizes therapies as unique as your patient. Our physicians include some of the country's leading clinicians and researchers.

## Scores of innovative clinical trials are available to your patient.

Our clinical research program gives your patient access to an average of 20-25 ongoing trials at any given time, which are often developed by our own faculty and sponsored by the NCI or the pharmaceutical industry.

## Translational research speeds promising therapies to your patient.

Clinicians and scientists partner at the NCI-designated Albert Einstein Cancer Center to advance a wide range of multi-site investigations:

- Molecular characterization of the tumor to individualize treatment
- Testing of the newest and most innovative anticancer agents
- Evaluation of strategies to reduce side effects





"A large part of our mission is to develop the treatments of tomorrow *today*."

**Joseph A. Sparano, MD**  
Chief, Section of Breast Medical Oncology  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Director, Albert Einstein Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office  
Professor, Departments of Medicine & Women's Health  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

# Radiation Oncology

Breakthrough radiation oncology cuts your patient's therapy time in half. Is six weeks of radiation therapy unrealistic for your patient? Our specialists tailor treatments that offer superior therapeutic results—often in half the time. Many selected patients are able to complete radiotherapy in as little as *five days*.

## Give your patient the advantage of *dedicated breast radiotherapy*.

Breast cancer treatment is complicated by the structure of the breast itself and breast tissue's irregular shape and contours. That's why your patient benefits from radiation oncologists dedicated to breast disease.

Our radiation oncology subspecialists provide:

### Clinical expertise

Among the most experienced radiation oncologists in the country, our specialists manage care for hundreds of women with complex breast disease.

### Full range of technological advances

On-site radiation suites are equipped with the most advanced radiotherapeutic technology in the world, handled by trained and experienced professionals.

### Unhurried consultations

Our physicians take the time to explain treatment options—and discuss potential advantages and disadvantages of these therapies in detail—so your patient can make the most informed treatment choice.

### Innovative tissue-sparing therapies

The radiation oncologists of the Breast Cancer Program offer a variety of breast radiation therapies, including:

- Prone-positioned CT planning that increases the precision of image guidance and spares exposure of healthy chest, heart and lung tissue
- Partial breast irradiation—using pinpointed external beam or brachytherapy radiation, which cuts treatment time in half
- Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), hypofractionated irradiation treatments and other radiotherapy advances



"We are committed to uniting outstanding clinical expertise and research in breast radiotherapy with a holistic patient-focused approach."

Jana L. Fox, MD

Attending Physician, Department of Radiation Oncology  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine



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# Meet Our Leadership Team



## **Leslie L. Montgomery, MD, FACS**

Director, Breast Cancer Program, and Chief, Division of Breast Surgery, Montefiore Medical Center  
Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Montgomery is an internationally recognized surgical oncologist specializing in breast cancer. Recruited to lead the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care Breast Cancer Program, Dr. Montgomery formerly directed the Special Surveillance Breast Program and was the program director for the Breast Surgical Oncology Breast Fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. After graduating from Stanford University, she completed her training at University of California–San Francisco School of Medicine. She did her residency in general surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and fellowships at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where she was an attending breast surgeon for 11 years. In addition to her busy surgical practice, Dr. Montgomery conducts clinical research and publishes regularly in peer-reviewed journals.



## **Joseph A. Sparano, MD, FACP**

Chief, Section of Breast Medical Oncology, Montefiore Medical Center  
Director, Albert Einstein Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office  
Professor, Departments of Medicine & Women’s Health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Sparano brings dual expertise in medical oncology and the application of laboratory science to clinical practice. His primary area of expertise is applying personalized medicine to everyday clinical care by evaluating the most modern and innovative treatment approaches, integrating them with standard treatments and developing diagnostic tests to identify who benefits from those therapies. He is a graduate of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at the City College of New York. Dr. Sparano completed his oncology training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore and has remained on the faculty since that time. He has published and lectured extensively and serves in leadership positions in several cancer research organizations, including the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, the New York Cancer Consortium and the National Cancer Institute Breast Cancer Steering Committee.



## **Jana L. Fox, MD**

Attending Physician, Department of Radiation Oncology, Montefiore Medical Center  
Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Fox is a board-certified radiation oncologist trained in stereotactic radiosurgery. Before joining Montefiore, she served as an attending physician at North Shore–Long Island Jewish Health System. Dr. Fox graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and she completed her medical training at SUNY Stony Brook as well as an internship at Emory University Hospital. Prior to her residency in radiation oncology at Johns Hopkins University, where she served as chief resident, Dr. Fox completed a research fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.



## **Teresa Benacquista, MD**

Attending Surgeon, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Montefiore Medical Center  
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Benacquista is a board-certified cosmetic and reconstructive surgeon who is trained in microsurgery and free flap reconstruction—transplanting tissue from one area to another. She joined Montefiore in 1994 as an Attending Surgeon in the Department of Surgery. After earning her medical degree at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Benacquista completed a residency in general surgery at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and another residency in plastic surgery at Montefiore. She continued her training with a fellowship in microsurgery at New York University’s Langone Medical Center.



## **Tova C. Koenigsberg, MD**

Chief, Division of Breast Imaging, Montefiore Medical Center  
Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Koenigsberg is one of the country’s leading radiologists with special expertise in breast imaging. She graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and then served as chief resident of radiology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, where she also completed a fellowship in women’s imaging. Published in a number of peer-reviewed journals, Dr. Koenigsberg is a sought-after guest lecturer and breast imaging consultant.

Your patient's physicians and treatment team play a decisive role in her therapeutic success. With our Breast Cancer Program team, you're assured of expert care from the most experienced and caring specialists.



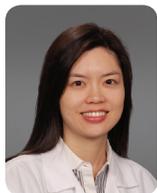
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Oncology Patient Navigator  
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**Arlene Miller Wilkerson, RN**

Outpatient Staff Nurse  
Montefiore Medical Center



**Marjorie Merchant, RN**

Patient Care Coordinator  
Montefiore Medical Center



## Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care

Breast Cancer Program  
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### Find out more about breast cancer care.

To learn more about breast cancer care for your patients at Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care, please visit our website at [www.montefiore.org/breastcancer](http://www.montefiore.org/breastcancer)

To refer a patient, please call 718-862-8840.