



An Army of Care — Right Here

When Melody became too busy with work to remember her annual mammogram, she got a call. It was Marlborough Hospital contacting her to follow up, and they scheduled her for the test within a couple of days.

Like all of the other times she'd had a mammogram, Melody figured everything was okay.

But it was not okay.

"I was called to come in for a follow up as soon as possible," she said. "That same day, I had an ultrasound and core biopsy. Dr. Ronald Garrell (radiologist) was honest and forthright, but gentle in his delivery of bad news: breast cancer. I called my family, while the doctor and technician gave me a lot of TLC."

Dr. Sarika Aggarwal, Melody's primary care physician, called within minutes, explaining that she'd scheduled an appointment for her to see a surgeon. Melody was impressed by the fast communication between her radiologist and primary care doctor.

"What scares women is waiting and uncertainty. Your mind goes to the worst case scenario," explained Melody. "But I was reassured immediately that an army would be taking care of me. They cleared up any moments of despair. I knew I didn't have to go through this alone."

That's because at UMass Memorial Health Care Cancer Center of Excellence, Melody is an active member in her own health care team — *and in the decision-making process*. This gives her hope at a time when she refuses to feel like a victim.

With just two more infusion treatments to go, Melody feels "really well" today "thanks to the amazing staff at UMass Memorial," she said. She's been taking a targeted therapy to help stop production of signals that prompt the cancer to grow quickly.

"I wouldn't go anywhere else," she said. "If you can have the same level of care locally as is provided in Boston, it's a no brainer. At UMass Memorial, they treat the person not just the disease."

The care Melody describes defines the meaning of the highest quality care — the kind of care you'd want for yourself or a loved one. And it's all right here in Central Massachusetts. You can help support care like this by participating in the [2011 UMass Medicine Cancer Walk](#). This annual event helps raise funds that are critically needed for groundbreaking treatment and research to ultimately find a cure. Make a difference by signing up today! Then strive to raise as much as possible toward research that one day may help someone you love to survive.