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WVU Health System builds out cancer institute

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Albert Wright Jr., president and CEO, WVU Health System
 WVU HEALTH SYSTEM

By Paul J. Gough - Reporter, Pittsburgh Business Times
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WVU Health System continues to make strides toward improving its cancer institute fueled by \$50 million in funding from the state and its plans to be certified by the National Cancer Institute.

It announced two departments, a Department of Hematology and Oncology and a Department of Cancer Prevention and Control. It hired medical oncologist Dr. Ashkan Emadi away from the University of Maryland to become the inaugural chair of the Department of Hematology and Oncology and he'll also be medical oncology physician-in-chief and Alexander B. Osborn Distinguished Professor in Hematological Malignancies Research.

He'll lead a department that will be based in Morgantown and have providers at 15 WVU Cancer Institute sites.

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The second department, Cancer Prevention and Control, will be a retooling of the Cancer Prevention and Control program that already exists. Stephenie Kennedy-Rea will be inaugural chair; she has led that program since 2012.

"The Department of Cancer Prevention and Control will work to improve cancer outcomes by focusing on cancer etiology and risks, community engagement and outreach, rural health and cancer health communications, outcomes and survivorship," Kennedy-Rea said.

Last year, West Virginia had set aside \$50 million for the improvement of cancer care in the state. WVU Health System President and CEO Albert L. Wright Jr. said the funding quickens the ability of the institute to grow.

"These funds will help us build a world-class Cancer Institute, attract top talent to it and obtain NCI designation," Wright said.

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