

Cancer Institute Awarded Grant to Support Phase 1 Clinical Trials Unit

The Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital has been awarded a \$66,634 grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) in support of the Cancer Innovation Treatment Unit currently being built.

When the state-of-the-art six-patient unit opens this summer, cancer patients will be able to participate in phase 1 clinical trials in a carefully controlled environment.

"The unit is an outgrowth of Hartford HealthCare's partnership with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center," Dr. Peter Yu, the institute's physician-in-chief, said at a gathering of CHEFA and HHC leadership on March 21. "Nearly 40 percent of Memorial Sloan Kettering trials are for phase 1 drugs. We realized that to get these treatments to our patients we needed a specialized unit. The grant will help to purchase equipment for our lab that will allow us to properly process specimens as required by phase 1 study protocols."

Through the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance, specialists at the HHC Cancer Institute are working with the nation's leading cancer treatment experts to develop strategies to improve outcomes and



Dr. Peter Yu, Bimal Patel, Dr. Omar Eton and Carol Garlick gathered to receive the grant from Jeanette Weldon and Betty Sugerman Weintraub of the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority.

expedite the availability of the most advanced cancer treatments, making high-quality cancer care more accessible in Connecticut.

In its first year, the unit is expected to provide care and drug trial protocols for 350 patients.

