

"When I have my acupuncture treatment, sometimes my acupuncturist asks me, 'What do you want, Mr. Hill?' I'll say I want patience and tolerance, to be humble and loving. Then she'll give me a needle for each of them. Put them together, and I'm there!"

For information about all of Tai Sophia's clinical sites, see the article on page 11.

Free oncology treatment program Tai Sophia partners with hospital's cancer resource center

The Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource Center at Howard County General Hospital offers hope and support to cancer patients — and now it has partnered with Tai Sophia in a treatment program that offers free acupuncture as well as movement classes to individuals who have been diagnosed with cancer but do not have the financial resources to seek treatment.

The Claudia Mayer Center refers qualified patients to the program at Tai Sophia, where they receive acupuncture treatments from Institute faculty members and participate in classes such as tai chi and yoga designed specifically for persons dealing with cancer.

Kicks Against Breast Cancer (KABC) — an initiative through which women's intercollegiate soccer raises money to assist those with breast cancer — funded the program's pilot year. When KABC founder Louise Waxler heard about the resources at Tai Sophia through her daughter, Lindsay, a student in the January '07 acupuncture class, she knew that a Claudia Mayer-Tai Sophia partnership would be a winner for patients. She arranged for a grant, and Lindsay got the ball rolling. The free oncology treatment program welcomed its first participants this spring.

This fall, in addition to acupuncture, the program's key component, Tai Sophia will offer "Yoga for Cancer Survivors." The six-week movement class focuses on helping survivors and those currently going through treatment to revive, relax, and rebuild their body, mind, and spirit. "We have a marvelous instructor in Debbie Jensen," says the director of the Institute's community programs, Mary Kay Kenney. "We chose her very carefully. Debbie is not only a certified yoga instructor, she's also an RN; for many years she was an oncology nurse at Howard Community Hospital."

The yoga class, which begins September 25, is open to individuals in the community as well as those referred by the Claudia Mayer Center. For further information about the class, contact community programs at 410-888-9048, ext. 6611. To participate in the oncology treatment program, call the Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource Center at 410-740-5858.

Qualified patients receive acupuncture treatment and participate in movement classes designed specifically for those dealing with cancer.

Senior-level students may accompany faculty practitioners in the treatment room, observing treatments and taking pulses of patients in the oncology program. In the photo, Lindsay Waxler, the student who initiated the program, observes Kaiya Larson treating a patient.

