The Breast unit was set up 4 years ago in order to provide a major clinical service. This unit is the largest in Cyprus with around 200 new breast cancer referrals per year. Most patients are directly referred by the screening program that are committed to the General Hospital of Nicosia. Patients are treated in multi-disciplinary clinical teams working to common clinical guidelines and protocols, new treatments and prevention of breast cancer. The aim of the Unit is to offer early diagnosis, high quality of treatment for all stages of breast cancer. A range of care services are provided for both benign and malignant disease, including screening, surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, reconstruction and follow up. Our multi-disciplinary team consists of consultant surgeons, plastic surgeons, radiologists, pathologist, oncologists and nurses. We provide breast excisional, core and stereotactic excisional biopsy, sentinel node biopsy, wide local excision, segmental and total mastectomy, breast reconstruction with tissue expander, implants, and autologous tissues. At the oncology centre there are facilities for in-patient and out-patient chemotherapy, and radiotherapy.
Available services

Radiology

- Dedicated Radiologists: 3
- Mammograms per year: 20000
- Breast radiographers
- Screening program
- Verification for non-palpable breast lesions on specimen
- Axillary US/US-guided FNAB
- Clinical Research

Available imaging equipment
- Mammography
- Ultrasound
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Available work-up imaging equipment
- Computer Tomography
- Ultrasound
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- PET/CT scan

Primary technique for localizing non-palpable lesions
- Hook-wire (or needle localization)
- Charcoal marking/tattooing
- ROLL: radio-guided occult lesion localization

Available breast tissue sampling equipment
- Stereotactic Biopsy (Mammography guided)
- Core Biopsy (Tru-cut)
- Vacuum assisted biopsy
- Ultrasound-guided biopsy
- Fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB, cytology)
- Core Biopsy
- Vacuum assisted biopsy
- MRI-guided biopsy
- Core Biopsy
- Vacuum assisted biopsy

Breast Surgery

- New operated cases per year (benign and malignant): 184
- Dedicated Breast Surgeons: 2
- Surgeons with more than 50 surgeries per year: 2
- Breast Surgery beds: 6
- Breast Nurse specialists: 3
- Outpatient surgery
- Intra-operative evaluation of sentinel node
- Reconstruction performed by Breast Surgeons
- Clinical Research

Primary technique for staging the axilla
- Axillary lymph node dissection
- Sentinel lymph node biopsy:
  - Blue dye technique
  - Radio-tracer technique
  - Blue dye + Radio-tracer
- Axillary sampling
Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery

- Reconstructive/Plastic surgeons
- Immediate Reconstruction available

Type of breast reconstructive surgery available
- Remodelling after breast-conserving surgery
- Reconstruction after mastectomy:
  - Two-stage reconstruction (tissue expander followed by implant)
  - One-stage reconstruction
- Autogenous tissue flap
  - Latissimus dorsi flap
  - Transverse rectus abdominis (TRAM)
- Free-flaps (free TRAM, DIEP, SIEA, gluteal, etc.)
- Surgery on the contralateral breast for symmetry

Pathology

- Dedicated Breast Pathologists

Available studies
- Cytology
- Haematoxylin & eosin section (H&E)
- Surgical specimen
- Sentinel node
- Core biopsy
- Frozen section (FS)
- Surgical specimen
- Sentinel node
- Immunohistochemistry stain (IHC)
  - Estrogen receptors
  - Progesterone receptors
  - HER-2
  - Ki-67

Other special studies available
- Fluorescence in-situ Hybridization for HER-2 gene (FISH)
- Oncotype Dx (21-gene assay)
- MammaPrint (70-gene microarray)
- Prediction Analysis of Microarray 50-gene set (PAM 50)

Parameters included in the final pathology report
- Pathology stage (pT and pN)
- Tumour size (invasive component in mm)
- Histologic type
- Tumor grade
- ER/PR receptor status
- HER-2/neu receptor status
- Peritumoural/Lymphovascular invasion
- Margin status

Medical Oncology

- Dedicated Breast Medical Oncologists
- Outpatient systemic therapy
- Clinical Research
Radiotherapy

- Dedicated Radiation Oncologists
- Clinical Research

Available techniques after breast-conserving surgery (including experimental)

- Whole-Breast RT (WBRT)
- Partial breast irradiation (PBI):
  - External beam PBI
  - Interstitial brachytherapy
- Targeted brachytherapy (MammoSite, SAVI applicator, other devices)
- Intra-operative RT (IORT)

Multidisciplinary Meeting (MDM) / Tumour Board (TB)

Regular MDM/TB for case management discussion

- Twice a week
- Weekly
- Every two weeks
- Other Schedule

Cases discussed at MDM/TB

- Preoperative cases
- Postoperative cases

Specialties/services participating in MDM/TB

- Radiology
- Breast Surgery
- Reconstructive/Plastic Surgery
- Pathology
- Medical Oncology
- Radiotherapy
- Genetic Counselling
- Breast Nurse Service
- Psycho-oncology

Further Services and Facilities

Nuclear Medicine

- Lymphoscintigraphy
- Bone scan
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
- PET/CT scan

Rehabilitation

- Prosthesis service
- Physiotherapy
- Lymph-oedema treatment

Genetic Counselling

- Specialist Providing Genetic Counselling/Risk assessment service:
  - Dedicated Clinical Geneticist
  - Medical Oncologist
  - Breast Surgeon
  - General Surgeon
  - Gynaecologist
- Genetic Testing available
- Surveillance program for high-risk women

Data Management

- Database used for clinical information
- Data manager available
# Contact details

## Clinical Director

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yiola Marcou, FRCR, MRCP</td>
<td>Medical Oncologist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yiola.marcou@bococ.org.cy">yiola.marcou@bococ.org.cy</a></td>
<td>+35722847404</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Radiology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaios Partasides, MD</td>
<td>Head of Radiology Dpt.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vayiospartassides@gmail.com">vayiospartassides@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>+357 99635058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violette Baltampe, MD</td>
<td>Consultant Radiologist</td>
<td></td>
<td>+357 99630736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Breast Surgery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charalambos Charalambous, MD</td>
<td>Consultant Breast Surgeon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cy660213@yahoo.gr">cy660213@yahoo.gr</a></td>
<td>+357 99678238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anneza Yiallourou, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Consultant Breast Surgeon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yiallourou.anneza@ucy.ac.cy">yiallourou.anneza@ucy.ac.cy</a></td>
<td></td>
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## Reconstructive Surgery

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Koulermou, PhD</td>
<td>Head of Plastic Surgery Dpt.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pkoulerm@spidernet.com.cy">pkoulerm@spidernet.com.cy</a></td>
<td>+357 99657810</td>
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## Pathology

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ioanna Zouvani, MD</td>
<td>Head of Pathology Dpt.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ioannazouvani@gmail.com">ioannazouvani@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>+357 99559629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Georgiou, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Consultant Histopathologist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ggeorgemd@gmail.com">ggeorgemd@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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## Medical Oncology

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yiola Markou, FRCR, MRCP</td>
<td>Consultant Medical Oncologist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yiola.marcou@bococ.org.cy">yiola.marcou@bococ.org.cy</a></td>
<td>+357 99513636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleni Kakouri, MD</td>
<td>Medical Oncologist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eleni.kakouri@bococ.org.cy">eleni.kakouri@bococ.org.cy</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flora Kyriacou, MD</td>
<td>Medical Oncologist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:flora.kyriacou@bococ.org.cy">flora.kyriacou@bococ.org.cy</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anastasia Constantinidou, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Medical Oncologist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Anastasia.onstantinidou@bococ.org.cy">Anastasia.onstantinidou@bococ.org.cy</a></td>
<td></td>
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## Radiotherapy

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Daniel, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Head of Radiotherapy Dpt.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maria.daniel@bococ.org.cy">maria.daniel@bococ.org.cy</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panayiotis Papadopoulos</td>
<td>Consultant Radiotherapist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to reach us

Nicosia General Hospital/Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre
Paleos dromos Lemesou Lefkosias
2029 Nicosia, Cyprus
Phone: +35722603000
Fax: +35722604298
E-mail: yiola.marcou@bococ.org.cy
Web-site: www.bococ.org.cy

From airport:
Fly to Larnaca airport then use transport to go to the capital where the hospitals are.

By bus or sub-way/underground:
By bus to Nicosia and from central bus station to Nicosia General hospital.

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