

# Hoag Hospital is ready to unveil its new cancer center on Sunday

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**NEWPORT BEACH** — The walls to the "bunker" are eight feet thick, as are the ceiling and floor. Inside sits a Clinac 2500C linear accelerator, one of only four in the country.

When in use, the computerized photon beam will send up to 24 million volts of energy into the human body, focused tightly on selected cancerous cells in an area smaller than one inch in diameter — or can be directed on an entire body.

The accelerator is not part of a military installation or a specialized research institution, but housed in Hoag Memorial Hospital's newest out-patient facility: The Patty and George Hoag Cancer Center.

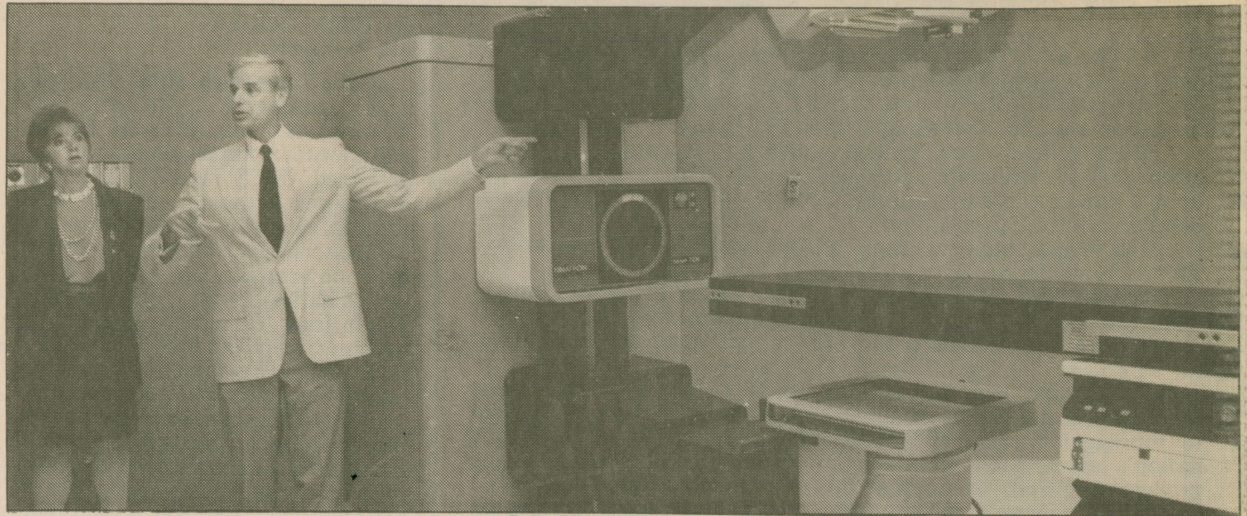
Imagined nearly eight years ago as a way to house all the hospital's cancer services in one location, the cancer center is being touted by hospital officials as one of the most significant achievements in Hoag's 37-year history.

On Sunday, hospital officials will formally dedicate the building, and the public will — for the first time — be given a tour of the center. Services will be started in the next two months, and by year's end the center should be full.

Both Dr. Robert Dillman, medical director of the facility, and Dr. Russell Hafer, medical director of radiation oncology, said during a preview tour Friday that they were surprised at how interested the community was in donating funds for the 65,000-square foot facility.

In just 14 months, hospital officials raised \$22 million from private donations, covering the cost of construction and state-of-the-art treatment and diagnostic equipment for the center.

"To raise that kind of money over the course of a year was phenomenal," Hafer said.



Daily Pilot photo by Shauna Norfleet

## **Dr. Russell Hafer and Sharon MacDonald explain the new radiotherapy simulator during a special tour.**

George Hoag II and his wife Patty, for whom the Cancer Center is named, gave \$6 million toward the facility, the largest donation. The Hoag family also contributed to the main hospital facility, when it was in financial difficulty during construction. This contribution was made in memory of the elder Hoag, George Grant Hoag Sr.

Hospital officials were able to purchase the property in 1984 after the state Department of Transportation scrapped plans for a freeway right of way.

The three-story Cancer Center is nestled in the bluffs above Pacific Coast Highway just below the main hospital, to which it is connected by an 7,200 square foot underground tunnel.

The first floor houses two linear accelerators and two simulators (for computerized treatment simulation). The second floor contains eight treatment bays, six exam rooms, a pharmacy, a laboratory,

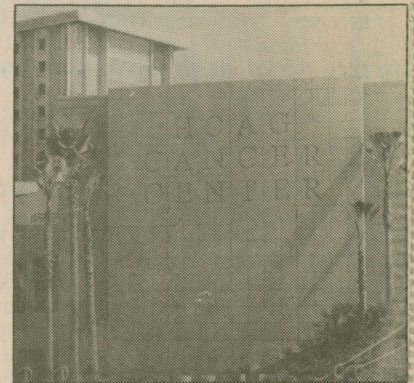
140-seat conference room, four meeting rooms, a speciality boutique, a cafe and administrative offices.

Physician offices and a clinical research laboratory are contained on the third floor.

Out-patients will be able to take advantage of ocean-view rooms for as long as eight hours, while receiving treatment, or visit for shorter periods for lectures on cancer prevention and early detection. The center also will offer a door-to-door shuttle service and a computerized hereditary screening program.

But if visitors didn't know better upon arrival, they might assume they were stepping into the lobby of hotel rather than hospital.

Several skylights bring slanting beams of light into the portico-style lobby, which features faux marble columns and salt-water fish tanks. A central dome is delicately painted with clouds and blue sky as a background to an anodized copper light



Daily Pilot photo by Shauna Norfleet

## **Hoag Cancer Center will begin admitting patients in the fall.**

fixture. Orchids, bamboo and palms grace corners and walls.

F.V. Evans, vice president of facilities design and construction, said: "The goal was to create a place where the anxiety would be lowered for the cancer patient ... so they could move about the facility with pride and dignity."