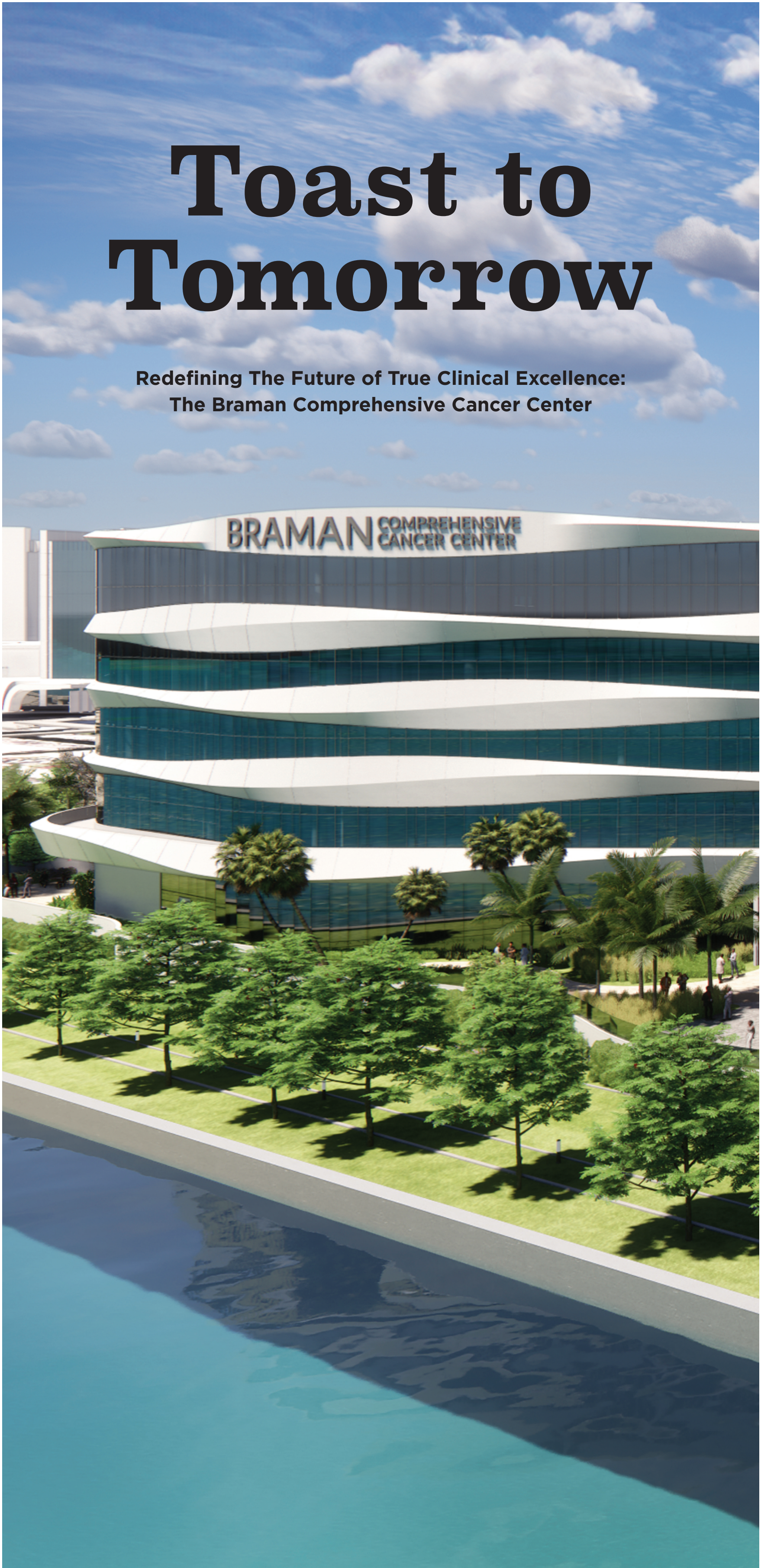


# Toast to Tomorrow

**Redefining The Future of True Clinical Excellence:  
The Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center**

**BRAMAN** COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER



# Revolutionizing Cancer Care



## The Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center: Where Advanced Technology Meets Patient-Centric Care

A new era in cancer treatment dawns with the opening of the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2025. Leveraging the collective acumen of Mount Sinai's distinguished oncology team, in conjunction with the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated specialists at New York's Columbia University Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, the new facility is poised to become a nexus for cutting-edge therapeutic interventions, clinical trials, and comprehensive, patient-focused healthcare protocols.

The center's trailblazing approach integrates the latest in genomic medicine and targeted therapies, offering personalized treatments tailored to each patient's unique genetic makeup. This precision medicine practice shifts the traditional one-size-fits-all treatment procedures, promising more effective and less invasive options for those diagnosed with cancer.



Opening in 2025, the Irma and Norman Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center will offer South Florida access to unmatched patient-centric care and clinical excellence, in affiliation with Columbia University.



Rendering of the infusion bays overlooking Biscayne Bay. The new cancer center highlights the beauty of the surrounding environment throughout the building's architecture.



This pioneering spirit extends to its research labs, where scientists are relentlessly pursuing new frontiers in cancer treatment. From groundbreaking immunotherapy treatments that harness the body's immune system, to advanced radiologic techniques that target tumors with unprecedented accuracy, the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center is redefining the possibilities in cancer care.

What truly sets the center apart is its holistic approach to healing. Understanding that cancer affects not just the body but also the mind and spirit, a range of supportive services will be offered to patients and their families alike.

The Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center will not just treat cancer, it will nurture hope, advance science, and make every day count in the lives of its patients.

# Triumphs of Early Detection and Care: A New Horizon in Cancer Treatment



## Embracing the Power of Prevention and Personalized Care

At the heart of the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center's philosophy is a profound belief in the imperative nature of early detection and personalized care. The cancer center's multidisciplinary team of experts is committed to not just treating cancer but to detecting it at its earliest, most treatable stages, significantly improving the chances of successful treatment and recovery.

The center will boast some of the most advanced diagnostic technologies available when it opens its doors in 2025. With sophisticated imaging techniques and innovative screening programs, cancerous changes can be identified with greater precision and speed than ever before. This proactive approach to cancer care empowers the center's



With a focus on the future of medicine, the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center will feature the latest equipment, along with designated spaces for integrating new and emerging technologies as they develop. This commitment aims to redefine patient-centric care, ensuring excellence from the moment of diagnosis to remission and cure.



The new building will provide increased access to expert cancer care, supported by clinical trials, research, and robust support services. Left: Rendering of the exterior garden. The new center will allow Mount Sinai physicians to deliver unmatched, expert care in a completely patient-centric environment with greater access to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for survivorship.

highly qualified physicians to intervene swiftly and effectively, tailoring treatments to each patient's specific needs and circumstances.

This approach is further bolstered through its strategic collaboration with the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University in New York. The alliance with Columbia University affords patients access to an extensive array of pioneering trials and research, meticulously developed, scrutinized, and disseminated by an elite tumor board. This board comprises a diverse roster of top-tier clinicians and medical luminaries, each specializing in different areas, united by their commitment to identifying the most effective treatment protocols for cancer patients.

Given that numerous Mount Sinai physicians hold adjunct professorships at Columbia, this dynamic partnership not only cements the long-standing synergy between these two esteemed institutions but also aims to elevate the quality of life for patients.

# Voices of Healing: Perspectives from the Frontline

## Meet the Visionaries Behind Mount Sinai's Cancer Care



### **DR. STEVEN N. HOCHWALD: Leading the Way to Revolutionary Cancer Care**

Dr. Steven N. Hochwald, a renowned hepatopancreatobiliary and gastrointestinal surgical oncologist, serves as the Director of the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center and Chief of Surgical Oncology at Mount Sinai Medical Center. His expertise and innovative approach to minimally invasive surgeries have not only enhanced patient outcomes but also positioned him as a leading educator in the field.

With over 1,000 minimally invasive procedures of the esophagus, stomach, liver, and pancreas to his credit, Dr. Hochwald has been a pioneer in adopting laparoscopic and robotic techniques. "We're bringing the latest clinical trials and expanding our tumor banking and research portfolio," he says, reflecting his dedication to advancing cancer treatment. His work is not just confined to the operating room; he has contributed to medical literature, performing extensive translational research and co-editing the prominent 'Mastery of Surgery' textbook.

His vision for the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center is ambitious and patient focused. "We're going to offer everything from access to the newest trials and treatment protocols to nutritional and meditation support, ensuring a comprehensive approach to patient care," Dr. Hochwald shares. His goal is to create an environment where patients can receive holistic treatment in a serene setting, overlooking the bay, which he believes evokes peace and relaxation.

"WE ARE GOING TO OFFER EVERYTHING FROM ACCESS TO THE NEWEST TRIALS AND TREATMENT PROTOCOLS TO NUTRITIONAL AND MEDITATION SUPPORT, ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PATIENT CARE." — *Dr. Steven Hochwald*

### **DR. ANIL K. RUSTGI: Bridging Innovations in Cancer Care from New York to Miami**

Dr. Anil K. Rustgi, Herbert and Florence Irving Director of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC) at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC), stands at the vanguard of cancer research and treatment. A world-renowned leader in gastrointestinal cancers, Dr. Rustgi's interdisciplinary research encompasses tumor initiation, microenvironment, and metastasis, particularly in esophageal, pancreatic, and colon cancers. His clinical practice is in hereditary GI cancers.

Under Dr. Rustgi's leadership, the partnership between the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center at Mount Sinai and HICCC is elevating cancer care in South Florida. "We have a formal collaboration in our NCI-funded Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) focusing on underrepresented minority groups in clinical trials," Dr. Rustgi shares, emphasizing the commitment to patient access to cutting-edge, inclusive clinical trials and uniform standards of care.

Dr. Rustgi envisions the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center as a hub for groundbreaking research. "I foresee growth in observational studies, interventional clinical trials, especially phase-one trials, and biobanking," he states, outlining the center's research agenda.



### **DR. JACQUELINE BARRIENTOS: Innovating Cancer Care with Precision and Passion**

Dr. Jacqueline C. Barrientos, an esteemed hematologist-oncologist, has made significant strides in the world of cancer care at Mount Sinai Medical Center. As the Chief of Hematologic Malignancies and Director of Oncology Research, Dr. Barrientos brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise, particularly in the treatment of lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

A graduate of Ponce Health Sciences University and an alumnus of Yale New Haven Hospital and New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Dr. Barrientos has been instrumental in the approval of groundbreaking therapies. Her work has not only advanced the treatment paradigms of CLL and lymphoma but has also extended the boundaries of medical knowledge through her role in several clinical trials.

Dr. Barrientos's approach is marked by a keen focus on precision medicine and targeted agents, shifting away from traditional chemotherapy to treatments that harness the immune system. "The field of lymphoma is exploding with novel targeted agents. We have changed the way that we treat the disease," she states, highlighting the innovative methods being employed at the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center.



“WE ENVISION AN ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL NOT ONLY HEAL THE BODY BUT ALSO THE MIND AND THE SPIRIT OF THOSE LIVING WITH CANCER.” — *Dr. Mike Cusnir*



**DR. MIKE CUSNIR: Integrating Compassion and Innovation for Brighter Outcomes**

Dr. Mike Cusnir, a distinguished figure at Mount Sinai Medical Center and the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center, embodies the essence of innovative and compassionate cancer care. Since 2003, Dr. Cusnir has been a pivotal force in clinical trials and research at Mount Sinai, co-directing the Gastrointestinal Malignancies department.

Highlighting the new center’s multidisciplinary approach, Dr. Cusnir notes, “We are all going to be together in the same place with everything that’s entailed in the care of a cancer patient.” This collaboration ensures that each patient receives comprehensive care tailored to their unique needs.

Dr. Cusnir’s dedication to advancing cancer care through research and innovation is palpable. “We have more than 70 trials occurring at Mount Sinai currently... for advancing the knowledge of cancer and in the treatment in general,” he shares. At the heart of his philosophy is the belief that cancer is not a death sentence. He champions the narrative of hope and healing, underscoring the center’s role in turning the tide against cancer.

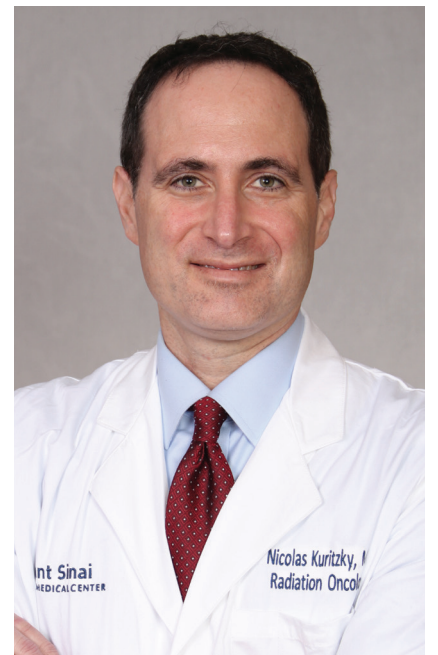
“We envision an environment that will not only heal the body but also the mind and the spirit of those living with cancer.”

**DR. NICOLAS KURITZKY: Advancing Radiation Oncology with Precision and Compassion**

As the Chief of the Division of Radiation Oncology at Mount Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Nicolas Kuritzky is revolutionizing the treatment of cancer with his expertise in advanced radiation techniques. Specializing in prostate and breast cancers, Dr. Kuritzky skillfully navigates the intricate world of stereotactic radiosurgery, intensity-modulated radiation therapy, image-guided radiation, and brachytherapy.

Dr. Kuritzky brings a wealth of knowledge and innovative practices to his role at the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center. “We’re going to have all the latest equipment in radiation... everything will be brand new,” he shares, highlighting the cutting-edge resources at his disposal.

“We can give more attentive care beginning the first day a patient meets with us, simply because the staff at the center is approachable and easy to connect with versus a huge system where patients can get lost in the shuffle,” he explains, underscoring the benefits of the center’s personalized approach. Dr. Kuritzky is particularly excited about the center’s potential of adaptive treatment in radiation oncology. This technique allows for daily customization of radiation therapy, providing tailored and effective treatment for patients at the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center.



**DR. IRMAN FORGHANI: Charting New Frontiers in Genetic Cancer Care**

Dr. Irman Forghani, the Director of Genetics at Mount Sinai Medical Center, is at the forefront of transforming cancer care through genetic insights. With her extensive background in medical genetics and internal medicine, she brings a unique perspective to the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center and the RAD Center for Cancer Genetics which will play an important role in research and treatment at the new facility.

An expert in the field of adult inherited and complex disorders, Dr. Forghani’s focus on hereditary connective tissue disorders, vascular malformations, and hereditary cancer syndromes is not just professional but personal. “Cancer is a genetic disease... and we can now target cancer cells at the genetic level,” she explains, underscoring the importance of precision medicine in modern oncology.

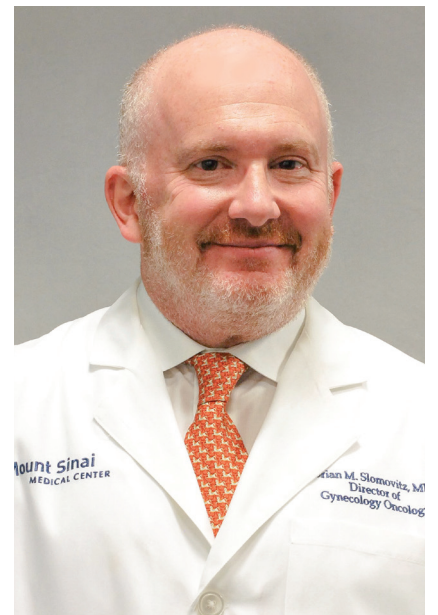
One of her most passionate pursuits at Mount Sinai and the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center is the integration of genetic testing into routine care. “We are focusing on bringing easy-to-access health risk assessment programs using AI and technology,” she states. “Our goal is to prevent, to know who is at risk, to detect it early,” she shares, illuminating her vision to transform the narrative of cancer from fear to promise.

**DR. BRIAN SLOMOVITZ: Gynecologic Oncology Meets Comprehensive Care**

Dr. Brian Slomovitz, a prominent figure in gynecologic oncology, serves as the Director of Gynecologic Oncology and Co-Chair of the Cancer Research Committee at Mount Sinai Medical Center. His pioneering work in clinical trial development, robotic surgery, sentinel lymph node evaluation, and immunotherapy has distinguished him as a leader in women’s cancer care.

Dr. Slomovitz’s involvement in national and global clinical trials reflects his relentless pursuit of better treatment options for patients. His vision for the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center aligns with his commitment to holistic patient care. “Mount Sinai has more clinical trials open in gynecologic oncology than any other center throughout South Florida,” he states.

Through the new center, he envisages a space that spans from ‘previvorship’ to ‘survivorship,’ offering top-notch genetics, preventive services, and supportive care. “It’s going to be a destination center to offer the best care not only in Miami Beach but throughout South Florida,” he explains. For Dr. Slomovitz, this also means improving the representation of minority populations in clinical trials and ensuring equitable access to advanced treatments. “We need to have strategies to better accrue minority patients onto our trials,” he asserts, underlining the need for inclusivity in cancer research.



**DR. KFIR BEN-DAVID: Pioneering the Future of Minimally Invasive Cancer Surgery**

Dr. Kfir Ben-David, the chairman of the Department of Surgery at Mount Sinai, is a trailblazer in the field of minimally invasive and robotic surgical treatments for gastrointestinal cancers.

Renowned for performing over 500 minimally invasive esophagectomies, the highest number in Florida, Dr. Ben-David’s proficiency in complex gastrointestinal surgeries, particularly using robotic techniques, has drawn surgeons worldwide to learn from his expertise. “We conduct more procedures in an advanced robotic fashion than any other place in South Florida,” Dr. Ben-David explains, highlighting Mount Sinai’s commitment to adopting the latest technologies for better patient outcomes.

Dr. Ben-David’s dedication extends beyond surgery to the holistic well-being of his patients. “Anybody that gets diagnosed with cancer has to deal with it themselves, and with their family,” he states, emphasizing the emotional and psychological impact of cancer. “At the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center, patients can get everything that they need to get done, including lab tests, CT scans, chemotherapy treatment, and so forth. Patients will also have access to a multitude of wellness services like mental health therapy, social services, spa initiatives, as well as having our talented team of nutritionists on hand. It’s an incredible opportunity to provide that to patients who are experiencing such a traumatic event in their lives.”

# Beyond Medicine: Integrated Support Services

## Healing the Mind and Body at Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center

Overall care at the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center extends far beyond the realms of traditional medicine. From the moment of diagnosis, the center's multidisciplinary teams work collaboratively to craft comprehensive care plans, ensuring that every patient benefits from a coordinated, holistic approach to treatment.

Understanding the emotional toll of a cancer

diagnosis, the center offers comprehensive mental health services, where dedicated therapists provide counseling to patients and their families, ensuring a supportive environment for everyone affected. Professional massage therapists offer therapies to alleviate stress and discomfort, while art programs provide a creative outlet for self-reflection and mental relaxation.

Compassionate care teams also include nutritionists and patient navigators who provide emotional and psychological support, ensuring that every aspect of a patient's well-being is addressed.

Moreover, the center itself is designed to be a peaceful space. With its spa-like modern aesthetic and expansive views of the bay, the environment offers a serene backdrop that

promotes healing. Every corner of the center is thoughtfully designed to provide comfort and calm, helping patients and their families find tranquility amidst their cancer journeys.

The Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center is redefining cancer care to encompass both cutting-edge medical treatment and holistic support, ensuring that every patient is cared for in a personalized way.

A rendering of the meditation garden. Each aspect of the Braman Comprehensive Cancer Center has been designed to create a calm and healing environment for patients and their families.

