Helen knows her health facts: she knows that lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death. She also knows the importance of following her doctors’ orders, and she believes this simple strategy has helped her outsmart lung cancer.

Thirty-five years ago, Helen followed her doctor’s advice and quit her pack-a-day smoking habit.

Nine years ago, a routine chest x-ray suggested lung cancer.

Helen turned to University Hospital in Syracuse, where she’d had an excellent experience with open-heart surgery.

“What would you do if this were your cancer?” Helen asked her thoracic surgeon, Dr. Leslie Kohman, director of the Thoracic Oncology Program (TOP) and one of 91 cancer specialists at University Hospital in Syracuse.

When Dr. Kohman recommended aggressive treatment – surgical removal of Helen’s upper right lung lobe – Helen followed her advice. Almost a decade later, Helen is the picture of health. She volunteers at a senior center, ushers at church and keeps up with her grandchildren.

She checks in with Dr. Kohman every few months and continues to follow her advice.

At University Hospital, Dr. Kohman’s TOP initiative features an assembly of multidisciplinary specialists – surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, radiation oncologists and others. Together, they evaluate, advise and treat patients like Helen.

“With lung cancer, early detection is key,” says Dr. Kohman. “A stage one tumor can often be removed completely by surgery.”

For more information, call Health Connections, 800.464.8668 or visit www.upstate.edu
University Hospital’s Thoracic Oncology Program (TOP) is a weekly multi-specialty service for the treatment of patients with lung cancer, esophageal cancer, mesothelioma, mediastinal tumors, thymoma, malignant pleural effusion and cancers metastatic to the chest.

TOP is the only service of its kind in Central New York. In one appointment, your patient can meet with a team of specialists from thoracic surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, pulmonary medicine, thoracic radiology, and cytotechnology.

TOP provides prompt, comprehensive patient evaluations and treatment recommendations, timely feedback on patient progress and coordination of treatment with referring physicians.

University Hospital in Syracuse has the shortest length of stay for major lung surgery in Central New York. It is a high-volume hospital for esophageal surgery, resulting in lower mortality and morbidity.

For a TOP appointment or more information, physicians may call MD Direct, 800.544.1605.

TOP Core Team
While the physicians listed represent the core team, patients may be seen by other members of each specialty.

THORACIC SURGERY
Leslie J. Kohman, MD
Program Director
Professor of Surgery
Chair, CALGB Surgery Committee

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
Stephen L. Graziano, MD
Professor of Medicine
CALGB Principal Investigator

PULMONARY MEDICINE
Robert J. Lenox, MD, FCCP
Associate Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

RADIATION ONCOLOGY
Jeffrey A. Bogart, MD
Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology
Chair, CALGB Radiation Oncology Committee

THORACIC SURGERY
Elisabeth Uy Dexter, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

THE ACADEMIC DIFFERENCE
MD Direct: 800-544-1605: University Hospital’s Physician-To-Physician Service