The Symptom Management Clinic (SMC) was established at University Hospital in Cincinnati, OH, following a survey conducted to determine the needs for symptom relief experienced by patients with cancer in an outpatient capacity (Whitmer, Pruemer, Nahleh, & Jazieh, 2006). The patients were approached after registering at the outpatient oncology clinic and while waiting for their appointment. A total of 112 surveys were administered and 71% of the patients said they would attend, specifically for relief of pain (50%), fatigue (40%), nausea and vomiting (30%), and sleeping difficulty (30%) (Whitmer, Pruemer, et al., 2006). Based on survey findings, a business plan was developed and presented to the administrative staff of University Hospital for approval to establish the SMC. This article describes that process.

Cancer remains a leading cause of death with an age-adjusted death rate of 183.8 per 100,000 for men and women per year (National Cancer Institute, 2010). The Barrett Cancer Center (BCC) at University Hospital is committed to providing a broad spectrum of high-quality services for patients with cancer and to being an educational resource for patients, physicians, health professionals, and the community. Cancer-screening programs at BCC are actively supported in partnership with the American Cancer Society. Breast, melanoma, and lung are the three most frequent cancers diagnosed and treated at BCC. Multidisciplinary clinics staffed by surgical oncologists, medical oncologists, radiation therapists, radiologists, oncology nurses, and clinical pharmacists collaborate to evaluate and treat patients. Innovative clinical research is supported by active protocols sponsored by cooperative programs through the National Cancer Institute as well as investigator-initiated studies and studies funded by private pharmaceutical companies.