

Dr. Maria Claudia Mallarino

ONCOLOGIST, Florida Cancer Specialists



“I knew I wanted to fight cancer, to do research and to take care of cancer patients.

My treatment is aggressive toward the cancer and caring toward my patients.”

Being at home surrounded by her family and their companion animals is what Dr. Maria Claudia Mallarino loves most, and it is the foundation for her heart-centered approach to helping patients win their battles against cancer.

“It is very important that I offer my patients state-of-the-art care in a very compassionate way. I treat them the same way I’d like my family to be treated,” said Mallarino of Florida Cancer Specialists. “Everyone is special and different, and I do my best to tailor treatment to each individual patient.”

Board certified in internal medicine and oncology with a fellowship in hematology and oncology at Stanford University Medical Center, Mallarino completed medical school in her native Colombia. Growing up amidst Colombia’s emerald mountains and tropical climes, she knew at an early age that she wanted to be a doctor. When she was 15, however, a young aunt died of breast cancer. “Her death touched me,” she says, “I knew I would be a doctor, but after that I knew I’d be an oncologist.”

After coming to the United States at age 22 to complete her internship and residency, Mallarino established herself in academics until entering private practice in general oncology with Florida Cancer Specialists nine years ago. “Taking care of my patients is what I love to do. It is the best thing I have after my family,” she says.

Mallarino is also generously taking her expertise back to South America by establishing cancer centers in Cali, Colombia, and in the Dominican Republic. The Cali center is to open this year, and the other is in the planning stages. “The United States has been wonderful to me,” Mallarino said, “and I think it is time to take what I have learned to places where there is so much need.”