

Fashion Icon Donna Karan Teams Up with Beth Israel Medical Center To Create a New Model of Integrative Cancer Care:

The Urban Zen Integrative Therapy Program at Beth Israel Medical Center was officially kicked off at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, April 15. Funded by fashion designer Donna Karan, the Urban Zen initiative aims to combine Western medicine with Eastern healing practices to create an “optimal healing environment” for patients on 9 Dazian, the inpatient cancer unit. This unique pilot program and research study includes: the introduction of yoga therapists on the floor to deliver bedside care; a full-time staff member to help cancer patients and their families access all levels of care; training of nursing staff in holistic practices to encourage optimal healing and self care; an extensive research program that will measure length of stay, medication dosing and patient/family satisfaction; and physical renovations of Beth Israel’s inpatient cancer unit. At the event, Ms. Karan said, “The Urban Zen Foundation is proud to work with Beth Israel’s exceptional staff to create a new model of integrative cancer care that can be replicated nationally and even internationally.” Dr. Harris Nagler, Interim President of the hospital added, “The support of Urban Zen and the interest of an international icon like Donna Karan not only helps enhance the program for our patients through philanthropy, but inspires our staff as well. To be taught self-care and relaxation so we are healthier ourselves and can pass that knowledge along to our patients is something we all welcome.”