

Aurora Cancer Care Connection

Your caring connection for support during cancer care

Aurora Cancer Care • Edition 9 • 2015

Message from the Vice President, Aurora Cancer Care



James Weese, MD, FACS
Vice President
System Cancer Program
Aurora Cancer Care

Aurora Cancer Care and our many caregivers are very interested in doing what we can to improve your quality of life. This includes use of the distress thermometer, a tool we use to identify those patients who have increased levels of stress in coping with their disease. We also have a number of resources to help, including a referral to a Stillwater's or behavioral health counselor to address and relieve stress, referral to a financial counselor regarding

issues surrounding cost of medications and other care, referral to physical therapy or pain management, or consultation from one of our integrative medicine colleagues.

We have recently expanded our outpatient oncology palliative care program under the direction of William Matthaeus, MD, and Mary Ann Muzi, NP, in the South region, and Dhimant Patel, MD, and Peter Johnson, MD, in the North region. Early intervention regarding symptom management often improves quality of life and helps patients tolerate therapy much more comfortably.

Did you know that Aurora Cancer Care has a large group of experts who are available to present cancer-related programs to community groups such as Rotary or Lions Clubs, Garden Clubs or other organizations? Speakers with expertise in specific areas of cancer can be arranged by contacting our Community Outreach Coordinator Erik Hollander at 414-219-4533 or the Vince Lombardi Hotline at 414-649-7200.

To improve your understanding of the treatment you receive, a new program will be rolled out over the next few months. To be sure all patients receive consistent education about the therapy they will receive, our oncology nurses and pharmacists have made video presentations on more than 150 specific treatments. You will be able to access these videos through myAurora so that you can also share them with your family when they ask questions about your treatment. In addition you will still have the opportunity to discuss your treatment fully with your oncologist and your oncology nurse.



These are among the many improvements you will be seeing focused on improving your quality of life during and after treatment. Our goal is to work with you to "Conquer Cancer." Please remember, at Aurora Cancer Care, ***The end of cancer starts here!*** ■

How you can become a *Partner in Cancer Care*

By Bridgette Frommell, Development Officer, Aurora Health Care Foundation

Sandi Conrad's cancer journey started in October of 2012 when she discovered, through a self-exam, a lump on her breast. "When you hear those words 'You have cancer', it's so devastating and you go through a journey that changes your life forever," explains Sandi.

Sandi saw several doctors before she found Joseph Majewski, MD, a cancer surgeon at Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington. "Sandi needed a series of operations as opposed to just a single operation," explains Dr. Majewski. "We had to change course a number of times in her treatment, and that was hard."

After her surgeries in 2012, Sandi chose Antony Ruggeri, MD, as her medical oncologist, who is based out of Aurora Lakeland Medical Center in Elkhorn. Dr. Ruggeri helped Sandi come up with a treatment plan, which did not involve chemotherapy but does include medication that she must take for five years.

"Dr. Ruggeri spent a lot of time going over all of the test results and the research. It was a very emotional time for me, but he really made a difference in my outlook," Sandi says.

Sandi now travels to two different hospitals for her various treatments and checkups. And she's not alone. Traveling to different locations for cancer care is common in rural communities. That's why Aurora Health Care Foundation launched the Partners in Cancer Care campaign, to raise \$2.2 million to expand patient services at a new comprehensive cancer center which will include a new, state-of-the-art Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic. The center will be located within the new Aurora Health Center serving western Racine and Walworth counties, providing a central location for vital cancer services.

The new Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic will offer 25 oncology infusion bays (of which two are private rooms), 10 exam rooms and an outpatient procedure room. It will include integrative medicine therapies and support programs, to provide care for the whole person. The building is also designed with additional space for future expansion of cancer services, such as radiation oncology.

"In small rural communities people traditionally have to travel," explains Dr. Ruggeri. "They go here to get surgery, there to get radiation, here to get chemotherapy, etc. And so to have everything in one place is really exciting. You don't see that in many small communities."

"This new cancer center will enable patients to have a comfortable area for treatment that's really close to home," explains Dr. Majewski.



Sandi now sees Dr. Ruggeri regularly for checkups, and is doing well in her recovery. She will also still see Dr. Majewski for follow up tests. Both physicians and hospitals have outstanding reputations for cancer care, but the possibility of getting all of her treatment in one place makes Sandi even more excited about her future.

"To have these marvelous doctors in our area is so wonderful. And I know all of my doctors talk to each other, but to be in the same building will save so much time. Won't it be wonderful when we're all together?" Sandi says.

In January, the Memorial Hospital of Burlington Community Foundation donated \$1 million to launch the Partners in Cancer Care campaign. In addition, Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation has committed \$300,000 to this initiative. The 2015 Crystal Ball, Benefit Ball and McGMO golf outing will all support this exciting new project. ■

You can support the *Partners in Cancer Care* campaign and help patients like Sandi get world class cancer care, closer to home. To make a gift or learn more, go to give.aurora.org/cancercenter. To learn more about this or other Aurora Cancer Care programs, contact Bridgette Frommell, Foundation Development Officer at 414-649-3636 or bridgette.frommell@aurora.org, or give online at give.aurora.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you've suffered from a brain tumor, stroke or Parkinson's disease, your neurologist might suggest brain mapping. Brain mapping uses imaging technology to associate the physical structures in your brain to the various functions your brain performs – in other words, it shows what parts of the brain do what. Brain mapping helps your neurologist see where the problem is and provide clues as to the best treatment plan.

High definition fiber tracking is a type of brain mapping. This groundbreaking imaging technology shows a 3-D map of your brain. It allows doctors a better view than current techniques for brain imaging.

Dr. Amin Kassam, Vice President of Neurosciences, performs the Six Pillars Approach, a new brain surgery method. He has also pioneered tools, technology and an approach to brain surgery that is safer. His approach starts with brain imaging and mapping. Then he uses next generation GPS navigation system to make sure he's on

the right track. Using high definition optics he can stream video from inside the brain during the procedure to show what is being done. The last step is to remove the bad tissue, collect and study it.

For more information, please call 414-385-7111.

*Aurora Neuroscience Innovation Institute at
Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center*

2801 W. Kinnickinnic River Parkway, Suite 630
Milwaukee, WI 53215



Amin Kassam, MD
*Vice President | Neurosciences System Clinical Program
Aurora Neuroscience Innovation Institute
Chair | Neurosurgery-Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center*

– SAVE THE DATE – A Celebration of Life

Hosted by the
Autologous Stem Cell
Transplant Program of
Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center.

Enjoy dinner by Bartolotta's
Catering while meeting new friends
and celebrating survivorship.

The evening will comprise of
relaxation stations, hors d'oeuvres,
dinner, dessert and presentations.

We hope that you can join us.

When:
Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Where:
**Discovery World –
Pilot House
on the shore of
Lake Michigan
500 N. Harbor Drive
Milwaukee, WI**

Time:
4 to 8:30 p.m.

Please call to register at 414-649-5818.

Team Phoenix is looking for you!

By Angela Sinner, Team Phoenix Program Coordinator

We are gearing up for the 2015 triathlon season, and Team Phoenix would like to invite you to join us. Team Phoenix is an Aurora Health Care program designed specifically for breast cancer survivors of all stages, ages and fitness levels. It provides medically-overseen, goal-oriented, multisport training with the goal of completing a sprint triathlon and the ultimate goal of creating a lifelong attitude of wellness through exercise. This year Team Phoenix will be training to complete the Iron Girl Pleasant Prairie sprint distance triathlon on Sunday, Aug. 9.



We are proud to announce that Team Phoenix is growing this year! We will be adding an additional squad to our team. There will be one team with a squad of athletes whose practices are based in the Milwaukee area and a squad whose practices will be based in the Racine/Kenosha area!

Team Phoenix is currently recruiting both athletes and volunteers for the 2015 season. Our greatest need of volunteers will be for our medical squad, specifically physical therapy, athletic trainers, and nurses, as well as general support in the Racine/Kenosha area. ■

To RSVP and for more information, please email teamphoenix@aurora.org or call 414-219-GOTP (4687).

Welcome new Aurora Cancer Care Experts

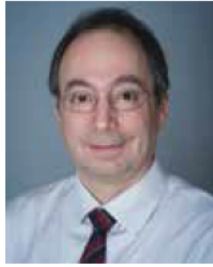


Ali Choucair, MD
Neuro-Oncologist
Aurora Cancer Care

Ali Choucair, MD has recently joined Aurora Cancer Care. Dr. Choucair specializes in the diagnosis and treatment—including the administration of chemotherapy—of tumors in the brain, spinal cord

and nerves. He also treats neurological problems in patients with systemic cancer. His area of interest includes the treatment of low-grade gliomas. Dr. Choucair places a heavy emphasis on a patient's quality of life, which includes symptom management and neurocognitive function. Dr. Choucair earned his medical degree from the University of Calgary School of Medicine. His residency in neurology was completed at the University of Utah Medical Center. He also completed a fellowship in neuro-oncology at the University of California, San Francisco—Brain Tumor Center. Dr. Choucair is board certified in neurology. ■

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Richard Rovin, MD
Neurosurgery
Aurora Neurosciences
Innovation Institute

The Aurora Neuroscience Innovation Institute (ANII) is pleased to welcome **Richard Rovin, MD**, to our world-class neuroscience team.

Working with Amin Kassam, MD, and the ANII team of multidisciplinary neuroscience experts, Dr. Rovin, a board-certified neurosurgeon, provides personalized, multidisciplinary care to patients with brain and spinal cord disorders. He is skilled in the revolutionary Expanded Endonasal Approach, a minimally invasive surgical technique that allows for skull-base brain tumors and lesions to be removed through the nose.

This innovative concept allows direct access to the tumor, eliminating the need to move critical structures to reach the tumor.

Dr. Rovin recently served as medical director of the Upper Michigan Brain Tumor Center in Marquette, Mich. Prior to serving as medical director, he worked as chief of surgery at Marquette General Hospital and then chief of staff. He expanded his practice into teaching as well, serving as a clinical assistant professor at Michigan State University's Department of Surgery in the College of Human Medicine. He has published a number of researched, peer-reviewed articles and presented dozens of lectures. He has also worked in Chicago as both a lecturer and teaching assistant in prominent medical schools, including Evanston Hospital and Northwestern University Medical School.

Neurosurgical focus

- Specializes in the diagnosis and surgical treatment of disorders relating to the central and peripheral nervous system
- Provides operative and non-operative management of neurological disorders, including aneurysms, clogged arteries and abnormalities of the peripheral nerves
- Treats the full spectrum of brain and skull-base disorders, including brain tumors and lesions ■

For referral consultation, or more information, please call 414-385-7111.
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The information presented in this newsletter is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your own physician. Contact your physician if you believe you have a health problem.

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