

Aurora Cancer Care Connection

Your caring connection for support during cancer care

Aurora Cancer Care • Edition 15 • 2016

Message from the Vice President, Aurora Cancer Care



James Weese
MD, FACS
Vice President
Aurora Cancer Care

I hope by now you have seen one of the newspaper stories entitled Cancer Knows No Borders—a program to tell the story about Aurora Cancer Care patients from Wisconsin and Illinois. You might wonder why this is important, but I feel it conveys a critical message that we want to share with you.

Aurora's massive footprint, which extends from northern Illinois to the upper peninsula of Michigan. Other institutions can only offer these treatments at their home base in large cities, requiring patients to travel large distances to receive similar care. One of these trials offered through the NCI and

Every day, more than 90 people in Wisconsin and 178 people in Illinois are told they have cancer with the life-changing effect on these patients and their families and friends. Perhaps even more important is the realization that Aurora Cancer Care (ACC) teams treat one out of every four cancer patients in Wisconsin. Our excellent caregivers do everything within their power to help patients with the latest innovative treatments, and—perhaps more



importantly—with the supportive care required to improve the patient's chance for a cure while maximizing their quality of life.

In concert with ACC's NCORP grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), we offer over 175 active clinical trials to our patients and allow them to receive these new treatments near their homes throughout

Aurora is called the MATCH trial. This stands for Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice (MATCH), where we can offer 24 options of molecularly guided therapies to patients with many different cancer types. This allows us to provide treatment directed toward genetic changes found within a given patient's cancer cells.

Aurora is proud to be a co-sponsor of the Cancer Knows No Borders campaign, along with Anthony Rizzo of the Chicago Cubs and Chris Carter of the Milwaukee Brewers. Joining with Roundy's and Gannett Wisconsin Media, we are pleased to share the stories of many patients who have agreed

to tell of their experiences in their battle with cancer. This program will continue through the rest of 2016. We hope you will find the stories interesting as we work with our colleagues to find a cure, and improve the quality of life of our many patients with cancer. ■

Not just surviving. Thriving.

When a doctor tells you you have cancer, you might not have found the cure. But a doctor who says you have cancer is not a doctor who says you are dying. Aurora Cancer Care (ACC) has helped me survive and thrive. I am now a healthy, active person. I have a great quality of life. I am now a healthy, active person. I have a great quality of life. I am now a healthy, active person. I have a great quality of life.

Chia's cancer journey began with severe abdominal pain, which led to upper stomach tests and finally to a colonoscopy. At that time, it was discovered that she had cancer. She was told she had to have surgery. She was told she had to have surgery. She was told she had to have surgery. She was told she had to have surgery.

While Chia's cancer diagnosis was difficult, what she found was strong support networks. They shared a common goal: to find the best treatment. They shared a common goal: to find the best treatment. They shared a common goal: to find the best treatment.

Join us in the fight against cancer.
aurora.org/noborders or rizzo44.com/donate



Chia
Aurora patient
Chicago, IL
Long-term survivor

Chia
Aurora patient
Mount Pleasant, Wis
Cancer survivor

A healthy future ahead.

Chia knew something was wrong when he got a persistent cough. He was diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer. He was diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer. He was diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer.

Chia and Judy's diagnoses were different, yet their stories are so much the same. They both want to help others who are going through their own cancer journey. They speak to us about finding about the support for a common goal: to find the best treatment. They speak to us about finding about the support for a common goal: to find the best treatment.

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Judy
Aurora patient
Waukegan, IL
Two-time breast cancer survivor

Chia
Aurora patient
Chicago, IL
Long-term survivor

Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation donates \$250,000 to support Aurora cancer care, research

By Dawn Groshek, Foundation Development Officer,
Aurora Health Care Foundation



The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation Board of Directors formally present their gift at their June 9 Annual Meeting. Board members from left to right: Roger Kriete, Board Chair Paul Soltwedel, Jim Wras, Gary Nevermann, Nate Mork, Executive Director Erin Hareng, Ben Haas, Nelson Corazzari, Fuzzy Marek, Peggy Williams-Smith, Joel Hess

At its June 9 Annual Meeting, The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation announced a new \$250,000 gift to support **Aurora Cancer Care**, in partnership with **Aurora Research Institute**, in order to further advance cancer research that ultimately improves patient outcomes.

A portion of this gift will support the study of biomarkers through the institute's breast cancer research program, Translation Oncology Research: Quest for Understanding and Exploration (TORQUE), and fund two new cancer research projects through the institute's Aurora Cancer Care Research Award program.

Led by Judy Tjoe, MD, Fellowship-Trained Breast Surgeon, TORQUE leverages a biorepository of tissue and blood samples with a data-rich electronic health record to find hidden clues, or biomarkers, to create forward-moving scientific momentum. Dr. Tjoe hopes to find those hidden clues that may increase treatment effectiveness and decrease unnecessary exposure to surgery, radiation and potential side effects.

The donation will also support the Aurora Cancer Care Research Award program by allocating \$25,000 per award to physicians and scientists conducting advanced research that aims to improve patient outcomes and eradicate cancer through detection, treatment, education and prevention. The annual award supports basic, clinical and translational research, and is open to all forms of cancer research.

Congratulations to the following Aurora Cancer Care Research Awardees:

Chang-Hyuk Kwon, PhD

Sensitizing high-grade gliomas to chemo- and radiotherapies. The purpose of Dr. Kwon's study is to determine if the natural compound from a pepper plant can make advanced brain cancer tumor cells more responsive to chemo- and radiotherapies. The goal is to improve outcomes against this lethal form of brain cancer.

Jamie Cairo, DNP

Immediate and long-term benefits of a wellness coaching app in breast cancer survivors. The purpose of Dr. Cairo's study is to document the outcomes of six months of wellness coaching provided through an app for 75 breast cancer survivors. The goals are to reduce the late- and long-term side effects of cancer and its treatment, improve quality of life and encourage healthy lifestyle behaviors.

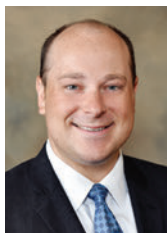
Richard Rovin, MD*

Isolation and characterization of cancer stem cells from metastatic brain tumors. The purpose of Dr. Rovin's research is to isolate cancer stem cells from metastatic brain tumors and describe their unique characteristics. The goal is to find a way to study why tumors spread to the brain, allowing pathways to prevention and new treatment options. *Second-year continuation funded with 2015 foundation gift.

The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation has donated more than \$18 million over the past two decades to support Aurora Cancer Care-led advancements, technologies and research.

For more information about ways to support Aurora Cancer Care and cancer research at Aurora, please contact Dawn Groshek, Foundation Development Officer, at 414-649-6077 or dawn.groshek@aurora.org.

Welcome new cancer care experts



Joseph J. Weber, MD
General Surgery—
Breast

Aurora Cancer Care is pleased to welcome **Joseph J. Weber, MD**. Dr. Weber earned his medical degree at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, Wis. His residency in general surgery was completed at East Carolina University, Brody School of Medicine in Greenville, N.C. He completed a specialized fellowship in breast surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, N.Y.

Dr. Weber's practice is focused on the treatment of breast cancer and breast-related diseases for both men and women. The procedures performed include lumpectomies, skin-sparing and nipple-sparing mastectomies, total mastectomies, sentinel lymph node biopsies, axillary lymph node dissections and minimally invasive breast biopsies.

As a breast surgical oncologist, he helps facilitate the multidisciplinary care team to provide comprehensive care to his patients. In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Weber belongs to numerous professional societies and has presented at scientific conferences across the country. His research interests include the early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, as well as the utilization of oncoplastic procedures to improve cosmetic results following surgery.

Dr. Weber and his wife are originally from the Milwaukee area and are delighted to return to the community. They are avid travelers and enjoy learning about different cultures, customs and cuisines. In addition to his pursuit of medicine, he is an avid guitarist and singer and is a classically trained pianist. ■

LOCATIONS

Aurora Medical Center

975 Port Washington Road
Suite 320
Grafton, WI 53024
262-329-8100

Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center

Physician Office Building
2801 W. Kinnickinnic River Pkwy., Suite 165
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-385-2301



Amritha C. Karkera, MD
Medical Oncology
& Hematology

Aurora Health Care also welcomes **Amritha C. Karkera, MD**. Dr. Karkera earned her medical degree from Father Muller's Institute of Medical Education and Research, India. She completed her residency in internal medicine, as well as a fellowship in medical oncology and hematology at Gundersen Health System, La Crosse, Wis. She is board-certified in internal medicine.

Dr. Karkera specializes in treating blood disorders and cancers, as well as conducting bone marrow biopsies. Her areas of interest include lymphoma and breast cancer.

Outside of work, she enjoys watching documentaries and listening to music. ■

LOCATION

Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic

2845 Greenbrier Road
Green Bay, WI 54311
920-288-4180

DID YOU KNOW?

Aurora Health Care treats more cancer patients than anyone else in Wisconsin, making us Wisconsin's #1 destination for cancer care.

- Our doctors are some of the top experts in their field in the country.
- From robotics to minimally invasive surgeries to new medicines and more, we offer the most cutting-edge treatments and coordinated care available.
- We're committed to researching new medical breakthroughs and pioneering the nation's most advanced treatments and techniques; in fact, we have 150 clinical trials dedicated to cancer alone.
- Aurora has been awarded a grant by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) as a member of the National

Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). NCORP expands Aurora's access to cancer clinical trials, and we are one of only 34 NCORP community sites throughout the country.

- Our cancer clinics and hospitals have all been certified with commendation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and most have won the Outstanding Achievement Award.
- Our clinics are conveniently located right in your communities, making your care, and access to clinical trials, more convenient than ever.

New treatment options for patients with kidney cancer

By Peter Stuessy PharmD, BCPS, BCOP and Jen Godden PharmD, BCOP, Specialty Pharmacy Coordinators Aurora Cancer Care

There were two medications recently approved for use in patients with kidney cancer who have already tried certain other medications.

Cabozantinib (Cabometyx) is an oral drug that is taken as one tablet daily, every day, until the drug is no longer working to treat your cancer. Some of the most common side effects include diarrhea, increased blood pressure, skin problems and lab changes.

Lenvatinib (Lenvima) is an oral drug that is now approved to be used along with everolimus (Afinitor), another oral drug. Patients take 3 tablets daily of lenvatinib, along with one tablet daily of everolimus, for a total of 4 tablets daily, every day, until the drugs are no longer working to treat their cancer. Some of the most common side effects are diarrhea, muscle and joint aches, swelling, mouth sores and nausea. ■

| NEW DRUG | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Name (Generic/Brand) | Indication |
| Atezolizumab (Tecentriq) | Metastatic Urothelial Carcinoma |
| NEW INDICATIONS | |
| Nivolumab (Opdivo) | Relapsed Hodgkin Lymphoma |
| Cabozantinib (Cabometyx) | Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma |
| Lenvatinib (Lenvima) with Everolimus (Afinitor) | Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma |

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Know your family history.

Because it might include a higher risk of colon cancer.

Learn how easy a screening is at aurora.org/getscreened.

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Aurora Cancer Care Connection

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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aurora.org/cancercare @Aurora_Cancer