

Aurora Cancer Care Connection

Your caring connection for support during cancer care

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Vision for surgical oncology



Aaron Chevinsky
MD, FACS, MBA
Director of
Surgical Oncology
Aurora Cancer Care

The vision for cancer care at Aurora looks bright. As the new Director of Surgical Oncology for Aurora Health Care, I would like to introduce some of the new programs and initiatives that will be starting over the next several months. Our goal is to give our cancer patients access to the best and brightest that Aurora has to offer, regardless of which Aurora facility they use and regardless of where in the state they live.

Two new conferences started in November 2016 to further improve the care we are delivering to our patients.

A new Aurora system-wide gastrointestinal multidisciplinary conference allows all patients access to experts in GI oncology, assisting in the selection of the proper pathway of care. With representatives from medical oncology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, interventional radiology and gastroenterology carefully reviewing each case, you will have access to the most current treatments and research protocols. This will allow you to share in the expertise of many different practitioners without having to see them individually. Similarly, a new sarcoma multidisciplinary conference also started in November 2016 that will allow access to multiple experts in sarcoma management during one visit. By seeing all the specialists together, a rapid decision can be made and treatment initiated promptly.

There are two new techniques and procedures being implemented at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center to further expand the spectrum and breadth of cancers we can treat.

With the purchase of the NanoKnife Irreversible Electroporation System, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center becomes the first hospital in Wisconsin to offer this groundbreaking new therapy. Targeted for patients with tumors that cannot be surgically removed, predominantly in the pancreas and liver, the NanoKnife allows us to treat these more advanced cancers without having to surgically remove them. This has demonstrated a doubling of survival in advanced pancreatic cancer patients. With its purchase, Aurora joins a very select group of hospitals and cancer centers offering this novel approach. Also new to Aurora is HIPEC, Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy, which,

combined with tumor debulking, offers hope to patients with peritoneal-based malignancies and carcinomatosis. This procedure is currently available at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center.



Any patient or family member can contact Drs. Aaron Chevinsky

and Wesley Papenfuss, surgical oncologists who can assist in deciding on the proper course of treatment. Our nurse navigators, Ana Farnsworth and Carla Rohloff, are also available to assist in setting up an appointment for evaluation. Please call Ana at 414-385-2406 or Carla at 414-649-3262.

These are just a few of the new changes and opportunities available to you and your family. We look forward to assisting you in your battle against cancer. Please let us know how we can help. ■

Frequently asked questions about vaccines for cancer patients

By Peter Stuessy, PharmD, BCPS, BCOP
Specialty Pharmacy Coordinator—Oncology
Aurora Cancer Care



Should I receive a flu vaccine?

The Centers of Disease Control (CDC) recommend that all adults receive an inactivated (non-live) flu vaccine each year. It is even more important for cancer patients to receive one, as they are at higher risk of becoming very sick from the flu. Flu vaccines are available at all Aurora Cancer Care clinics.

Is a high-dose flu vaccine better for me?

National guidelines from the CDC do not recommend a high-dose flu vaccine for cancer patients over a standard dose. Currently, nothing has shown that the high-dose vaccine decreases the risk of becoming very sick from the flu better than the standard dose. However, if you would like a high-dose vaccine, Aurora Pharmacies do carry it.

Does the flu vaccine cause the flu?

No. You cannot get the flu from the flu vaccine. Your body responds to the flu vaccine by developing protection, and this may cause some minor aches or pains that can be treated with over-the-counter pain relievers.

Should I receive a pneumococcal vaccine (commonly called the pneumonia vaccine)?

Your doctor will be able to tell you if you should receive a pneumonia vaccine. If they determine you should, there are two different vaccines that cancer patients should receive for the best protection against pneumonia-causing bacteria.

What if I have received a pneumonia vaccine already?

If you have received one already, your doctor or pharmacist can determine if you need another dose, or if you need to receive the pneumonia vaccine you have not received yet.

Should I receive a Zostavax (commonly called the shingles vaccine)?

Be sure to ask your doctor before receiving Zostavax. If you are currently in treatment for your cancer, you should NOT receive Zostavax.

What if I have more questions about vaccines?

Ask your doctor or Aurora Cancer Care pharmacist if you have any further questions about vaccines. Askyourpharmacist@aurora.org.

New medications for bladder/non-small cell lung cancers and soft tissue sarcoma

Drug Highlight—Atezolizumab (Tecentriq) is a new drug recently approved for both bladder cancer and non-small cell lung cancer. Atezolizumab is given at a dose of 1200 mg every 3 weeks until the cancer continues to grow or the drug becomes too toxic. Common side effects include fatigue, nausea, decreased appetite, constipation, fevers and urinary tract infection. Rare severe adverse effects can occur, called immune mediated adverse effects. This is when the body's cells attack areas of the body such as the gut, liver, lungs, or kidneys. Your doctor will closely monitor for these effects if you are placed on this medication, as they can be easily treated in most cases. ■

NEW DRUGS	
Name (Generic/Brand)	Indication
Atezolizumab (Tecentriq)	Bladder cancer or non-small cell lung cancer
Olaratumab (Lartruvo)	Soft tissue sarcoma
NEW INDICATIONS	
Pembrolizumab (Keytruda)	Metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma
Alectinib (Gilorif)	Metastatic squamous NSCLC—progression after platinum-containing regimen



Donors support new Southern Lakes Cancer Center

By Dawn Groshek Foundation Development Officer Aurora Health Care Foundation

On October 1, people from across western Racine and Walworth Counties came to see the new Aurora Health Center Southern Lakes, which offers world-class amenities, including a new comprehensive cancer center featuring a state-of-the-art Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic. The clinic has 25 infusion bays, including two private rooms and 10 exam rooms that create a warm, inviting environment.

This new cancer facility was supported by community members as part of the Partners in Cancer Care campaign. The campaign is set to close on December 31 and is on track to meet its \$2.2 million campaign goal. Thanks to community support, donors are able to provide enhancements to cancer care programming, including designated patient and family counseling and support for holistic medicine therapies, including reiki and massage therapies.

"I did chemo in 1997, and I had to travel to Madison to a room filled with recliners and fluorescent lights. To see this space and room for healing is just incredible," said Kim O'Keefe, a cancer survivor and co-founder of the McGMO Golf Outing, which fundraises for the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation to support efforts like this one.



Kim O'Keefe

Additionally, donors supported the design and construction of a spacious healing garden facing the center's infusion bay windows and leading to the White River State Trail. This enhancement offers patients, caregivers and loved ones a scenic space to walk through and view during treatment.

For more information about the new cancer center or how to support the Partners in Cancer Care campaign, please contact Michelle Weber at michelle.weber@aurora.org or visit give.aurora.org/cancercenter.

Dawn Groshek is the Foundation Development Officer, focusing on oncology services for Aurora Health Care Foundation. Contact her at dawn.groshek@aurora.org or by calling 414-649-6077. ■

Welcome our new cancer care provider



Asad Khan, MD
Neuro-Oncologist

Aurora Health Care welcomes **Asad Khan, MD**. Dr. Khan provides patient-oriented care and treatment at St. Luke's Medical Center, believing that patients are to be treated as people with unique and specific diseases requiring the utmost attention and care.

Dr. Khan diagnoses, treats and manages patients with brain and spinal cord disorders, tumors and systemic cancers with brain and spinal cord complications. He brings new therapeutic approaches to improve outcomes and decrease side effects and complications.

Dr. Khan earned his medical degree at Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan, and completed his residency in pediatrics at the University of Texas in Houston. He completed fellowships in both hematology and oncology and neuro-oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, and is dual-board-certified in hematology and oncology and neuro-oncology. Dr. Khan has additional training in adult neuro-oncology and pediatric neuro-oncology.

In his free time, Dr. Khan enjoys skiing, snowboarding, scuba diving, reading and writing. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

Spanish Cancer Clinic

Aurora Cancer Care Spanish Clinic is the first and only fully bilingual, Spanish-speaking cancer clinic in Wisconsin. Under the direction of Federico Sanchez, MD, a board-certified specialist in oncology and hematology, the clinic's bilingual staff will help you navigate and coordinate every aspect of your care.

Aurora Cancer Care Spanish Clinic is open Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center
2900 W. Oklahoma Ave., Suite 930
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-384-5111
Spanish voice mailbox 414-389-4619

La Clínica Hispana para la Atención al Cáncer de Aurora es la primera y única clínica bilingüe de cáncer en Wisconsin. Bajo la dirección de Federico Sánchez, MD, un médico certificado en oncología/hematología, el personal entrenado en español de la clínica le ayudará a navegar y coordinar todos los aspectos de su cuidado.

La clínica está abierto los lunes 8:30-5
También puede acceder a un buzón de correo de voz en español llamando al 414-389-4619

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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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