

AURORA CANCER CARE NEWS & VIEWS

Aurora Cancer Care • Volume 13, No. 3 • 2019

Message from the Vice President, Aurora Cancer Care



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

When you turn on your television, read a newspaper, see a billboard or check the Web it's hard to avoid a healthcare advertisement in Wisconsin. Keeping our patients healthy is critical. Developing and maintaining healthy habits like eating right, exercising, and maintaining a work-life balance is important to your well-being.

It is also important to recognize that if you, your family or friends ever get cancer, Aurora Cancer Care really stands out as the health system where you want to go. Aurora Cancer Care has 19 Medical Oncology and 11 Radiation Oncology sites to evaluate and treat cancer patients close to their home. All Aurora Cancer Care sites work with one common Electronic Medical Record.

Most people don't realize that one in every 4 patients diagnosed with cancer in Wisconsin is treated at Aurora Cancer Care—**it is the largest cancer program in the state.**

Aurora Cancer Care oversees 19 Multidisciplinary Disease Specific Clinics for 10 different cancer diagnoses, so patients can receive an evaluation from all appropriate cancer disciplines in one visit, making it easy and convenient for a patient and their family. We have 37 nurse navigators who work with our patients and guide them through their work-up and treatment.

Aurora Cancer Care's Radiation program had the first Cyberknife in Wisconsin and recently installed the newest model. Aurora's Robotic surgery program started in 2002 and the robots (Aurora has 16) are used to perform cancer operations in all the surgical disciplines. These advances make Aurora surgeons and Radiation oncologists the most experienced in Wisconsin with Stereotactic Body

AURORA CANCER CARE AND AURORA RESEARCH INSTITUTE RECEIVE \$10.2M NCORP GRANT - THE LARGEST GRANT IN AURORA AND ADVOCATE AURORA HEALTH HISTORY

Aurora Cancer Care as part of Advocate Aurora Health (AAH) under the direction of Dr. James Weese and Amy Bock, and Aurora Research Institute under the direction of Dr. Randall Lambrecht are delighted to announce our 6-year NCORP renewal for \$10.2M—more than double the amount received in total for our prior 5-year grant. Principal Investigators, Drs. Thomas Saphner and Michael Thompson, along with Director Dr. Amy Beres and our excellent clinical trials team will maximize this award to bring clinical trials to over 30 clinical sites in Wisconsin and Illinois. This allows us to offer participation in clinical trials to AAH cancer patients close to their homes, unlike other programs where patients are required to travel to a central home base to join a clinical trial. Congratulations to our excellent researchers and cancer teams!

To read more about the NCORP Grant go to: <https://www.aurorahealthcare.org/aurora-research-institute/aurora-research-news/2019-research-news-release-archive/advocate-aurora-health-expands-cancer-research-with-10-million-in-federal-funding>.

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Did you know?

Better Together, Aurora Cancer Care Community Outreach and Social Work Navigation

By Jennifer Jarvey Balistreri, MS, Community Impact Coordinator Senior, Aurora Cancer Care;
and Dawn Shelton-Williams, MSW, LCSW, Quality Specialist and Social Work Navigation, Aurora Family Services

Aurora Cancer Care Community Outreach continues to work on strengthening internal partnerships for community betterment by collaborating with Aurora Family Services. Additionally, we have gained the support from the State's Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP) funds preventive health screening services for breast and cervical cancer for uninsured or under-insured women.

In July 2017, Aurora Health Care received a 5-year grant from WWWP to provide patient social work navigation services to women in the Metro region (Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, and Waukesha) of Advocate Aurora Health Care and surrounding communities.

Through our combined efforts, we can help reduce the burden of access to breast and cervical cancer screening in Wisconsin. In 2019, we have partnered on various diverse community-based cancer prevention and education activities such as: Puerto Rican Festival, Milwaukee Public Schools Resource Fairs, Faith Based Health Fairs, Salvation Army Women's Fair, and many more. Our aligned efforts help us better understand and address the racial and socioeconomic disparities in cancer screening environments throughout Wisconsin.

How does the social work navigator role work? Patient navigation is defined by the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program as "individualized assistance offered to women to overcome barriers and facilitate timely access to quality screening and diagnostic services as well as initiation of treatment services for those diagnosed with cancer." Within the scope of our partnership, this role provides patient navigation services to women between the ages of 45 years of age and 64 years (there are some exceptions), whose income is at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. The women may be uninsured or under-insured.

Additionally, this program provides a culturally responsive screening/assessment on barriers and challenges for breast and cervical cancer screenings/care; care coordination, case management, and education services. Our social work navigator program collaboratively works with the care teams in the Advocate Aurora Health Care system; the cancer care department on outreach activities in the community; and with the WWWP Site coordinators in the community.

Interested in learning more about getting connected to this program? Please contact Dawn Shelton-Williams: dawn.shelton-williams@aurora.org ■



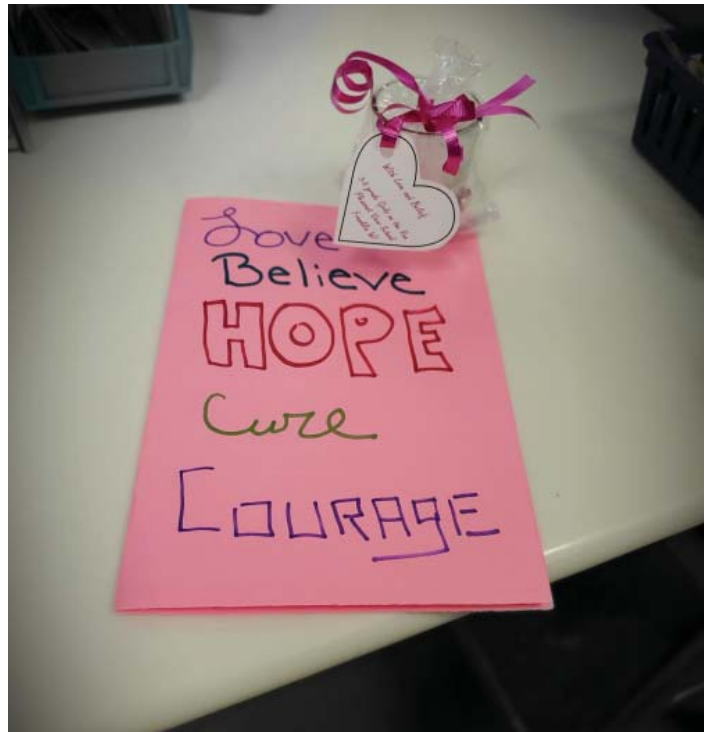
Girls on the Run of Franklin Share Gifts of Encouragement for Cancer Patients

By Kelly Held, BSN, RN, RN-BC, Supervisor Oncology Services, Aurora Cancer Care West Allis and Mayfair

Here at Aurora Cancer Care we pride ourselves not only on the care we deliver but also on the relationships we develop with our patients and their families. We are here for the good times, and to support, encourage, and motivate patients when times are rough. We give everything to our patients to help them live well. Some days our purpose isn't as clearly felt as on other days. Recently, the staff at Aurora West Allis Medical Center were lucky enough to get a reminder of the positive impact we have on the lives of others and were reignited in the passion we have for our work.

“ We are here for the good times, and to support, encourage, and motivate patients when times are rough. We give everything to our patients to help them live well. ”

On June 14th the staff at the Aurora West Allis Cancer Center had a visit from a former infusion patient named Victoria Jaber-Boden. Victoria's battle started back in 2015 when she was just 33 years old. One day she was scheduling activities for her daughter and the next she is scheduling doctors' appointments and chemotherapy. In the words



of Victoria, “The team at West Allis not only provided comprehensive care to get me through, they provided caring and encouragement at a level I never could have expected. My family and I are forever grateful for our experience.”

Seeing Victoria happy and healthy during her recent visit was rewarding and special for the staff. But Victoria did not just visit to say hello. Victoria tagged along with her daughter and the members of the Franklin Pleasant View Elementary 'Girls on the Run' team.

The Girls on the Run athletes were dropping off gifts for our patients that are actively being seen in infusion, and left gifts for future patients. The girls and their coaches made votive candle holders, bracelets and cards of encouragement for the patients.

Victoria's daughter suggested the idea of making gifts for the patients because she remembered that when Victoria was going through chemotherapy she always appreciated these gestures. As you can imagine, these gifts from the 'Girls on the Run' athletes put smiles on the faces of our patients and our staff. ■



2019 Autologous Stem Cell Transplant Survivorship Event Celebrates Transplant Patients and Their Journey

By Jaime Kroll, Data Coordinator, ASCT Program; Christine Schilz, Data Coordinator, ASCT Program; and Jamie Huebschen RN, OCN, ASCT Program Coordinator, ASCT Program

It may be a little-known fact that Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center has been performing Autologous Stem Cell Transplants (ASCT) for almost 30 years. As of June 2019, the ASCT program has transplanted 764 patients with a wide range of diagnoses including Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and germ cell cancer. Our transplant program is proudly accredited by the Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT), participates in the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) data registry, and is part of the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP).

“To further our commitment to our transplant patients, the ASCT program is proud to host a bi-annual Survivorship dinner event at Discovery World. This celebratory event provides a wonderful opportunity for our survivors to meet and share stories with other survivors who have gone through the transplant process.”

Under the guidance of our new Bone Marrow Transplant Medical Director Dr. Stephen Medlin, we are working towards expanding our program to offer our patients allogeneic transplant and innovative cellular therapy options such as Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cells (CAR-T). Stay tuned,

as more information will be forthcoming on these treatments.

Since the program's inception in 1990, our mission has remained the same; to offer our patients the most advanced cancer technologies and latest treatment options. Our team of specialists are equipped with the knowledge and experience to treat our patients with compassion and sensitivity, which helps to create an environment of support and trust. We also have a team of support services specialized in oncology to help our patients navigate through their cancer journey.

To further our commitment to our transplant patients, the ASCT program is proud to host a bi-annual Survivorship dinner event at Discovery World. This celebratory event provides a wonderful opportunity for our survivors to meet and share stories with other survivors who have gone through the transplant process. It also gives our patients time to connect and interact with the transplant physicians and caregivers, many of whom may have helped in their care. Prior to the dinner and program, guests were encouraged to visit the Acupuncture, Aromatherapy and Art Therapy stations to learn about ways to relax, reduce stress, and promote healing.

The event this past June was hugely successful, with over 200 survivors and caregivers in attendance. We would like to thank everyone that attended and participated, as this event could not happen without all of you! ■

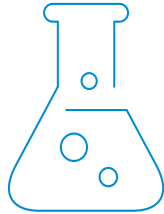


Aurora Health Care Hospital is Only Site in State to Join Study of Drug for Common Type of Leukemia

International clinical trial compares a molecular therapy combined with chemotherapy to chemotherapy alone

By Nickolas Bullock, Scientific Writer and Editor, Advocate Aurora Health Research Institute

Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee is the only site in Wisconsin participating in an international clinical trial studying the use of a particular anticancer molecular therapy for patients with a common type of leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia (AML).



Chemotherapy is the main treatment for this cancer that starts in the bone marrow but often moves quickly into a person's blood. Sponsored by Hoffmann-La Roche and managed locally by Aurora Research Institute, the MIRROS clinical trial compares the effectiveness of the investigational molecular therapy drug idasanutlin combined with the chemotherapy drug cytarabine to cytarabine with a placebo.

"Idasanutlin, a type of drug called an MDM2 antagonist, enhances the activity of tumor-suppressing gene p53," said Sherjeel Sana, MD, a hematologist and oncologist for Aurora Health Care and site principal investigator for the clinical trial. "Previous studies of idasanutlin have shown promising results for the treatment of solid tumors. This trial will examine its ability to help fight leukemias, which affect the blood."

“Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee is the only site in Wisconsin participating in an international clinical trial studying the use of a particular anticancer molecular therapy for patients with a common type of leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia (AML).”

AML is one of the most common types of leukemia in adults, though it is still rare overall, comprising only 1 percent of all cancers, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). ACS estimates more than 21,000 cases of AML and more than 10,000 deaths from AML in the United States in 2019.

Researchers will enroll about 440 study participants throughout the world. All participants in the study will receive either idasanutlin or placebo along with cytarabine as the first cycle of treatment. Participants with positive results to treatment may continue to receive up to two further treatment cycles.

"Studies such as this continue to make Aurora Health Care and Aurora Research Institute leaders in innovative cancer treatment," said Amy Beres, PhD, director of oncology research for the research institute.



Last year, Aurora enrolled 674 new participants in 238 cancer research projects.

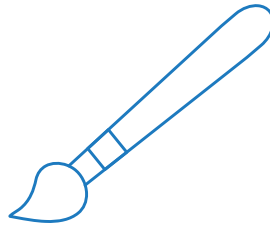
To get information about or refer a potential participant to this study, titled "A Study of Idasanutlin With Cytarabine Versus Cytarabine Plus Placebo in Participants With Relapsed or Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) (MIRROS)," contact Jennifer Mathieu, supervisor of oncology research trials, at 414-302-2312 or jennifer.mathieu@aurora.org.

To learn more about our research, visit aurora.org/research. ■

Reflections on Art Therapy

By Jamie Cairo, DNP, AOCNP, Manager Cancer Integration and Director of Art Therapy Program, Aurora Cancer Care

It has been said that emotions are felt first in images and later in words. For this reason, art can offer a pathway to healing. For patients who have been diagnosed with cancer, art therapy can provide a number of important benefits.



Cancer and its treatment can cause both physical and psychological side effects, and sometimes it is difficult for patients to express their true feelings in words. Art therapy provides a relaxing and creative outlet and allows the patient to truly share themselves through art even if they don't consider themselves to be an artist or "artistic." In a large study done by the National Institutes of Health (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK279641/>), art therapy helped to reduce anxiety, depression and physical pain in patients. It also provided an overall improvement in quality of life.

“It makes me feel more relaxed and helps take my mind off of what is going on with my health for just a little bit. I also was really proud of what I created. I didn't know that I could be creative like that.”

Art therapists are trained in both psychotherapy and art and have studied and mastered both psychology and human development. They use different modalities and mediums, including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, and/or a variety of other types of visual art expression to connect with their clients.

Art therapy is offered to our cancer patients at some of our inpatient and outpatient locations. Therapists spend time



in the infusion rooms of some of these locations offering art therapy to patients while they receive chemotherapy. Sometimes their creations are completed in one sitting or they may be created over time during multiple sessions. Open studios are also offered in some locations and are open to everyone, including caregivers.

The availability of art therapy has been very well received by patients and staff, who appreciate the positive effects that this therapy has with their patients. Some patients schedule their treatments on days when the art therapist is available.

Reflections from a patient currently receiving chemotherapy: *“It makes me feel more relaxed and helps take my mind off of what is going on with my health for just a little bit. I also was really proud of what I created. I didn't know that I could be creative like that.”*

Reflections from art therapists, who recalled an interaction with a hospitalized cancer patient who was very ill. Together they created a “bottle of hope” which contains layers of different colored sand: *“I asked him what the colors meant to him and he said that to him the green was for prosperity (money). Red was for his life.*

Yellow was for the sunshine. White was for the spirit. Black represented his final destination. He was very happy with how the bottle turned out. A few days later when I saw him again he told me that he was actually going to be discharged a few days ahead of schedule. He was so excited about this and attributed much of his success and early discharge to the motivation he felt while looking at that bottle every day”.



Art therapists at Aurora do not charge for their services. The program relies in part on donor support through the Aurora Foundation. ■

Clinical Abstract Poster Presented at ASCO: Implementation of a Lung Screening Program Across a Large, Integrated Health System

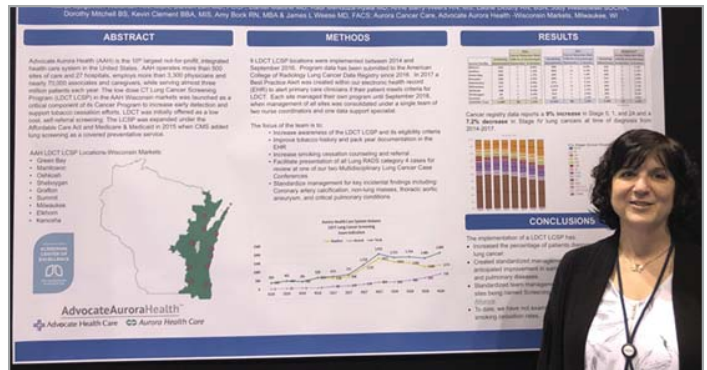
By Laurie Dlouhy RN, BSN, Program Coordinator, Lung CT Screening Program

Aurora's Low Dose CT Lung Cancer Screening Program (LDCT LCSP) is a critical component of our Cancer Program with a goal of increased detection of lung cancer at its earliest and most treatable stage. Nine LDCT LCSP locations were implemented within Aurora between 2014 and September 2016. Lung screening was initially offered as a low cost, self-referral screening, with expansion under the Affordable Care Act and Medicare/Medicaid in 2015, when it was added by CMS as a covered preventative service.

Initially each site managed their own program. In September 2018, management of all sites was consolidated under a single team of two nurses and one data support specialist. One of many goals of the team is increased awareness of the lung screening program and eligibility requirements in order to increase lung screening utilization in this high-risk population. It is estimated that for every 1000 patients seen by a primary care physician, 50 would be eligible for lung screening.

The data from the lung screening program has demonstrated an increase in the percentage of our patients diagnosed at an earlier stage of lung cancer and a reduction in the number of patients presenting at later stages.

In 2016, 1,849 LDCT Screenings were performed, in 2017 4,701 (154% increase) and in 2018 7,154 (52.5% increase).



The program continues to grow with an estimated 9,000 screenings to be performed in 2019. Cancer Detection rates in 2016 were 1.3%, 2017 1.8%, and January-June 2018 1.3%. Our Cancer registry data reports a 9% increase in Stage 0, 1, & 2A and a 7.2% decrease in Stage IV at time of diagnosis from 2014-2017.

The data from the lung screening program has demonstrated an increase in the percentage of our patients diagnosed at an earlier stage of lung cancer and a reduction in the number of patients presenting at later stages. The benefits include: diagnosis when the disease has the greatest potential for cure and reduced treatment costs. An abstract was created, reflecting our data, which was submitted and accepted by ASCO for poster presentation at the 2019 conference. Presentation of our poster provided us with the opportunity to share our accomplishments on a global stage and share directly with our colleagues the methods for our success.

The full abstract can be found at: <https://meetinglibrary.asco.org/record/173822/abstract>. ■

Welcome New Cancer Care Provider

Timothy Goggins, MD, is passionate about cancer care and enjoys helping patients face difficult times by being a source of empathy and by treating each patient as if they were family. He provides:

- Chemotherapy
- Bone marrow biopsies
- IT chemotherapy

His areas of interest include:

- Hematologic malignancies
- Lung cancer
- Head and neck cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Palliative care

Dr. Goggins earned his medical degree from Albany Medical College in N.Y. His residency in internal medicine and

pediatrics was completed at Creighton University in Omaha, NE. He also completed a fellowship in hematology/oncology at Duke University in Durham, NC, where he also earned a master's degree in clinical research. Dr. Goggins is board certified in internal medicine, oncology, hematology and hospice/palliative care.

Outside of work, he enjoys watching hockey, baseball and football; running; weight lifting; reading; traveling; riding his motorcycle and spending time with his wife and four children. ■



Timothy Goggins, MD,
Hematology and
Medical Oncology

Message from the Vice President, cont.

Radiosurgery and in robotic cancer surgery.

All Aurora Medical Oncologists have designated special interest in specific cancer diagnoses. They not only provide expertise to their colleagues in the system, they all participate in the development of cancer treatment pathways developed by VIA Oncology. VIA is a program with over 2000 Cancer physicians who work together and attend national on-line quarterly meetings to review the latest information about cancer treatment. The quality of our medical oncologists is recognized in the leadership of the VIA committees. There are 14 standing committees for Cancer diagnoses. Each committee has an Academic and a community oncologist as chair. Of the 14 committees, 8 are chaired by Aurora Medical Oncologists. As we move into VIA for surgical oncology, two of our surgical oncologists chair those committees.

The VIA Oncology program recommends evidence-based treatment pathways based first on efficacy, then on toxicity, and then on cost—if evidence suggests 2 treatments for a given stage of a type of cancer are equally effective, they then look for the side effects and toxicity. If equally toxic, they are then ranked by cost. Before any treatment is offered, available clinical trials are noted as the first option.

Research is critical to any cancer program.

Aurora Cancer Care and Aurora Research Institute was recognized for their quality as a research institution by the National Cancer Institute when they were first selected as an NCORP site in 2014 and funded to bring clinical trials into the communities we serve. Since the inclusion of clinical trials into VIA, Aurora's clinical trials volume has increased by 400% over the last 5 years. Our recent \$10.2M 6-year program renewal award by NCORP is an accomplishment that shows the great value and national recognition of our Aurora team.

Aurora Cancer Care stands for quality care for our patients. We make up one of the largest groups of medical oncologists in the country who have been certified by QOPI, the American Society of Clinical Oncology's quality assurance program. Our cancer programs are also accredited by the Commission on Cancer (CoC), Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT), National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), The National Pancreas Foundation, and the Sarcoma Alliance.

These characteristics are just a few examples of many more demonstrating the extraordinary qualities of Aurora Cancer Care. Aurora represents a great community health system, and if you or a loved one gets really sick or develops cancer, they can get the best care right within the Aurora system. ■

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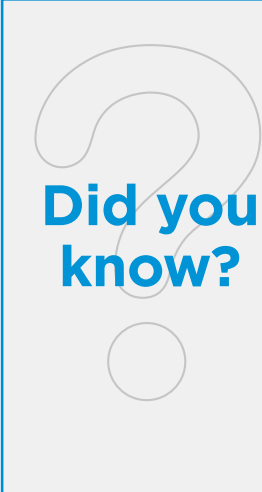
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June marked a couple of milestones for Oncology Precision Medicine (OPM). Since its inception in 2017 OPM has:

- Coordinated over 1000 Molecular Panel Tests
- Discussed over 800 Molecular Tumor Board Cases



 **Aurora Cancer Care**®

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