

Aurora Cancer Care Connection

Your caring connection for support during cancer care

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Message from the Vice President, Aurora Cancer Care



James Weese
MD, FACS
Vice President
Aurora Cancer Care

Thank you for choosing Aurora Cancer Care (ACC) for your or your family's cancer treatment. Patients select ACC for many reasons—your doctor's recommendation, suggestion of a friend or family member, an article in a paper or journal, or any number of other influences. Whatever the reason, our highly caring team is most appreciative of your choice. There are many good reasons to

select Aurora for your cancer treatment and I thought you would like to know some important facts about our program.

There are over 160 physician cancer specialists as part of our team. These include medical oncologists, hematologists, surgeons and surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and interventional oncologists.

Our physicians have designated subspecialty expertise in all of the different cancers, including breast, lung, gastrointestinal (including colorectal, pancreas, liver, stomach and esophageal), sarcomas, melanomas, gynecologic (including ovarian, cervical and uterine), urologic (including prostate, kidney and bladder), head and neck,

and brain and spinal cord cancers—just to name a few. We have the latest radiation equipment at our 10 regional sites across our footprint. Aurora Cancer Care has 31 nurse navigators to work with our patients. With our standardized medical record, your health information is available to physicians wherever you travel in the Aurora System.

Quality is important to you and critical for us. All of the Aurora Hospitals are certified by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. They have all received

commendation in their certification and almost all have been awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award. Why is this important? Only 29 percent of U.S. hospitals have received this certification, but 71 percent of patients with cancer receive their treatment with physicians affiliated with those programs. We also have eight breast centers that have been certified by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers of the American College of Surgeons (NAPBC), and most of these house multidisciplinary breast cancer clinics where newly diagnosed patients can be evaluated by experts in surgery, medical oncology, and radiation oncology, as well as receive evaluations and treatment plans, all in one visit. We also have multidisciplinary clinics for patients with lung cancer, head and neck cancer, gastrointestinal cancers,

sarcomas, brain cancers and others distributed across our system. Reinforcing quality, ACC has one of the largest groups of medical oncologists in the country that has received Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) certification by the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

ACC had the first Cyberknife in the state for stereotactic radiosurgery, and our radiation oncologists have the most experience in Wisconsin for head and body radiosurgery where precise radiation therapy can cut out the need for a scalpel in attacking localized tumors throughout the body. Clinical trials offer patients the opportunity to receive innovative treatments that are only available at a limited number of sites nationally. ACC has a grant from the National Cancer Institute called NCORP, which was awarded to help us enroll our patients in clinical trials close to their homes.



Message from the Vice President...

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There are only 34 such programs in the country. We also have extensive programs in cardio-oncology—preventing heart toxicity from cancer treatment—in pharmacogenomics, identifying those patients most likely to respond to new molecular (magic bullet) therapy, and cancer genetics for both patients and their family members.

In addition, over 120 informational videos are now available online for patients starting chemotherapy. These were created by ACC nurses and oncology pharmacists to provide patient education about the drugs they will receive, including what to expect and potential side effects. This will allow us to ensure that all patients receive the same education about their therapy and will let the patient share this information with their family and support team.

These are only a few of the innovations offered through Aurora Cancer Care. We are honored that you have chosen to receive your care with our excellent physicians and other caregivers.

The end of cancer starts here—at Aurora Cancer Care. ■

Did you know?

Aurora Cancer Care offers free educational courses for patients, survivors and their families

Mark your calendar for these upcoming sessions:

Integrative Medicine

Thursday, August 18 • 6 to 7 p.m.
Conference Room A

Sexual Health and Wellness

Thursday, October 20 • 6 to 7 p.m.
Conference Room A

Aurora Medical Center

855 N. Westhaven Dr., Oshkosh
RSVP: leslie.prusik@aurora.org ■

How the Lombardi Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer brought the Ayala family closer together

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



Team Ayala was one of the Milwaukee location's biggest fundraising teams in 2015.

Aurora Health Care Foundation and Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation are teaming up for a total of nine Lombardi Walks to Tackle Cancer this year. The Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer supports local Aurora Cancer Care programs, services and research with all gifts receiving a 50 percent match from Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation. Luis Ayala and his awesome team of fundraisers will return to the Milwaukee Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer at Festa Italiana this year on July 23.

Luis says he lived with pain for about a year before he told a single person or saw a doctor. He told himself it was just a stomach ache, but it eventually got in the way of his ability to get in and out of his car and even walk. It finally progressed to the point that he was throwing up blood.

"It happened twice, pretty close to each other. I remember I was watching a Packers and Vikings game in 2014. After that I knew something was really wrong," Luis explains.

Luis was eventually diagnosed with cancer and doctors removed an 8- to 10-pound tumor from his stomach and colon. It had also spread to his lymph nodes, so for the following eight months, he went through extensive chemotherapy that left him feeling absolutely exhausted. But as physically difficult as that was to endure, for Luis, cancer's emotional toll was the worst.

"During my treatment I had to use a chemotherapy bag that felt like this 'scarlet letter of cancer' on my side that went with me everywhere. I couldn't escape it. So on my last treatment, I thought I was going to go party and celebrate life. But I ended up getting really depressed because chemotherapy

at least gave me an identified opponent. Now my enemy was invisible, how do I keep fighting?" Luis explains.

Just before Luis's final chemotherapy treatment in 2015, he heard about the Lombardi Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer in Milwaukee. He says it was a way for his family to rally against cancer together. "Lombardi is the greatest coach in the world, plus he had colon cancer, the same as me. I just felt drawn to supporting Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation and helping other people in my community who are tackling this thing, too."

Luis and Team Ayala ended up being one of the most successful teams at the Lombardi Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer last year. Not only was the team a top fundraiser, but Luis believes it also brought his family closer together. Team Ayala will be back at it on July 23 when the Lombardi Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer moves to Festa Italiana. And that's because his fight to tackle cancer has only just begun.



"Maybe I need to spread the word to help others get treatment sooner than I did. It's crazy how many people are affected: young, old, different cultures, different races, and we are all united with this awful disease. Once you strip away all the things that make you different, you just become cancer warriors," Luis says.

You can join Luis and support cancer patients in your own community! You can choose to walk this summer at one of nine locations throughout eastern Wisconsin, or make a gift in support of the effort. Go to LombardiWalk.org to learn more. ■

New cancer care experts



Aaron Chevinsky, MD, FACS, MBA
Chief of Surgical Oncology and Program Director of the Fellowship in Complex Surgical Oncology, Aurora Cancer Care

Dr. Aaron Chevinsky, MD, FACS, MBA has accepted the position of Chief of Surgical Oncology and Program Director of the new Fellowship in Complex Surgical Oncology in Aurora Cancer Care, effective June 27. Prior to coming to Aurora, he was Chief of Surgical Oncology at the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center at Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, NJ.

Dr. Chevinsky is a graduate of the City College of New York (B.S. Magna cum Laude) and the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine. He received his MD in June 1983 and later completed an Executive MBA in Healthcare Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2015. He completed his General Surgery Residency in 1988 at the State University of New York Stony Brook University Hospital and subsequently completed a Fellowship in Surgical Oncology at Ohio State in 1990. Dr. Chevinsky has been certified and recertified by the American Board of Surgery and also has the Certificate of Special Competency in Surgical Critical Care. He has been listed frequently among the Best Doctors in New Jersey, Best Doctors in the NY Metropolitan Area, and in America's Top Surgeons, and the Best Doctors in America.

Dr. Chevinsky has extensive operative experience in all aspects of Surgical Oncology but has special interest in Primary Pancreatic Cancer, Metastatic and Primary Cancers of the liver and bile ducts, all Gastrointestinal Malignancies, Melanoma and Sarcoma. He has written and presented widely on these and other areas of surgical oncology.



Sahibzada Usman Latif, MD
Gastroenterology Aurora Cancer Care

Aurora Health Care is pleased to welcome **Sahibzada Usman Latif, MD**. Dr. Latif is dedicated to excellence in the total care of gastroenterology patients. In addition to performing general GI procedures like colonoscopy and esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD), Dr. Latif also performs advanced endoscopic procedures including: Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatogram (ERCP), Endoluminal stenting, Intraluminal malignancy staging, and Endoscopic treatment of early GI tumors.

Dr. Latif manages biliary disorders such as bile duct stones, tumors, strictures and pancreatic disorders such as pancreatic cysts and tumors. He also aids patients in the managements of acute and chronic pancreatitis.

Dr. Latif earned his medical degree at Khyber Medical College, Peshawar, Pakistan and his residency in Internal Medicine at Michigan State University, East Lansing. He has completed fellowships in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Advanced/Therapeutic Endoscopy, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He is board certified in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine.

Please call 414-649-3750, for an appointment.

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New cancer care experts

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Thomas A. Gardner, MD
Oculoplastic Surgery & Neuro-Ophthalmology
Aurora Cancer Care

Partnering with neurosurgeons and otolaryngologists, **Thomas A. Gardner, MD**, treats neurosurgical/orbital disorders that require a multi-disciplinary approach. He provides his patients with the best medical evaluation available by thoroughly discussing with them their options and helping them make the best possible treatment decisions for their health care goals and quality of life.

Dr. Gardner treats the full spectrum of oculoplastic and neuroophthalmic disorders including surgery for eyelid abnormalities

and skin cancers, eye socket tumors, reconstruction, and treatments for tearing or dry eye problems. Treatments for neuro-ophthalmic disorders include eye muscle surgery, optic nerve fenestration, and BOTOX® for eyelid spasms. His areas of special interest include orbital tumors, Graves' disease, and optic nerve surgery.

Dr. Gardner received his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, and attended residency at the University of Pittsburgh Eye and Ear Institute.

He completed a fellowship in Neuro-Ophthalmology and Orbital Disease with Jack Kennerdell, MD. Dr. Gardner is board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, and in 2012, he was presented with the American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award.

For more information on this provider, please call the Aurora Neuroscience Innovation Institute at 414-385-1922.



Ana Farnsworth RN, BSN, OCN
Cancer Nurse Navigator
Complex GI Surgical Oncology Program
Aurora Cancer Care

Ana Farnsworth, RN, BSN, OCN will be assuming the role of Cancer Nurse Navigator for the Complex GI Surgical Oncology Program at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center (ASLMC)— a new donor-funded position through the generosity of Judith A. Gardetto. Ana has extensive experience in Oncology Nursing in both IP, OP Medical Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplantation, Breast Care Coordinator and in her most recent role as Generalist Cancer Nurse Navigator at AMCG. She will support Drs. Aaron Chevinsky and Wes Papenfuss of Surgical Oncology.



Melissa (Mell) Whitehouse RN, OCN
Cancer Nurse Navigator
Aurora Cancer Care

Aurora Cancer Care welcomes **Melissa (Mell) Whitehouse, RN, OCN** as Cancer Nurse Navigator. Mell has been with Aurora Cancer Care for 5 of her 6 years at Aurora Health Care. She began as a float infusion nurse, and then transferred to full time with Aurora Cancer Care in Burlington, working mainly in infusion but also assisting as Cancer Care Coordinator. Mell received her Associates in Nursing from Waukesha County Technical College and is currently working toward her Bachelors in Nursing at Grand Canyon University. In 2014, Mell became an Oncology Certified Nurse, which has been a great asset to the care she provides our patients. ■

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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.

Aurora Cancer Care 3000 W. Montana Street | Milwaukee, WI 53215 | 414-647-3094 or 414-219-4531



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