

Aurora Cancer Care Connection

Your caring connection for support during cancer care

Aurora Cancer Care • Edition 10 • 2015

Expect the very best, because the experts are here

By James Weese, MD, FACS, Vice President System Cancer Program; Anne Weers, RN, MS, System Program Quality Manager-Cancer Services

Aurora Cancer Care's multidisciplinary team brings together a group of dedicated thoracic cancer specialists to provide you with personalized care using the latest treatments and technologies. The thoracic surgeons at Aurora Health Care, who make up part of that

team, treat patients with a wide variety of conditions pertaining to the lung, diaphragm, esophagus and chest. The multidisciplinary team specializes in lung and esophageal cancer, tumors of the chest wall, lung, esophagus, mediastinum, thymus and trachea, pneumothoraces,

In 2014, Aurora Medical Center Summit (AMCS), Aurora Medical Center Grafton (AMCG) and Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center (ASLMC) performed 885 thoracic surgical procedures.

pleural effusions, empyema, mesothelioma, achalasia, and diaphragmatic hernias. In addition, technological advancements have led Aurora Health Care's thoracic surgeons to perform CyberKnife treatment, photodynamic therapy, brachytherapy, rib plating, bronchial and tracheal stenting, as well as robotic-assisted surgery when appropriate. Our comprehensive program offers cutting edge techniques and screenings for patients from all 50 states. ■



Santosh Krishnan, MD
Thoracic Surgeon

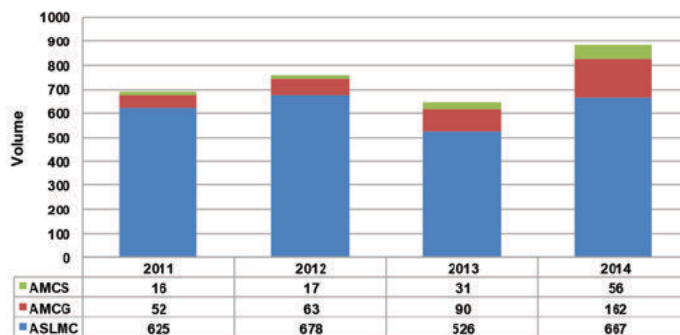


Vijay Nuthakki, MD
Thoracic Surgeon

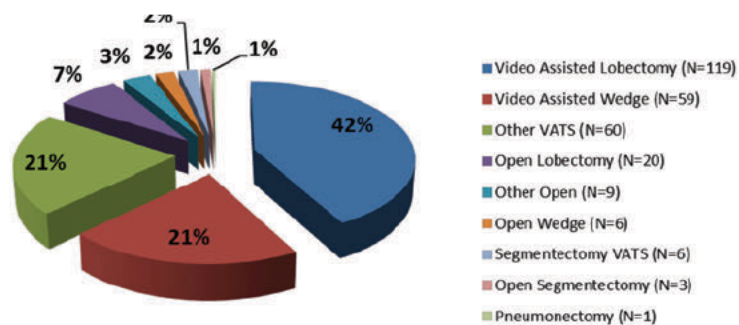


William Tisol, MD
Thoracic Surgeon

General Thoracic Surgery Volume 2011-2014

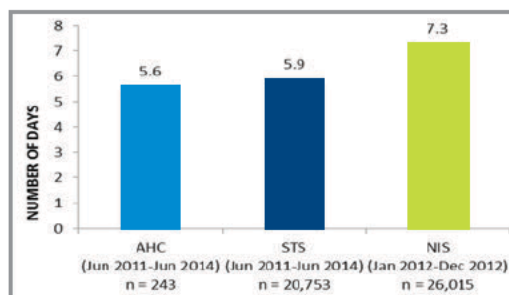


Distribution of All Pulmonary Resection by Type (N=283) 2014



Since the majority of surgeries are performed with a minimally invasive technique, thoracic surgery patients' length of stay at Aurora Health Care is better than national benchmark comparisons.

Postoperative Length of Stay



AHC-Aurora Health Care

STS-Society of Thoracic Surgery
261 participants, 43 states

NIS-Nationwide Inpatient Sample
Largest all-payer inpatient care database in United States.

The thoracic surgeons at Aurora Health Care are dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of cancer care. They provide exceptional care through advanced and specialized surgical treatment options.

New research could lead to more treatment options for cancer patients

By Bridgette Frommell, Development Officer, Aurora Health Care Foundation

When it comes to the fight against cancer, we've made incredible progress. People are living productive and healthy lives well beyond their diagnosis. But of course, we still have a lot of work to do. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Aurora Health Care, through its partnership with Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation, has been able to help enhance cancer programming and support innovation to help more people live well. And cancer research is part of that equation.

"Research has become a priority at Aurora, especially with Aurora Research Institute being the recipient of several large, nationally competitive research grants. We know that many of tomorrow's breakthroughs in cancer prevention and treatment are waiting to be discovered right here in our research facilities," says Randall Lambrecht, PhD, president of Aurora Research Institute.

In May, Aurora Research Institute awarded \$100,000 to four Aurora Health Care investigators to conduct new cancer-related research projects. The Aurora Cancer Care Research Award program provides \$25,000 per award to caregivers conducting advanced research meant to improve patient outcomes and eradicate cancer through detection, treatment, education and prevention. Funds for the program are available due to a generous gift from Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation. The awardees were announced at the Foundation's annual meeting May 29.

The program also supports researchers in need of continued funding to complete their projects. Another \$100,000 in grants will be awarded later this year.

Santhi Konduri, PhD, received an Aurora Cancer Care Research Award in 2014 for her preclinical evaluation of the drug disulfiram as part of combination therapy in breast and pancreatic cancers.



"Disulfiram is actually an FDA-approved drug for alcoholism; it creates an aversion for alcohol and reverses the inclination to drink. Recently, it has also shown anticancer properties, and when it is combined with chemotherapeutic drugs, we can reduce the dosage of chemotherapeutic drugs," she says.

Dr. Konduri's research is incredibly relevant, as there are currently only two drugs with FDA approval to treat pancreatic cancer and the survival rates are quite low. She says the research is going well and her goal is to get the studies published.

Finding a cure is important, and so is having treatment options. This promising research is only possible, thanks to the generosity of donors in our community. ■

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? Experts leading research efforts to improve cancer care

Sanjay Kansra, PhD, received an award to compare the cellular signaling networks of high-risk premalignant breast lesions and subsequent breast lesions from the same women. This study may provide information on the genetic changes that drive the early stages of breast cancer.

Santhosh Kumar, MD, received an award to assess the impact outpatient family conferences have on communication among caregivers, patients with advanced cancer and their loved ones. The purpose of his study is to reduce suffering for patients with advanced cancer and offer a model for other institutions.

Kourosh Ravvaz, MD, PhD, received an award to improve prediction models for bladder cancer progression and recurrence with the latest clinical findings. The results may help improve accuracy in predicting cancer outcomes, increase shared patient decision-making and possibly lead to smarter and more cost-effective bladder cancer screening practices.

Richard Rovin, MD, received an award to determine the best way to isolate cancer stem cells from metastatic brain tumors. The purpose of his research is to find a way to study why tumors spread to the brain, allowing pathways to prevention and new treatment options.



Cancer support groups

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION, TIME, LOCATION	INFORMATION
All About Living – A cancer support group for women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Women’s Pavilion of Aurora West Allis Medical Center (Savory Spirit Room) Second Tuesday each month, 5 to 6:30 p.m. 	<i>For more information, please call Susan Mingesz at 414-329-5967 or visit allaboutliving@aurora.org.</i>
Breast Cancer Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Wellness Center in Burlington First Tuesday each month, 6:30 to 8 p.m. (no group meeting in Mar. or Aug.) 	<i>For more information, please call Susan at 262-767-6374.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Lakeland Medical Center First Wednesday each month, 4 to 5:30 p.m. 	<i>For more information, please call Leann at 262-741-2677.</i>
Cancer Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Medical Center in Kenosha Second Monday each month, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (no group meeting in Jan., July or Dec.) 	<i>For more information, please call Becky at 800-499-5736.</i>
Expressive Arts Studio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center (meeting room D) Second and fourth Fridays each month, 2 to 7 p.m. Aurora Sinai Medical Center Aurora Rehabilitation Center/Easy Street (4th floor) First and third Mondays each month, 3 to 5 p.m. 	<i>For more information, please call Jill McNutt at 414-649-6018; or call 414-385-2708 or 414-219-4533.</i>
Hope and Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Medical Center in Summit Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic (conference room) First Wednesday each month, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (no group meeting in Jan.) 	<i>For more information, please call 262-434-8800.</i>
I Love Someone with Cancer Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Medical Center in Summit Second Thursday each month, 6 to 8 p.m. (no group meeting in July) <i>Note: I Love Someone with Cancer & Touched by Cancer support groups are a combined group – the first half we have a speaker for both the patient and the caregiver, then we break apart. The support groups are held at the same day and time.</i> 	<i>For more information, please call Kim Ecclestone, RN at 920-457-6800, ext. 2673.</i>
Kids Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center 	<i>Please call 414-649-6634 for more information or to register.</i>
Kids Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center 	<i>Please call 414-649-6634 for more information or to register.</i>
Look Good...Feel Better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Medical Center in Summit, Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington, Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, Aurora St. Luke’s South Shore, Aurora Cancer Care – Grafton, Aurora Kenosha Medical Center/Cancer Center, Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic in Sheboygan, Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic in Slinger, Aurora West Allis Medical Center 	<i>Please call the American Cancer Society Service Center at 866-460-6550 for more information or to register. No fees.</i>
Movin’ and Groovin’ After Cancer Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Women’s Pavilion of Aurora West Allis Medical Center An eight-week educational and exercise class; meets in spring and fall 	<i>Please call Joan at 414-328-6640, for more information.</i>
Support for the Healing Journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Cancer Care Center in Grafton Third Wednesday each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m. (no meeting in Dec.) 	<i>Please call Pat Genthe at 262-329-5000, for more information.</i>
Touched by Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Sheboygan Clinic (Chinook Room) Second Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. (no meeting in July) <i>Note: I Love Someone with Cancer & Touched by Cancer support groups are a combined group – the first half we have a speaker for both the patient and the caregiver, then we break apart. The support groups are held at the same day and time.</i> 	<i>Please call Debbie at 920-457-6800, ext. 2660 for more information.</i>
Us TOO! – Prostate Cancer Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora St. Luke’s Health Center in New Berlin First Wednesday of each month, 7 to 8:30 p.m. (no group meeting in July) 	<i>Please call Greg at 414-328-6491, for more information.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic in Sheboygan (lower level conference room) Third Wednesday of odd-numbered months (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.) 6:30 to 8 p.m. 	<i>Please call Jeff at 920-457-6800 at ext. 2686, for more information.</i>
Women and Men Supporting Each Other	<p>African-American breast cancer support group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora Sinai Medical Center Third Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (no group meeting in July or August) 	<i>Please call Shirley at 414-219-6357, for more information.</i>
Your Caring Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, 12th floor patient tower Second and fourth Tuesdays each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. 	<i>Please call the Cancer Counseling Center at 414-649-6018, for more information.</i>
Smoking Cessation (American Lung Association’s Freedom from Smoking Class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center The Karen Yontz Women’s Cardiac Awareness Center 	<i>Registration is limited. Please register early by calling 414-649-5767 or visiting aurora.org.</i>
Brain Tumor Cancer Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center Third Wednesday each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m. 	<i>For more information, please call Nilsa at 414-384-5111; option 6.</i>

For further information on the cancer support groups, please visit aurora.org.
For general inquiries, please contact System Outreach Coordinator Erik Hollander at 414-219-4533 or erik.hollander@aurora.org.

Welcome new Aurora cancer experts

Aurora Health Care is pleased to welcome Adam Siegel, MD. Dr. Siegel is providing medical oncology and hematology services at Aurora Medical Center in Summit and Aurora Health Center in Waukesha.

Dr. Siegel performs bone marrow biopsies and has a special interest in genitourinary malignancies, including treatment of prostate, testicular, kidney and bladder cancers, as well as breast and gastrointestinal cancers. He is also interested in integrative medicine, including the adaptation of specific lifestyle changes that may help in the healing process.



Adam Siegel, MD
Medical Oncology/
Hematology

Dr. Siegel earned his medical degree from University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He completed his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in medical oncology and hematology at the University of California – San Francisco. Dr. Siegel is board certified in internal medicine.

Dr. Siegel's wife, Amanda, is a science teacher and previously taught in the Kettle Moraine School District. They spend their free time together enjoying the outdoors and traveling. Dr. Siegel also enjoys cycling, skiing and yoga.

Aurora Medical Center 36500 Aurora Drive
Summit, WI 53066 | 262-434-8800

Aurora Health Center N14 W23833 Stone Ridge Drive
Suite 200 | Waukesha, WI 53188 | 262-513-2221

The Aurora Neuroscience Innovation Institute (ANII) is pleased to welcome Melissa Y. Macias, MD, PhD, to our world-class neuroscience team.

Melissa Y. Macias, MD, PhD, specializes in spinal neurosurgery and works in partnership with Drs. Thomas Doers and Derek Orton within the Back and Spine Program and the ANII team of multidisciplinary neuroscience experts – all located at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center.

Dr. Macias treats the spectrum of spine disease ranging from complex degenerative conditions, including disc herniations,



Melissa Y. Macias,
MD, PhD
Neuro-Oncologist

spinal stenosis, acquired adult scoliosis and trauma, to infections and tumors of the spine. She employs approaches that include minimally destructive techniques, as well as stem cell technologies. In addition, Dr. Macias offers treatment of chronic pain conditions and compressive peripheral nerve disorders.

Performing occiput to sacral procedures, her surgical expertise encompasses the entire spinal column and cord. Utilizing anterior, lateral and posterior approaches, her goal is to access the surgical site while minimizing muscle and tissue disruption as the pathology allows. Catering surgical intervention to individual patient needs, she ensures every patient receives compassionate, individualized care. Dr. Macias believes that a healthy spinal axis is fundamental to maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle and partners with each patient to achieve this goal.

She is a Fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and a member of the Congress of Spine Surgeons and North American Spine Surgeons. She has a PhD in cellular biology and anatomy and extensive research experience in neuronal and spinal cord injury, having authored peer-reviewed publications and book chapters in this area. She participated in two space shuttle missions as a NASA payload specialist with the Kennedy Space Center during her PhD research. Her current research interest is in restorative therapies for neuronal and joint disease of the spine. ■

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

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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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