

Aurora Cancer Care Connection

Your caring connection for support during cancer care

Aurora Cancer Care • Edition 8 • 2015

Get to know your team: Aurora cancer care pharmacists

By Cara Boticki, PharmD Clinical Oncology Pharmacist, Aurora Cancer Care



Your pharmacist will work closely with the other members of your Aurora Cancer Care team to get you feeling better quickly.

The phone is ringing with a call from your doctor's office, who is it? It might be your Aurora Cancer Care Pharmacist. Aurora Cancer Care has oncology pharmacists that are an important part of your healthcare team. The pharmacist works with your physician, nurses and other health care team members to make sure you receive the best care possible. Pharmacists at select Aurora Cancer Care clinics meet with patients when they start a new treatment. During the meeting they discuss how to control some of the side effects of chemotherapy at home.

Your pharmacist will start the meeting by going over the prescriptions that you will be taking at home. You will discuss how to take the prescription, what it is used for and common side effects. If your chemotherapy regimen includes a medication taken on certain days, a calendar may be provided to help you remember when to take it. Your pharmacist can also answer any questions or concerns you may have about any of your medications. At the end of

the meeting your pharmacist may ask if they can call you at home a few days after your treatment to see how you are feeling. During this phone call your pharmacist will ask

you several questions to see how your treatment is making you feel. They will ask if you have had any nausea or vomiting, constipation or diarrhea. They may also ask about changes in appetite, signs of dehydration such as dry mouth, dizziness or dark urine, abdominal pain or if you have had any fevers. Your pharmacist will also want to know what medicines or other

methods you have used to treat any problems. Please be honest with your pharmacist and tell them how you are really feeling and what you have tried to feel better.

Your pharmacist will use your answers to decide if changes may need to be made to your medications. If necessary, your pharmacist will work closely with the other members of your Aurora Cancer Care team to get you feeling better quickly. Your team may change how you are taking your current medicines, or they might start a new medication. They may also recommend over the counter treatments to help relieve symptoms you may be experiencing.

Everyone on your Aurora Cancer Care team brings their own special set of skills to your care. The pharmacists on your team are highly trained medication experts. We hope that by teaching you to use your medications to control side effects, and by calling you at home to see how your treatment is affecting you, we can help you get the best results possible from your medications. ■

Ask your cancer care physician or nurse if you would like to talk to an Aurora cancer care pharmacist.

Multiple Myeloma research at Aurora Health Care

By Mike Thompson, MD, PhD Medical Director, Early Phase Cancer Research Program, Patient-Centered Research, Aurora Research Institute Co-Principal Investigator, National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), Aurora Cancer Care, Aurora Health Care

WHAT IS MYELOMA?

Multiple myeloma (or just myeloma) is a cancer of plasma cells, which are a specialized white blood cell (WBC). Plasma cells mature from a WBC called a B-lymphocyte and produce antibodies, also known as immunoglobulins (Igs). Igs come in “flavors” of IgA, IgG, IgM (as well as the lower levels of IgD and IgE). Vaccines and exposure to such antigens as bacteria, viruses and parasites stimulate the immune system to produce plasma cells to fight infection.

MYELOMA 1-2-3

1. Diagnosis

The diagnosis of myeloma may be suspected for a variety of reasons.

Patients with symptomatic myeloma have frequent infections (from abnormal plasma cells and Ig levels) or CRAB:

- C** - hypercalcemia (high calcium)
- R** - renal insufficiency (kidney problems)
- A** - anemia (low red blood cells not explained by other reasons)
- B** - bone lesions (lytic or punched-out and “moth eaten”-looking bone or premature osteoporosis; single or multiple, hence the term multiple myeloma)

If myeloma is suspected, multiple tests as well as a bone marrow biopsy can help determine the diagnosis, stage and prognostic factors. A few common tests are:

- SPEP** - serum protein electrophoresis
- UPEP** - urine protein electrophoresis
- IFE** - immunofixation electrophoresis
- FLC** - free light chain kappa to lambda ratio
- HLC** - heavy light chain
- B2M** - beta-2-microglobulin
- GEP** - gene expression profile

Patients with myeloma may have an abnormally high total protein level compared to the albumin level. In many cases this is not myeloma, but rather a precursor condition called

monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, which may progress directly to symptomatic myeloma or go through an intermediate stage of asymptomatic, or smoldering, myeloma (SMM). Patients with SMM have no CRAB conditions and require bone marrow biopsy for diagnosis. Current research strategies involve treating high-risk SMM to potentially avoid symptoms and improve survival of myeloma.

2. Staging and Prognosis

Staging for myeloma is not the same as for solid tumors like breast or lung cancer. The international staging score (ISS) is based on two tests – albumin and beta-2-microglobulin (B2M) – that make it useful to compare across different research studies, but does not factor into individual patient care.

There are many prognostic factors in myeloma, including cytogenetics (study of the structure and function of cells), FISH (fluorescent in situ hybridization) and other molecular tests. A summary of clinically important risk factors is available in the mSMART (Stratification for Myeloma And Risk-adapted Therapy) guidelines (www.msmart.org). This is a rapidly evolving area spurred by patient participation in clinical trials to validate new tests and therapies.

3. Treatment

There are many new treatment options for myeloma, due to patient advocacy and patient participation in clinical research. Treatment is highly individualized and may include induction, consolidation and maintenance strategies with approved drugs as well as clinical trials. Stem cell transplantation is an option for treatment. **With over 20 years of experience, Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center has the longest record of a dedicated autologous stem cell transplant program in Wisconsin.**

Specific treatment options are dependent on tumor and host factors. Often, an excellent option is participation in clinical research studies.■

To learn more about multiple myeloma options at Aurora Health Care, please visit www.aurora.org/services/cancer/hematologic-cancer/multiple-myeloma.

DID YOU KNOW?

Seventeen sites of Aurora Cancer Care have now entered patients on NCI approved clinical trials under the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) grant. This program has been very successful in allowing us to bring the latest innovative clinical trials to patients throughout our system. If you are interested in discovering more information about oncology clinical trials at Aurora contact Jan DeBartolo or Carla Fuentes at 414-778-4347 or go to clinicaltrials.gov.

WELCOME NEW AURORA CANCER CARE TEAM MEMBER



Shamsuddin Virani, MD, is a board-certified physician who specializes in hematology and oncology, managing all aspects of cancer care and the treatment of hematologic (blood) disorders. Dr. Virani takes a comprehensive approach to determine the correct diagnosis and partners with his patients to choose the best treatment options. He uses the latest techniques and clinical trial data to make treatment decisions and places special emphasis on preventing side effects. ■

Dr. Virani can be contacted at:

Aurora Health Center
210 Wisconsin
American Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
920-907-7000

**Dr. Virani will be joining
Dr. Zahid Dar at the:**

Aurora Medical Center
855 N. Westhaven Drive
Oshkosh, WI 54904
920-456-7870

How you can help women who “fall through the cracks”

By Bridgette Frommell Foundation Development Officer



There have been a lot of changes in health care over the last few years, and you might think every woman has insurance, or that when it comes to breast cancer, “she’s covered”. Well that’s not always the case. And even for women who are technically insured, it’s not a guarantee that they can afford lengthy breast cancer treatment and medications. Many women still fall through the cracks. But you can help cover the costs of important screenings and some of their treatment, through Aurora’s Breast Treatment Assistance Program.

Susan Kandler is a Registered Nurse and the Breast Care Coordinator at Aurora Memorial Hospital Burlington. She says there is no “typical patient” in the program.

Some recipients have been undocumented women who aren’t able to get insurance, some women applied for insurance but couldn’t afford

\$600-\$800 a month in premiums, or some have had insurance coverage with deductibles as high as \$10,000-\$20,000 a year. Kandler says, “Women often think they’ll be okay until the bills start rolling in. Then it’s ‘Oh my gosh, I had no idea’. And that’s because of all the treatments, tests, and medications. It adds up.”

One of those women is Mary Ellen Reschke, who was diagnosed at age 63. She was retired and living on a fixed income. Mary Ellen also didn’t have a big chunk of money in savings because “I was just always helping other people,” she says. Though Mary Ellen had insurance, she also had a \$5,000 deductible and her premiums go up every single year. “You feel like you’re dying in bills,” says Mary Ellen. “And you’ve really got to keep your mind in one direction and that’s fighting, because if you get down, you’re going to lose.”

Susan referred Mary Ellen to the Breast Treatment Assistance Program. Like all women who apply, Mary Ellen had to provide proof of income and fill out all the necessary paperwork, but Susan helped walk her through all of it. And it turns out; Mary Ellen is eligible for help. She has already received assistance with some of her medical bills and is relieved she’ll be able to keep her home.

The Breast Treatment Assistance Program helps women like Mary Ellen who simply can’t afford the care they need. And it’s not just breast cancer patients, it also helps cover the costs of genetic testing or breast MRI’s-- things that some insurance policies won’t cover, things that give many women not just the care, but also the peace of mind they need to keep fighting. ■

You can help make sure people like Mary Ellen get the best care possible by joining us to Tackle Cancer! Participate in a Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer this summer, with proceeds going to the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation. To find an event near you, go to lombardiwalk.org.

“You’ve really got to keep your mind in one direction and that’s fighting, because if you get down, you’re going to lose.”

— Mary Ellen Reschke

ACC receives 8th annual Foley Cancer Center Innovator Award

Aurora Cancer Care is the recipient of the 2014 Foley Cancer Center Innovator Award. The award was accepted by Aurora Cancer Care Director of Medical Oncology Dr. Jacob Frick at the November Cancer Center Business Summit (CCBS) in Chicago.

“We are thrilled to honor Dr. Frick and the entire team of professionals at Aurora Cancer Care,” said Michael Blau, a Foley partner and selection committee member. “Their dedication to providing high-quality, efficient, team-based care and unique patient support is truly a model for the industry.”

THE ORGANIZATION'S NOTEWORTHY INITIATIVES

Chairside medication dispensing – Aurora Cancer Care's chairside prescription dispensing service allows patients access to supportive medication while receiving chemotherapy infusion, thus eliminating the need to make additional stops after their treatment.

Streamlined pharmacy services through the use of technology – Linking electronic health records and audiovisual technology allows Aurora Cancer Care to provide pharmaceutical support to its patients across all 22 of its clinics in a manner that keeps costs low for patients. Six full-time pharmacists staff the busiest clinics and use technology to facilitate real-time communication with chemotherapy technicians in the remaining clinics.

Cross-functional financial aid teams – By establishing teams of social workers, benefits determination specialists, financial advocates and application counselors, Aurora Cancer Care proactively identifies patients with potential financial hardships. Once a need is established, the team connects eligible patients to available funding sources through Medicare/Medicaid, cancer treatment copayment assistance foundations, pharmaceutical copay cards, drug assistance programs, Social Security disability benefits and other health insurance through the online marketplace.

“We are honored to receive Foley's Cancer Center Innovator Award,” said Frick. “We take immense pride in our unique approach to easing the burden of cancer treatment. Our team is dedicated to helping patients get accurate information about their disease, understand their choices, feel supported through decisions that must be made and keep their focus on getting better.”

Foley's Cancer Center Innovator Award was created in 2007 to recognize cancer treatment modernization. This year's selection was based on submissions for the CCBS Call for Business Case Studies, which was issued in conjunction with the American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal of Oncology Practice. Candidates submitted case studies highlighting solutions to industry challenges. The winner was selected by an industry-wide panel of judges, including: Dr. John Cox of Texas Oncology and editor in chief of the Journal of Oncology Practice; Elaine Towle, Director Consulting Services, Oncology Metrics division of Flatiron Health; and Foley's Michael Blau. ■



Shown from left to right, Brad Given, Ashley Feldt and Jacob Frick, MD

At the 2014 Cancer Center Business Summit, industry leaders explored the changes occurring in the cancer care marketplace and how cancer care organizations are responding to them. For more information about this year's event, please visit <http://cancerbusinesssummit.com>.

How integrative medicine is giving new hope to cancer patients

By Bridgette Frommell Foundation Development Officer



Jayne Schmitz during Reiki session

It was April of 2012 when Jayne Schmitz first noticed a small lump, the size of a pencil eraser, just above her ankle. Her ankle was slightly swollen, but she figured it was just “arthritic changes” and didn’t think much of it. Finally, in October of 2012, Jayne decided to get that lump checked out. But even then, she wasn’t worried.

“The only reason I had it checked was because we had met our deductible for the year, so I thought why not?” Jayne says. Thank goodness she did. Because that small lump above her ankle ended up being a rare soft-tissue sarcoma that started in her leg, but had already spread to her liver and both her lungs.

Jayne says the news left her in a very bad place, “That December, I remember wrapping Christmas presents thinking; I probably won’t be here next year to do this.” And then she pauses, “But I am here.”

Jayne’s cancer is now stable. And she believes the reason is the compassionate, multi-dimensional care she has received from Aurora Health Care. Some of her surgeries were performed at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, but much of her treatment has been at the Grafton Cancer Care Center. She’s been through multiple surgeries, about 15 rounds of chemo, two liver embolizations, 30 radiation treatments that left her with third degree burns on her leg and she is still taking daily oral chemotherapy.

It’s been an exhausting journey but a huge source of strength for Jayne, both mentally and physically, has come from Reiki sessions at the Grafton Cancer Care Center. Reiki is a healing technique that uses touch, but is much less invasive than a typical massage. Nancy Conway is the Director of Integrative

Medicine for Aurora Health Care. She says the idea behind Reiki is it helps the patient channel healing energy that’s already inside them, “It’s an opportunity to teach people deep relaxation, which can evoke a sense of personal power within them.”

Conway has designed a Volunteer Reiki Program for Aurora Cancer Centers. Volunteers with special training in Reiki and techniques from Integrative Medicine are oriented to working with cancer patients to provide the services at no cost.

She says it’s difficult to measure the impact of this kind of care, so the success is anecdotal. But the patient feedback has been incredibly positive. Many have talked about the positive impact on pain and sleep.

“When someone says I was able to sleep for the first time in months after a Reiki session, what is that worth? How do you measure that? Sleep also helps reduce inflammation which is prevalent in cancer patients, so the impact can be great,” Conway explains. Jayne says it has been for her, “It helps remind me of that inner flame inside of me, and I connect with that. I rely on that when I need to pull myself out of a funk.”

Reiki has also led her to start meditating, which helps her get through “whatever issue that presents itself on any given day”. The cancer in her right lung is gone, the left lung is currently inoperable, and her doctors are still working on a treatment plan for that. In spite of the challenges that lie ahead and the fact that she is not cancer free; her spectrum of care has given her an incredible gift: Hope.

“I’ve been to hell and back but I’ve learned to embrace today,” Jayne says. “And that’s why your organization and everyone there is so wonderful. They’re my cheerleaders and I know it’s the best care I can get.” ■

YOU CAN HELP
provide more cancer patients the opportunity to receive Reiki, Message Therapy, Art Therapy and other services from Aurora’s Integrative Medicine Program by supporting Aurora’s Cancer Care Fund. To learn more, contact Bridgette Frommell, Foundation Development Officer at 414-649-3636 or bridgette.frommell@aurora.org, or give online at give.aurora.org.

THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY PATIENT SERVICES

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is dedicated to serving blood cancer patients and their families through the variety of patient services programs that are offered through our Wisconsin Chapter. There are currently eight statewide, professionally-facilitated support groups that provide a venue for patients and their families to connect with other blood cancer patients. LLS is also able to facilitate peer-to-peer phone conversations through our First Connection program. Local-trained volunteers stand ready to share their special perspective with newly diagnosed patients and caregivers who share the same diagnosis. Call today to request a connection! Throughout the year, LLS hosts three separate disease-specific blood cancer conferences across the state to bring local hematologists to our patients and caregivers statewide to present up-to-date information on the disease, new and emerging treatments, psychosocial aspects of a blood cancer, etc.

The Information Resource Center (IRC) is staffed with masters-prepared healthcare professionals who are able to provide accurate, up-to-date information on blood cancers over the phone (800-955-4572) or at www.lls.org. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society provides a robust co-pay assistance program that is able to provide annual assistance of up to \$10,000, based on diagnosis and income for insured patients with many, but not all blood cancers. ■

To inquire, call 877-557-2672 or visit www.lls.org/copay. For local information on any of the services that are offered through LLS, please call your Wisconsin chapter at 262-785-4274.

Supporting others along their cancer journey: Volunteer Patient Advocate

By Erik Hollander MBA, Community Outreach Coordinator, Aurora Cancer Care

Through collaboration between Aurora Cancer Care and the American Cancer Society, to further support patients along their cancer journey, the implementation of the Volunteer Patient Advocate (VPA) program has been rolled out on the Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center campus.

For those individual cancer survivors, and/or caregivers, looking to “give back” to those impacted by this disease, we have an opportunity that might be for you.

This program, cross-training volunteers, will provide complimentary support to cancer patients and caregivers, by providing information and connecting them to hospital and American Cancer Society resources and services. Volunteers receive specialized training, in addition to hospital orientation, and will connect with patients, and their caregivers, in both the outpatient and inpatient settings.

Trained volunteers, or our Volunteer Patient Advocates (VPA), will have the opportunity to “give back” by connecting with patients in the outpatient treatment setting; as deemed appropriate. Part of this role includes the following functions:

- Introduce their role to new patients and explain support offerings.
- Complete referral forms with documentation as to provide appropriate follow-up and continuity of care.
- Visit inpatients based on referrals from cancer coordinators and others.

For anyone interested in “giving back” through this opportunity we want to ensure that potential VPAs meet the following requirements:

- Able to maintain appropriate boundaries
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Compassionate, articulate and patient
- Comfortable interacting with medical staff and patients
- Comfortable working with diverse patient populations

After the initial implementation of this program we have successfully trained over a dozen volunteers to become advocates working initially in our primary outpatient clinic, Suite 930 in the Professional Office Building. Through the early successes of this program we have already expanded support to cover every week day in Suite 930, and weekend coverage in our Vince Lombardi Cancer Center, with our sights on continued implementation into Radiation Oncology in early January 2015. ■

For more information on how to become a Volunteer Patient Advocate (VPA) or to inquire more about the program's offerings please contact Erik Hollander at erik.hollander@aurora.org or 414 219-4533.

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.) Aurora Lakeland Medical Center First Wednesday each month, 4 to 5:30 p.m. 	<p><i>For more information, please call Susan at 262-767-6374.</i></p> <p><i>For more information, please call Leann at 262-741-2677.</i></p>
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	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) 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 8:00 p.m. 	<p><i>Please call Greg at 414-328-6491, for more information.</i></p> <p><i>Please call Jeff at 920-457-6800 at ext. 2686, for more information.</i></p>
Women and Men Supporting Each Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African-American breast cancer support group. 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 www.aurora.org.</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.

Recognizing nurses

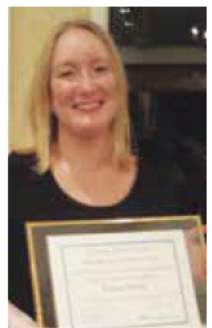


Carla Rohloff, GI Cancer Nurse Navigator, is the most recent Aurora Cancer Care recipient of the DAISY Award which is an international program that rewards and celebrates the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care given by nurses. Her nomination included the following patient thoughts:

She was there for us every step of the way and truly made a difference in our lives. We met Carla at our first appointment with the doctor and that day she was able to have a surgery scheduler come to our meeting and schedule my surgery.

Carla was available by phone and returned our calls right away, she checked on my wife several times while I was in surgery and she was there for us the evening we found out that the cancer had spread.

Carla's kindness and compassion were invaluable and we will always be grateful for her friendship.



Cancer Nurse Navigator, Renee A. Milne, has been awarded the Nurse Excellence Award. Renee demonstrates ethical integrity and professionalism as core values that she lives by daily at the Aurora Medical Center- Kenosha. As a CNN, all of her patients have heard those words that no one ever wants to hear- "you have cancer." Renee has an amazing talent for combining her thorough understanding of cancer diagnosis and treatment with her magical interpersonal skills to provide patients with the utmost care. Seeing a patient go from tears in a defeated state, to a comfortable "I can do this" frame of mind after one meeting with Renee, speaks volumes as to

what she brings to each and every interaction.

The Cancer Team in Kenosha highly values the role Renee plays in their relationships with patients. She is always thinking in terms of what is right for a patient; medically, psychosocially and practically. As a result, the physicians always ask for her input when planning a patients' course of treatment.

Renee's professional standards "bar" is set so high, colleagues have come to "expect" superior care. She consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. Renee's professionalism and nursing practice are what any caregiver should strive for. ■

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2014 CHINA CANCER CONGRESS

Leslie J. Waltke, PT, Aurora Health Care's Cancer Rehabilitation Coordinator recently gave a talk entitled "The Role and Benefits of Cancer Rehabilitation" at the 2014 China Cancer Congress in Beijing. Other conference topics included drug development, biomarkers and targeted therapies research. Leslie was one of about fifteen foreign speakers from ten different countries invited to speak at the event. The 420 conference attendees were made up of Chinese students and health care professionals.

Both cancer incidence and mortality in China are higher than the global average. The United Nations predicts the global incidence of cancer diagnosis to increase 50% by the year 2030. The majority of this rise is expected in eastern Asia. Prevalent cigarette smoking, hepatitis infections and rapid population growth in China are the major factors behind the increasing incidence. For the average Chinese citizen, cancer is seen as a certain death sentence. There are so many people and so few resources.

Leslie was accompanied on the trip by Aurora Health Care employees Mary Nelson from the Aurora Partnership Campaign, Angela Sinner, the Team Phoenix Program Coordinator and Meghan Dillon, Physical Therapist. According to Leslie, "the team had a blast and learned and experienced so much." The many places they visited included the Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.

Leslie, Angela, Mary and Meghan are all Team Phoenix volunteers. They proudly wore their Team Phoenix shirt to the Great Wall and even taught their guide and their driver, Kai and Mr. Li, to say "Go Team Phoenix!" Team Phoenix has officially gone global. ■

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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