

Aurora Cancer Care Connection

Your caring connection for
support during cancer care

Spring 2014
Edition 6

Message from the Vice President, Aurora Cancer Care



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

Aurora's cancer program has continued to expand. Many recent exciting programmatic advances have occurred.



We are fortunate to have **Amin Kassam, MD**, join Aurora Health Care as vice president of the Neuroscience Service Line and Medical Director of the Aurora Neuroscience Innovation Institute (ANII). Dr. Kassam, an internationally known neurosurgeon, came to

Aurora from Ottawa, Canada. Previously, he was chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Pittsburgh and was the leader of the remarkable growth in volume and stature of that department. He is an international leader and innovator in minimally invasive brain surgery. In collaboration with **George Bobustuc, MD**, our neuro-oncologist and **Kenneth Bastin, MD**, our neuro-radiation oncologist our multidisciplinary neuro-oncology program has been expanded. We have our neuro-oncology case conference that is now routinely broadcasted to Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay. The multidisciplinary neuro-oncology clinic started Feb. 11, 2014.

As of mid-March, we have seen patients in one setting by Drs. Kassam, Bobustuc, and Bastin. Dr. Kassam has already held his first, internationally attended conference on minimally invasive neurosurgery and is overseeing expansion of our Regenerative Medicine Program in collaboration with **Drs. Nina Garlie and Randy Lambrecht**. New members of this exciting team will be joining Aurora this summer.

Aurora Health Care has been selected as one of only 25 programs nationally to participate in an elite program sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). This program provides for further training of our team to expand palliative care. Members of the team awarded this honor include Drs. William Matthaeus and Dhimant Patel of Medical Oncology, Dr. Peter Johnson, Kathy Finster RN, OCN, Clinical Director, and Carol Huibregtse RN, OCN, leader of our Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) program. We feel this will be an important opportunity to advance this critical service throughout our system.

In closing, we are all anticipating the grand opening of our new Aurora Cancer Care Center in Kenosha, on June 2, 2014 (see article on page 3). Thank you for allowing us to care for you or your loved one.

How Palliative Care Can Enhance the Quantity and Quality of Your Life



Dr. Stephen Rommelfanger, MD
Medical Director
Aurora Palliative Care Program

What is palliative care?

Palliative (PAL-lee-uh-tiv) care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. This type of care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain and stress of a serious illness – whatever the diagnosis. Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, nurses and other specialists who work with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. It helps the patient and family enjoy the best quality of life possible, given the medical condition.

Is palliative care the same thing as hospice?

No. People in hospice always receive palliative care; however, you don't have to be in hospice or at the end of life to receive it. Palliative care is available at any age and at any stage in a serious illness. It can be provided at the same time as other treatments that are meant to cure your illness.

When do I need palliative care?

Many people living with illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, lung disease, kidney failure, Alzheimer's disease, and AIDS, among others, have physical symptoms and emotional distress related to their diseases. Sometimes, these symptoms are related to the medical treatments they are receiving.

Palliative care may be appropriate if you or your loved ones:

- Suffer from pain or other symptoms (i.e., nausea, shortness of breath, anxiety or depression) due to any serious illness
- Experience physical or emotional pain that is not under control
- Need help understanding the situation, options and determining the next steps and coordinating care
- Require frequent trips to the hospital or emergency room for the same condition

How can palliative care help?

Palliative care specialists work closely with the health care team to:

- Relieve pain and other distressing symptoms, such as nausea or shortness of breath

- Improve communication with doctors and family members
- Provide emotional and spiritual support
- Ensure medical care is more in line with patient's wishes
- Anticipate future problems and needs
- Facilitate smooth transitions between hospital and other services, such as home care or nursing facilities

In order to provide the best care, the palliative care team may suggest a family conference to review the medical situation, discuss treatment options and clarify the patient's goals.

How do I get palliative care?

Doctors may discuss palliative care and suggest a referral. Patients and families may also request a referral from their doctor. Our palliative care providers see inpatients, as well as outpatients.

Aurora's palliative care team

Steve Rommelfanger, MD <i>Medical Director</i>	Jill Zoet, RN <i>Aurora Medical Center Kenosha</i>
Ashok Choithani, MD Nora Ladewig, NP Judith Hemke, CNS <i>Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center</i>	Deborah Gray, RN <i>Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center</i>
Timothy Jessick, DO Kay Fischer, NP <i>Aurora West Allis Medical Center</i>	William Matthaeus, MD Abhay Jella, MD Peter Johnson, MD <i>Aurora Cancer Care</i>
Kavita Sharma, MD Jane Fowler, NP <i>Aurora Sinai Medical Center</i>	<i>Aurora's Outpatient Palliative Care Program (for patients with cancer only)</i>
Jennifer Johnson, MSW <i>Aurora Lakeland Medical Center</i> <i>Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington</i>	

To learn more about palliative care services at Aurora Health Care, please call 414-385-2716.

New Aurora Health Care Spanish Clinic



Federico Sanchez, MD
Medical Oncologist/Hematologist
Aurora Cancer Care

Aurora Health Care is pleased to introduce a new program for Spanish-speaking patients. Federico Sanchez, MD, is the medical director and was instrumental in launching this cancer clinic for native Spanish-speaking patients. Held on Mondays at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee, Dr. Sanchez has designed this clinic to meet the needs of the Hispanic population in Milwaukee and surrounding counties. Born and raised in Guatemala, Dr. Sanchez is board-certified in medical oncology and hematology and offers comprehensive care with a special interest in blood disorders, lymphoma leukemia and lung cancer. Dr. Sanchez is also president of the Wisconsin Association of Hematology Oncology (WAHO).

To learn more about the bilingual Spanish Cancer Clinic, or to schedule an appointment, please call 414-384-5111. You can access our Spanish phone line at 414-389-4619.

El Sistema de Salud de Aurora (Aurora Health Care) tiene el gusto de comunicarles el lanzamiento de un nuevo programa para el tratamiento de las Enfermedades de Cáncer para los pacientes y población de habla hispana.

El Dr. Federico Sanchez, Director Medico, tuvo la iniciativa de establecer esta clínica de cáncer para los pacientes de habla hispana, la cual opera los días Lunes en el Centro Medico de San Lucas de Aurora (Aurora St Lukes Medical Center) en Milwaukee. Esta clínica tiene el propósito de satisfacer las necesidades de la comunidad hispana en Milwaukee y condados vecinos.

El Dr. Sanchez nació en la ciudad de Guatemala, donde estudio la carrera de Medicina y posteriormente se mudo a este país donde realizo estudios de postgrado en Medicina Interna y luego la especialización de Hematología-Oncología.

El Dr. Sanchez tiene la certificación medica en Oncología y Hematología, con especial interés en el cuidado y tratamiento de las enfermedades de la sangre, Linfoma, Leucemia y cáncer gastrointestinal. El Dr. Sanchez es actualmente el presidente de la asociación de Hematología y Oncología de Wisconsin. (WAHO-Wisconsin Association of Hematology Oncology).

Para obtener mas información de la Clínica de Cáncer Hispana o pedir una consulta, favor de llamar al numero 414-384-5111 o bien por la línea telefónica en español al numero 414-389-4619.

New Aurora Health Care Center to Open in Kenosha

A new Aurora Health Center is scheduled to open in Kenosha on June 2, 2014. The campus, located north of Steinhafels, will have two separate buildings. Patients will have access to the following services:

Aurora Cancer Care - Cancer Services:

6811 118th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142-8420

- TrueBeam™ system - a radically different approach to cancer treatment
- One computerized axial tomography (CT) simulator
- One positron emission tomography CT
- 25 medical oncology infusion bays
- Two private infusion rooms, 15 exam rooms,

two procedure rooms and various support spaces

- Complementary therapy services
- Approximately 38,000 square feet
- Multidisciplinary cancer services with integration of specialists for consults

Access to these services will help meet the needs of this growing community. A community open house is planned for June 28, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Did you know?

Aurora Cancer Care is the only site that the Brain Tumor Trials Collaborative (BTTC) has a combined effort of many professionals, entities and organizations to help patients with brain tumors. The BTTC is led by MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Tx. It is a group of highly

respected and dedicated doctors in this field, with a network of renowned medical centers.

The brain tumor survivors, their families and friends are driving the much-needed awareness of the disease and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to assist in research and study.



George Bobustuc, MD
Neuro-oncology Medical Director
Principal Investigator of BTTC Trials
Aurora Cancer Care

Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation Provides \$610,000 for Local Cancer Care and Research

By Bridgette Frommell - Foundation Development Officer, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center

The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation Board announced plans to commit \$610,000 to support Aurora Cancer Care initiatives and research in 2014. Aurora Health Care is an integrated not-for-profit health care system serving communities throughout eastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, with more than 20 convenient Aurora Cancer Care locations. Aurora cares for more newly diagnosed cancer patients than any other system in Wisconsin.

"Aurora Cancer Care in eastern Wisconsin incorporates some of the best physicians, clinicians and scientists in our region, and we are proud to continue our partnership with them to further their efforts to provide anyone facing cancer the best care possible," said Brent Morris, president of VLCF.

After its January 2014 meeting, the VLCF Board determined the following disbursements to support Aurora Cancer Care initiatives:

- \$200,000 to support cancer research. This donation is earmarked to support Aurora Cancer Research Awards.
- \$200,000 in clinic space updates. This gift will provide a multidisciplinary clinic renovation of the Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center.
- \$110,000 for an oncology patient navigator. These dollars will provide for an additional oncology patient navigator at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center for one year.
- \$100,000 in additional support to Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic sites outside of the metro-Milwaukee area.

"We are proud to have such a strong relationship with the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation, and we are grateful for their generosity to help support the cancer programs in each of the communities we serve," said Dr. Jim Weese, vice president, Aurora Cancer Care. "Their commitment supports our top-notch physicians and clinicians to provide exceptional and personalized care to anyone who hears the words, 'You have cancer.'"

Aurora Cancer Care has a rich history in achieving high standards and recognition for providing exceptional quality and personalized care, and has been supported by the VLCF over the past 25 years. Achievements include:

- Achieving Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI), a three-year certification for outpatient hematology-oncology practices that meet the highest standards for quality cancer care. Aurora Cancer Care is one of the largest programs in the country to receive this prestigious recognition.
- The first Wisconsin Comprehensive Breast Center accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers; today, eight Aurora hospitals have NAPBC-accredited Breast Centers.
- First CyberKnife and Gamma Knife Radiosurgery Programs in Wisconsin.
- 2011 Cancer Business Summit & Association of Community Cancer Centers National Innovator Award Recipients.
- Launched Autologous Stem Cell Transplant Program in 1990 and performed over 600 transplants.
- Healing Garden at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center.

"We know that our investment to support Aurora Cancer Care efforts – including locally-grown cancer research – has a tremendous impact on the care patients receive every day," said Morris. "We are proud to empower these physicians and clinicians to strive to bring world-class care close to home, and hope for so many at any point in their cancer journey."



Brent Morris, Board President, presented a \$610,000 award to Dr. Jim Weese, Vice President of Aurora Cancer Care.

To learn more about the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation, visit lombardifoundation.org or call 414-649-7015.

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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