Improving Outcomes with Personalized, Patient-Centered Care

NorthShore University HealthSystem
Kellogg Cancer Center

2022 ANNUAL REPORT
NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) Kellogg Cancer Center (Kellogg) brings together the highest level of clinical care, patient and family support, medical education and vital translational research. Our patients benefit from individualized treatment plans based on the most sophisticated genomic and tumor analysis available.

Our integrated team of expert physicians, nurses and other specially trained clinicians work collaboratively to ensure that patients receive the most compassionate, evidence-based care. A broad array of clinical trials provide access to the latest innovative therapies, and an ongoing investment in technology keeps Kellogg at the forefront of advances in early detection and advanced treatment.

As the NorthShore system grows, we look forward to collaboration and integration of cancer care at Swedish, Northwest Community and Edward-Elmhurst Hospitals and expanded community partnerships to benefit our patients. The Kellogg Cancer Genomic Initiative (KCGI) continues to grow and provide more information about genetic markers and gene mutations that can profoundly impact treatment plans and improve outcomes for our patients. The KCGI truly differentiates NorthShore from other area providers, and we are proud to be setting new standards of care for cancer patients.

Our academic affiliation with the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine not only helps train the next generation of physician leaders, but also allows our patients to continue to benefit from our shared clinical and research initiatives and collective expertise.

NorthShore is certified by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) as a premier medical provider for practicing the highest standards of quality cancer care. The Commission on Cancer has continuously accredited NorthShore as an Academic Comprehensive Cancer Program since 1981.

From its earliest days, the Kellogg Cancer Center has been the recipient of generous charitable support. Philanthropy is central to our success as donors have elevated every aspect of the program and allowed us to do more for patients. Philanthropy backs groundbreaking research initiatives and clinical trials and allows us to move quickly, bringing the latest findings from the lab to the bedside, harnessing the power of novel treatments for patients without delay, and providing a deep array of supportive services to our patients to further personalize our care.

We remain humbled, particularly by grateful patients and family members who support the Kellogg Cancer Center with generous donations. We are so very thankful to each and every donor who makes our continued efforts to provide life-changing cancer care possible.

We are pleased to present this report, which highlights some of the important progress and developments of the past year, and we thank you for your interest in our mission to provide transformative cancer care.

Bruce Brockstein, MD
Medical Director
NorthShore Kellogg Cancer Center
Division Head, Hematology Oncology
Kellogg-Scharton Chair of Oncology

David J. Winchester, MD
Chair of Surgical Oncology
Division Head, Hematology Oncology
NorthShore Kellogg Cancer Center

Immunotherapy—Driving Major Advances in Treatment

Just a few years ago, only 20% of cancers were treatable by immunotherapy. Today, however, immunotherapy plays a role in nearly 40% of cancer treatments. NorthShore remains ahead of the curve in offering these pioneering therapies that harness the body’s own immune system to identify and eradicate cancer cells.

Beginning with clinical trials and compassionate use of commercially available drugs, our clinicians have worked together to share expertise and minimize side effects while imparting long-term benefits for a growing number of patients. New programs, like our CAR T-cell therapy, will help pave the way for other treatments including the first-ever treatment for ocular melanoma—an immunotherapy drug that has a similar side effect profile to CAR T-cell therapy. NorthShore is also advancing the use of oncolytic viral injectable immunotherapy for subcutaneous and other melanomas.

Thoracic surgeon Seth Krantz, MD, and oncologist Tom Hensing, MD, have been recognized for their work devoted to predictive modeling and related benefits of immunotherapy for lung cancer patients. Dr. Hensing leads a team partnering with West Virginia University and Case Western Reserve University in a groundbreaking study. Kellogg Cancer Center continues to lead and participate in numerous immunotherapy clinical trials.

CAR T-Cell Program for Lymphoma Patients

Led by hematologist David Grinblatt, MD, our recently certified program offering CAR T-cell treatment for lymphoma patients is one of the first non-university-based programs in the state. The promising FDA-approved therapy is the best new option for patients with relapsed or refractory lymphoma. CAR T-cell therapy involves chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) genetically modified T cells that are designed to recognize specific antigens on tumor cells, which then activate and proliferate to destroy malignant cells.

The patient’s own immune cells are collected by a process similar to dialysis, engineered to fight the lymphoma cells and then given back to the patient. “This is an important move forward for patients whose disease was not responsive to other treatments,” said Dr. Grinblatt.

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To date, 164 patients have been enrolled in KCGI.

"KCGI really leverages the strengths of NorthShore’s molecular pathology and bioinformatics teams,” said Sereika, “and the success of the study is the result of the tremendous teamwork of so many different departments.”

Nurse Practitioners Gayathri Moorthy, PhD, and Annette Sereika, APN, work with patients joining the study, explaining the study and how their participation can potentially help with their treatment. When genomic abnormalities are found, together with the molecular pathology team, they then conduct literature reviews to see which drugs may have utility for a specific patient’s mutation.

As part of the KCGI trial, patients receive pharmacogenomics testing to learn about their body’s ability to react to various medications. As a nurse who also holds a PhD in molecular biology, Dr. Moorthy is a perfect fit for the multidisciplinary KCGI team working to push the boundaries and do more with genomic information. “As an organization we want to do everything we can. We want to really stretch for each patient in our care,” she said, “and this kind of personalized medicine helps us do that.”

“KCGI really leverages the strengths of NorthShore’s molecular pathology and bioinformatics teams,” said Sereika, “and the success of the study is the result of the tremendous teamwork of so many different departments.”

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Chantay Gresham has had more than her share of struggles, preparing to die at just 46 years old. But thanks to her care from oncologist Bruce Brockstein, MD, and her participation in the Kellogg Cancer Genomic Initiative (KCGI), she has hope and a new lease on life.

When Gresham found her way to the Kellogg Cancer Center team, she was incredibly sick with a large and very rare sarcoma tumor that had grown in her abdomen, interfering with her liver and kidney function. She first started feeling ill in May 2021. Unable to keep any food down, Gresham was subjected to test after test as she continued to lose weight. Finally, doctors close to her home in Rockford determined that she had cancer, and Gresham chose to have her care at the Kellogg Cancer Center.

Dr. Brockstein and the Kellogg team first hoped that the tumor could be removed by expert gastrointestinal surgeon Melissa Hogg, MD, but the tumor proved to be too involved with her nearby organs. The cancer was identified as a sarcoma, and Gresham began treatment to shrink it—but neither radiation nor chemotherapy worked.

“My family and I were just trying to accept that I was going to pass away from this cancer," recalled Gresham. But molecular profiling of her tumor as part of the KCGI study success-fully identified a genetic abnormality and a medication that could work for her. The KCGI team was able to get Gresham on the medication that in a matter of months began to shrink the tumor.

A CT scan this summer showed that the tumor was smaller. “For the first time, I had some good news. It was really the first hope I’ve had in over a year,” said Gresham. While the medicine has left her feeling very tired, Gresham has been able to get off a feeding tube and move back to her own home after staying with family when she was so ill.

Dr. Brockstein is cautiously optimistic that the tumor will continue to shrink enough on the medication and can be removed surgically. Gresham will have another CT scan and meet with Dr. Hogg to talk about next steps.

“As of now, I’m just trying to stay as positive as I can,” said Gresham. Dr. Brockstein is one of the best doctors I’ve ever had, and I know Dr. Hogg is a rock star. The care they’ve shown me is so important.”

“It’s so gratifying to help patients like Chantay with the collaborative team involved in the KCGI and her care,” said Dr. Brockstein. “Having molecular testing available for a cancer that’s so rare, like hers, is a huge benefit to our patients.”

“At one point, I didn’t even have a future to contemplate,” said Gresham, “and now I’m just looking forward to living my life.”

Cherry Riddle is a communications specialist who writes for NorthShore’s marketing and communications department.
Pharmacogenomic Testing Supports Individualized Care

NorthShore's comprehensive pharmacogenomics program continues to grow and now includes testing panels that offer guidance for nine chemotherapy medications and more than 40 medications used in supportive care. KCGI patients receive pharmacogenomic testing in addition to targeted molecular testing of their tumor samples. Beyond guidance on nausea and pain management, pharmacogenomics can provide significant value to cancer patients by assisting with therapeutic selection of psychiatry medications, including antidepressants. A recent pilot program led by Senior Clinical Specialist Dynon Wake, PharmD, incorporated pharmacogenomics testing in initial laboratory orders for new oncology patients treated with one of three specific chemotherapy drugs. During the two-month pilot involving select oncologists, patients with potential sensitivity to their planned chemotherapy regimens were identified, and discussion is now underway to expand the program.

The pharmacogenomics team’s knowledge base and expertise provide vital clinical support. In the past year, the team published four articles, an abstract and had three posters accepted and graduated its inaugural resident. The resident is a key team member who helped investigate potentially targetable variants and presented patients at regular tumor board meetings.

Bioinformatics and Molecular Pathology Revolutionizing Treatment

As next-generation DNA sequencing (NGS) has quite literally revolutionized medicine with widespread testing for genomic anomalies and polymorphisms, the need for managing large amounts of data and interpreting results has created new challenges and opportunities. Flype is a web-based bioinformatics platform developed at NorthShore that incorporates the data from NGS into workflows, making it usable for clinicians. NorthShore’s Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology led by Director Larry Helseth, PhD, helps the molecular pathology team interpret DNA sequence results and then creates reports that are sent for oncologists’ review.

“We use Flype to help organize patient results and interpretations for molecular tumor boards where advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, oncologists, pathologists and bioinformaticians meet virtually to review each patient’s case and see how best to tailor their treatment to the molecular markers identified in their tumors,” said Dr. Helseth. “The days of treating cancer based on the origin of the tumor are long gone.”

Flype is also used to help integrate molecular test results from NorthShore and external facilities and match that data to patient outcomes to gain insight into treating future patients with specific molecular markers.

Addressing Health Disparities

Closing the Health Equity Gap in Breast Cancer Screening

Improving health equity for our patients and the communities we serve is an ongoing commitment for NorthShore and the focus of collaborative teamwork. After identifying a breast cancer screening disparity using a Lens of Equity tool developed by our analytics team, the Breast Health Center, Patient Care Center, analytics and Health Equity Impact Team (HEIT) worked together to drive improvement in screening rates.

Low screening rates for non-white and lower-income patients increased their risk for a delayed breast cancer diagnosis. The team worked to streamline mammography services and improve access for vulnerable populations. Frontline team members called close to 1,000 patients and helped schedule nearly 200 additional screenings to date.

The HEIT brought on a dedicated health equity community liaison to perform continued outreach and help patients navigate breast cancer screenings. We continue to work to close the health equity gap for breast cancer screening.

Using Genomics to Target High Rates of Prostate Cancer in Black Men

Prostate cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer, and studies show that inherited factors account for 27% of the risk for developing prostate cancer. Black men have a substantially higher incidence of prostate cancer and higher related death rates than the general population. A genomics program led by Brian Helfand, MD, PhD, the Ronald L. Chez Family and Richard Metman Family Endowed Chair of Prostate Cancer, has specifically focused on the high prevalence of prostate cancer in Black men. Dr. Helfand authored an article in the Clinical Leader newsletter highlighting NorthShore’s successful program and encouraging more protocols and interventions that promote the inclusion of diverse populations.

“Genomics research is shaping the future of prostate cancer and medicine at large,” stated Dr. Helfand. “To improve health equity and benefit society, it’s important that the diversity of patients taking advantage of clinical genomics is reflected in our clinic strategies.”
Subspecialty Expertise Attacks Rare Cancer

Bile duct cancers—also called cholangiocarcinoma—are rare, affecting fewer than six people in 100,000 according to the National Cancer Institute. When 75-year-old Gerald Gray, DDS, was diagnosed in early 2022, he quickly appreciated the benefits of a sub-specialty team at the Kellogg Cancer Center who successfully treated his cholangiocarcinoma. Symptoms that initially mimicked gallbladder trouble began Dr. Gray’s “whirlwind” of a cancer journey. General surgeon John Linn, MD, ordered a special MRI—called a magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography—to provide detailed images of the hepatobiliary and pancreatic systems. Dr. Gray was admitted the same day and referred to expert oncology surgeon Melissa Hogg, MD, who reviewed his images while she was out of town to confirm the diagnosis.

He then had an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) with gastroenterologist Shailseh Bajaj, MD, who specializes in advanced therapeutic endoscopy and pancreaticobiliary disease, before having surgery with Dr. Hogg, who removed the tumor; bile duct, gallbladder and area lymph nodes.

“I was scheduled for a doctor’s office visit, and within two days I had the visit, a consult, an MRCP, an ERCP, advanced placement and an appointment to see a surgeon two days after discharge,” said Dr. Gray. “The NorthShore system worked seamlessly, and I had five-star treatment all the way around.”

A retired endodontist, Dr. Gray and his wife, who is a retired surgical nurse, both have a medical background and were more than impressed with the expert and compassionate care he received. Following his surgery, Dr. Gray had a consult for a second opinion at Mayo Clinic and was told he was fortunate to have an oncology surgeon with the advanced skills of Dr. Hogg.

Following surgery, Dr. Gray began treatment with oncologist Robert Marsh, MD, who recommended both chemotherapy and radiation, the best protocol for beating the rare cancer. “I feel fortunate to have Dr. Marsh in charge of my care—five stars again,” said Dr. Gray, who also had high praise for radiation oncologist Arif Shaikh, MD. “All of these physicians, the speed with which care has been provided, the professional care and expertise given to me have saved my life,” added Dr. Gray.

“He’s done very well with the treatment, and all indicators are quite positive now,” said Dr. Marsh, who will continue to closely monitor.

Dr. Gray with scars and bloodwork for the next few years. While he initially had some serious side effects with the chemotherapy, Dr. Gray said Dr. Marsh and his team managed them quickly, adjusting doses and offering therapeutic options. Dr. Gray’s last scan in October was clear. “It truly is a team effort across so many disciplines to get patients like this through a complex regimen,” said Dr. Marsh.

Dr. Gray considers himself blessed to be married to Susan, his wife of 46 years, for “all her sacrifices through this cancer journey and being the best advocate I could ever have.” He is grateful to the entire Kellogg Cancer team of nurses, Advanced Practice Providers and more. “They save lives. That’s what they do,” said Dr. Gray. “I’m living a very blessed life.”

Dr. Dr. Seth Krantz Honored with CoC Outstanding Performance Award

Thoracic Surgeon Seth Krantz, MD, was recognized by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) with one of its Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) Outstanding Performance Awards. Ten CLP winners were chosen from more than 80 submissions, recognizing their hard work and dedication to improving the quality of care for cancer patients.

Among Dr. Krantz’s many contributions noted in his nomination are his tireless efforts for the Kellogg Cancer Center’s smoking cessation program. Dr. Krantz’s leadership helped expand services through training additional tobacco treatment specialists at Mayo Clinic and establishing automatic referrals within the EHR for any new cancer patients identified as a smoker.

“Dr. Seth Krantz—his dedication to improving the quality of care for cancer patients is truly inspiring,” said Cancer Committee Nurse Coordinator Jamie Field.

Helping More Patients Quit Smoking

The Kellogg Cancer Center continues to expand its longstanding efforts to help patients quit smoking. Studies show that it is never too late to quit smoking to gain potential health benefits. NorthShore now has more trained specialists with more dedicated time to see patients, especially those with a new cancer diagnosis. Kellogg is also participating in the Commission on Cancer “Just Ask” program, a national quality improvement project and clinical study. The initiative is designed to improve upon current smoking assessments by leveraging existing resources.

Every new cancer patient is asked about their smoking history. An automatic referral for an appointment with a tobacco cessation specialist is built into the electronic health record (EHR) for current smokers. Continued smoking/tobacco use after a cancer diagnosis decreases survival, reduces treatment efficacy and increases the risk of recurrence.

Swedish Hospital New Specialist Coverage

Bariatric Surgeon Thomas Smith, MD, was chosen from more than 80 submissions for his dedicated efforts for the Kellogg Cancer Center’s smoking cessation program. Dr. Krantz’s leadership helped expand services through training additional tobacco treatment specialists at Mayo Clinic and establishing automatic referrals within the EHR for any new cancer patients identified as a smoker.

“Dr. Seth Krantz and his work to help all of our patients’ and program,” said Cancer Committee Nurse Coordinator Jamie Field.

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Innovative Research Driving Clinical Excellence

**Personalized, Genetics-Based Prostate Cancer Care**

A pioneering collaboration between NorthShore’s Program for Personalized Cancer Care (PPCC) and Johns Hopkins University Department of Urology has the potential to transform prostate cancer care. Five new clinical studies will focus on hereditary risk, screening, biopsy and treatment by collecting and analyzing both germline and somatic DNA genetic data from several thousand prostate cancer patients. The prostate cancer team led by Brian Helfand, MD, PhD, and Jianfeng Xu, DrPH, Elliot-Schweighauser Family Chair of Cancer Genomic Research, has been supported by generous philanthropy as it works to further personalize prostate cancer screening and treatment strategies.

**Advancing Surgical Innovation**

Accomplished oncoplastic breast surgeon Katherine Kopkash, MD, is a principal investigator in the first U.S. clinical trial of robotic assisted nipple-sparing mastectomies for women who are at high risk of developing breast cancer. NorthShore is the only Illinois site for this landmark study using the robotic approach, which allows the entire operation to be performed through a 3.5 cm incision in the armpit. The procedure leaves patients with minimal scarring, the likelihood of more sensation and an easier recovery. “I’m excited to lead this trial that will provide surgeons with evidence-based data to support the expansion of this innovative new procedure,” said Dr. Kopkash.

**Novel Pancreatic Cancer Screening**

NorthShore is a regional leader in pancreas research, and our clinical pancreatic database is one of the largest in the country. A collaborative study with the University of Chicago focused on using novel genetic risk factors to identify subjects at high risk of developing pancreatic cancer and demonstrated the importance of genetic tools for screening. A new study in development will offer genetic testing for monogenic diseases and genetic risk scores for pancreatic cancer patients. First-degree relatives of patients identified as carriers will be offered genetic testing and consultation. This will be the first genetics-based pancreatic screening study in the country. The new study will be led by Mark Talamonti, MD, the Stanton and Margaret Rogers Palmer Chair of Surgery, and Jianfeng Xu, DrPH.

**Improving Outcomes and Quality of Life**

Philanthropic support is helping Katharine Yao, MD, Vice Chair for Research, Department of Surgery, lead innovative studies designed to help improve outcomes and quality of life for patients. Educational mindfulness video modules targeting newly diagnosed patients, those undergoing treatment and survivors were developed as part of a novel mindfulness study. Patient responses and coping skills are now being documented and assessed after watching the videos. Other studies are designed to support a proven, data-backed risk assessment score that would be given to all women undergoing screening mammography as part of a strategy to help prevent breast cancer. And a third initiative is looking at universal genetic testing for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients—specifically, how surgeons and clinicians collectively see the value in genetic testing. “Supporting breast cancer research and women who face a devastating diagnosis, or carry genes that could become cancer, has been near and dear to my heart for years,” said Mary Dillon, President and CEO of Foot Locker, Inc., who is supporting Dr. Yao’s research. “I’ve had a longstanding relationship with Dr. Yao. Her knowledge, passion and understanding of what it takes to prevent cancer and ensure the best possible outcomes are unmatched. These studies will move the needle toward more comprehensive screening, early detection and improving overall outcomes. The work she’s doing is imperative in this age of genetics and mindfulness.”

**Quick Diagnosis and Urgent Delivery**

Ashley Conley was 32 weeks pregnant with her fourth child when she started bruising all over and experiencing nose bleeds. At first, she assumed it was due to low iron in pregnancy, but then her gums began to bleed and Conley and her husband decided her unusual symptoms should be evaluated. The 39-year-old mom had blood drawn on a Sunday and received a call before 6:30 a.m. the next day urging her to get to NorthShore Evanston Hospital immediately. Within minutes of her arrival, hematologist Amy Wang, MD, MPH, shared the devastating news that Conley had acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) and that her baby would have to be delivered as soon as possible.

“Hours matter at this point,” Conley was told. A comprehensive team of oncologists, maternal-fetal medicine experts and critical care specialists began meticulously planning the complex treatment and safe delivery of her baby. Conley’s life-threatening condition put her at risk of severe bleeding and clotting complications while giving birth.

“The good news with APL is that it’s highly curable. It gets patients over the hump in the first month or two when mortality is highest,” said Dr. Wang. “It was fortunate she was 33 weeks and the obstetrics team was comfortable with the early delivery.”

Conley was fortunate to have the hematologist expertise to recognize the rare condition and the multidisciplinary, collaborative team that helped deliver a healthy baby and fight the cancer. Conley was given her first round of ATRA (all-trans-retinoic acid), an oral medication to treat APL, while still pregnant, as it is known to be safe for the baby.

With her platelet levels dropping precipitously, Conley was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit, which was deemed the safest place for her to be induced and deliver her baby. A team of close to 30 clinicians—physicians, nurses, anesthesiologists and blood bank support—came together to manage her care and labor, and baby Harlow Rose was born on Feb. 9, 2022.

Within an hour of giving birth, Conley was given her first intravenous chemotherapy treatment. “She’s really a tough person. She kept such a level head about everything going on,” said Dr. Wang. “I think she was in shock, but she trusted us. She was so strong and knew she had to be for her family.”

Conley was hospitalized for a month to continue receiving chemotherapy that thankfully put her leukemia in remission. She completed several more months of outpatient treatment under Dr. Wang’s direction to keep the APL in remission long enough to be cured. While it was an arduous journey, Conley is grateful for the exceptional care she received. “Harlow is healthy and my boys love having a little sister,” said Conley. “I am so thankful for everything.”
Comprehensive Support Services

Thanks in part to our many generous donors, the Kellogg Cancer Center is able to provide patient- and family-centered care. In addition to an ongoing focus on prevention, early detection and advanced treatment options for cancer, we are also committed to offering patients and families a full range of resources to help navigate and manage their cancer journey.

From emotional and spiritual support to special nutritional guidance, integrative medicine services, and assistance with practical needs like transportation or financial aid, the extended Kellogg Cancer Center team delivers comprehensive, compassionate support.

Expanded Psychosocial Care

Generous funding from Carol Levy in memory of her husband Joseph enabled psychologist Elizabeth Kacel, PhD, to join the Kellogg Cancer Center team in late 2021. In her first year, Dr. Kacel completed nearly 800 patient visits, including new patient consultations and psychotherapy sessions. Treatment sessions focus on the use of evidence-based psychological approaches to improve cancer distress and optimize patients’ quality of life during and beyond cancer.

“I am deeply moved by the caring and collaborative nature of the Kellogg Cancer team,” said Dr. Kacel. “Every day is fast-paced and intense, yet slow and meaningful in how the team provides whole-person care. There’s as much laughter as there are tears.”

Providing expert psychological care from within the Kellogg Cancer Center offers many benefits for patients. The location is familiar, the stigma of mental health care is reduced and the role of psychological treatment during cancer is normalized.

Managing Fear of Recurrence and Progression

In collaboration with the Myra Rubenstein Weis (MRW) Living in the Future (LIFE) Cancer Survivorship Program led by Carol Rosenberg, MD, and Clinical Coordinator Anisha Patel APN, Dr. Elizabeth Kacel facilitated a new three-part “Evening of Survivorship” virtual summer lecture series. Fear of cancer recurrence or progression is one of the most common psychological concerns reported by patients diagnosed with all types and stages of cancer.

The series was designed to offer patients practical strategies for managing this specific concern in cancer survivorship. The series also featured contributions from the Kellogg team of oncology social workers. More than 200 participants—including patients, family members and healthcare providers—participated in the new series, which received exceptionally positive feedback.

Vital Community Partnerships

Kellogg Cancer Center values its important partnerships and collaborations with community organizations dedicated to improving lives for cancer patients.

A longstanding partnership with the Cancer Wellness Center is a symbiotic relationship that helps provide cancer patients with additional psychosocial support and resources, as well as education on a variety of essential cancer-related topics.

The Cancer Wellness Center offers a range of services including educational programs, wellness classes, and support services in English and Spanish. Clinical services include individual, family and child counseling as well as support groups for men, women, young adults and anyone bereaved. Experts from NorthShore are tapped to speak at educational programs.

“The Center is a trusted source for evidence-based information to cancer patients and their loved ones,” said Cancer Wellness Center Program Director Savina Chacheva. “The services are important as they allow patients to receive individualized support, reduce feelings of stress and improve overall wellbeing.”

The American Cancer Society (ACS) supports many different programs benefitting cancer patients throughout the Chicago and northwest suburban region, including providing vital grants for transportation to and from facilities like Kellogg Cancer Center to address one of the key social determinants of health.

The ACS also partners with NorthShore in outreach and educational events, including a series of Facebook live events for Spanish speakers with NorthShore physicians like Carolina Soto Cherwin, MD. “Seeing a physician speaking Spanish builds important trust for many patients,” said ACS Cancer Support Strategic Partnerships Manager Aubree Thelen. “We’re happy to partner with NorthShore and the boots-on-the-ground team of providers. This has been a really successful, consistent partnership. We share a mutual desire to find new ways to innovate and support patients.”

Donors Support Patient Care

Hematologist Amy Wang, MD, MPH, earned a NorthShore Auxiliary Research Scholar Award for her work aimed at improving the quality of life for adolescents and young adults (AYA) with blood cancers. AYA blood cancer survivors are a vulnerable group experiencing high rates of morbidity and early mortality, and Dr. Wang designed and implemented a study during her fellowship training looking at severe symptoms and late effects of therapy for this population. The study was presented at the 2021 and 2022 American Society of Clinical Oncology meetings.

The Auxiliary has further supported Dr. Wang’s efforts to establish a continuity clinic for high-risk survivors of pediatric and AYA cancers and to further her studies related to neurocognitive outcomes in AYA blood cancer survivors. Work on the continuity clinic will be a collaborative effort with the Kellogg team and Carol Rosenberg, MD, Director of the MRW LIFE Cancer Survivorship Program.

“I am grateful to the Auxiliary for this award, which is helping bring my vision to fruition and serving a vulnerable patient population,” said Dr. Wang, who will use preliminary data from the study to apply for external funding to help design multi-institutional and cooperative group studies.

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Colorectal Surgical Oncology Trials

EH20-111 A Phase II Multicenter, Open-Label, Randomized, Controlled Trial of Debio 025 Versus Placebo on Clinical Outcomes in Patients Undergoing Pancreaticoduodenectomy
EH20-177 Clinical pancreatic cancer database
EH21-026 Detecting copy number alterations (CNV) of MYC and PTEN in biopsy samples to predict clinical outcomes in pancreatic cancer
EH21-133 The effects of pancreatic cancer on the operating surgeon

Thyroid Surgical Oncology Trials

EH14-058 The establishment of a multidisciplinary thyroid cancer biorepository of patients for nuclear medicine
EH18-124 The Impact of Breast Cancer Surgical Delays on Mortality in the COVID-19 Pandemic

For more information, visit northshore.org/kellogg-cancer-center/clinical-trials

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Britt Hanson, DO  
Experiences: Melanoma, Gastrointestinal Cancer, Benign and Malignant Hematology  
Locations: GR, HPK

Herbert Mason Hedberg, MD  
Experiences: Dermatologic and General Surgery  
Locations: EV, HP

Brian Heifeld, MD, PhD  
Experiences: Prostate Cancer; Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia; Laparoscopic Surgery; Robotic Assisted Surgery; Laser Surgery  
Location: GB

Thomas Hensing, MD, MS  
Co-Director of the Thrombotic Oncology Program; Associate Chief Quality Officer for Ambulatory Care  
Locations: Lung Cancer; Esophageal Cancer; Head and Neck Cancers  
Locations: EVK, GBK, GBK

Melissa Hogg, MD, MS  
Director, Liver and Pancreas Surgery  
Expertise: Prostate Cancer; Benign and Malignant Hematology; Gastrointestinal and Colorectal Surgery; Robotic Assisted Surgery  
Location: SK

Jared Imam, MD  
Experiences: Benign and Malignant Hematology; Medical Oncology  
Location: SW

Mary Tiley Jenkins Vogel, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology  
Locations: EVK, GBK, SW

Andrew Johnson, MD  
Experiences: Neurosurgery; Cervical Spine Surgery; Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery; Complex Spine Surgery; Brain and Spinal Tumors  
Locations: SW

Joel Joyce, MD  
Experiences: Pediatric Dermatology; Laser and Surgical Treatment of Birthmarks; Hemangiomas  
Locations: SK, WP

Lynee Kaminer, MD  
Experiences: Head and Neck Surgery; Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery  
Locations: EV, GBK

Amanda Silver Karingru, MD  
Experiences: Head and Neck Surgery; Thyroid/Parathyroid Surgery  
Locations: EV, LK, SK

Eileen Kelly, MD  
Experiences: Cardio-Oncology; Clinical Cardiology  
Location: GB

James Kearns, MD  
Experiences: Prostate Cancer; Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia; Laparoscopic Surgery; Robotic Assisted Surgery; Laser Surgery  
Locations: EV, GB

Jaswant Khandia, MD  
Director, Center for Molecular Medicine  
Expertise: Endocrine; Breast Cancer Location: EV

Camryn Kinchma, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology; Oncology Surgery; Cancer Survivorship  
Locations: EV, GBK

Madhuri Komandalli, MD  
Experiences: Skin Cancer; General Dermatology  
Locations: EV, WM

Katherine Kopfsh, MD  
Director of Oncoplastic Breast Surgery  
Experiences: Breast Cancer; Oncoplastic Breast Surgery; Breast Health; Breast Disease and Surgery  
Locations: EV, GB

Seth Krantz, MD  
Experiences: Lung Cancer; Esophageal Cancer; Benign Esophageal Disease, Lung Cancer; Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery; Minimally Invasive Thoracic Diseases of the Chest Wall and cancer; Benign Esophageal Disease  
Locations: EV, GB

Stephanie Mehdis, MD  
Experiences: Bladder Diseases; Connective Tissue Diseases; Atopic Dermatitis; Psoriasis; Gastrointestinal Surgery, Colorectal and Pancreatic Surgery  
Locations: EV, GM

Andrew Meink, MD  
Experiences: Medical Genetics—All Ages, Genetic/Genomic/Hereditary Disorders; Cancer Genetics  
Location: EV

Elyse Lambiase, MD  
Experiences: Breast Cancer  
Location: SW

Teresa Murray Law, MD  
Experiences: Breast Cancer  
Locations: EV, HPK

Ross Levy, MD  
Experiences: Mohs Surgery, Dermatologic Surgery, Laser Surgery, Cosmetics Surgery  
Location: SK

Melissa Hochten Liptik, MD, MPH  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology  
Locations: EV, GBK

Jared Rosner, MD  
Experiences: Full-Thickness Transplantation; Robotic Assisted Surgery  
Locations: EVK, GBK, HPK

Tom Seit, MD  
Experiences: Breast Reconstruction; Breast Health; Breast Disease and Surgery  
Locations: EV, GBK, GR

Allan Shevrin, MD  
Director, Myra Rubenstein Women’s Center  
Location: GB

Carol Rosenberg, MD  
Director, Shonker Health Initiatives; Living in the Future (LIF) Cancer Survivors Program  
Experiences: Cancer Survivorship  
Location: HPH

Melissa Silver, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology; Gynecologic Oncology  
Locations: EV, GBK

Mary Rhodes, MD  
Experiences: Internal Medicine; Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
Locations: EV, GB

Norm Smith, MD  
Experiences: Bladder Cancer; Kidney Cancer; Advanced Urologic Oncology  
Locations: EV, GB

Erwin Robin, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology; Gynecologic Oncology  
Locations: GB

Jason Robin, MD  
Experiences: Cardio-Oncology  
Location: GB

Gustavo Rodriguez, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology; Gynecologic Oncology  
Location: EVK

Amit Pursnani, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology; Cancer Surgery  
Locations: EV, GB

Vithasia Rajkiran, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology; Head and Neck Cancer; Breast Health; Breast Disease and Surgery  
Locations: GBK, HPK

Rupa Patel, MD  
Experiences: Cardio-Oncology  
Locations: EV, GM, WP

Elyse Menaker, MD  
Experiences: Mohs Surgery, Dermatologic Surgery, Laser Surgery, Cosmetic Surgery  
Location: SK

Douglas Merik, MD  
Experiences: Breast Cancer  
Locations: EVK, GBK, HPK

Cecyia K. Mizera, MD  
Experiences: Breast Cancer, Malignant Melanoma; Sarcoma; Gastrointestinal and Colorectal Surgery; Robotic Assisted Surgery  
Location: SW

Sangtae Park, MD, MPH  
Experiences: Breast Cancer; Breast Health; Breast Disease and Surgery  
Locations: EV, HP

Hannah Park, MD  
Experiences: Breast Cancer; Breast Health; Breast Disease and Surgery  
Locations: EV, GB, QR

Elizabeth Poli, MD  
Experiences: Breast Cancer; Breast Health; Breast Disease and Surgery  
Locations: EV, HPK

Ariel Polsky, MD  
Experiences: Genitourinary Cancer; Lung Cancer; Gynecologic Oncology  
Locations: EVK, GBK, GBK

Rupa Patel, MD  
Experiences: Cardio-Oncology  
Locations: EV, GB

Anta Vasum Pattnani, MD  
Experiences: Internal Medicine; Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
Locations: EV, GB

Teresa Murray Law, MD  
Experiences: Breast Cancer  
Locations: EV, HPK

Monika Krezalek, MD  
Experiences: Minimally Invasive Colorectal and Rectal Surgery; Colonoscopy, Proctoscopy  
Locations: SK

Andrew Meink, MD  
Experiences: Medical Genetics—All Ages, Genetic/Genomic/Hereditary Disorders; Cancer Genetics  
Location: EV

Robert Marsh, MD  
Experiences: GI Oncology  
Locations: EV, GBK

Katherine Kopfsh, MD  
Director of Oncoplastic Breast Surgery  
Experiences: Breast Cancer; Oncoplastic Breast Surgery; Breast Health; Breast Disease and Surgery  
Locations: EV, GB

Lusheng Liu, MD  
Experiences: General Dermatology; Dermatologic Oncology; Hematologic Oncology  
Location: LB

Janette Maldonado, MD  
Experiences: Minimally Invasive Surgery; General Surgery; Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery; Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery  
Locations: EV, GBK

Ranjeev Nanda, MD  
Experiences: Pediatric Hematology/Oncology; Head and Neck Cancer; Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery; Cancer Genetics  
Locations: GBK, HPK

Kristian Novakovic, MD  
Experiences: Bladder Cancer; Kidney Cancer; Prostate Cancer; Minimally Invasive Techniques, Laparoscopy and district robot  
Locations: EV, GB

Sangtae Park, MD, MPH  
Experiences: Prostate Cancer; Urologic Oncology  
Locations: EV, GB

Rupa Patel, MD  
Experiences: Cardio-Oncology  
Locations: EV, GB

Joseph Ravi, MD  
Experiences: Bladder Cancer; Urologic Oncology; Endoscopic: Endoscopic; SB bladder Surgery; Urologic oncology; NMB: SK, GM

Sydney Rinaldo, MD  
Experiences: Interventional Radiology  
Locations: GB, HP, HP

Mark Sicir, MD  
Experiences: Aesthetic Surgery; Breast Reconstruction; Minimally Invasive Surgery  
Locations: NMB

Erwin Robin, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology; Gynecologic Oncology  
Locations: GB

Jason Robin, MD  
Experiences: Cardio-Oncology  
Location: GB

Gustavo Rodriguez, MD  
Experiences: Gynecologic Oncology; Gynecologic Oncology  
Location: EVK

Akhil Seth, MD  
Experiences: Breast Reconstruction; Breast and Body Surgery; Oncologic Reconstruction  
Location: NMB

Adi Shacht, MD  
Experiences: Diagnostic Radiosurgery; Head and Neck Cancers; Lung Cancers; Pancreatic and Breast  
Locations: GBK, HPK
### Cancer Conferences

**Breast Cancer Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608, Mondays, 7:30 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

**Colorectal Cancer Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608
  - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 7 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

**Genitourinary Cancer Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608
  - 1st and 3rd Fridays, 7 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

**Gynecology Cancer Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608, Thursdays, 7 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

**Hematology/Pathology Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608, Tuesdays, 8 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

**Hepatic Biliary Pancreatic Cancer Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608, Tuesdays, 8 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

**Molecular Oncology Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room 4818, 1st Friday, 7 a.m.

**Neuro-Oncology Cancer Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608
  - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

**Sarcoma/Melanoma Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608
  - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 8 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

**Thoracic Cancer Conferences**
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608, Tuesdays, noon
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**

### Locations

- **Evanston Breast Center (EVB)**
  - 2650 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201
- **Evanston Hospital (EH)**
  - 2650 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201
- **Evanston Kellogg Cancer Center (EVK)**
  - 2650 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201
- **Evanston Specialty Suites (EV)**
  - 1000 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201
- **Glankenbrook Breast Center (GBB)**
  - 2050 Pfingsten Road, Suite 130
  - Glenview, IL 60026
- **Glankenbrook Medical Building (GBM)**
  - 2180 Pfingsten Road, Suite 100
  - Glenview, IL 60026
- **Glankenbrook Kellogg Cancer Center (GBK)**
  - 2180 Pfingsten Road, Glenview, IL 60026
- **Glankenbrook Medical Building (GBM)**
  - 2180 Pfingsten Road, Suite 128
  - Glenview, IL 60026
- **Glankenbrook Medical Building (GBM)**
  - 2400 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, IL 60026
- **Glankenbrook Ambulatory Care Center (GR)**
  - 7900 Rollins Road, Gurnee, IL 60031
- **Highland Park Ambulatory Care Center (HPA)**
  - 757 Park Avenue West
  - Highland Park, IL 60035
- **Highland Park Ambulatory Care Center (HPB)**
  - 777 Park Avenue West, Suite 8400
  - Highland Park, IL 60035
- **Highland Park Hospital (HPH)**
  - 777 Park Avenue West, Room 1290
  - Highland Park, IL 60035
- **Highland Park Kellogg Cancer Center (HPK)**
  - 757 Park Avenue West
  - Highland Park, IL 60035
- **Highland Park Medical Building (HP)**
  - 767 Park Avenue West, Suite B100
  - Highland Park, IL 60035
- **Lake Bluff Medical Building (LB)**
  - 71 Waukegan Road, Suite 700
  - Lake Bluff, IL 60044
- **Lakeview Medical Group (LV)**
  - 3122 N. Ashland Avenue
  - Chicago, IL 60657
- **Mount Prospect Medical Building (MP)**
  - 1329 Wolf Road, Mount Prospect, IL 60056

### Addresses

- **Mount Prospect Medical Building (MP)**
  - 1329 Wolf Road, Mount Prospect, IL 60056
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**
  - Kellogg Room G868, Tuesdays, noon
- **NorthShore Evanston Hospital**
  - Kellogg Room G608, Mondays, 7:30 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**
  - Kellogg Room G608
  - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 7 a.m.
  - NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast
  - Kellogg Room G608
  - 1st and 3rd Fridays, 7 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**
  - Kellogg Room G608
  - 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 8 a.m.
- **NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast**
  - Kellogg Room G608
  - Tuesdays, 8 a.m.
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  - Kellogg Room G608
  - Tuesdays, 8 a.m.
  - NorthShore Glenbrook and Highland Park Hospitals Videocast
2022 Cancer Committee

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Associate Director for Surgical Specialties, Kellogg Cancer Center

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Head, Division of Hematology/Oncology
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Director, Oncology Research Program
Monika Krezalek, MD
Elena Moore, MD
Kristian Novakovic, MD
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Cancer Liaison Physician
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Oncology Nutrition

* All academic affiliations are with the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine