Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Care in Action Highlights Report
2017
Together, we are going to create more opportunities for collaboration. Together, we are going to put more power and decision-making authority where it can do the most good: in the hands of those who best understand our patients’ needs. And, together, we are going to do everything in our power to ensure the current is flowing in the direction we are all trying to swim.

We are all here at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance because it is a place—one of the very few places in the world—where people have the best hope of beating cancer. There really is nothing else that matters.

With respect and gratitude,

Theresa McDonnell, DNP, ACNP-BC
Chief Nurse Executive, Vice President of Clinical Operations
Transformational Leadership

Conference Presentations in Total
- International Conference on Cancer Nursing (11)
- ONS National Congress (6)
- Puget Sound Oncology Nursing Society Symposium (4)
- Seattle Nurse Research Conference (2)
- Tandem Conference (4)

Awards
- **Christen Heye, ARNP** — “Woman of the Year” by the WA-AK Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.
- **Arlyce Coumar, RN, OCN** — Oncology Nursing Society Foundation’s Master’s Scholarship for Graduate Studies
- **Heidi Christina Trott, MN, ARNP**, presented in Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare

Rosemary Ford Scholarships — Investing in Nursing’s Future
SCCA awarded 17 scholarships in 2016–17 to several of its own nurses, as well as to students at five nursing schools across the Puget Sound region.

**2016 Winners**
- Rafael Achacoso
- Arlyce Jo Coumar
- Lizbeth Hernandez
- Bailey Jo Hoglund
- Julia Marsh

- Timothy McSpadden
- Krista Meeks
- Bonny Ogala
- Steven Pasek
- Dyan Raposas

**2017 Winners**
- Katelyn Marie Dobyns
- Karolyn Hildebrand
- Annette Elizabeth Hill

SCCA Certified Nurses
- 120 Certified Nurses in 2016
- 146 Certified Nurses in 2017

Global Education Partnerships
- Guam and Uganda

Structural Empowerment

Internal Focus — Clinic Expansion
SCCA is growing — yet our greatly anticipated 250,000-square-foot, nine-story addition will be much more than just a building. We are creating a space that uplifts the spirit and embodies hope, one that welcomes patients and families and inspires our dedicated staff.

To ensure this expansion meets the diverse needs of the community we serve, our design team includes members from various SCCA clinics and departments as well as representatives from our patient advisory council. The team is working in partnership with architects, engineers and contractors to construct a space that fosters our growth as one of the top cancer treatment institutes in the country.

Our new environs will include a number of features that reflect our priorities:
- Reducing the burden of cancer on patients and families
- Promoting collaboration between cancer research and care
- Demonstrating responsible financial stewardship
- Establishing a care destination that can accommodate the needs of today and the innovations of tomorrow

SCCA’s new addition will sit adjacent to our existing clinic in the Eastlake area of Seattle. It is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2022.
Structural Empowerment

External Focus — Our Shared Community

Mercy Housing

SCCA partnered with King County Housing Authority and Mercy Housing to provide a community wellness event in Kent, Washington, in May 2017. Among the savory smells of homemade goodies provided by the residents of Mercy Housing, the event blended revelry with education, offering free mammograms and information about a variety of topics, such as diabetes management, cancer prevention and smoking cessation.

Designed to reach non-native English speakers, the event provided health information in Russian and Spanish. Fifty-seven residents of Mercy Housing attended.

Seattle/King County Health Clinic

Seattle/King County Clinic brings together healthcare organizations, civic agencies, non-profits, private businesses and volunteers from across Washington state to produce a health clinic for 4,500 in KeyArena at Seattle Center. The four-day, volunteer-driven clinic provides a full range of free dental, vision and medical care to underserved and vulnerable populations in the region.

Our work in the community is an extension of our mission. Volunteers from SCCA provided free mammograms. A proud partner of the clinic since it first launched, SCCA was pleased to provide women with this life-saving screening and access to care.

Exemplary Professional Practice

SCCA Nurses Take Top Honors

We’re very proud of our nurses, who are fundamental to the excellent care that SCCA provides to patients.

Lenise Taylor, MN, RN, AOCNS®, BMTCN, received the 2017 Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Excellence in Blood & Marrow Transplantation Award. Lenise is a nationally recognized BMT leader whose early phase research has been translated into state-of-the-art clinical care for oncology patients. She has held leadership roles in the Puget Sound Oncology Nursing Society for 20 years, and she’s shared her expertise with nurses across the region to build the network of knowledge, competency and skill around the care of oncology patients.

Terri Cunningham, MSN, RN, AOCN, was chosen as March of Dimes’ Distinguished Nurse of the Year for her extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession in Washington state. Since 2002, Terri has translated the integration of clinical research evidence into practice and teaching to support the best care of oncology patients. She spearheaded the work to open community sites of practice at Northwest Hospital and EvergreenHealth, laying the groundwork for the model of care delivery, standards of practice and the operating policy and procedures.
Kathleen Shannon Dorcy, BSN, MN, PhD, RN, Selected as Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing

Nurse leader embodies commitment to oncology patient care, research, teaching and ethics

Kathleen Shannon Dorcy, BSN, MN, PhD, RN, director of clinical nursing research, education and practice, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). She is the first nurse in SCCA history to achieve this honor, joining the ranks of nearly 2,400 nursing leaders across the world.

Invitation to participate in FAAN reflects recognition of nursing profession achievements that include education, management, practice and research. Fellows contribute time and talent to support the transformation of health policy and practice. Kathleen plans to dedicate her time to reduce health care disparities.

“My career accomplishments have not been realized alone. My family, my colleagues and students have all contributed greatly to my professional success,” says Kathleen.

Kathleen holds a PhD in oncology nursing from the University of Utah, a master’s degree in nursing in community health and ethics from the University of Washington, and a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Seattle University. Her professional titles include: director of clinical nursing research education and practice for Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, staff scientist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and senior lecturer at the University of Washington School of Nursing in Tacoma, where she has taught for the past 25 years.

Kathleen joined the Fred Hutch bone marrow transplant team as a research nurse in 1989, where she worked with Fred R. Appelbaum, MD. “I have had the pleasure of working closely with Kathleen and watching her excel at every level, from helping me run my clinical trials, to developing her own independent research and ultimately leading other nurses to create their own research careers,” said Appelbaum, now the executive vice president and deputy director at Fred Hutch. “All of us are grateful to have Kathleen as a colleague.”

Kathleen’s leadership roles include the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy, the Daisy Foundation Scholarship Review Board, and collaborating with nurses in Guam and Uganda. She has published more than 35 articles in journals that include the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, and Advances in Nursing Science and delivered presentations at more than 80 conferences.

“Kathleen is a legend who continually dedicates her time and talents to ameliorate the suffering caused by cancer,” said Dr. Theresa McDonnell. “Her work combines an unwavering commitment to deliver the most compassionate patient care, with a quest to improve treatment outcomes through research. We are grateful to benefit from her example every day.”

SCCA colleagues and leadership held several events to honor Kathleen in appreciation for all that she does to mentor, support and help people grow.
Research Nursing At a Glance — Bernie McLaughlin

Patient advocate, decision maker, administrator — shifting effortlessly between these roles is all part of a day’s work for Bernie McLaughlin, BSN, RN, who coordinates clinical trials for SCCA patients.

From communicating with patients, to supporting investigators, and navigating regulations, Bernie manages every aspect of the clinical research process. Currently, she’s helping to conduct trials testing the use of stem cell transplants for non-malignant and autoimmune diseases.

“I really enjoy getting to know patients, and I also love the novelty of studying how cancer therapies can be applied to patients with other diseases,” says Bernie.

Kerry McMillen — Nutrition Screening

Adequate nutrition is essential during cancer treatment, but some patients have trouble eating due to side effects.

Kerry McMillen, MS, RD, CSO, medical nutrition therapy supervisor, wants to enhance how we serve patients’ nutritional needs throughout treatment. She is spearheading a screening process so that nurses can refer patients to one of SCCA’s registered dietitians for nutrition consultation.

“We really want to help patients make food choices that best support their care. Nursing can play a huge role in helping us identify those who are struggling,” says Kerry.

Improving Quality Through Patient-Reported Outcomes

Understanding how patients are feeling as they move through treatment can have a meaningful impact on health outcomes and quality of life. That’s why SCCA is providing our patients with an innovative way to track how they’re feeling and automatically communicate issues to clinical teams.

Patient-reported outcomes (PROs) give patients the opportunity to report symptoms, side effects and supportive care needs while they are away from the clinic and away from their care teams. Through the use of Caresi, our internally developed patient-facing mobile application, our patients can regularly and easily let us know how they’re doing. Integrating PROs into standard, clinical care is novel in oncology and SCCA is paving the way.

Currently, our breast cancer patients are using this new tool, and SCCA plans to introduce it to all patients throughout the next year.

SCCA is also spearheading a national effort in collaboration with the Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers. Led by Tracy Kusnir-Wong, the director of quality and value, this work aims to develop standards in how oncologists measure the impact cancer and its treatment has on quality of life. The initial pilot is for prostate cancer patients, with the next group being lung cancer.

“The point of PROs is to give patients a neutral, impartial way to share their experiences. This helps ensure our interventions match patients’ hopes and desires,” says Barbara Jagels, RN, MHA, chief quality officer and vice president of quality, safety and value.
Clinical Pathways—the Roadmap to Better Outcomes

To support our goal of continuously improving quality of care, SCCA has engaged medical, surgical, and radiation oncology physicians, as well as nurses, pharmacy staff and other allied health team members, to create Clinical Pathways.

Clinical Pathways provide blueprints for our physicians to create treatment plans that incorporate the latest evidence-based recommendations and to ensure that SCCA patients are getting the right care at the right time.

To date, SCCA has developed Clinical Pathways for 26 types of cancer with more planned until a pathway is available to more than 80 percent of our patients. Clinical Pathways support the delivery of consistent, high-quality care by reducing unnecessary variation. Each of our treatment protocols now includes opportunities to enroll in clinical trials and receive palliative care consultations.

SCCA Celebrates Community Site Milestone

SCCA community sites support expanded access in key regions to clinical research, standards of care and patient care coordination. Sites include Northwest Hospital in Seattle, which hosted an open house event in 2017, and EvergreenHealth in Kirkland, which celebrated five years of partnership with SCCA in 2017. EvergreenHealth also launched a staff training that linked strategic goals with new processes to help ensure the best possible patient care.

The Future Of Medicine – Fellows

Dynamic, dedicated, compassionate — that’s the SCCA patient care team, and it wouldn’t be what it is today without our fellows. An integral part of our multidisciplinary team, fellows work side-by-side with SCCA staff to provide patient-centered care and support decision-making.

Each year, up to eight fellows are selected to pursue subspecialty training in hematology and oncology through SCCA and two of its partner organizations, UW Medicine and Fred Hutch. Our fellowship program prepares physicians for academic careers in a variety of areas, such as global health and the basic sciences. 75 percent of our fellows have gone on to pursue careers in research.

Fellows (left to right) Ali Khaki, MD; Krishna Juluri, MD, PhD; Albert Yeh, MD; Sanghee Hong, MD; Cristina Merkhofer, MD; Poorni Manohar, MD; Shakira Grant, MD
Genetic Counselor Leads Global Oncology Standards

As a young girl in the Philippines, Mercy Laurino, MS, CGC, PhD, couldn’t understand why so many women in her family were dying from breast cancer. The mystery led her to become a genetic counselor. Today, she helps patients at SCCA understand the relationship between their genetic background and their cancer risk.

Her dream of helping people make informed decisions about their health now stretches beyond the Pacific Northwest. She partnered with the University of the Philippines to establish a Master of Science in Genetic Counseling degree, the first training program of its kind.

“My dream had always been to expand the field to the Philippines.” In 2007, when Laurino first began thinking about creating such a program, there were only seven geneticists serving a population of 92 million people. She established the Professional Society of Genetic Counselors in Asia, serving as founding president. The master’s program is now flourishing, with a fifth cohort of students enrolled.

Laurino received the International Leader Award from the National Society of Genetic Counselors for her outstanding contributions to the field.

Bezos Family Immunotherapy Clinic Opens at SCCA

Patients at SCCA now have greater access than ever before to leading-edge cancer treatments that harness the power of the immune system. December 2016 marked the grand opening of the Bezos Family Immunotherapy Clinic.

Clinic Operations Manager Karen Anderson, MN, RN, AOCNS, BMTCN, CRNI, leads a team of 21 registered nurses, three team coordinators, two patient service representatives and one licensed practical nurse. The team works together to provide innovative, compassionate care for SCCA’s Immunotherapy Clinic patients. Team members collaborate through daily huddles, weekly staff meetings and biannual nursing education days.

To date, 11 trials have been implemented in the new clinic and nine are open for enrollment. Future trials will focus on a growing number of hematologic malignancies and solid tumor diagnoses.

Anne Reese, BSN, RN, OCN, and Kathleen Shannon Dorcy, BSN, MN, PhD, RN
National Grant to Fuel Multiple Myeloma Treatment

A novel form of therapy for multiple myeloma may revolutionize treatment for this incurable cancer. Damian J. Green, MD, an attending physician at SCCA, has been awarded a $3.2 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to conduct a clinical trial using radioimmunetherapy.

Multiple myeloma originates in plasma cells found in bone marrow, and traditional treatments are typically unsuccessful in completely eradicating the disease.

However, Green and colleagues from two of our partner organizations, Fred Hutch and UW Medicine, have discovered how to use potent radioactive particles called alpha emitters to deliver antibodies that specifically target the remaining multiple myeloma cells. Used in combination with traditional chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant, this treatment holds great promise for curing the disease.

Green credits his partnerships with patients and SCCA’s care team of nutritionists, pharmacists, APPs and attending physicians for this breakthrough. “SCCA provides a meeting ground between clinicians and research scientists. There’s no space between the bench and the clinic — we are as one here,” Green says.

Universal Screening Supports Referrals

Cancer is often accompanied by distress that extends beyond the physical. To help patients get the support they need, SCCA has launched the Universal Screening Questionnaire, a tool designed to uncover psychosocial distress and provide help.

Every new patient receives the 44-item online questionnaire. Results are uploaded to medical charts and sent to patients via email along with referrals and educational resources. SCCA staff then follow up with patients who are experiencing distress. Out of 7,904 questionnaires sent since 2015, 4,424 referrals were made for 2,529 patients for services that included social work, chaplaincy, nutrition support and palliative care.

Under the leadership of Elizabeth Loggers, MD, PhD, medical director for palliative care, and Moreen Shannon-Dudley, MBA, MSW, LICSW, director, supportive care, radiation therapy, specialty clinics, cell therapy, clinical labs and apheresis, and teams from across SCCA collaborated to create the screening tool. A future goal is to offer it at multiple points during treatment.

SCCA’s Palliative Care Team. Left to right: Jasmine Wornstaff; Molly Bumpus, MS, ARNP, ACHPN; Judy Fihn, RN, OCN, CHPN; Charlie Pieterick, MS, ARNP, ACHPN; Meagan Blazey, MSN, ARNP, ACHPN and Petr Horak. Not pictured: Jodie David, RN, OCN; Johanna Surla, MN, RN.
Caresi App Launches, Supports Patient Care

It was Debbie Berg’s constant companion throughout her treatment for multiple myeloma: her “chemo bag.” It contained all her medical paperwork and she lugged it everywhere. While it’s not an accessory that Berg remembers with fondness, it did spark her imagination: Isn’t there a better way for patients to store and track their health information?

Enter the Caresi™ app. Berg, a project manager at SCCA, collaborated with fellow team members to develop this digital solution. Now, patients can access lab results, treatment schedules, medication lists and notes on their smartphones. They can track symptoms and even record discussions during appointments. “We owe it to our patients to share innovations with them. Caresi’s design has been patient-driven from the get-go,” says Berg, whose cancer is now in remission.

Caresi is now available for all patients with appointments at SCCA.
SCCA teams in collaboration mode, in support of the future clinic expansion.