

I CAN NEWSLETTER

Fighting cancer through science, healthy living, and prevention

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Community-Based Care

Home field advantage for our patients is the key to Texas Oncology's community-based model of cancer treatment. Learn more about the role and importance of community – personal and professional – in cancer care in this issue of the I Can newsletter.

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Community Care Without Compromise

Getting through challenging times – such as cancer treatment – is easier with friends and family nearby, and with fewer disruptions to other aspects of your life. Whether it’s your babysitter, hair stylist, softball team, choir section, or favorite taco place – when facing difficulty, we find comfort and solace in our loved ones and in our familiar routine. That’s the foundation of Texas Oncology’s commitment to providing community-based cancer care.

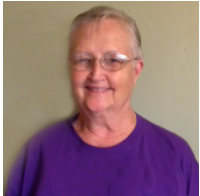
“Our patients want as much normalcy as possible, even though fighting cancer means things are anything but normal,” said Dr. Ernest Cochran, a medical oncologist with Texas Oncology–Paris. “Being surrounded by a community of support is how we all get through life’s biggest challenges. Having cancer certainly qualifies as one of those.”

experience, with less stress from the travel and cost of relocating to another city for treatment.

For Joreen Carpenter, a former breast cancer patient at Texas Oncology–Paris, being near her family’s ranch was important. “I never considered leaving home for treatment,” said Carpenter. “My husband and I like the country life, and we wanted to stay near our kids.” If she had left the Paris area, said Carpenter, “I also would have missed out on the support of my friends and church.”

“At Texas Oncology, the staff who treated me were old friends, and it felt like they were my family.”

**– Joreen Carpenter
Patient,
Texas Oncology–Paris**



“I see a diverse group of patients and can easily offer them access to diverse treatments, like advanced radiation technologies and clinical trials.”

**– Anand Shivnani, M.D.
Radiation Oncologist,
Texas Oncology–Sherman**



At Texas Oncology, patients don’t have to choose between high-quality care and proximity to their families and support systems. Today, community-based cancer care offers advanced treatment and a compassionate, caring patient

That sense of a close, caring community and working together to help patients extends to Texas Oncology’s medical team. For Jackie Gavaldon, oncology nurse at Texas Oncology–El Paso, it’s all about blending a personal touch with professional care.

“I am able to get to know my patients very well while they are being treated – not only their disease process, but personally as well,” Jackie said. “We discuss their treatment, but also their personal issues, concerns, and or just simply their everyday life.”

“Since we live and work in these communities, our physicians are very familiar with the conditions our patients live in,” said Dr. Cochran. “Treatment is more personal when you’re fighting cancer alongside your friends and neighbors.”

There’s No Place Like Home for Austin Patient

Six years ago, multiple myeloma patient Nancy Guerra had to temporarily relocate from Austin to San Antonio for a blood and marrow transplant. This year, when Guerra required a second transplant, she was treated in Austin thanks to a new collaboration between Texas Oncology and St. David’s HealthCare. Guerra has plenty of friends willing to help out in Austin, but none of them could have moved to another city for six weeks. “It happened just in time,” said Guerra. “This transplant is adding years to my life, and I get to live at home, which is something I wouldn’t have in San Antonio.”

Texas Oncology physicians have long recognized the benefits to patients in maintaining their normal routines as much as possible. For example, continuing to work provides normalcy and helpful distraction from medical treatments. “Many patients want or need to work during treatment,” said Dr. Anand Shivnani of Texas Oncology–Sherman. “Offering treatment close to their home and work makes this more feasible.”



Photo Credit: Todd Regentheim

Patient Nancy Guerra talks with Dr. Beth Hellerstedt, Texas Oncology–Round Rock.

Benefits of Community-Based Care



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Community of Support



Close to the critical support of family and friends

150

Locations across the state

Support groups and services

Easier Access



Majority of cancer treatment is delivered in community setting

375+
Physicians

48

Comprehensive cancer centers providing most services under one roof

High Quality Care



Evidence-based best practices guide patient treatment across our network

282

Certified oncology nurses

8

Specialties

Innovative Treatment



48

FDA approved therapies

100+

Open national clinical trials, on average, in 129 locations

Proton therapy (Coming 2016)

Brain tumor center

Blood and marrow transplants

Stereotatic radiosurgery

Stereotatic body radiotherapy

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Yes In My Backyard! Community-Based Cancer Research

At Texas Oncology, community-based care is a two-way street – or perhaps, a two lane road depending on where you live. With dozens of clinics across the state, patients benefit from maintaining ties to their personal and local communities of support during treatment. But they also gain access to the leading-edge of advanced cancer research, without traveling to research institutions miles away from home.

Dr. Donald Richards at Texas Oncology–Tyler has led clinical trials at Texas Oncology in Tyler and Longview for 20 years. “In Tyler and Longview alone, we have 12 full-time clinical trials staff overseeing about 45 clinical trials currently,” said Dr. Richards.

“I’m committed to offering clinical trials in Tyler and Longview because it gives my patients first access to new medications – sometimes years in advance of when they’re officially approved and released.”

– Donald Richards, M.D.
Medical Oncologist,
Texas Oncology–Tyler



In the Panhandle, Dr. Leonardo Forero, principal investigator at Texas Oncology–Amarillo, sees high levels of participation in clinical trials. “We have access to most of the trials offered through US Oncology Research,” said Dr. Forero, “and we can conduct the trials here in Amarillo.”

“Though we’re a smaller medical community than some cities, we all work together to do what’s best for our patients.”

– Leonardo Forero, M.D.
Medical Oncologist,
Texas Oncology–Amarillo



Community-based care doesn’t mean limited options for research and clinical trials. In Tyler and Longview, the clinical trials team regularly conducts trials in all three pre-FDA approval phases, as well as radiation trials. Last year, Texas Oncology in Austin was selected as a member of the Gynecologic Oncology Group, the world’s foremost research cooperative focused on women’s cancers, with affiliate members at Texas Oncology practices in Houston, Dallas, and Fort Worth. Texas Oncology–Sugar Land leads Texas Oncology’s participation in the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), a National Cancer Institute-

funded research consortium which certifies leading cancer treatment centers to participate in radiation clinical trials. Texas Oncology sites throughout the state participate in RTOG trials with the same high-quality radiation technology offered in academic, research-first institutions.

By offering trials in Amarillo, Dr. Forero and his colleagues give patients leading-edge treatments without the hassle of travel or having to leave their support networks behind.

“The continuity of care that we can offer in local communities – often seeing the same doctor all the way through – and the convenience of having trials where patients live and work is a major benefit for patients,” said Dr. Richards. “I regularly see patients respond positively to getting these leading-edge treatments early – and that is the most important thing.”

You Gotta Have Art!

For Texas Oncology, community engagement means embracing the many ways that caring, committed people join together to support cancer patients and treatment breakthroughs. The Wichita Falls Cattle Baron’s Ball is one example. This spring, Texas Oncology–Wichita Falls helped create the premier auction item at this exciting event that benefits the American Cancer Society. Texas Oncology opened the practice on a Saturday so that pediatric cancer survivors and their families could paint hearts for a giant wall hanging. Texas Oncology staff spent the day greeting and guiding 90 volunteer painters through the practice. Local artists arranged the colorful hearts into a single piece of artwork, which sold for \$50,000 at the Cattle Baron’s Ball – with proceeds going to fund cancer research.

“We were honored to be a part of the event and fundraising,” said Nan Parker, practice administrator. “We hope to find a similar way to participate next year.”



Art created at Texas Oncology–Wichita Falls was auctioned to raise funds for cancer research.

Texas Oncology – Your Cancer Community Center

At Texas Oncology, the fight against cancer is not a lonely one. Outside the treatment rooms of Texas Oncology's clinics, is a large, diverse, and committed community of support for cancer patients. Every day, across the state, Texas Oncology physicians, nurses, and staff are joining hands with that community.

Examples of activities include speaking to community groups about cancer prevention or genetic testing; leading community projects like the annual McAllen Bike-Walk-Run; providing volunteers, participants, and financial support for organizations and events like Susan G. Komen walks, and the Cattle Baron's Ball in Wichita Falls; sponsoring a 5K run to benefit the Texas Oncology Foundation in Longview; and supporting Relay for Life teams in McKinney. Similar activities take place across the entire state.

Everywhere you find a Texas Oncology team, you also will find them engaged and involved in their communities.

"We don't just administer treatment to patients. We embrace our broader responsibility to foster and participate in the community of support for cancer patients, including emotional and social support, assistance for caregivers, and helping raise funds for treatment advances," said Dr. Alvaro Restrepo, medical oncologist with Texas Oncology–McAllen.

"We're constantly inspired by the dedication of our patients' families, friends, and the armies of volunteers joined in the fight against cancer."

– Alvaro Restrepo, M.D.
Medical Oncologist,
Texas Oncology–McAllen



As community-based clinics, Texas Oncology practices support patients in unique ways – and sometimes the simplest way is to just open the doors. For example, in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas Oncology–McAllen hosts regular meetings of UsTOO, a support group for men and families affected by prostate cancer.

To mark the launch of new blood cancer treatment services in Austin, Texas Oncology–South Austin recently hosted a blood and marrow donor drive. Thirty-nine new donors were registered, and media coverage helped spread the word about the need for donors across the greater Austin area.

"We felt it was important to host the drive not only to expand the database of registered donors, but also to raise awareness of the need for more donors."

– James Uyeki, M.D.
Medical Oncologist,
Texas Oncology–South Austin and
Texas Oncology–Hays County



"We're excited that patients no longer have to travel outside of Austin for blood and marrow transplants," said Dr. Uyeki, who signed up for the blood and marrow registry at the drive.

Another important community activity for Texas Oncology is the Texas Oncology Foundation. Established in 1997, the foundation supports patients in local communities with survivorship programs, caregiver education, funding for cancer research, and financial and other support for families in need. Many Texas Oncology practices participate in events to raise funds for the Texas Oncology Foundation, with funds staying in the area to benefit local patients and survivors. For more information, visit: www.TexasOncologyFoundation.org.

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About Texas Oncology

As an independent oncology practice, Texas Oncology is comprised of more than 375 physicians and more than 150 sites of service throughout Texas and southeastern Oklahoma and is a pioneer in community-based cancer care. Patients are treated with today's most advanced, effective cancer technologies and treatments, and have the opportunity to take part in some of the most promising clinical trials in the nation for new drugs and treatments for a broad range of cancers, near the critical support of family and friends. **Texas Breast Specialists** and **Texas Urology Specialists** are a part of **Texas Oncology**.

Learn more at 1-888-864-ICAN (4226) or www.TexasOncology.com.