

# I CAN

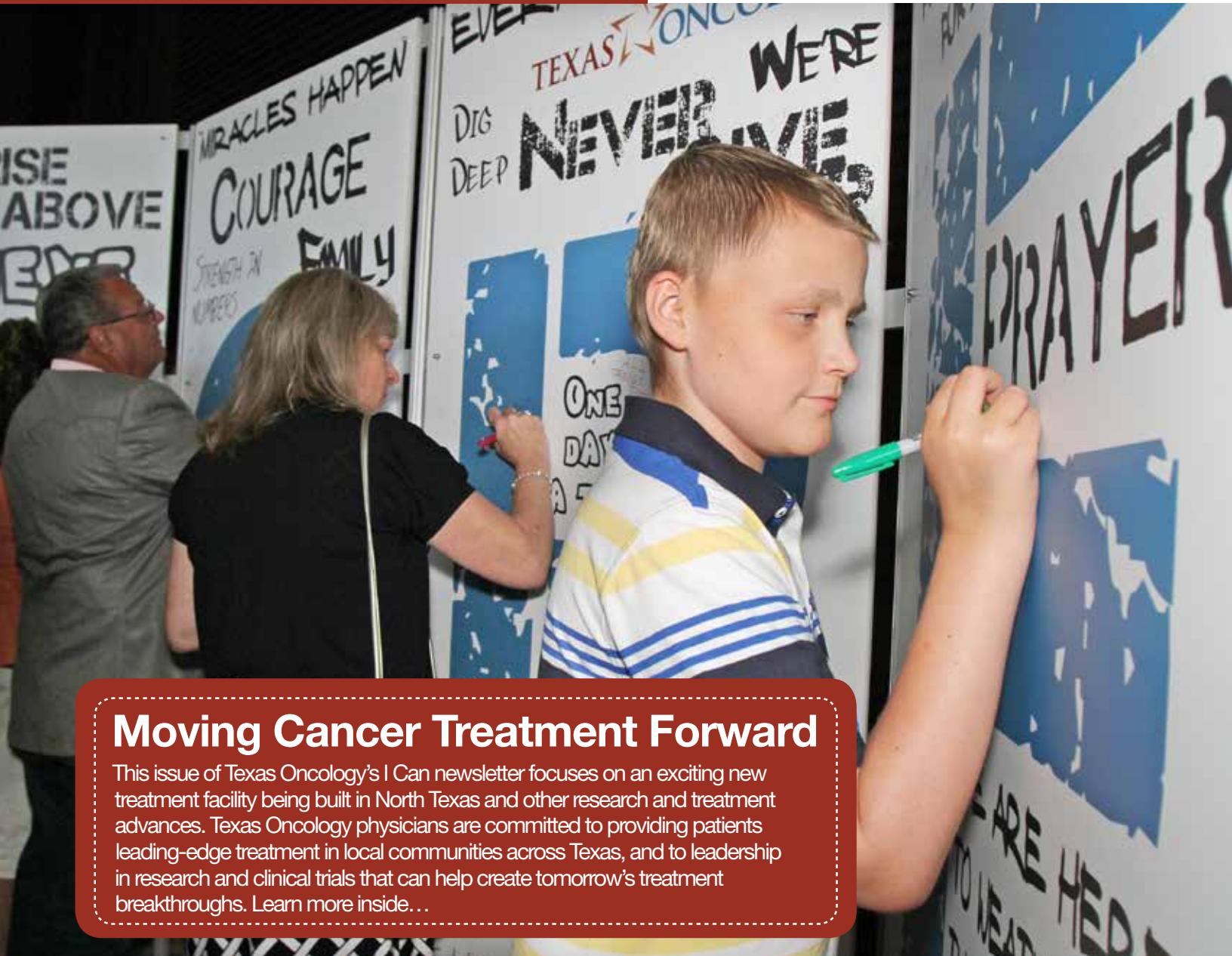
## NEWSLETTER

Fighting cancer through science, healthy living, and prevention

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### Moving Cancer Treatment Forward

This issue of Texas Oncology's I Can newsletter focuses on an exciting new treatment facility being built in North Texas and other research and treatment advances. Texas Oncology physicians are committed to providing patients leading-edge treatment in local communities across Texas, and to leadership in research and clinical trials that can help create tomorrow's treatment breakthroughs. Learn more inside...

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## Texas Oncology Building Hope Through Innovative Proton Therapy Center

New hope for cancer patients is building in Dallas-Fort Worth as construction recently began on the Texas Center for Proton Therapy.

Proton therapy precisely targets tumors, minimizing side effects and damage to surrounding healthy tissue, helping patients maintain quality of life during and after treatment. Proton therapy is best suited for tumors in sensitive areas such as near the brain or eyes, and is especially effective in treating children, whose bodies are still growing.

**“Our patients and physicians deserve access to a full range of treatment options, including advanced proton therapy.”**

**– Steven Paulson, M.D.**

**Chairman and President, Texas Oncology**

At groundbreaking events, project leaders dedicated the \$105 million facility to survivors, and joined with cancer survivors to unveil a seven-foot ‘HOPE Wall’ inscribed with words of encouragement. Guests added their own expressions of hope to the wall, to serve as support and an inspiration to those treated at the center, where the ‘HOPE Wall’ will be installed. To see the ‘HOPE Wall’, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

*New York Times* columnist and author Bruce Feiler, who survived cancer, addressed guests at a luncheon. In his best-selling book, *Council of Dads*, Feiler recounts his fight against cancer, highlighting the importance of communities of support during and after treatment. He noted that the Texas Center for Proton Therapy will provide the same sense of community and support for patients and their families.

Gary Barlow was recently named director of the center. Barlow’s more than 25 years of experience in radiation



Texas Oncology Chairman and President Dr. Steven Paulson addresses cancer survivors, community leaders, and guests at the site dedication.



Gary Barlow, director of the Texas Center for Proton Therapy, describes the facility’s technology.

therapy management include seven years as technical director of the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute. A passionate advocate for the benefits of proton therapy, Barlow’s vision for patient care at the center emphasizes personal support, including concierge services, and focused therapeutic activities for patients, families, and caregivers.

“We’ll surround our patients in a community of care as we deliver this advanced treatment,” said Barlow. “The proton therapy center adds an important new tool to the existing array of leading-edge treatment options available.”



The 63,000-square-foot facility will be located in Irving-Las Colinas. The center will have a fixed beam treatment room, as well as two isocentric gantry treatment rooms, each containing a 30-foot tall machine that rotates around the patient for pinpoint accuracy. When complete in early 2016, the center will have capacity to treat more than 100 patients per day. Currently, there are 11 proton therapy centers in operation in the U.S.

For more information, please visit [www.TexasCenterForProtonTherapy.com](http://www.TexasCenterForProtonTherapy.com).

## Patients Contribute to Global Cancer Research

Hundreds of cancer patients in Tyler, Texas, are playing a key role in one of the world's most extensive cancer research projects. Texas Oncology and Trinity Mother Frances Hospital–Tyler partnered with the International Genomics Consortium network in May 2011 to provide tissue samples for use in research that could lead to new breakthroughs in preventing, treating, and diagnosing cancer.



The Consortium's Genome Atlas project collects tissue samples for researchers nationwide who are studying genetic mutations in various cancers, to treat cancer on the molecular level. The program began in 2006 and has expanded to more than 20 types of cancer.

So far more than 360 tissue samples have been delivered through the program. Tyler ranks second in the level of participation of the 14 sites involved in the program nationally.

**“The most exciting thing is that almost uniformly patients are happy to participate and appreciate the opportunity to help find new discoveries that could benefit others. It is very gratifying to see that.”**

**– Donald Richards, M.D.**  
Texas Oncology–Tyler

Dr. Richards has spearheaded the program in Tyler, with support from local pathologists and surgeons.

The process of getting tissue samples to the Phoenix-based Consortium gives new meaning to the phrase “handle with care.” After a surgeon removes a tiny tissue sample from a patient's tumor, it is analyzed by a pathologist, and then immersed in liquid nitrogen, freezing the sample at minus 177 degrees Fahrenheit. After the frigid tissues arrive in Phoenix, the Genomics Consortium team determines the most appropriate use for each sample, and ships them to researchers across the country.

“Oncologists agree that unlocking the secrets contained within the genetic makeup of cancer cells is the key to delivering tomorrow's most effective treatment breakthroughs,” said Richards. “Here in Tyler, committed physicians and patients are working together to support the important genome research project.”

This project is an important example of the significant commitment to research across the Texas Oncology network.

## Genetic Signatures Point to More Effective Treatments

We all know humans have DNA – the genetic code that tells our bodies how to grow new cells. Cancer develops when gene mutations change the normal, healthy cell into a malignant or tumor cell. Tumor cells have DNA, too, and genetic testing on those cells can provide clues about their behavior. This is called a “genetic signature” or “gene profiling.”

Tests can be performed on early stage breast, prostate, and colon tumor tissue that may predict the behavior of a person's individual cancer, such as its aggressiveness or likelihood to recur. This provides DNA-based insights that can help determine the best treatment options.

Dr. Alison Laidley from Texas Breast Specialists–Dallas used one of these tests for her

patient, Charlotte Thompson, to determine whether chemotherapy would be a beneficial treatment option. “When I was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer, Dr. Laidley tested a sample of my tumor,” said Thompson. “The results indicated I had a low risk of my breast cancer recurring, so with Dr. Laidley's counsel, I chose lumpectomy surgery rather than a mastectomy. Because of the test, my oncologist recommended radiation treatments only and no chemotherapy. I feel more confident in my decision choosing this type of surgery and treatment.”



**“Each cancer case is unique, down to the DNA, and each patient deserves a personalized approach to their medical treatment.”**

**– Alison Laidley, M.D.**  
Texas Breast Specialists–Dallas

“By testing the tumor's gene signature, I can advise my patients whether chemotherapy is a beneficial treatment option. Most importantly, since these tests have proven to be highly accurate, they help remove lingering doubt that the patient's decision was the right one. That peace of mind is invaluable,” said Laidley.

## Q&A with *New York Times* Best-Selling Author Bruce Feiler



*Bruce Feiler is a New York Times best-selling author, columnist, and cancer survivor. He spoke about the importance of supportive communities at the Texas Center for Proton Therapy site dedication luncheon.*

**Q: You talk a lot about facing cancer with a community, instead of going it alone. Why is that so important?**

**A:** Cancer affects the whole family, and the reality is it takes the whole family to combat the disease. The patient's priority is focusing on the treatment, struggling with the side effects, healing and combatting the emotional toll of the disease. It's easier if others help deal with the insurance company, handle logistics, explain what's happening to worried friends and family, etc.

**Q: You describe your time with cancer and treatment as "the lost year." What lessons did you "save" from that year that would help others?**

**A:** I learned to pause. We hurry through life, which allows us to get where we're going, but we get there alone. When we slow down, we also get where we're going, but we get there with the community that helped us along the way.

**Q: What advice would you offer parents, or others, in telling children about cancer?**

**A:** Tell the truth, but not always the whole truth. Never lie. Obviously, children need to hear age-appropriate language, but their fears are different than adults. If they're young, they're usually concerned more about whether they might have caused the disease, or who is going to take care of them. They need to be reassured.

**Q: How can others adapt your 'Council of Dads' concept for their own situations?**

**A:** I have been moved that so many people, including healthy people, have chosen to form a Council of Dads or Council of Moms. You can't have too many adults who love your kids. Identify a group of friends, ask them in person, and then allow the group to take its own course. More tips are available at [www.councilofdads.com](http://www.councilofdads.com).



The 'HOPE Wall' conveys messages of hope for patients and their loved ones, including messages added by guests at the site dedication. It will be installed in the community room of the Texas Center for Proton Therapy, when it opens early 2016.

## Inside Texas Oncology

- Find a Location
- Find a Physician
- Make a Referral
- Cancer Fact Sheets

Visit [www.TexasOncology.com](http://www.TexasOncology.com) for more information and tips.

## Fast Facts

- Texas Center for Proton Therapy  
[www.TexasCenterForProtonTherapy.com](http://www.TexasCenterForProtonTherapy.com)
- Clinical Trials Fact Sheet

For more information about cancer treatment and other topics, visit [www.TexasOncology.com](http://www.TexasOncology.com).

## About Texas Oncology

As an independent oncology practice, Texas Oncology is comprised of more than 300 physicians and more than 100 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 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](http://www.TexasOncology.com).

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