Robotic Surgery for the Management of Select Patients with Head and Neck Cancer

Umamaheswar Duvvuri MD, PhD

One of the major risk factors for developing head and neck cancer (HNCa) is the use of alcohol and tobacco, especially when used in combination with each other. For this reason, many patients who suffer from HNCa are either current or former smokers. However, in recent years, it has been noted that cancers typically associated with smoking and drinking (oral cavity tumors and laryngeal tumors) are on the decline. However, tumors that rise in the oropharynx have been noted to be increasing in incidence. This has led scientists to try to understand what is special about the causative factors for patients with cancer of the oropharynx. Indeed, many patients (~60-75%) with oropharyngeal cancer harbor the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), specifically types 16 & 18. These are the same virus(es) that cause cervical cancer, and therefore HPV-induced oropharyngeal cancer can be classified as being a sexually-related disease. According to recent data, the rate of HPV-induced oropharyngeal cancer is increasing steadily and in fact, oropharyngeal cancer incidence is expected to overtake cervical cancer incidence by 2020. The encouraging aspect of this disease is that patients with HPV-induced cancers tend to have superior survival when compared to patients who suffer from HPN-negative cancers.

Until the early 2000’s, patients with cancer of the oropharynx were treated primarily with surgery. These surgical approaches were often disfiguring, and necessitated the placement of tracheostomy and gastrostomy feeding tubes and often required reconstructive flaps. These morbid and disfiguring procedures were often followed with post-operative radiation and/or chemoradiotherapy. In an effort to improve functional outcomes for these patients, investigators studied the role of definitive chemoradiotherapy for treating patients with oropharyngeal cancer. Definitive radiotherapy is given over 6-8 weeks and the maximal dose is generally 66-74 Gy, however, post-operative or adjuvant radiotherapy is given to a dose of about 60-66 Gy. Indeed, there was no reduction in survival, but many patients did not need major surgical resection. Therefore since the mid-2000’s, chemoradiotherapy has become the most common treatment for patients with oropharyngeal cancer. However, many of these treatment regimens are associated with significant difficulties in swallowing, dry mouth and a decrease in taste sensation.

Effects of Chemoradiotherapy on Patient Function

A recent SSER database analysis demonstrated that patients treated with chemoradiotherapy had a significantly greater chance of developing swallowing dysfunction than patients who were treated with surgery and post-operative radiation. However, this study was performed by analyzing data extracted from an existing database, and therefore precludes definitive conclusions. Nonetheless, it is widely acknowledged that chemoradiotherapy does induce swallowing dysfunction and thereby compromises functional outcomes.

Recent studies have sought to mitigate these problems by using very focused radiation delivery schemes, namely Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT). Investigators at the University of Michigan have shown that by using IMRT in conjunction with chemotherapy, patient survival rates can be maintained, while minimizing swallowing dysfunction, however, several patients were still noted to have decreased swallowing function when compared to their baseline. These investigators subsequently went on to define the relationship between the radiation dose given to critical structures and swallowing outcomes. A radiation dose of 63 Gy to the superior constrictor muscle (which forms the wall of the throat just lateral to the tonsil) led to a 50% reduction in swallowing function. However, it may be difficult to treat cancer of the oropharynx to a therapeutic dose while limiting the dose to the constrictor muscles.

Maintaining Functional Outcomes

One of the mainstays of providing improved functional outcomes is to de-escalate chemoradiotherapy, when oncologically appropriate. Recent studies have shown an association between dose and the volume of tissues that undergo radiation (such as the throat and voice box). The benefit of early swallowing intervention is being increasingly reported in the literature.

More recently, there has been renewed interest in using...
surgical approaches to offer primary surgical therapy for patients with small volume (T1/T2) oropharyngeal cancers and potentially improved functional outcomes. The main idea is that if minimally invasive surgical resections can be performed safely then reduced radiation dosage may lead to a reduction in functional deficits. One of the most promising innovations in minimally invasive surgery in the head and neck region is robotic surgery.

Robotic surgery incorporates the use of robots in performing surgery. The first surgical robot was introduced in 1985. Since then, robotic technology has been developed and actively promoted by Intuitive Surgical, who developed the only FDA approved surgical robot; the daVinci. Conceptually, the robot allows the surgeon to access small anatomic areas, provide better visualization and to minimize physiologic tremors. It should be noted, that the surgeon still performs the actual surgery, but the surgical robot functions to mimic the surgeon’s hand motions and translates them into the surgical field.

The daVinci Surgical System is comprised of three components: a surgeon’s console, a patient-side robotic cart with 4 arms manipulated by the surgeon (one to control the camera and the other three to manipulate instruments), and a high-definition 3-D vision system. Articulating surgical instruments are mounted on the robotic arms, which are introduced into the operative area through ports. The surgeon’s hand movements are scaled and filtered to eliminate hand tremor and then translated into micromovements of the instruments. The ‘wristed’ robotic instruments allow the surgeon to manipulate the robotic arms in ways that cannot otherwise be accomplished. The camera used in the system provides a true 3-D picture that is transmitted to a surgeon’s console.

The daVinci surgical robot has been used successfully to resect tumors originating in the tonsils and the base of the tongue. These anatomic regions are very difficult to reach using conventional methods and such surgeries are associated with prolonged hospital stays and generally necessitate the performance of a tracheostomy(opening in the windpipe). With the use of robot-assisted surgery, we can now access these areas through the mouth, with excellent visualization and surgical exposure.

Preliminary results demonstrate that this is a safe and feasible procedure with minimal patient discomfort (most patients are discharged from the hospital within 1-2 days, tolerating an oral diet). Some centers prefer to allow these patients to recover for 1-2 days in the intensive care unit, and then be discharged. Nonetheless, robotic surgery of the oropharynx (TORS) has been shown to achieve excellent tumor resection rates and provide ~90% local control rates when used in conjunction with post-operative therapies.

**TORS and Functional Outcomes**

Recent studies have investigated the functional outcomes of patients treated with TORS for early stage cancers of the oropharynx. A prospective series of 66 patients were treated with TORS for cancer of the oropharynx and followed for 2 years. Long-term gastrostomy tube
ROBOTIC SURGERY continued from page 2

dependence was required in only 3 patients (5%). Most patients were able to have an oral diet within 3 weeks. However, other studies have reported that there is a transient decrease in functional outcome after TORS. Much of this decrease in function occurs as a consequence of post-operative pain, since many patients report a dramatic improvement in function after healing has taken place. Nonetheless, many patients report a decrease in swallowing and speech function during the course of adjuvant therapy. Normal function never returns to baseline in some of these patients.

Taken together, the current body of data suggests that adjuvant therapy adversely impacts the functional outcomes of patients who are treated with TORS for cancer of the oropharynx.

Future Directions

Given the current knowledge that many patients who have HPV-induced cancer of the oropharynx have good response to conventional therapeutic regimens, there is an increasing effort to preserve oncologic outcomes while minimizing toxicity. Although randomized trials to address this topic are not yet completed, there is some existing data that can guide treatment selection.

The use of minimally-invasive transoral surgery to remove early stage cancer of the oropharynx has been accomplished successfully and with good oncologic results. The initial results on the functional outcomes of patients who have been treated with transoral surgery seems promising. However, these data should be interpreted with care, since the follow-up and number of patients is small. At this time, the use of primary surgical therapy to treat patients with small cancers of the oropharynx, when combined with de-escalated adjuvant therapy seems to provide good functional outcomes. However, large-scale randomized trials will be necessary to determine if primary surgical therapy can be used to reduce treatment related toxicity while maintaining excellent patient survival.

Editors Note: Umamaheswar Duvvuri, MD, PhD, Assistant professor of otolaryngology, specializes in Head and Neck oncology. Dr. Duvvuri completed his undergraduate education in Bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania, and remained there to obtain his MD and PhD degrees. He completed his residency training in otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, then trained in advanced head and neck and endocrine oncologic surgery at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Dr. Duvvuri has special interests in minimally invasive endoscopic and robotic surgery of the head and neck; tumors of the thyroid and parathyroid glands; and molecular oncology. He also has an active research program investigating the role of molecular imaging techniques to improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients with head and neck cancer.

Eat Well Stay Nourished - Volume Two

In 2005, SPOHNC began to collect “tried and true” recipes from survivors, family members and friends of SPOHNC, and Eat Well – Stay Nourished was published. The book, full of recipes for everything from appetizers to main dishes to desserts and more, was a way to help patients and survivors with eating and swallowing challenges, to find the right foods to help them through their recovery and beyond.

Many people have purchased the cookbook and have found it to be very helpful when trying to regain or maintain weight following treatment for oral, head and neck cancer.

In recognition of our 20th Anniversary, SPOHNC is now preparing for the Springtime publication of Eat Well – Stay Nourished, Volume Two. This book will feature new versions of “tried and true” recipes, and promises to be even more successful than the last edition. We need your help to make the second edition a success! Enclosed in your newsletter is an insert for your use in submitting new recipes for our cookbook. If you have favorite dishes that have helped you along in your recovery from treatment and you are willing to share them, please complete the form as described in the insert so that we may include them in the upcoming new edition. Please submit your recipes by no later than January 1st. Thank you for your help – and for sharing your culinary delights with SPOHNC members, patient callers and others who will purchase the new cookbook to add to their collection.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Sheryl and Mike Strear. Sheryl, a 27 year head and neck cancer survivor, and her husband Mike, attended our recent 20th Anniversary Conference & Celebration of Life, and were the very happy winners of our raffle – 2 MVP seats at the August 31st New York Yankees vs. Baltimore Orioles game at Yankee Stadium. Here they are, enjoying the day! Go Yankees!

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TIME FOR SHARING... “We Play to Win”

People are reluctant to inquire as to certain subject matter such as, “Where are you with your illness, how do you feel?, how is your journey progressing, and what is your prognosis today?” Not only that, but the impacting and scary term “cancer” is seldom spoken when in these situations. Patients, loved ones and adjacent caretakers are all included in this roster.

So, there it began with me, simply shaving in the early morning on a baseball road trip to Minneapolis that I discovered a small lymph node distended in my right neck area. Four months later I decided to be a bit more aggressive, after a rather ridiculous period of medical denial, and received the news very quickly, Squamous Cell Carcinoma.

Upon the diagnosis at New York Presbyterian Hospital through my astute team physician internal medicine specialist, Dr. Paul Lee, I pursued an immediate plan of treatment with a doctor who literally saved my life with his expertise, formula, and dexterity. Dr. Dennis Kraus, then affiliated with Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Medical Center mapped out a plan of surgery and radiation with words that I shall never forget when I inquired about my chances of surviving. He simply said, time and time again whenever I was apprehensive, “We play to win.”

Then it was time for education, preparation, and anxiety, associated with the inherent surgery, recovery, and all that would follow. People from across the country reached out in hopes of assuring and preparing me for what was approaching. Friends, colleagues, strangers, all who had lived this experience were nothing short of amazing in their honest and forthright approach. I was told frankly that this was to become the most miserable time of my life, ever. No punches were pulled, no sugar-coating. I was prepared - or ….. was I?

There was little fear of the surgery. That was described in detail and proceeded very well. Immediate recovery was tough, both tonsils were removed, a genius move via Dr. Kraus, as I had cancer in both tonsils, a rarity. The weakness and lack of appetite and the inability to eat was overwhelming, and through my insistence emotionally to resist the notion, I did not experience the feeding tube. Thus began the weeks and weeks of power shakes and supplementing as best as I could manage - it was miserable. There were six weeks to wait and recover until the radiation was to commence.

“Orientation” and the ensuing thirty treatments in six weeks teach you much about yourself. There is a will-power we all have that I know is basically untouched. It takes times such as these to truly tap into what we truly are all about! For whatever reasons, I strongly desired and saw it through to travel to my treatments essentially by myself with my own thoughts. The mask, the treatment sessions, the crossing off of the days on the calendar, and my fellow “patients” all served me well. There was a unique peace during the actual sessions with the machine rattling. I’m not sure what that was about, but I know the joy of the session being complete and hearing the feet of the “team” re-entering the room, was always a joyous event and made my drive home rewarding. I could go home and cross off another day. That 30th day seemed years away.

The course of radiation left me very weak and without an appetite at all, and as predicted, the REAL tough effects of radiation set in approximately two weeks after completion. One of the best medicines during this time was my desire and fulfillment in returning to some work, albeit for only three or four hours per day, while my Yankee team was at home. When I did begin to travel, I knew it was too early, but the work and having my friends/associates back was great medicine. I struggled with nutrition very much, especially on the road.

I am presently two years and four months removed from my radiation and I continue to struggle somewhat with my appetite and my food, but patience and common sense help. The follow-up visits with my doctor and oncologist physician still are a bit scary, and I’m definitely not a fan of the endoscope, but I shall always remember, “We play to win”. Constant sinus drainage, chest congestion, dry mouth, and an occasional sore throat concern me at times, but I manage these things and continue my life in retirement. I learned early on, as my illness sealed my intention to retire soon anyway, that I needed a bit of an obligation, a place to go to work for a bit, and I was able to fulfill that with a bit of a part-time obligation, inherent with my previous career. For this I am most grateful, as I was lingering with apparent sadness and depression with my plight.

Paying strict attention to the educational process of this cancer journey helped me immensely. The throat rines, the burn creams, nutrition guidelines, rest protocols, exercise regiments, physical therapy, and emotional open-door policies, were of tremendous help in retrospect. Anyone on this cancer journey benefits so much by permitting friends, family and loved ones from all over, into their lives, not as anything less than an intricate aspect of their own special “team”.

Am I a fighter? I don’t honestly think so. I feel you need to be really mad to be a good fighter and I was not so mad as I was disappointed, deeply concerned, and just simply “out there” by myself. There really isn’t time to be truly scared and to worry excessively. The time during this journey of overcoming and healing needs to be spent on positive and enriching thoughts of what tomorrow may bring.

My answer is to become involved, with what I have, and that is my life, my relationships, my work, some fun, my new pickup truck that my team gave me, and my dog Brady. I have Liz and Brady, and my kids, and this brings me peace and the will to improve and help the other folks in their journey.

Gene Monahan

Editors Note: Gene Monahan, tonsil cancer survivor and retired Head Athletic Trainer for the New York Yankees was the Guest of Honor at SPOHNC’s 20th Anniversary Conference and Celebration of Life. He is pictured here with SPOHNC Board member Gail Fass, and Larry Caputo, husband of SPOHNC Executive Director, Mary Ann Caputo, in a photo taken at the conference.
Despite the extreme New York weather, the show must go on! Tornado warnings, cancelled flights and revised travel plans didn’t deter Conference attendees from making their way to the New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott for SPOHNC’s 20th Anniversary Conference & Celebration of Life on August 10th. Changes in travel plans and long delays at many U.S. airports caused some guests to be delayed, but everyone was pleased to finally arrive at the hotel on Friday evening as we began the weekend celebrating 20 years of SPOHNC’s programs of support. From comments heard throughout the weekend, it was worth the wait to meet other survivors and old and new friends, to learn about the latest treatments and information about oral, head and neck cancer and to celebrate life. Beginning with our 10th Anniversary Celebration in 2001, and continuing into our 20th Anniversary, SPOHNC has invited survivors to attend the Conference as our guests, by providing complimentary registration fees for all of the weekend’s programs.

Friday night, attendees arrived to the welcoming atmosphere and much appreciated hospitality of the Marriott and SPOHNC staff. For those who wished to attend, an informal meeting of Chapter Facilitators and members of our National Survivor Volunteer Network provided the opportunity to share ideas and concerns, and to get to know one another better. It was the perfect way to end the day and to begin the weekend. For those who were there, it proved to be an enlightening meeting and for SPOHNC staff Chris & Lisa, it was a chance to hear about how SPOHNC can help our volunteers to better succeed as they help others along their cancer journeys. It was an early night, allowing everyone to have a chance to settle in before the early start of the Saturday program.

Thankfully, Saturday morning brought sunshine, and the early day brought many more conference attendees to the hotel to sign in for the conference, receive goody bags and information and to enjoy a delicious continental breakfast buffet – replete with yummy choices for all - there was even a smoothie bar!

Following a warm welcome, SPOHNC Founder, President and survivor, Nancy Leupold, introduced Dr. James J. Scibba, Vice President of SPOHNC and Conference Moderator who introduced the Honoree, Gene Monahan, a tonsil cancer survivor and retired Head Athletic Trainer for the New York Yankees. Gene spoke to a room of close to 200 guests, sharing his very personal story of his own cancer journey. Conference attendees listened intently as Gene spoke of his struggles upon diagnosis through treatment, and post treatment as well. His message was clear to all – very inspirational, heartfelt, sincere, and able to relate to all of the participants. His presentation was also extremely enjoyable and entertaining.

The podium was next graced by Christine H. Chung, MD, Medical Oncologist, of The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Dr. Chung presented a very informative program and shared statistics and crucial medical information for all of those who were present. Dr. Chung has shared her expertise with SPOHNC readers as well, in the April 2011 issue of News from SPOHNC.

Dr. Chung was followed by David M. Brizel, MD, Radiation Oncologist and Medical Oncologist at Duke University Medical Center, who spoke about the prevalence of HPV and oral, head and neck cancer. He discussed how patients diagnosed with HPV, as the cause of cancer in the oropharynx and base of tongue, have a much higher rate of survival than those patients who did not have the HPV virus. Key and memorable points of Dr. Brizel’s presentation included newer treatments.

Dennis H. Kraus, MD, FACS, of the New York Head and Neck Institute at North Shore/LIJ Health System also joined us for a presentation including a PowerPoint with vital information concerning New Treatments for Head and Neck Cancer. The day had only just begun, and so much information had been shared.

Attendees and medical professionals took a short break to visit with Conference exhibitors, consisting of several companies who produce products for oral, head and neck cancer patients and survivors. Exhibitors provided product information, samples and were available throughout the weekend to answer attendees questions. Following the break, and some refreshments, everyone was ready for the next portion of the day’s program.

The overwhelming diagnosis and treatment of oral, head and neck cancer can bring about so many questions and confusion. So many options and plans for treatment, as well as thoughts about the details of every day life once treatment has begun can make things very difficult for newly diagnosed patients. We all need a little help sometimes, and Joanne Stein, RN and Nurse Navigator at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, spoke to the audience about how to navigate through the healthcare system. Patient Navigators help you deal with the sea of paperwork and phone calls that must now be made. They can work with patients and...
their families on such details as disease research, insurance issues, finding doctors, understanding treatment and care options, accompanying patients to doctor visits, serving as the liaison to the healthcare team and mobilizing resources among many other tasks.

All of the information shared made everyone hungry for more knowledge – but first, appetites were craving something different - lunch. Since eating and swallowing can be such an important issue for oral, head and neck cancer patients, special attention was paid to all of the meal sections of the Conference – and lunch certainly was no exception. It was wonderful to watch as survivors and patient matches connected for the first time, seated and dining together and sharing their stories over a delicious mid-day meal. The menu included such sumptuous selections as ravioli, vichysoisse soup, chicken fransace, extra sauces and the hit of the afternoon – Juniors Cheesecake!

Refreshed and ready for the afternoon program, guests returned to the Ballroom for the Keynote Address as Survivor, Author and Inspirational Speaker, Denise DeSimone took the microphone. Denise’s cancer journey and her recovery brought her to places she never could have imagined during the dark days of her diagnosis and treatment for tongue cancer. Once told by her surgeons that she’d likely never speak or sing again, Denise now travels the country, spreading the message of “Self Love” that has taken her so very far away from the days of her diagnosis. Though Denise didn’t have time during her program for a song, we know she has a lovely voice - she recently sang to a sell out crowd at Boston’s Fenway Park. Denise has also written a book, and her story has been shared on such programs as Inside Edition, Fox News and numerous others.

As the afternoon program changed its focus and returned to medical issues, Dr. Sciubba welcomed Bettie M. Steinberg, PhD, a Researcher and Investigator and Chief Scientific Officer for The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research within the North Shore/LIJ Health System. Dr. Steinberg has studied bacterial viruses and their role in diseases of the head and neck. Her work has been supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, and she is currently directing a clinical trial of a new treatment for respiratory papillomas, based upon her long term studies. Dr. Steinberg, appropriately, presented the topic of Clinical Trials for Head and Neck Cancer.

Closing out the day’s program were two wonderful speakers who shared their knowledge and expertise concerning two very important topics. Jan Lewin, PhD, of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, spoke about Speech and Swallowing Function in Patients with Head & Neck Cancer. The topic is one of great concern to patients and survivors, and Dr. Lewin’s extensive knowledge was very apparent as she shared it with attendees even after her presentation.

Quality of life is a very important topic for oral, head and neck cancer patients. Dorothy Gold, MSW, LCSW-C, OSW-C, of the Greater Baltimore Medical Center presented on the topic of Quality of Life for Head and Neck Cancer Survivors. Patients are concerned about how their diagnosis and treatment will affect their quality of life, and Dorothy was able to clarify so much for our ever-intent audience. It was quite an appropriate way to end the program of the day.

Many questions were presented and some were answered during the Saturday question and answer periods. However, time ran out with questions still unanswered. We will be sharing these questions and answers from the appropriate physicians in upcoming newsletters and on our website.

Saturday night began, and the tone of the day was lightened as survivors, caregivers, friends and even some of our speakers were greeted by a candlelit ballroom, a wonderful selection of passed hors’deuvres and lively music, provided by The Electric Dudes. We were treated to something very special as survivor and conference attendee Phillip Kerl, of Vikki Bravo’s Charlottesville, Virginia SPOHNC chapter support group, was on hand to perform some of his own original songs as well. Phillip was able to attend the Conference thanks to the fund raising efforts of his SPOHNC chapter support group. His voice and his songs were truly inspiring. Guests enjoyed time to mingle, partake of some delicious fare and some even took to the dance floor as they enjoyed an evening of celebration and friendship. Guest honoree Gene Monahan shared some exciting stories of World Series victories (and that amazing World Series ring!) with those at his table, and even stayed with us to enjoy the evening’s entertainment, provided by comedian and oral cancer survivor, Stewie Stone, a Las Vegas headliner who had the room “in stitches” with his comedy routine. Let’s just say that Stewie developed a special rapport with a few of our guests as he immediately picked out the “good sports” among the crowd.

Raffles were selling, dinner was served and a wonderful time was had by all. The 50/50 raffle brought a significant amount of happiness to survivor and caregiver, Sumako DeSimone and John Solenberger, who graciously offered to “give back” a portion of their winnings as a donation to SPOHNC – very generous! MVP seats to an upcoming New York Yankees vs. Baltimore Orioles game, generously donated for the event by SPOHNC Board member Ralph A. Catalano, Esq., were happily won by Sheryl Strear – a Yankee fan and a 27 year oral cancer survivor – congratulations! As the evening came to a close, guests were happy and content and ready to settle in to their hotel.

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rooms for a well-deserved rest after a very full day.

Sunday morning brought everyone to the Celebration of Life bright and early for a lavish breakfast buffet. Delicious scrambled eggs, pancakes, waffles, muffins, yogurt smoothies, some wonderful buffet selections and hot tea and coffee got everyone off to a great start for a very special morning, as Nancy welcomed all to the Ballroom for the final conference presentations and a very important celebration.

Dr. Sciubba, Vice President of SPOHNC’s Board of Directors, began the day, putting things in perspective about How Far We’ve Come in 20 Years – and we sure have come a long way! Chapter Support groups have grown in leaps and bounds to over 115, our National Survivor Volunteer Network now has close to 200 volunteers and has made well over 1,000 matches since the program began, and our database of patients, survivors, healthcare professionals and family and friends has now reached the 13,500 mark. We’ve all been very busy, promoting awareness and helping our programs of support to expand their reach – even to countries outside the United States!

All attention was highly focused on the final professional speaker of the day. Margaret Murphy, Esq., of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, spoke to the Sunday audience about “When Medically Necessary Dental Care is Covered by Medicare or Private Insurance.” The audience was riveted to her comments, and her PowerPoint presentation, taking notes and asking questions about a topic of huge concern to patients and survivors alike. Insurance can be so complicated, and Margaret really was able to clear up many misconceptions and concerns expressed by the audience in attendance that morning. It certainly was a day and a weekend filled with great information!

Time for the final celebration arrives, as Nancy and Dr. Sciubba are both in for a few surprises. Nancy rose to present Dr. Sciubba with the “Solidarity” award in recognition of his 22 years (and ongoing) service to SPOHNC. The award was a sculpture, representing a person’s purpose and unity. When people work together or come together with a common goal, they are elevated by the truth of their goals, by the strength of their best intentions - a very fitting award in recognition of Dr. Sciubba’s dedication, commitment, and knowledge, all of which established and strengthened SPOHNC to continue its mission. Dr. Sciubba continues to be a great source of support to SPOHNC, its Board and to Nancy and SPOHNC staff.

As Dr. Sciubba so graciously accepted his award, he turned the tables on SPOHNC’s Founder and President, Nancy, as he also had a special award to present to her. Nancy was quite surprised as she accepted the “Visionary” award, in tribute of all of her hard work. The award was a sculpture, representing the challenges one faces, the dedication, and the commitment to move forward against all odds. It was Nancy’s vision that built SPOHNC to where it is today, to support and encourage oral and head and neck cancer patients during their cancer journey and beyond. We all know that Nancy has dedicated herself to SPOHNC in a way that no one else ever could. What an incredible woman – inspiring and energetic and determined to reassure patients, give them hope and help them to understand and heal with greater confidence. Mary Ann also acknowledged SPOHNC’s Treasurer, Walter Boehmber, for his 15 years of devoted service to SPOHNC. Walter takes care of all of our accounting and financial needs with great detail and precision. He is a wonderful asset to SPOHNC and we are very grateful for his expertise. Mary Ann noted SPOHNC’s success and longevity are a direct result of these amazing individuals and their strong commitment to helping continue our services to everyone affected by oral, head and neck cancer. The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

Finally, and in the most touching ceremony of the weekend’s celebration, Mary Ann asked for survivors of one year to stand and remain standing, then 5, 10, 15 and 20 years, closing with a 27 year survivor! She acknowledged how their perseverance and spirit made each day, week, month and year count in their lives, stating that “the survivors before us provide a community of hope for others, to overcome adversity
“Nothing is worth more than this day”
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

HEAD AND NECK CANCER NEWS
Rare genetic disease offers insight into common cancers

September 4, 2012 - Fanconi anemia is a recessive genetic disorder affecting 1 in 350,000 babies, which leaves cells unable to repair damaged DNA. This lack of repair puts Fanconi anemia patients at high risk for developing a variety of cancers, especially leukemias and head and neck cancer.

Cruelly, the condition also nixes the use of an entire class of cancer drugs, namely drugs like mitomycin C, by encouraging DNA to crosslink together like sticky strands of bread dough – generally, healthy cells can repair a few crosslinks whereas cancer cells cannot and so are killed. However, Fanconi anemia patients are unable to repair the damage done to healthy or cancerous cells by these drugs and so treatment with mitomycin C is frequently fatal.

A University of Colorado Cancer Center study funded by the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund explored the effectiveness of a novel agent in preventing cancer in this population – namely, resveratrol as found in red wine. The results of this study were presented at the 24th annual Fanconi Anemia Research Fund Scientific Symposium, September 27-30 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Denver, Colo. In fact, the findings may go far past Fanconi anemia.

“One of the Fanconi genes that is lost is BRCA2 – the same genetic loss that causes many breast cancers,” says Robert Sclafani, PhD, investigator at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics at the CU School of Medicine. “So one mystery is why Fanconi anemia patients don’t get breast cancer. In Fanconi, every cell in the body is missing that gene – Fanconi is a very rare thing but it’s telling us something about cancers that aren’t so rare.”

Sclafani had already shown the effectiveness of resveratrol in treating head and neck cancer, and in this study explored the effect of resveratrol in Fanconi cell lines – could it prevent cancer by eliminating the cancer cells in Fanconi patients?

“It turns out that regular Fanconi cells aren’t sensitive to resveratrol in the way they’re sensitive to drugs like mitomycin C,” Sclafani says. Instead, Sclafani hopes that additional mutations found in Fanconi head and neck cancer cells but not in regular Fanconi cells will make the cancer cells sensitive to resveratrol in a way normal Fanconi cells are not. His recent results were presented at the September meeting.

“It’s an interesting population,” says Sclafani, “and one that may hold information about many kinds of cancer.”

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ALABAMA - BIRMINGHAM
St. Vincent’s Hospital, Bruno Cancer Center
3rd Tuesday: 12 Noon
Karen Clemeney 205-870-4102
clemenyk2@bellsouth.net

ARIZONA - CHANDLER
Cancer Center at Chandler Reg. Med. Ctr.
1st Wednesday: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Monica Krise, MSW 480-728-3613
monica.krise@chwu.edu
Dick Snider, MD (ret.) 480-895-6019
rsnider326@aol.com

ARIZONA - PHOENIX/ MESA
Banner Desert Medical Center
3rd Wednesday: 4:30 - 6:30 PM
Keri Winchester, MS, CCC-SLP
480-412-3627/Keri.Winchester@bannerhealth.com
Dick Snider, MD (ret.) 480-895-6019
rsnider326@aol.com

ARIZONA - PHOENIX
Rad/Onc Waiting Room
St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Ctr.
1st Tuesday: 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Mary Schneider, Dir. 602-406-3882
mary.schneider@chwu.edu
Barbara Chapman, RN, OCN
602-411-8131/barbara.chapman@chwu.edu
Dick Snider, MD (ret.) 480-895-6019
rsnider326@aol.com

ARIZONA - SCOTTSDALE
Virginia G. Piper CA Center
3rd Thursday: 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Chris Henderson, MS, CCC-SLP
480-323-3214/chhenderson@hsc.org
Les Norde 602-439-1192
elnorday@cox.net

ARKANSAS - NORTHWEST
NWA Cancer Support Home
3rd Saturday: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Jack & Temple Igleburger 479-876-1051/586-4807
tmplnjak@cox.net

CALIFORNIA - LOS ANGELES - UCLA
UCLA Med. Pla., Rad/Onc Conf. Rm. B-265
1st Tuesday: 6:30-8:00 PM
Pam Hoff, LCSW 310-825-6134
phoff@mednet.ucla.edu

CALIFORNIA - ORANGE - UCI
Chao Family Comprehensive CA Ctr.
1st Monday: 5:30-8:00 PM
Jennifer Higgins, MSW 714-456-5235
jhiggins@uci.edu

CALIFORNIA - SAN DIEGO
45 Ranch Library
1st Saturday: 12:00 noon
Valerie Targa 760-751-2109/vtarga@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA - SANTA MARIA
Marion Rehab. Center
3rd Tues./Alternate Months
Aundie Werner, MS, CCC-SLP
805-730-3189/aundiew@gmail.com

CALIFORNIA - STANFORD
Stanford Cancer Center
1st Tuesday: 4:00 - 5:30 PM
Mike Bonar, LCSW 650-725-0929
mbonar@stanfordmed.org

CALIFORNIA - VENTURA
The Cancer Resource Center of Community Memorial Hospital
4th Thursday: 5:00 - 7:30 PM
Kathleen Horton 805-652-5459
khorton@cmnhospital.org

COLORADO - DENVER
Porter’s Adventist Hospital
Twin Peaks Conf. Rm.
Last Tuesday: 6:30-8:00 PM
Jeanne Currey 303-778-5832
jeannecurrey@centura.org

CONNECTICUT - NEW HAVEN
Hospital of St. Raphael
2nd Tuesday: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Vanna Dest, APRN 203-789-3131/vedest@srhs.org
Lori Ratchelous, MSW/lratchelous@srhs.org

CONNECTICUT - NEW LONDON
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
Community Cancer Center
Waiting Room - 1st Thursday: 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
Catherine McCarthy, LCSW 860-444-3744
cmccarthy@lhhosp.org

CONNECTICUT - NORWICH
William W. Backus Hospital
Medical Office Building, MOB Conf. Rm.
3rd Tuesday: 5:00-6:00 PM
Darlene Young, RN, OCN 860-892-2777
dayoung@wwbh.org
Kathy Gernhard, RN, OCN 860-892-2777
kgernhard@wwbh.org

DC - GEORGE TOWN
Lombardi Ca Ctr./Martin Marietta Conference Rm
3rd Wednesday: 1:30-3:00 PM
Joanne Assarsson, MSW, LICSW 202-444-3755
assarssj@gunet.georgetown.edu

FLORIDA - BOCA RATON
Boca Raton Community Hospital.
1st Thursday: 4:00-5:00 PM
Laura Moon Cox, MSW 561-955-5897
lmoon@brcr.com

FLORIDA - FT. MYERS
Gulf Coast Medical Center
Outpatient Rehabilitation Ctr.
4th Tuesday: 3:00-4:00 PM
Stacey Brill, MS, CCC-SLP 239-343-1645
stacey.brill@leememorial.org

FLORIDA - FT. WALTON BEACH/NW FL
Call for Location
4th Thursday: 5:00 PM
Shannon Leach, MS, CCC-SLP 850-362-9200
slachsp@yahoo.com
Ryann Ennis ryann02@live.com

FLORIDA - GAINESVILLE
UF Family Resource Center
Monday: 11:00 AM-12:00 Noon
Dr. Jennifer Maggiore, LCSW 904-880-5522
jennifer@firstcoastoncology.com

FLORIDA - MIAMI
UM/Sylvester at Deerfield Beach, Ste. 100
2nd Tuesday: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM
Penny Fisher, MS, RN, CORLN
305-243-4952/ptisher@med.miami.edu

FLORIDA - NAPLES
NCH Healthcare System/Downtown
1st Wednesday: 3:00-4:30 PM
Karen Moss, MS, CCC-SLP
239-436-6712/Karen.moss@nchmd.org

FLORIDA - OCALA
Robert Boissonneault Oncology Institute
1st Monday: 11:00 AM-12:00 Noon
Amy Roberts, LCSW 352-732-0277
aroBERTs@rbci.com

FLORIDA - SARASOTA
The Cancer Support Community
1st Wednesday: 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Julie O’Brien, LMHC 941-921-5539
julieobee@verizon.net

FLORIDA - TAVARES
Waterman Conf. Room
2nd Thursday: 4:00 PM-5:30 PM
Georgeann Bjornson 352-253-3630
gbjoernson@ahs.org

GEORGIA - ATLANTA
St. Joseph Hospital of Atlanta
Evelyn Trammell Voice & Swallowing Center
2nd Tuesday: 1:00 PM
Tanya Duke 678-843-5586
tduke@sjha.org

GEORGIA - AUGUSTA
MCG Health Children’s Medical Center
Family Resource Center
1st Tuesday: 6:00-7:30 PM
Lori M. Burkhead Morgan, PhD, CCC-SLP
706-721-6100
lori_gator@yahoo.com
Leann Dragano
dragano@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA - COLUMBUS
Columbus Public Library
3000 Macon Rd.
2nd Monday: 6:00-7:30 PM
Wanda Hodge 706-442-1768/whodge30@gmail.com

ILLINOIS - CHICAGO
Duchossois Ctr. for Advanced Medicine
1st Tuesday: 1:00 PM
Mary Herbert 773-834-7236
mherbert@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

ILLINOIS - MABURO
NorthShore University Health System
Call for location
2nd Monday: 6:00-8:00 PM
Sabina Omercajic, MS, CCRP
847-570-1066
somercacj@northshore.org

ILLINOIS - MAYWOOD
The Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Ctr.
3rd Wednesday: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
Laura Morrell, LCSW 708-327-2042
lmorrell@lumc.edu

SPOHN CHAPERS
http://www.spohnc.org
E-mail--info@spohnc.org
CHARTERS OF SPOHNC

INDIANA-FORT WAYNE
Lutheran Cancer Resource Ctr Ste 109
3rd Wednesday: 4:00-5:00
Susan Berghoff, RN, OCN
Alison Song 260-435-7095
lh.crc@lutheran-hosp.com

INDIANA-INDY-NORTH
Marion County Public Library
2nd Monday: 6:00-8:00 PM
Last Monday: 6:00-8:00 PM
John Groves 317-872-6674
jgroves14@comcast.net

INDIANA-Terre Haute
Hux Cancer Center
3rd Tuesday: 4:30 PM
Mary Ryan, SP 812-335-2587
Maryryan2@juno.com

IOWA-DES MOINES
Iowa Methodist Medical Center
Suite 450
1st Wednesday: 5:30 PM
Jennifer Witt, RN, MSN, OCN
Stoddard Care Coordinator
515-241-3399
wtjll@ihs.org

KANSAS-KANSAS CITY
Univ. of Kansas Hospital
2nd & 4th Wednesdays: 4:00 - 5:00 PM
Mary Moody Whetstone, LMSW
913-588-3630
mmood@kumc.edu
Dorothy Austin, RN, OCN
913-588-6576
daustin@kumc.org

LOUISIANA-Baton Rouge
Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge
3rd Wednesday: 4:00 PM
Ester Sachse 225-927-2273
esachse@cancerservices.org

MAINE-AUGUSTA/CENTRAL
Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care
Therese Bermiger, SLP-CCC
207-872-4051
therese.bermiger@mainegeneral.org

MARYLAND-Baltimore-GBMC
Milton J. Dance Head & Neck Center
Physicians Pavilion East Conf. Ctr. 3rd Tuesday: 7:00 PM
Dorothy Gold, LCSW-C, OCW-C
443-849-2980
dgold@gbmc.org

MARYLAND-Baltimore-HJHMI
Johns Hopkins – Greenspring Station
2nd Wednesday: 7:00-8:30 PM
Kim Webster 410-955-1176
kwebste@jhmi.edu
Dwayne Arhart 717-615-7464
darehart@live.com

MARYLAND-LIBERTYTOWN
St. Peter’s RC Church- Parish Center
2nd Wednesday: 2:00-3:30 PM
Judith Churco 301-631-8159
judyduster@aol.com

MASSACHUSETTS-BOSTON
Massachusetts General Hospital
One Tuesday every other month: 6:00-8:00 PM
Valerie Hope Goldstein 617-726-0651
vgoldstein@partners.org

MASSACHUSETTS-Cape COD
Fallmouth Hosp-Clark Cancer Center
Rad Onc Conference Room
3rd Thursday: 2:00-3:30 PM
Jeffrey A. Gaudet, LICSW, OSW-C
508-862-7571/jgaudet@capecodhealth.org

MASSACHUSETTS-MA
Cape Cod Hospital Rehabilitation Center, Lower Level, Speech & Language Pathology Office 1st Monday (except Sept. 10th minus) 1:00-2:00 PM
Jeffrey A. Gaudet, LICSW, OSW-C
508-862-7571/jgaudet@capecodhealth.org

MASSACHUSETTS-DANVERS
MGH North Shore Cancer Ctr.
2nd Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 PM
Mary Anne Macaulay, LCSW 978-882-6002
mmacaulay@partners.org

MICHIGAN-ST. JOSEPH
Lakeland Healthcare
1st Monday: 6:15-7:15 PM
Lisa Sutton MA, CCC-SLP
616-428-2799, x2997
lsutton@lakelandregional.org

MINNESOTA-MINNEAPOLIS
Hennepin/Southdale Library 1st Monday: 6:45-9:00 PM
Colleen M. Endrizzi
952-545-0200/collmartens@gmail.com
Charles Bartlett 612-220-5449

MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS
St. Louis University Cancer Center 4th Friday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon
Cathy Turcotte, RN, MSN 314-268-7015
turcotte@slu.edu

MONTANA-BOZEMAN
Bozeman Deaconess Hospital 3rd Thursday: 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM
Doug Stiner 406-586-0828
Wendy Gwinner, LSWC 406-585-5070
wgwinner@bdh-boz.com

NEBRASKA-OMAHA
Methodist Cancer Center
Meets Quarterly
Susan Stensland 402-559-4420
stensland@nebraskamed.com

NEBRASKA-OMAHA
Nebraska Medical Center
Meets Quarterly
Susan Stensland 402-559-4420
stensland@nebraskamed.com

NEW JERSEY-PRINCETON, UMC
Med. Arts Building, Adm. Conf. Rm. 3rd Wednesday: 12:00-1:00 PM
Amy Helfern 609-575-7945
ahelfern@mac.com

NEW JERSEY-SOMERVILLE
Steeplechase Cancer Center 3rd Wednesday: 6:00-7:30 PM
Kelly Harth, M.S., RYT-500 908-343-8247
kharth161@comcast.net

NEW JERSEY-SPARTA
Sparta Cancer Center-Suite 250 1st Friday: 1:30-3:00PM
Nina Sullivan, RN, BSN OCN 973-729-7001
scsexam@hotmail.com
Kathryn Cramer, LMSW 570-504-7200
scswork@hotmail.com

NEW JERSEY-TOMS RIVER
Community Medical Center Last Thursday: 3:00 PM
Sherry Laniado, MSW 732-732-8270
slaniado@sbhcs.com

NEW MEXICO-ALBUQUERQUE
Anita Bryan 505-681-1971
Anitabach2@yahoo.com

NEW YORK-ALBANY
ACS Hope Club 3rd Thursday: 7:00-9:00 PM
Kathy Rosbrook 518-758-1333
okroz@aol.com

NEW YORK-BUFFALO
Roswell Park Cancer Institute 3rd Tuesday: 6:30-8:00 PM
Amy Sumbrum, SLP 716-845-4947
amy.sumbrum@roswellpark.org
Lindsay Wachowiak 716-845-8301
Lindsay.wachowiak@roswellpark.org

NEW YORK-MANHATTAN
Beth Israel Head and Neck Institute 4th Thursday: 2:00-4:00 PM
Jackie Mojica 212-844-8775
jmojica@chpnet.org

NEW YORK-MANHATTAN
Mount Sinai Medical Center 3rd Tuesday: 3:00 PM
Margot Wankoff, LMSW 212-241-7962
margot.wankoff@mountsinai.org

NEW YORK-MANHATTAN
NYU Clinical Cancer Center, 11th flr 1st and 3rd Thursday: 2:00 PM
Christine Nolin, LMSW 212-731-5141
christine.nolin@nyumc.org

NEW YORK-MIDDLETOWN
Orange Regional Medical Center Community Health Education Center 1st Wednesday: 6:00-7:30PM
Jayne O’Malley, RN/OCN 845-695-5891
jomalley@ormc.org
Jeanette Carbone-Marsh
Mauri Waldman

NEW YORK-NEW HYDE PARK
NORTH SHORE-LIJ Health System Hearing and Speech Conf Rm, LL 3rd Thursday: 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Sharon Lerman, LMSW 718-470-8964
Lynn Gormley 516-628-1219 /516-314-8897
lgormley1@optonline.net

NEW YORK-ROCHESTER
Strong Memorial Hospital Luellen Resource Center, Pat. Res. Ctr. 1st Thursday: 4:30-6:00 PM
Sandra E. Sabatka, LMSW 585-275-6426
Sandra_sabatka@URMC.Rochester.edu

SPOHNC
P.O. Box 53
Locust Valley, NY 11560-0053
1-800-377-0928

CHAPTERS OF SPOHNC

P.O. Box 53
Locust Valley, NY 11560-0053
1-800-377-0928
CHAPTERS OF SPOHNC

NEW YORK-STONY BROOK
Ambulatory Care Pavilion
1st Wednesday: 6:45-8:15 PM
Dennis Staropoli 631-682-7103
den.star@hotmail.com

NEW YORK-SYOSSET
NSLIJ-Syosset Hospital
2nd Thursday: 7:30-9:00 PM
Alice Steiner 516-764-1571
alicesteiner28@gmail.com
Madelyn Harper-Walsh 516-753-0923
lyn.SPOHNC@yahoo.com

NEW YORK-WESTCHESTER
White Plains Hospital Cancer Center
2nd Thursday: 7:00 PM
Mark Tenzer 914-984-6151
tenzer1@optonline.net

NORTH CAROLINA-ASHVILLE
Allison Rad/Onc. Ctr. Garden Conf Rm
Christine B. Griffin, RN 918-261-8858

NORTH CAROLINA-CHARLOTTE
Blumenthal Cancer Center
2nd & 4th Thursday: 1:30-3:00 PM
Meg Turner 704-354-7283
meg.turner@carolinashealthcare.org

NORTH CAROLINA-CHAPEL HILL/DURHAM
Cornucopia House
3rd Wednesday: 6:00 PM
Dave Gould 919-493-8168
morton44@gmail.com

NORTH CAROLINA-CHARLOTTE
Blumenthal Cancer Center
2nd & 4th Thursday: 1:30-3:00 PM
Meg Turner 704-354-7283
meg.turner@carolinashealthcare.org

OHIO-CLEVELAND
Cleveland Clinic at Fairview Hospital
2nd Thursday: 4:00 PM
Gwen Paul, LISW 216-476-7241
gpaulwil@ccf.org

OHIO-DAYTON
The Medical Center at Elizabeth Place
1st Monday: 6:00-8:00 PM
Hank Deneski 937-832-2677
wohnc@earthlink.net

OHIO-LIMA
St. Rita’s Regional Cancer Ctr.
Allison Rad/Onc. Ctr. Garden Conf Rm
3rd Tuesday of even month: 5:00 PM
Holly Metzger, LMSW 419-996-5606
hjmetzer@health-partners.org
Linda Glorioso 419-996-5616
lglorioso@health-partners.org

OKLAHOMA-TULSA
Hardesty Public Library
1st Tuesday: 6:30 PM
Christine B. Griffin, RN 918-281-8888
Berrigriffin@att.net

OREGON-MEDFORD
Providence Medical Center
2nd Friday: 12:00-1:30 PM
Richard Boucher 650-269-8323
richard.boucher@hp.com

PENNSYLVANIA- DUNMORE
Northeast Radiation Oncology Center
Last Thursday of the month: 5:30-7:00 PM
Kathryn Cramer LMSW, CCHT
570-881-6247 ssccswork@hotmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA-HARRISBURG
PinnacleHealth Fox Chase Regional Cancer Center
2nd Wednesday: 6:00 PM
Debra Wittner, Nurse Navigator
717-724-6772
dwittner@pinnaclehealth.org

PENNSYLVANIA-MONROEVILLE
Inter Community Cancer Center
Last Friday of month: 3:00 - 4:00 PM
Beth Madrishin 412-856-7740
bmadrish@wpahs.org

PENNSYLVANIA-NEW CASTLE
UPMC Jameson Cancer Center
Medical Arts Bldg Suite 104
3rd Thursday: 6:00-7:00 PM
Jeannie Williams, Patient Navigator
Becky Rainville, RN 724-656-5870

PENNSYLVANIA-PHILADELPHIA
Penn Med Perelman Ctr Advanced Med
1 W. Pavilion Pt Fam Conf Rm
1st Wednesday: 9:30-11:00 AM
Micki Naumil, 856-722-5574
Tracy Lautenbach MSW, LCSW, OSW-C
lautenbach@uphs.upenn.edu

PENNSYLVANIA-YORK
Apple Hill Medical Center
2nd Wednesday: 5:00 PM
Dianne S. Hollinger, MA, CCC-SLP 717-812-5850
DHollinger@wellspan.org
Diane McLelawan, RN, OCN, M.Ed 717-741-8100
dmcelwain@wellspan.org

SOUTH CAROLINA - OF THE UPSTATE
44 W. Avondale Dr.
1st Sunday: 2:00pm-3:30pm
Martha Miller 864-232-6334
marthamillertime@hotmail.com

SOUTH DAKOTA-RAPID CITY
Rapid City Regional Hospital, Rushmore Room
2nd Monday: 6:30 - 7:30PM
Angie Langstaff 605-719-2300
angie.langstaff@rgionalhealth.com

TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA
Memorial Hospital
1st Monday: 4:15-5:30 PM
Jeanne Richelson 423-894-9215
jeannerdie1255@aol.com

TENNESSEE-NASHVILLE
Gilda’s Club Nashville
1st Tuesday: 5:00-6:00 PM
Helice Apolinsky, LCSW 615-329-1124
felice@gildasclubnashville.org

TEXAS-FORT WORTH
Baylor All Saints Hosp.- Joan Katz Conf. Room
2nd Wednesday: 3:30-5:00 PM
Marla Hathcoat, LMSW 817-838-4866
marla.hathcoat@moncrief.com

TEXAS-HOUSTON/TOMBALL
Tomball Regional Hospital
TBA

TEXAS-McALLEN
Rio Grande Regional Hospital
3rd Tuesday: 6:00 PM
Stephane Leal, MA,CCC-SLP
SAL1275@aol.com

TEXAS-PLEASANTON
Regional Medical Center at Pleasanton
4th Tuesday: 6:00-8:00 PM
Polly Candela, RN 214-820-3595
Polly.Candela@baylorhealth.edu

TEXAS-SOUTH PLANO
Highland Park Hospital
11641 Southwestern Pkwy, Suite 100
Southlake, TX 76092
Jeffrey S. Winter 972-264-8900
jwinter@highlandparkhospital.com

UTAH-PROVO
Provo Regional Medical Center
1st Tuesday: 6:30-8:00 PM
Mary Brawley, MACCC-SLP 801-373-9060
mary.brawley@froedterthealth.com

VIRGINIA-CHARLOTTESVILLE
Dept. of Forestry Building, Suite 800
Last Thursday of month: 11:30-1:00 PM
Vikki Bravo 434-982-4091
vsb4n@virginia.edu

VIRGINIA-FAIRFAX
Inova Fairfax Hospital Radiation/Oncology
2nd Tuesday: 5:30-7:00 PM
Corinne Cook, LCSW 703-776-2813
Corinne.cook@inaova.com

VIRGINIA-NORFOLK
Sentara Norfolk General Hospital
3rd Monday: 7:00 PM
Cynthia Gilliam 757-770-4190
beachdolphin@aol.com

VIRGINIA-RICHMOND
Massey Cancer Ctr. Thalheimer Room
2nd and 4th Wednesday 2:00-3:30 PM
Karen Mullin, MSW 804-828-2066
kmullin@mcvh-vcu.edu
Kathryn Hamilton hamiltonkw@vcu.edu

WASHINGTON-SEATTLE
Evergreen Hospital Medical Center
Rad/Onc Conf Rm Green 1-245
2nd Wednesday: 6:30-8:00 PM
Kile Jackson 425-788-6562
kilejackson@hotmail.com

WASHINGTON-SEATTLE
Swedish Med Ctr. 1 E. Conf Rm
3rd Thursday: 6:00-7:30 PM
Susan (Sam) Vetos, BSN, RN, BC
206-341-1729 susan.vetos@svumc.org
Joanne Fenn, MS, CCC-SLP 206-215-1770
joanne.fenn@swedish.org

WASHINGTON-MADISON
Univ. of Wisconsin Hospital
ENT Clinic Rm. G3/206
1st Wednesday: 11:30-1:00 PM
Rachael Kammer, MS, CCC-SLP 608-263-4896
Kammer@surgery.wisc.edu

WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
Regional Cancer Center
2nd Tuesday: 6:00-8:00 PM
Mary Brawley, MACCC-SLP 414-805-5635
mary.brawley@froedterthealth.com
to become a member and make a contribution by check or online at www.spohnc.org.

Call 1-800-377-0928

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH ORAL AND HEAD AND NECK CANCER (SPOHNC)
SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH ORAL AND HEAD AND NECK CANCER, INC.
P. O. BOX 53
LOCUST VALLEY, NY 11560-0053

WATCH FOR
Direct from SPOHNC’s website and office
www.spohnc.org
1-800-377-0928
Beginning on or about October 5th