New Physicians at the AMITA Health Cancer Institute at Alexian Brothers Medical Center

Surgical oncologist, L. Mark Knab, MD, has joined Gerard Abood, MD, MS, at AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center. With a primary focus in gastrointestinal surgical oncology, Dr. Knab has expertise in cancer and diseases of the esophagus, liver, pancreas, stomach, gallbladder, biliary tract, and intestines. He is well-trained in minimally invasive surgical approaches including robotic surgery and laparoscopic surgery. Dr. Knab graduated from Georgetown University Medical School and completed his general surgery training at Northwestern University in Chicago. He also completed a Complex General Surgical Oncology fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He is board certified in general surgery and complex general surgical oncology.

Gynecologic oncologist Stephanie Munns, MD, has joined Assaad Semaan, MD at AMITA Health. She has a primary focus in complex pelvic surgery and surgical medical management of gynecologic malignancies and is extensively trained in minimally invasive surgical approaches, including robotic surgery and newer techniques such as sentinel lymph node mapping for various gynecologic cancers. Dr. Munns graduated from University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and a gynecologic oncology fellowship at Wayne State University/Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit. She is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and gynecologic oncology.

Please welcome our new medical director of the breast cancer program at AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Dr. Barry Rosen, MD, FACS. Dr. Rosen has been in practice in the northwest suburbs since 1992, with his surgical practice focused on breast cancer. “It’s an honor to return to Alexian Brothers, where I actually started my practice in the early 1990s.” Rosen’s philosophy of care is rooted in the principle that ‘one size fits one’: “Ultimately, I believe that it is critical to take a holistic view when planning a person’s cancer care, taking into account their unique cancer signature, their body shape and size, and their preferences—we treat people, not diagnoses.” Dr. Rosen is currently seeing patients in the Cancer Institute at Alexian Brothers Medical Center.
National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer

AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center is pursuing accreditation to become a nationally-recognized center for the treatment of rectal cancer. The National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC) has been created to improve the safety and outcomes of rectal cancer care through evidence-based practice using a multidisciplinary approach. Our NAPRC roster of physicians includes designated surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, and radiologists. Physicians and team members are dedicated to make certain that every patient’s care complies with program standards as we strive to create a center of excellence. Please contact Melissa Erkman, Nurse Navigator, at 844.952.HOPE (4673) for more information.

We’re Here for You, Always

AMITA Health St. Alexius Medical Center Hoffman Estates and AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center GlenOaks received a grant* from the National Breast Cancer Foundation to fund screening and diagnostic mammograms for women that do not have insurance or are underinsured. Regular screenings save lives and are crucial to early detection, which leads to better outcomes.

AMITA Health St. Alexius Medical Center Hoffman Estates
Breast Care Center
1555 Barrington Rd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center GlenOaks
Mammography Department
701 Winthrop Ave.
Glendale Heights, IL 60139

To see if you are eligible for a free screening mammogram, please call 844.952.HOPE (4673). Primary care physician’s information is required at time of scheduling appointment.

*This grant funding covers screening mammograms, diagnostic mammograms, and ultrasounds only.

New Virtual Oncology Program

AMITA Health Cancer Institutes at Alexian Brothers Medical Center and St. Alexius Medical Center are piloting a Virtual Oncology Program (VOP) in Fall 2020 through January 2021. While this program grew from our experiences with COVID-19, it has been recognized that virtual options are beneficial beyond the pandemic. Attendees do not have to worry about traveling to a class and can remain in the comfort of their own home when receiving support. A great opportunity is just one call away!

Here are the five programs that are being piloted:

Caregiver Support Group
Caregivers can share experiences, meet others, and gain support through their journey. This is intended for caregivers of cancer patients and is led by our oncology social worker. This group hopes to allow caregivers to get the support they need without having to worry about leaving their homes. If you are a caregiver in need of support, call 844.952.HOPE(4673) to RSVP and receive call-in information.

Patient Wellness Apps
Use a list of helpful apps, vetted by our staff and cancer survivors, to help with achieving mindfulness, tracking nutrition, logging medication, and gaining support. Please call 844.952.HOPE(4673) for more information.

Breast Cancer Ambassador Mentoring
Our breast cancer ambassadors are breast cancer survivors that want to help others by creating a support system and mentoring patients through their journeys and beyond. Contact 844.952.HOPE(4673) to get connected with a breast cancer ambassador with a similar experience today!

Virtual Women’s Breast Cancer Support Group
Call in to a virtual support group with other women to share experiences and gain support. This support group will begin in Winter 2020. Call 844.952.HOPE(4673) for more information.

Rehabilitation
AMITA Health Cancer Rehabilitation has expanded to offer telehealth options for patients. Read more information on page 4.
Healthy Eating During Stressful Times: Boosting Our Immune System
Written by Sue, RDN, CSO, LDN – Registered Dietitian

A simple red bell pepper. Who would have thought that it could help to form antibodies that fight infection? It’s a vitamin C powerhouse! And what about an almond, with its high vitamin A content and ability to neutralize those unwanted free radicals and reduce inflammation? Amazing...these foods that we so easily take for granted. They can come to our aid to improve health during times of stress. Nutrients that may help bolster our immune system come in all varieties. Vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E, zinc, selenium, copper, iron and protein are a few of them. Some vitamin A rich foods are sweet potatoes, spinach, kale, carrots, cantaloupe, red peppers, mangoes, papaya, eggs, black-eyed peas, apricots, broccoli, herring, salmon, milk and breakfast cereals (that have been fortified with vitamin A). Vitamin C rich foods can include grapefruit, tangerines, oranges, red peppers, green peppers, kiwi, broccoli, strawberries, brussels sprouts, tomatoes and tomato juice. Seeds and nuts are especially high in vitamin E. Sunflower seeds, almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, peanut butter, wheat germ and oils such as safflower and sunflower are all good sources. Even broccoli contains this vitamin. Some foods that are rich in zinc are oysters, crab, lobster, beans, nuts (peanuts and cashews), whole grains, seeds (like sunflower, pumpkin), poultry, red meat, fortified cereals (where zinc has been added). Foods high in protein include fish, poultry, lean meat, eggs, dairy, legumes (beans, peas, lentils, peanuts), nuts, nut butters, seeds and soy products. Probiotic foods such as yogurt and kefir may help with immune function as well.

And we can’t forget about other foods that contain antioxidants such as berries, herbs, green tea, dark chocolate…the list goes on. If we incorporate these foods into a plant-based meal plan (including 5-9 servings of vegetables and fruits/day) we can most positively affect our body’s ability to remain healthy, even during times of stress. Happy, healthy eating!

Here is a recipe idea that incorporates foods listed above that help boost your immune system:

Blueberry Smoothie

1 cup blueberries, frozen
1/2 banana, frozen
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
1/2 cup milk (any type)
1/2 tsp chia seeds
1/4-1/2 tsp ginger, grated

Mix all in blender until smooth
Makes 1-2 cups

Hope Comes in All Colors

At the end of April 2020, the AMITA Health Cancer Institute at Alexian Brothers Medical Center and St. Alexius Medical Center completed their 2019 food pantry initiative by donating 1,000 items to local food pantries! The initiative began in April 2019 with the goal of giving 1,000 cancer prevention education handouts and 1,000 items donated from staff to food pantries in our service area. The education included sunscreen packets with skin cancer education, radon kits with lung cancer education, and chip clips with HPV-related cancer education. Great work Cancer Institute team!

We Donated 1,000 Items to Local Food Pantries!

Stop by the cancer program lobbies at AMITA Alexian Brothers, St. Alexius Medical Centers and Saint Joseph Hospital Elgin, to pin a ribbon to our welcome boards and help us fill it with beautiful colors representing all our amazing patients. This idea stemmed from AMITA Health Cancer Institute Hinsdale and AMITA Health Saint Joseph Chicago, who regularly have ribbon displays to celebrate awareness months and for year-round recognition of cancer patients. Thank you to Emily Westermeyer and Andrea Pressley who made the ribbons and the boards for all the AMITA Health sites interested in participating. We are excited to join the fun and honor our survivors.

Hope Comes in All Colors
AMITA Health Cancer Rehabilitation Expands by Offering Telehealth

While the world of COVID has no doubt had its negative impact, there are some positive aspects. In this case, cancer rehabilitation can now be offered to you in your home via telehealth.

How does it work? Once you receive a referral from your provider for physical, occupational or speech therapy, simply call one of our locations to schedule your initial evaluation. Your initial evaluation must be in-person in the therapy clinic. After the evaluation you and your therapist will determine, based on your symptoms, treatment needs and health plans coverage, if telehealth is the right option. If telehealth is the right option, our scheduling team will set you up for your visits and send you the links. They will call you the day before your first telehealth visit to ensure the technology is working.

What specific equipment do I have to have to make telehealth work? You will need to have a computer or phone with a camera and microphone, and a strong WIFI connection. Our team will assist you in ensuring you have the right weblinks.

Will insurance cover my sessions? Prior to your telehealth visit we will verify with your insurance plan to ensure coverage. Most do, some don’t.

If I have lymphedema, can you see me via telehealth? That will depend on your treatment needs. If the therapist is required to do a hands-on treatment like lymphatic massage and garment donning, you would need to come into the clinic. If we are upgrading a home exercise program, monitoring self-donning techniques, or working on strength or conditioning exercises, telehealth MAY be the right choice. You and your therapist will ensure that the safe and right decision is made to facilitate an optimal outcome. Many times, a combination of in-person and telehealth visits will be included in your care. The overall number of in-person an individual typically has in for therapy should be decreased.

Tips to Tackle the Holidays

Written by Kim Brummund, LCSW – Oncology Social Worker

The holidays are a special time of the year filled with social gatherings, special meals, and gifts. Although there are annual rituals to look forward to, these activities can also cause one to experience stress, anxiety, and even depression. Here are some proactive measures you can take to promote your health and well-being during the holiday season.

Be Flexible. Families are dynamic and changes occur—people move away, get married, and have children. If you are not able to carry on traditional activities, find creative ways of spending time together and/or create new traditions. Organize a virtual gathering via Zoom or write a Christmas newsletter detailing the important events that took place in your family over the past year.

Set Reasonable Expectations for Your Budget. Formulate a budget for gifts, food, travel, and other holiday-related expenses and stick to it. You will feel a sense of accomplishment and freedom that comes along with living within your means. You may collaborate with family members to create a Secret Santa or White Elephant Gift Exchange to limit the number of gifts you purchase. Put together a picture calendar which will help you to stay connected with family and friends and it will help them stay organized at the same time.

Acknowledge and Accept Your Feelings. It can be extremely difficult to celebrate the holidays following the loss of a loved one. It is normal to feel sadness and grief. Give yourself the space and permission to acknowledge your feelings. Talk to friends, family, or a counselor about your experience.

Remember the Basics of Self-Care: Sleep, eat, exercise, and hydrate. Enjoy holiday treats in moderation and maintain a healthy and nutritious diet. Ensure that you maintain a regular sleep schedule. Exercise will promote sleep drive, reduce stress and anxiety, and help you to look and feel better. If you are not able to engage in a rigorous exercise routine, walk a few laps around the mall or at your local nature preserve. Walking is an excellent way to keep moving and to stay in shape.

Infuse Some Fun in Your Life. Make some time to engage in activities that you enjoy each and every day. Enjoy a good book, complete an art project, listen to relaxing music, start a jigsaw puzzle, or make time for a special hobby or project.

Get Support. Nearly everyone feels sad from time to time. You may find that, despite your best efforts, you feel sad, anxious, experience changes in sleep or appetite, or lose interest in activities that you previously enjoyed. If these symptoms persist most of the day every day for a two-week period of time, talk to your doctor or mental health professional.
All Cancer Survivors Support Group Virtual Options Available
No matter what type of cancer, there are similar experiences and concerns. Gain valuable information, tips and advice to maintain a positive focus. Caregiver(s) are welcome.
4th Thursdays 6:30 – 8 pm (HE) Cancer Institute lobby

Breast Cancer Support Group Virtual Options Available
Connecting with others provides an outlet to learn helpful tips for coping with side effects and share laughter and encouragement. This group is for anyone affected by breast cancer, from a new diagnosis through survivorship. Caregiver(s) are welcome.
1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 – 8 pm (EGV)

Caregiver Support Group Virtual Options Available
Connecting with other caregivers provides an opportunity to learn valuable information, receive helpful tips, and share experiences. This support group is intended for caregivers of cancer patients.
2nd Tuesdays 6:30 – 8 pm (EGV)

Energy Therapy
Ease fatigue, pain and stress with a 45-minute session.
Appointment required.
2nd Mondays (HE), 3rd Mondays (EGV)

Boutique Consults for Our Cancer Patients
A licensed cosmetologist and certified mastectomy-fitter will provide in-house wig, lymphedema sleeve and mastectomy bra consultations. They can also shave hair for patients undergoing chemotherapy.
Appointment required.
3rd Tuesdays, alternating mornings & afternoons (EGV)

Fit Club to Fight Cancer
Through fitness, you can fight cancer as well as improve your health. Options include walking, fitness classes and exercise equipment. All levels of athletes are welcome.
Registration required.
Wednesdays 4 pm
The Club at Prairie Stone, 5050 Sedge Blvd., Hoffman Estates
Wednesdays 4:45 pm (weather permitting)
Volkering Lake, 900 W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg

Healing Touch
Research has shown that Healing Touch therapy can help alleviate cancer treatment’s pain, stress and side effects. The goal is to restore harmony and balance in the energy systems to promote self-healing.
Private sessions are 60 minutes, fully clothed. Registration required.
2nd & 4th Thursdays – evening appointments (EGV)
To register, call 224.458.0516 or 773.879.7905.
3rd Tuesdays – daytime appointments (HE)
To register, call 844.952.HOPE(4673).

Gentle Yoga
This class is geared toward oncology patients. Yoga is appropriate for those with some measure of flexibility and balance, while others may practice from a seated position. Each class will focus on breath and body awareness while helping improve mental clarity, strength, and flexibility.
Registration required. Attendees must bring their own mat.
Thursdays 6 – 7 pm (HE)

Massage Therapy
For our current cancer patients. A 30-minute (fully clothed) session with our certified massage therapist.
Appointment required.
Wednesdays (HE), Thursdays (EGV)

Relax and Feel Great Virtual Options Available
Experience self-empowerment and discover your inborn ability to improve your health through these weekly group sessions. Be guided through self-hypnosis to make the life changes you desire. Learn relaxation techniques and enjoy your mental vacation in this program lead by our certified hypnotherapist.
1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays 6 – 7:45 pm (HE)
2nd and 4th Wednesdays 6 – 7:45 pm (EGV)

Smoking Cessation
You can lead a cigarette-free life, too! Call today, live a healthier tomorrow. 6-week session.
Elk Grove Village Classes: Thursday evenings 6 – 7 pm
Session #3: September 10, 17, 24 and October 1, 8, 22
To register, call 855.MyAMITA (692.6482).

Tai Chi and Qigong
Tai Chi and Qigong are traditional Chinese methods used to bring balance to the body, mind, and spirit. Tai Chi is a therapeutic art that uses gentle flowing motion to reduce stress. Qigong promotes relaxation while building internal strength. Meditation is used to quiet and clear the mind.
Registration required.
Tuesdays 6 – 7:45 pm (HE), 1st and 3rd Fridays Noon (EGV)

Like us on Facebook!
@AlexianBrothersMedicalCenter
@AMITAHealthSaintJoseph
@StAlexiusMedicalCenter
Upcoming Events:

These events will be socially distanced, all attendees are required to wear a mask, and there will be limited seating available. To RSVP for any of these events, please call 844.952.HOPE (4673).

Caregiver Education Presentation
When: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 6:30 – 7:15 pm
Where: AMITA Health Cancer Institute at Alexian Brothers Medical Center, 800 Biesterfield Road, Bldg. 5, Ste. 120, Large Conference Room, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Our nurse navigator, Mary Gleason RN BSN OCN, will present education for caregivers of cancer patients that will cover how to avoid unnecessary emergency room visits. Q & A session will follow.

Great American Smoke Out
When: Thursday, November 19, 2020
Where: AMITA Health Cancer Institute at Alexian Brothers Medical Center, 800 Biesterfield Road, Bldg. 5, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Look for us at the Cancer Institute entrances for free education and resources on how to quit smoking.

Prostate Screening
When: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 11 am – 1 pm
Where: Hanover Township, 240 S. IL Route 59, Bartlett, IL 60103

In partnership with the Hanover Township, AMITA Health Cancer Institute at Alexian Brothers Medical Center is hosting a free prostate screening, via a blood draw. To qualify, men must be 50-75 years old. If younger than 50, the participant must be high-risk for prostate cancer.

Please call 844.952.HOPE (4673) to set up an appointment.

We’re Here for You and Your Family!

At AMITA Health, your health and safety come first, always. As we reopen our facilities throughout the greater Chicago area and return to full service capability, we have changed the way we provide care. We’ve introduced new safety measures and now offer virtual care visits.

AMITA Health won’t stop working to keep our community healthy during this difficult time. We will prevent the spread of infection while continuing to care for those who need us most. Now and always.

We understand why you might still have concerns about coming to your doctor’s office or hospital. To keep all in-person visits safe, we have instituted a number of safeguards to minimize your risk of exposure to infection.

Learn more about safety measures, service availability, and other frequently asked questions at AMITAhealth.org/covid-19/reopening.

AMITA Health Cancer Institute Programs at:

BOB AND EDNA MEADOWS CANCER CARE CENTER
AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital Elgin
77 N. Airlite | Elgin, IL 60123
847.931.5520

“We Us Too” Prostate Support and Education Group

Mets Chapter – Advanced Prostate Cancer
First Tuesday of each month 10 am
AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital
Meadows Cancer Care Center
St. Andrew Room (2nd floor)
77 N. Airlite Elgin, IL 60123

Elgin Morning Chapter
Second Tuesday of each month 10 am
AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital
Meadows Cancer Care Center
St. Andrew Room (2nd floor)
77 N. Airlite Elgin, IL 60123

Women’s Cancer Support Group
Every 3rd Thursday of the month 6 – 8 pm
AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital
Meadows Cancer Care Center
77 N. Airlite Elgin, IL 60123

Elgin Evening Chapter
Fourth Tuesday of each month 7 pm
AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital
Saint Joseph Room
77 N. Airlite, Elgin, IL 60123

Tri City Chapter
Third Tuesday of each month 10:30 am
The Living Well Cancer Resource Center
442 Williamsburg Avenue, Geneva, IL 60134

If you would like more information about our Oncology Support Services, please call us at 847-931-5520.
Meet our Team at AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital Elgin!

At the Meadows Cancer Center at AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital Elgin, our focus is not just treating a disease but treating the whole patient. With that in mind, we provide a comprehensive Oncology Support Service Team which includes nurse navigator, oncology counselor, pastoral care, nutritionist, speech therapy and lymphedema. All of the services are available to patients either in the Cancer Center or short walking distance on the hospital campus. Here is a closer look at a few of our outstanding team members:

**Susan Puchalla is a chaplain** who works with cancer patients and survivors to provide compassionate spiritual care. Susan believes that spirituality is how a person makes meaning from life; what they value; what is important to them; where they find peace and purpose; and how they connect to others.

Over the past seven years, Susan has worked as the Director of Spiritual Care for a skilled nursing facility in the Fox Valley Region, and as a staff chaplain for two AMITA hospitals. As a former science teacher, Susan brings a unique perspective to holistic spiritual care.

Susan completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (chaplaincy training). She holds a Doctor of Education degree in Pastoral Community Counseling, a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Theology, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. Susan’s doctoral dissertation is entitled, “The Relationship between Depression, Gratitude and Spirituality in Persons Receiving Treatment for Cancer.”

**Lynn MacMillan, MPA, BSN, RN, OCN is our oncology nurse navigator.** Her goal is to successfully navigate patients through the maze of their oncology treatment—from diagnosis through survivorship or end of life. She guides the patient through the cancer care process, from suspicious finding through diagnosis, through treatment and survivorship. This can include providing patient education, connecting the patient and his/her family with resources and emotional support, removing barriers to diagnosis and treatment, being an advocate for the patient and facilitating communication among the healthcare team. Nothing is outside of Lynn’s role if it helps the patient.

Lynn also facilitates our Women’s Cancer Support Group which meets monthly and includes those with both breast and/or gynecologic cancers. She herself is also a two-time cancer survivor.

Lynn has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing as well as a Master’s in Healthcare Administration and is an Oncology Certified Nurse. She also is a very active member of the Chicago Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. Lynn has practiced oncology nursing for over 35 years.

**Leszek Baczkura ministers as the chaplain in the Spiritual Care Department** at AMITA Health Saint Joseph Hospital, Elgin, IL. Leszek has ministered in Spiritual Care in our AMITA Heath system for over 20 years.

Leszek truly loves and enjoys working with people. He sees this as his ministry of co-creating our universe in relationship with our God. In his work with others, he wants to accompany them on their journey of their personal, spiritual and professional becomings. He wants to be a messenger, a prophet, a leader, a living presence of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to all those whom he encounters.

Leszek earned his Bachelor of Philosophy from the Major Seminary of the Pauline Fathers in Krakow, Poland; his Master of Divinity from Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, MI; his Master of Art in Religious Studies from the University of Mercy, Detroit, MI; and his Master of Management from North Park University in Chicago, IL.

Leszek and Wioleta, his wife, have two children, Zack and Nathanael, and they are very grateful for all God’s blessings!

—we wish all of you a safe and joyous holiday season.

Happy Holidays from AMITA Health Cancer Institute at Alexian Brothers and St. Alexius Medical Centers and the Bob and Edna Meadows Cancer Care Center at Saint Joseph Hospital Elgin.

Caring for Cancer | Fall 2020
ONE CALL BEGINS IT ALL
Connect with an AMITA Health Cancer Institute associate ready to assist you today.
Toll Free: 844.952.HOPE (4673)

We work very hard to maintain an accurate mailing list. If you do not wish to receive future mailings, please email us your name and the publication name (or type of mailing) you wish to be removed from at unsubscribe@AMITAhealth.org.

AMITA Health Cancer Institute
at Alexian Brothers Medical Center
800 Biesterfield Rd., Building 5, Ste. 120
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-3397

Donate Online to Support Cancer Care
Celebrate or remember someone special through a gift that will help a cancer patient.

To donate to AMITA Health Cancer Institute Elk Grove Village or Hoffman Estates locations:
Visit alexianfoundation.org and click “Make a Gift” in the upper right-hand corner. Fill out the donation form and select “Cancer Institute” as the designation.

To donate to AMITA Health Cancer Institute at Saint Joseph Hospital Elgin, visit: http://AMITAhealth.org/make-a-gift-saint-joseph-elgin

Messages will be passed to all involved.

On behalf of our cancer patients and their families, thank you!