CTCA Philadelphia welcomes Independence Blue Cross patients

Independence Blue Cross (Independence), the leading health insurer in southeastern Pennsylvania, and Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) Philadelphia, have signed a new four-year agreement. The agreement, effective September 1, 2019, demonstrates a commitment between Independence and CTCA to provide members and patients with even more access to quality oncology care and related services. “We are pleased to have CTCA Philadelphia join our network and look forward to our members having another option for cancer care,” said Richard L. Snyder, MD, Executive Vice President of Facilitated Health Networks and Chief Medical Officer at Independence Blue Cross. “We are fortunate to operate in a market where our members have many health care organizations to choose from and are glad that through this agreement those options now include CTCA.”

CTCA expands its clinical trial offerings as a member of the National Clinical Trials Network

Read more in Clinical News

CTCA Atlanta partners with Habitat for Humanity

CTCA Atlanta Stakeholders and the local Coweta County community recently came together to celebrate the new home of Sheree Melson, who is a Steward on the CTCA Atlanta Culinary team. Sheree and her family are the recipients of the home from the Newnan-Coweta Habitat for Humanity. She worked passionately with the Habitat team on the project to fulfill her goal of home ownership.

“We are so pleased to present a new home to such a kind person like Sheree,” said Cristina Bowerman, MNM, CAE, Executive Director of Newnan-Coweta Habitat for Humanity. “We are incredibly grateful to our generous community partners for helping make this home a reality. We look forward to working together again in the years to come.” Additional community partners on the project included Coweta-Fayette EMC, Publix Super Markets Charities, SouthTowne, United Bank, Swope Family Fund and Panasonic Automotive.

CTCA Atlanta Stakeholders worked together on the Habitat for Humanity home for Sheree Melson (pictured center).
CTCA Chicago & Philadelphia earn national recognition in Patient Satisfaction

CTCA Chicago and CTCA Philadelphia have been awarded the 2019 Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award® for achieving and sustaining the 95th percentile or higher for inpatient experience. In addition, CTCA Chicago was awarded the 2019 Pinnacle of Excellence Award®, bestowed only upon the highest performing hospitals in the nation. The Pinnacle award is based on three consecutive years of top-tier performance, and is given to fewer than 30 hospitals across the U.S. All three awards were given for exceptional patient experience in inpatient services.

CTCA Phoenix named one of Arizona’s most admired companies

Congratulations to all Stakeholders at CTCA Phoenix and Outpatient Care Centers located in Gilbert, North Phoenix and Scottsdale on being named one of the Most Admired Companies by BestCompaniesAZ and Arizona Business Magazine! “This is the most comprehensive and prestigious annual corporate awards program in Arizona,” said Denise Gredler, Founder and CEO of BestCompaniesAZ, and Co-Founder of the MAC program. “To win, a business must demonstrate excellence in leadership, corporate culture, vision, innovation, customer relations and community engagement through corporate social responsibility programs. Most Admired Companies are truly the best of the best.”

Erica Marchese
RUNS FOR HER MOTHER AND OTHER CANCER PATIENTS

CTCA Chicago pharmacist Erica Marchese has dedicated much of her time to helping better the lives of those living with cancer. When Erica’s mother Cheryl was diagnosed with Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS) breast cancer last year, she chose to treat at CTCA. Over the course of the year, Cheryl completed a lumpectomy with intraoperative radiation therapy (IORT) and a fat grafting procedure. Today, she has no evidence of the disease. To help her mother and many others, Erica ran the New York City Marathon with “Fred’s Team” to raise money for cancer research. “Every step I took I knew I was running for my mother, the patients we see at our hospitals, and the patients across the world who are battling for their lives,” says Erica.
Welcoming New Physicians!

CTCA Chicago: Christopher Wigfield, MD, Thoracic Surgeon
CTCA Chicago recently welcomed Christopher Wigfield, MD, to the thoracic surgery team. Dr. Wigfield is board certified in both general and cardiothoracic surgery, and holds academic appointments at Loyola University Medical Center, The University of Chicago Medicine and The University of Illinois at Chicago.

CTCA Chicago: Tami Carrillo, MD, Interventional Radiologist
CTCA Chicago recently welcomed Tami Carrillo, MD, as an Interventional Radiologist. Dr. Carrillo is fellowship trained in interventional radiology and board certified in diagnostic radiology. She also holds a certificate of added qualification in vascular interventional radiology. She completed her medical degree, residency and fellowship at the University of Chicago/University of Chicago Hospital.

CTCA Tulsa: Elesyia Outlaw-Evans, MD, Radiation Oncologist
CTCA Tulsa recently welcomed Elesyia Outlaw-Evans, MD, as a Radiation Oncologist. Dr. Outlaw is board certified by the American Board of Radiology in radiation oncology. She earned her medical degree at Saint Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo., and completed an internal medicine internship at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas in Texas. Dr. Outlaw then completed a residency in radiation oncology at Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

CTCA Atlanta: Hima Bindu Lingam, MD Medical Oncologist
CTCA Atlanta recently welcomed Medical Oncologist Hima Bindu Lingam, MD, to the team at the Thoracic Center. Dr. Lingam is board certified in medical oncology and hematology, and completed a fellowship in hematology and medical oncology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and residency at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. Dr. Lingam earned her medical degree at Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

CTCA Phoenix: Rammohan Marla, MD, Thoracic Surgeon
CTCA Phoenix recently welcomed Thoracic Surgeon Rammohan Marla, MD, FACS, FACC, to its team. Dr. Marla earned his medical degree from Rangaraya Medical College in Kakinada, India. He completed his residency in general surgery at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and in thoracic surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

CTCA Philadelphia: Alexander Trebelev, MD; Brian Bianco, DO; Andrew Kim, MD
CTCA Philadelphia recently welcomed three former Hahnemann University Hospital physicians to its medical team: Interventional Radiologist Alexander Trebelev, MD, DABR; Interventional Radiologist Brian Bianco, DO, MBA, DABR; and Diagnostic Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Specialist Andrew E. Kim, MD, MBA.

Dr. Trebelev, who joins CTCA Philadelphia as Chief Of Diagnostic And Interventional Radiology, is board certified in diagnostic radiology with a certificate of added qualification in vascular and interventional radiology. He completed a medical degree at Jefferson Medical College (now known as Thomas Jefferson University Sidney Kimmel Medical College), followed by a residency in diagnostic radiology at Albert Einstein Medical Center and a fellowship in vascular and interventional radiology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Bianco, CTCA Philadelphia’s new Director of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, is board certified in diagnostic and interventional radiology by the American Board of Radiology. Dr. Bianco completed his medical degree at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a residency in diagnostic radiology at Drexel University College of Medicine, Hahnemann University Hospital; and a fellowship in vascular and interventional radiology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Kim, Diagnostic Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Specialist, is board certified in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. He underwent medical training, including a nuclear radiology/nuclear medicine fellowship, at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Kim completed a residency in diagnostic radiology at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and earned his medical degree at New York Medical College.
Dr. Muilenburg highlights cancer screenings on 12 News

Diego Muilenburg, MD, FACS, Surgical Oncologist at CTCA Phoenix, stresses the importance of colon screenings for Phoenix’s 12 News. According to Dr. Muilenburg, the recommended age to start screenings is 50, but earlier if there is a family history of colon cancer.

Dr. Aithal discusses breast cancer prevention and treatment with The Mt. Laurel Sun

Sramila Aithal, MD, Hematologist and Medical Oncologist at CTCA Philadelphia, recently discussed breast cancer awareness, prevention and treatment with The Mt. Laurel Sun. Dr. Aithal stresses the importance of individualized treatment for breast cancer, rather than “one size fits all,” taking into account each patient’s interests, desires and “how they could tolerate a given treatment.”

Dr. Rich discusses the dangers of vaping in the Marietta Daily Journal

Patricia Rich, MD, Medical Oncologist and Vice Chief of Staff at CTCA Atlanta, discusses the dangers and ramifications of vaping with the Marietta Daily Journal. Dr. Rich, who is also a member of the American Lung Association’s Lung Cancer Expert Medical Advisory Panel, calls for the “implementation of educational programs and additional research into potential risks associated with vaping.”

Dr. Amin stresses patient understanding in The Lakeland Ledger

Miral Amin, MD, FACS, Surgical Oncologist and Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon for CTCA Chicago, discusses the importance of patient persistence in The Lakeland Ledger. “It’s important to have a solid and thorough understanding of the stage of the disease, the extent of the disease (size, lymph nodes and the pathologic type). By asking those questions of your physician and care team, you can get a thorough understanding of what you are facing and the best approach to address each of those areas,” she says.
CTCA expands its clinical trial offerings as a member of the National Clinical Trials Network

CTCA was recently accepted into the National Cancer Institute’s National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN), which “provides the infrastructure for NCI-funded treatment and primary advanced imaging trials to improve the lives of people with cancer.” CTCA is a member of the NRG Oncology Group of the NCTN, which brings together the unique and complementary research areas of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP), the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) and the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG). This opportunity allows medical oncologists, surgical oncologists and radiation oncologists to work together to provide expanded treatment options to improve symptom management and survivorship for patients we serve, exemplifying the CTCA Mother Standard® of care.

Lymphedema Clinic opens at CTCA Philadelphia

Lymphedema, commonly associated with breast cancer, is a condition in which excess lymphatic fluid collects in the tissue and causes swelling in specific areas of the body. There are currently 3-5 million Americans living with lymphedema, and 68% of lymphedema cases are related to cancer. CTCA Philadelphia recently opened its lymphedema clinic to existing CTCA patients as well as to outside patients, some of whom suffer from lymphedema without a cancer diagnosis. Patients who come to the lymphedema clinic visit with a multidisciplinary team to help reduce limb volume and improve limb function, allowing them to return to daily activities.

Dr. Hansra presents on cancer and obesity

Damien Hansra, MD, CTCA Atlanta Medical Oncologist, presented an abstract at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO®) Quality Care Symposium. “Evaluation of Cancer Patients’ Perspectives on Weight Management and Counseling at a Comprehensive Cancer Center” reported the results of a survey on cancer patients’ opinions on weight management counseling. Evidence indicated that almost all patients would like to discuss weight loss with their oncologist on the first visit or after primary treatment has been completed. Further, patients prefer education about why weight loss is important to be included in their weight loss counseling.

Dr. Alraiyes presents on lung challenges at pulmonology conference

Abdul Hamid Alraiyes, MD, FCCP, Director of Interventional Pulmonology and Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at CTCA Chicago, recently presented at the American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (AABIP) Conference. Dr. Alraiyes, who was also recently elected to the AABIP’s Board of Directors, served as session chair of the Bronchoscopic Lung Volume Reduction meeting and session speaker on Percutaneous Dilational Tracheostomy Complications.

CTCA Tulsa nurses named to Great 100 Nurses list

Tulsa nurses Rachelle Bellis, RN, ADN; Misty Carruthers, RN, ADN; Dacia Meydag, RN, BSN; Patrick Nobles, RN, BSN; and Jessica Nugent, RN, ADN, were named to the Great 100 Nurses list! All nurses receiving this recognition were nominated by the public and selected by the Great 100 Nurses Foundation based on their concern for humanity, contributions to the profession of nursing and their mentoring of others.

Drs. Bonilla and Crilley present on recent oncology advancements

Arturo Loaiza-Bonilla MD, MSEd, FACP, President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Society of Oncology and Hematology (PSOH) and Vice Chair of the Department of Medical Oncology at CTCA, addressed recent developments in oncology, including precision medicine, digital health and research at the PSOH Annual Scientific Meeting. Pamela Crilley, DO, Chair of the Department of Medical Oncology at CTCA, also presented on the role clinical pathways play in a value-based care approach that focuses on clinical trials and patient-centered care.
Would you like to meet other CTCA patients and receive regular information to help you on your healing journey? Stop by the Cancer Fighters® Corner at your hospital or visit cancerfighter.com.

Please send all comments and questions about this newsletter to CTCAInnovator@ctca-hope.com. The newsletter is now also available on myctca.com.

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