



On Page 2...



Juravinski Hospital
and Cancer Centre
Foundation

A C L O S E R L O O K @

The cough just would not go away, but a diagnosis of lung cancer was the last thing Christine expected.

“When my cough didn’t improve, my doctor ordered x-rays and then a CT scan,” recalls Christine Hilton of Grimsby. “In July 2015, I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. It didn’t make any sense to me because I never smoked a day in my life and I wasn’t even fifty years old. I soon learned from my doctors that anyone can get lung cancer, even non-smokers.”

Despite feeling devastated, Christine made a conscious effort to stay optimistic.

“I was determined to do whatever it took to keep moving forward and get through this,” she says.

“The best medicine for
(Continued on page 2)

Also Inside:

- *New VP Development*
- *Complex surgeries*
- *Tomorrow Stems From You™*

Living with Lung Cancer



FALL
2017

Living with Lung Cancer

(Continued from page 1) me was laughter. I needed to stay positive and hopeful.”

The cancer was too advanced for surgery as it had spread to Christine’s liver, spine and sternum. Targeted cancer therapy in St. Catharines was initially effective, reducing the primary tumour by half, but she grew resistant to the therapy within nine months and the cancer began to grow again. Christine was then sent to Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre for radiation treatment.

“When I was at the hospital, I suddenly lost function on one side of my body and I couldn’t talk properly. A CT scan and MRI revealed that the cancer had spread to my brain, so I underwent whole-brain radiation treatment and lost my hair.”

Christine joined a clinical trial at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre under the care of Dr. Rosalyn Juergens. The trial involved a unique combination of immunotherapy and chemotherapy medications that complement one another.

“We began to see great results during my regular CT scans,” Christine says. “The cancer in my bone and spine are gone and several spots in my liver are gone. The brain tumour is virtually

gone and my primary lung tumour seems to be under control.”

The most challenging side effects of Christine’s treatment have been the loss of hearing in the upper frequencies and loss of balance.

“They were side effects of the chemotherapy, but it was necessary and I’m just grateful to be alive. I have two hearing aids now and I don’t see the hearing loss as a hindrance to my life. I’m also seeing ongoing improvements in my balance.”

Christine is currently in the “maintenance” phase of the clinical trial. She will continue this treatment until either there is a further change in the cancer or she is no longer able to tolerate the medication.

As an advocate of lung cancer awareness and education, Christine is proud to be a peer supporter of others who are battling the disease.

“I’m extremely hopeful about my future and I want people to realize that it is possible to beat lung cancer. I encourage people to support the Foundation and help more patients like myself because we need to spread hope for those with lung cancer.”



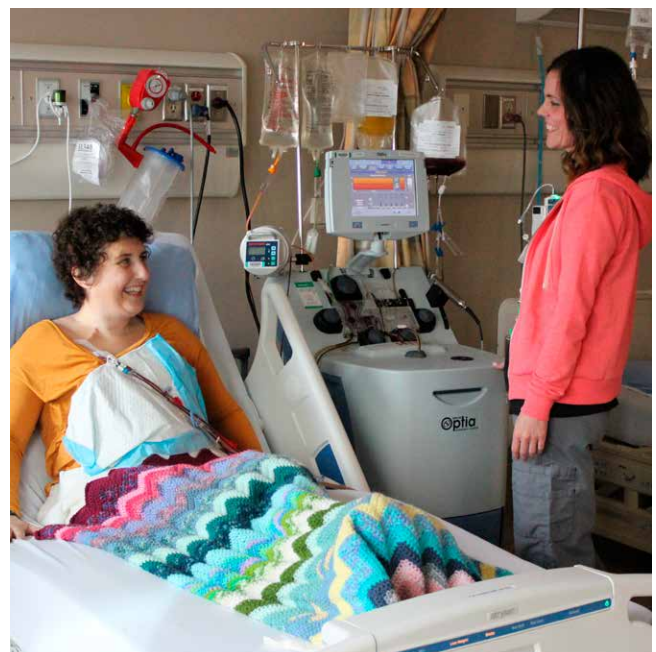
To watch a video about Christine’s journey or to make a donation, visit hamiltonhealth.ca/christineh

Blood Cancer Patients Need Your Support

“Blood cancers are serious and potentially life-threatening conditions,” says Dr. Kylie Lopic, Hematologist and Physician Spokesperson at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre for the *Tomorrow Stems From You™* campaign. “Stem cell transplants allow us to give patients and their families hope for tomorrow – a chance to live a full and healthy life, cancer-free.”

Tomorrow Stems From You™ is a fundraising campaign to enable the expansion of a dedicated and specialized clinical space, and to purchase essential equipment, so that Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre can provide 50 per cent more cancer patients with potentially life-saving stem cell transplants.

“This expansion will allow us as clinicians to provide the best care for more stem cell transplant patients in an environment that is designed and built with both their physical and emotional needs in mind,” says Dr. Lopic. “It is incredibly rewarding to share in their journey and work together toward a healthier tomorrow.”



Nothing Simple about Complex Liver and Pancreatic Surgeries

Tumours growing on the liver. Cancer of the pancreas or gallbladder. These are complex conditions that require specialized and sophisticated care.

Complex hepatobiliary and pancreatic (HPB) surgeries are a specialty at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre. “Hepatobiliary” refers to the liver, gallbladder, bile ducts and pancreas, which aid in digestion.

“One of our most common surgeries is the removal of tumours in the head of the pancreas,” explains Dr. Ved Tandan, Head of General Surgery at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre. “This type of surgery is extremely complicated and requires hours because the bowel, pancreas, bile duct and gallbladder are all connected.”

HPB surgeons like Dr. Tandan work closely with the Interventional Radiology (IR) team, as patients undergo scans through IR to provide initial imaging for diagnosis and treatment planning. They also collaborate with pathologists and medical oncologists in deciding the best approach for treatment.

Dr. Tandan is proud that Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre is one of Canada’s leaders in liver and pancreatic surgery.

“We are also pioneers in laproscopic liver surgery, which involves incisions only 6 or 7 centimetres in length as



Dr. Ved Tandan and Dr. Bonnie Shum

opposed to much larger incisions used with conventional surgery,” he says. “This translates into less pain, faster recovery and often a faster return to other needed treatment such as chemotherapy or additional surgery.”

Donor support is vital to the specialized work done by the HPB surgical team.

“It’s vital to our success. We require a great deal of important equipment to perform such complex procedures and we couldn’t do what we do without donor support.”

The Foundation Welcomes New VP of Development

The Foundation extends its warmest welcome to K.C. Carruthers, the new Vice-President of Development, who is responsible for the fundraising programs of Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre Foundation, and the overall planned-giving program at Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation.

K.C. has worked in the philanthropic sector for more than 25 years, holding senior positions with both academic and health care foundations.

“I’m extremely pleased for the opportunity to join the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation team,” says K.C. “I am looking forward to working hand in hand with those who wish to have a positive impact on the health care provided by Hamilton Health Sciences.”



K.C. Carruthers

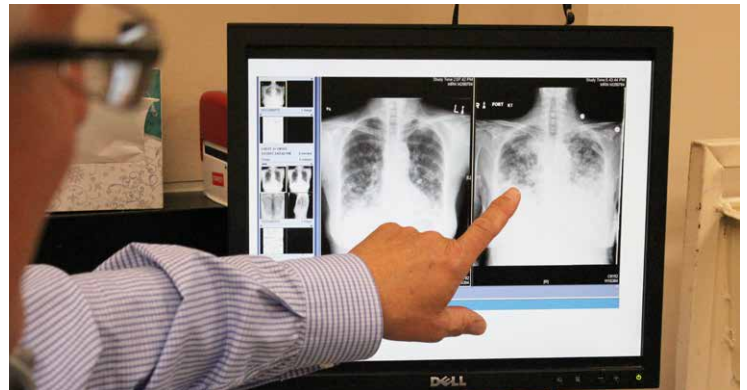
Activating New Ovarian Cancer Therapies

Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre is home to the only program for treating complex gynecological cancers in the region. To stay on the forefront of gynecological cancer therapies, Drs. Hal Hirte and Ali Ashkar are championing an innovative research study that aims to uncover a new treatment for ovarian cancer.

A healthy immune system is able to destroy infected cells and tumours using natural killer (NK) cells. In a person who is battling cancer, the functionality of NK cells is impaired.

“We wanted to explore whether we could isolate the NK cells from a patient, increase the number of these cells and activate their potency, then use those cells to fight the patient’s ovarian cancer,” explains Dr. Hirte.

By extracting both NK and ovarian cancer cells, Drs. Hirte and Ashkar have successfully activated these cells to fight cancer during their laboratory experiments. The researchers are in the process of expanding this study into a clinical trial involving patients.



Both Drs. Hirte and Ashkar are thankful for the funding provided by the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre Foundation Research Grants, which enabled them to prove that their hypothesis is feasible.

“This therapy is relatively safe, as we’re using a patient’s own immune cells to fight the cancer,” says Dr. Ashkar. “We’re very hopeful that this study will develop into new, cutting-edge treatment options for patients.”

Quality Health Care is Everyone’s Business

Operating a successful business can be about more than making a profit or beating the competition. Businesses can also make a genuine, positive impact on the lives of people in their community.

The Care4 program is an innovative fundraising partnership that empowers businesses to demonstrate social responsibility by making a financial commitment on behalf of their customers to Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation. When consumers make a purchase from a Care4 partner, a portion of the purchase (unique to each partner) directly supports patient care, education, research and equipment purchases across the supported sites of Hamilton Health Sciences.

You can support Care4 in different exciting ways:

- 1) As a consumer – by choosing products and services from Care4 program members.
- 2) As a business owner – by joining the program as a Care4 partner.

Visit hamiltonhealth.ca/care4 to see a list of member businesses. Join our caring community. Whether your business is large or small, the Care4 program is right for you. Please connect with Beth at 905-521-2100 ext. 44847 or whitebe@hhsc.ca.

