

Imagine

Imagine a world without cancer



It was so comforting...



knowing that someone was going to be there for me.

Upon her diagnosis at the age of 42 with a common form of breast cancer called intraductal carcinoma, Janice Brock made a choice. She chose to be a survivor. And every step of the way, someone was there to reaffirm her already strong belief that she would beat this disease.


Her care team – from the mammography technician who conducted her mammogram to the surgeon who performed a lumpectomy procedure – provided clear, honest answers to difficult questions, which gave Brock an invaluable foundation of knowledge and allowed her to move forward with confidence through each stage of treatment.

Church members, colleagues and friends offered encouragement through prayer, small gestures and kind words. And her family never left her side.

“Telling them about my diagnosis was especially difficult because we had just lost my mom four months prior.”

Her husband of 22 years, Lewis, never left her side. He accompanied her to the pre-surgery appointments and sat with her through many hours of chemotherapy. “Everyone in the Infusion Center and clinics was so accommodating and allowed my family to be with me,” she says. “It was so comforting knowing that someone was going to be there for me.”

With determination, comprehensive care and a strong support system to lean on, Janice beat cancer. And today, she helps others face the disease with the same resolve through her involvement with Sisters Conquering Cancer, a support group for minority women.



Connecting with patients

allows me to determine how to best care for them as individuals.

At UVA, a majority of our clinicians have focused their entire careers on cancer treatment, with some specializing in just one or two types of the disease – a level of expertise that puts many UVA physicians among America's Top Doctors for Cancer. But what truly sets them apart is their ability to connect with their patients.

For gynecologic oncologist Leigh Cantrell, MD, getting to know each of her patients is essential to providing the very best in individualized care. "Deciding what surgery to perform or what chemotherapy to give is something I'm trained to do based on the type of disease," she says. "Knowing how to reassure my patients, to comfort them and educate them so that they are at peace with their diagnosis is more challenging because everyone is unique."

"Everyone responds differently, emotionally and physically. I have to determine how to care for each individual as they are – I feel like this is a big part of my job and it's what makes it so enjoyable."



*Every one of my patients
brings meaning to my research*



As a surgical oncologist, Todd Bauer, MD, battles cancer in the operating room one patient at a time. In the laboratory, his efforts to fight this disease have the potential to treat not just his own patients but those across the country.

At UVA, our research teams increasingly pair basic scientists with clinicians like Bauer in an effort to ensure that the questions we are asking and the problems we are trying to solve are those that truly pertain to our patients. As a result, we've made significant advances in early detection methods and more targeted treatments for pancreatic cancer, giving patients a better shot at survival.

Through a collaborative effort with UVA biomedical engineers, Bauer and fellow researchers recently developed a new molecular imaging scan for the disease that can help identify malignant lesions as small as a sesame seed, which will allow for earlier detection. Approval by the FDA means this test will now be evaluated in pancreatic cancer patients through a clinical trial. "This is the goal of translational research – to bring new treatments from the laboratory back to the clinic," says Bauer.

To meet this goal – to find the right answers – we understand that we have to ask the right questions. For Bauer, it is his close relationship with his patients that gives him the necessary focus and motivates him to keep pushing forward. "Every one of my patients brings meaning to my research," he says. "And with every new discovery in the laboratory, every new treatment we find that has the potential to go to clinical trial, I see their faces."

meaning



I bring to the team insight

insight

about how the patient is feeling.

Ginny Anderson, RN, BSN, OCN, notices when a patient is weaker than usual. She knows when more fluids are needed or if a change in medication is required, and she knows when a patient needs to hear just one more time that everything is going to be OK.

As a Nurse Care Coordinator at UVA Cancer Center, Anderson is at the center of a thoracic oncology care team made up of many – including oncologists, surgeons, nutritionists,

radiation oncologists and others, who share the same goal: to provide our patients with their best shot at recovery from lung cancer.

“I am the patient’s direct link to the care team throughout the course of treatment,” she says. “I bring to the team insight about how the patient is feeling or how the patient will be cared for at home...anything that might impact his treatment. And then I bring information back to the patient so he is informed of his progress.”

To be an effective advocate for her patients, Anderson says she must first be a friend. “I talk to my patients like they are family,” she says. “I allow them to open up and ask questions and I make myself available. I know I’ve done my job well when patients acknowledge that I care.”



I hope to encourage patients

and give them something to warm their hearts.

Sione Wade was diagnosed with breast cancer almost a decade ago at the age of 53. And although her treatment was mercifully brief and 100 percent effective, facing this disease gave her a new purpose.

"I believe we go through difficult times so that we can understand how we can help others," she says. And Wade was determined to do just that.

Two years after she got the "all clear" from her oncologist, she began volunteering at UVA Cancer Center. While there are many volunteers throughout the Cancer Center who fulfill a variety of roles, from delivering flowers to visiting with patients, Wade prefers to remain behind the scenes.

Each week for the past eight years, she has taken the lead in creating kits for others who are newly diagnosed with breast cancer. Funded by donations from the

Women's Four-Miler event, the contents of the kits (cookbook, journal, nutrition guide, music, daily planner) have changed over the years, but there is one thing that has remained constant: a personal note of encouragement written by Wade.

It reads:

*Be encouraged and take one day at a time
Knowing that your strength will come
In moments...
In hours...
In months...
Just at the right time*

It is people like Wade who help us further our mission to make a difference in the lives of those we serve, both through big discoveries and small, yet meaningful, gestures. To find out how you can become a volunteer at UVA Cancer Center, call 434.924.5251.

When we look into the future, we see
men, women and children whose lives
are untouched by cancer.

Until that day, we know that too many
will be diagnosed every year with some
form of this disease.

For them, and for their loved ones,
UVA Cancer Center is here to offer care
that goes far beyond the expected
and support that lasts a lifetime. To learn
more, call us at **434.924.9333**.



Cancer Center