For generations, the word “cancer” was whispered in dread. And while we are no less fearful of a cancer diagnosis today, we are fortunate to live at a time when the causes of cancer and the ability to prevent it or diagnose it in the early stages are better understood.

Providence Health & Services, Southern California, has built a strong, integrated health-care network across the Los Angeles area, where primary care physicians regularly interact with specialists. They share patient information and expertise to battle cancer, if not before it starts, in the very early stages when cancer is most curable and in its later stages where more specialized expertise is required.

Providence Southern California, with six award-winning medical centers, treats cancer in our communities, close to home. And each patient has access to the entire network’s experts, research, innovation and leading-edge technology that includes the latest genetic testing to plan cancer treatment.

“Under the direction of our nationally recognized staff and consulting physicians, our team approach to patient care allows us to share successes across our hospitals,” said Laurence Eason, M.D., chief medical officer, Providence Southern California. “When one learns we all learn and our patients benefit. Dedicated physicians and staff utilize leading technologies and therapies as vital tools to address the patient’s total needs, in body, mind and spirit, to ensure the best possible patient outcomes.

Embedded in every healthcare decision is our mission to thoughtfully address all aspects of patient care from diagnosis to discharge to the home and beyond.”

Two of the premier cancer centers in the Greater Los Angeles Area are within the Providence Southern California network, both founded by the families of Hollywood luminaries who succumbed to cancer.

The John Wayne Cancer Institute at Providence Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica and the Roy and Patricia Disney Family Cancer Center at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank anchor Providence Southern California’s oncology programs, conducting research, investing in the latest diagnostics and therapeutics and offering integrative medicine.

Providence, a Catholic not-for-profit health-care network, is dedicated to excellence and compassion in caring for patients, addressing not only the physical illness, but spiritual, emotional, psychological and family issues as well.

Established in 1981 by the family of legendary Western star John Wayne, the John Wayne Cancer Institute at Providence Saint John’s Health Center is committed to research and state-of-the-art treatment. The JWCI oncology team specializes in translational research – where findings in basic research are translated to actual care to improve patient outcomes – and in training the next generation of cancer sur-

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TH e Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) exists to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients. LLS is the world’s largest voluntary health agency dedicated to funding research for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and other blood cancers. Thanks to research, survival rates for patients with many blood cancers have doubled, tripled and even quadrupled since the early 1960s. Despite these advances, about one third of patients with a blood cancer still do not survive even five years after their diagnosis, which is why more funding is needed to bring better therapies to patients, and faster.

To date, LLS has invested more than $1 billion in research to advance therapies and save lives. LLS research grants have funded many of today’s most promising advances, including targeted therapies and immunotherapies. Sustained research investments are fueling an explosion of innovative science and clinical successes. New and effective treatments, once unimaginable, are saving lives today.

And, advances are far-reaching. From 2000 through 2013, almost 60,000 inquiries and performed more than 6,000 clinical trial searches using the LLS’s TrialCheck tool. The Information Resource Center, which provides the public, families, health professionals and people living with blood-related cancer accurate, up-to-date, disease-related information and referral services; webinars and educational webcasts; support groups; information on the latest clinical trials and treatments; workshops that address survivorship issues; and an award-winning website. Since its inception in 1997, the Information Resource Center has interacted with more than one million callers. Last year alone, LLS specialists fielded almost 60,000 inquiries and performed more than 6,000 clinical trial searches using the LLS’s TrialCheck tool. LLS is the voice for all blood cancer patients and is working to ensure that all blood cancer patients have access to the best available therapies. The organization touches patients and their families through our chapters across the United States and Canada. LLS advocates for policies at the federal and state levels to accelerate the approval of new treatments and ensure access to quality, affordable and coordinated care.

LLS is changing the landscape of cancer care with more than 300 active research projects that explore different avenues of new and adventurous research; ones with promise and ones that will save lives not someday, but today.

With LLS’s research partnerships and collaborations with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, patients support services and advocates working for blood cancer patients everywhere, someday is today.

How to Help Save Lives
As a participant, volunteer or donor to LLS, you will be supporting projects across the entire research continuum, from basic laboratory science through clinical trials. And LLS’s business alliances with biotechnology companies and contract research organizations are helping advance projects more quickly from the laboratory to clinical trials for blood cancer patients.

Your contribution also supports LLS’s services that provide patients with the latest disease and treatment information as well as support programs. Many LLS funded therapies are not only saving the lives of blood cancer patients but also helping other patients as well. Blood cancer treatments such as Gleevec, Rituxan and Velcade are now used to treat patients with stomach cancer, autoimmune disease and are being tested in lung, breast and prostate cancers.

Visit www.LLS.org today to join LLS in the fight against blood cancers.

Help LLS Get the Word Out
You can promote the work of LLS by advocating for increased research funding, by communicating with legislators, by representing blood cancer patients among local healthcare coalitions, and by bringing media attention to impending issues affecting blood cancer patients, family members or caregivers.

Visit www.LLS.org/raiseyourvoice today.

American Cancer Society Calls for Sustained Effort to Reduce Cancer in Ethnic Minorities

The American Cancer Society has made it an initiative to make cancer education and screenings available to people who have little access to quality healthcare. Disparities of care among minorities predominantly arise from inequities in work, wealth, education, housing, and opportunities as well as social barriers to high-quality cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment services, according to the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Facts and Figures 2015.

Research shows that ethnic minorities, as well as other medically under-served groups, have higher rates of cancer mortality because many are less likely to be diagnosed early or receive optimal treatment. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, including access to quality health care – these population groups have not benefited equally from advances in cancer screening, early detection, and treatment,” said American Cancer Society Chief Medical Officer Dr. Otis Brawley.

Of note:
• People with lower socioeconomic status have disproportionately higher cancer death rates than those with higher socioeconomic status, regardless of demographic factors such as race/ethnicity.
• Disparities in the cancer burden among racial and ethnic minorities largely reflect obstacles to receiving high-quality cancer services related to cancer prevention, early detection, and high-quality treatment, with poverty as the overriding factor.
• Discrimination is another factor that contributes to racial/ethnic disparities in cancer mortality. Racial and ethnic minorities tend to receive lower-quality health care than whites even when insurance status, age, severity of disease, and health status are comparable.
• Black men and women are more likely to die from cancer than any racial or ethnic group. Compared to Asian/Pacific Islanders, who are least likely to die from cancer, the death rate for African American men have higher incidence and death rates than non-Hispanic whites for every cancer type except for kidney cancer.
• Hispanics have the lowest rates of tobacco-related cancers, such as lung and oral cavity, because of historically low smoking prevalence, but among the highest rates for cancers associated with infections, such as liver, stomach, and uterine/cervix.
• Cervical cancer incidence rates among Hispanic women are the highest of any racial/ethnic group, 50% higher than those among non-Hispanic whites.
• Compared to other racial/ethnic groups, Asian and Pacific Islanders have the lowest overall cancer incidence and mortality rates. However, similar to Hispanics, this population has among the highest rates for cancers of the liver and stomach.
• American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest kidney cancer incidence and death rates of any racial or ethnic population.

For those who bear the brunt of this unequal cancer burden is about potential ways to meaningfully lifesaving screening tests can be difficult, if not impossible. Because of strong collaboration with partnering organizations, the American Cancer Society and ACS CAN are able to reach these critical populations and help save more lives.

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of 2.5 million volunteers saving lives and fighting for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. As the largest voluntary health organization, the Society’s efforts have contributed to a 22 percent decline in cancer death rates in the US during the past two decades, and a 50 percent drop in smoking rates. Thanks in part to ACS’s progress nearly 14.5 million Americans who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will celebrate more birthdays this year. As the nation’s largest private, not-for-profit investor in cancer research, ACS is finding cures and ensuring people facing cancer have the help they need and continue the fight for access to quality health care, lifesaving screenings, clean air, and more.

For more information, to get help, or to join the fight, visit cancer.org or call anytime, day or night, at (800) 227-2345.
We help you live your story.

Water-loving, free-flowing and cancer-free.

– Christine from Pacific Palisades, patient of Providence

We’re giving more hope to Southern Californians, one courageous cancer patient at a time, with the innovative research and breakthrough treatments happening at the John Wayne Cancer Institute at Providence Saint John’s Health Center and the Roy and Patricia Disney Family Cancer Center at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center.

california.providence.org/cancer
888-HEALING (432-5464)
The authors have seen many novel developments over the last decade in the treatment of cancer, providing new hope to cancer patients across the globe,” said Anton Blichik, M.D., the institute’s chief of medicine and professor of surgery, and one of the nation’s leading surgical oncologists. “At the John Wayne Cancer Institute we conduct translational research, which means we apply our scientific breakthroughs at our patients’ bedside, sharing in triumphs rooted in the work we do. And, just as important, we are ensuring our mission continues as we train the next generation of cancer surgeons and researchers.”

The institute conducts research on numerous complex cancers, focusing in particular on melanoma, sarcoma and cancers of the breast, colon, liver, pancreas cancer, neuroendocrine system, stomach, brain and prostate.

The JWCI’s Margie Petersen Breast Center now provides an innovative nutrition program that is an integral part of each patient’s breast cancer treatment. The free program also is offered to the Center’s patients deemed as high-risk of developing cancer. The goal is to provide patients with an optimal nutrition plan while going through treatment, as well as to help with long-term wellness. The program focuses on an immune-boosting diet filled with a variety of plant foods such as whole grains, legumes, vegetables and fruits.

The Disney Family Cancer Center in Burbank is the only comprehensive cancer center serving the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Conejo valleys. The center opened in 2010, a free-standing outpatient center with the latest technology; complementary therapies such as herbal medicines, yoga and meditation; psychological and genetic counseling; a research program and spiritual care.

Advanced technology allows for pinpoint radiation to treat tumors but protect surrounding tissues allowing the team to treat skin cancers gently, without scarring.

Every aspect of the center is patient-focused. Patients are issued badges with microchips programmed with their individual choices of lighting, color, music, video and even the temperature of their exam and treatment rooms. They are free to use the center’s music library, Appearance Boutique, healing garden and exercise rooms.

New to the Disney Family Cancer Center is the Thyrsophor programme, which guides cancer survivors and their caregivers through the first three months following cancer treatment. This wellness program includes nutrition and fitness education, integrative medicine, support, access to resources and seminars that includes a variety of programs from cooking classes to stress reduction tips.

While the center at Providence Saint Joseph and Providence Saint John’s medical centers offer comprehensive services, the other four Providence medical centers in the region provide cancer care at the community level, in some cases creating innovative partnerships to advance the level of care.

Quality care, close to home

When the diagnosis is cancer, patients want the best possible care, close to home and family.

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills offers residents of the Santa Clarita and northern San Fernando valleys the expertise of some of the world’s finest oncologists, with access to the latest technology and therapies.

Surgeon oncologist Vijay Trial, M.D., leads a team at Providence Holy Cross that also is on staff at the renowned City of Hope in Duarte. Working with the entire Holy Cross oncology team and nationally ranked nursing staff, this group has helped raise patient care for local residents to a new level.

“Looking at the advancements in the last two years in the field of surgery and the fields of medical oncology – chemotherapy and radiation – Holy Cross is ahead of its time,” Dr. Trial said.

The hospital has invested in the da Vinci robot, utilized in delicate surgeries to help protect nerves and larger blood vessels when removing tumors.

And patients have access to City of Hope’s clinical trials, including new chemotherapy names nicknamed “smart bombs” that target the tumor without damaging healthy tissue.

“These advancements are happening at City of Hope and we are exporting them to Providence Holy Cross,” Dr. Trial said.

Like their sister hospitals, Providence Tarzana Medical Center and Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Centers in Torrance and San Pedro utilize robotic treatment to treat some cancers, particularly for prostate and gynecological surgeries.

Providence Tarzana’s Douglas Morrow, M.D., a general surgeon who specializes in oncology cases, is among the Providence physicians who coordinate efforts to bring physicians together to study individual cases from their areas of expertise – expert-to-expert collaboration is encouraged among Providence physicians to bring new sets of eyes to study and recommend the best treatment.

The goal across Providence is to use these multidisciplinary oncology teams to help prevent, screen, diagnose and treat cancer. Two nurse navigators at Providence Little Company of Mary Torrance and one at Providence San Pedro guide patients through care and treatment and coordinating, explaining and easing the way for patients through the entire continuum of care.

Prevention and early detection crucial in fighting cancer

From the physicians of PMI and Providence AdvancedCare Practice Group, to cancer specialists, the common message is the same – cancer care begins with prevention and early diagnosis. Regular screenings are crucial to positive outcomes when fighting cancer. Education is a part of regular check-ups.

In the South Bay, the Del Amo Diagnostic Center in Torrance and the Breast Center in San Pedro provide both an aggressive and compassionate approach to the fight against cancer. Providence hospitals across California offer digital mammography and are laying plans to acquire advanced three-dimensional mammography for certain conditions.

From advanced diagnostics, to quality oncology services, to patient care, Providence hospitals provide cancer programs that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit.

For more information, visit Providence online at California.providence.org or call (888) HEALING.
THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

CONGRATULATES

THE 2015 LOS ANGELES MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society congratulates this year’s Man & Woman of the Year and the entire class of candidates who competed for the titles. The Class of 2015 raised $1,039,012. Their efforts and commitment have made an impact in the search for cures and effective blood cancer therapies.

For more information, please visit www.mwoy.org/los or call 310.846.5176.