



Valley
Children's
HEALTHCARE



Cancer and Blood Disorders Center

Annual Report



“We continue to grow and continuously bring our best, knowing every child in the Central Valley is counting on us.”

Vinod Balasa, MD
Medical Director

Cancer and Blood Disorders Center

At Valley Children’s, we know each and every child we treat has a future worth fighting for. This last year has been no exception. In FY2018, we had more than 7,000 patient visits in oncology and more than 4,500 patient visits for hematology. We provided care for 161 new cancer diagnoses, ranging from Merced to Kern to Santa Barbara counties.

As one of many subspecialties offered at Valley Children’s, the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center provides the breadth of specialized services and depth of experience to treat the most common and the most complex pediatric hematologic and oncologic conditions. We provide state-of-the-art protocols and clinical trials on par with the nation’s top hospitals.

We are proud of the work we have done this year, as well as the high standards our Cancer and Blood Disorders Center are not only held to, but consistently surpass. We have consistently been in the top 5-8 percent across all Children’s Oncology Group (COG) institutions for enrollment in therapeutic and non-therapeutic clinical trials. In addition, our oncology team was recognized for reaching more than a year without a single central

line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI), a significant achievement when oncology patients are more susceptible to infections than most.

This year, our team’s advocacy efforts have been highlighted beyond our 12-county footprint. Our hematology team received international recognition for its abstract, *Bleeding Disorders Education Day for School Nurses* at the World Federation of Hematology conference in Scotland, which was viewed by 5,015 delegates from 137 countries. Our oncology team received national recognition for initiatives that improve clinical quality and standards with their poster called *An Audit a Day Keeps Errors Away*. This poster tied for first place and was presented at the Children’s Oncology Group (COG) Annual Meeting in Texas.

Throughout this annual report, I am proud to highlight the hard work and accomplishments our team has achieved this year. As our Cancer and Blood Disorders Center continues to emphasize our organizational values of excellence, compassionate care, integrity, innovation, collaboration and stewardship, we also continue to grow and continuously bring our best, knowing every child in the Central Valley is counting on us.

PHYSICIANS



Vinod
Balasa, MD



Vonda
Crouse, MD



Karen
Fernandez, MD



John
Gates, MD



J. Daniel
Ozeran, MD, PhD



Latha
Rao, MD



Faisal
Razzaqi, MD



David
Samuel, MBChB, MD



Bindu
Sathi, MD



Wendy
Tcheng, MD



Ruetima
Titapiwanatakun, MD

NURSE PRACTITIONERS



Katie
Baker, NP



Kelly
Folmer, MSN, CPNP



Terea
Giannetta,
DNP, CPNP, FAANP



Malynda
Kemmer, NP



Therese
Hinz, MSN, PPCNP-BC

SERVICE IN NUMBERS FY2018

Patient Visits

12,322

Hematology - 4,947

Oncology - 7,375

Unique Patients

3,393

Hematology - 1,976

Oncology - 1,256

Newly Diagnosed - 161

Oncology Procedures
with Sedation

1,872

161 Newly Diagnosed Oncology Cases

Blastomas

Ganglioneuroblastoma	1
Nephroblastoma	6
Neuroblastoma	6
Pleuropulmonary Blastoma	1

Brain/ CNS 26

Carcinomas

Thyroid	7
Adenocarcinoma	1
Adrenal Cortical Carcinoma	1

Endocrine

Pineal Germinoma	1
Pineal Papillary Tumor	1
Adrenal Cortical Tumor	1

Genitourinary 7

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis 5

Leukemia 52

Other Hematopoietic Syndromes	7
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Lymphomas 7

Extra-Nodal	3
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Sarcomas

Soft Tissue

Round Cell Sarcoma	1
Ewing Sarcoma	3
Spindle Cell Sarcoma	2
Synovial Sarcoma	1

Bone

Chondrosarcoma	1
Osteosarcoma	7

Other

Ganglioneuroma	1
Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor	1
Malignant Melanoma	1
Malignant Triton Tumor	1
Mature Teratoma	1
Paraganglioma	3
Spindle Cell Malignant Tumor	1

FY2017

Patient Visits

Hematology - 4,663

Oncology - 7,566

Unique Patients

Hematology - 1,827

Oncology - 1,217

Number of
Newly Diagnosed
Oncology Cases

173

CANCER AND BLOOD DISORDERS CENTER OVERVIEW



VALLEY CHILDREN'S

Valley Children's Healthcare – one of the largest pediatric healthcare networks in the nation – provides Central California with the only high-quality, comprehensive care exclusively for children from before birth to young adulthood. With more than 575 physicians and 3,400 staff, Valley Children's delivers family-centered care to more than 1.3 million children in our 12-county service area.

In addition to our main campus in Madera, Valley Children's network of physician offices provides families access to pediatric subspecialists closer to home. Our pediatric hospitalists, intensivists and subspecialists also collaborate with local hospitals to care for more children in their communities.

ONCOLOGY

The Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Valley Children's is one of the leading pediatric cancer centers on the West Coast. It is also the only pediatric oncology center between Los Angeles and the Bay Area, allowing children and their families access to expert care closer to home. Our center includes an outpatient unit and a fully-equipped, 36-bed inpatient unit, Starship Craycroft. Today, Valley Children's cancer patient cure rates average 85 percent.

HEMATOLOGY

At Valley Children's, we treat general hematology disorders such as anemia, thrombocytopenia, platelet disorders and white blood cell disorders. Our Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) is the only federally funded center in the Central Valley recognized for providing comprehensive care to individuals with bleeding and clotting problems such as hemophilia, thromboembolic disorders and von Willebrand disease. We also have a hemoglobinopathy program that is dedicated to the management of individuals with various hemoglobin disorders including sickle cell anemia and thalassemia, which are highly prevalent in the Central Valley. The team performs outpatient blood, platelet and immune globulin transfusions for our pediatric patients who require these regimens. We are part of the Western States Region IX Hemophilia Network and the Thalassemia Western Consortium.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VALLEY CHILDREN'S SPONSORED EVENTS



My Life Our Future (MLOF) Genotyping Day June 2017

The team at Valley Children's was the first in the nation to hold "Genotyping Days" – a day where families were educated about the MLOF program and genetic testing of patients and carriers was efficiently performed. An opportunity was provided for families in the community to engage with the staff.

Attendees:
26 Participants



Annual School Nurses Conference September 2018

A half-day conference that educated the region's school nurses on pathophysiology and treatment modalities of bleeding disorders and in caring for children with cancer.

Attendees:
59 Participants



Annual Childhood Cancer Survivorship Conference September 2018

A free educational conference in partnership with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The conference was an opportunity to hear from other cancer survivors and for families to learn from experts on a variety of survivorship topics.

Attendees:
125 Participants



Patient and Family Education Day April 2018

The Bleeding Disorders Patient and Family Education Day is an opportunity for parents to get advice and learn the latest information about caring for children with hemophilia and von Willebrand disease, bleeding disorders that prevent blood from clotting properly.

Attendees:
64 Participants

VALLEY CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



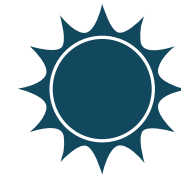
St. Baldrick's Foundation May

Every year, Valley Children's hosts a head-shaving event at our main campus to help raise funds for childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's is the largest private (non-government) funding source of childhood cancer research grants.



Camp Hemotion June

Camp Hemotion is an annual weeklong residential summer camp serving approximately 100 young people, ages 7-20, living with bleeding disorders. Bleeding disorder carriers and siblings also attended. Every year, Valley Children's physicians and nurses take part in this camp in Oakhurst, CA, to educate children and their families about their blood disorders and provide on-site medical support for the duration of the camp.



Camp Sunshine Dreams August

Camp Sunshine Dreams is the largest summer camp for children with cancer in Central California. Valley Children's educated patients and provided around the clock medical supervision for patients 8-15 at Camp Sunshine Dreams ages 8-15 at Camp Sunshine Dreams. The camp is an enjoyable, stimulating and supportive experience that provides emotional and physical support to meet the needs of children attending.



PATIENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Valley Children's Healthcare emphasizes patient and family-centered care, working to provide compassion and support to families through their experience at our facilities. Our Cancer and Blood Disorders Center provides a variety of services to support our families from the moment they walk through our doors.

CHILD LIFE

Focusing on developmental needs of children, child life specialists provide illness and hospital education, surgery preparation, therapeutic and recreation play activities and emotional support for patients and their families.

NURSE NAVIGATORS

Our nurse navigators play a crucial role in coordinating care for patients and families from the time of diagnosis through intensive treatments. They are an important link between the families and subspecialists.

NUTRITION SERVICES

Our registered dietitians in the Clinical Nutrition Department provide medical nutrition support and education to patients.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Through palliative care, children with life-limiting or life-threatening medical conditions receive active treatments at home. Palliative care is treatment of the pain, symptoms and stress of the illness to improve a child's and family's quality of life. We also help families enroll in the state-funded Concurrent Care Program for added home support services as necessary.

REHABILITATION CENTER

We provide the highest quality inpatient and outpatient pediatric rehabilitation care tailored to meet the child's physical, developmental, social, psychosocial and educational needs in a family-centered environment.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Our social workers assist children and families in coping with every part of the cancer journey – through emotional, social or financial issues. They help families understand their child's diagnosis and treatment plan, overcome any barriers to care such as transportation or work-related issues, help kids stay focused on their goals and assist in their transition back to school after his or her care is complete.

ONCOLOGY

WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING FROM AROUND THE WORLD, VALLEY CHILDREN'S ONCOLOGISTS HAVE TREATED MANY RARE DISEASES, INCLUDING:

- Rosai-Dorfman
- Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis
- Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)
- Embryonal Sarcoma of the Liver
- Adrenocortical Tumor
- Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma
- Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL)
- Infant Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)
- Pleuropulmonary Blastoma
- Synovial Sarcoma
- Rhabdomyosarcoma
- Burkitt Lymphoma

ABOUT OUR ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Approximately 450 patients are enrolled in Children's Oncology Group (COG) studies.

Valley Children's has consistently been in the top **5 - 8 percent** across all COG institutions for enrollment in therapeutic and non-therapeutic trials.

As an active member of COG and a participant in many industry-sponsored clinical trials, we offer our patients access to **95** open clinical trials to treat a variety of pediatric cancers.

Each year, approximately **35 percent** of our new patients have common cancers such as Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) and Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). Approximately **10 percent** of our new patients have lymphomas.

Approximately **30 percent** of new patients are diagnosed with solid tumors. The most common types of solid tumors in children include neuroblastoma, soft tissue sarcoma, hepatoblastoma, retinoblastoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma and Wilms tumor.

Brain and spinal cord cancers are seen in approximately **20 percent** of our newly diagnosed oncology patients.

NURSE NAVIGATORS



Laura
Andrews



Marirose
Larkins



Kimberly
Ling



Tina
Little



Maria
Padilla



Ellen
Tsudama



Sia
Vang

NAVIGATING WITH EXPERT CARE

When asked what their duties include, numerous jobs are listed off: nurse, teacher, part case manager, advocate and even sometimes a spiritual counselor. What their name tags actually read is “Nurse Navigator.”

Nurse navigators are defined as trained individuals who guide patients through the healthcare network and help them overcome barriers to optimize care. However, up until very recently, nurse navigators for pediatric oncology were unheard of in California. That is, until a few Valley Children’s nurses recognized an opportunity to provide personalized quality care for children and their families and worked hard to establish the first pediatric oncology team of nurse navigators in Central California. With each oncology and hematology patient who comes in being assigned to a nurse navigator, these nurses are positively impacting thousands of lives a year.

When children are initially diagnosed with cancer, they meet with their designated nurse navigator. These nurse navigators stay with the patients both through their inpatient and outpatient care. While parents are concerned and potentially stressed and anxious about the health of their child, these nurses work hard to ensure any and all of necessary appointments and tests are scheduled on time in order not to delay any treatments. The nurses work to go above and beyond, to strategically scheduling all treatments and appointments in the same day to help minimize family travel.

Connections with patients and their nurse navigators don’t end with a patient’s final treatments. Nurse navigators stay in contact and remain a resource for families anywhere from six months after treatments end until three years, when then they are transitioned into the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program.

“Patients know they aren’t alone and realize someone will be with them the whole time,” Nurse Navigator Kimberly Ling said.

COMPREHENSIVE HEMATOLOGY CARE

As the only federally funded center in Central California, our Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) provides comprehensive care to patients with bleeding and clotting problems. Valley Children's also has a hemoglobinopathy program, which includes sickle cell anemia and thalassemia, a prevalent condition in the Central Valley. We see more than 25 outpatient visits every day and our hematologists diagnose and treat the most rare hematologic cases, not limited to, but including:

- **Aplastic Anemia**
- **Fanconi Anemia**
- **Diamond Blackfan Anemia**
- **Factor 13 deficiency**
- **Combined Factor Deficiencies**
- **Platelet Disorders**
- **Rare types of von Willebrand disease**

As one of the 140 Hemophilia Treatment Centers in the nation, our physicians participate and collaborate with key research groups to improve cure rates for our young patients. These collaborations include:

- **The American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network**
- **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**
- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**
- **California Sickle Cell Planning Initiative**
- **California Rare Disease Surveillance Program**
- **Western States/Region IX HTC Network**
- **Thalassemia Western Consortium**

Our expert hematology services reach all areas of our network's footprint with our pediatric subspecialists seeing patients at our Bakersfield and Modesto specialty care centers. We also provide telemedicine support for hematology at our specialty care center in Bakersfield to bring high-quality care closer to home.





CCARE



Sukhjeet Singh
Batth, MD, MS



Christine
Chang, MD



Dexter
Estrada, MD



Steven
Hager, DO



Robert
Lemon, MD



Jedidia
Monson, MD

CCARE: HOW THE PARTNERSHIP IS BENEFITTING THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

Prior to 2015, pediatric patients with blood disorders found themselves transitioning out of Valley Children's when they reached 21 years of age. This meant that for any doctor visits or prescriptions, patients would have to leave the Central Valley.

However, all that changed when Valley Children's and California Cancer Associates for Research & Excellence (cCare) partnered together to provide an adult hematology program.

Twice a month, almost all patients with bleeding and clotting disorders who are older than 21 have an opportunity to come to Valley Children's for appointments. This allows adult patients to receive medical advice, see hematology specialists, become cleared for surgery, have medications refilled and receive medical education at a facility they're more familiar with. This partnership has opened the door for more than 52 adult patients in 2016, 151 adult patients in FY2017 and 197 adult patients in FY2018.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Valley Children's continues to expand our research efforts in order to provide expert care for our patients, while contributing to a greater medical knowledge base for all children. Our physicians have representation in national and regional committees and collaborate with research groups and top institutions to improve cure rates for our patients.

CHILDREN'S ONCOLOGY GROUP (COG)

The Children's Oncology Group (COG), a National Cancer Institute-supported clinical trials group, is the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer research. Currently, Valley Children's is a participant in 76 different therapeutic COG studies and 19 non-therapeutic studies.

NORTH AMERICAN CONSORTIUM FOR HISTIOCYTOSIS (NACHO)

Valley Children's Healthcare is an associate member of the North American Consortium for Histiocytosis (NACHO), with physicians Faisal Razzaqi, MD, and David Samuel, MD, as Institutional Co-Principal Investigators. This associate membership has allowed our hospital to open two different clinical studies in FY18. These studies include LCH-IV, the most current international clinical trial for children with Langerhans cell Histiocytosis and NACHO-BIO, a study aimed to better understand the biology of the histiocytoses.

INTERNATIONAL RARE HISTIOCYTIC DISORDER REGISTRY (IRHDR)

As part of the International Rare Histiocytic Disorder Registry (IRHDR), patients with rare diagnoses, such as Rosai-Dorfman and Juvenile Xanthogranuloma, are able to receive the required depth and breadth of care needed. In addition, involvement with IRHDR means our physicians and healthcare are contributing to a worldwide knowledge base while our patients benefit from the most specialized information from around the world.

MY LIFE OUR FUTURE (MLOF)

The "My Life, Our Future" (MLOF) research project is free genetic testing that is available to people with Hemophilia A and B. Genotyping is the process of identifying the specific genetic code responsible for an individual's hemophilia. Much like a finger print, this genotyping can provide meaningful information to participants and can serve as a critical roadmap to greater scientific understanding and new treatment approaches for those affected by hemophilia. Valley Children's enrolled 200 affected patients and potential carriers into the project before it ended in December 2017.

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

Our region serves the most ethnic and socioeconomically diverse population in the nation. HRSA provides grants which give individuals access to Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTC) comprehensive care, regardless of potential barriers to care. This comprehensive care includes diagnosis, treatment, education, prevention, research, surveillance and access to a low cost pharmacy. With this funding, our HTC aims to improve health outcomes through access to these services and reduce costs in order to normalize the lives of our patients who have rare, chronic and potentially disabling disorders.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) STUDIES

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grants Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTC) funding to better understand and reduce potential complications with bleeding disorder treatments. This funding led to "Community Counts" – a program aimed at gathering and sharing information about common health issues, medical complications and causes of death that impacts individuals with bleeding disorders within United States' HTCs. By participating in this project, Valley Children's is able to provide annual inhibitor testing to all hemophilia patients who enroll. In FY18, Valley Children's surpassed our assigned target with 136 percent enrollment.

CONTINUED COLLABORATIONS

Our physicians collaborate closely with top institutions as contributors or co-investigators in clinical studies such as:

- Biological studies for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) and Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)
- Brain Tumor Mutations
- IDH1 gene mutation in pediatric cases with features typical of an adult tumor
- Presence of cerebral microbleeds in pediatric brain tumor survivors
- The WAPPS Hemo project, in collaboration with McMaster University, Canada, is a web-accessible, actively moderated database that allows participating hemophilia centers to securely input factor VIII/IX plasma levels

Valley Children's is a member of the Northern California Leukemia Epidemiology study to understand what risk factors are associated with leukemia and how it can be prevented. We work with pharmaceutical manufacturers in clinical trials of new medications for conditions such as refractory solid tumors, advanced melanoma or leukemia.

CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORSHIP PROGRAM



Surfing For Hope



Survivorship Conference

Caring for children with cancer doesn't stop at survival – in fact, more than two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors experience late effects. Beyond these health effects, childhood cancer survivors can experience a variety of general wellness issues. With this in mind, Valley Children's established the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program.

After childhood cancer survivors complete their treatments and are cancer-free for more than three years, they are invited to participate in this unique program - the only one of its kind in the Central Valley. While the Valley Children's Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program has only been around since 2001, the positive impact is growing at a rapid rate. Since its inception, the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program has benefited more than 800 survivors and their families. These individuals now have a greater understanding of the late effects of their treatment and are empowered to reach their full potential as adults physically, mentally and socially.

From free annual conferences to out-of-town weekends participating in new activities, survivors benefit from the survivorship program with a new sense of empowerment, education on how to best succeed in their adult lives and connections to others who have experienced a similar story. In 2018 alone, the Valley Children's Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program had approximately 250 visits with children who were working to transition into the survivorship program (less than three years since they have completed therapy) and approximately 500 visits from survivors.

The mission of the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program is apparent: this is a group determined to survive and thrive.

In 2018, the Valley Children's Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program had approximately 500 visits from survivors.



From Patient to President

HUNTER JAMESON

Something wasn't right with Hunter Jameson. The usually energetic 8-year-old was listless and laboring to breathe.

His pediatrician suspected asthma. But when Hunter could barely round the bases of a baseball field – and fell asleep on Disneyland's Splash Mountain – parents Michael and Catherine insisted on a better answer.

One chest X-ray later and the Jamesons were headed to Valley Children's Hospital, where doctors discovered a cancerous, grapefruit-sized tumor crushing the boy's heart and lungs.

That trip was 17 years ago. Today, thanks to treatment from Valley Children's, the only pediatric tertiary care medical center in Central California, Hunter is a healthy and happy young man, living in Washington, D.C.

"Valley Children's is a really special place to me not just because of the amount of time I spent there, but because of the people who impacted me," said Hunter, now 25. "And the nurses weren't just nurses to me – they became really good friends."

Hunter completed treatment in late 2003, but remains bonded to Valley Children's through his nonprofit foundation and Valley Children's Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program. That program – one of the few in California – uses a team approach in providing education, screening, detailed treatment histories and more for survivors into young adulthood.

More than 850 survivors have participated since the program formally launched in 2010.

The need is great because most children survive cancer – about 80 percent live at least five years following their diagnosis. About two-thirds will experience long-term side effects.

“It’s definitely a lifelong process of continuing health,” said Dr. John Gates, pediatric hematologist/oncologist and director of the survivorship program. “We want them not only to survive cancer, but also to thrive in an adult environment.”

So Hunter was in good hands when the Jamesons arrived at Valley Children’s on September 7, 2001. He was so weak that, “I had to carry him into the Hospital,” his mother, Catherine, said.

Hunter was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit and started on high doses of chemotherapy – the drugs used to kill cancer cells. He was diagnosed with T cell non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. This type of cancer develops in the lymphatic system – a critical component of the body’s disease-fighting immune system. When specialized white blood cells (like T cells) develop and multiply improperly, they create tumors in areas like the chest, neck or abdomen.

The Jameson family, including Hunter’s twin sister Chandler, was shaken by the news as they learned about treatment options. For Hunter, then in second grade, that meant rounds of intensive chemotherapy. At the beginning, he received treatment five days a week – four days in the Hospital and one day at home. Side effects from various drugs caused his hair to fall out and made him nauseous and puffy, but he remained upbeat.

“I never really thought of it as a deadly disease,” Hunter said of the cancer. “I just thought I was sick and I needed to get better.”

His outlook gave Catherine strength. “He said, ‘Mom, do me a favor. Don’t cry unless I do,’” she said. “And he never really did.”

Hunter underwent treatment therapy for about two years. His medical team included Dr. Vonda Crouse, a longtime pediatric hematologist/oncologist whom Catherine described as “brilliant.”

Hunter said nurses like Kimberly Ling also contributed to an “amazing” experience at the Hospital. In part, they helped distract him during treatments so he felt more like he was visiting friends than undergoing medical procedures.

By fourth grade, Hunter was considered cancer-free and hospital visits and checkups gradually decreased. Though his cancer was gone, Hunter remembered the battle as he grew older. He began to think about creating a nonprofit foundation to help cancer patients at Valley Children’s.

“I didn’t want to just finish my treatment and never go back there,” he said. “I wanted to be a positive influence.”

Since forming in 2013, Hunter’s Hope International Foundation has raised more than \$80,000 and helped more than 110 childhood cancer patients and families. These grants have included financial aid for everything from basic necessities to gas/travel expenses, wish list items such as laptops, play stations, photos, trips, shopping sprees and more. In addition, this last year, Hunter’s Hope International Foundation launched a \$1,000 annual scholarship for the members in the Valley Children’s Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program. Hunter works closely with social workers at Valley Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center to identify families in need.

“It’s amazing that Hunter has been able to process his experience and do something fabulous with it,” Dr. Gates said.

Hunter now lives in Washington D.C. working for the Department of Justice and remains the president of Hunter’s Hope International Foundation. He has also recently started his master’s degree in Applied Intelligence at Georgetown University.

The family is grateful for all the care and assistance that Hunter has received from Valley Children’s. “We just feel like there was no better place to be,” Catherine said. “The caring, kindness and compassion of the staff there is just unbelievable.”

“I didn’t want to just finish my treatment and never go back there. I wanted to be a positive influence.”

MANUSCRIPTS

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Beth A. Speckhart, Candice Y. White, Reuben Antony, Eric Bugaieski, Karen S. Fernandez. Radiation Exposure from Diagnostic Images in Pediatric Patients with Cancer: Tracking the doses with Radimetrics. American Society of Pediatric hematology Oncology (ASPHO) Annual Meeting 2017. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2017;e26591. S54.

Sarah Rumbler, Reuben Antony, Beth A. Speckhart, Eric Bugaieski, J. Naline Upalakalin, Mackenzie McGee, James Geller, Karen S. Fernandez. Impressive Rapid Response to Alkylating/Topoisomerase-Based Therapy for Relapsed Wilms Tumor with Hematogenous Metastasis that failed Doxorubicin-based Salvage Therapy. American Society of Pediatric hematology Oncology (ASPHO) Annual Meeting 2017. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2017;e26591. S51.

Ana Veronica Girón, MA. Ortega, JP. Díaz, M. Nuyens, Karen S. Fernández. Juvenile Nasopharyngeal Angiofibroma: Experience Of A Referral Center In Guatemala. American Society of Pediatric hematology Oncology (ASPHO) Annual Meeting 2017. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2017;e26591. S45.

Matthew Davis, Kyle Hickman, Beth A. Speckhart, Ashish Kumar, Reuben Antony, Jacob Bleesing, Karen S. Fernandez. A Patient with ALPS-like Phenotype found to have a Homozygous LRBA Deficiency Eleven Years after initial presentation. American Society of Pediatric hematology Oncology (ASPHO) Annual Meeting 2017. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2017;e26591. S29.

David Veron, Patricia Streitenberger, Patricia Obando, Alejandra Zapata, Patricia Calderón, Darrell Espinoza, Jong Hee Chung, Reuben Antony, Mauricio Castellanos, Karen S. Fernández. Rare presentations of Hodgkin Lymphoma in Children and Adolescents: A Multicenter Experience in Latin America and the United States. International Society of Children, Adolescent and Young Adult Hodgkin Lymphoma (ISCAYAHL) Annual Meeting 2017. Washington DC.

Patricia Obando, Mauricio Castellanos, David Veron, Karen S. Fernández. Tuberculosis and Hodgkin Lymphoma in Children and Adolescents in Argentina and Guatemala. Submitted to the International Society of Children, Adolescent and Young Adult Hodgkin Lymphoma (ISCAYAHL) Annual Meeting 2017. Washington DC.

Sayeh Akhavan, Balasa V, Crouse V, et al. From Night to Day – The Impact of Timely Chemotherapy Administration. Children's Oncology Group (COG) Fall Poster Session – COG Annual Meeting – September 2017 – Abstract from Heme/Onc selected as a 'Special Mention Abstract'.

Nicole Martinez Alcala, Lucy Roh, Bill Koole, Karen S. Fernandez, Etoposide Desensitization Protocol after Hypersensitivity Reaction in a Patient with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Children's Oncology Group – CRA Abstract Book. Children's Oncology Group, Fall Group Meeting, Atlanta. GA. September, 2017. Abstract from Heme/Onc Research group and Pharmacy selected as one of the 'Top Three Abstracts'.

Stephanie Campbell, Josue Flores, Reuben Antony, Beth A. Speckhart, Eric Bugaieski, J. Naline Upalakalin, , Karen S. Fernandez. Burkitt Lymphoma and Skeletal Dysplasia. Poster 594F. American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting, October 2017.

Al-Hameed, Balasa V, Bahrani S, Al-Hamid H, Rosenthal, J. A case of congenital dyserythropoietic anemia successfully treated with haploidentical hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Poster Presentation at the 49th Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), Washington, DC, USA, October 2017.

SYMPOSIUMS AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Karen S. Fernandez, MD

Childhood Cancer: Do not miss the signs! Valley Children's Healthcare Pediatric Clinical Symposium Series – Modesto – April 2017

Dan Ozeran, MD

Valley Children's Healthcare Pediatric Clinical Symposium Series – Santa Maria – September 2017

Faisal Razzaqi, MD

Valley Children's Healthcare Pediatric Clinical Symposium Series – Bakersfield – October 2017

Vinod Balasa, MD

A Cure for Every Disorder: The Future is Now! Valley Children's Healthcare Pediatric Clinical Symposium Series – Madera – May 5, 2018

VALLEY CHILDREN'S STAFF IN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ALL OF VALLEY CHILDREN'S PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGISTS ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN'S ONCOLOGY GROUP (COG). MANY STAFF MEMBERS ALSO PARTICIPATE IN ORGANIZATIONS AND ARE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES REGIONALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, WHICH ARE HIGHLIGHTED BELOW.

Vinod Balasa, MD

- Executive Coordinating Committee, Western States Region IX Hemophilia Network

Vonda Crouse, MD

- Institutional Principal Investigator at Valley Children's Hospital for CO

Karen Fernandez, MD

- Children's Oncology Group (COG) Adolescent Young Adult – Responsible investigator (AYA RI)
- American Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology (ASPHO) - Vascular anomalies special interest group Education committee
- International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)- Pediatric Oncology International Network for Training and Education (POINTE) Expert
- Central American Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (AHOPCA)
- Health Volunteer Oversees (HVO)
- International Pediatric Specialists Alliance for the Children of Vietnam (IPSAC-VN)
- Consortium of iNvestigators of Vascular AnomalieS: CaNVAS – Member

Faisal Razzaqi, MD

- Member of COG Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) steering committee
- Responsible Investigator for COG Cancer Control Studies
- National Chair for Hematology/Oncology/BMT subgroup, Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes (IPSO) collaborative, Children's Hospital Association

David Samuel, MBChB, MD

- Institutional principal Investigator for UCSF Study: "RadART-PRO, A Prospective Multi-Institutional Study to Assess the Risk of Radiation Induced Vasculopathy and Stroke in Children with Cancer who Received Radiation Therapy to the Neck and Brain"

Terea Gianetta DNP, CPNP, FAANP

- Liaison to AANP National Program Committee for the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) Fellow
- Member of the Thalassemia Alliance for the western region

Ruthloren Martinez, RN, BSN

- Hemophilia Coordinating Committee (Nursing), Western States Region IX Hemophilia Network
- Chapter Secretary, California Central Valley Oncology Nursing Society (CCVONS)
- ANCC-Board Certified Hemostasis Nursing

Christina Ashburner, Hematology Clinical Research Coordinator

- Hemophilia Coordinating Committee (Research), Western States Region IX Hemophilia Network

Freshta Nasrudin, RN

- Member of Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON)

Alistair Robertson, MSW

- Member of the Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers (APOSW)
- Served on the Board of Directors of APOSW 2012-2017
- 2016 APOSW Social Worker of the Year Award
- Pre-Institute Seminar Speaker at 2019 APOSW Conference

Laura Andrews, RN-BC, BSN

- Member of Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON)



PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

MENDIBURU MAGIC FOUNDATION AWARDS VALLEY CHILDREN'S SPECIALIST 2017 OUTSTANDING ADVANCE IN CANCER RESEARCH, CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HONOR

The Mendiburu Magic Foundation in Bakersfield honored Valley Children's Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist Dr. Wendy Tcheng at the 2017 Compassion Awards. Dr. Tcheng was recognized for Outstanding Advances in Cancer Research. Since 2005, the Mendiburu Magic Foundation has invested more than \$44,000 toward the support of Kern County families who have children at Valley Children's Hospital. The foundation is dedicated to responding to the unmet needs of Kern County families and their children facing cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

VALLEY CHILDREN'S HEMATOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER RECEIVES TOP HONOR

The Nursing Leadership Coalition of the Central San Joaquin Valley, a chapter of the Association of California Nurse Leaders, inducted Valley Children's Hematology Nurse Practitioner Dr. Terea Giannetta into The Central San Joaquin Valley Nursing Hall of Fame in September 2018. This prestigious award honors the distinctive careers of nurse leaders within the seven-county region of the Central San Joaquin Valley: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare.

"AN AUDIT A DAY KEEPS THE ERRORS AWAY" POSTER RECOGNIZED IN A THREE-WAY TIE FOR FIRST PLACE

For the second year in a row, Valley Children's Oncology Research Team's poster received national recognition for initiatives that improve clinical quality and standards. This poster, "An Audit a Day Keeps Errors Away", tied for first place and was selected as poster presentation at the Children's Oncology Group (COG) Annual Meeting. The team presented the poster in Dallas at the annual meeting of the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to childhood cancer and adolescent cancer research. The poster project addressed appropriate and accurate documentation on chemotherapy roadmaps.

"BLEEDING DISORDERS EDUCATION DAY FOR SCHOOL NURSES" RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONALLY

A poster from our Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) was accepted for presentation at the 70th Annual Bleeding Disorders Conference of the National Hemophilia Foundation in Orlando, Florida. The poster titled "Bleeding Disorders Education Day for School Nurses" details the Annual School Nurses Conference that has been developed and conducted by the Valley Children's HTC for the last three years. This poster highlights the first conference which attracted more than 100 school nurses from 29 different school districts, representing eight counties in our service area. This poster was also selected to be presented at the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) World Congress in May 2018 in Glasgow, Scotland, which was viewed by 5,015 delegates from 137 countries.

HEMATOLOGY NURSES ONE OF FOUR IN REGION TO RECEIVE ANCC HEMOSTASIS NURSING CERTIFICATION

Hematology nurses Ruth Martinez and Freshta Nasrudin received the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Hemostasis Nursing Certification in November 2017. Only two other nurses in the Western States Region IX Hemophilia program have received this certification to date.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

VALLEY CHILDREN'S WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO GENEROUSLY GAVE MORE THAN \$2.4 MILLION TO THE VALLEY CHILDREN'S CANCER AND BLOOD DISORDERS CENTER OVER FISCAL YEARS 2017 AND 2018. LIFETIME GIVING IS RECOGNIZED ON THE DONOR WALL AT VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

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LEGACY GIFT TO CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORSHIP PROGRAM ENDOWMENT

The Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Valley Children's Hospital was honored to receive a \$1,000,000 legacy gift from hospital volunteer, Margaret Corasick. In addition to several previous gifts to the endowment, Margaret graciously decided to include Valley Children's in her estate plan with a \$1,000,000 gift to the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program Endowment. To recognize Margaret's tremendous generosity, the "Margaret Corasick Endowed Chair of Childhood Cancer Survivorship" was created and held by Dr. John Gates. We are honored by Margaret's gift of both her time and her resources.

Margaret's journey with Valley Children's started when she began volunteering at the Hospital in the fall of 2014. Margaret felt that she would better serve the Hospital providing administrative support and was hesitant at first, unsure what opportunities might be available. With that in mind, Valley Children's Volunteer Services placed Margaret with the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program, working with Dr. John Gates and his team. Margaret began populating the survivorship database, uploading data from patient treatment summary letters into the system. These letters provide primary care physicians with the details of a patient's oncology care.

Childhood cancer survivors can have "late effects" from their life-saving cancer treatments. These possible latent side effects can be physical, emotional or psychological. They can happen before adulthood, during treatment or even while a patient is in remission. Many pediatric and adult care providers are not prepared to deal with the complex medical history of a childhood cancer survivor. Survivorship patients receive extensive folders including their treatment history and recommendations, enabling them to be their own health advocates while sharing detailed information with their primary care physician.

Margaret was surprised by the struggles that survivors face with their post-cancer medical needs. With Margaret's help, the department has been able to provide services to a greater number of survivorship patients. Margaret also assisted the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center with other projects, working with the Oncology and Hematology team on database projects and updating data for Camp Sunshine Dreams, a summer camp for current oncology patients and their siblings.

"Margaret's generosity is truly remarkable. Her gift has helped secure the future of the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program. We cannot thank Margaret enough for her kindness and foresight," said Rob Saroyan, President of Valley Children's Healthcare Foundation.





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